Membership in student clubs and organizations usually includes a component of community service or service learning, and North Dakota Career & Technical Student Organizations are no exceptions. While local chapters are encouraged to serve needs in their local communities, they may also choose activities that tie to state and national service partners. In North Dakota, FBLA and PBL work with the national service partner, March of Dimes, and this year FBLA has started a state service partnership with the American Heart Association.

For 40 years, FBLA-PBL and the March of Dimes have partnered to raise money in support of the mission of the March of Dimes (to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality), and FBLA-PBL members have raised over $15 million. The March of Dimes provides grants to states and chapters seeking assistance for a March of Dimes activity/project that would support the March of Dimes. (source: www.fbla-pbl.org) North Dakota FBLA-PBL chapters have been active in promoting the March of Dimes in their communities by having “wear purple” prematurity awareness days, fundraising by selling baby feet as a competition between regions or grades, eating baby food, and having dime wars.

This summer, ND FBLA chose to adopt a state service partner and chose the American Heart Association and their mission (to be a relentless force for a world of longer, healthier lives). ND FBLA has an alumni member who is currently serving as the AHA’s Vice President Central Region for Mission Advancement and has been instrumental in sharing information with our state chapter. The state partnership was announced at the 2019 ND FBLA Fall Leadership Conference, and the AHA lined up a heart attack survivor to come and share his story. ND FBLA chapters have been challenged to help with the Kids Heart Challenge/American Heart Challenge in their district, promote CPR in Schools and Cardiac Ready Communities, and host a “red out” for National Wear RED Day on February 7th.
Students Preparing for Nontraditional Fields Mini Grants
Debra Huber, Career and Technical Education

If there is any question about the effectiveness of grant activities supported with funding available through “Students Preparing for Nontraditional Fields” just check with Dale Hoerauf, CTE Director, Bismarck Public Schools. Only five short years ago, Bismarck was struggling with issues of gender balance in CTE programs offered at the Career Academy (e.g.: Electronics, Tech Ed and Engineering, Information Technology). As a result, the District was also having difficulty meeting the Perkins indicators for the number of students enrolling in and completing CTE programs leading to nontraditional fields. (Nontraditional Fields is defined as “occupations or fields of work...for which individuals from one gender comprise less than 25% of the individuals employed in each such occupation or field of work.” Examples include men in nursing and women in welding.)

With issues such as student travel to and from the Career Academy, block scheduling, and a host of competing electives, solving issues of gender balance in enrollment posed no easy task. Nevertheless, in 2015, Hoerauf took a leap of faith, assembled a team, and set about developing a hands-on event to bring female students into the Career Academy. “We were determined to take immediate steps so that girls would understand that the programs at the Career Academy were viable options for them, too.”

Hoerauf cites a number of factors that have made Stepping into STEM so successful. Among them are:

1. Pick the right team to launch the project. The members must believe in the project, and in their ability to make a difference.
2. Involve current students with the planning and delivery of activities. “Our students love helping the participants to do the activities and learn new skills. We see our current students’ roles in the project as leadership development. Just think of how many Career Ready Practices they are getting as they help plan and deliver activities in Stepping into STEM.” Not to mention, the current students are also getting a glimpse of what it would be like to teach CTE!
3. Make sure the participants have a chance to hear firsthand from students who look like them. “This year we had five girls on a panel who did a fantastic job, taking all kinds of questions from the eighth-grade girls participating in the project. The panel addressed numerous concerns about being in programs historically reserved for boys.”
4. Provide linkage from the project to registration back in the home schools. “Our Career Advisors play an active role in follow-up after the project is over. They provide whatever assistance is necessary to take care of issues related to registration and scheduling.”

“Stepping into STEM” was the result: a project that took off and never looked back. Initially, Bismarck planned to serve 30 students in the program, but ended up with 61. “Today,” Hoerauf noted, “Eighty students sign up, but we could end up with 90. Because of word of mouth and success in the past, we don’t even have to market this program anymore!”

It only took two years for Stepping into STEM to catch on and make the desired impact on the Bismarck Public Schools’ Perkins Indicators. Hoerauf invites anyone interested in seeing how this project works to come and have a look.

You may contact Dale Hoerauf, CTE Director, at dale_hoerauf@bismarckschools.org.
Wayde Sick

State Director

North Dakota CTE

State Director’s Column
-Wayde Sick, Director, North Dakota Career and Technical Education

Career and Technical Education Month

As many of you are aware, every February the nation has the opportunity to celebrate CTE Month® in order to educate the public of the role CTE has in preparing students for their future careers. The North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education is doing our part by requesting a Proclamation from the Governor’s Office. We will post it to the Department’s website after we receive it.

In order to provide a consistent message, the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) provides ideas and resources for local schools and area career and technology centers to use.

Examples of local promotion include:

• First, one incredibly powerful opportunity is to host a school or site visit. Invite the public, including parents, students, local employers, media, and policymakers. Have your students available to provide tours of the classrooms and labs and to demonstrate their projects and skills. Be prepared to discuss curriculum, equipment, and career opportunities the programs may lead to.

• Secondly, utilize Social Media as a valuable tool to spread the news. When posting to social media, be personal, be positive, use facts, and interact with your audience when comments and questions arise. Don’t forget to tag the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education on Facebook and Twitter @NorthDakotaCTE. We want to help spread your message. Also, don’t forget to use the statewide hashtag of #ND_CTE.

To access all ACTE’s CTE Month® resources, visit the following link. https://www.acteonline.org/why-cte/cte-awareness/cte-month/

Website: www.cte.nd.gov
Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorthDakotaCTE
Twitter: https://twitter.com/NorthDakotaCTE

Let’s make the 2020 CTE Month® one no one will forget!

Check out our website at www.cte.nd.gov
CTSO Leadership Perspective

“Like many other CTSOs, FFA has played a critical role in my development as a leader. What sets FFA apart is its integration of work-based learning through Supervised Agriculture Experiences. This component of Agricultural Education has allowed me to take the things I’ve learned in FFA and apply them to real-world situations, leaving me better prepared for the future.”

Ben Van Berkom, ND FFA President is a graduate of Des Lacs Burlington High School and is attending NDSU.

North Dakota Teachers Complete Youth Entrepreneurs Training

The goal of Youth Entrepreneurs is for each student, alumnus, educator, and staff member to embrace the value of lifelong learning. That’s why they invite them to explore new and continuing education opportunities—even after the bell rings. Youth Entrepreneurs presented at the 2019 PDC and gave teachers the opportunity to use their curriculum for entrepreneurship classes or integrated into a course—FREE. One part of the curriculum was to complete a training to use the materials. In December, 2019, three teachers from North Dakota were among the 42 teachers nationwide who attended the training in Washington, DC. The next training will be in June in Texas. For more information contact Joe Woodward at joe.woodward@youthentrepreneurs.org.
As we ring in the New Year, what do you want to celebrate, accomplish, and focus on in 2020?

Happy Holiday Season! I hope that you took a moment as the year ended and spent some quality time with family to reflect on all the successes of this past year.

This time of year evokes the possibility of change more than any other month on the calendar. This year marks the beginning of a new era in career and technical education as states begin to implement the Strengthening Career and Technical Education (CTE) for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V). The passage of this new law is designed to improve CTE and help students gain the skills they need to compete for in-demand, high-wage jobs in their communities. The new law gives local leaders greater freedom and flexibility than ever before to decide how best to use the federal investment in CTE to prepare young people and adults for careers.

George Washington Carver once said, "No individual has any right to come into the world and go out of it without leaving behind him distinct and legitimate reasons for having passed through it."

January is always a month of beginnings. Projects that never quite got started last year suddenly are urgent and at the top of the list, ideas that might have been milling around for months are now implemented, change and innovation are embraced, and new projects launched.

I wish you, your family, and our CTE friends the very best in 2020!