



VIEWPOINT

Quarterly Newsletter



South Dakota Educators Head to ACTE Vision 2025!

By: Travis Santistevan

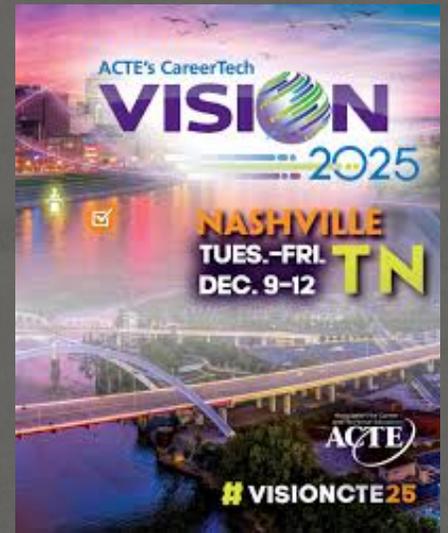
Contact Travis at: President@sdacteonline.org

The excitement is building as 46 South Dakota Career & Technical Education professionals prepare to attend the ACTE CareerTech VISION Conference, happening December 9–12, 2025, in Nashville, Tennessee, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center.

VISION is the must-attend event for CTE professionals, offering world-class professional development for both secondary and post-secondary educators. Attendees will experience hundreds of breakout sessions highlighting best practices, innovative classroom strategies, and emerging industry trends. The conference also features one of the largest CTE expos in the nation—showcasing cutting-edge tools, technologies, and resources that support student success.

In addition to the main conference, SDACTE will host a South Dakota Social on Wednesday, December 10, from 5:00–6:30 p.m. This event will be a great opportunity to connect, share ideas, and celebrate our state’s commitment to advancing CTE. Room details will be shared via email the week of VISION, so be sure to watch your inbox!

We’re proud of the strong showing from South Dakota and look forward to seeing everyone representing our state at ACTE VISION 2025 in Nashville!



*CareerTech
Vision Conference*

**December 9th - 12th
Nashville, TN**

Follow the link below or scan the QR code to Register:
[Vision Conference Registration](#)



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!



A Vision for the Future of SDACTE

Karen Roudabush

✉ Contact Karen at: PresidentElect@sdacteonline.org

At the heart of SDACTE is our belief that career and technical education changes lives. We believe in empowering educators with the tools, training and professional networks they need to prepare students for success in both college and careers. We are committed to promoting innovation, collaboration and advocacy in every division.

In September, the SDACTE Board of Directors met to brainstorm the organization's vision for the upcoming year. The discussion centered on strengthening the value SDACTE provides to its members and continuing to advance the mission of the organization. That mission is "to empower educators with leadership and resources necessary to cultivate a highly skilled and competitive workforce". From that discussion, two priorities arose: finding new ways to strengthen and communicate the membership benefits for SDACTE members and continuing to provide a high-quality, engaging annual conference.

Our organization's strength lies in more than our annual summer professional development conference. Its strength comes from the year-round connections, shared expertise, and common purpose that unite us in advancing CTE across South Dakota.

SDACTE is more than a single event; it's a professional home. Members can engage in leadership development, solidify industry partnerships, participate in statewide advocacy, and collaborate with individuals across the divisions within the organization.

Whether you've been involved with SDACTE for years or are just beginning your journey, there's a place for you here. We invite our past members to share their wisdom, our current members to strengthen their professional communities, and our potential members to experience the value of belonging to an organization that champions for CTE.

Together, we can continue building a vibrant future for CTE in South Dakota. This future will be one rooted in collaboration, innovation, and purpose.

Region V Updates By: Bobbie Jo Donovan



Climb Higher with CTE by attending the Region V conference is scheduled April 8-11, 2026 at Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City, UT. Interested in Presenting - submit a proposal [here](#). Early bird registration ends February 15th.

The Region V Business meeting will be held Tuesday, December 9th @ 2:00pm. If you happen to arrive in Nashville by then, be sure to attend! Best of luck to all of the Region V Award Winners who advanced to the National Level. A huge shout out to Nikki Melius from Faulkton who is a finalist at the National level in the Carl Perkins Community Service Award area.

Award finalists in Region V: Administrator of the Year: Tina Gudvangen, Arizona; Counseling and Career Guidance Professional Award Jonathan Burke, CO; Lifetime Achievement Award Curt Bertelsmann, AZ; New Teacher of the Year Leah Ferguson, OR; Postsecondary Professional of the Year Tyson Sorensen, UT; Teacher Educator Xue Xiang, NV and Teacher of the Year Matthew Waynee, CA.

Mid-Semester Slump

By: Andrew Jensen

Contact Andy at: PastPresident@sdacteonline.org



The mid-semester slump hits hard in all of our CTE classrooms. The early excitement has faded, projects and CTSO events are in full swing, and everyone, including teachers and students, can feel the drag. Recognizing this dip isn't defeat, but in fact, it's a chance to reset and reignite energy for a strong finish for this fall.

As CTE teachers, we juggle a lot in our domains: hands-on labs, safety expectations, standards, CTSO expectations, meetings, ordering supplies, and diverse learners. When the slump shows up, it often looks like off-task behavior, incomplete work, low motivation, or simply feeling tired. Noticing these signs allows you to take action before momentum fully slips away.

One of the best ways to fight the slump is to refresh the routine. Add a quick skill challenge, switch up group roles, introduce a new tool, or, my favorite, switch up the seating arrangements. Even small changes can bring excitement back into the room. Students thrive when the work feels fresh, purposeful, and connected to the real world, however we might do that.

Next, reconnect with purpose. CTE is incredibly meaningful, as we know, and sometimes students need a reminder. Share a career story, highlight a student's success, or revisit program goals. I love to share with my students about what it was like to work within industry. Also, bringing in guest speakers or going on a tour is another great way to reconnect your classroom. Celebrate progress, and get excited about skills learned, safety mastered, or projects completed. Purpose fuels progress.

Finally, take care of yourself. We pour a lot into our students. A brief pause could look like a night off grading, a conversation with a colleague, reading a book, listening to music, and whatever else brings you joy. This can restore your energy and clarity. A recharged teacher leads a recharged classroom.

To end strong, set a milestone: a showcase, lab day, capstone component, or industry connection. Having something to look forward to reignites motivation for everyone.

The slump may be real, but so is your impact. Reignite, refocus, and finish strong... and like Dory says.. Just Keep Swimming!

CTE IN ACTION



The SDACTE Board gathered in person in September on the campus of South Dakota State University to collaborate, plan, and set goals for the future of our organization. It was a productive and inspiring day filled with meaningful discussion, fresh ideas, and a shared passion for advancing Career and Technical Education across South Dakota.

From shaping upcoming initiatives to organizing the 2025 SDACTE Summer Conference, board members worked together to ensure we continue providing impactful professional development opportunities, networking experiences, and advocacy for all CTE educators in our state.





Building Strong Partnerships to Strengthen South Dakota's Career & Technical Education Programs

By: Breanne Lynch

✉ Contact Breanne at: AdminDivision@sdacteonline.org

Developing strong partnerships between schools and businesses is essential to the continued success of Career & Technical Education across South Dakota. These collaborations give learners hands-on experiences that connect classroom learning to real-world careers, while helping industries build a skilled local talent pool.

How can educators or administrators engage businesses or community organizations to strengthen our programs? Four key objectives have proven successful: 1) identify shared priorities, 2) communicate and schedule effectively, 3) establish clear expectations and outcomes, and 4) celebrate success.

Start by identifying shared priorities. CTE leaders can begin by mapping regional workforce data to understand high-demand fields—such as agriculture, healthcare, manufacturing, and information technology and aligning program pathways accordingly. Collaborate with the SD Department of Labor to obtain workforce labor data that is relevant to your area and programs. Once it is clear where programs are successful or need support, reach out to businesses with specific opportunities tied to those needs. Invite local or regional businesses into your school, demonstrate the need, then listen to the company's challenges and opportunities. Once both have been shared, make your case with your program needs. This makes it easier for employers to say yes and see their role in the partnership. Often the priorities of your CTE programs and local labor markets are similar.

Effective communication is key. Designate a consistent point of contact at the school or district level to manage outreach and maintain relationships. Encourage and support that person to attend local events in the business community: chamber meetings, economic development functions, or community fundraisers. Ensure regular meetings with priority business partners; schedule well in advance and consider an easy cadence, such as one meeting per quarter as part of your CTE Advisory Board. Regular check-ins with partners ensure mutual understanding, resolve challenges quickly, and open the door for deeper engagement. Businesses appreciate being treated as collaborators, not just supporters. If the only reason a school engages a business is for funding, it's not a relationship - it's a transaction.

Partnerships thrive on clear expectations. Before launching an internship, job shadow, or equipment donation, establish guidelines for scheduling, supervision, and safety. When students and employers know what's expected, the experience becomes smoother and more impactful for everyone involved. Set clear goals and outcomes for use of equipment, timelines, training, and eventual replacement. Ask the important questions: who, what, where, when, why, and how to maintain clear records and positive relationships. Once you have established all necessary criteria, be sure to implement data tracking to properly demonstrate use of funds, materials, or learning outcomes.

Finally, celebrate successes. Share student stories, skill attainment, and acknowledge business partners publicly through events, newsletters, board meetings, and social media. Handwritten cards and notes from leaders and learners, at all levels, to partners still remain some of the most meaningful gifts. Recognition, big or small, helps sustain relationships and inspires other employers to participate. Hosting an athletic event, take halftime to showcase a CTE partnership - shine light on the partnerships and successes in various ways in front of different audiences for greater impact.

When educators, administrators, and counselors work together to nurture these partnerships, CTE programs become more relevant, responsive, and robust. A strong network of community and industry partnerships ensures that South Dakota learners graduate career-ready and confident in their futures.



Building the Future: Engineering Vision & Innovation in Motion

By: Katrina Kruse

Contact Katrina at: TradesIndustryDivision@sdacteonline.org

Greetings, Trade and Industry Educators! Earlier this month I had the opportunity to take my students to the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls to see SDSU Engineering Days. The Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering brought professors and students from all their specialties ranging from mechanical engineering to construction management to data science. Tables and booths were set up all along Main Street proudly displaying the Jacks logo and college information. College students manned tables that plied my students with ice cream and challenged them to complete tasks for prizes. Some of the tasks were:

- Build an I-beam from cardboard and then test its deflection
- Construct a tall column out of short 2x4s
- Create a boat with a single sheet of aluminum foil, then test how many pennies it can hold before sinking
- Compete in a trivia game with a homemade buzzer
- Race against others to fill in patterned block worksheets with colored wooden blocks

Many of the student engineering clubs were also represented. American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) had their concrete canoe on display – my students were astonished that concrete could float! The formula one car by Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) was making runs up and down the street every half hour which had so many teenagers drooling. Also, there was the quarter-scale tractor, the vex robotic team, lunar and Mars rovers, and so many more amazing demonstrations. I have received more positive feedback from my students about this field trip than any other!

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar, the dean of the College of Engineering at SDSU, and his team put together this amazing event. Why am I mentioning this? Because Dr. Kumar has offered to partner with the T&I Division next July for our SDACTE summer conference. He is excited that we will be on the SDSU campus and wants to meet with you, learn about your students, and share all that SDSU has to offer. I am so “Jacked” about next summer (Go, Jackrabbits). The 2026 SDACTE conference is going to be lit, no cap!

SDTEA Conference in Pierre – Don't Miss It!

- Please keep on your radar the upcoming South Dakota Technical Education Association (SDTEA) Conference, happening on January 28 – 30, 2026 in Pierre, SD. This is a fantastic opportunity for educators to come together for networking, professional development, and collaboration.
- 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 Nashville

- The National ACTE Conference, VISION, is taking place in Nashville on December 9 – 12, 2025. There is still time to register! VISION 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.
- Also, save the date for next year. VISION 2026 is ACTE's Centennial Celebration – that will be an event to remember! Party with ACTE in New Orleans, Dec 2 – 5, 2026.

New Email Address

- The T&I Division has a new email address! Please look for emails from TradesIndustryDivision@sdacteonline.org. These emails will likely go to your spam at first and will need to be rehomed to your inbox. I will send all emails from my school email AND our T&I email for the first few months, so you are not missing them in your spam filter.

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Business, Finance & Marketing Best Practices is Back!

By: Amy Pierson

✉ Contact Amy at: BMITdivision@sdacteonline.org



We're excited to share that Business, Finance, & Marketing Best Practices is being offered again this year! A huge thank-you goes out to Amber Rost for organizing this great professional development opportunity that fits our division's needs. Join us on Wednesday, December 3, from 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. at Dakota State University — or hop on virtually through Teams if that works better for you. You can find more details on the flyer on the last page of this newsletter. [REGISTER HERE!](#) One of the things I'm thankful for is having time to connect and share ideas with colleagues in our content area — and this training is the perfect chance to do that!

Looking Ahead: SDACTE Summer 2026 Conference

Mark your calendars! The SDACTE Summer Conference will be held July 26–29, 2026, in Brookings, SD. It may seem far off, but planning has started — and I'd love your input!

Do you have ideas for:

- A keynote speaker who made an impression at a conference you've attended?
- A business tour our division would enjoy?
- Speakers or breakout ideas for our division time?
- A BMIT related business that might be interested in becoming a corporate sponsor?

If so, please send your suggestions my way at bmitdivision@sdacteonline.org. Your ideas help make our division time more engaging and relevant!

CTSO Center Update

By: Katie Paulson



Greetings! As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, South Dakota CTSOs have so much to be grateful for — from dedicated educators and advisors to the incredible accomplishments of our student members.

Spotlight on Success

The 2025 National FFA Convention has come and gone, and South Dakota FFA made us proud! Our members, leaders, and educators earned numerous awards and recognitions, showcasing the strength and talent of agricultural education in our state. Check out the South Dakota FFA Association Facebook page for photos, highlights, and full award listings.

Fall & Regional Conferences

Throughout the fall, CTSOs have been busy hosting professional development events and leadership conferences. These gatherings are invaluable opportunities for student growth and networking.

Fundraising Idea to Try

Looking for a creative local chapter fundraiser? Try hosting a Student Labor Auction! Here's how it works:

- Students offer "service packages," such as:
 - 2 hours of house cleaning
 - 2 hours of window washing
 - 4 hours of babysitting
- Auction off these "items" to community members.
- The highest bidder receives a certificate for the student's service, and proceeds go to your CTSO chapter.

It's a fun, community-centered way to raise funds while showcasing your students' work ethic and teamwork!



Who is Your Legacy?
By: Brigitte Brucklacher

Contact Brigitte at: FCSdivision@sdacteonline.org

As educators in career and technical education, we do more than teach skills — we shape futures. Every lesson, every word of encouragement, and every opportunity we create plants a seed that can grow for a lifetime.

I had the privilege of attending ACTE Vision last year in San Antonio, where one presenter shared a message that truly stayed with me: “Who is Your Legacy?”

After 41 years in CTE/FCS, that question continues to inspire me. Our legacy lives in the student who discovers their passion, the graduate who builds a meaningful career, and the colleague we uplift through our example.

Being part of SDACTE reminds us that our impact is multiplied when we belong, connect, and grow together. Through our shared commitment, we strengthen our profession—and ensure our legacy continues for generations to come. I look forward to attending ACTE Vision in Nashville this December—another opportunity to learn, connect, and be inspired by the passion of fellow CTE professionals.



Finding Sanctuary in a Busy Season
By: Sara Colombe

Contact Sara at: AFNRdivision@sdacteonline.org

As I got back into the classroom after attending the National FFA Convention, I realized there isn’t much time to breathe before Christmas break. Leadership Development Events (LDEs) are in full swing, and the fruit sales orders deadline is fast approaching! This time of year, it’s completely normal to feel some level of teacher burnout — and I want to say, it’s okay to feel that way. The pace is fast, expectations are high, and sometimes we forget to pause.

So how can you find a bit of sanctuary during this busy season? Here are some self-care tips from Sanctuaries: Self-Care Secrets for Stressed-Out Teachers by Dan Tricarico that you might try as we wrap up the fall semester:

- Give yourself permission to take a break.
- Be truly present, even when life feels busy.
- Practice mindfulness.
- Give yourself permission to do non-school activities — your favorite hobby, cooking or baking, watching movies, etc.
- Incorporate “pamper triggers.”
- Schedule 5- or 10-minute “fast breaks” throughout your day.
- Develop morning or evening rituals that help you reset.
-

Remember: you can’t pour from an empty cup. Taking care of yourself helps you better care for your students and your program.

Important Upcoming Dates for Agriculture Educators

- Paperwork/Registration for State LDEs Due: November 26, 2025
- State LDEs in Rapid City: December 7–8, 2025
- NAAE Convention, Nashville, TN: December 8–12, 2025
- Winter AFNR Professional Development at SDSU: January 9–10, 2026

CTE IN ACTION



South Dakota ProStart Culinary Educators turned up the heat at their annual Instructor Training! Chef April Johnson (SF CTE Academy alum!) and Chef Greg Beachey from Zwilling lead demos for the day by schooling us on sizzling sears, perfect poached salmon, picture-worthy plating, and knife skills sharp enough to impress a samurai.





Southeast Technical College Highlight
By: Dr. Sara Vande Kamp

Southeast Technical College provides students with hands-on experiences that spark curiosity and build real-world skills alongside industry professionals. Each year, we host engaging career exploration events and camps, giving middle and high school students a fun, interactive way to discover their future.

Through these programs, we continue to create meaningful connections between students, teachers, and industry partners. Hundreds of high school students visit campus annually for Career Exploration Days, exploring CTE programs and career pathways through interactive, hands-on sessions led by faculty and professionals. Our Horticulture Academy offers a dual-credit opportunity for students to earn high school and college credit while gaining early exposure to careers in the green industry. For students interested in technical trades, Construction Camp provides real-world learning experiences in high-demand, high-skill fields designed to spark interest in construction careers.

Each of these opportunities allows students to see CTE in action, discover their strengths, and learn about the many career options available to them. Updates and more information can be found at

www.southeasttech.edu/careerexploration.

For questions, feel free to reach out to Dr. Sara Vande Kamp, STC liaison, at Sara.VandeKamp@southeasttech.edu.



Health Science Division Update
By: Shannon Buelow

Contact Shannon at:
HealthScienceDivision@sdacteonline.org

The Health Science Division is off to an exciting start this year! Our HOSA–Future Health Professionals students have officially kicked off their activities for the year, bringing great energy and enthusiasm to classrooms across South Dakota. Chapters are gearing up for upcoming competitions, community service projects, and leadership opportunities — it’s inspiring to see their passion for healthcare grow.

I had the opportunity to attend the National Consortium for Health Science Education (NCHSE) Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio at the end of October. If you haven’t attended before, I strongly encourage you to consider going in the future — it’s a wonderful conference filled with engaging sessions, networking, and practical classroom takeaways.

Some highlights included:

- Hands-on lesson ideas
- Amazing Speakers
- Innovative simulation and technology sessions showcasing affordable tools for classroom and lab use.
- Networking opportunities with educators and industry partners from across the nation — sharing strategies for aligning classroom instruction with real-world healthcare demands.

As we move forward, we’ll continue building on the momentum of sharing lesson ideas, classroom strategies, and opportunities for collaboration among our South Dakota health science educators. Your creativity and commitment make this division thrive — thank you for all you do to support our students and the future of healthcare in our state!

If you have lesson ideas, success stories, or projects your students are doing, please share them so we can highlight and learn from one another.

Stay inspired and stay connected — together, we’re shaping the next generation of health professionals in South Dakota

Membership Spotlight

CTE IN ACTION



Earlier this month, students from T&I classes had the opportunity to visit the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls for SDSU Engineering Days! The Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering filled Main Street with hands-on activities and exciting demonstrations from every engineering specialty — from mechanical and civil engineering to construction management and data science. Students built cardboard I-beams, tested foil boats, raced through block puzzles, and explored projects like the concrete canoe, formula car, quarter-scale tractor, and robotics displays.



Membership Benefits
By: Lenessa Keehn

Office Days: Monday & Wednesday

Contact Lenessa: executivedirector@sdacteonline.org

1. With CareerTech VISION and travel for the holidays upon us – you should check out Member Deals! In this exclusive, members-only offer, you'll find discounts on travel, entertainment, sporting events, and more. Hotel and rental cars through ACTE, can save you up to 40% in top cities around the United States.

Access the MemberDeals website at MEMBERDEALS.COM/ACTEONLINE/ If you are NOT logged in, there is a small link in the text below asking you to log into your ACTE account. If already logged in from the ACTE website, it will automatically bring you to the Discover Great Deals & Special Offers page.

2. Join the Member Benefits Webinar Series hosted by ACTE. Find out what serves your needs best and sign up to join a community that has the same interest, questions, and commitment as you. Through the 2025-26 year, the ACTE Benefits Webinar Series will concentrate on the following topics: The Zoom Link is your registration to the event. Found online at: [ACTE Benefit Webinars](#)



ACTE Benefits Webinar Series (September 2025 – May 2026)

MONTH	TITLE	DATES	TIME	ZOOM LINK
September	Welcome to ACTE: Membership, Achieve 100, and Unified Power	Recorded		
September	Professional Development & Member Perks: Online Courses, Discounts, and More	Thursday, Sep 25, 2025	2:00 PM – 2:30 PM EST	Zoom Link
October	Advocacy and Data: Shaping CTE with Policy and Research	Tuesday, Oct 21, 2025	1:00 PM – 1:30 PM EST	Zoom Link
November	Supporting CTE Administrators: Leadership Resources and Planning Ahead	Tuesday, Nov 4, 2025	12:30 PM – 1:00 PM EST	Zoom Link
January	Recognizing Excellence: ACTE Awards and Communications	Thursday, Jan 15, 2026	1:00 PM – 1:30 PM EST	Zoom Link
February	ACTE Events and Conferences: Getting the Most from In-Person and Virtual Engagement	Tuesday, Feb 10, 2026	11:30 AM – 12:00 PM EST	Zoom Link
March	CTE for All: ACTE's Strategic Initiatives	Tuesday, Mar 10, 2026	11:30 AM – 12:00 PM EST	Zoom Link
April	Insurance, Discounts & Tools: Your ACTE Member Benefits Explained	Tuesday, Apr 14, 2026	11:30 AM – 12:00 PM EST	Zoom Link
May	Year in Review & ACTE Connections: Community, Networks, and What's Ahead	Tuesday, May 12, 2026	11:30 AM – 12:00 PM EST	Zoom Link

ON THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S

Notepad:



- Contact Lenessa at Executivedirector@sdacteonline.org
- Office Days: Mondays & Wednesdays
- Access the official [SDACTE calendar](#) at SDACTEonline.org! Email Lenessa if you'd like to add your division-related events to the SDACTE calendar.

Member Profiles



Member Profile Up to Date!
By: Lenessa Keehn

Office Days: Monday & Wednesday

Contact Lenessa: executivedirector@sdactonline.org

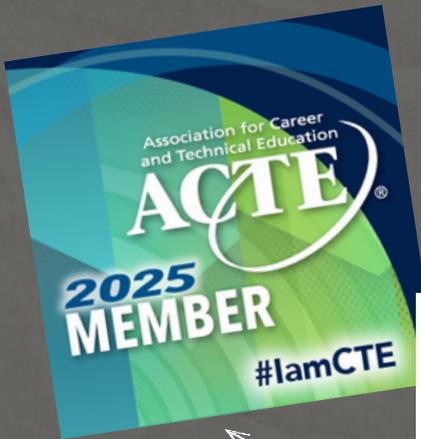
One of the easiest ways to be sure you're receiving the latest ACTE updates, resources and opportunities is by keeping your member profile current. A quick update ensures you'll always receive:

- Election communications sent to your preferred email and mailing address
- Division and region-specific newsletters, eblasts and updates tailored to your interests
- Full access to the Techniques archive
- On-demand learning through CTE Learn
- Access to CTE Communities
- Exclusive offers through the new Member Deals program

Quick steps to update your profile:

1. Log in at acteonline.org.
2. Click the "Profile" tab.
3. Confirm or update your personal email and mobile number.

To update your Techniques subscription preferences, click on My Demographics and select the pencil icon to update preferences (scroll down for Preference for Techniques magazine subscription). Stay connected; update your member profile today!



Are you a member of ACTE? Click on the photo above and consider adding it to your email signature!

Click on the image to the right or scan the QR Code to check out the Member Benefits!

ACCESSING YOUR ACCOUNT

1. Go to ACTEonline.org and Log In! Once you log in, you will see a colorful grid of options.

MY BENEFITS

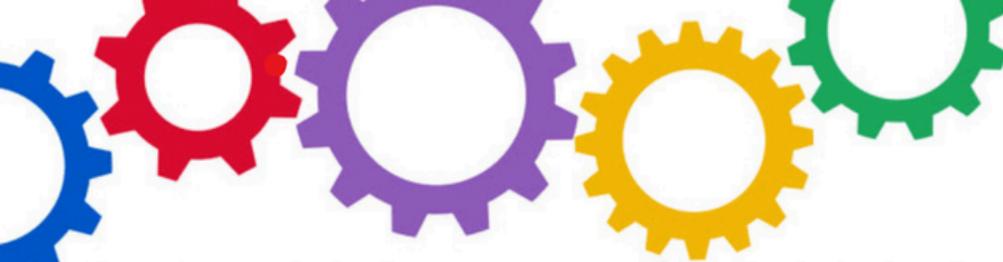
2. Click **About** and go to **Membership**. From there, click **Learn More** to access the full list of benefits.

MY MEMBERSHIP

3. Once inside **Membership**, you are able to renew, as well as access the full list of benefits of being a member of SDACTE/ACTE.

BENEFIT CATEGORIES

4. Explore 10 Membership Categories to fit your needs. Bookmark [Member Benefits!](#)



DECEMBER 3, 2025

9 AM - 3 PM

Dakota State University
East Hall Room 109
or
Virtual through Teams

BUSINESS, FINANCE & MARKETING BEST PRACTICES

SCHEDULE

9 - 9:50 AM

Hands-On AI for Educators

Join **Dr. David DeJong**, Dean of the College of Education and Director of Teacher Apprenticeships at Dakota State University, in an interactive session that includes hands-on activities where educators will explore and apply AI tools directly to real classroom scenarios.

10 - 10:50 AM

Finance in the Age of AI

Explore how artificial intelligence is reshaping personal finance with **Dr. Yenling Chang**, Associate Professor of Finance at Dakota State University. This interactive session examines how apps like Mint, Acorns, and Cleo use AI to make financial decisions and features classroom-ready activities, tools, and the MarketWatch Virtual Stock Trading Game designed for high school seniors.

11 - 11:50 AM

AI Meets VR in the Classroom

Discover how virtual reality is reshaping business education with **Dr. Deb Tech**, Department Chair of Business and Associate Professor of Marketing, and **Dr. Brenda Merkel**, Assistant Professor of Management. Participants will experience immersive workplace AI simulations and gain practical skills for using VR tools to design interactive classroom activities.

12 PM - 1 PM

Lunch

1 PM - 3 PM

Best Practices

Event sponsors:



COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
& INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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