

A newsletter for Alaska ACTE Members
www.alaskaacte.org

MARCH IS EDUCATOR & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT MONTH

 March Into New Opportunities!

By: Andrea Wade, Alaska ACTE President

Spring is in the air, and so are exciting opportunities in Career and Technical Education (CTE)! This month, SKILLS and HOSA are gearing up for their state conferences, with FFA following in April. If you have students participating, we wish them the best of luck! We'd also love to celebrate their achievements—share their successes with AK ACTE, and we'll showcase them on our social media.

With budget season in full swing, now is a critical time to highlight the impact of CTE programs. By sharing student accomplishments, we can show state leaders how CTE is shaping Alaska's workforce and fueling economic growth. Let's make sure their hard work gets the recognition it deserves!

A special thank you to those who have traveled to Juneau to advocate for CTE education. Your dedication is making a difference, and the future of Alaska will be shaped by the leadership, engagement, and passion of our communities and students.



Mark Your Calendars for the 2025 Alaska ACTE Professional Development Conference

October 12-15, 2025

Hotel Captain Cook

**Stay updated on conference registration and news
[on our website](#)**

Strengthening CTE Educators: Leadership, Mentorship & Retention

Alaska's CTE programs thrive when educators are supported with strong leadership, mentorship, and professional growth opportunities. The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) offers practical tools to help CTE educators grow and stay engaged in the field.

◆ Leadership Development

- [ACTE National Leadership Fellowship Program](#): Provides CTE professionals with training in advocacy, leadership, and professional growth
- [NextLevel Postsecondary CTE Fellowship](#): Equips educators with leadership and management skills for postsecondary CTE settings.

◆ Mentorship & Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

- [Tips & Tools for CTE Mentorship Success resource](#) Provides structured mentorship strategies, including intentional pairing and ongoing support, to retain new teachers.
- [CTE Professional Learning Communities](#): Encourages collaboration among educators, creating support networks that improve instruction and student success.

◆ Recruitment & Retention

- [Diversifying the CTE Educator Workforce](#): Offers state and local strategies to attract and retain a diverse and skilled CTE workforce.
- [CTE for All Mentorship Program](#): Provides professional development and mentorship resources to strengthen career-readiness instruction.

What Can You Do Today?

- ✓ Encourage new CTE teachers to connect with a mentor or join a PLC.
- ✓ Explore leadership training opportunities through ACTE.
- ✓ Advocate for industry partnerships to support CTE teacher retention.

Find these resources at acteonline.org. By investing in educator growth, we strengthen CTE programs, industry connections, and student success in Alaska.

Meet your Board of Directors

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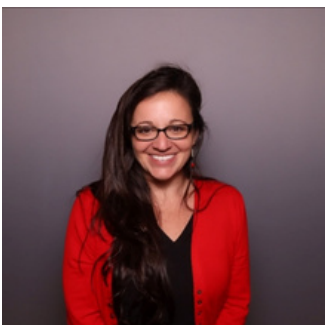
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Gulf Coast Rep.



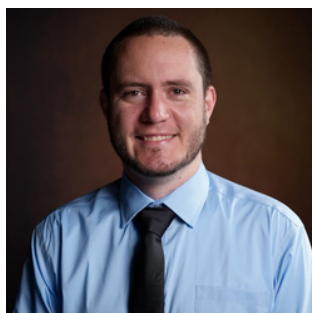
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Cory Ortiz
Industry Rep.



Beki Toussaint
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DEED Ex Officio



Using Social Media to Connect and Advocate

Meet CTE educators from across Alaska and beyond on Alaska ACTE’s social networks (see the bottom of this page). Discuss hot button education issues, share photos and classroom ideas, and connect with fellow CTE professionals with our Twitter (X), Facebook, YouTube and Instagram followers.

Social media advocacy is one of the quickest and simplest ways to spread the CTE message to your legislators. You can share about the benefits of your CTE program, activities your students are involved in, or your thoughts on key policy issues.

To find out who your legislators are, and to get their contact info, website and social media information, [go to this page](#). On the bottom right is a button called “Who represents me”. Type the name of your community in the box and hit the “find” button and it will show your senator and representative, along with links to their web pages (which will have their contact and social media info). This page also has lots of information about tracking bills, contacting your LIO, writing letters and more.

Visit ACTE’s [Social Media Advocacy page](#) to learn more about ways to connect and get your message out.

Like, share, and follow Alaska ACTE on social media.



<https://www.facebook.com/alaskaacte/>



<https://www.instagram.com/akacte/>



https://x.com/ak_acte



<https://www.youtube.com/@AlaskaACTE>

THE ALASKA EDUCATION EXCHANGE (AKEE)



Stat Tracker

Total Resources	44,465
Total Lesson Plans	5,148
Total Users	718

Updated March 1, 2025

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Jerry Jones

Meet Jerry: President Elect of AK ACTE for 2026

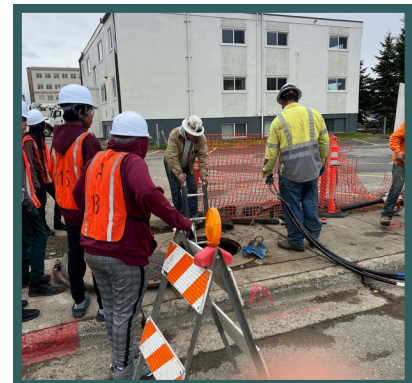


AK ACTE is a dynamic board filled with individuals who live daily in the CTE world or in an industry that supports this exciting area of education and national growth. Jerry Jones will become the president for AK ACTE for 2026 and we are confident you will enjoy learning more about his current role and leadership vision for our state. Jerry is not only a passionate advocate for Career and Technical Education (CTE) but also deeply involved in initiatives that create opportunities for students in the construction trades. Currently, he is working with Bristol Bay Region Career and Technical Education to develop a comprehensive electrical program in collaboration with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) and other construction unions. This game-changer initiative provides students with invaluable apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship hours and the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in their chosen fields.

His own experiences have shaped Jerry's journey to this leadership role. Growing up on a farm in Tennessee, he learned the value of hard work and responsibility early on. However, like many students, he felt lost during high school until he discovered the CTE electrical program. This program ignited his passion for the field and set him on a successful path, leading to a twenty-two-year career in high-voltage power distribution.



In 2017, Jerry embraced a new adventure when he moved to Alaska for his wife's career opportunity. Now, as a CTE Coordinator, he is dedicated to sharing his knowledge and experiences with the next 'generation. "It feels great to give back and help students find their paths, just like I did," he shares.



Jerry's enthusiasm for CTE is infectious. He is excited about the growing recognition of these programs as vital pathways for students. "CTE equips young people with practical skills that are in high demand in today's job market," he emphasizes. He is particularly passionate about integrating technology into CTE programs, ensuring students learn traditional skills and are adept at using the latest tools and techniques.

The partnerships between schools and local businesses are another aspect of CTE that Jerry finds inspiring. These collaborations provide students with real-world experiences, internships, and job opportunities, making their education more meaningful. "Watching students gain confidence and clarity about their futures through hands-on learning is incredibly rewarding," he says.

Throughout his career in CTE, Jerry has made a significant impact on students, colleagues, and the community. He creates an exciting learning environment that encourages students to explore their interests and develop new skills. By building pre-apprenticeship hours and guiding students in discovering their careers, he finds immense satisfaction in their growth and success.

Collaboration with colleagues is also a cornerstone of Jerry's approach. He values teamwork and believes that sharing ideas leads to improved CTE programs that provide the best education possible for students. Additionally, Jerry has worked hard to forge strong ties with local businesses and organizations, creating pathways for students to gain real-world experience while allowing businesses to connect with emerging talent.

As Jerry steps into his role as president of AK ACTE next program year, he aims to inspire and support those around him, helping them reach their goals and positively impacting the community. We are excited to see how his leadership will shape the future of CTE in Alaska, empowering students and meeting the evolving needs of the workforce.

Jerry exemplifies the individuals who drive CTE forward. We acknowledge his drive for CTE and commitment to student success, which will undoubtedly lead AK ACTE into a bright future.

