



Greetings Region IV,

Can you believe we are putting the finishing touches on the 2020-2021 school year! What a journey it has been! I want to personally thank each of you for your continued work in the classroom as we have encountered and conquered this different and difficult school year. However, with all of the unknown and differences this school year presented, lets focus on all of the good that came from it!

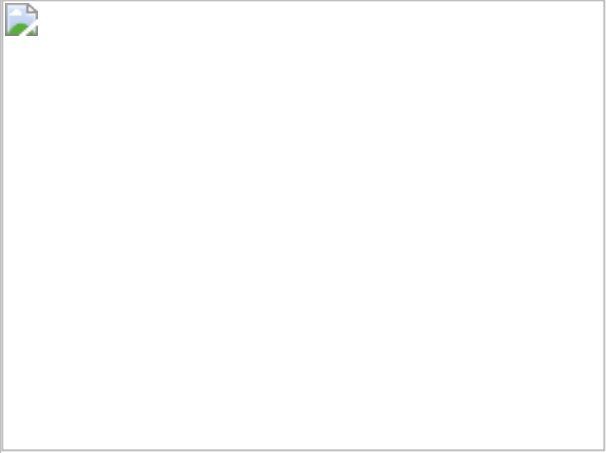
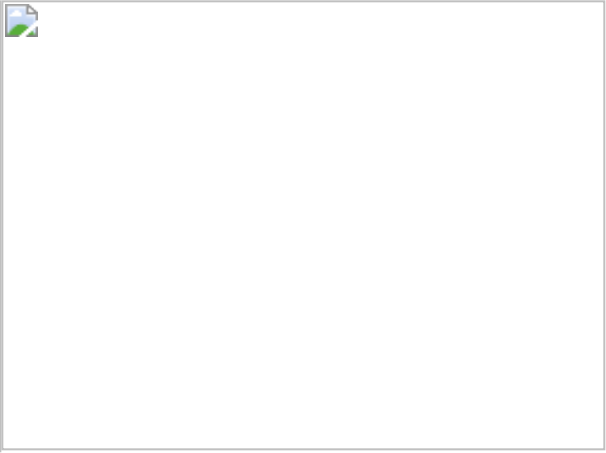
Last week, we hosted our second and hopefully last virtual Region IV conference! I know that many of you were able to join us, and I hope you were able to reconnect and network with the Power of CTE! I want to thank our host state Arkansas and commend the great work their planning committee completed to make this a successful conference. Region IV 2022 is planning to be back face-to-face in Texas for Spring 2022. More information to come this fall!

Region IV Awards

On **Thursday, April 15**, Region IV hosted our Region IV ACTE Excellence Awards celebration virtually. Region IV was fortunate to honor 26 Region IV ACTE Excellence Awards Finalist! We would like to recognize our finalist and Region IV Award Winners.

Congratulations to our finalists and winners!

Region IV Awards Finalists





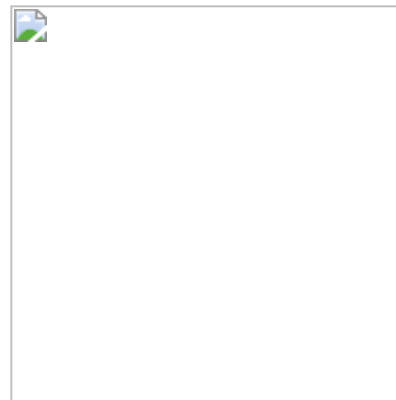
Region IV Awards Winners

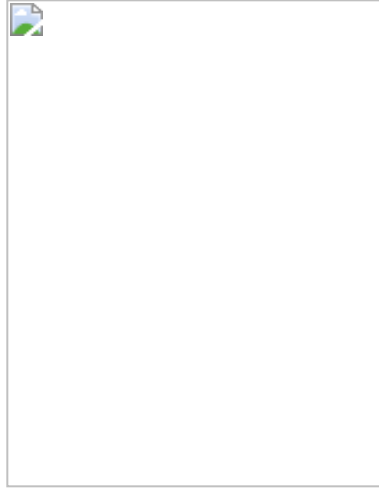


Board of Directors Election — Accepting Applications

The Region IV vice president-elect position is open for applications. Interested candidates need to visit the [ACTE website](#) for more information.

[Learn more](#)





ACTE Releases Report on CTE During and After COVID-19

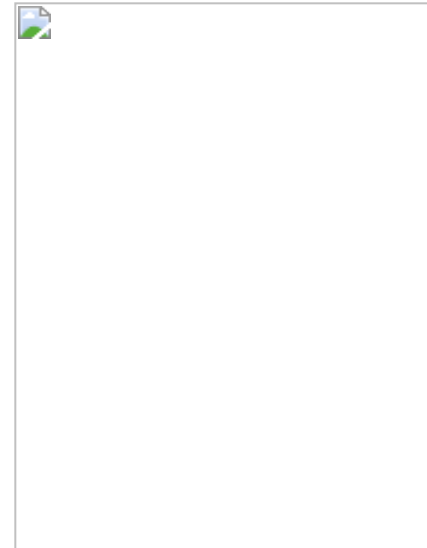
While COVID-19 has led to many challenges for career and technical education (CTE), the pandemic has also created opportunities for innovation in CTE program delivery. ACTE's latest publication, *High-quality CTE During COVID-19: Challenges and Innovations*, generously sponsored by [MajorClarity](#), describes these challenges, shares examples of innovative practices, and provides recommendations for how CTE leaders can better prepare the post-COVID-19 workforce and embrace lessons learned during the pandemic.

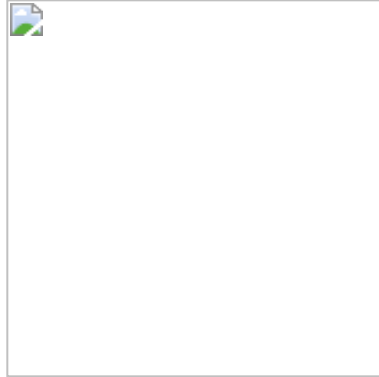
[Read more](#)

New Brief: Connecting SEL Learning to Career Success

Social-emotional learning (SEL) is gaining traction within schools, particularly as research demonstrates an increase in overall well-being and lifelong benefits. Fortunately, social-emotional skills can be learned, taught, interwoven and prioritized in CTE programs. This Xello-sponsored brief, the latest in its Student Career Development series, written by Dr. Angela Smith, School of Education, North Carolina State University, is now available.

[Read more](#)

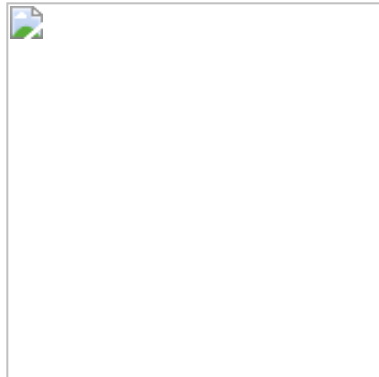




Early Bird Registration for Hybrid VISION is Open

The most important event for career and technical educators, ACTE's CareerTech Hybrid VISION happens **Dec. 1–4** online and on-site in New Orleans, Louisiana. Featuring keynote speakers Kevin Brown, author of *The Hero Effect: Being Your Best When It Matters the Most*, and Anne Grady, entrepreneur and author of *Mind Over Moment: Harness the Power of Resilience*, VISION will provide unparalleled networking and concurrent program sessions covering best practices in remote, hybrid and in-person programming.

[Learn more and register](#)



Upcoming Webinars

Plan to attend these free webinars, covering innovative best practices in CTE.

- Confronting Isms in the Classroom, **April 28 at 2:00 p.m. EST**
- Innovative Connections: STEM + CTE at Home or School, **May 4 at 4:00 p.m. ET**
- Equity for Remote Learning, **June 3 at 2:00 p.m. ET**
- Ensuring your classroom is providing equity for all CTE Students, **Aug. 5 at 2:00 p.m. ET**

- Pivoting to Practice: Making Your Work-based Learning Experiences Meaningful, **June 8 at 2:00 p.m. ET**
- Empowering Girls and Women in CTE, **July (date TBD)**

[Learn more](#)

New CTE Learn Advocacy and Perkins Courses

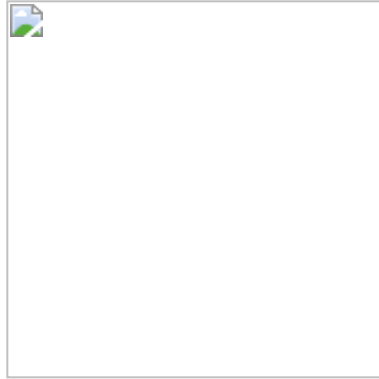
ACTE is pleased to announce two new courses available via CTE Learn:



- *Spending and Managing Carl D. Perkins Grant Funds* introduces participants to the federal rules that govern the spending and management of Perkins funds. [LEARN MORE](#)
- *CTE Advocacy: Policymakers and the Press* provides education professionals with the background, skills and know-how to successfully advocate and promote their CTE programs to both the press and policymakers at the local, state and federal levels. [LEARN MORE](#)

ACTE Impact Awards — Call for Nominations

The ACTE Impact Awards recognize groups and individuals from the education, business and industry

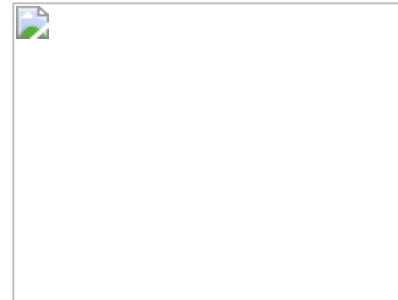


communities who contribute to the improvement, promotion and development of CTE. Individuals or entities making a positive impact on the image of CTE are eligible recipients of these awards. The deadline to apply for these two awards, the Business-Education Partnership Award and the Champion for CTE Award, is **May 1**.

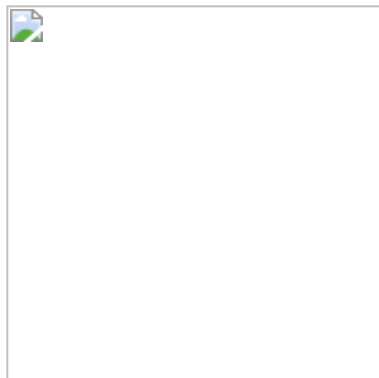
[Learn more](#)

ACTE Student Trophy Design Contest Returns

ACTE is excited to announce our sixth annual student contest to redesign the 3D-printed trophies for the ACTE Excellence Awards. The winning trophy design will be 3D-printed by Stratasys and presented to the 10 national award winners at the 2021 ACTE Virtual Awards Gala on **Nov. 30**. We highly encourage you, your peers and students to participate in this year's contest — the deadline for design submissions is **May 1**.



[Learn more](#)



WBL Conference is Now Fully Virtual

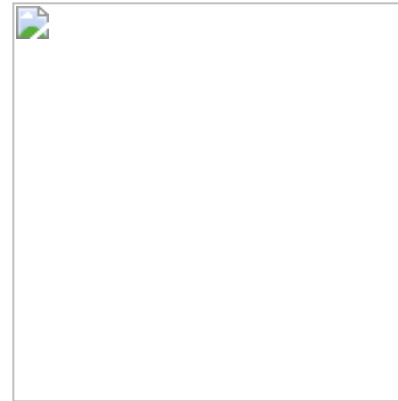
All sessions at ACTE's and Iowa's Work-based Learning (WBL) Conference this **April 29–30** will now be live-streamed. Next week's event will include more than 40 WBL topics presented live over Zoom to virtual participants. The ACTE WBL policy meeting, committee meetings and regional WBL receptions will also be hosted

virtually. Check out the [schedule-at-a-glance](#), and join us to learn about best practices in WBL from across the country.

[Learn more](#)

Signature Event for CTE Administrators

Save the date for The Best Practices and Innovations in Career and Technical Education Conference, hosted by the ACTE Administration Division and NCLA and happening **Sept. 29–Oct. 1** in Austin, Texas. This annual conference is specifically focused on the professional development for administrators of both secondary and postsecondary CTE programs and institutions.



[Learn more](#)



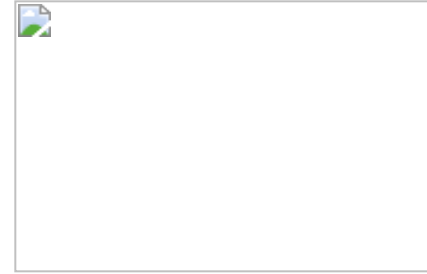
Contribute to a New National Career Clusters Framework

ACTE is pleased to share that Advance CTE is launching a crowdsourcing [portal](#) to modernize The Career Clusters Framework! Through **May 7**, Advance CTE invites you to complete a set of idea challenges to ensure The National Career Clusters Framework bridges education and work, empowering each learner to explore, decide and prepare for dynamic and evolving careers.

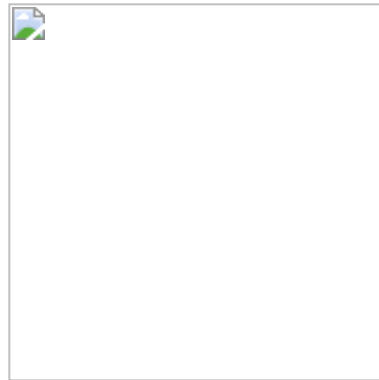
[Learn more](#)

Applications Are Open!

Now in its fifth year, the 2021 Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence will award \$1 million in prizes to public high school skilled trades teachers and programs in the U.S. Apply by May 21, or share this opportunity with a deserving teacher.



[Learn more](#)



CTE Innovation Summit Set for June 1

Are you ready to prepare your learners for the rapidly changing workplace with cutting-edge tools and techniques? Attend the CTE Innovation Summit taking place virtually on **Tuesday, June 1**. Presenters from the Consumer Technology Association, Microsoft, Google, Brookings Institution and a host of others will share their insights on the new innovations that will change the way you teach and how your students learn.

[Learn more and register](#)



Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Region IV vice president!

Ross White
VP, ACTE Region IV

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