



**POSTSECONDARY, ADULT
AND CAREER EDUCATION
DIVISION**



Connecting Education and Careers

Dear PACE Division members,

Happy 2022!

I hope your new year is going well so far. It has certainly been interesting, to say the least! Despite the challenges we face, this is a historical time to be in career and technical education (CTE) and adult learning.

As a workforce development consultant, I have personally witnessed the rise in applicants and an increasing need for skills and leadership training in the private sector. I see these trends as indicators of a brighter and more promising year for us all.

I think we can all agree that pivoting from traditional classroom settings to virtual and hybrid training brings with it both struggles and opportunities. Among these are new opportunities to partner with companies to help develop customized training plans, up-skill the existing workforce and improve workforce development strategies. This is the time to reach out to our local industries and initiate these conversations, as I know many of you are.

There are exciting opportunities on the horizon in postsecondary education in 2022 and beyond. Employers understand the value of “building their bench” and investing in their current labor force. They can see the impact of employee development on employee retention. I predict many of these organizations will be reaching out to us for talent acquisition and management solutions. If they aren’t knocking on your door, be sure that you are knocking on theirs.

This newsletter serves as the platform to inform you of exciting activities, professional development opportunities and relevant conversations. The Postsecondary, Adult and Career

Education (PACE) Division serves both leaders and educators. Although, I personally feel that they are one and the same.

I love the inclusive nature and the cohesion of our group, and I want each of you to know how grateful we are for your contributions. As we continue to grow our division and serve those who serve our students, we invite you to join us and find your purpose within the PACE Division. Our doors are always open, and we welcome the ideas, energy and opportunities for collaboration that you bring to our growing organization.

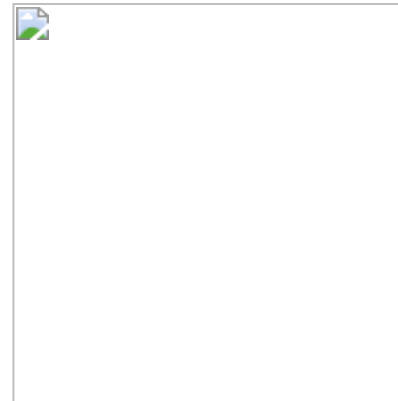
Cheers to the new year, and the opportunities it brings!

VISION 2021 Recap

Hybrid CareerTech VISION 2021 Conference was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, **Dec. 1–4**. Over 3,000 people attended this hybrid event, and 128 PACE members registered for the conference. There were approximately 82 sessions with a postsecondary professional focus.

My deepest gratitude to John Noel (former PACE V.P. and Oklahoma PACE leader) and our PACE Committee Co-chair, Brett Richardson (former PLSP Fellow), for not only compiling our treasured “Blue Book” but also to John who hand-delivered them (and our trophies) to the conference. I would also like to extend a special thank you to Shawn Freie, the PACE Awards chair, who worked tirelessly alongside Andrea Pogue, to create the most ideal submission platform for our PACE Awards. Their work has resulted in a streamlined process that will undoubtedly ensure an increase in nomination submissions for years to come.

Dr. Kevin Fleming so graciously provided his time and expertise to the PACE Division by leading us with his keynote presentation. Dr. Fleming, who has been a leading advocate



for career and technical education (CTE) shared both his perspective on advancing CTE as well as the introduction to his new children's book, *There's a Hat for That*, a beginning introduction to future careers to the youngest of our population.

**Please see article below.*

Additionally, my sincerest gratitude to PACE leaders: Dr. Sophia Alston, Dr. Brandon Hudson, Dr. Janet Burns, Torrie Constantino and Emilie Cherry who were major contributors to the success of our Division's programs at VISION.

Brett Richardson co-presented with me for the business meeting and opening session. He also led our vote for the recommendation of the updated PACE Bylaws to be submitted to the ACTE board of directors in March. This vote was passed by all present members and appreciation was extended to committee members who diligently worked on this project over the past year.

I was extremely thrilled for the number of attendees that we had for this event as well as for the turnout during our PACE reception held on the evening of **Dec. 2**. In all, we had 83 attendees at our reception. Many communicated that this event was a great opportunity for networking and meeting their postsecondary colleagues from across the U.S. We hope you can join us in years to come.

The reception would not have been a success without the sponsorship and contributions from our friend of PACE, Mark Perna (TFS Results, CEO). Mark engaged our attendees with a brief overview of his organization and words of encouragement for advancing the work we are all doing for CTE and Adult Education. We were truly honored.



A Message from PACE Sponsor, Mark C. Perna, TFS Results

The world has changed—and now is the moment for career and technical education to become the proactive first choice for students of all ages.

Author and speaker Mark C. Perna and his team at TFS Results are on a mission to promote purpose-driven education and training across North America. Mark, who founded the Education with Purpose & Employment with Passion movement, believes that students who experience purpose-driven education will be passionate about their future employment. These young people will leverage their creativity, intelligence, and potential to bridge the skills gap and revitalize the workforce.

To do this, postsecondary students need a new competitive advantage based on academic knowledge, technical competency, and professional skills. CTE is perfectly positioned to deliver this trifecta as the driving force of an effective enrollment and retention strategy. But first, we have to break down the stigmas, rewrite the narrative, and change the way people think about postsecondary education.

Robust enrollment and retention results start with a true picture of what young people can really achieve. Though they're often painted in a negative light, Generation Z has incredible potential to change the world for the better. When we understand how they think, what makes them tick, and how they make decisions, we can bridge the generational divide that may be hindering their performance.

In Mark's words, it all comes down to a human connection—because without it, Generation Z will not move forward in their

education and career journey. We create a human connection when we connect, engage, and answer why for young people, aligning our goals with theirs and showing them that education is their solution, not their problem.

Mark coaches organizations to enroll and retain more of the right students, in the right programs and pathways, for all the right reasons. His strategic retention and performance planning is designed to reach graduating seniors, 19–24-year-olds, and 25+ age groups. Right students are those who are motivated to move toward what Mark calls “the Light at the End of the Tunnel,” their personal lifestyle and career goals. When we help students discover their personal Light, they become those right students who will perform beyond all expectations.

There’s never been a better moment in history to shift the paradigm in career-focused education and change the narrative in the communities we serve. As the world continues to change, CTE can become a highly sought-after educational option, not a second choice to a university degree. When CTE is seen as the proactive first choice for every student, paradigms will shift—and young people will thrive.

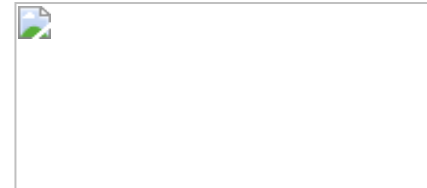
At TFS Results, Mark heads an energetic team of talented professionals who share his vision of making a bigger difference in education and workforce development. TFS Results partners with schools, districts, businesses, and state organizations of all sizes nationwide to help them experience significant gains in enrollment, engagement, retention, and performance rates. Mark also serves on the Advisory Council for the Coalition for Career Development in Washington, DC.

Mark, a weekly contributor at Forbes.com, has published many articles in national publications and interviews

frequently on radio shows, television, and podcasts. Every weekday, he hosts the 90-second Perna Syndicate micro-podcast covering insights on education, careers, and workforce development. His award-winning bestseller, *Answering Why: Unleashing Passion, Purpose, and Performance in Younger Generations*, was written to help educators, employers, and parents understand the millennial and Z generations and inspire them to greater performance in all areas of life. Find out more about Mark and his work at MarkCPerna.com.

Introducing Catapult! Dr. Kevin Fleming

As we seek to increase our enrollments and ensure CTE programs receive the credit and recognition they deserve within our communities, many of us are seeking effective professional development solutions for our teams. But, as many of us have experienced, stand-alone webinars are often ineffective and sending only a few people to a conference rarely results in true institutional change. Founded by PACE member Dr. Kevin Fleming, [CATAPULT](#) is revolutionizing our approach to how we engage Professional Development (PD). By bundling five CTE subject matter experts (information) to deliver the best dynamic, virtual keynote presentations in America (motivation) followed by institution-specific coaching calls for tactical action (transformation), [CATAPULT](#) provides the most impactful leadership and professional development series on CTE Recruitment & Marketing you've ever experienced. It's not a webinar. It's not a conference. It's a cohort-based Masterclass launching your institution forward, faster. Space is very limited. Only 15 institutions will be able to participate in this elite, turnkey series this spring. If you



mention "PACE Division" when registering, you'll get \$5,000 off for your entire institution! Learn more and reserve your institution's spot today at CatapultLPD.com.

PACE Re-Ignite Meeting Recap

On **Nov. 12**, the PACE Division Committee co-chairs **Brett Richardson** and **Robb Lowe** along with **Dr. Sophia Alston** assisted in developing and executing our fourth installment of the PACE Re-Ignite meetings.

Our agenda that day included an introduction to our ACTE Region I Vice President, Carrie Scheiderer, and Oklahoma PACE Leader, Andrea Pogue, who invited all attendees to join them for their Lunch Talk presentations (more information below). Andrea then joined fellow EQ World USA Director, Mark Wilson, to extend an invitation to join them for Leadership Thursdays. Crystal Latham, executive director of Skills USA, Texas Association, and College Postsecondary Division was our featured presenter.

Sophia Alston reviewed the rollout for three PACE working groups. She highlighted how a survey, the Postsecondary Advisory Group (PSAG), and Pace Re-Ignite attendees helped lead to the creation of three working groups:

1. Recruitment and Retention
2. Professional Development
3. Policy and Legislation

These groups will draft ideas leading to the development of a strategic plan to grow the PACE division. Sophia summarized the groups and reminded attendees that they can contact her if they would like to join one or more of the working groups. Brett Richardson and Robb Lowe will also be leading this work in the upcoming month.

Michael Connet spoke about the Postsecondary Leadership Success Program at ACTE. He stated that the application for the 2022/23 fellows is open now and closes in January.

The agenda also included an activity with EQ World USA Directors **Andrea Golden-Pogue** and **Mark Wilson** who are also leading the PACE professional development initiative.

The next PACE meeting will be held **Friday, Feb. 11 from 10:00–11:30 a.m.** You can register [here](#).

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

PACE Leadership Thursdays – EQ World USA

Andrea Golden-Pogue and Mark Wilson have been working diligently to bring timely and relative professional development topics to our PACE members. If you are interested in leading one of the sessions, please contact [Dr. Sophia Alston](#).

Save the Dates for the Upcoming Leadership Sessions:

Feb. 24: CTE Conflict Resolution

Stress, different personalities, disagreements and disputes are a part of daily life. How do we create a space for respectful, peaceful solutions that create win-win scenarios for everyone involved? Join us as we discuss a few strategies to help you have better challenging discussions.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtdu2qpj0oHdKmWyODcMSwv5VrrYELeHe>

March 31: Building Effective Teams in CTE

We all know that effective teams achieve results faster and go farther than other teams. Join us as we discuss the steps to help you create and maintain a strong, cohesive and effective team. Teamwork makes the Dream work!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtcu-sqDMpG9zyuHA-EZ6yYdzCXywnxDDU>

April 28: Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in CTE

Cultural diversity is important because our country, workplaces, and schools increasingly consist of various cultural, racial, and ethnic groups. Join us as we discuss Diversity and Inclusion strategies that you can use with your teams and organizations.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkce-gqT0rGdDBttGB-G05evmXdPpe5lza>

May 26: EQ in CTE

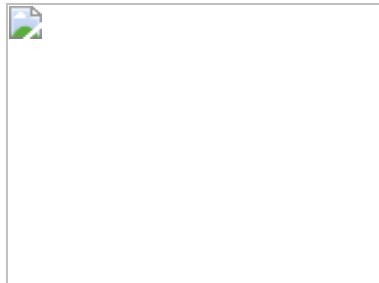
Happy, productive, innovative, engaged; these are just a few of the benefits that come from investing in increasing one's emotional intelligence. There is a direct correlation between increased job satisfaction when employees are higher in EQ. Join us as we share some dimensions of EQ.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0lf-2grj8pEtC710FnY1UXYV1M3yrV262n>

February PACE Re-Ignite Meeting

Please join us on **Feb. 11 from 10:00–11:30 a.m. EST** for our next PACE Re-ignite meeting. Our guest presenters for this meeting will include; Austin Estes, Data and Research Manager for Advance CTE and a special presentation on "Pell Grants & Short-term Programs: Unlocking Careers and Educational Opportunities". Crystal Latham, Executive Director of Skills USA, Texas Association, and College Postsecondary Division will also provide us with a recap from the November 12th's Re-ignite meeting.

We encourage both members and non-members to participate in the PACE Re-Ignite Meetings. Register and log on to find out why you and your organization should become a member of the fastest growing division at ACTE [register here](#).



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.

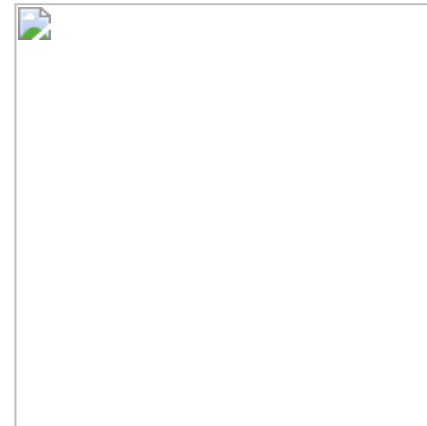
ACTE congratulates the winners, and thanks all of the candidates for their willingness to serve and their hard work, dedication, and commitment to the association. ACTE also thanks its members who had their voices heard by voting in the election.

[Read more](#)

Voice Your CTE Priorities at NPS!

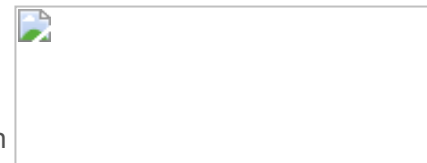
Join CTE professionals at ACTE's National Policy Seminar (NPS) to engage on key education policy topics, hear best practices for influencing federal policy related to CTE advocacy and messaging, and participate in Capitol Hill visits. This year's NPS will be offered as a hybrid event and happens both 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](#)



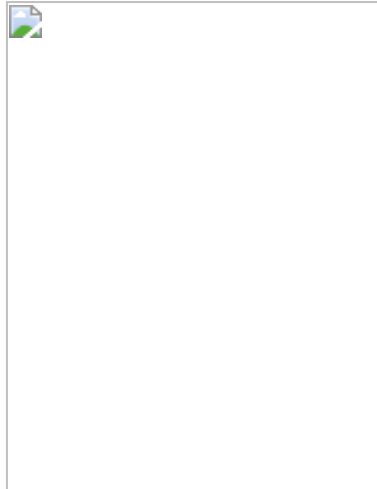
Present at CareerTech VISION 2022!

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[®]!

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 NORTHRUP GRUMMAN

Sponsored by  



Partnership Catalyst

Northrup Grumman has a strong commitment to supporting education initiatives that foster students' interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The company works with educational institutions to offer "engineering- and technology-based" programs with incentives that motivate, engage, and educate students." (Northrup Grumman, 2017) Northrup Grumman practices sponsoring STEM education initiatives in communities where it has a physical presence and employee base to both invest in its community 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, in the north's first commercial UAS business park, the facility was developed in partnership with the Grand Forks Air Force Base through the leadership of the Grand Forks Air Force Base for its operations. (Northrup Grumman, 2017). The Air Force Base is a great of Global Hawk autonomous aircraft from the air base, and the development of the Grand Sky facility meant the 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 Grand Sky vice president Mike Frohlich said, "Northrup Grumman built a state-of-the-art facility near Grand Sky because of the ability to work closely with our customers and because of the region's strong academic institutions and commitment to supporting the aerospace system industry." Grand Forks Region Economic Development, 2018. Early on, Northrup Grumman reached out to the region's secondary and postsecondary institutions to get to know local education leaders and begin identifying STEM education partnership opportunities. Northrup Grumman initially supported STEM education in Grand Forks through a state matching grant program and invested in STEM education at the pre-K level. Once the Grand Sky facility opened in 2017 and Northrup Grumman employees were working in the Grand Forks community, the partnership expanded to include more direct engagement between Northrup Grumman employees and Grand Forks students. Students enrolled in Grand Forks Public Schools now have the opportunity to participate in several of Northrup Grumman sponsored STEM education initiatives, including the VEX Robotics program and a high school mentoring program.

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 in the challenge.

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 in <https://www.acte.org/professional-development/http://qctf.ctc.edu/>

New Resource on Expanding



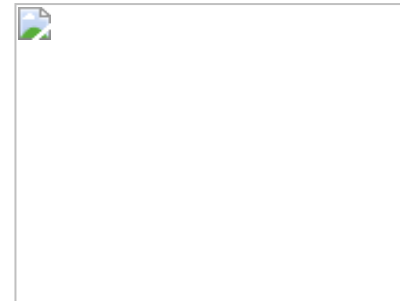
Access to Short-term Postsecondary CTE Programs

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 at an affordable cost and enter the workforce in high-wage, high-demand CTE industries.

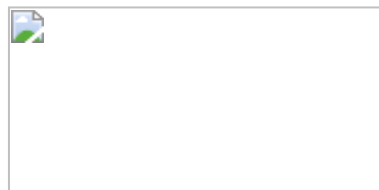
[Read more](#)

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.

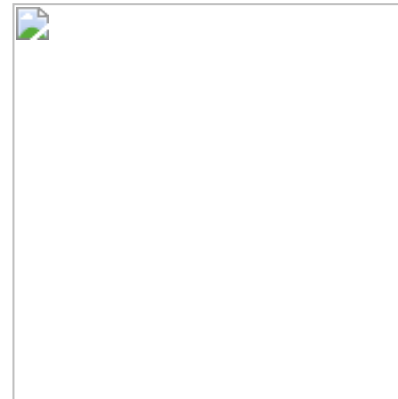
- Understanding CTE Data and Why It Matters
- Using Data and Research to Improve CTE Programs
- CTE Program Evaluation: Why It Matters to Practitioners
- Using State Data to Partner with Researchers
- Using Research to Design Your CTE Program for Equity
- How to Communicate About Your CTE Program Using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

Looking forward to seeing you soon!



Yours in Education,

[Kristina Ropos](#)

VP, ACTE's Postsecondary, Adult and Career Education Division

Association for Career and Technical Education

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