



## TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION DIVISION



*Connecting Education and Careers*

Hello ACTE T/I members!

I hope you all had a joy-filled holiday season. I was excited to meet a lot of you at VISION this year, and we had a couple of great division meetings. Out of those meetings, I got to meet with some awesome groups of people and a few of those are featured in this newsletter so be sure and read the entire newsletter this month.

**NCCER:** One of the groups that partners with our division is the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) — they are an awesome group who specializes in developing curriculum, certification and accreditation. Here is a small intro for them and a link for a survey:

"Here at NCCER, we are striving to better understand instructor challenges and what resources we could provide to be most impactful to support their training programs. Let your voice be heard by participating in our short survey. It should take less than five minutes to complete."

Here is the link to the survey again for your convenience:

[Craft Instructor Engagement Survey](#)

**NC3:** Another group whom I was honored to attend a couple of their meetings at VISION was the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3), and here is a feature about them and their conference:

In partnership with ACTE, NC3 proudly hosted an Advanced Manufacturing Career Pathways Conference on **Dec. 1, 2021**, at the ACTE CareerTech VISION Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

During this unique one-day conference, CTE administrators and instructors from secondary and postsecondary institutions nationwide explored how to grow and/or evolve their trade and industrial education programs into high-performing advanced manufacturing pathways.

Conference attendees:

- Experienced the power of hands-on CTE learning first-hand by becoming students for the day during special hands-on workshops where they experienced curriculum and equipment that is actually used in today's manufacturing facilities as well as in NC3 schools to teach tomorrow's technologies
- Learned how to create effective multi-industry partnerships during a panel discussion with NC3's Executive Director and several of NC3's world-class global industry partners
- Explored industry's perspective on the changing dynamics of the workplace/workforce, how industry is responding to the changes, and their thoughts on how to work in collaboration with education to provide solutions
- Learned how employers are recruiting, hiring, and training employees, and how they're engaging with schools in CTE through the issuance and recognition of industry-recognized certifications for students
- Participated in five different topic-driven breakout sessions to better understand the importance of students obtaining high-demand skills and industry-recognized certifications earlier in their educational careers, how to develop relevant CTE pathways from K-12 into post-secondary, how to work with local and national industry partners to develop employability pathways that benefit both schools and industry, and more

When asked about the event, Barrett Crane, the National Sales Manager for Snap-on Industrial Education, said, "It was encouraging to take part in such a critical event. Manufacturing jobs bring life-changing opportunities to many who struggle to find a career. This event introduced to participants the open dialog that is possible when education and industry make time to communicate. Further understanding the needs of employers, while learning about actionable programs that align and support these needs, was powerful. I hope that this kind of collaboration will continue and look forward to the opportunity to meet again next year."

Tony Oran, the vice president of sales for Festo Didactic, Inc., added, "The only way to close the skills gap and fill the skills shortage is to bring industry and education together and attack this critical issue. Today's event was just that. We brought several major industries together with

many educators to clearly show there is a path to success. Festo has been dedicated to this mission since 1965 and we will continue to support CTE through opportunities like this.”

Dr. Jason Scales, the Business Manager of Education for Lincoln Electric, said he felt inspired by the strength and solidarity shown among NC3’s industry partners at the event. “Lincoln Electric is proud to be a partner with other industry-leading companies that share a renowned interest in addressing the skills gap. Collaboratively working together through NC3 to provide industry-recognized certificates that lead to meaningful jobs and careers is why we do what we do. Being here and working together at ACTE to deliver meaningful sessions to educators has been a tremendous experience for all involved,” he said.

In addition to sharing a plethora of valuable information with attendees at the event, Ben Stahl, the Service Operations Leader of the Gulf Coast for Commercial HVAC at Trane Technologies, mentioned that he’s also looking forward to sharing what he learned at the event with his colleagues throughout the Southeast. “The focus on building and supporting an education system to support technical careers is a huge step in building a sustainable technical workforce. The emphasis on specific trades and specialized skillsets definitely adds to the value NC3 brings to the college system.”

NC3’s executive team, program managers, and world-class industry partners were honored they had this opportunity to showcase how they successfully support schools in the NC3 Network and that they had the opportunity to extend that same support to schools that attended the event as they look to launch new manufacturing programs and/or restructure their already existing manufacturing programs.

“Our team is looking forward to hosting an annual manufacturing-focused event at ACTE CareerTech VISION moving forward,” Roger Tadajewski, the Executive Director of NC3, said. “If you weren’t able to attend our event this year, be sure to save the date for next year!”

ACTE CareerTech VISION 2022 is going to be held from **Nov. 30 to Dec. 3** in Las Vegas, Nevada.

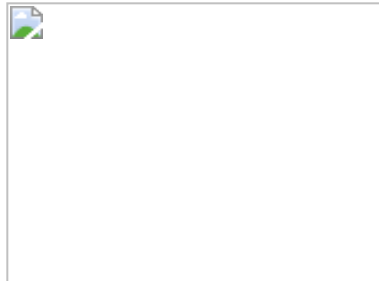
[About NC3](#)

NC3 was established to help build a workforce prepared to meet the needs of today's and tomorrow's industries by connecting employers and educational institutions in synergistic partnerships that foster effective training, the elevation of skilled careers, and employment opportunities. In fulfilling its mission, NC3 builds deep industry-educational partnerships and develops, implements, and sustains industry-recognized portable certifications built on national skills standards. We envision an industrial labor market where all workers have jobs they need to thrive and all companies have well-trained employees they need to operate and grow. Learn more at [www.nc3.net](http://www.nc3.net).

## About ACTE

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) is the nation's largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. ACTE represents the community of CTE professionals, including educators, administrators, researchers, school counselors, guidance and career development professionals and others at all levels of education. ACTE is committed to excellence in providing advocacy, public awareness and access to resources, professional development and leadership opportunities.

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## 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.

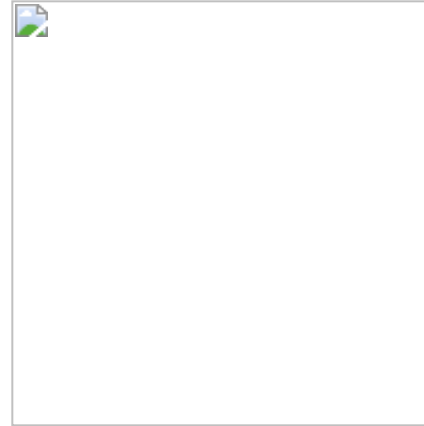
[Read more](#)

## 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**.

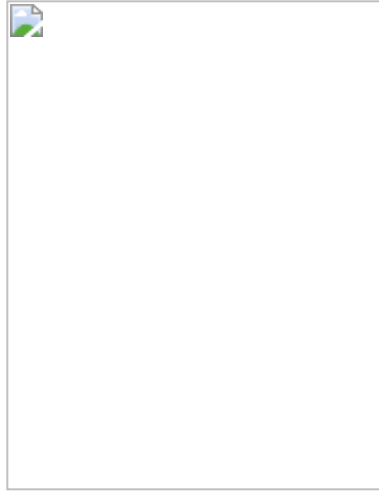
[Learn more](#)



## 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 Northrop 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

Northrop 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 resources that excite, engage, and educate students." (Northrop Grumman, 2021). Northrop Grumman provides sponsoring STEM education initiatives in communities where it has a physical presence and employee base to both meet its commitments and partner to develop local talent.

In 2017, Northrop 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 wing is the nation's first commercial UAS business park; the facility was developed in partnership with the United States Air Force and engages the infrastructure of the Grand Forks Air Force Base for its operations. (Northrop Grumman, 2017). The Air Force led a group of local, federal, autonomous events 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, Northrop Grumman also began developing a 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. Northrop Grumman's Grand Sky site director Mike Kuehn said, "Northrop Grumman built a state-of-the-art facility at 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 autonomous systems industry." (Grand Forks Region Economic Development, 2020). Early on, Northrop Grumman reached out to the region's secondary and postsecondary education institutions to see if there were local education leaders and high-achieving STEM education program opportunities. Northrop Grumman initially supported STEM education in the region through a state-matching grant program and invested in STEM education at the page 4 level.

Once the Grand Sky facility opened in 2017 and Northrop Grumman employees were working in the Grand Forks community, the



partnership expanded to include more direct engagement between Northrop Grumman employees and Grand Forks students. Students enrolled in Grand Forks Public Schools now have the opportunity to participate in several of Northrop Grumman's robotics 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 spec-

#### 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.acte.org/professional-development/partnerships-quality-cte-tools/>

**PELL GRANTS & SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS:**  
Unlocking Careers and Educational Opportunities

**ACTE** | **DECEMBER 2021**

**WHAT ARE SHORT-TERM POSTSECONDARY PROGRAMS?**  
Short-term postsecondary education programs are focused and non-credit occupational education programs offered to postsecondary students that temporarily replace traditional college and allow individual courses that apply to work demands in the industry, business and military occupations. These credentials are in demand and can lead to high-wage, high-demand careers. Since 2010, the number of short-term certificate programs has increased by nearly 20%, and completion of the credential has a noticeable correlation to higher wages and career advancement.

**LIMITATIONS OF PELL GRANTS**  
Through the passage of short-term education programs leading to in-demand credentials of program. Many of the higher education programs that grant eligibility to postsecondary programs that are at least 800 hours of instruction over 15 weeks. This includes students enrolled in these programs leading to credentials comparable to those receiving federal aid.

**EXPANDING PELL GRANT ACCESS**  
Expanding Pell grants to support the needs of high-quality, in-demand educational programs will help more Americans earn credentials and enter the workforce and high wage careers. In high-wage, high-demand industries like manufacturing, health care and transportation. Moreover, short-term Pell grants and opportunity will help the credential field educators program. All them to pursue a postsecondary credential.

**WAGE GAINS**  
Credential holders with more than high school graduate  
**10%** more  
**20%** more than high school graduate

**HIGHER ENROLLMENT & COMPLETION RATES**  
Short-term Pell grants increase enrollment rates by  
**15 PERCENTAGE POINTS**  
and completion rates by  
**17 PERCENTAGE POINTS**

**WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES**  
Short-term credentials have opened doors to high-wage, high-demand careers in manufacturing, health care, and transportation.

**SHORT-TERM PELL GRANTS IN ACTION**

**Virginia's New Economy Workforce Credentials**  
Ward covers hundreds of tuition for non-credit short-term credential programs in high-demand occupations at a highly competitive cost. The program has a 98% completion rate and an average graduation rate that is higher than any other program.

**West's Gap Training Assistance Program**  
West's Gap Training Assistance Program provides up to \$200 of tuition for eligible students enrolled in certificate training programs at local community colleges. 95 percent completion rate and a 42% quarterly wage gain and 24% of graduates pursue additional education in credit-bearing programs.

## 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

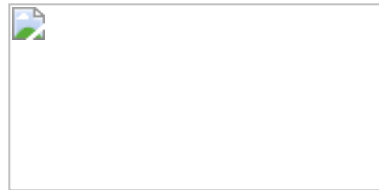
## Help Us Define Inclusion and Access

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.

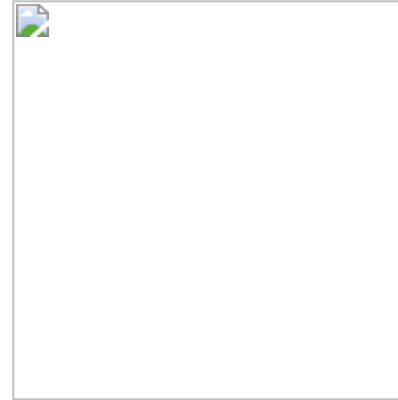
- Understanding CTE Data and Why It Matters
- Using Data and Research to Improve CTE Programs
- CTE Program Evaluation: Why It Matters to Practitioners
- Using State Data to Partner with Researchers
- Using Research to Design Your CTE Program for Equity
- How to Communicate About Your CTE Program Using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



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