

## *A newsletter for Alaska ACTE Members* [www.alaskaacte.org](http://www.alaskaacte.org)

### MAY-A YEAR IN REVIEW & LOOKING AHEAD

*Submitted by* Andrea Wade, ACTE President

As we reflect on the past year this May, it's a perfect time to celebrate the educators who make Alaska ACTE strong. Our teachers are at the heart of our success, and this month we recognize two outstanding professionals—Rex Hamner and Pete Daley—whose leadership, mentorship, and dedication exemplify the highest standards in Career and Technical Education.

#### **Rex Hamner: Innovation and Mentorship**

A long-time ACTE member, Rex Hamner recently received the one of Region V Innovative Program Awards for his pioneering itinerant CTE programs with the Alaska Gateway School District. His efforts have expanded access to quality CTE in remote areas, demonstrating both innovation and equity. As Rex prepares for retirement, we honor his seven years of leadership in Alaska and his lasting impact on the CTE community from Wyoming to Alaska. A generous mentor and tireless advocate, Rex's contributions will be deeply missed but long remembered.

#### **Pete Daley: Dedication and Excellence**

Pete Daley, one of only four AWS-certified secondary welding instructors in Alaska, brings unmatched drive to his work—starting his day at 3:00 a.m. to ensure his students receive the highest quality education. This year, he was named Alaska Teacher of the Year 2025 and will represent our state in the national competition. Pete's commitment to his students and professional growth is an inspiration to us all, and we are proud to support him as he competes on the national stage.

Rex and Pete embody the spirit of Alaska ACTE—professionals who not only teach technical skills but mentor, inspire, and lead. Their legacy will continue to shape CTE in Alaska for years to come. Please join us in celebrating these exceptional educators.

### ALASKA ACTE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Empowering Futures: Industry Collaboration 2025

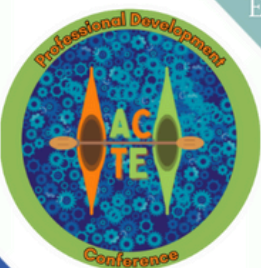


PRE-CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 12  
CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 13 & 14  
POST-CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 15

HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS & TOURS

HOTEL CAPTAIN COOK

HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS & TOURS



## What We Accomplished Together: ACTE 2024–2025 Year in Review

As the school year winds down, we're taking a moment to reflect on a season of growth, connection, and renewed momentum for Alaska ACTE. From digital upgrades to statewide outreach, here are a few highlights from the past year:

- **Revamped Website & AKEE Relaunch:** Our updated [Alaska ACTE website](#) and revitalized Alaska Education Exchange (AKEE) platform now offer cleaner navigation, more accessible resources, and a hub for educators across the state. We're proud of the renewed energy behind this space for collaboration and professional growth.
- **Social Media Reboot:** We reenergized our presence across platforms with fresh content, campaign themes like Industry in the Classroom, and spotlight stories that celebrate CTE in action. Engagement is on the rise, and we're excited to keep growing our reach.
- **New Tiered Partnership System:** For the first time ever, we launched a formal annual partnership program to build sustainable funding and stronger relationships with industry, training providers, and community organizations. From Bronze to Diamond tiers, our goal is to align sponsorship with impact—and create more opportunities for students and educators alike.
- **Member Engagement & Advocacy:** ACTE members across Alaska continued to advocate for CTE at the local and state levels. Through testimony, workgroup participation, and community leadership, our collective voice is shaping the future of career-connected education.

This year's progress reflects the passion and perseverance of educators, administrators, and partners statewide. Thank you for being part of this journey—and for all the ways you support Alaska's students and workforce future.

Like, share, and follow  
Alaska ACTE  
on social media.



<https://www.facebook.com/alaskaacte/>



<https://www.instagram.com/akacte/>



[https://x.com/ak\\_acte](https://x.com/ak_acte)



<https://www.youtube.com/@AlaskaACTE>

# Looking for Summer PD?

Check out some of these options available right now for CTE teachers to take advantage of:

- [AKEE - Alaska Education Exchange](#)
- [Alaska CTE Learn](#)
- [For Teachers: Prince William Sound Community College](#)
- [AVTEC Flexible and Free PD for Secondary CTE Teachers](#)
- Read ACTE's current issue of [Techniques](#)
- Explore Free Prodigy Learning opportunities as listed below

## PRODIGY LEARNING MINECRAFT CREDENTIALS PRODUCTS OVERVIEW



Title	Dates	Link
June <b>Coding in Minecraft</b> Certified Educator Course	June 2, June 4 and June 9 4 PM– 6 PM	<a href="https://forms.office.com/e/sweH9unD2K">https://forms.office.com/e/sweH9unD2K</a>
June <b>Cyber in Minecraft</b> Certified Educator Course	June 16, June 18 and June 23 12 PM - 2 PM	<a href="https://forms.office.com/e/aDsdyL5sEK">https://forms.office.com/e/aDsdyL5sEK</a>
June <b>AI Ready Skills</b> Certified Educator Course	June 17, June 19 and June 24 9 AM – 11 PM	<a href="https://forms.office.com/e/VMit4Jdzqw">https://forms.office.com/e/VMit4Jdzqw</a>
July <b>Coding in Minecraft</b> Certified Educator Course	July 7, July 8 and July 9 10 AM – 12 PM	<a href="https://forms.office.com/e/UVmXJz6tHE">https://forms.office.com/e/UVmXJz6tHE</a>
July <b>Cyber in Minecraft</b> Certified Educator Course	July 21, July 22 and July 23 10 AM – 12 PM	<a href="https://forms.office.com/e/tQZNZqXWU2">https://forms.office.com/e/tQZNZqXWU2</a>
July <b>AI Ready Skills</b> Certified Educator Course	July 16, July 17 and July 18 1 PM – 3 PM	<a href="https://forms.office.com/e/TtijTQ9W3r">https://forms.office.com/e/TtijTQ9W3r</a>

# REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH: MICHAEL ADAMS



Celebrating 34 Years of CTE Impact:  
An Interview with a Community-Driven Educator, Michael Adams

This month, we are excited to highlight the inspiring story of a dedicated educator whose passion for career and technical education (CTE) has transformed his community and empowered countless students over the past 34 years.

With a background in Mechanical Engineering and certification in Secondary Math/Science, Michael Adams's journey began with a simple yet profound realization: combining academic and vocational education is a natural, effective approach. His first recertification class in 1992, entitled "Combining Academic and Vocational Education," set the tone for his lifelong commitment to integrating real-world skills into the classroom.

While mathematics initially captured his passion, he soon recognized how essential it is for students to see the relevance of math in work and life. Today, he teaches "Physics in Context," a hands-on course emphasizing physics' application in the workplace. This class serves as a bridge to CTE programs in Metals and Construction trades, fostering a practical understanding of how physics relates to various industries.



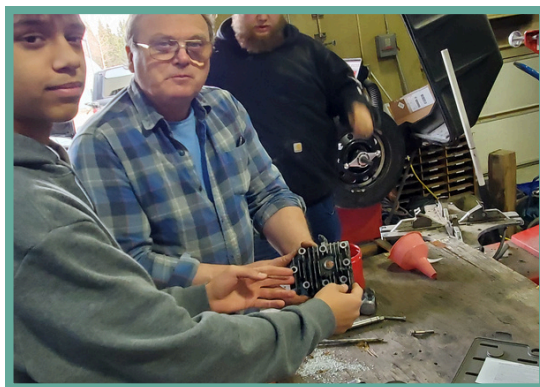
Beyond physics, Adams teaches Small Engines and Automotive classes, drawing from his mechanic roots, which he learned at his family's gas station in Delta Junction. His diverse teaching portfolio also includes AutoCAD drafting and managing a fabrication lab, where students recently completed a regionally recognized river boat project.

His work extends into community involvement—he runs a fabrication lab twice a week, tutors students, and collaborates with local businesses and military volunteers from Fort Greely. These partnerships have led to unique projects, such as printing a full-size pelvis for a physical therapist and a colossal squid for a young student.

What drives Adams the most is the success and gratitude of his students. Many return to visit, sharing stories of how his mentorship helped them pursue careers in engineering, teaching, and beyond. One student's mother even credited his influence for inspiring her son to become an engineer—and someday, a teacher himself.







He actively seeks to inspire his colleagues by promoting Project-Based Learning (PBL) across academic disciplines. His efforts have led to successful lab projects in science, English, art, metals, and woodwork. His goal is to make learning more relevant and engaging, reflecting his belief that “Learning by Doing” is the most effective approach.

Additionally, Adams is working on strengthening student pathways, integrating CTE and academic goals to provide students with clearer career directions. His school’s pathways team has shared their model at local, state, regional, and national conferences, receiving positive feedback and inspiring others to adopt similar approaches.

The community’s support for the fabrication lab has been unwavering, with local businesses and volunteers contributing to its success. A community dinner presentation of the pathways model drew enthusiastic participation and sparked meaningful conversations about how schools and local industries can collaborate.

He concludes with a heartfelt reflection: “I do all this work for the students. Helping them succeed is the most rewarding part of my job.” Michael Adams’s dedication exemplifies the profound impact that committed educators can have on students, colleagues, and the community as a whole.

Michael Adams’s story is a testament to the power of integrating academic learning with real-world skills, fostering community partnerships, and inspiring the next generation of innovators. His work embodies the spirit of CTE—preparing students not just for jobs, but for meaningful careers and lifelong learning.

We thank Michael Adams for his unwavering dedication and look forward to seeing how his work continues to inspire educators and students alike.

