



Wayde Sick, Director
John Gruenberg, Assistant Director
May, 2026

Newsletter

Professional Development Conference

- Dawn Ulmer, Strategic Projects Manager

Early-bird registration countdown for the 2026 Professional Development Conference has begun! Don't miss out! Register early for PDC 2026 and Begin your Pathway to Mastery.

[2026 NDCTE Professional Development Conference Registration](#)

Early Bird Registration: \$100

Regular Registration: \$125

On-Site Registration: \$150

The North Dakota Career and Technical Education Professional Development Conference (PDC) is right around the corner, and now is the time to secure your spot. Early registration is open, and we encourage all educators to take advantage of this opportunity to plan ahead for a powerful start to the school year.

This year marks the launch of an exciting new three-year strategic vision for PDC: **Pathways to Mastery: Commit. Complete. Achieve.**

This framework is a call to action and represents a long-term commitment to professional growth, instructional excellence, and student success across North Dakota. **Year One: Commit**

We encourage all educators to not only attend this year's conference, but to think strategically about how they can engage in all three years of this initiative. Each year will build upon the last, creating a cohesive and impactful professional learning experience designed to elevate both educators and students.

Why PDC Matters

PDC is more than a conference—it is the official kickoff to the school year for CTE educators across the state. It is a time to reconnect, refocus, and re-energize. Through high-quality sessions, collaboration with peers, and engagement with industry partners, attendees leave equipped with practical strategies and renewed inspiration to bring back to their classrooms.

Whether you are a seasoned educator or new to the profession, PDC offers something for everyone.

New Educators: Start Strong

We strongly encourage all new educators to attend the **New Educator Sessions**. These sessions are designed to provide foundational knowledge, practical tools, and a supportive network to help new teachers feel confident and prepared as they begin their journey in CTE.

Plan Your Experience

To help you prepare, a **Schedule at a Glance** and additional conference details—including registration information, session descriptions, and logistics—are available on the NDCTE website: <https://www.cte.nd.gov/PDC>

Commit to your growth. Commit to your students. Commit to excellence.

We look forward to seeing you at PDC 2026 as we begin this journey together!

Dates of Interest

June 1-4, 2026
FFA State Conference

August 3-5, 2026
Professional Development
Conference

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RUReady Updates

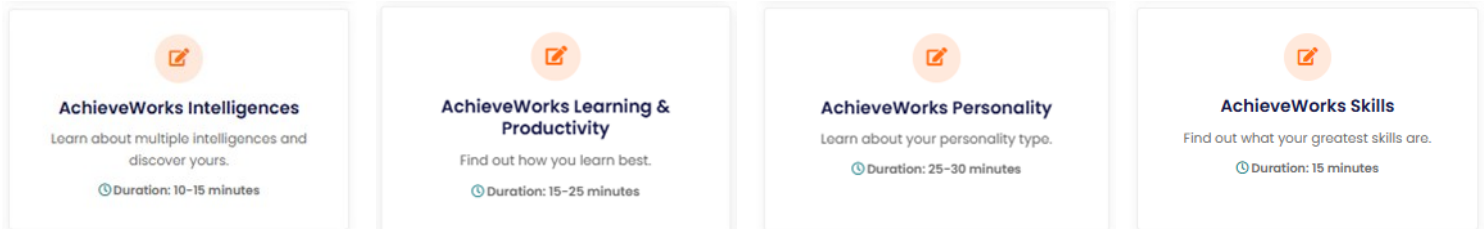
-Larua Glasser, Career Resource Manager

New assessments are now available in RUReady.ND.gov for students in grades 6-12!

The **AchieveWORKS** suite of assessments provide students with a solid foundation of personal insight that will help them uncover their potential, improve study habits, discover career goals, and establish an education plan to achieve their dreams.

The **AchieveWORKS** suite includes the following 4 assessments:

- **Intelligences** - an assessment of multiple intelligences
- **Learning & Productivity** - an assessment of students' learning styles
- **Personality** - an assessment of students' personality types
- **Skills** - an assessment of students' skills and aptitudes



The **AchieveWorks** assessments are accessed through the **Learn About Yourself** page in RUReady.ND.gov (Career > Learn About Yourself).

Learn More: AchieveWORKS Webinar (Recording from April 20 Live Event)

Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXmBgUFe5sU>

PowerPoint: <https://www.cte.nd.gov/sites/default/files/documents/CRN/RUReadyND%20AchieveWorksWorkshop.pdf>

Maximizing Perkins V Allocation for Teacher Growth

- Tracy Becker, Trade, Industry & Technical Education Supervisor

Perkins V is often viewed as a funding source for equipment and programs—but it can also be a powerful tool for professional teacher growth in Career and Technical Education.

Under Perkins V, professional development is an allowable and encouraged use of funds, especially when it improves instructional quality and aligns with workforce needs. This creates opportunities for teachers to access training that might otherwise be out of reach.

One of the most valuable uses of Perkins funds is supporting the cost of industry-recognized certifications for teachers. Whether it's earning credentials through NCCER, updating ASE certifications, or completing OSHA training, these experiences directly translate into stronger, more relevant instruction for students.

Perkins can also support attendance at high-quality conferences and workshops that are specific to Trade & Industry pathways. Unlike general education PD, these events often focus on current tools, emerging technologies, and industry trends—helping teachers stay aligned with employer expectations.

Another underutilized option is funding for externships or short-term industry placements. Spending time back in the field—even for a few days—can refresh skills, build new connections, and bring real-world context back into the classroom.

To make the most of Perkins V, teachers should work closely with their CTE Director or school administration. Come prepared with a clear plan: how the PD will improve your instruction, how it aligns with program goals, and how it benefits students.

When used strategically, Perkins V isn't just about maintaining programs—it's about continuously improving the people who make those programs successful.

For more information on PD opportunities for Trade, Industry, and Technical Education Teachers, please visit <https://www.cte.nd.gov/tradeindustry> or reach out to Tracy Becker, tmbecker@nd.gov, State Supervisor, TITE.

NDACTE Updates

-Carla Hixson, NDACTE Director

Congratulations to NDACTE Region V Award Winners

The ACTE Region V announced its 2026 Regional Award winners at the Region V Leadership Conference held in **Salt Lake City, Utah, April 8–11**, at the Little America Hotel. This premier event brought together career and technical education professionals for four days of learning, networking, and inspiration. The awards presentation took place during the Awards Banquet on Thursday, April 9, 2026. The North Dakota winners at Region V are Administrator of the Year, Eric Ripley; Lifetime Achievement Award, Mark Wagner; Innovative Program Agriculture Education, David Leier and Erik Johnson, Killdeer Public School.

Awards recognize excellence and dedication within the field of career and technical education among ACTE members. Recipients of these awards are exceptional individuals who have contributed to the success of CTE through the quality of their work and their involvement in the CTE community.

Region V winners will automatically be nominated for the ACTE National Excellence Awards. Award winners serve as inspirational leaders to ACTE: they embody the core values of serving their students and being committed to CTE. All ACTE Excellence Awards are presented at the ACTE Awards Gala in conjunction with ACTE’s CareerTech VISION December 2-5, 2026, in New Orleans.

To learn more about the NDACTE Member Awards application process and requirements go to www.NDACTE.com and click on Awards.

Making Summer travel plans? Don’t forget the Travel & Entertainment Discounts for NDACTE Members!

Don’t forget to take advantage of the NDACTE/ ACTE Member Deals program — your new portal to travel savings and unforgettable entertainment experiences! As an NDACTE / ACTE member, you have access to discounts on theme parks, movie tickets, hotels, rental cars and more. To start exploring your perks go to [Member Homepage 2024](#) log in and click on the Member Deals icon.

Scan to access savings



NDACTE has leadership opportunities for you! Volunteering for NDACTE is a great way to grow professionally, develop leadership skills, and build relationships with highly engaged peers across ND and the country. GET INVOLVED!

The Nominations Committee is currently taking names of interested members for the role of Vice President. The NDACTE Vice President role is a four-year term moving through the ranks of Vice President, President Elect, President, and Past President. This is an unpaid leadership position. All interested parties should contact Byron Borgen with their intent no later than 7/31/26. Voting will take place during the PDC in August. You must be a current NDACTE member to run for office and/or vote. Please contact Byron Borgen at (701) 720-4340 or byron.borgen@minot.k12.nd.us.

As with most memberships, the more you put into the organization, the more you and your students will get out of it!

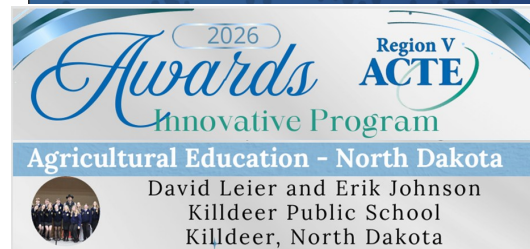
Professional Development Opportunities for CTE Professionals—CareerTech VISION 2026 & ACTE Centennial Celebration

ACTE’s CareerTech VISION 2026 and Centennial Celebration take place **Dec. 2–5** in New Orleans, marking 100 years of CTE leadership, innovation and impact. More than 6,000 educators, administrators, industry partners and business leaders will gather for dynamic sessions, inspiring speakers, a vibrant Expo and unforgettable centennial events.

CareerTech VISION & Expo Attendee Rates Early Bird thru 7/31

[Learn more](#)

ACTE Member	Nonmember
\$590	\$780
\$640	\$840
\$690	\$880



NDACTE Updates

Division openings on the NDACTE Executive Board:

The Family and Consumer Sciences, Health Sciences, and Technology and Engineering Divisions have opening for a three-year term. Duties of Division representatives on NDACTE Board include:

- Attend meetings of the Executive Board.
- Preparing a division report for the NDACTE Board meetings.
- Prepare the Annual Division Report and present at the NDACTE Annual membership meeting in August.
- Encourage Teacher Educators in your Division to join NDACTE/ACTE. Advocate on behalf of the wishes of their respective divisions.
- Regularly communicate board decisions and discussion with division members.
- Provide updates for NDACTE website, social media, newsletter, publications, and notifications.
- Actively work and serve on at least two NDACTE Standing or Ad Hoc Committees.
- Help division members apply for NDACTE awards and assist award nominees with applications and deadlines.

Please contact your current division representative:

Family and Consumer Sciences - Lindsey Bravender Lindsey.Bravender@K12.nd.us

Health Sciences - Katie Hatt Rokke Khattrokke040@mygfschools.org

Technology and Engineering - Jill Quinlivan Jill.Quinlivan@msd1.org

or Carla Hixson at NDACTE@outlook.com if you are interested.

NDACTE Innovative Program Award Nominations are closing!

This award recognizes innovative career and technical education programs from each Region V state that are unique, novel, and are serving to improve and promote the image of career and technical education.

PURPOSE To recognize innovative career and technical education programs from each Region V state that are unique, novel, and are serving to improve and promote the image of career and technical education.

CRITERIA

- The program must demonstrate a capacity to prepare graduates to perform successfully in an occupational field.
- The program should exemplify the highest standards within its occupational field.
- Staff must be involved in an in-service program to keep abreast of technological changes in their occupational field.
- The program must have been in operation for at least three years.
- The instructor(s) in the program must have been a member of NDACTE for at least three consecutive years.



ELIGIBILITY Any career and technical education program that meets the criteria listed above.

Go to www.NDACTE.com for Innovative Career and Technical Education Program Nomination Form. Under Awards.

Deserving candidates for these awards have demonstrated their commitment to CTE through their innovation, accomplishments, and contributions to the CTE community. We are accepting nominations until **May 1, 2026**. If you have any questions, please contact North Dakota's Awards Committee Chair, Ashley Michael at Ashley.Michael@k12.nd.us or Carla Hixson NDACTE@outlook.com.

Need continuing Education Credits Fast? North Dakota ACTE - Online Learning Center is for you!

NDACTE provides CTE professionals with continuing education opportunities. Whether you are looking for engaging professional development or a more convenient way to obtain continuing education credits and advance your career, CTE Learn online learning center courses are designed for you. This online professional development tool offers over 190 self-paced courses for CTE professionals that have the potential to earn college credit. CTE Learn was created by CTE Professionals for the CTE community. CTE Learn is open to all ND CTE professionals and the CTE Learn's suite of free professional development resources are available to all NDACTE members with no charge.

To learn more about CTE Learn go to North Dakota ACTE - Online Learning Center. <https://nd.ctelearn.org/>

Then **log into the ND's specific CTE Learn Portal each time you take a course** for the potential of also generating revenue for our state organization based on paid subscriptions from North Dakota users through our customized portal. Your support in logging into the ND portal each time makes a difference!

Registration to the North Dakota CTE Learn portal is free and easy to set up! Just visit North Dakota ACTE - Online Learning Center

<https://nd.ctelearn.org> and click on the Login Button

Discover Colleges and Their Programs in Compass

-Laura Glasser, Career Resource Manager

Did you know that Compass matches students to colleges and programs, just like it matches them to employers and careers? In fact, it's all connected in Compass, helping students discover careers that interest them, what it takes to get there, and the schools that can prepare them.

Compass currently hosts seven postsecondary schools, including four North Dakota colleges, two Minnesota colleges, and a welding school. Thanks to a North Dakota University System grant for Compass, all 11 state institutions and five tribal colleges will soon join those already in Compass.

Career Profiles are linked in Compass to college programs that offer the training needed for those careers. The reverse is also true, with college programs linked to related careers. For students, this means that as they are browsing any of these options in Compass, they can easily discover potential next steps and start envisioning how they could reach the careers that interest them.

Here's how students can learn more about colleges and programs in Compass through RUPrepareND:

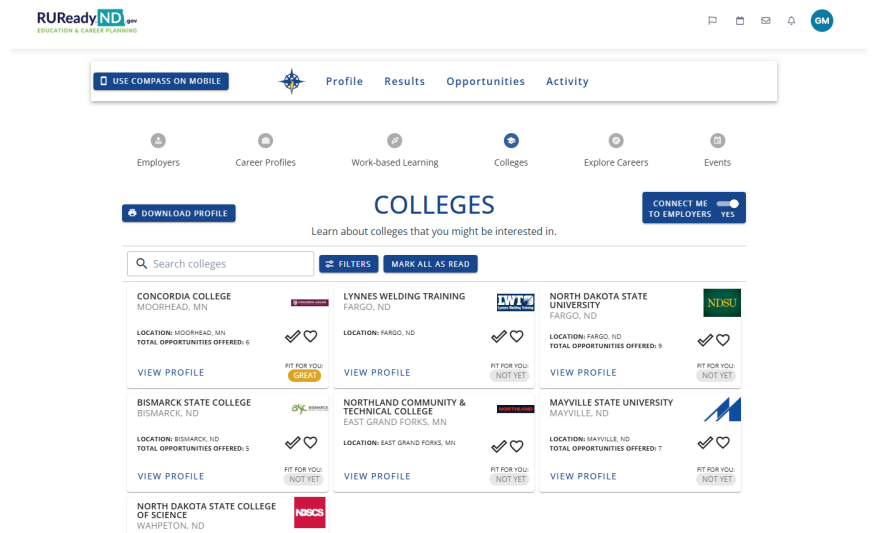
1. Students log in to RUPrepareND.gov through the ND Education Portal.
2. Go to Your Compass Profile >> Opportunities >> Colleges.
3. Colleges marked as the Best match will appear at the top of the list. We recommend students browse those first and select View Profile to learn more about each.
4. To view programs, students can view a college profile and select Programs. Like colleges, the Best matches for them will appear at the top of the list.
5. To view careers related to certain college programs, select View More for a college program, scroll to the bottom, and view the Career Profile cards at the bottom of the page. Click on each career to learn more.
6. Reverse this process by first selecting Opportunities >> Career Profiles. Select View More for a Career Profile, scroll to the bottom, and view the college program cards at the bottom. Click on each program to learn more.

Encourage your students to learn more about colleges and programs in Compass today!

For more information, contact Laura Glasser, Career Resource Manager at NDCTE, at leglasser@nd.gov. You can also reach [Golden Path Solutions](https://www.goldenpath.net) at info@goldenpath.net.

Quick Tip!

Do you know that Compass also shows amenities for each college? Students can learn about what makes a college unique, the benefits of the local community, information about clubs or programs, and more. It's all to help students learn more about what college might be best for them.



Get Ready for Mental Health Awareness Month

- Everfi

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and it's the perfect time to equip educators with tools that make a real difference. Everfi's **Mental Health Awareness Toolkit** offers ready-to-use digital lessons and activities that build skills in emotional regulation, empathy, digital wellness, and help-seeking.

The toolkit includes:

- Standards-aligned digital courses
- Printable activities and classroom resources
- Planning calendars for easy implementation
- Guidance for navigating sensitive conversations



State Director's Column

-Wayde Sick, Director, North Dakota Career and Technical Education

As we close out another school year, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank each of you for the work you do every day to prepare North Dakota students for success.

Career and Technical Education continues to play a critical role in shaping a future-ready workforce for our state, and that happens because of your commitment in classrooms, labs, CTSO events, work-based learning experiences, and partnerships with business and industry. You provide students with opportunities to discover their passions, build technical skills, and gain the confidence needed to pursue their goals after graduation. This year, we saw tremendous examples of innovation and dedication across North Dakota. From expanding program access through the state's area career and technology centers, strengthening industry partnerships to celebrating student success through CTSO conferences, your efforts continue to demonstrate the value of high-quality CTE programs.

I also want to thank our administrators, counselors, business partners, post-secondary institutions, and community supporters who help make this work possible. Strong partnerships remain essential as we continue building pathways that align education with workforce needs.

As we look ahead, our department remains committed to supporting you through professional development opportunities, program improvement efforts, and initiatives that expand access to high-quality CTE experiences for all learners. Together, we will continue advancing our shared vision **of a future-ready workforce for North Dakota.**

As summer begins, I hope you take time to recharge, reflect on your accomplishments, and enjoy a well-deserved break. Thank you for your leadership, passion, and unwavering commitment to students.

We look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer.