



COUNSELING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION



Connecting Education and Careers

Dear Counseling and Career Development members,

It's hard to believe many of us are in our fifth or sixth week of "stay-at-home" orders. Between a steady barrage of negative pandemic and economic news and drinking from an endless stream of Zoom meetings, I sometimes have to remind myself to look out the windows to glimpse the deepening green of new leaves or the brilliant blossoms of azaleas. Although we all are having to physically distance from each other, I hope you all are finding creative ways to nurture partnerships and collaborations during this unprecedented time.

In an effort to support our division members, we conducted a co-branded webinar with the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) called "Counseling and Career Development in a Time of Uncertainty." I hope you found the panel to be not only informative but also uplifting. I know I learned a lot and was reminded of the many silver linings occurring in the midst of these challenging times.

If you were not able to attend, you can [view the recording](#).

If you want to connect to any of the ROCK  STAR panelists, here are their emails/websites.

[Jill Cook](#), Assistant Director, ASCA

[Julia Hoge](#), School Counselor, Dan Mills Elementary and [Hoge Consulting](#), Nashville, Tennessee

[Laura Ross](#), ASCA School Counselor of the Year, Five Forks Middle School, Texas

[Julie Hill](#), Western Boone High School

Also a special thank you to our division policy committee members who joined in sharing a wealth of information from their districts!

Teresa "Gibby" Gibbons
Shelly Thome

ASCA has also curated best practices from across the country to help school counselors and career development specialists in their virtual work. More resources are being added every day so I encourage you to visit their [website](#) often! Also, check out their discounted professional development opportunities between now and **May 15**.

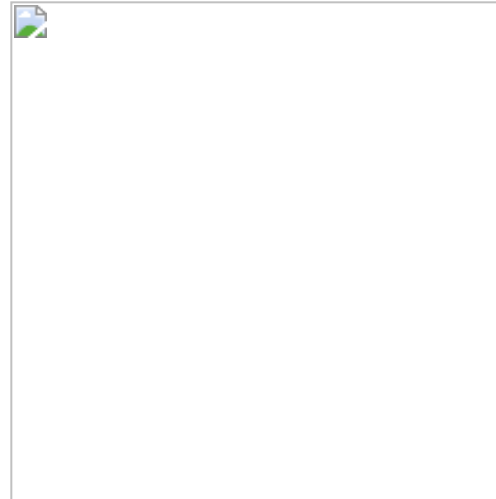
COVID Specific Resources

Mental Health & Covid-19 Resource Toolkit

(includes advice, guidance, content for social sharing, public messages and more)

COVID-19 Mental Health Resource Hub (In collaboration with PsychHub, this is a great resource that provides guidance with specific information for individuals, mental healthcare providers, healthcare professionals, community supporters, educational institutions, employers and veterans.)

Flyer – Self Care Strategies for Resilience (not covid-19 specific but a great reminder to practice self-care)



Teresa "Gibby" Gibbons, our VP-Elect, has also been making a series of videos to keep her students engaged. Check out one of my favorites [here](#)! I encourage you to follow her on social media to see all of the innovative ways she is supporting students and families during this crisis.

Watch Gibby's video!



MEET OUR NEW FELLOW: Heather Ballou

Heather Ballou believes “the way you do anything is the way you do everything,” a statement she has applied throughout her career as a teacher and counselor. She believes that if you give 100% to everything you do, from the small tasks in the day to the big picture in your career or at home, it leads to a level of commitment to family, colleagues and students. Her commitment sets an example of leadership for students and anyone else who might be

paying attention. Heather has a bachelor's degree from Oklahoma State University in Elementary Education and a specialization in Early Childhood Education, Master of Education from East Central University in School Counseling, and Master of Education in Educational Administration & Leadership from Southern Nazarene University. Heather has been serving in education for 18 years. She started her career as a classroom teacher in public education for 10 years, where she taught grades ranging from first through eighth. She is completing her eighth year as a counselor working with middle school, high school and postsecondary students in career and technical education. Heather is a counselor and the College Alliance Specialist at Great Plains Technology Center in Lawton, Oklahoma. She is involved with various service and leadership organizations in her community and truly enjoys fighting for the underdog in any situation. She has served in Oklahoma ACTE Guidance Division Officer Team as the treasurer, vice president and is currently serving as the President-Elect for the 2019-2020 school year. In addition to serving on the officer team for many years, Heather pours into the division by serving as both a committee chairperson as well as serving as a member on other committees within the division. Heather's term as the first representative for the Counseling & Career Development Division in the ACTE Fellowship Program began in January 2020. When she is not working, Heather loves to listen to audiobooks and podcasts, crochet, taxi her two kids to all of their events, and teach middle school-aged girls' Sunday school class. Whether it is working with high school and postsecondary students during the workweek, planning Sunday school lessons for her girls at church or her involvement at the state and national level with ACTE, Heather pours her heart into every detail, large or small.



COVID-19 Online & Distance Learning Resources Growing

ACTE continues to update its compilation of online and distance learning resources that can supplement your school's official guidance and also includes information on how to access six free courses to prepare educators to teach online via CTE Learn.

[Read more](#)

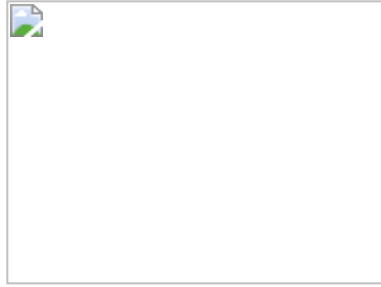
CTE in a Time of Uncertainty

View the complete collection of ACTE division webinars focused on the current state of CTE, promising practices in the era of COVID-19 and engaging conversations with experts in the field.



[Watch now!](#)

Now Accepting Board Election Nominations



Interested in serving ACTE as a member of the Board of Directors? Applications for positions opened today and are due **June 15**. For more information, please see the guidelines for the Board of Directors nominations.

[Learn more](#)

Access & Equity Ideas & Resources

ACTE is calling for content and your participation to showcase our collective dedication to Inclusion, Access, Equity and Diversity (IAED) by:

- Contributing resources to and submitting IAED speaker names for inclusion on the ACTE IAED website
- Recommending ideas for the IAED column that will be included in the 2020-2021 *Techniques* editorial cycle
- Referencing the Access and Equity element in the *Quality CTE Program of Study Framework* and encouraging your CTE colleagues to follow suit
- Signing up to be a part of ACTE's IAED Advisory Group

[Learn more](#)



Deadline Extended for Student Trophy Design Contest

With many teachers adjusting to delivering instruction in an online environment, we have extended the deadline for the



student trophy design contest to **June 30**. The winning trophy design will be 3D-printed by Stratasys and presented to the 10 national award winners at the 2020 ACTE Awards Gala on **Dec. 2** in Nashville, Tennessee. [Learn more](#)

Impact Awards — Deadline Extended

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. The deadline to apply for these two awards, the Business-Education Partnership Award and the Champion for CTE Award, has also been extended to **June 30**. [Read more](#)

Boutique Event for CTE Administrators

Happening **Oct. 7–9** in Cape Cod, North Falmouth, Massachusetts, ACTE's and NCLA's Best Practices and Innovations in CTE Conference will offer content-rich programming and networking to strengthen the field for CTE administrators of both secondary and postsecondary CTE programs and institutions. [Learn more](#)



Early Bird Registration for CareerTech VISION 2020 is Open

The premier event for CTE professionals, ACTE's CareerTech VISION offers unparalleled professional development, comprehensive CTE secondary and postsecondary programming, and stories of successful education and business collaborations. This year's event happens **Dec. 2–5** at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. [Register today](#)



I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy!

Investing together,

[Nicole Cobb](#)

Counseling and Career Development Division Vice President
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