



Achieve 100
By: Andy Jensen

Greetings! 2024 is coming to an end, and what a year it has been. We can calculate the school year based on both failures and successes, and how it has evolved. I was recently talking with my student resident about how much teaching has changed in just 10 years, and how it will continuously change more the next 10.

I want to invite all of you who have 100% teacher membership to SDACTE to apply for the Achieve 100 Award. It does not matter if your CTE department is 1 or 10, it is a great honor to apply and be awarded. Last year, there were just 36 districts in the nation that were awarded this distinguished award.

The requirements are simple: have 100% membership of your CTE Staff in your district, or institution by December 31, 2024. Applications are due February 1, 2025! Don't wait!

You have two options to apply. You can apply online through ACTE, or through the [SDACTE Achieve 100 Form](#), and you can apply that way. If you choose to apply through ACTE, you will need the membership number for each CTE teacher.

Congratulations to the 2024 Achieve100 Winners this past year:

- Alcester-Hudson School
- Chester Area School District
- Madison Central School District
- Parker School District

If you have any questions, please reach out! We would love to have more of our wonderful programs recognized on the national level.

See you at VISION!



CTE IN ACTION



Mitchell FBLA made 15 gallons of chili and served it at Love Feast - a meal provided free to the community twice a month! Checkout these students in action!

*Photos provided by Denise Hoffman, Mitchell FBLA Adviser

Check It Out!



Direct Live Links Inside this Viewpoint Newsletter

*Throughout this newsletter you will see blue bolded & underlined text. These links will direct you to important websites & opportunities available for our members!



Champion CTE!

By: Travis Santistevan

Greetings, South Dakota CTE Champions! With Thanksgiving just around the corner and the festive season quickly following, it's the perfect time to remind everyone about an exciting event coming up soon – Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month in February!

What is CTE Month?

CTE Month is a nationwide celebration dedicated to increasing public awareness of the incredible impact CTE programs have on students, schools, and communities. It's a time to share the stories of success, innovation, and opportunity that CTE programs create every day.

Who's behind it?

Hosted by the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) and proudly sponsored by the National Association of Home Builders, CTE Month is all about celebrating the vital role of hands-on learning and industry-based skills.

When?

February! Mark your calendars and start planning your celebrations now!

How Can You Get Involved?

This is our chance to shine! Here's how you can champion CTE in your classrooms and communities:

- Celebrate CTE with Positive Awareness: Spread the word about the unique, hands-on learning opportunities that CTE programs offer students. Let your community know how CTE is shaping the future workforce.
- Share Your Successes: Use CTE Month to highlight your program's achievements, from student projects and competitions to partnerships with local businesses and industries.
- Explain CTE's Importance: Emphasize how CTE prepares students for high-demand careers and supports the economic health of our schools, communities, and the entire state of South Dakota.

Together, let's showcase the power of CTE in transforming lives and building pathways to success. To help spread the word and make the most of this month, be sure to check out the resources from ACTE at [CTE Month Resources](#).

Wishing you a successful and inspiring first half of the school year!



Stipends for Professional Development Opportunities

By: Kelly Dunkelburger

Professional Development Conferences are a great way to gain knowledge in your respective CTE area. The SDACTE organization has many stipends available to help you attend these conferences. Right around the corner is ACTE Vision 2024 in San Antonio December 4-7. Jackie Kessler and Anne Pankratz applied for and were awarded the stipends to attend the Vision conference. The organization had three stipends available and we encourage everyone to look for the conference stipend next fall and apply to earn one.

If you are still looking for PD conferences to attend we have stipends available for other ACTE conferences.

- The [National Policy Seminar](#) is held in Washington DC March 16-19. This conference is a great way to dive into the legislative side of ACTE and what happens in Washington when it comes to Perkins and other valuable CTE issues. The SDACTE organization awards one \$500 stipend and the application can be found on the SDACTE webpage and is due January 15.
- The [Region V Conference](#) is the next ACTE conference that is jam-packed with great professional development material and loads of fun. This year the Region V conference will be held in Las Vegas NV April 30-May 3. The SDACTE organization offers two \$500 stipends and the application can be found on the SDACTE webpage and is due January 20.
- Looking ahead to summer of 2025 there is also stipend(s) available for our [SDACTE Summer Conference!](#)
- The SDACTE board of directors also created a new policy that any unused stipends would be available as a [Floating Stipend](#) for ACTE-sponsored professional development conferences. The deadline for this stipend is ten days prior to the close of the conference's early bird registration. At this time we have one floating stipend available and encourage you to apply for this stipend if you are attending any ACTE-sponsored conferences. Check out the blue bolded hyperlinks above or the SDACTE website for all of the information and applications.



Member Benefit Spotlight By: Lenessa Keehn

What does being a member bring me? Aside from the networking opportunities and connections from across the state and beyond, ACTE/SDACTE has a plethora of benefits available to members.

In this Membership Benefit Spotlight, the focus will be on you and your programs. When you are advocating for your courses, programming, or CTE in general, it typically involves the other party learning about who you are and what you do in your classroom, with your students, and how it is tied to the community. There is nothing better to support your story than published information straight from ACTE.

What is CTE? is typically where one starts when building a new partnership for your students and your program. It can even be used when presenting to a new group when asking for support. From the ACTE website, you can utilize both the English and Spanish versions to share with stakeholders. When getting into the specifics, there is nothing better than data and facts regarding your curricular/career cluster area. **Sector sheets** have been updated recently by ACTE and are available for distribution to key partners, stakeholders, and parents/student/community members. They are useful in showing CTE's role in workforce development across industries.

To access these resources and more, be sure to log into your ACTE account using your email address and password. If you have issues logging in, be sure to contact **member services** and they will be able to help you. If you recently joined and can't remember how to log in, it will be your email used when you registered for summer conference with the password **SDACTE2024** until you change it to something more secure.

Vision Conference December 4th -7th San Antonio, TX

Follow the link below to Register:
[Vision Conference Registration](#)



South Dakota CTSOs Update By: Katie Paulson

Greetings! As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, we CTSOs have a lot to be thankful for.

Spotlight on Success: The 2024 National FFA Convention has come and gone, and South Dakota FFA made us proud! The awards, acknowledgments, and achievements of our members, leaders, and educators were abundant. Check out the South Dakota FFA Association Facebook page for details.

Fall & Regional Conferences: Our CTSOs do a great job hosting professional development events throughout the fall. Be sure to send your student members if you haven't already!

Local Chapter Fundraiser Idea: Host a student labor fundraiser auction. For example, Student 1 and Student 2 could offer 2 hours of house cleaning, Student 3 could offer 2 hours of window washing, and Student 4 and Student 5 could offer 4 hours of babysitting. Auction these "items" off, and the proceeds go to the CTSO. The person who purchases receives a certificate for the "item." The possibilities for labor items are endless—get creative!

State Conference Prep: It is never too early to prepare your students and teams for the State Conference. I challenge you to create a student-driven accountability system for students to hold each other accountable for their projects, preparation, and performance.

Thank You! As a student member and now on the "other side" of CTSOs, I want to thank you for all you do for our students. I know you put in way too many hours, care deeply about your students' projects, and sacrifice other things for your CTSO "kids." But please know, you are making a difference, and I thank you for your dedication to making our SD CTSOs great!

Division President Reports



BMIT Division Update By: Kristi Dancsisin

As we move deeper into the school year, take a moment to reflect on our journey and look forward to what's ahead. The year is already flying by, and with the holidays around the corner, I hope each of you takes the time to rest, rejuvenate, and spend meaningful moments with your loved ones as you wrap up the semester.

One of our main goals this year is to connect more often and learn from each other outside of our annual conference. These opportunities for collaboration strengthen our community and keep our teaching strategies fresh.

A special thank you goes out to Amber Rost for organizing a Best Practices gathering on December 4th at Dakota State University in Madison. This event will be a fantastic opportunity to connect, share insights, and learn practical tips that can be brought back to our classrooms. I hope to see as many of you there as possible—your presence will make the day even more valuable and impactful. Register today for the [Best Practices](#) gathering! Please check out the flyer included in this newsletter on Page 9 for more information!



Best Practices and Innovations in CTE Recap By: Dr. Sara VandeKamp

I recently attended the 2024 Best Practices and Innovations in CTE Conference in Portland, Oregon, and I'm excited to share some key takeaways from this incredible professional development experience. I was joined by fellow CTE colleagues from South Dakota, including Breanne Lynch (Harrisburg), Fawn Wilde (Western Dakota Tech), and Joe Williams (Spearfish). Co-hosted by ACTE and the National Council of Local Administrators (NCLA), this event is tailored for CTE administrators, offering valuable insights into the latest trends, tools, and innovations in career and technical education.

One of the highlights of the conference was the focus on harnessing digital tools to advance both teaching and administrative tasks. Several AI tools were introduced, including Perplexity AI, which provides excellent research capabilities and even cites sources—a great alternative to traditional search engines. We also explored tools like NotebookLM, which can streamline workflows by summarizing documents and generating FAQs. For those of us managing large-scale projects like Perkins V, Goblin.tools was particularly impressive, offering features that help break down complex tasks in customizable detail. I plan to play around with many of these more and encourage you to do so as well if you aren't already.

Another forward-looking discussion revolved around artificial intelligence agents and their potential in education. These autonomous systems could play a major role in enhancing mobility, equity, and efficiency in CTE programs. On a related note, the rise of autonomous vehicles, 3D-printed homes, and even electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) vehicles, like those being experimented with by Uber, are reshaping how we think about transportation and accessibility in education and the workforce. I was a little overwhelmed by it all!

The conference also reinforced the importance of durable and soft skills. With projections that a 4-day workweek could become more common by 2030, students need to be prepared with the adaptability and interpersonal skills required for this evolving workforce.

Mark your calendars for next year's ACTE and NCLA Best Practices and Innovations in CTE Conference, which will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, from September 24-26, 2025. The event sold out this year, so be sure to save the date early!

ON THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S

Notebook:



- **Region V Innovative Program** – Each **division** nominates a singular program by accessing the [application online](#). **One Application per Division is due JANUARY 10.** Talk to your division president about nominations.





Division President Reports

7 Things SDAAE is Thankful for This Year By: Alysha Kientopf



As the year winds down, the South Dakota Association of Agricultural Educators (SDAAE) reflects on the many successes, achievements, and milestones that have made 2024 an inspiring year for our community of agricultural educators, students, and supporters. Here are 7 reasons we're feeling grateful:

1. **Successful Professional Development Events:** SDAAE members benefited from professional development workshops and conferences throughout the year. These events provided resources, new techniques, and fresh ideas to enhance classroom learning and keep South Dakota's ag educators on the cutting edge of teaching trends.
2. **Student Success in FFA Competitions:** South Dakota's FFA students shone brightly in competitions this year, with several teams and individuals achieving national recognition. A major highlight was Rapid City Stevens' Horse Evaluation Team, which took 1st place at Nationals in October, a testament to the dedication and excellence of South Dakota's agricultural programs. Additionally, many FFA chapters across the state received National Chapter Awards, recognizing their exceptional contributions to students, schools, and communities. These awards showcase the impact and quality of South Dakota's FFA programs, reinforcing their role in shaping future agricultural leaders.
3. **Increased Classroom Resources:** New resources and high-quality materials made their way into ag classrooms across the state, allowing teachers to introduce engaging topics and hands-on learning experiences, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm among students.
4. **Community Engagement Projects:** Agricultural educators and FFA chapters worked closely with their communities, organizing food drives, garden initiatives, and ag awareness events that fostered meaningful connections between students and community members.
5. **Recognition of Outstanding Educators:** SDAAE celebrated teachers who went above and beyond this year. Recognizing these dedicated educators serves as a powerful reminder of the impact they have on their students' lives and the future of agriculture.
6. **Collaboration Across Schools and Districts:** South Dakota's agricultural educators have strengthened collaboration across schools and districts, sharing ideas, lesson plans, and resources that support every ag education program and benefit all students.
7. **A Resilient and Passionate Ag Ed Community:** This year underscored the strength of our SDAAE community. Educators, students, and supporters showed resilience and dedication, uniting around a common goal: advancing agricultural education in South Dakota and building a future we're all proud of.

As we look ahead, SDAAE is filled with gratitude for this year's growth and excited for what's next in South Dakota's ag education journey. Thank you to every member, student, and supporter who has been part of this rewarding year—here's to an even more impactful and inspiring year ahead!

CTE IN ACTION



Hamlin High School, A school full of dedicated Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers thoughtfully planned out every aspect of their \$10+ million facility. This incredible addition was funded by their district, while much of the specialized CTE equipment inside was purchased through the DOE's Innovative Equipment Grant (around \$1.25 Million) - an amazing collaboration that will open countless doors for students. They plan to move in at the end of December since construction is still taking place.

Their new facilities include a professional-grade kitchen that rivals many culinary institutes and an indoor construction space where students can build an entire house-perfect for our unpredictable SD Weather. These additions will give invaluable, hands-on experience, preparing them for real-world careers and developing essential skills. See the photos below that highlight the wonderful state of the art facility under construction!

We are so excited to see the learning and innovation, and growth that will take place here! The future is bright for CTE at Hamlin!





Health Science Division Update By: Natasha Pressler

As this is the month for celebrating Thanksgiving, I wanted to focus this article on gratitude. As a Health Science Educator in South Dakota, there are so many things to be grateful for! I will focus on three specific areas that I hope most CTE Educators can relate to, regardless of what division you are part of.

First off, I'm grateful for supportive colleagues. Even if you don't get along with every coworker at your school, I hope that you have at least one person in your building who you can talk to or lean on. Who hasn't experienced that difficult student/parent or the exhaustion of a long week? In the past few months, I have had multiple colleagues who have made me laugh, given advice, and even covered classes when I have been sick or needed to leave early. I encourage you to thank a coworker this month who has made your day a little brighter or easier. If you don't feel that support within your school building, please know that your CTE family of educators would like to support you. Health Science Educators- please reach out if there is any way that I can support you. I know that other CTE Division Presidents would agree that we are in this position to serve YOU- the teachers who are experts in your craft, yet choosing to pass on your skills and wisdom to the younger generation.

Secondly, I'm grateful for partnerships with local businesses and professionals in our communities. It's amazing what a guest speaker, a tour, a shadow experience, or an internship can do for students! In many cases, meeting a professional or experiencing the work setting ignites a new passion in students. They see the end goal- who they can be or what they can do one day- and they have a whole new motivation for completing classes. This past month, my coworker Lisa Fucello, was able to bring HOSA students on a tour of Sanford Hospital and the Parry Center for Clinical Skills & Simulations (training location for future nurses/doctors). Students who attended the day were excited about getting to view ultrasound technology and practice with the same simulation manikins that are used by med school students. (See the attached picture for students listening to lung sounds on a simulation manikin.) Our community partners give students these types of amazing opportunities that no other classes in high school provide!

Last (but not least), I'm extremely grateful for the health care workers in SD. These professionals work tirelessly to improve the health of our population- from babies to the elderly, and everyone in-between. Many of us have received immunizations from these workers as we prepare for flu season. Others of us know someone in a hospital or nursing home who's receiving care and support as the rest of us go about our daily tasks. And then there are so many health science professionals behind the scenes who are organizing our appointments, researching diseases, and creating new treatments for our benefit. This month, there is a day set aside to honor these health care professionals - specifically those who serve in rural communities. National Rural Health Day is on Thursday, November 21st. Health science educators will be looking to incorporate guest speakers, personal interviews, and thank-yous to these individuals. Whether you are in a rural community or not, I encourage you to thank a health care professional this month!

I wish you joy as you look around and find the people and professionals for whom you can be grateful. You just might find that gratitude lifts your spirits and helps you cope on the difficult days. And please know that I (and the other board members) are grateful for all the work YOU do to impact your student's lives on a daily basis!

Updates from SDSU

South Dakota State University is excited to host SDACTE in 2026! If there are specific facilities or program areas you're interested in, please reach out to me (laura.hasselquist@sdstate.edu) or Dr. Nicole Graves (nicole.graves@sdstate.edu). We would love to showcase what we have on campus.

We have recently started a CTE advisory committee and are eager to find ways to support CTE and CTE teachers across the state. Our goal is to be responsive to the evolving career clusters and to explore the best ways to prepare our current and future students.



Division & Post Secondary



FCS Division Update
By: Anne Pankratz

Can you believe that we are almost ready to celebrate Thanksgiving? Before we know it will be the end of the semester! As a board, we have started making plans for the upcoming year.

As you work through the year, please look for ways to build up our fellow educators. Strong women build each other up and look for ways to promote them within our organization. So, when Brigitte Brucklacher, our new president-elect, calls for nominations for awards offered by the SDATFCS Division, please take the time to nominate those around you who inspire you to be a better teacher! Numerous teachers strive for excellence in and out of their classrooms. So, please take advantage of this and nominate them for an award this year.

Whether you need a quick lesson or thoughts for lessons when you are absent from the classroom, do not be afraid to reach out to the listserv for assistance. This listserv is a wealth of information that can assist with all types of questions and issues. A few ideas will help us in our daily lives, so make sure to reach out if you need a hand.

We will be reaching out in the coming months to call for presenters for the summer conference. So many of you have terrific lessons, great ways to fundraise, or ways to help with FCCLA projects, so when the time comes, please think about sharing your tricks or favorite lesson in your classroom with us.

Remember even though we have a busy year ahead, please remember to take care of yourself. Find a moment to read a book, spend time with your family or binge watch your favorite show! As teachers we sometimes need a gentle reminder to take care of you!

As we step into this year's FCCLA regional meetings, Vision Conference, and thoughts of summer conferences, let's take advantage of each opportunity to enhance our programs, connect with our students, and build networks with fellow educators. The events ahead are more than just meetings; they're an investment in the growth of our students, schools, and communities. Together, we can make this year of profound learning and development, inspiring the next generation of leaders through FCCLA and Family and Consumer Sciences.

Wishing you a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas from my home to yours!



Region V Innovative Program Awards
By: Annika Russel-Manke

The [Region V Innovative Program award](#) recognizes innovative career and technical education programs from each state in the region. The programs are to be unique, novel, and serve to improve and promote the image of career and technical education.

Each year, SDACTE Board of Directors chooses an innovative program to represent South Dakota at the Region V conference from submitted nominations. Each division can submit one nomination of a program that demonstrates a capacity to prepare students to perform successfully in the field and exemplifies the highest standards. The program must be running for at least 3 years and all instructors need to be an SDACTE member.

Think about the programs in each of your schools.....do they do something unique or novel that needs to be shared not only in our state but across the region. We know that all of us do great things in our programs and this is a time to show it off.



CTE IN ACTION

The Gov chefs of Pierre ProStart have been busy exploring international cuisine this semester working with pasta dough, making flambe, mastering plating and charcuterie - pictured below is a charcuterie board they made and gifted to their teachers!





Perkins IMPROVE
By: Amy Miller

We are pleased to announce the release of the [Modernized National Career Clusters® Framework](#), which promises to create new opportunities and advancements for our career and technical education (CTE) students across South Dakota.

Currently, the CTE team at the South Dakota Department of Education is carefully reviewing this updated framework to determine the best approach for implementing it within our state. While the national model is now set, we expect to make some tweaks to how we implement the framework within our state. We have asked schools, teachers, and other stakeholders for patience and support as we move forward in this process.

At the upcoming Perkins IMPROVE Meetings in January, we will present South Dakota's framework, seek your valuable feedback, and discuss how this model can best meet the needs of our educators and students. Following these meetings, we will begin the standards revision process in June to update course and content standards in alignment with South Dakota's new framework. If you have questions before January, please reach out to us. While we may not have all the answers yet, we are excited to be engaging in this process (or something like that?)

Perkins IMPROVE Meeting Dates & Locations:

Please save the date for the meeting in your area. We encourage each district to send at least one representative to participate in these critical discussions. Registration info coming soon.

- January 27 - Chamberlain
- January 28 - Mitchell
- January 29 - Sioux Falls
- January 30 - Aberdeen
- February 3 - Rapid City

Thank you for your dedication to preparing South Dakota students for successful careers.

We look forward to collaborating with you.



Trade and Industry & Technical Education Division Update
By: Lauren Mehlert

As we move into the final months of 2024, we have some exciting opportunities and events on the horizon that we want to share with you. From the SDTEA Conference in Pierre to the National ACTE Conference in San Antonio, there's no shortage of ways to connect, learn, and grow within our field. Read on for details and don't miss out on these amazing opportunities!

SDTEA Conference in Pierre – Don't Miss It!

We're thrilled to announce the upcoming South Dakota Technical Education Association (SDTEA) Conference, happening on January 30-31, February 1, 2025, at the Ramkota Hotel in Pierre, SD. This is the premier event for South Dakota's technical education community, offering a fantastic opportunity for educators to come together for networking, professional development, and collaboration.

One of the highlights of the 2025 conference will be our guest speaker, VJ Smith, a renowned motivational speaker who will inspire and challenge us to elevate our work and impact in the classroom. VJ's dynamic presentations will provide valuable insights and tools for motivating students and fostering success in technical education.

Stay tuned for more information about conference registration and the full schedule of events. For additional details, please visit the official SDTEA website: <https://sdtea.k12.sd.us>.

We encourage all Trade and Industry educators to attend – it's an event you won't want to miss!

National ACTE Conference in San Antonio

Looking further ahead, we want to highlight the National ACTE Conference taking place in San Antonio, Texas, on December 3-4, 2024. This is one of the largest gatherings of Career and Technical Education (CTE) professionals in the country, and it's an event you won't want to miss!

The National ACTE Conference will feature a variety of workshops, keynote speakers, and sessions covering the latest trends and best practices in CTE. Whether you're looking to expand your knowledge, bring back innovative ideas for your programs, or connect with other educators from across the nation, this conference has something for everyone.

Wishing You a Wonderful Holiday Season

As the year winds down, we want to take a moment to wish all our educators a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas break. We know this time of year can be busy, but we hope you're able to relax, recharge, and enjoy quality time with family and friends.

Thank you for all that you do to support our students and our profession. We look forward to seeing you at the SDTEA Conference in Pierre and at the National ACTE Conference in San Antonio! Happy Holidays from the SDACTE Trade and Industry & Technical Education Division!

If you have any questions or need more information about upcoming events or stipend applications, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help!

BUSINESS, FINANCE & MARKETING BEST PRACTICES

DECEMBER 4, 2024

9 AM - 3 PM

Dakota State University
East Hall Room 109
or
Virtual through Zoom

SCHEDULE

9 - 9:50 AM

DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Dr. Deb Tech, Associate Professor of Marketing, will introduce and discuss disruptive technologies—innovations that transform industries by replacing existing products or processes. These technologies, such as AI and blockchain, start in niche markets and eventually reshape entire industries, disrupting traditional business models and creating new opportunities while making older methods obsolete.

10 - 10:50 AM

BUSINESS CAREERS

Dr. Brenda Merkel, Assistant Professor of Management, will discuss Dakota State University's College of Business and Information Systems programs, which prepare students for careers at the intersection of business and technology. These programs equip graduates with skills in data analytics, cybersecurity, IT management, entrepreneurship, and business leadership, offering opportunities in innovation-driven industries.

11 - 11:50 AM

AI IN THE CLASSROOM = EFFICIENCY

Dr. David DeJong, Dean of the College of Education & Director of Teacher Apprenticeships, will explore how AI tools can boost teaching efficiency in business education. Attendees will learn to use AI for streamlining tasks, personalizing learning, and creating engaging materials, helping teachers save time and focus on impactful teaching and student relationships.

12 PM - 1 PM

LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

1 PM - 3 PM

BEST PRACTICES

Each participant will present a lesson plan to their peers. Additional details will be provided following registration.

Event sponsors:



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
& INFORMATION SYSTEMS

**Graduate credit and Continuing Education Contact Hours (CECHs) options available.