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Connecting Education and Careers

Happy 2022, Region V members!

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through the first month of the new year already. I am not sure about you, but I typically do not create New Year's resolutions, rather, I try to develop a new habit that I can incorporate into my life. This month, my new habit is to spend five–10 minutes per day that is just for me to focus on the blessings in my life right now. Some days, it feels really challenging to come up with more than one or two blessings, but I always start with the joys in my life. Each day, I count my career and technical education (CTE) family as one of my blessings. I am grateful for amazing CTE educators who focus on ensuring that all students have access to high-quality, excellent CTE programs that better prepare students for life.

This practice is helping me get through the new wave of Covid, the challenges of students out ill, staff out sick, and the variety of other challenges that occur every day in education. What strategies are you using to support your positive well-being and balance when things are difficult?

Just a reminder that what you do as a CTE educator is important, it is valued, and you make a difference. Thank you for stepping up and doing the hard work and the heart work. "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops" (Henry Brooks Adams). Thank you for affecting eternity.

Region V Innovative Program Awards

Did you know that EVERY state and territory in Region V can submit for the innovative awards? There are so many unique, innovative, and creative CTE programs across Region V and we want to recognize YOURS! Each state association may submit one

nomination annually, make sure to submit your nomination by the March 1st deadline.

All CTE programs qualify for the award, so long as they meet the following criteria:

- Program must demonstrate a capacity to prepare graduates to perform successfully in an occupational field
- Program should exemplify the highest standards within its occupational field
- Staff must be involved in an in-service program to keep abreast of technological changes in their occupational field
- Program must have been in operation for at least three years
- Instructor(s) in the program must have been a member of the state association for at least three consecutive years.



I challenge each state association to apply for the Innovative Career and Technical Education Program today! Go to: tinyurl.com/RegVINnovativeAward, to get the application and more details now. Let's show our state and regional pride and have all 16 states and territories represent their innovative CTE programs!

Learn more and apply

Region V Opportunity Fund Grant

The Region V Opportunity Fund Grant will be offered again for the 2022-2023 school year. The Region V Policy Committee has authorized the use of up to \$12,000 in increments of up to \$2,000 per grant for the purpose of increasing member value and engagement, professional and leadership development, advocacy and awareness, strategic partnerships, or innovation. Interested in applying? [Click here to apply](#). The deadline is **March 15**. Contact Opportunity Grant Fund Chair [Trish Zugg](#) with any questions you might have.

Region V Conference: Portrait of Success Leadership Conference



SAVE THE DATE

April 6–9 in Rapid City, South Dakota

Region V Conference

Your Region V Conference Committee from South Dakota is busy putting together an incredible spring conference experience tailored for you, our Region V members. Pre-conference activities include CTE Leadership 101, a leadership strand for new, emerging leaders as well as anyone desiring a refresher leadership course, a Scavenger Hunt of downtown Rapid City, and an informal reception. VJ Smith will kick off our opening session with breakout sessions to follow. Education tours including dinner are planned for Thursday afternoon and evening. Friday includes more breakout sessions. Personally, I cannot wait for the Crazy Horse Experience and awards banquet Friday evening!

There is so much great learning happening in Region V, register to become a presenter and share your knowledge and experience in leadership, assessment, engaging instruction, pathways and transitions, or business/community partnerships. Go to: <https://bit.ly/3GJquPS>.

Tours Include:

- Mt. Rushmore and the National Park Service
- Black Hills Pioneer – Spearfish (arts and communications cluster)
- Deadwood Hospitality Tour
- Western Dakota Technical College – Law Enforcement and Health Science Programs
- B9 Creations (Manufacturing/STEM)
- C-Lock (AFNR Cluster)

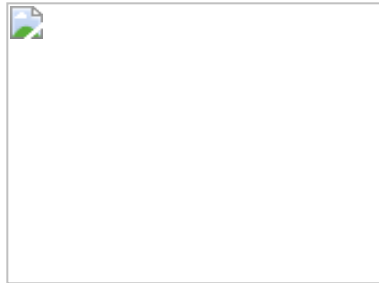
To conclude the conference Saturday morning participate in the Best Practices in CTE Networking session and a send-off brunch that includes an inspiring keynote speaker, future conference updates from North Dakota and Hawaii as well as amazing must-be-present to win prizes!

[Register online now](#)

See you in Rapid City!

Region V Leadership Conclave

Henry Ford said, “Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.” On **Thursday, Feb. 24, from 3:00- 4:30 p.m. CT**, Region V is hosting the first Region V Leadership Conclave designed to bring together state leaders, state executive committees, and those interested in developing stronger collaboration across Region V.



Announcing the Board of Directors 2022 Election Results

ACTE is pleased to announce the results of the recent election for spots on its Board of Directors.

- Chaney Mosley, President-elect: Mosley is an Assistant Professor at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.
- Michael Culwell, Region IV Vice President-elect: Culwell is the Campus Director at Kiamichi Tech-Poteau in Poteau, Oklahoma.
- Sean Crevier, Business Education Division Vice President: Appointed by the board of directors Mr. Crevier is Teacher at Vernon Hills High School in Vernon Hills, Illinois.
- Katy Blatnick-Gagne, Family and Consumer Sciences Education Division Vice President: Appointed by the board of directors, Ms. Blatnick-

Gagne is an Education Consultant at the Iowa Department of Education in Des Moines, Iowa.

Additionally, the vice president-elects whose election occurred last year will join the Board as vice president in July 2022. Susan Leon will assume the position of New & Related Services Division Vice President, Brandon Russel will assume the position of Region III Vice President, and Beth Parks will assume the position of Region II Vice President.

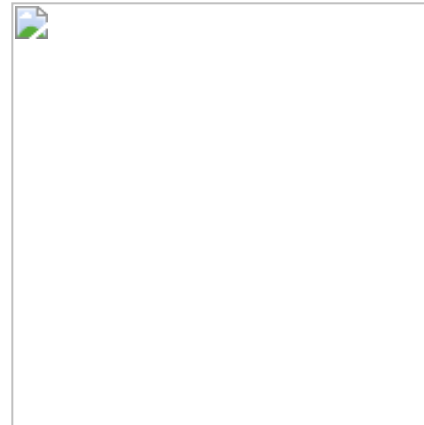
ACTE congratulates the winners, and thanks all of the candidates for their willingness to serve and their hard work, dedication, and commitment to the association. ACTE also thanks its members who had their voices heard by voting in the election.

[Read more](#)

Voice Your CTE Priorities at NPS!

Join CTE professionals at ACTE's National Policy Seminar (NPS) to engage on key education policy topics, hear best practices for influencing federal policy related to CTE advocacy and messaging, and participate in Capitol Hill visits. This year's NPS will be offered as a hybrid event and happens both virtually and in person at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia, **March 21–23**. We will follow a similar schedule to past years but may have to make some COVID-19-related tweaks.

[Learn more](#)

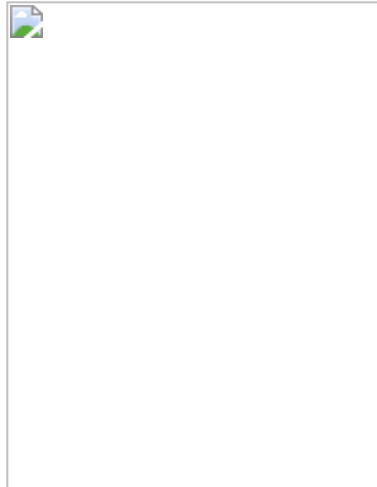


Present at CareerTech VISION 2022!

Share your expertise at ACTE's CareerTech VISION, happening **Nov. 30–Dec. 3** in Las Vegas, Nevada, by being an esteemed presenter. Won't you consider submitting a proposal to lead an educational program session? We're looking for innovations and insights on the most pressing issues in the field today. Accepted session topics may also address current and emerging trends to help career and technical educators thrive in their careers. VISION offers unparalleled networking, hundreds of concurrent program sessions covering high-quality CTE and stories of successful education and business collaborations. Call for presentations will open in late January and close **March 31**.



[Learn more](#)



Celebrate CTE Month[®]!

Generously sponsored by NAHB

Join us as we celebrate CTE Month, generously sponsored in 2022 by the National Association of Home Builders. Share with the world how much you love CTE! Raise awareness about the importance of CTE for our students and our nation's economy and have fun doing it!

- Share ACTE's 28 days of CTE social media messages by following us [@actecareertech](#) on Twitter or Facebook. You can also share your own success stories on social media by using **#CTEMonth**. Be sure to tag us!

- Encourage your students to participate in this year's [CTE Month-NASA HUNCH student video challenge](#) to showcase the importance of CTE and/or project-based learning. This year's theme: **How Can Space Exploration Solve Climate Change?** Submit videos, two minutes or less in length, by **April 1**.
- [Gear up](#) with mood pens, pencils and other festive CTE Month merchandise.
- [Engage](#) members of your community or the media to learn about your school's strong CTE programs firsthand.
- [Reach out](#) to business and industry leaders in your area to create valuable partnerships.
- [Download the CTE Month logo](#) for use with any of your print and digital outreach.

Learn more

Business & Community Partnerships

New Publication Features Grand Forks Public Schools and Northrup Grumman Partnership

Xello is pleased to support ACTE and CTE practitioners through the production of a series of publication briefs to delve deeper on topics within ACTE's Quality CTE Program of Study Framework: Business and Community Partnerships. The third publication in the Taking Business to School Series focuses on the Grand Forks Public Schools and Northrup Grumman partnership that resulted in a new robotics engineering program that also helps fuel the local region's growing unmanned aerial systems industry.

Read more

TAKING BUSINESS TO SCHOOL:

GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND NORTHRUP GRUMMAN

Sponsored by
 

Partnership Catalyst

Northrup Grumman has a strong commitment to supporting education initiatives that foster students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The company partners with educational institutions to offer engineering and technology-based programs and initiatives that excite, engage, and educate students. (Northrup Grumman, 2021). Northrup Grumman prioritizes sponsoring STEM education initiatives in communities where it has a physical presence and strives to build based on its commitment and partner to develop local talent.

In 2017, Northrup Grumman opened a new facility near Grand Forks, North Dakota, to support development and operation of unmanned aerial systems (UAS), an emerging technology in the aerospace field. The Grand Forks Unmanned Aerial Systems, Business and Aviation Park is the nation's first commercial UAS business park; the facility was developed in partnership with the United States Air Force and leverages the infrastructure of the Grand Forks Air Force Base for its operations. (Northrup Grumman, 2017). The Air Force flies a group of Global Hawk autonomous aircraft from the air base, and the development of the Grand Forks facility meant the Grand Forks was becoming a hub for the UAS industry.

As the Grand Forks facility was being developed, Northrup Grumman also began developing its partnership with the region's academic institutions. In support of STEM education in the community and collaborate to develop a local workforce with skills needed for the UAS field. Northrup Grumman's Grand Forks site director Mike Proffers said, "Northrup Grumman built a state-of-the-art facility and because of the region's strong academic institutions and commitment to supporting the aerospace systems industry." (Grand Forks Region Economic Development, 2020). Early on, Northrup Grumman reached out to the region's secondary and postsecondary education institutions to get to know local education leaders and begin identifying STEM education partnership opportunities. Northrup Grumman initially supported STEM education in Grand Forks through a state-matching grant program and invested in STEM education at the pre-K level. Once the Grand Forks facility opened in 2017 and Northrup Grumman employees were working in the Grand Forks community, the



partnership expanded to include more direct engagement between Northrup Grumman employees and Grand Forks students. Students enrolled in Grand Forks Public Schools now have the opportunity to participate in several of Northrup Grumman's nationwide STEM education initiatives, including the VEX Robotics program and a high school mentoring program.

Program Overview

Grand Forks Public Schools has established a highly successful and globally competitive robotics engineering program over the last several years. Robotics program students participate in the VEX Robotics game-based engineering challenge. Students build their own robots capable of completing a certain set of tasks spec-

Creating Strong Business Partnerships

For more information on creating strong business partnerships, see the "Business and Community Partnerships" element of ACTE's Quality CTE Program of Study Framework at <https://www.acteonline.org/professional-development/quality-cte/acte/>.





New Resource on Expanding Access to Short-term Postsecondary CTE Programs

Recently, ACTE released a fact sheet: *Pell Grants and Short-term Programs: Unlocking Careers and Educational Opportunities*. These high-quality, short-term postsecondary programs can help individuals earn credentials at an affordable cost and enter the workforce in high-wage, high-demand CTE industries.

[Read more](#)

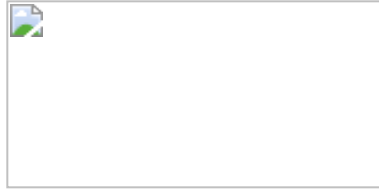
Help Us Define Inclusion and Access

What does [inclusion](#) mean to you? What about [access](#)? ACTE seeks to define these terms in the context of CTE, and we need your help. As educators, you advance the ideals of inclusion, access, equity and diversity (IAED) through the development of high-quality CTE programs of study that serve all students. Read *Techniques* this spring for additional opportunities to contribute on the meaning of IAED in CTE.



[Read more about IAED in CTE in Techniques](#)

[Check Out New, Free Resources on CTE Learn](#)



The CTE Research Network Training Modules, designed for CTE practitioners and state agency staff, will strengthen your capacity to access, understand, and use CTE data and research as well as conduct your own research — particularly causal research. This new series seeks to expand the evidence base on the impact of CTE and to bring CTE practitioners and researchers together in collaboration.

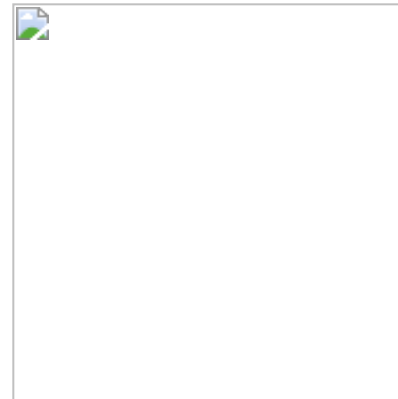
- Understanding CTE Data and Why It Matters
- Using Data and Research to Improve CTE Programs
- CTE Program Evaluation: Why It Matters to Practitioners
- Using State Data to Partner with Researchers
- Using Research to Design Your CTE Program for Equity
- How to Communicate About Your CTE Program Using Research

[Learn more](#)

Upcoming Webinars

Mark your calendar for these upcoming free webinars, covering innovative best practices in CTE.

- Why is Academic Integration a Necessity in CTE Programs: A Discussion with Educators (Part 2) on **Feb. 16 at 4:00 p.m. ET**
- Why is Academic Integration a Necessity in CTE Programs: A Discussion with Students (Part 3) on **April 12 at 4:00 p.m. ET**



Learn more and sign up to attend

Social Media

Tag Region V in all the great things you are doing in career and technical education! #CTEWorks, #ACTERegV, #ACTERegionV



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