

Association for Career & Technical Education Region II Business Meeting Minutes December 4, 2024

Call To Order

The ACTE Region II Business Meeting was called to order at 3:01 PM EST by Dustin Davis-Austin, ACTE Region II Vice President. The meeting was held in Room 214B at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio, TX during the ACTE CareerTech Vision Conference.

Roll Call of States

Mr. Davis-Austin called the roll. The following states were in attendance:

- Alabama
- Florida
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Virginia

Mr. Davis-Austin declared that a quorum was present for voting purposes.

Approval of Meeting Minutes and Agenda

There was a motion by Chris Tucker to approve the December 4, 2024 agenda. A second was made by Susan Hall. The motion was passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Valery Lowe to approve minutes of the November 16, 2023 meeting. A second was made by Chris Tucker. The motion passed unanimously.

Greetings and Updates from the ACTE National Office

Michael Connet, Associate Deputy Executive Director Outreach & Partnerships, provided a greeting and welcome from ACTE. He updated that conference registration is on track to outpace projections and all of the other professional development opportunities have been very well attended. He also noted that new courses have been added to the CTE Learn Platform developed over the last three years and were officially launched last week. He encouraged everyone to participate this week and get to know new people at the conference.

LeAnn Curry, ACTE Executive Director of ACTE, provided a video welcome to those in attendance. The video can be accessed through the Google Drive.

Remarks from Candidates for ACTE President-Elect

Mr. Davis-Austin welcomed candidates for ACTE President-Elect to the podium, Katy Blatnick-Gagne and Brandon Russell. Both of them were allowed time to introduce themselves and discuss their background in career and technical education and advocacy platform. Those in attendance at the conference can enjoy coffee with the candidates on Friday, December 6th from 9 AM to 10:15 AM at the ACTE Booth!

ACTE Policy Updates

Alisha Hyslop, Chief Policy, Research, and Content Officer for ACTE, came forward to give a legislative update. Specifically, she discussed the work below:

Federal Appropriations Bills: The current Continuing Resolution (CR) was set to expire on December 20th. It was anticipated that Congress would extend the CR, potentially to the end of March, rather than passing actual appropriations bills.

Social Security Fairness Act: This bill aimed to repeal the Government Pension Offset and Windfall Elimination Provision, which could negatively impact the recruitment of CTE teachers from the private sector. The bill had passed the House and was pending in the Senate, with a slim chance of passage by year-end.

Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA): A draft reauthorization bill was circulating in Congress, with potential for passage by year-end. While the bill contained some positive elements for CTE, it was not seen as a major advancement.

Department of Education: Dr. Hyslop addressed concerns about potential threats to eliminate the Department of Education under the new administration. She emphasized that such a move would require legislation and was unlikely to gain bipartisan support.

Federal Funding: Cutting federal spending was a key focus of the incoming administration. Dr. Hyslop advised members to build relationships with their newly elected representatives and senators and advocate for CTE funding

ACTE and Region II Standing Committee Reports

Audit Review - Nancy Trivette, chair of the Audit Committee, reported that ACTE had received a clean and unmodified audit. The committee had also reviewed the audit review committee charter, the ACTE whistleblower policy, and the accounting internal controls document, finding everything in order.

Awards - Bo Bundrick (for Kimberly Wilson) provided an update on the Awards Committee. He noted that the identification of Region II judges happened since so many had recently retired, so a Zoom meeting was held to go through the process. Materials were distributed to those assisting and 37 candidates were interviewed for the eight categories via Zoom in April. The judges had a two-month window to determine the finalists. The winners of the eight categories were then notified and submitted to the National ACTE Office. Winners were announced by Kimberly Wilson at the Region II Conference (virtually). All winners will also be announced at today's business meeting and at the awards ceremony tonight.

Bylaws/Policy Review – Nothing to report.

Membership– Nothing to report.

Nominating – Nothing to report.

There was a motion by Bo Bundrick to approve the standing committee reports. A second was made by Chris Tucker. The motion was passed unanimously.

Region II Conference Update

Valery Lowe provided an update on the 2025 Region II Conference in Georgia. This will be held September 10-12, 2025 at Trilith Studios. The host hotel is Trilith Guest House in Fayetteville, Georgia which is about 20 minutes from the Atlanta Airport. Opening session is at 1 PM on September 10, 2025 and the last session will end at noon on September 12, 2025. The registration fee is \$250 per person, which includes a snack break on Wednesday, breakfast and lunch on Thursday, and breakfast on Friday. Room rates are \$209-239 per night and the registration and hotel block will open on April 1, 2025. A link will be posted on the Georgia ACTE website and will be sent to all Region II members. The focus on breakout sessions will be preparing workers for future jobs in the film and creative industries, with an emphasis on required skills for these growing fields and enhancing instructional strategies for the classroom of tomorrow in all CTE Areas.

Recognitions

Mr. Davis-Austin recognized the several individuals and states for being a part of awards and fellows' programs with ACTE. We are proud that Region II has performed well in all areas. Each person listed below was recognized at the meeting. First time attendees were also recognized as part of this meeting.

Region II Award Winners:

Administrator of the Year, Rhonda Samples
Carl Perkins Community Service Award, Shannon Roberts
Counseling and Career Development Professional, Shelley Kaler
Lifetime Achievement Award, Cynthia L. Greene
New Teacher of the Year, Stephen Bergey
Postsecondary Professional of the Year, Dr. Cheronie Blunt
Teacher Educator of the Year, Dr. Roger Hill
Teacher of the Year, Jason Van Nus

Region II ACTE Leadership Fellows:

Jen Newendyke, Experienced Professional
Arnaz Dotivala, Experienced Professional
Lonnie McRavin, New Professional

Quality Association Standards (QAS) Award Recipients:

Georgia
Kentucky
North Carolina
South Carolina
Virginia

Newly Unified States:

Alabama
Tennessee

Financial and Membership Report

Mr. Davis-Austin provided the financial report for Region II. The FY25 operating budget is \$7,400 and current balance is \$5,786.94 (which does not include the Leadership Fellow fee which will be coming out). The Designated Funds FY25 balance is currently at \$48,543.81.

Mr. Davis-Austin provided a membership update for ACTE Region II. As of December 2024, there are 5,955 members which allows us to receive recognition as the highest growth of memberships and percentage of memberships for ACTE. The largest states are Georgia (2,260), North Carolina (1,645), and Kentucky (614).

State of the State Reports

State of the State reports were provided by Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. The reports provided state-level updates since the last meeting of the ACTE Region II Policy Committee. Those reports are available for review on the ACTE Region II Policy Committee Google drive. The highlights are listed below:

Alabama: Alabama is trying to meet guidelines the state department has for them and work through issues they have been experiencing. They are excited about reunification. They are trying to offer regional meetings across the state. They are looking to do training around artificial intelligence. They are glad they have a new state CTE director and are off to a good start. They have rebranded their organization, developed a new logo, gone through board training, and developed a new mission statement. They are working very hard to get their association back to where they need to be. At the post-secondary level, they are working to ensure all students become ACTE members while in their programs.

Georgia: Georgia has had a great start to the new year with all divisions currently working on a conference or other special event this year. The GACTE Summer Conference was well attended with 1,700 members present with 100 vendors and 235 breakout sessions. Those in attendance also had the opportunity to visit 18 different locations of business and industry in Georgia. In terms of legislative happenings, GACTE continues to work on requesting funds for teacher salaries and extended day funds to support middle and high school teachers who sponsor CTSOs or are a work-based learning coordinator. The “Day at the Capital” in Georgia will not be until February 10, 2025; however, our Executive Director meets regularly with legislators to support CTAE efforts. There is also a strong focus on membership and the best way to communicate with new teachers. GACTE is anticipating adding a Post-Secondary Division in June 2025.

Kentucky: Kentucky recently held a strategic planning session, and they have narrowed their main areas of focus to professional development, advocacy, and membership with each having a set of objectives. The work is ongoing with positive progress, including their work with legislators. They are working on a survey to guide the organization on legislative activities and social media enhancements for the state. They are also going through a succession plan for their Executive Director over the next year with Mike Stone retiring.

North Carolina: The launch of organizational memberships in North Carolina has positively impacted membership growth, and they are also collaborating with South Carolina on their unification process. They have signed a MOU with the community college system to provide their professional development. North Carolina held its summer conference in July, attracting over 2,200 attendees and selling out the event. Currently, they are in a holding pattern regarding legislation, as the General Assembly did not pass the budget, which is expected to be addressed on November 18, 2024. The state is advocating for \$12 million in funding for CTE programs as part of the budget. Additionally, they are funding Career

Development Coordinators at the middle school level, among other grants. In February, they will host a legislative day for CTSO students, featuring one-on-one meetings with legislators.

Tennessee: Tennessee is excited about their unification happening which is helping them move forward. They had a large turnout last summer at conference, and they are working on feedback to make improvements. The administrative division puts together a Day on the Hill in February, and this has been well-attended over the years. Tennessee has seen a growth in membership and has really leveraged the organizational membership aspect. They are now sitting at 428 members, and the administrative division seems to be the strongest area. They want to make sure their members are receiving great professional development opportunities moving forward. They would like to change the summer conference format, but this is being led by the Department of Education.

Virginia: Virginia is working on six main areas - removing barriers to teacher licensure, continuing to fund credentialing and programs to develop staff, expanding CTE into 5th grade funding for elementary awareness, expanding work-based learning coordinators are in place, and a new model of enrolled, enlisted, or employed.

A motion was made by Sharon Collins to approve the Region II State of the State Reports as presented. A second was made by Jason Morgan. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Approval of the Region II Policy and Procedures Manual – Mr. Davis-Austin presented the revised Region 2 Policies and Procedures Manual, which had been approved by the Policy Committee. A motion to approve the manual was implied due to prior approval by the committee, and the motion was passed unanimously without discussion.

Announcements & Door Prizes

Door prizes were distributed at the end of the meeting to those in attendance by ticket selection.

Adjournment

With no further business to be conducted, Mr. Davis-Austin adjourned the meeting at 3:51PM EST.

Respectfully submitted by Valery Lowe, Secretary.