

## College Board/AP Program to Launch AP Career Kickstart

- Jessica DeVaal, Business Education Supervisor

The AP Program is getting ready to launch new courses! AP Career Kickstart expands the AP Program by offering high schools a new set of career courses and exams. AP Career Kickstart is partnering with employers, college faculty, and high school educators to design courses that can lead to college credit **and** employer-endorsed

credentials and prepare students for high-demand jobs. (<https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-career-kickstart>)



Two new courses will be launched for the 2026-2027 school year: AP Business with Personal Finance and AP Cybersecurity, followed by a third course in the 2027-2028 school year: AP Networking. These courses will teach professional skills and can be offered as a part of state's Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways.

I recently attended the AP Program Annual Conference in Boston to learn more about AP Career Kickstart...and specifically the AP Business with Personal Finance course. AP Business with Personal Finance is recommended for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders – or students in their first or second year of a career pathway. AP Business with Personal Finance has 85 teachers and CTSO advisors that will be field testing content during the 2025-2026 school year before the course is available in 2026-2027. AP Cybersecurity is being piloted during the 2025-2026 school year and will be available in 2026-2027, and AP Networking will be available in 2027-2028. Teachers new to each course will be able to apply for grants to cover the cost of attending AP Summer Institute for training.

North Dakota CTE and North Dakota DPI are scheduled to meet with College Board/AP staff later in August to discuss how these courses could be incorporated into options for North Dakota students. If you have questions, concerns, or comments that we should consider for our meeting – please contact me ([jdevaal@nd.gov](mailto:jdevaal@nd.gov)) for AP Business with Personal Finance or Brad Hoffarth ([hoffarthbradley@nd.gov](mailto:hoffarthbradley@nd.gov)) for AP Cybersecurity or AP Networking – and we will make sure to address. We look forward to sharing more information as it becomes available.

### Dates of Interest

**August 4th-6th, 2025**  
Professional Development Conference

**September 27-28**  
FFA Fall Conference

**October 5-6, 2025**  
FBLA Fall Conference

**October 26-27, 2025**  
DECA Fall Conference

**October 28-29, 2025**  
DECA Collegiate Fall Conference

### Inside This Issue

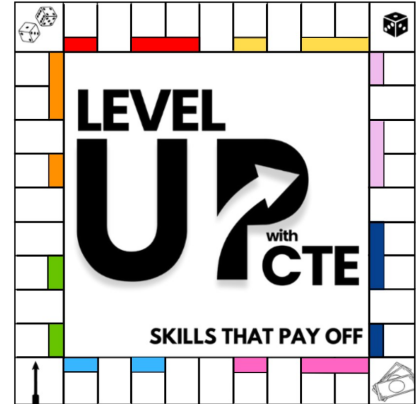
AP Career Kickstart....	1
PDC.....	2
CTSO President.....	2
NDACTE Update .....	3-4
EVERFI.....	5
Find Sponsorships and Careers.....	6
SAE Innovation Challenge.....	7-8
Directors Column.....	10

# Professional Development Conference

It's time to mark your calendar for the 2025 NDCTE Professional Development Conference, happening August 4–6 at the Bismarck Event Center!

This year's conference is packed with dynamic sessions, networking opportunities, hands-on learning, and plenty of surprises that will leave you energized for the school year ahead as you *Level Up* your classroom experience!

Let's Level Up with CTE—together!



## CTSO President

My name is Clara Ankenbauer and I serve as ND FBLA's State President once again! Being involved in my CTSO has helped me figure out my strengths, weaknesses, and what I want to use them in after high school. I also know many others who could say the same. Serving as State President was nothing I ever thought I would do when beginning my High School career, but here I am! I genuinely think that the reason I am where I am is because there is an energy in CTSOs that pushes people to be their best, to excel in what they do, and gives them the resources, support, and connections that they need to do it. I could not be more grateful for my time in my CTSO.



**Clara Ankenbauer**  
State President  
Bowbells High School

# NDACTE Updates

-Carla Hixson, NDACTE Director

## Don't miss NDACTE's Annual General Meeting during PDC

Annual NDACTE Meeting Tuesday, August 6, 2024 7:30-8:15 am in the Bismarck Event Center Prairie Rose Room 105. Meeting minutes, agenda, and proposed changes to the by-laws will be available at <https://www.ndacte.com/>. The NDACTE Annual General Meeting is open to everyone.

## PDC Special Backroom Dive Bar Event

**Monday, August 4 Sidelines Sports Bar 5:00-6:30pm!**



The social event to attend during this year's PDC conference!

- With that hometown feeling, the Sidelines Sports Bar back room dive bar atmosphere will be a perfect location for you to meet up with your colleagues across the state to network and learn how NDACTE can help you as a CTE professional. Appetizers provided to all.
- NDACTE members receive 1 free drink ticket. Non-members are welcome to purchase from the bar.
- If an NDACTE member brings someone who signs up as a member, the NDACTE member receives 1 more free drink ticket, and the new member receives 1 free drink ticket.
- Both the NDACTE member and the new member's names go into a drawing for free membership. This drawing will be held during the NDACTE Annual Membership Meeting Tuesday morning at 7:30 am - need to be present to win!
- Play "Poker Dive of Benefits", there will be 5 "pools" where people can learn about NDACTE and then pick a card from a deck of cards, 1 card per "pool" **the best poker hand will win \$50 cash!** Announcement will be during the NDACTE Annual Membership Meeting Tuesday morning at 7:30 am - need to be present to win!
- Pool and Darts are also available!

No pressure, just plain fun guaranteed for all! Learn more about NDACTE and what the organization can do to support you.

# NDACTE Updates

-Carla Hixson, NDACTE Director

## North Dakota ACTE - Online Learning Center

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 on the top right of the screen. After entering your email address and creating a password, you'll be able to access the free resources and if interested, in subscribing to credit courses.

The ND CTE Learn Portal is available to all ND CTE professionals even if you are not an NDACTE member, however, members will have access to free resources and course discounts.

## Consider becoming a CTE Learn author!

As subject matter experts both in content and student instruction, other career and technical educators can benefit from the experience and knowledge you possess.

It's easy to get started!

To get ideas about possible course topics, review the course offerings in CTE Learn at <https://nd.ctelearn.org/>.

Once you have a topic in mind contact, Gary Meers, course facilitator CTE Learn ([garym@maxknowledge.com](mailto:garym@maxknowledge.com)) to discuss topic ideas and answer any questions you have about the authoring process.

## Exciting News for NDACTE Members!

We're thrilled to introduce our all-new **Member Deals program** — your gateway to exclusive savings and unforgettable experiences! As part of your ACTE/NDACTE membership, you now have access to incredible discounts on theme parks, movie tickets, hotels, rental cars and so much more. Start exploring your perks by logging in to your member profile via the [ACTE homepage](#) and clicking the Member Deals icon. [Member Deals Video](#) ([MemberDeals sizzle 8 18 22 final 20220818131556012](#))

# EVERFI

-Anna Urban, Everfi, District Lead

EVERFI, a free digital platform for North Dakota educators and students, houses [online student lessons](#) (and offline teacher-led lessons) for K-12 teachers to utilize in the classroom. Through standards-aligned, research-based curriculum, students explore relevant topics including:

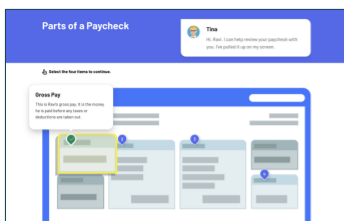
## [Economics and Personal Finance](#)

[Prevention Education](#) around mental health, underage drinking, prescription drugs/fentanyl, and vaping  
[Preparing students with soft skills](#) like effective communication, goal setting, & time management

and more!

Check out the full EVERFI course suite [here](#) and a QuickStart Guide for Teachers [here](#). Set up a demo with an EVERFI team member by emailing [k12support@everfi.com](mailto:k12support@everfi.com).

### Beginning Employment



Students gain confidence in navigating the choices and paperwork presented when starting a new job.

Recommended courses include:

EVERFI: Financial Literacy for High School

Tax Simulation: Understanding Taxes

Keys To Your Future: College & Career Readiness

### Higher Education



Students learn how to evaluate the return on investment (ROI) of higher education options and research how to pay for it.

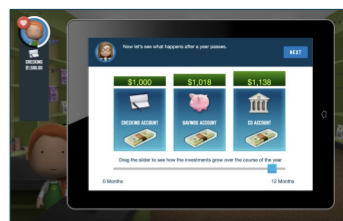
Recommended courses include:

Pathways: Financing Higher Education

Keys To Your Future: College & Career Readiness

EVERFI: Financial Literacy for High School

### Financial Literacy



Students explore how to achieve important goals around saving money, education and career planning, and budgeting.

Recommended courses include:

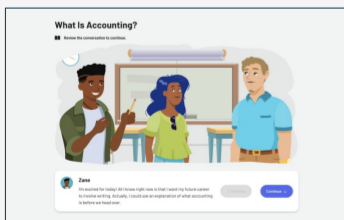
FutureSmart: Financial Literacy for Middle School

EVERFI: Financial Literacy for High School

Vault: Understanding Money

## Career Pathways

### Accounting Careers

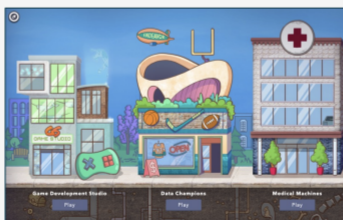


Students explore how an accounting background can help them achieve their professional and personal goals.

Recommended course:

Accounting Careers: Limitless Opportunities

### STEM Careers



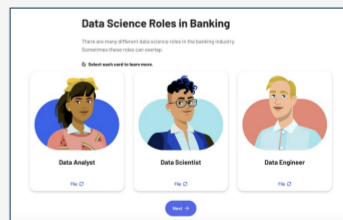
Students discover different career paths and opportunities based on their interests, skills, and aptitudes.

Recommended courses:

Endeavor: STEM Career Exploration

Building & Moving: STEM Careers

### Banking Industry



Students are introduced to the use of data science within the banking industry as well as career opportunities.

Recommended course:

Data Science Exploration: Financial Wellness

# How To Use Compass To Find Sponsorships and Careers

- Golden Path Solutions

As you look forward to the start of the school year, [Golden Path Solutions](#) is excited to partner with [NDCTE](#) to help support your students with career exploration opportunities. Watch for our updates in the NDCTE newsletter to keep informed about what's available for your students.

[Compass](#) and [RUReady.ND.gov](#) make it easy for students to explore careers – ones that interest them already and those they haven't even heard of yet!

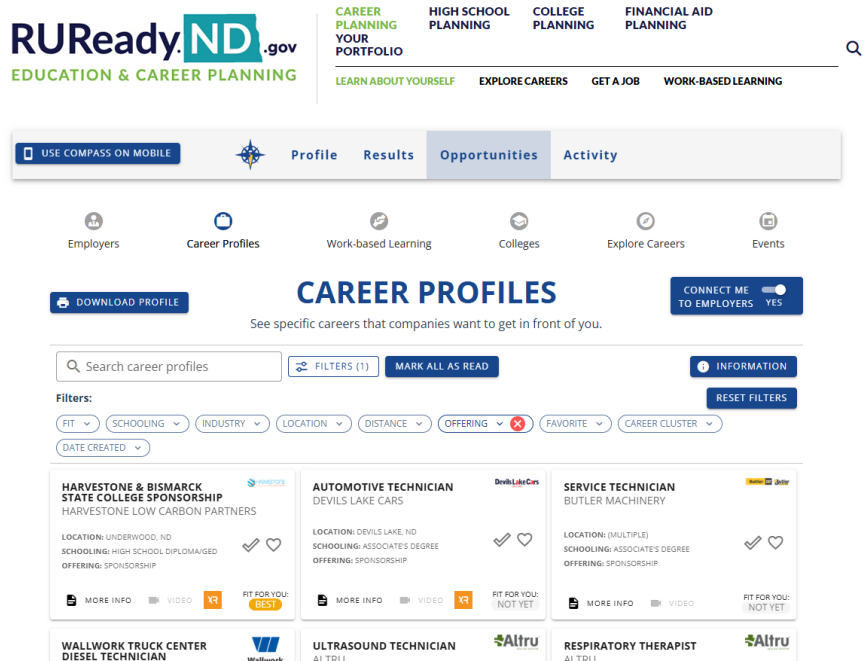
Your students can find Career Profiles under the section "Opportunities" in Compass. These detailed descriptions of real jobs at regional employers provide valuable information about the employer, work culture, job responsibilities, day-in-the-life, salary and benefits, required education, and related high school classes and activities. Career Profiles also highlight the Holland Codes and personality types that are currently working in that role, all designed to help students discover if they would be a good match.

Students can also find Sponsorships in Compass. These are student-employer agreements that include partial or full tuition coverage in exchange for a signed work agreement. In other words, an employer agrees to pay for a student's postsecondary schooling if they promise to work for them when they graduate. Some even offer paid work experience while you are in school. When viewing Career Profiles in Compass, students can use filters to search for those that include Sponsorships.

Encourage your students to log into Compass and start exploring Career Profiles today!

As a reminder, school professionals and students in North Dakota access Compass through [RU-Ready.ND.gov](#).

For more information about Compass and Golden Path Solutions, please visit us at [www.goldenpath.net](http://www.goldenpath.net) or contact us at [info@goldenpath.net](mailto:info@goldenpath.net).



# SAE Innovation Challenge

- Nikki Fideldy-Doll, Agricultural Education Supervisor

Do you have a creative way to enhance Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects in the classroom? Whether it's a unique lesson, an engaging activity, or a strategy to help students successfully implement their SAEs, we want to hear about it!

## About the Contest

The SAE Innovation Challenge encourages North Dakota agricultural educators and FFA advisors to share effective teaching methods and SAE implementation strategies. This is your chance to contribute to a growing collection of best practices while gaining recognition for your innovative approach.

## Submission Guidelines

### What to Submit:

A lesson, activity, or strategy that enhances SAE learning and implementation. Your submission can focus on any aspect of SAEs, such as:

- Helping students select and develop their SAE projects.
- Managing records and documentation.
- Connecting SAEs to real-world career skills.
- Creative ways to engage students in their projects.

### **Narrative Guidelines:**

Your submission must include a narrative that follows the outline below. The narrative must be limited to one single-sided, single-spaced 8 1/2" x 11" page. It must be typewritten, uploaded through the online application form, and written in Times New Roman, 12-point font.

The narrative must be organized into the following sections:

- **Overview:**
  - Provide a brief description of your idea and explain how it is unique, fresh, or novel within the context of agricultural education, particularly with regard to SAE projects.
- **Practicality of Idea:**
  - Discuss how your idea has practical appeal for agricultural education teachers and how it could be applied widely to enhance SAE projects in different classrooms.
- **Adaptability of Instruction:**
  - Explain how your idea is useful and feasible for other agricultural educators to implement in their own SAE programs, no matter the specific subject area or grade level.

### **Supporting Document Guidelines:**

In addition to your narrative, you must submit supporting materials to help tell the story of your submission. These materials should enhance and clarify your idea and may include:

- A collage of photos showing the implementation of your idea in the classroom or with students.
- A worksheet, rubric, or template that was used as part of your SAE project.
- Any other visual or written document that supports the impact and practicality of your submission.

The supporting document should clearly complement the narrative to help showcase your idea.

# SAE Innovation Challenge

- Nikki Fideldy-Doll, Agricultural Education Supervisor

## Who Can Participate?

Open to all North Dakota Agricultural Educators and FFA Advisors in state-approved programs. Each teacher may submit only one entry.

## Why Enter?

- Share your knowledge and inspire fellow ag teachers.
- Gain recognition for your innovative SAE approach.
- Have your idea featured in a shared resource for educators.

## How to Submit:

Submissions can be made here: [SAE Innovation Challenge](#)

## Deadline:

- August 1, 2025 at 11:59pm central time.

## Judging & Recognition

- Entries will be reviewed based on creativity, effectiveness, and practicality by a panel of judges outside of North Dakota to ensure fairness.
- Submissions will be blindly reviewed (teacher names will be redacted).
- Winning entries may be showcased in a resource collection, newsletter, or future training sessions.

## Prize Breakdown (\$2,000 Total!)

- 1st Place: \$500
- 2nd Place: \$300
- 3rd Place: \$200
- People's Choice Awards (2 winners, voted by ag teachers): \$100 each
- Random Drawing Prize (All entrants eligible): \$300
- Most Entries from a District: \$500\*

*(\*Must have a minimum of three submissions from the district. Participating teachers in that district will be entered into a district-exclusive random drawing.)*

## Make an Impact!

Help shape the future of SAE education by sharing your best ideas. Your innovation could inspire educators across the state and beyond!

## State Director's Column

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



## Welcome Back to a New School Year!

As summer fades and the school year is right around the corner, I want to take a moment to welcome each of you back to a brand-new school year. It's true, summer always seems to

pass in the blink of an eye. I hope you were able to find some time to rest, recharge, and reflect, even as many of you continued working through professional development, planning, or leading student activities.

Each new school year brings with it a fresh sense of purpose, opportunity, and the chance to make an impact. As Career and Technical Education professionals, you play a vital role in shaping the lives of student, equipping them with real-world skills, helping them discover their passions, and preparing them for high-demand careers. Your work doesn't just change lives—it builds stronger communities and a stronger state.

Thank you for your unwavering dedication, creativity, and resilience. Whether you're in the classroom, or supporting programs behind the scenes, your efforts are deeply appreciated.

Here's to a year of growth, innovation, and success for both you and your students. I look forward to continuing our work together to advance CTE and provide all learners with the skills that truly pay off.

Wishing you a great start to the school year!

Wayde Sick

State CTE Director

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