



VIEWPOINT

Quarterly Newsletter



2025 SDACTE Conference Highlights By: Andy Jensen

🚀 Happy CTE Month, Rockstar! I couldn't be more excited to share some BIG news about the 2025 Summer CTE Conference—happening in the one and only Mitchell! 🎉

But first, let's take a moment to appreciate YOU. 🙌 Whether you're a CTE teacher, administrator, support staff, or an all-around CTE champion, your dedication to shaping the leaders of today and tomorrow is unmatched. As a fellow CTE teacher and CTSO advisor, I get it—this work takes grit, passion, and an unshakable commitment to our students. And let me tell you, our students need us now more than ever. So, from the bottom of my heart—THANK YOU! ❤️

Now, let's talk Summer CTE Conference! 📅 Mark your calendars for July 27-29 at Mitchell Technical College. This is your chance to connect, grow, and get inspired alongside fellow educators who just get it. Expect top-notch networking, game-changing post-secondary connections, and the latest in all things CTE!

🔥 And now for the news you've been waiting for...our keynote speaker! 🔥 Many of you have laughed, shared, and nodded along to his hilarious and oh-so-relatable social media videos. That's right, we are thrilled to welcome Gerry Brooks to Mitchell! 🎤 A former teacher, intervention specialist, and school administrator from Lexington, Kentucky, Gerry brings the perfect blend of humor, heart, and real talk about education. Get ready for an unforgettable kickoff!

PLUS—the SDACTE Board of Directors is working hard to build an engaging, action-packed schedule. Stay tuned for the Call for Presenters—because your voice, experience, and ideas matter. Let's make this conference the best one yet! So here's to CTE Month, the most hardworking educators out there, and a summer conference you won't want to miss! Keep showing up, making a difference, and shaping the future.

🚀 See you in Mitchell!



CTE IN ACTION



Pierre Gov's ProStart Peeps are busy cooking up a storm in their Culinary Arts Kitchen. They recently showcased appetizers at the SDRA Annual Awards and Legislative Social. Way to go Chef J and crew!

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!



CTE Month
By: Travis Santistevan

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE! February is [CTE Month](#), and it's our time to shine! Hosted by ACTE and sponsored by the National Association of Home Builders, this month is all about showcasing the awesome opportunities CTE provides for students.

We all know that CTE isn't just about sitting in a classroom, it's about getting hands-on, learning real skills, and preparing for careers that matter. Whether it's welding, carpentry, agriculture, business, healthcare, IT, engineering, hospitality, or any of the countless career paths within CTE, our programs give students the tools they need to be successful. And let's be real businesses everywhere are desperate for skilled workers. CTE is the answer!

This is our chance to show off what we do and make sure people understand why CTE is so important. So, share those success stories, brag on your students, and let's make some noise about the impact we're making!

Get Involved! Here are some resources to help you spread the word:

- 📌 CTE Month Logos & Guidelines
- 📌 CTE Month Merchandise
- 📌 CTE Month Resources & Advocacy Tools



Let's keep pushing, keep building, and keep giving students the skills they need to succeed.

🔥 Happy CTE Month! Let's make it count! 🔥

Check Out CTE Month Resources Here ↗

Rookie of the Year

Nomination Form



Rookie of the Year
By: Kelly Dunkelburger

It is that time of year to recognize the Rookie CTE Teacher of the Year in your school. Each year schools hire new CTE teachers to help with existing programs or for the new programs that are created. Being a new teacher is a rewarding experience but can also be stressful and difficult. With many added responsibilities of CTE teachers, the stress can sometimes make them question their decisions. As current CTE teachers in your schools, we are asking you to nominate your new CTE teacher for the Rookie of the Year award to show they are noticed and appreciated.

The SDACTE Rookie of the Year was created to recognize the work put in by new CTE teachers. The SDACTE BOD plans to award at least one Amazing Rookie with a gift. Any NEW CTE teacher can (and should) be nominated by an existing teacher. Teachers who are in their first year of teaching and also teachers who are new to CTE teaching in the 2024-2025 school year.

Please follow the link below to nominate the teachers from your school district.

[Nominate Here: Rookie of the Year](#)



Need Professional Development? Got That!

By: Lenessa Keehn

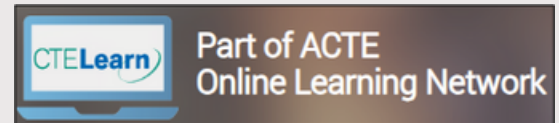
As it is CTE Month and we are celebrating, SDACTE wants you to know we have one more thing to laud: **Personalized PD!** As CTE teachers, we know that all too often, our content gets lumped in with other areas or our professional learning days are generic and what we need and what we get are two different things.



SDACTE is here to help you! We have partnered with ACTE and are here to bring you personalized learning for your CTE professional development with **CTE Learn**. This online platform allows you to add continuing education credits for certification renewal. In addition to credit courses, free resources with lessons and tutorials are available as well. This platform provides high-quality comprehensive professional development to support your CTE and leadership activities.

The better news: professional development thru CTE Learn is a permissible use of Perkins V funds because they are sustainable, intensive, collaborative, data-driven, classroom-focused, and evidence-based.

https://www.ctelearn.org/downloads/CTE_Learn_Perkins_V_Paper.pdf



What's in it for SDACTE? This is another **member benefit** of SDACTE/ACTE. In addition to providing online professional development at a discounted rate, SDACTE as an association receives 15% of the revenue generated through the SDACTE CTELearn site. If a school/institution decides to subscribe to the SDACTE CTELearn online learning community, SDACTE will receive 5% of the revenue earned thru subscriptions.

How do you get there? Simply log into [SDACTE's website](#), go to the Professional Development page, and click on the link to SDACTE CTE Learn. Or just head over to South Dakota's CTE Learn site: <https://sd.ctelearn.org/>. You will need to create an account to get started. Once you have done so, bookmark the site and continue your learning all year long with SDACTE!



South Dakota CTSO Center Update

By: Katie Paulson

CTSO State Officer Teams Visit the Capitol

We're excited to share a significant update from our state's political hub. Recently, the State Officer Teams, along with State Directors, visited lawmakers at the Capitol to advocate for the vital role that CTSO programs and CTE play in our state's educational landscape. This visit provided an excellent opportunity to highlight the impact of these programs and ensure they continue to receive the support they deserve.

State Championships on the Horizon

As we enter the Spring Semester, the busy season of State Championships for our statewide CTSOs is fast approaching. With the upcoming State Conferences, we encourage you to remind your students to fully engage in the experience. Encourage them to collaborate with peers, attend breakout sessions, and take full advantage of the learning opportunities available. Most importantly, challenge them to aim for personal excellence in everything they do, both in preparation and during the conference itself. Let's inspire them to reach new heights!

ACTE Region V
Conference
May 1st - 3rd
Las Vegas, Nevada

Follow the link below to Register:
[Register HERE](#)

Division President Reports

CTE Month Celebration &
SDACTE Summer Conference
By: Lauren Mehlert



Greetings from the T&I and Tech Ed Divisions!

As we embark on another exciting year of career and technical education (CTE), we are thrilled to celebrate CTE Month! This is a time to recognize the incredible work being done in our classrooms and workshops to prepare students for successful futures in technology, industry, and beyond. Our commitment to innovation and excellence in CTE continues to grow, and we appreciate all that you do to advance these fields!

SDACTE Summer Conference 2025: A Must-Attend Event for T&I and Tech Ed Educators

We are excited to announce that the SDACTE Summer Conference will take place from July 27-30, 2025, in Mitchell, SD. This event will provide an outstanding opportunity for educators in the T&I and Tech Ed fields to collaborate, learn, and grow together. Whether you teach construction, arts & a/v, welding, engineering, robotics, computer science, manufacturing, or any other technical field, this conference has something for you!

Why Attend?

- Focus on Innovation – Stay ahead of industry trends with sessions exploring emerging tools, digital platforms, and teaching strategies that prepare students for the high-tech workforce.
- Hands-On Learning – Participate in practical sessions featuring new technologies and instructional methods you can implement in your classroom.
- Networking with Industry Experts – Gain insights from professionals in cutting-edge industries to ensure your curriculum aligns with workforce demands.
- Collaborative Sessions – Engage in targeted breakouts to share best practices, discuss challenges, and build a strong professional network with fellow T&I and Tech Ed educators.

The SDACTE Summer Conference is designed to keep you informed, inspired, and connected with peers who understand the unique demands of our field. This is your chance to enhance your teaching strategies, network, explore innovative technologies, and grow within the CTE community.

Call for Presenters & Tour Ideas! Do you have valuable insights, experiences, or best practices to share? We are currently seeking presenters for the SDACTE Summer Conference! If you have expertise in T&I or Tech Ed and would like to lead a session, we want to hear from you!

Additionally, if you have ideas for industry tours that could provide valuable learning experiences for our attendees, please let us know. This is a great opportunity to showcase local businesses and industries that are making an impact on technology and industry education.

To submit your presenter proposal or tour idea, contact us today!

Let's make this CTE Month and Summer Conference a memorable and impactful experience for all. Thank you for your dedication to CTE—your work is shaping the future of our students and industries!

We look forward to celebrating with you and seeing you at the SDACTE Summer Conference 2025!

Division President Reports



Embracing Change: A Fresh Opportunity Each Semester By: Kristi Danccisin

"Change is inevitable. Growth is optional." – John C. Maxwell

As career and technical educators, we experience change more frequently than most. Every semester brings a new group of students, each with unique backgrounds, abilities, and aspirations. While this change can feel overwhelming, it also presents an opportunity to reflect, innovate, and refine our teaching methods.

Unlike many other professions, educators are given a fresh start each semester or each year. We have the unique opportunity to fine-tune our approach, build new relationships, and help a new set of students achieve success. This cycle of change allows us to continually evolve, keeping our teaching strategies dynamic and effective.

Beyond refining our skills, change allows us to connect with diverse students. Every classroom is filled with potential, and by embracing change, we open the door to discovering each student's strengths, challenges, and goals. The impact we have on their lives is profound, and with each new semester, we have another chance to inspire and guide them toward success.

Rather than resisting change, let's welcome it as a gift. Let's see it as an opportunity to grow as educators, strengthen our impact, and continuously improve our teaching. Growth may be optional, but by embracing change, we choose to make a lasting difference in the lives of our students.

Here's to a semester of learning, growth, and endless possibilities!

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



Hello, SDACTE! As we dive into February and look forward to the spring semester, now is the perfect time to start thinking about our SDACTE Summer Conference! Summer might seem far away, but do you know what that makes me think about? Perkins budgets 😊-- making this an ideal moment to plan for professional development opportunities for your team!

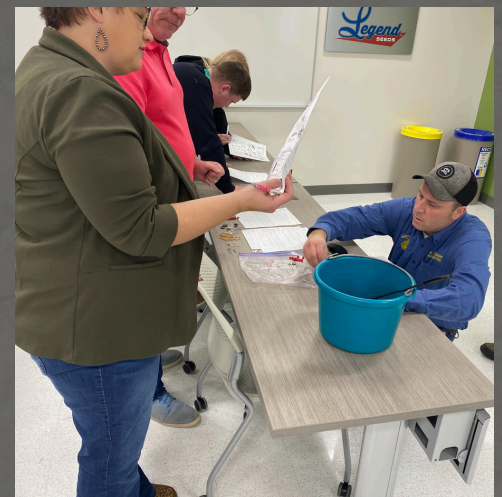
I'd like to encourage you to start having those conversations with your team – that includes CTE Administrators, teachers, and counselors about attending the conference. It's a chance for all of us to come together, share best practices, learn from industry experts, and connect with peers who share our passion for Career and Technical Education.

This year, we're excited to gather in Mitchell, SD, and I can assure you—you won't want to miss it! From insightful sessions to hands-on tours and networking opportunities, there will be something valuable for everyone.

By recruiting now, you're not just filling seats—you're helping strengthen the foundation of CTE in South Dakota. Whether it's a new teacher in need of inspiration, a seasoned educator seeking innovative ideas, or an administrator looking to grow their leadership skills, our conference has something for everyone.

SDACTE

Empowering educators with leadership and resources necessary to cultivate a highly skilled and competitive workforce.





Division President Reports

Beating the Winter Blues: Renewing Energy Through Professional Growth and Support

By: Alysha Kientopf



As we transition back to the classroom after the holiday break, many educators face the challenges of what's often called the "January and February blues." The energy of the fall semester has quieted, and the long, cold winter days can feel draining. However, this period also brings new opportunities and significant transitions. From the hustle of FFA application season to the kickoff of Career Development Event (CDE) preparations, we juggle the demands of teaching while empowering our students to succeed.

The early months of the year test our endurance as agricultural educators. We're busy guiding students through scholarship and proficiency award applications, coaching CDE teams, and maintaining daily classroom routines. While the workload can feel overwhelming, it's also a season that highlights the profound and lasting impact we have on our students and the future of agriculture.

To help educators tackle these challenges, the South Dakota Association of Agricultural Educators (SDAAE) hosted its Winter Professional Development Conference on January 10-11, 2025, at South Dakota State University in Brookings. This annual event brought together teachers from across the state to share insights, sharpen their skills, and foster a sense of community.

The conference featured sessions addressing current trends and challenges in agricultural education. Educators explored innovative teaching methods, discussed integrating new technologies into their curriculum, and participated in graduate credit courses. These sessions not only enhanced professional growth but also equipped teachers with tools to better prepare students for the ever-evolving agricultural industry.

This year, the SDAAE also launched a new initiative called the "Fill Your Bucket" project, aimed at recognizing and supporting teachers who have been in the profession for five or more years. The project provided personalized care packages, filled with practical items, treats, and words of encouragement, to remind veteran educators of their value and to help rejuvenate their passion for teaching. The initiative underscored the importance of self-care and professional support during the often-challenging winter months.

The conference wasn't just about learning; it was also about connecting. Networking opportunities allowed educators to share experiences, seek advice, and strengthen the sense of camaraderie within our teaching community. The SDAAE remains committed to providing professional development and fostering support for South Dakota's agricultural educators. While this season may bring its share of challenges, it also serves as a reminder of the incredible impact we make in shaping our students and the agricultural community. Together, we continue to build a legacy of leadership, growth, and excellence.



Ag Division: Ideas Unlimited

We are thrilled to announce the winners of the SDAAE Ideas Unlimited contest:

1st Place: Josh Christiansen

2nd Place: Brady Duxbury

3rd Place: Mollie Andrews

Josh will proudly represent South Dakota at the Region III NAAE Conference in Sioux City, Iowa, from June 16-19, 2025. His innovative idea involved dividing a blue tarp into squares, featuring the steps to properly set up and turn off a torch. Students navigate the steps in a maze-like pattern, advancing when correct and retrying when mistakes are made until they complete the process successfully



Health Science & Opportunities

Health Science Division Introduction
By: **Brendon Sato**



Hello everyone! My name is Brendon and I'm the incoming president for the Healthcare Division. Prior to teaching CTE, I spent close to 25 years in healthcare as a Medical Laboratory Scientist. I've worked as a bench scientist and as a leader for various labs, Vitalant (when it was United Blood Systems), and CSL Plasma. I was also a laboratory science instructor at South Dakota State University for a number of years. While my Healthcare experience is vast, I've only been teaching CTE for three years. I still have a lot to learn about CTE and high school kids. It's been a great three years though. I enjoy the Healthcare classes and the kids.

Now you know me, a little. I'm excited to help our Healthcare Division grow and maybe bring some innovative ideas to our classrooms. I look forward to meeting all of you.

In-Person Scrubs Camp

The University of South Dakota School of Health Sciences coordinates three Scrub Camps annually in South Dakota. Scrub Camps are a great opportunity for high school students interested in health careers to explore various careers in one day. At Scrub Camps, students gain hands-on experience alongside health professionals: physicians, nurses, medical laboratory scientists, rad technologists, dental hygienists and many more!

The first Scrub Camp of the year is in Vermillion on Tuesday, March 4; the second is at Lakota Tech High School in Pine Ridge on Wednesday, March 19; and the third and final Scrub Camp of the year will be at the USD-Sioux Falls campus on Wednesday, May 7. Camps typically start at 9 a.m. and end around 2:30 p.m. and are funded through the South Dakota Department of Health.

To register for a Scrub Camp, scan the appropriate QR code or click the link:

Scan links below for more information on In-Person Scrubs Camps!

Vermillion



Pine Ridge



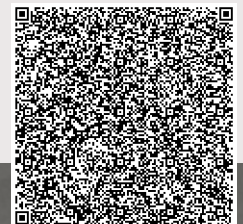
USD -
Sioux Falls



Virtual Scrubs Camp

Explore the world of healthcare careers with Virtual Scrubs Camp, previously Scrubs Camp on Demand, a remote resource for those teachers looking to engage their students in the growing fields of health and wellness. The South Dakota Discovery Center offers a variety of lesson plans centered around fun, entertaining games that draw your students into different aspects of health science designed to increase awareness of the education and skills needed to join the health field. The games cover grades 6th to 12th with some being completed in one class period. The best part of Virtual Scrubs Camp is its free! The games are yours to keep and the lesson plans are open access. A Discovery Center STEM Educator is ready to help you bring STEM opportunities and experiences to your classroom, contact us today and find out more: https://www.sd-discovery.org/virtual_scrubs_camp.php

*Scan Here to View
Virtual Scrubs
Camp Site!*



Division & Vision Reports



FCS Division Update By: Anne Pankratz



As we enter a new year filled with opportunities and innovation, it's the perfect time to reflect on our impact as Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) educators. Our dedication to shaping students' lives through essential life skills, career readiness, and personal development is invaluable. We encourage all FCS educators to recognize excellence and share knowledge actively to continue strengthening our field. The board is currently planning the Summer SDACTE Conference, and we are working to make this conference exciting and packed with information that will assist you in the coming year.

Nominate!

You will receive information about the SDACTE FCS Division awards in the coming months. Acknowledging our peers' outstanding efforts is one of the most rewarding ways to celebrate our profession's success. Do you know a colleague who has gone above and beyond in their teaching, leadership, or contributions to FCS? Consider nominating them for an award! Recognizing exceptional educators honors their hard work and inspires others to strive for excellence.

Share Your Experience

We are looking for you! Each of us brings unique experiences, insights, and innovative teaching strategies that can benefit our fellow educators. Whether you have developed a new curriculum approach, implemented engaging student activities, or discovered effective classroom management techniques, your knowledge is valuable. Volunteering to present at workshops, conferences, or professional development sessions allows us to grow as a community and enhance the quality of education we provide. All of you do amazing things every day in your classroom, so please take a moment to reflect on what lesson you would like to present to the group! Feel free to contact me to ensure you are a part of the lineup!

Get Involved!

Being active in the FCS community helps us stay inspired and informed. Engage with professional networks, attend events, and support initiatives advocating FCS education. By working together, we can continue to promote the importance of FCS in schools and communities, ensuring a strong future for our profession. Please ensure that you are looking for emails containing information from anything, such as the Rookie of the Year or various bills going through the legislature; these emails will help you keep up to date on all information and potential issues facing us as SDACTE educators.

Let's make this year one of collaboration, recognition, and professional growth. Take the time to nominate a deserving colleague and consider sharing your expertise. Together, we can make a lasting impact on FCS education!

Vision Recap '24 - San Antonio By: Anne Pankratz



Mix Christmas lights, a river walk, great food, and several thousand CTE Teachers with a beautiful city, and you get this year's Vision Conference. It was one of the best national conferences I have attended in years. The breakout sessions are where I gained a great deal of new information that will benefit my classes in the coming months and years. One of the breakout sessions focused on employment possibilities and how to assist your students to reach new potential in the next century. Our FCS group kicked off the conference by having Mr. Aaron Alejandro, Executive Director of Texas FFA Foundation; he shared that not every student will have the same opportunities, but we can all help them to succeed with guidance. His words were inspiring to start the conference off on the right foot. I also attended the "Best Practices" session, where several teachers shared various lessons that have had great success. We had a great session that showed how to incorporate Taylor Swift Easter eggs into your classes, and others focused on how to take your interior and fashion design lessons to push our students out of their comfort zones. I learned about new options for reviewing lessons and, of course, new and exciting funding, as well as raising ideas for the future! I was also privileged to attend the NATFCS Awards, where two of our members Brigette Brucklacher and Suzanne Skinner received awards. These two women embody the true meaning of being an excellent FCS teacher and we are so proud of them both!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for being selected for the SDACTE conference stipend. I cannot even begin to thank you for this extraordinary experience. I encourage all of you to complete the application for the 2025 Vision Conference at Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Please plan on attending next year!

Call for Presenters

Summer may feel like a distant thought right now, but planning is well underway for this year's annual CTE Summer Conference, set for July 27-29 in Mitchell, South Dakota. As the largest gathering of career and technical education teachers and administrators in the state, the South Dakota CTE Summer Conference offers a valuable opportunity to connect, collaborate, and explore best practices, cutting-edge equipment, workforce trends, and other key topics in career and technical education. This year's event will take place on the campus of Mitchell Technical College.

The Call for Presenters is now open, and we encourage you to showcase the incredible work happening in your classrooms and communities. If you're interested in sharing your expertise, submit a proposal [HERE](#).

Registration will be opening soon, so be sure to mark your calendar and save the date for this dynamic professional development experience!

Check out SDACTE's Opposition to School Voucher Proposal on Page 11 or scan the QR code!



SDACTE Scholarship Opportunities

By: Alex Toupal

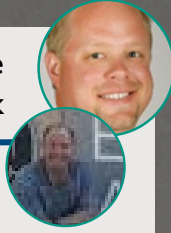
The South Dakota Association of Career and Technical Education Scholarship Committee met during the 2024 South Dakota ACTE Summer Conference to discuss changes for the upcoming scholarship. The only change that was made this year to the application is the Letter of Recommendation question was changed to specify clearer that this letter must come from an approved CTE Instructor.

The SDACTE Scholarship Committee is comprised of members from all clusters that come together in the spring to review award applications. These committee members select 4 recipients each year to present a \$1,000 scholarship to at the annual summer conference. The scholarship committee will select at minimum one high school student and one post-secondary student. The remaining two scholarships will be based on overall score calculations. The 2025 Scholarship Application will be released on January 6th, 2025, and due April 1st, 2025.

The scholarship can be found using the link here; <https://forms.gle/G1bDJRW5E1eCumUC9>. This link is currently active but will not be available to edit until January 6th. Any questions regarding the scholarship application can be directed to the SDACTE Scholarship Committee Chair Mr. Alex Toupal at alex.toupal@k12.sd.us.

Legislative Update

By: Josh Hall & Don Ryswyk



Let us start by saying "thank you" for coming together in opposition to the school voucher related bills. House Bill 1020 and House Bill 1009 were sent to the 41st day by the Education Committee. This means they are essentially killed for this session. We are guessing the voucher topic will continue to be discussed and will most likely re-surface, if not this session in future years. It will be important that we stay unified against voucher related legislation. Public tax dollars should stay with Public Schools.

The other pressing legislative issues is the annual increase to education funding which is the primary funding source for teacher salaries. 1.25% is the current proposed increase that is on the table in the legislature. Unfortunately, this increase is not even enough to cover inflationary cost increases. Please join us in reaching out to legislators asking for them to increase this percentage as it is the main source of public education funding in South Dakota.

Together we can make a difference!

Thank You!

-Josh Hall and Don Ryswyk, Co-Chairs of the SDACTE Legislative Committee



SDACTE Awards

SDACTE Excellence Award Winners By: Beverly Rieck



The SDACTE members who received the six Excellence Awards at our 2024 conference are busy working on the submission of the video portion of their award and updating and adding to their online application of their respective award category. This is due by March 1 for the Region V ACTE competition. The winners from Region V will be announced at the Region V ACTE Conference to be held in Las Vegas, NV, on May 1-3.

We wish the following the best of luck as they work on this submission!

- Administrator of the Year---Adam Shaw from the Madison School District
- New Teacher of the Year---Aliesha McCarthy from the Redfield School District
- Teacher of the Year---Connie Whistler from the Bridgewater/Emery School District
- Carl Perkins Community Service Award---Nikki Melius from the Faulkton School District
- Lifetime Achievement and Hall of Fame Award---Charlotte Mohling from the Wessington Springs School District
- Counseling & Career Development Award---Tiffany French from the Custer School District



SDACTE Award Nominations By: Beverly Rieck



Do you know a fellow SDACTE member in your division who deserves recognition for the work they do in their area? Your division chair and/or division awards chair will be contacting you regarding worthy individuals in the different award categories. You may suggest names to them. We have so many CTE members who deserve to be recognized for their efforts!

The eligible categories for the Excellence Awards for SDACTE members include: New Teacher of the Year, Teacher of the Year, Teacher Educator of the Year, Postsecondary Professional of the Year, Counseling & Career Development Award, Administrator of the Year, Carl Perkins Community Service Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award.

Non-members are eligible for their support of CTE in two award categories. They are the South Dakota Award of Merit and the South Dakota Friend of Career and Technical Education Award. More information on the specifics for each category can be found on our SDACTE website at acteonline.org/awards. The deadline for those applications is July 1. Winners will be announced during the state conference on July 27-29, 2025, to be held in Mitchell.

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota Office of the Governor

Whereas, February 1-28, 2025, has been designated Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month by the Association for Career and Technical Education; and,

Whereas, CTE offers students the opportunity to gain the academic, technical, and employability skills necessary for true career readiness; and,

Whereas, students in CTE programs participate in authentic, meaningful experiences that improve the quality of their education and increase their engagement and achievement; and,

Whereas, CTE provides students with career exploration opportunities earlier in their educational experience, which enables them to make informed and beneficial decisions about their academic coursework and pursue established programs of study and career pathways; and,

Whereas, leaders from business and industry nationwide report increasing challenges related to addressing the skills gap and connecting qualified professionals with careers in critical and growing CTE-related fields, such as advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, energy, health care, information technology, and transportation; and,

Whereas, CTE prepares students for these and other fulfilling careers by offering integrated programs of study that link secondary and postsecondary education and lead to the attainment of industry-recognized credentials; and,

Whereas, CTE programs ensure that employers have access to a qualified and thriving workforce, ensuring our nation is a strong and competitive economy:

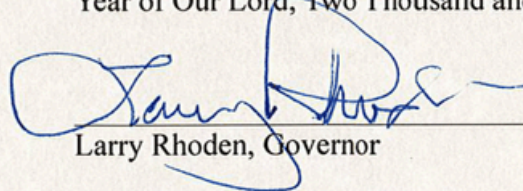
Now, Therefore, I, Larry Rhoden, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 2025, as

CTE MONTH

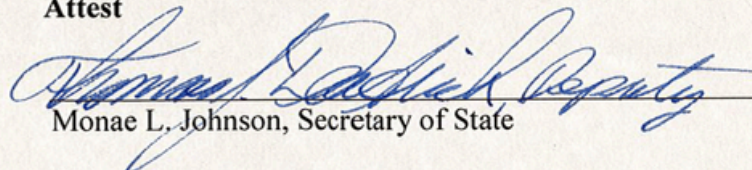
in South Dakota and urge all citizens to become familiar with the services and benefits offered by the CTE programs in this state and to support and participate in these programs to enhance their individual skills and productivity.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirty-First Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.


Larry Rhoden, Governor

Attest


Monae L. Johnson, Secretary of State

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Opposition to School Voucher Proposal

WHEREAS South Dakota public schools are a cornerstone of the state and the pride of their communities, welcoming all children, educating and feeding them, connecting them with friends and mentors and helping shape their future while preparing them to be the next generation of our state's workforce;

WHEREAS the proposed Education Savings Account (ESA) – for the 2025 legislative session – is simply a different title for a school voucher program;

WHEREAS research indicates school voucher programs consistently fail to improve academic outcomes;

WHEREAS the proposed program will be implemented by using millions in public taxpayer dollars to fund non-public schools that may pick and choose who they admit while also charging tuition and raising millions of dollars in scholarship funds or to fund homeschool programs with no transparency or accountability measures to prove success similar to those required of public schools;

WHEREAS the state budget, which provides the funding increase for public education, faces constraints due to stagnant revenue collections and as a result, the proposed increase in state aid for public schools is less than the level of inflation;

WHEREAS with lower-than-expected revenue collections creating a lean state budget the introduction of a new, ongoing funding system for a school voucher program will eventually lead to an unbalanced state budget or a decrease in funding for public education;

WHEREAS the school voucher program will not stop at the initial amount, as the intention to grow school voucher funding has already been stated even before it has been adopted;

WHEREAS the school voucher program's planned and inevitable growth will be damaging to the future of our public school system, students and communities;

WHEREAS we, as School Board members, insist our legislators oppose the proposed school voucher program because of the foreseeable detrimental impact it will have on South Dakota's public school system at the expense of our students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we, the South Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education oppose the proposed school voucher program for the 2025 legislative session.

Sincerely,



Lenessa Keehn, Executive Director

The mission of the South Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education is to empower educators with leadership and resources necessary to cultivate a highly skilled and competitive workforce.



SOUTH DAKOTA CTE

SUMMER CONFERENCE

JULY 27-29, 2025 - MITCHELL, SD

Call for Presenters

The South Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education and the South Dakota Department of Education are now accepting speaker proposals for the CTE Summer Conference to be held July 27-29, 2025.

We are looking for presenters to share topics and resources that:

- Support CTE programs and educators in South Dakota
- Showcase innovative and engaging tools/resources for the CTE classroom
- Highlight best practices for connecting classrooms to communities
- Engage learners in career-connected learning opportunities
- Help schools prepare the next generation of South Dakota's workforce

Proposal Deadline: Feb. 21, 2025

Questions? Contact Amber.Rost@state.sd.us, 605-220-3381

[Submit A Proposal](#)

