



ADMINISTRATION  
DIVISION



*Connecting Education and Careers*

Fellow CTE administrators:

As we celebrate a new year, I want to reflect and thank everyone for a great (and first-ever) hybrid CareerTech VISION conference. It was wonderful to visit and connect with those who were able to attend the conference in person, as well as my appreciation to those attending the conference virtually. We had a terrific Business Meeting and Opening Session, and my thanks to Policy Committee members Julie Pack and Martin Hanley for leading the attendees through the engaging “wall-talk” activity.

The ACTE staff and board are focusing on the various strands of the Strategic Plan, and I have asked to be part of the Advocacy and Awareness working group. I have always believed that one of the strongest benefits of ACTE membership is the advocacy efforts of the organization in securing policy and funding support to advance CTE. The upcoming National Policy Seminar (**March 21–23**) is a terrific opportunity for members to learn more about the advocacy efforts and strategies for you to become actively involved at the state and national level. If you have not attended the National Policy Seminar in the past, you will find the conference and advocacy process very informational and enlightening.

Please take the time to review the newsletter items below, which include a link to a ACTE publication series supported by Xello on the partnership between Northrop Grumman and Grand Forks Public Schools (my district). Happy New Year and my very best to each of you, your staff, and your students for a successful 2022!

## Volunteers Needed

The ACTE Administration Division is Seeking Volunteers to Review CareerTech VISION and Best Practices and Innovations in CTE session proposals. The evaluation process for both conferences takes place in mid-March. Please click [here](#) for more information or to volunteer.

## Congratulations Award Winners!



***Dr. John Mulcahy***  
**ACTE Lifetime  
Achievement Award**  
Arizona

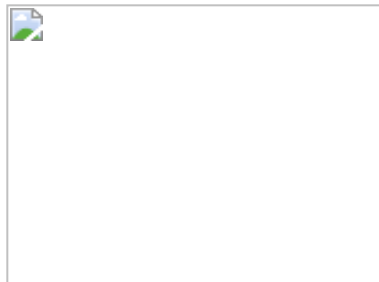


***Shani Watkins***  
**ACTE Administrator  
of the Year Award**  
Washington



***Dr. Patrick Biggerstaff***  
**ACTE CTE Champion  
of the Year Award**  
Indiana

Congratulations to our National Award Winners! ACTE Administrator of the Year Shani Watkins (Washington), ACTE Lifetime Achievement Award John Mulcahy (Arizona), and CTE Champion Award Patrick Biggerstaff (Indiana). Recipients were announced during the Awards Gala at the CareerTech VISION Conference.



## Announcing the Board of Directors 2022 Election Results

ACTE is pleased to announce the results of the recent election for spots on its Board of Directors.

- Chaney Mosley, President-elect: Mosley is an Assistant Professor at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.
- Michael Culwell, Region IV Vice President-elect: Culwell is the Campus Director at Kiamichi Tech-Poteau in Poteau, Oklahoma.
- Sean Crevier, Business Education Division Vice President: Appointed by the board of directors Mr. Crevier is Teacher at Vernon Hills High School in Vernon Hills, Illinois.
- Katy Blatnick-Gagne, Family and Consumer Sciences Education Division Vice President: Appointed by the board of directors, Ms. Blatnick-Gagne is an Education Consultant at the Iowa Department of Education in Des Moines, Iowa.

Additionally, the vice president-elects whose election occurred last year will join the Board as vice president in July 2022. Susan Leon will assume the position of New & Related Services Division Vice President, Brandon Russel will assume the position of Region III Vice President, and Beth Parks will assume the position of Region II Vice President.

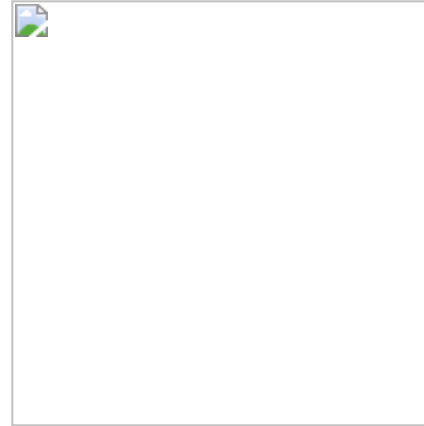
ACTE congratulates the winners, and thanks all of the candidates for their willingness to serve and their hard work, dedication, and commitment to the association. ACTE also thanks its members who had their voices heard by voting in the election.

[Read more](#)

## Voice Your CTE Priorities at NPS!

Join CTE professionals at ACTE's National Policy Seminar (NPS) to engage on key education policy topics, hear best practices for influencing federal policy related to CTE advocacy and messaging, and participate in Capitol Hill visits. This year's NPS will be offered as a hybrid event and happens both virtually and in person at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia, **March 21–23**. We will follow a similar schedule to past years but may have to make some COVID-19-related tweaks.

[Learn more](#)



## Present at CareerTech VISION 2022!

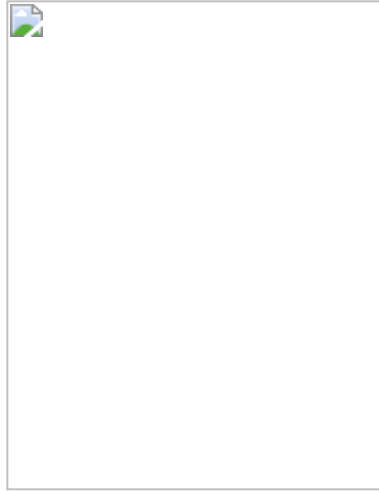
Share your expertise at ACTE's CareerTech VISION, happening **Nov. 30–Dec. 3** in Las Vegas, Nevada, by being an esteemed presenter. Won't you consider submitting a proposal to lead an educational program session? We're looking for innovations and insights on the most pressing issues in the field today. Accepted session topics may also address current and emerging trends to help career and technical educators thrive in their careers. VISION offers unparalleled networking, hundreds of concurrent program sessions covering high-quality CTE and stories of successful education and business collaborations. Call for presentations will open in late January and close **March 31**.

[Learn more](#)



Celebrate CTE Month<sup>®</sup>!

*Generously sponsored by NAHB*



Join us as we celebrate CTE Month, generously sponsored in 2022 by the National Association of Home Builders. Share with the world how much you love CTE! Raise awareness about the importance of CTE for our students and our nation's economy and have fun doing it!

- Share ACTE's 28 days of CTE social media messages by following us [@actecareertech](#) on Twitter or Facebook. You can also share your own success stories on social media by using **#CTEMonth**. Be sure to tag us!
- Encourage your students to participate in this year's [CTE Month-NASA HUNCH student video](#) challenge to showcase the importance of CTE and/or project-based learning. This year's theme: **How Can Space Exploration Solve Climate Change?** Submit videos, two minutes or less in length, by **April 1**.
- [Gear up](#) with mood pens, pencils and other festive CTE Month merchandise.
- [Engage](#) members of your community or the media to learn about your school's strong CTE programs firsthand.
- [Reach out](#) to business and industry leaders in your area to create valuable partnerships.
- [Download the CTE Month logo](#) for use with any of your print and digital outreach.

[Learn more](#)

# New Publication Features Grand Forks Public Schools and Northrup Grumman Partnership

Xello is pleased to support ACTE and CTE practitioners through the production of a series of publication briefs to delve deeper on topics within ACTE's Quality CTE Program of Study Framework: Business and Community Partnerships. The third publication in the Taking Business to School Series focuses on the Grand Forks Public Schools and Northrup Grumman partnership that resulted in a new robotics engineering program that also helps fuel the local region's growing unmanned aerial systems industry.

Read more

## TAKING BUSINESS TO SCHOOL:

### GRAND FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND NORTHROP GRUMMAN

Sponsored by  
 

#### Partnership Catalyst

Northrup Grumman has a strong commitment to supporting education initiatives that foster student interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The company partners with educational institutions to offer "engineering and technology based programs and activities that excite, engage, and educate students." (Northrup Grumman, 2021). Northrup Grumman provides sponsoring STEM education initiatives opportunities where it has a physical presence and employee base to both meet its communities and partner to develop local talent.



In 2017, Northrup Grumman opened a new facility near Grand Forks, North Dakota, to support development and operation of unmanned aerial systems (UAS), an emerging technology in the aviation field. The Grand Sky Unmanned Aerial Systems Business and Aviation Park is the nation's first commercial UAS business park; the facility was developed in partnership with the United States Air Force and leverages the infrastructure of the Grand Forks Air Force Base for its operations. (Northrup Grumman, 2017). The Air Force flew a group of Global Hawk, autonomous aircraft from the air base, and the development of the Grand Sky facility meant that Grand Forks was becoming a hub for the UAS industry.

As the Grand Sky facility was being developed, Northrup Grumman also began developing its partnership with the region's academic institutions to support STEM education in the community and collaborate to develop a local workforce with skills needed for the UAS field. Northrup Grumman's Grand Sky site director, Phil de la Sota, and the development of the Grand Sky facility meant that Grand Forks was becoming a hub for the UAS industry.

#### Program Overview

Grand Forks Public Schools has established a highly successful and globally competitive robotics engineering program over the last several years. Robotics program students participate in the VEX Robotics game-based engineering challenge. Students build their own robots capable of completing a certain set of tasks specified by the game.

#### Creating Strong Business Partnerships

For more information on creating strong business partnerships, see the "Business and Community Partnerships" element of ACTE's Quality CTE Program of Study Framework at <https://www.acteonline.org/professional-development/high-quality-cte-tools/>



## New Resource on Expanding Access to Short-term Postsecondary CTE Programs

Recently, ACTE released a fact sheet: Pell Grants and Short-term Programs: Unlocking Careers and Educational Opportunities. These high-quality, short-term postsecondary programs can help individuals earn credentials in high-wage, high-demand CTE industries.

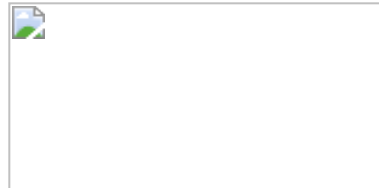
Read more

## Help Us Define Inclusion and Access

What does [inclusion](#) mean to you? What about [access](#)? ACTE seeks to define these terms in the context of CTE, and we need your help. As educators, you advance the ideals of inclusion, access, equity and diversity (IAED) through the development of high-quality CTE programs of study that serve all students. Read *Techniques* this spring for additional opportunities to contribute on the meaning of IAED in CTE.



### Read more about IAED in CTE in Techniques



## Check Out New, Free Resources on CTE Learn

The CTE Research Network Training Modules, designed for CTE practitioners and state agency staff, will strengthen your capacity to access, understand, and use CTE data and research as well as conduct your own research — particularly causal research. This new series seeks to expand the evidence base on the impact of CTE and to bring CTE practitioners and researchers together in collaboration.

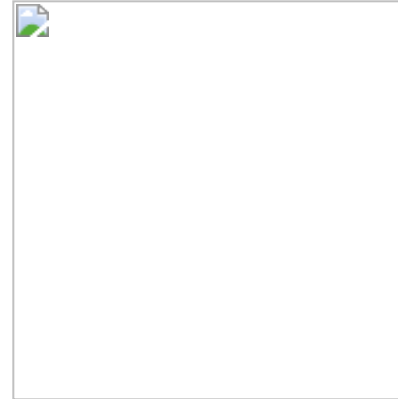
- Understanding CTE Data and Why It Matters
- Using Data and Research to Improve CTE Programs
- CTE Program Evaluation: Why It Matters to Practitioners
- Using State Data to Partner with Researchers
- Using Research to Design Your CTE Program for Equity
- How to Communicate About Your CTE Program Using Research

[Learn more](#)

## Upcoming Webinars

Mark your calendar for these upcoming free webinars, covering innovative best practices in CTE.

- Why is Academic Integration a Necessity in CTE Programs: A Discussion with Educators (Part 2) on **Feb. 16 at 4:00 p.m. ET**
- Why is Academic Integration a Necessity in CTE Programs: A Discussion with Students (Part 3) on **April 12 at 4:00 p.m. ET**



Learn more and sign up to attend



**Eric Ripley**

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