

February 2021

# SDACTE Newsletter



## One Sizzlin' Summer

In May of 2020, Rolling Stone magazine stated that “the summer song is one of rock’s truest pleasures be it a dance jam that dominates every backyard cookout or a sweet ode to cars, romance, and partying.” It went on to describe the top 55 summer songs ending with their top five picks: *School’s Out* by Alice Cooper in the number five spot, *Old Town Road* by Lil Nas X, *Summertime Blues* by Eddie Cochran, and *Dancing in the Street* by Martha and The Vandellas. *I Like It* by Cardi B, Bad Bunny, and J Balvin rounded out the number one spot for summer songs<sup>1</sup>.

Now, whether or not you agree with the listing of sizzling summer tunes, SDACTE Summer Conference, July 25-27, 2021 just may have you singing a song or dancing to a little ditty of your liking.

The board of directors has been making plans for the summer conference to take place in Watertown at Lake Area Technical College. Since last year was struck down by Covid, the board is optimistic to have an in-person gathering at the end of July to satisfy your pedagogy, content standards, and certification needs. Breakout and in-depth sessions will be offered along with tours, the annual awards banquet, and division time allowing members to reconnect, rejuvenate, and remember what it means and feels like to be a part of the SDACTE family.

The board does understand that Covid may still be a concern moving forward. While plans are being made for face-to-face attendance, the idea for virtual aspects and participation of the conference are important and the board is working to include digital connectedness as well.

So, start singing your favorite summer song as you prepare to attend SDACTE’s Conference 2021 in Watertown! It looks to be one sizzling symposium!

<sup>1</sup>Rolling Stone. *Best Summer Songs of All Time*. May 20, 2020. <https://www.rollingstone.com/music/music-lists/best-summer-songs-of-all-time-43407/>

Lenessa Keehn, SDACTE President

Kent Julian  
“Dream – to – Do”

Keynote Speaker 2021

Kent was our slated Keynote for the canceled 2020 conference and we’re so lucky that he was able to postpone with us for this year. Here is some information on what to look forward to for 2021.

Kent Julian is a lot of things... devoted family man, champion swim coach, fish-taco lover, and proud bald guy. Yet, this hasn’t always been the case. Kent started out as an at-risk child with severe learning challenges and SAT scores so low that he had to take Development Studies just to get into college—on probation.

From these humble beginnings, Kent went on to lead several large youth organizations in order to help teenagers who struggled just like him. After 20 years in non-profit work, Kent changed directions and launched two successful businesses. Now, with his expertise in creating DREAM-to-DO work cultures, he is privileged to speak, write, and consult leaders and teams all over the country on the topics of employee engagement, leadership, and the multi-generational workforce. Watch this video to learn more about his Events + Response = Outcomes idea that he will share with us:

<https://youtu.be/Y8TjghFBtjk>

To learn more about this topic, make sure to come to the summer conference July 25-27, 2021

Watertown, SD!  
Lori Christensen



# Celebrate CTE Month!

February is CTE Month! How have you celebrated or raised awareness for CTE in your community? Share any pictures with Annika Russell-Manke (Annika.russell@mitchelltech.edu) to be posted on the SDACTE Facebook page.

Career & Technical Education month is a great time - but not the only time - for all of CTE to showcase the great things that our students and programs are accomplishing. Because we are involved in CTE daily, we may not always realize that some teachers, administrators, parents, school board members, and others in our community don't get to directly experience the exciting impacts of our programs.

February brings specific celebrations for many of our CTSOs; National FBLA-PBL week (Feb. 14-20), National Skills USA week (Feb. 7-13), National FCCLA week (Feb. 8-12), and National FFA Week (Feb. 20-27). It's no coincidence that these celebrations fall during the month of February. Take the time to celebrate the CTSO successes, and keep in mind the spirit of CTE throughout this month. Share your classroom activities with as much of your community as possible. Recruit for your programs. Be a spokesperson for CTE in your community!

Career and Technical Education is about more than preparing students for post-graduate successes. We teach academic content with relevance to the real world. We promote employability skills and provide employment opportunities to students. We help our students find their place in the world and see the potential they have for greatness. I encourage you to continue to make those connections with students, and also foster connections between your CTE program and your community.

Thank you for everything you do to make CTE in South Dakota successful. We know that it is the students who make CTE great, but they couldn't do it without their CTE teachers and CTSO Advisors.

Happy CTE Month!

Josh Christiansen  
SDACTE Past President

## It's Official



SDACTE officers President-Elect Lori Christensen, Past President Josh Christiansen, and President Lenessa Keehn pose with the proclamation from Governor Noem declaring February as CTE Month. This year's theme is "Celebrate Today. Own Tomorrow!" In looking at the CTE data provided by the Division of Career and Technical Education, it supports the anecdotal stories that CTE graduates, through rigorous, relevant coursework, have a high graduation rate than the overall state rate (97.25% to 83.68%)

## Lodging at Summer Conference

The SDACTE Board of Directors has reserved a block of rooms at the Ramkota Hotel for the summer conference in Watertown. All the Sunday activities and Monday night awards banquet will take place at the Ramkota. Monday's and Tuesday's daytime activities will take place on the campus of Lake Area Tech. The Ramkota has guaranteed the special rate of \$94.99 for a standard double or single room.

Please have the attendees call the hotel direct at 605-886-8011 and ask for the 2021 SDACTE Conference to obtain the group rate. All reservations must be received by 7-01-2021. At that time the remaining blocked rooms will be released and sold on a first come first serve basis. If you encounter any difficulties, please contact Dodie Bemis at 605-881-4746 or bemisd@lakeareatech.edu.



CELEBRATE TODAY,  
OWN TOMORROW!

## Marketing SDACTE and Career & Technical Education

It's CTE Month and we are all focusing on ways to market our programs and CTE as a whole. SDACTE would like to do the same. On SDACTE's Facebook page

(<https://www.facebook.com/South-Dakota-CTE-313875221977945>) we would like to highlight the great things going on in your programs.

If you have pictures of activities, please email them to me (Annika.russell@mitchelltech.edu) with a short description. Also, any articles that are in your local paper about your students we'd like to share on our page. Just send the link to the article!!

Another great resource for marketing your programs can be found on the ACTE website: <https://www.acteonline.org/why-cte/cte-awareness/cte-month/> This might say it is about CTE month, but the information is great to use all year long.



RAMKOTA  
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South Dakota Association Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences

Hello, FACS Folks,

Just a short note to let you know that our SDATFACS website is back up and running. Some of the information was changed or updated and some additional links were added to make it more user-friendly for our members. [This is the link](#), so please check it out. It can also be found on the front page (at the bottom) of the new SDACTE website. I hope your second semester is going well. I was looking for something on the DELISH website this past week and came across this fun article on “the best things to eat and drink when freezing your @\$ off.” Needless to say, it perked my interest, ha! Here they are in case you were wondering...

1. Brussel Sprouts: One serving packs more Vitamin C than an entire orange. Load up to help fend off a cold during the winter.
2. Whole Grain Pasta: The fiber in complex carbs requires more energy to break down, and all your body's hard work can keep you extra-warm.
3. Oatmeal: Holding a bowl of this stuff is like wearing hand warmers. Plus, it's a whole grain and warms the insides too.
4. Coffee: It's not just the fact that you're drinking a steaming cup of joe. Caffeine stimulates your metabolism, causing your body to burn fuel and warm up.
5. Peanuts: Vitamin b3 helps regulate blood flow, which is key to keeping your body temperature up.
6. Lean Meat: If you're constantly bemoaning your cold hands and feet, try eating more iron-rich foods. The mineral can be warming, and it's more prevalent in things like beef and chicken.
7. Sushi: Get the fish wrapped in brown rice for the whole grains. But make sure you get a side of raw ginger, too. It is known to provide a spike in body -temperature.

Stay safe and hopefully “warmer” now,  
Wendy Conrad, SDATFACS President

## Happy CTE Month from the Department of Education!

A very special thanks to all of you for your role in readying the students of SD for career and college success. This month is about celebrating the successes in your programs, but that success doesn't just happen. So much credit is due to the CTE teachers, administrators, support professionals, school board members, and business partners that help keep our very important mission moving forward. You are all developing some very bright future members of our nation's workforce. So, as we celebrate CTE Month, we thank you for taking extra steps to ensure that your students have the skills our workforce needs. We thank you for enforcing soft skills, so your students have improved chances at successful employment. We thank CTE instructors for partnering with industry to put as many opportunities in front of their students as possible.

We encourage you to spend this month tooting your horns and spreading the good word about all that you are doing. Here are a few favorite resources and ideas you can use to promote CTE throughout your school and community:

- [CTE Month Virtual Background for Zoom](#)
- [Use the CTE Month Logo](#)
- [Animated GIF's for CTE Month with Current Statistics](#)
- Host a school visit and invite members of your local community to learn about your school's strong CTE programs firsthand
- Engage with your policymakers (city council, school board, etc) and the media to encourage them to attend events and tell your CTE story.
- Use social media to share the positive things happening in your school/ classroom.
- Share your successes with your CTE regional specialist so we can celebrate them through DOE communications.
- Work with business and industry leaders to ensure they understand the role CTE plays in readying their future workforce

**Official DCTE Business Reminder** - Program applications are due March 31st. If you have not connected with your [regional specialist](#) to complete that please do ASAP.

Sincerely,  
Amy Miller  
DCTE Assistant Director

## Achieve 100 Winners Announced

The SDACTE Board of Directors is pleased to announce a 21 schools have qualified for the 2021 ACTE Achieve 100 Award. These include Agar-Blunt-Onida, Alcester-Hudson, Baltic, Bridgewater-Emery, Flandreau, Canton, Highmore, Hoven, Kimball, Lead-Deadwood, Lyman, Madison, McCook Central, McIntosh, Menno, Parker, Parkston, Philip, Tri-Valley, SDSU, and DCTE. This Award recognizes schools that offer a minimum of 2 CTE courses whose instructors belong to SDACTE/ACTE. These schools will appear in the March publication of Techniques, and they will also be recognized at the Awards Banquet Monday night at summer conference. Once again, your Board of Directors wants to recognize those schools that have 100% of their CTE staff belonging to their professional organization (SDACTE/ACTE). Our goal is to heighten the public awareness of CTE and the professionalism of our schools and educators.





# 2021 South Dakota Legislative Update

The 2021 Legislative Session is well underway and fast approaching Feb. 25, 2021, Crossover Day, the last day to pass bills out of the house of origin. It has been a fairly quiet year in regard to secondary career and technical education legislation. Please share your students' and programs' successes with your area legislators as well as Senators Round and Thune and Representative Johnson as well as your local school board and media. When allowed, please invite them to your CTE Events and awards banquets. The list of bills provided below is for informational purposes and was reviewed on Feb. 13, 2021. If you become aware of legislation regarding career and technical education, please contact the SDACTE Board Members and the Legislative Committee. HB 1280 An appropriation to update the educator certification system. SB 171 An Act to Provide for the SD Freedom Scholarship, make an appropriation and declare an emergency. \$50 million dollars for the purpose of funding a needs-based-scholarship endowment fund. Eligible institutions are any institution beyond the high school level located in South Dakota. HB 1267 Make an appropriation to the Board of Technical Education for purchasing equipment and to declare an emergency. HB 1152 Make an appropriation to the Board of Technical Education for a new precision agriculture facility at Mitchell Technical College and to declare an emergency HB 1144 Make an appropriation to the Board of Technical Education for a new classroom building at Lake Area Tech and to declare an emergency. HB 1153 Authorize the Board of Regents to contract for the design and construction of a new dairy and extension farm on the campus of SDSU together with equipment and furnishings, to make an appropriation therefor, and to declare an emergency At the national level, ACTE staff does an excellent job sending updates and alerts in regard to federal legislation impacting career and technical education. Please respond promptly when ACTE staff ask for information and/or action needed. Up-to-date information can be accessed at <https://ctepolicywatch.acteonline.org/>

Coleen Keffeler  
SDACTE Legislative Chair

## Celebrating CTE!

February is Career and Technical Education month and every year I try to talk about the importance of CTE in my BMIT classes. Most of the time, students don't identify my classes as being CTE. I guess I can't blame them because when I first decided to go into education, I didn't realize that business courses are also CTE.

A little background information. Before becoming an educator, I worked for the State of South Dakota as a Sales Tax Auditor. It was during this time that I felt the need to go into education because many taxpayers I audited knew very little about accounting and business practices. I felt strongly that if they had more knowledge, they would have fewer difficulties completing necessary business practices, like tracking and paying their taxes - technical skills.

I investigated going back to school to complete the courses necessary to get my Business Education degree and found it would only take three semesters. Most of my courses were general education-based and towards the end of the second semester, a professor suggested that I take two courses in "Vocational Education" and along with my work experience get an endorsement in Vocational Education. I did but still didn't understand the significance of CTE.

I was urged by my Madison High School principal to go to my first SDACTE conference in my second year of teaching. This is where I started my journey in "true" CTE. The BMIT division was five members at that time, but I learned so much about how business courses fit into the CTE world from the BMIT members. In our BMIT world, our students don't always view themselves as CTE students but more as regular college-bound students. I feel it is part of our calling to show our students that BMIT courses open many opportunities for them outside the traditional college-bound pathways.

Please take some time this spring to help your students explore the opportunities that taking CTE courses can bring to them now and in the future. Enjoy and celebrate everything CTE!

Kristie Olson, BMIT Division President

## ***Abandoned: America's Lost Youth and the Crisis of Disconnection***

For this article, I want to discuss a recent group book discussion I was part of in January. The book was Anne Kim's, *Abandoned: America's Lost Youth and the Crisis of Disconnection*. The book provided an interesting in-site into the challenges of today's youth.

I reflected on my high school years growing up in White Lake versus the opportunities my children had growing up in Sioux Falls. For a bit, I was thinking how easy my kids had it, but then I stopped to reflect. We all had excellent educations and we were all fortunate that CTE classes were part of the opportunity that existed.

This book stacked up challenge after challenge for our youth, but I know that CTE is the answer for so many. Here are some of the areas where I know that CTE instructors help to connect youth to their futures.

CTE Instructors:

- Develop strong student to faculty relationships over a common interest.
- Prepare the student for post-secondary or for the workforce.
- Provide opportunities for speakers through technology or collaboration with industry or other professionals.
- Help students learn how to network with others and help make connections or opportunities through shadowing and internships.
- Share stories of student success.
- Embrace diversity and learn from others.
- Address technology openly and make sure that they have the tools and knowledge to succeed and not make assumptions that students understand all technology.
- Listen and just check-in with students and be the mentor that they may not have.

I encourage you all to read this and many other books and continue to be there for your students.

Craig Peters, Southeast Tech, Post Secondary Liaison to SDACTE

## Admin Division Updates

Hopefully, this article finds you working your way through the unique school year full of changes and opportunities. As we work through the school year the SDACTE Board of Directors continues to work on the summer conference for 2021 in Watertown. I would encourage all administrators to come out and enjoy a few days of PD and networking. This conference is a great way to learn about CTE programs and how it can be implemented in a variety of ways in your school system.

All SDACTE members will be sent a survey in the coming weeks about the 2023 summer SDACTE conference. Tentatively, this conference is scheduled to occur in Madison. It is important that you complete this survey as we are trying to gather information in regards to housing needs during the three days of the conference. It is the goal of the SDACTE board to provide a summer conference with well-rounded, engaging professional development and consistent content. If Madison cannot provide enough housing, we will need to look for another place to host the 2023 conference.

In closing, I hope each of you has a fantastic finish to the school year! Hopefully, a year from now we will look back and smile at all the accomplishments we have had through such a unique time in history. As always, stay safe and continue to impact kids daily!

Adam Shaw, Administration Division President

### CTE Rookie Teachers Recognized

As was announced in the December newsletter, SDACTE sponsored a CTE Rookie Teacher contest. The goal of this project was to recognize the work put in by these new CTE teachers and support them as they need. There were nine nominees. Each received a CTE Rookie Teacher certificate, a \$10 Starbucks gift card, a CTE Month pen and post its, a bookmark with information regarding the SDACTE organization, and a listing of the SDACTE members at their respective schools. Recipients included Alex Toupal- Bridgewater-Emery, Ag; Elke King- Faith, Ag; Holly Howie- Rapid City Central, FACS; Jenna Ellerbusch- Southeast Tech, Health; Jennifer Dame-Stevens; Keely Anderson-Wagner, FACS; Kristi Dancisin Harrisburg, Business; Shae Knox- Miller, FACS; Taylor Burkell- Harrisburg, Auto. Three of the nominees (Toupal, King, and Dancisin) are already members

### Good News!!!

SDACTE received good financial news the beginning of January. Executive Director Dodie Bemis had previously applied for the SD CARES SmallNonProfitCOVID grant. There was 40 million dollars available to help non-profit businesses. Dodie received notice that \$30,000+ had been deposited in the SDACTE checking account on January 6th. Not hosting a summer conference really took a toll on SDACTE finances. In addition, several members chose not to renew. Consequently, the Board was concerned about continuing normal services. This is no longer a problem and the Board looks forward to planning a summer conference with well-rounded, engaging professional development that will benefit its members. SD CARES did care!!!

## Scholarships Available

Make sure to mark your calendar and spread the word about the opportunity for your students to awarded one of two \$1000 scholarships (if funds are available) to be given in April of 2021. Applicants can be either high school seniors or current post-secondary students. The new application is online (on the SDACTE website) and has been streamlined and adapted to an online format. Here's a reminder of the qualifications.

For the high school application The recipient of this scholarship must meet the following criteria:

- ü Is graduating from a South Dakota high school with the class of 2021
- ü Is applying to or accepted by a program at any South Dakota Technical College or University in one of the following fields: Health, Business, Trade and Industry, Marketing, Agricultural Education, and Family Consumer Science Education.

ü He/she will be a full time post-secondary student during the 2021-2022 school year.

ü Has demonstrated scholastic achievement.

For the post secondary scholarship application

The recipient of this scholarship must meet the following criteria:

ü Is enrolled as a full-time post-secondary student during the 2020-2021 school year in a program at any South Dakota Technical College or University in one of the following fields: Health, Business, Trade and Industry, Marketing, Agricultural Education, or Family Consumer Science Education.

ü Has taken a minimum of two Career and Technical Education courses.

ü Is active in career and technical student organizations.

ü Has achieved at least a 3.0 GPA.

A reminder that of the 66 applications we received last year, 36 were disqualified for missing information or documentation. Attention to detail is the key.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please fee free to contact me at [suzy.ries@k12.sd.us](mailto:suzy.ries@k12.sd.us).

Suzy Ries, Scholarship Committee Chair

## Greetings from Region V ACTE!

As a member of SDACTE, you are automatically a member of Region V and all the opportunities it holds. Please take note of these opportunities as they allow you to develop your leadership skills and professional knowledge. Plus, you are able to network with some of the best CTE professionals in the nation. Please check out the Region V webpage at [https://www.acteonline.org/state\\_region/region-v/](https://www.acteonline.org/state_region/region-v/) to check out these opportunities.

- **Region V Meeting** – Region V Conference, hosted by the Nevada state association, will be held virtually this year on April 15 -17. Conference information and registration link can be found at - <https://www.acteonline.org/region-page/region-v-events>. Early Registration Deadline is due April 1, 2021.
- **Innovative Program Award** – If you have an innovative program or know someone who does, please complete the award application form that was sent to you previously from your SDACTE president, Lenessa Keehn.
- **Region V Opportunity Fund Grant** – this fund grant is available to state ACTE leaders for the purpose of increasing member value and engagement, professional and leadership development, advocacy and awareness, strategic partnerships, or innovation. Interested in applying? Please visit with your SDACTE executive committee on the process. Grant applications are due March 15.
- **Interested in Becoming a Region V Fellow?** Participating in the Region V Fellowship Program is a terrific professional development opportunity for you! Region V will select a maximum of 2 fellows for the next two years. Each fellow will receive a stipend of \$1,000 for each year of the two-year period, to help offset some of the expenses of being a fellow. Interested in applying, please email me at [tracy.kern@k12.sd.us](mailto:tracy.kern@k12.sd.us) for the Region V fellow application.

Tracy Kern,

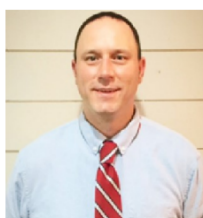
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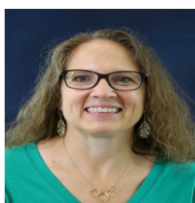
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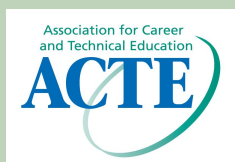
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Craig Peters  
Post Secondary Liaison



South Dakota  
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