

Vol. 52, No. 1: 2023

September



QUARTERLY

President's Message

By: Kelly Dunkelberger



School is in full swing, and this time of year makes me smile and remember why I got into teaching. The students are so full of energy and want to be a part of everything. They are so eager to learn and they are willing to try all the new activities that you throw at them and they do it with such excitement. This has always helped me to keep my momentum going even through the first few weeks of school when I feel like I am consistently taking one step forward and two steps back! It was great to see everyone at the SDACTE conference and hopefully everyone was able to network and gather the material they needed to help kick start their school year.

The SDACTE Conference was a new adventure with many of the same aspects that all summer conferences give our members. Taking on a new university and town was a feat that the board took on and worked hard to determine all the obstacles we would have to overcome. Throughout the planning process we had many questions about how to make sure that conferences is still a great networking opportunity for our members. With feedback from our members and the board discussions the SDACTE conference at Madison was a great success! Throughout the conference there were speakers, breakout sessions, tours and a grant EXPO that we could use to help grow our educational resources for our students. We have an excellent board of directors lined up this year and we look forward to planning a conference for 2024 that you can help you find the resources you can use for your students.

We encourage you to pass on to your division president ideas that you have for breakout sessions and speakers that will benefit your division along with other divisions at next years conference. I strongly encourage you to be active in your division and an active member of the SDACTE association. Take the opportunity to travel to Vision conferences, Region 5 conferences or any conferences that your division offers to help you grow as an educator and network.

I hope that many of you are planning on attending NAAE/ACTE conference in Phoenix AZ at the end of November. The many opportunities that you can partake in throughout the national conference are worth the time and money you will invest. Safe travels over the next few months and remember on the days you struggle to get organized or stay motivated you are making a difference to someone so just enjoy and smile the next day will come!

Welcome SDACTE!

By: Andy Jensen



Hello CTE Enthusiasts! I am excited to be serving as the President-Elect for SDACTE!

I am currently the 8-12 Agricultural Educator and FFA Advisor at Chester Area. This is my 7th year here, with 1 year at the CTE Academy in Sioux Falls and 1 year at Stanley County in Fort Pierre. I have a passion for alternatively certified teachers, as I am one myself! I graduated from SDSU with my bachelor's degree in General Agriculture. I became Alternatively Certified to teach Agriculture and recently finished my master's degree in School Administration from Chadron State College.

Recently I served as an SDAAE (ag) division officer and when president I sat on the Board of Directors for SDACTE, where I realized the greater connection between agriculture and all other CTE areas. We are all in this for the same reasons – for our students, to share our love for CTed and to create career-ready students. These are three reasons I decided to run for SDACTE President-Elect. I have been blessed as an SDAAE member, and I continuously want to give back to the organizations that give to me.

When I am not busy teaching, advising, or working in my classroom, you can find me on our family farm outside Wakonda, SD. Here I raise show pigs with my dad, niece, her husband, and great-nephew. We stay busy attending hog shows and cleaning hog yards (a never-ending task!). I love to travel, try new foods, and enjoy my couch time as well.

I am looking forward to working with you all and hope to see you in Phoenix for VISION or Hawaii for Region 5!



Division & Past President Reports



Conference Recap By: Bobbie Jo Donovan



Welcome back! This past year's SDACTE Summer Conference was one for the books! The 51st annual conference was held in a new location – Madison, SD. Dakota State University (DSU) were amazing hosts and made coming to a new location seamless. Our conference began with our CTSO Kickoff held at Camp Lakodia near Madison. There was lots of food, drinks, games, and conversations happening throughout the evening. A huge shout out to the CTSO Center and Katie Paulson for the wonderful event. We look forward to next year already.

Monday's keynote speaker, Mark Perna was not only motivational but also inspiring as he held our attention and captivity for over 90 minutes – it went by quickly. We also were able to recognize our military members, as well as a first-time fireside chat. The fireside chat, led by President Bobbie Jo Donovan, included panelists Fenecia Homan, DSU, Laura Scheibe, DOE, and Amber Rost, DLR. Although our time was cut short, it is apparent that CTE is only growing in our state and continues to be at the forefront in education. The remainder of Monday was filled with great food, breakout sessions, in-depth sessions, and some great industry tours. Another first was the DOE Grant Fair. Various schools from across the state had the opportunity to showcase their grant funds and how they enhanced their programs. This is something we hope to continue and expand on in the future. Monday night's SDACTE Banquet was buzzing as we had our first ever Murder Mystery Dinner and Awards. As guests engaged in the social hour, they were surprised by some members who were dressed in old western attire as they yelled out hints to get the guests engaged in the mystery. The rest of the evening was enjoyed by all with a fabulous pork tenderloin supper as well as recognizing the award winners from our State. The night ended with the solving of the murder mystery and socializing.

Tuesday found members engaged with their divisions, visiting the vendor show and rounding out the conference with the Celebrate CTE. Members gathered to share ideas they received during the conference and chat about upcoming events throughout the school year. There were also many door prizes given. Overall, Madison was a great match for our conference this year. The Board of Directors would like to thank all the people who helped make the conference a success. We continue to seek input from members to make the conference a worthwhile event. The 2024 Conference will be held in Rapid City. It will be held July 28-31 at Western Dakota Technical College and Ramkota. We hope to see you there!

T&I Division Update By: Lauren Mehlert



I hope everyone had a wonderful time at the summer SDACTE conference that was held in Madison! The conference was full of some awesome learning and networking opportunities, and it was great to see peers from across the State. The keynote speaker, Mr. Mark C. Perna, shared some great information about ways we can connect and engage our students. The Trade and Industry Division learned some great things from Jim Hartwell, Tony Musilek, and T&I Past President Bryce Holter. Fun was had by all at the Murder Mystery event on Monday evening! I want to thank DSU for hosting this great event. Once again, the conference had great breakout sessions and tours for us to really see what South Dakota has to offer.

I wanted to take a moment to thank Bryce Holter, Past President, for all of his hard work over the last few years! He has helped move our association forward in many ways. Furthermore, I wanted to take a minute to thank you for this opportunity to serve as your T&I Division President. Please reach out to me with any questions or if there is something I can help you with. You can reach me at Lauren.Mehlert@k12.sd.us or phone at 605-201-8551.

Upcoming Events:

November 29th – December 2nd is the ACTE VISION 2023 Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. I encourage all to consider attending the conference as it is a great way to network with CTE teachers from all over the nation. For SDACTE members, I also encourage you to consider applying for the stipend that is offered to help cover the costs of this conference. January 26th – 28th, the SDTEA will be meeting in Pierre for their annual conference. Membership of our State Association is very important because we value everyone's skills, knowledge, and input in the CTE world. We appreciate all participation so if you have not taken the first step of joining and paying your membership dues for the year, please contact me so we can get you squared away. Hope you have an amazing school year!



Which GRANT is the right GRANT for your program?



CTSO Revitalization Grants

Funding to help kick start your Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO). (All FFA, FCCLA, FBLA, SkillsUSA, Educators Rising, and HOSA chapters are eligible.)

Due: Oct. 18

Award Amount: \$1,000 - \$10,000



Perkins Funds Through District/Consortia

Purchase industry grade equipment to enhance your classroom and/or attend professional development to enhance the quality of your instruction. Cannot include installation costs or capital improvements.
Due: Spring of the Year, (see local deadline)
Award Amount: \$100 - \$10,000+

Perkins Reserve Grants

An extra-large boost of Perkins funds to support Perkins allowable costs for projects related to special populations, industrial alignment, or innovative delivery.
Due: Feb. 1
Award Amount: \$10,000- \$50,000



Workforce Education Grants

Provide matched funding to school districts and private, nonprofit entities to make transformative change in career and technical education programs that partner with secondary education, postsecondary education, and business and industry. These grants fund major infrastructure such as construction projects or equipment.

Due March 15

Award Amount: Up to \$225,000 (matching funds required)



Collaborative Equipment Grants

Intended to support and modernize career and technical education (CTE) programs across South Dakota for multiple school districts that collaborate to expand CTE opportunities to more students.

Due: Oct. 6 or April 26

Award Amount: \$250,000 + (matching funds required)





A Look into BMIT By: Kristi Dancsisin

This was my first year with a behind the scenes view of the SD ACTE conference. I would like to thank our leadership for their tireless work to plan, coordinate, and execute an event that supports such a variety of career and technical educators. Seeing the collaboration, enthusiasm, and sharing of best practices throughout the conference was inspiring. As we all embark on a new school year, my hope is that we are refreshed and ready to empower the next generation with the skills they need to succeed in a rapidly changing world.

We were fortunate to have great collaboration during our division time at the conference. My goal is to foster the support of one another and continue this collaborative atmosphere throughout the year. Please join me in this mission and in bringing in other business, marketing, and information technology teachers from around the state to get involved in SD ACTE.

Thank you to Kristie Olson for stepping in to complete the BMIT president role for the division this spring. Kristie will continue in her division secretary role. Sherrie Kafka will continue with the treasurer role and Amy Pierson will begin her term as president elect. Thank you as well to our committee members- Kristie Olson- Audit, Connie Whistler- Scholarships, Kristi Dancsisin- Awards, and Steven Buchy- Legislative. Have a great 23-24 school year!

Division President Reports



A Warm Welcome from FCS By: Jennifer Poulos

On behalf of the Family and Consumer Science division, it is with great pleasure and anticipation that I extend a warm and enthusiastic welcome to you as the new FCS Division President. As you continue to embark on the new school year with all the challenges that come, I hope you find time in your life to enjoy the little things.

The summer conference was a great start to begin our new school year. We were able to collaborate with our colleagues, share great ideas and projects, and bond. The SDACTE conference is such a great way to kick off any new school year as we continue to strive to push excellence in ourselves and others.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize our current SDATFCS board members:

- President: Jennifer Poulos – West Central
- President Elect: Anne Pankratz - Marion
- Past President: Hillary Terpstra – Alcester-Hudson
- Secretary: Frankie Nelson – Bridgewater-Emery
- Treasurer: Carrie Kafka – Parkston
- VP of Communications: Aleisha McCarthy - Redfield

For FACS division members, I would like to highlight our SDATFCS website: <https://sites.google.com/view/sdatfacs/home>, this website houses resources, workshop presentation materials from summer conference, and award information. Also, be sure to keep a close eye on your email as snapshots and updates are sent out periodically to members to keep you informed and updated. Keep focused on new goals, ideas, and you this year! You are all doing amazing things.

SDACTE



ADMIN Division Updates By: Adam Shaw

As I begin my 2nd term on the SDACTE Board of Directors as the Administrative President for the 2023-2024 school year, the opportunity to write this article allows me time to reflect on all the opportunities that CTE has to offer the students in our state. CTE is a great avenue for our students to explore a variety of careers in the 16 career clusters. Through dual credit, internships, and apprenticeships students get hands on experience and earn credit towards their degrees which allows them to enter their chosen career path earlier. School and community partnerships are a great way to interconnect many resources to enhance the support for all the youth in the state of South Dakota. These partnerships enhance school systems, provide opportunity for students, lead to potential jobs, and connect our business community with the high school CTE curriculum. We are truly fortunate to live in a state that understands the value of school-community partnerships. Also, we are lucky to have many businesses who are willing to give their time to help build these partnerships through strategic planning and creative leadership. From my standpoint as a school leader, it is imperative that people understand that schools alone cannot prepare our youth for the world that lies ahead of them. It should be our mission to prepare our youth for a productive adulthood in the years to come. In this state it is evident that our business see the value in our children's education. By working together, our communities can prepare for a more promising future here in the State of South Dakota. Each one of you helps the SDACTE carry out our mission that results in a better quality of life for everyone.



Division President Reports



Hello From the AFNR Division By: Don Sutera



It was great to see everyone at summer conference in Madison and I hope everyone had a chance to do some networking and get themselves ready for another school year. I always look forward to attending summer conference and the chance to meet up with friends and learn new things to better myself as a teacher. With conference over, most are taking advantage of the last few days before we are back in the grind of another school year. The start of the school year seems exciting for both students and staff as everyone is excited to see one another and get back into a normal routine. The start of the school year for the AFNR teacher is always busy and never seems to slow down. Between teaching classes and preparing students for various FFA events the year will be over in a flash. I hope many of you are making plans to attend National FFA Convention and if you were fortunate enough to have teams or individuals qualify, I would like to wish them good luck in Indianapolis. After National Convention, don't blink because it will be time for District and State LDEs. Before you know it, it will be National FFA week, spring CDE's and State Convention and like I said before the year will be over in a flash.

I would like to encourage you to consider attending NAAE conference in Phoenix, Arizona at the end of November. I attended the conference for the first time last year in Las Vegas and it was a great experience and I hope that you consider going. I also would like to thank Andy Jensen for his services the past 3 years as a SDAAE officer and would like to welcome Alysha Kientoph as your President-Elect of our division.

HEALTH SCIENCE Update By: Lisa Fucello

Welcome back to another great year of learning! The Health Science Division of SDACTE is a small group, but we are driven. We had a great conference that catered to our individual professional development goals, and helped us enrich our health science curriculums at our respective schools.

Within our division time, many things were accomplished, including: developing group goals, discussing membership growth, learning about the growing field of Health Informatics, sharing classroom lessons and resources, networking, and HOSA enrichment opportunities. The conference as a whole allowed us time to learn about grant application opportunities to revitalize and grow our CTSO groups or purchase innovative equipment for use in our classes. My personal favorite of the conference was Groton High School's demonstration of their new "Syndaver," which looks and feels like a real cadaver. (Picture below)

Also at the conference, a variety of breakout sessions were offered. A few favorite sessions included: eliminating the midnight deadlines of assignments, using the SBAR method of communication, increasing engagement with online or hybrid courses, and using teacher externships to gain up-to-date experience in one's teaching field. The pre-conference social on Sunday night was a fun and relaxing way to reunite with old friends, while also enjoying some great food. The vendor expo at the conference provided time for us to interact with representatives from all kinds of companies offering student internships, fundraising opportunities, curriculum materials, national testing preparations, and so much more.

Our division would like to welcome Natasha Presler (Brandon Valley HS) and Clayton Gropper (Mitchell CTEA) to the Health Science board. Natasha is our division's new president-elect and Clayton is our new treasurer. We are looking forward to growing our division membership, which can only be accomplished with some amazing people agreeing to step up and help out in leadership positions.

Our newly formed Health Science executive board is looking forward to working together this coming year. We will be tackling the large task of planning what next year's conference out in Rapid City will look like for Health Science teachers. Please email lisa.fucello@k12.sd.us if you have any specific topics you would like to see represented in a breakout or in-depth session or if there is a facility tour you would like to experience. Have a great year!



CTE Collaborative Equipment Grants



CTE Collaborative Equipment Grants are made possible by SD Senate Bill 59. The funding is intended to support and modernize career and technical education (CTE) programs across South Dakota for multiple school districts that collaborate to expand CTE opportunities to more students. The grants will provide equipment critical to helping students be prepared for in-demand, high-wage, high-skill careers.

Eligible Expenses: Industrial grade CTE equipment

Award amounts: \$250,000 +

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

First Grant Cycle:

Letter of Intent to Apply: Due Sept. 1 – Sept. 22, 2023

Feedback to Letter of Intent: within 3 business days

Final Application Due: Oct. 6, 2023 at 6 p.m. (MT)

Awards Announced: Nov. 1, 2023

Second Grant Cycle:

Letter of Intent to Apply: Due Jan. 1 – April 5, 2024

Feedback to Letter of Intent: within 5 business days

Final Application Due: April 26, 2024 at 5 p.m. (MT)

Awards Announced: May 31, 2024

For questions or to submit letter of intent reach out to: jamie.boettcher@state.sd.us

Must follow Perkins guidelines and allowable costs, using Perkins funds to support CTE programs. Cannot be used for salaries and benefits; capital improvements; consumables; curriculum; purchases that become the property of any individual or organization other than the eligible recipient; or purchases or services beyond the project outcomes or activities.

Moving CTE Forward



Connecting Students to Industry By: Kristin Larson



Connecting Students to Industry: The SD Department of Education and SD Department of Labor and Regulation are excited to unveil a new website [Career Ready SD](https://careerready.sd.gov). The website includes interactive learning guides, tools, and resources to help educators, students, parents, and business and industry partners navigate how to have positive, high-quality, work-based learning experiences and grow South Dakota's future workforce.

South Dakota recognizes three stages in the Work-Based Learning (WBL) continuum: Exploration, Engagement, and Experiences, and Career Ready SD provides schools and businesses with everything they need to successfully implement and support high-quality work-based learning activities throughout each of these stages. From updated implementation guides for all five CTE Capstone Experiences to Business and Industry Guides to Supporting WBL, Career Ready SD has everything educators and industry need to creating meaningful partnerships to help engage and prepare students in the world of work.

For more information, visit <https://careerready.sd.gov/> or contact Kristin.larson@state.sd.us with questions.



Post Secondary Update By: Fawn Wilde



A common goal for the good of the state.

Presidents from the four technical colleges in South Dakota are working closely with the Board of Technical Education to prioritize a system goal of producing well-trained, highly skilled graduates, which is essential to help support and grow South Dakota's economy.

Many of the careers listed on the Department of Labor's Top 30 Hot Careers are aligned with the training and programs offered at the four technical colleges. While these programs are already robust, providing knowledge, skills, and hands-on training, they continue to be improved upon and enhanced to ensure current industry standards are being taught and practiced. In addition, providing equal opportunities to students who are economically disadvantaged continues to be of focus and is becoming more available through grant funding, such as the Metallica Scholars Initiative recently awarded to Western Dakota Technical College.

Bridging the gap between the need for well-trained, highly skilled SD workforce and the affordability of obtaining high-quality training and education is essential and SD's technical colleges are making it happen.

More on the Metallica Scholars Initiative can be found at this link: <https://www.allwithinmyhands.org/who-we-support/metallica-gives-back/metallica-scholars.html>

Key Note Speaker: Ideas Needed for Conference 2024

The SDACTE Board of Directors is seeking your input for a keynote speaker for the 2024 Summer Conference in Rapid City. Many of our speakers have been fantastic due to the fact they all came from our memberships' recommendations. If you have heard an exceptional speaker within the last two years, please feel free to share the name with us. Even better, share that individual's contact information as well. E-mail your suggestion to Kelly Dunkelberger no later than October 13th: Kelly.dunkelberger@k12.sd.us.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

SDACTE

Providing leadership and assistance to educators in developing a prepared and competitive workforce.

Student & Member Opportunities



CTSO Center Updates By: Katie Paulson



Fall and the start of school always means 'full steam ahead' for CTSO's. Here at the CTSO Center we are very excited to kick-off the school year with some very fun events; the CTSO Spark Academy. We are hosting two academies this Fall, one in Mobridge on September 13 and one in Huron on September 20. These events will be jam packed with student professional development, food and fun! Our hope is to host two of these events every Fall in different communities.

South Dakota CTSO Center presents:

LOCAL CHAPTER REVITALIZATION GRANTS

2023-2024




Educators Rising | FBLA | FCCLA
FFA | HOSA | SkillsUSA

In addition to all the Leadership Events happening this Fall, we are offering CTSO Revitalization Grants again this year. We hope to see a ton of applications and some really awesome ideas. The grant information and application can be found at the sdctso.org website. Deadline is October 18.

Like us on Facebook: South Dakota CTSO Center
Instagram: [sdctsocenter2](https://www.instagram.com/sdctsocenter2)



Scholarship Winners Named By: Alex Toupal

Scholarship Committee members announced this year's winners at the Awards Banquet held Monday night during the SDACTE conference.

They awarded four \$500 scholarships:

- Kyra Gropper from Mitchell; Kyra is enrolled at DWU majoring in Nursing.
- Emily Moody from Mitchell; Emily is enrolled at SDSU majoring in Exercise Science
- Emily Robbins from Elkton; Emily is enrolled at SDSU majoring in Ag Business & Ag Communications
- Carson Weber attends MTI and completed his first year in Agronomy & Precision Agriculture

Professional Development Stipends:

The Professional Development Stipend Committee received several worthy applications for the 2023 stipends. Congratulations to Bailey Coats and Bobbie Jo Donovan, this year's recipients of the 2023 Professional Development Stipend. Coats is pursuing a Master's Degree in Teaching & Learning at NSU while Donovan is completing coursework towards an Education Specialist Degree in Administration at USD. The Professional Development Stipend Committee and SDACTE wish Coats and Donovan success in their academic endeavors and encourages members to consider submitting an application for the 2024 stipends.



THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION EVENT OF THE YEAR!

ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2023

PHOENIX, AZ
NOV. 29-DEC. 2

DISCOUNTED ADVANCE RATES
AVAILABLE THROUGH OCT. 13

REGISTER NOW AND SAVE

In-Person and On-Demand Attendance Options





PLUG INTO:

High-quality career and technical education (CTE) programs, business and industry partners, postsecondary programs



Connect CTE TENTATIVE Agenda

Aberdeen, SD - October 4

Cluster content: IT, Arts/AV, Business, Health Science, AFNR, STEM, FACS

8:00-8:15 AM	Registration and Networking at Aberdeen Central High School - ATEC Academy <i>Central High School ~ 2200 S. Roosevelt St. ~ Aberdeen, SD 57401</i>
8:15-10:00 AM Connect CTE Innovative HS Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Culinary o Child Development Associate o Eports o New AFNR space o TV Production
10:30 AM	Leave ATEC to Travel to NSU
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Connect CTE Post-Secondary	<p>11:00 - Innovation Center tour (Bea Smith)</p> <p>11:30 - Imaging Lab tour (Jason Knowles)</p>
Noon - 12:45 pm	Lunch provided at the Wolves Den
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM Connect CTE Post-Secondary	<p>1:00 - Exercise Science- Human Performance & Fitness (Chelsee Shortt)</p> <p>1:30 - E-Learning Center tour (Mary Cundy).</p> <p>2:00 - Northern Academy @ Krikac Theatre (Eric Kline)</p>
2:30 - 3:00 PM Connect CTE Business and Industry	2:30 - Big Idea Competition explanation @ Krikac. (Kelly Weaver)
3:15 - 4:00 PM Connect CTE Industry	Agtegra - Drone technology/field mapping/precision ag demonstration and presentation

Get in the Know: Region V Conference Links

[Call for Presenters](#)
[1st Time Attendee Stipend Application](#)
[Region V ACTE Conference Site](#)

Region V & Vision

ACTE Career Tech Vision Stipends Available

It's the middle of September and the school year is in full swing. It's also the time when we start to really think about ACTE VISION 2023 in Phoenix, November 30-December 2. Attending this conference is a great way to gain professional development and network with other teachers from across the United States. There are more than 300 breakout sessions on everything from secondary & post-secondary programming to career clusters to grants and funding. If you are looking for some resources and information on what's up and coming in CTE, then VISION 2023 is for you.

SDACTE Board of Directors know that you may need some help funding the trip to VISION so we offer three \$500 stipends to members who are attending VISION. Just fill out an application and submit it to Bobbie Jo Donovan by Sept 30th. Then her committee will go through them and choose 3 members. We also provide stipends to the National Policy Committee and Region V Leadership Conference. Let SDACTE help you attend VISION, NPS, and/or Region V!

[Applications can be found here:](#)
[LINK FOR STIPENDS](#)



Welcome from Region V! By: Shani Watkins, Region V VP



We are excited for the 23-24 school year and for all the great happenings with ACTE and Region V.

Region V legislative huddles: Our Region V huddles are a great way to get your legislative questions answered, learn more about what is happening regionally and nationally with ACTE. This is a safe space to discuss all things legislation!

Interested in activities and happenings with Region V? Go to our Region V calendar at a glance. This is a Google doc and will be updated as new events happen. Here is the link for the calendar.

We hope to see everyone at the ACTE CareerTech VISION Conference in Phoenix, Arizona from November 29 - December 2. Region V plans to host a light lunch on Friday of the conference for the business meeting. Please come and enjoy a light lunch and learn what is happening with Region V. In addition, we are hosting an evening reception as well to enjoy time together.

ACTE CareerTech Vision 2023 By: Annika Russell-Manke



ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2023 from Nov. 29–Dec. 2 in Phoenix, Arizona. This is a great opportunity to connect, collaborate and exchange ideas with career and technical educators from across the nation. This year's event will offer premier programming and professional development that address timely topics in career and technical education (CTE).

There over 300 concurrent sessions and over 200 exhibitors. Programming will offer:

- Renowned keynote speakers exploring new directions in CTE
- Hundreds of concurrent sessions covering timely topics in high-quality secondary and postsecondary CTE
- Inclusion, access, equity and diversity in CTE, and culturally responsive CTE environments and classrooms
- Strategies for thriving in the classroom and in virtual and hybrid learning environments
- Live product demonstrations, exhibitor workshops and the most comprehensive collection of CTE products and services in the CareerTech Expo

In addition to the core conference agenda, VISION 2023 offers optional VISION workshops and tours for an additional fee. These additional educational opportunities include:

- Chandler-Gilbert Community College Tour
- Phoenix Police Academy Tour
- West-MEC Southwest Campus Tour
- Building Strong Business-School Partnerships workshop
- Delivering Engaging Instruction for ALL Students workshop
- Pack Your Bags for the Future: Trends Driving Change workshop.

VISION 2023 will present opportunities for individuals to enhance their skills within their specific CTE area while strengthening contacts at local, regional and national levels in the CTE field.



Schedule at a Glance (subject to change)
2024 Region V Conference
April 9-12, 2024

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

8:00am – 12:00pm	Region V Policy Committee Meeting
10:00am - 12:00pm	Pre-Conference Tours (paid)
12:00pm – 6:00pm	REGISTRATION
1:00pm – 4:00pm	Leadership 101 – Pre-registration required
4:00pm – 5:30pm	Region V Committee Meetings
5:00pm – 7:00pm	Welcome Reception & Networking Event

Wednesday, April 10, 2024

7:00am	Registration – Exhibitor Set Up
7:30am	Breakfast Buffet
8:00am – 1:00pm	Exhibitor Learning Experiences
8:15am – 9:45am	OPENING GENERAL SESSION - WELCOME AND KEYNOTE
9:45am – 12:30pm	Exhibitor Learning Experiences – Participants meet with Exhibitors
10:00am – 4:30pm	Industry Tours
5:00pm – 7:00pm	Dinner Reception

Thursday, April 11, 2024

7:00am	Registration
7:30am	Breakfast Buffet
8:00am – 9:30am	GENERAL SESSION – KEYNOTE
9:40am – 10:40am	Breakout Session 3
10:40am – 10:50am	Networking Break
10:50am – 11:50am	Breakout Session 4
11:50am – 1:00pm	Lunch Buffet – Innovative & Communication Awards
1:15pm – 2:15pm	Innovation and Communication Awards and Best Practices Round Tables
2:30pm – 3:30pm	Breakout Session 5
3:30pm – 5:00pm	Region V Business Meeting
5:00pm – 7:00pm	Awards Banquet

Friday, April 12, 2024

8:30am – 11:00am	Grab & Go Breakfast and Best Practices Roundtable
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DACTE Awards



Aliesha McCarthy

REDFIELD

For the first three years of her teaching career, Aliesha spent her time in the Gettysburg School District teaching family and consumer sciences and serving as the FCCLA advisor. She successfully formed business and community partnerships for the students to experience internships to allow them to get first-hand experience in a field of work they want to pursue. This allows them to develop career skills and knowledge before graduating from high school. Membership in her FCCLA chapter has grown with numerous students competing at the state level and national level and receiving successful placings. This fall she accepted a new position in the Redfield School District.

New Teacher of the Year



Jolene Konechne

HURON

Jolene Konechne has a strong passion in education which has extended 18 years ranging from elementary school to adult education. As the director for ESL, CTE, Federal Programs, and Accreditation, in her role as director of CTE she collaborates with staff evaluating programs and searching for innovative paths of growth. She has been instrumental in laying a strong foundation in business and community partnerships, including the creation of a Business and Career Fair for high school students as well as community members. Jolene has created an active and meaningful CTE Advisory Board which has led to industry tours, job shadowing, internships, and financial support from industry partners.

Administrator of the Year



Frankie Nelson

BRIDGEWATER-EMERY

In Frankie's short career of teaching for eight years, she has added five new courses to her program as the family and consumer sciences teacher. Her school was awarded a Workforce Education grant that has allowed the FCS room to be remodeled to include commercial style kitchens and within the next two years a Prostart program will be added. A Life Skills course that is co-taught with Special Education Department helps those students be successful and to focus and build on their employability and independent living skills. She has also implemented a new curriculum called Foundations in Personal Finance by Dave Ramsey, plus she supervises students in the internship course. Her FCCLA members have been very active and done well. One of her students has chosen to become an FCS teacher/FCCLA advisor and has accepted a job in our state.

Teacher of the Year



Megan Zinter

BOWDLE

She was able to build business and community partnerships. Gradually, she began brainstorming with her students to find ways to give back to the community. These community service projects began with little things like collecting canned food items for the local food pantry and backpack program and pulling weeds from the community garden. Learning these skills in class has led to FCCLA projects like designing and creating sensory quilts for residents in the nursing home, painting ceiling tiles for the nursing home and hospital, hosting an annual Halloween Party, assembling Thanksgiving baskets for the needy and establishing hygiene stations in the school bathrooms, and through fundraisers money was raised for those in the community facing illness and hardships. The planning and skills sets taught in her CTE classes helped to make these projects and others happen.

Carl Perkins Community Service

DACTE Awards



Amber Fluth

TRI-VALLEY

Amber has been employed in this school district for the past 18 years where she is the business and computer teacher and has had several student teachers. She is currently part of the new teacher mentor program and agreed to mentor a new CTE teacher that is teaching with an alternative certification. Several CTE teachers left their positions last year and she knew she would not have enough time to continue to be the CTE director, so she asked a newer CTE teacher to take over and she would be a mentor/advisor. She worked with another teacher to create an employability/careers class. The school's apprenticeship program is spearheaded by her and includes a job shadowing program. Besides teaching her own class, Mrs. Fluth also serves as the advisor of a very successful FBLA chapter.

Teacher Educator of the Year



Cindy Brace

REDFIELD

Mrs. Brace taught family and consumer sciences and advised FCCLA for 40 years before retiring last spring. Before teaching in Redfield, she taught in Conde. Teaching career and employability skills is a passion of hers and has been incorporated in the curriculum she taught. Cindy is an innovator and a leader in her classroom where she has piloted many programs for the state of South Dakota. Her hands-on teaching is evident by her commitment to promoting a high-quality CTE program with emphasis on the FCS content standards for her students. She has served as an advisor over the years to many students who have qualified for national FCCLA competition, many district/regional officers, 13 state officers, and one national officer. Under Cindy's guidance her students and members are involved in many of the community's needs and activities.

Lifetime Achievement



Allison Hutchinson

SANFORD HEALTH

Mrs. Hutchinson serves as the Sr. Career Development Consultant for Sanford. The impact of the Sanford ASPIRE's programming led by Allison is impacted in the Sioux Falls and Harrisburg School Districts and are the largest populations of positive influences. With the career explorations and development and educational partnerships taught by Allison, the learners would not be well prepared for healthcare and career opportunities inside the global healthcare organization including food service, marketing, IT, clinical roles at the medical center and Good Samaritan Center (long-term care facilities), and building management (construction). Her role in workforce development from K-12 programming has impacted over 20,000 learners from 2022 through June 2023 at elementary learner interest days, by coordinating PLTW courses at middle school career exploration, and by coordinating Sanford's high school internship program.

Friend of CTE



Travis Lape

EDUCATORS RISING

Mr. Lape serves as the State Director of Educators Rising South Dakota and has spearheaded this establishment of local chapters in our state. A small group of schools came together to brainstorm and collaborate a way to nurture and develop the next generation of educators. They have three key areas of focus. One is the learning expos where the partnerships with universities in South Dakota serve as hosts on their campus. A second key is to provide academic pathways for members to explore the field of education through coursework. The first Child Development Associate (CDA) credential will be available this fall. The State Teacher Signing Day takes place annually in May. The third key area is to raise funds to make sure we give back to our future teachers. Membership has grown over the past five years.

Award of Merit

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