

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

Call To Order

The ACTE Region II Policy Committee Meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM EST by Dustin Davis-Austin, ACTE Region II Vice President. The meeting was held in Room 211 at the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center in San Antonio, TX during the ACTE CareerTech Vision Conference.

Roll Call

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

- Dustin Davis-Austin, Chair
- Valery Lowe, Georgia
- John Kirkman, North Carolina
- Kimberly Mitchell, Alabama
- Mike Stone, Kentucky
- Chris Tucker, Tennessee
- Bo Bundrick, Virginia
- Special Guests: Executive Director Jody Reeves (Georgia), ACTE Associate Deputy Executive Director of Outreach and Partner Development Michael Connect, and ACTE Executive Director LeAnn Curry.

The chair 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 John Kirkman. The motion was passed unanimously.

There was a motion by John Kirkman to approve minutes of the September 19, 2024 meeting. A second was made by Chris Tucker. The motion passed unanimously.

Greetings and Updates from the ACTE National Office

LeAnn Curry, ACTE Executive Director of ACTE, provided a welcome to those in attendance. She noted that Dustin Davis-Austin is doing a great job as Region II Vice President and advocating on behalf of Region II states. In regard to the current conference, ACTE is hoping to outpace attendance (currently at 5,100+ registered). The organization is still holding true to our strategic plan, making great progress on its goals. Volunteers helping with the committees and task forces are working hard and are a big part of this. There is also a committee currently working on the 100th anniversary in New Orleans. We will be back in San Antonio in 2028. She noted that the agriculture division has grown significantly in conference

attendance, so that is exciting to ACTE. Overall, the organization is on firm foundation financially, and she thanked the state executive directors for all they are doing with membership and promoting ACTE events. They would like additional feedback to improve efforts, so continue to provide this as events happen. She added that the CTE Learn Platform has been a large success and will continue to grow in participation with state assistance. She concluded by adding that on the exhibit floor this week, there will be racing drones, a tiny house being constructed, and other added features which should be popular. She is also extremely excited that ACTE had three unifications in one month, so thanks to Alabama, Tennessee, and Ohio for their efforts.

Michael Cottie, Associate Deputy Executive Director of Outreach and Partner Development, also provided comments. He thanked everyone for participation in the monthly calls for policy. Those will continue to grow into next year. If states need greetings for individual events, please let ACTE representatives know. They would like to help and be present. New courses have been added to the CTE Learn Platform developed over the last three years and were officially launched last week. There are currently 26,000 subscribers. If your state is interested in branding this closer to local efforts, please let Michael know. Mike Stone also added that his state added stipends for authorship of CTE Learn courses. If content is posted, they pay \$1,000 to the author.

Region II Standing Committee Reports

- 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.
- Policy Review – Mr. Davis-Austin noted that the policies and procedures manual had been under revision, so we will review this later in the agenda. He thanked Rod Miller and the committee members for their work in this area.
- Membership – No report was provided.
- Nominating – No report was provided. This work will not begin until Region II is in the year needed for policy committee members.

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 noted the list of award winners for Region II who will be recognized at the business meeting and tonight's awards ceremony. These are listed below:

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

The Region II ACTE Leadership Fellows below will be recognized at the business meeting. Region II has three fellows this year. There are only 20 total, so this is a large percentage. They include:

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

States earning the Quality Association Standards Award Recipients will also be recognized at the business meeting today and at breakfast on Saturday morning. States receiving these awards include:

Georgia
Kentucky
North Carolina
South Carolina
Virginia

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.

Florida: No report was provided.

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. 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 (\$12,000,000). 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. The Summer GACTE Conference is being held in Athens, Georgia in June. Registration opens on January 13, 2025. All GACTE divisions reflect opportunities for all members to be an active leader or participant. Members are also encouraged to participate in ACTE’s IAED training program.

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: North Carolina has extended its contract in the state to provide professional development efforts. The last four years, their membership has moved from approximately 300 to 2,000 currently through their organizational membership structure. They are continuing to work on advocacy. A few budget items were just passed in November after the election by the legislature, so they are continuing to work on legislative priorities. A big priority is to have full funding for K-12 (currently now 8-12). Their summer conference is also in the works which they have in July.

South Carolina: No report provided.

Tennessee: Tennessee is working on their summer conference with the Department of Education. They’ve had a lot of transition they are working through. 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. This year, they are working on a pass-through breakfast and look forward to students being actively involved. 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. There are growing efforts to establish each division, but there are no paid positions within the organization currently. 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. Tennessee is looking to change the counselor ratio and looking to grow their Tennessee educator prep program, as well.

Virginia: Virginia has been heavily engaged in public policy work on licensure barriers for educators. The first draft should be coming out soon. They did receive half of their funding back for the CTE Resource Center. They are asking for credentialing funds, lab equipment, promoting CTE in 5th grade, and ensuring quality work-based learning coordinators are in place. They are currently working on a 2028

summer conference for all divisions together and they have launched a Fellowship program similar to the ACTE model.

A motion was made by Bo Bundrick to approve the Region II State Reports as presented. A second was made by John Kirkman. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Mr. Davis-Austin next led the conversation around Region II's impacts on ACTE's Strategic Plan. He led discussions around not being able to meet the goal that the division provide a \$400 award to the state with the highest percentage of members annually for the purpose of attending Region II Conference. Since this was cancelled, adjustments need to be made.

Chris Tucker made a motion to adjust this to the National Policy Seminar. A second was made by John Kirkman. The motion passed unanimously.

Another area discussed was having a state leadership sharing session at the Region II Conference for a panel to discuss state-wide issues for Region II attendees. This can be led at the Georgia conference, so Dustin will work with Executive Director Jody Reeves.

Another area discussed was the goal to host at least two Inclusion, Access, Equity, and Diversity (IAED) region specific webinars (for workshops at Region Conference annually). This had fallen to social media which now has been disbanded. To meet this goal, the Region needs to host one additional webinar. The last one was held in June around English Language Learners which was very good. Region II is on track to host another one before the end of June, so we will meet this goal.

Under Professional and Leadership Development and Strategic Partnerships, Region II is on track to meet all goals in this area. One thing in this area discussed was having a Region II Reception at ACTE CareerTech Vision possibly next year. This will be discussed at the March meeting. Region II does not have a goal around Teacher Pipeline.

Mr. Davis-Austin encouraged those in attendance to talk to policy committee members to ensure we have a Region II goal for each area of ACTE's Strategic Plan. We will work more on that at the March Policy Committee Meeting.

New Business

The Region II Policy and Procedures Manual was next discussed. Mr. Davis-Austin thanked ACTE for their help with this development. Once approved by this committee, this will be next discussed at the business meeting.

Chris Tucker made a motion to adjust this to the National Policy Seminar. A second was made by Bo Bundrick. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Davis-Austin next led discussions around providing door prizes at the Region II Business Meeting. He requested three (3) \$50 and two (2) \$25 gift cards be awarded. These will be given out at the end of the meeting.

Mike Stone made a motion to approve providing gift cards at the Region II Business Meeting. A second was made by John Kirkman. The motion passed unanimously.

A. Logistics for the Region II Business Meeting

Mr. Davis-Austin discussed the agenda for the Region II Business Meeting and format. Policy Committee members should plan on arriving early to get set up. The agenda should also be approved with flexibility due to special visitors not being able to stay the entire time. Each state report will be held to three minutes.

Announcements & Open Discussion

At the request of those in attendance, John Kirkman led discussions around the membership growth in North Carolina. They have implemented organizational memberships and continue to pay their lobbyist from non-membership funds. They work very closely with the North Carolina Department of Education, so they are working to ensure they can use state funds for memberships which has helped them grow. They then set up a funding scale based on the number of memberships maintained by a district. If it's 0-100, 101-250, etc. they adjust based on the number. They have a spreadsheet developed where they can submit back to North Carolina ACTE, and then they work with ACTE to get memberships active. This helps them continue to be renewed each year more easily since the district is handling the administrative portion. Some counties are using this as a recruiting tool for teachers. They also do a member/non-member fee for professional development opportunities.

The 2025 important dates for ACTE and Region II are listed below:

- March 16 – 19, 2025: National Policy Seminar – Arlington, VA/Washington DC
- April 2 – 4, 2025: ACTE's National Work-Based Learning Conference – Bellevue, WA
- September 10 – 12, 2025: Region II Conference – Atlanta (Fayetteville), GA
- September 24 – 26, 2025: Best Practices and Innovations Conference – St. Louis, MO
- October 5 – 8, 2025: ACTE's Postsecondary CTE Summit – Austin, TX
- December 10– 13, 2025: ACTE CareerTech VISION 2025 – Nashville, TN

Adjournment

With no further business to be conducted, Mr. Davis-Austin adjourned the meeting at 11:13 AM CST.

Respectfully submitted by Valery Lowe, Secretary.