

Thank You and Congratulations to Our Assistant State Director on His Retirement



After a decade of dedicated service to the State of North Dakota, we extend our deepest thanks and warmest congratulations to Mr. Mark Wagner, Assistant State Director for Career and Technical Education, on his retirement.

During his 10 years at the Department, Mark has been a steadfast advocate for students, educators, and the advancement of career and technical education across our state. His leadership, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to high-quality CTE programs have left a lasting impact that will benefit generations to come.

From strengthening partnerships with industry to supporting innovative programming and expanding opportunities for learners, Mark has played a vital role in shaping the future of CTE. His passion for education and belief in the power of hands-on learning have inspired colleagues and students alike.

We will miss Mark's knowledge and expertise, but most of all we will miss his approachable demeanor, his sense of humor, and his friendship.

Congratulations and enjoy the journey ahead!

Dates of Interest

June 27-July 1, 2025
TSA National Conference

June 29 - July 2, 2025
FBLA National Conference

July 5-9, 2025
FCCLA National Conference

August 4th-6th, 2025
Professional Development Conference

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Professional Development Conference

It's time to mark your calendar and grab the early bird deal for the 2025 NDCTE Professional Development Conference, happening August 4–6 at the Bismarck Event Center! With Early Bird Registration open through July 15 for just \$75, this is your chance to secure your spot at North Dakota's premiere Career & Technical Education event at the best price. After July 15, registration increases to \$100—and \$125 for on-site—so register now and save!

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!



New Educator Sessions: A Must for 1st & 2nd Year Educators

If you're new to CTE, you won't want to miss the New Educator Sessions on Monday, August 4 from 9:00 to 11:50 AM. These shorter, focused sessions are designed to support early-career teachers and walk through the essentials for success and program approval. Topics include:

- Building Advisory Committees & Hosting Effective Meetings
- Launching and Managing Student Organizations
- Writing Course Outlines
- Implementing Work-Based Learning
- Navigating RUReady.ND.gov

Cap off your morning with the New Educator Luncheon, where we'll celebrate your start in this impactful profession from 11:50 am to 1:10 pm.

Pre-Conference Power Sessions

Also on Monday, August 4 from 9:00 to 12:15, we're offering a variety of pre-conference sessions for all attendees, including:


- Hands-On AI Tools for the Classroom
- www.RUReady.ND.gov interactive overview.
- Dakota Wood Turners (Offsite Experience)
- Narcan Training (11:00 am – 12:15 pm)

And That's Just the Beginning!

In addition to these specialized sessions, you'll gain access to an inspiring keynote speaker, innovative workshops, an excellent tradeshow, awesome door prizes, and—new this year—exciting surprises throughout the conference!

Important Registration Dates:

- Early Bird Registration: \$75 (April 1 – July 15)
- Regular Registration: \$100 (July 16 – 27)
- On-Site Registration: \$125 (August 4 – 6)

 Don't wait! Get registered before July 15 to take advantage of early bird pricing and be part of this unforgettable professional development experience. Let's Level Up with CTE—together!

Don't Miss NDACTE'S Annual General Meeting During PDC

-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. Join us for free appetizers and current NDACTE members will receive a free drink ticket upon entry. All NDACTE members who bring someone to the "Dive Into NDACTE" event that sign up as a new member will receive an additional free drink ticket as well as the new NDACTE member. Both the NDACTE member and the new member's names will go into a drawing for free membership. This drawing will be held during the NDACTE Annual Meeting the next morning – need to be present to win.

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

About NDACTE

North Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education provides a strong collective voice for professionals representing all facets of career and technical education. We support you and your CTE programing, initiatives, and innovations by providing a rich array of professional development resources, events and networking opportunities.

Don't miss NDACTE's Annual Membership 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.

CTSO President

-Brynn Field, 2025-2026 DECA State President, Sheyenne High School

My name is Brynn Field and I am serving as the ND DECA State President for the 2025-2026 year. At the beginning of my DECA journey, I was self-conscious and doubtful. Now, I feel confidence in myself, have gained many friends around the state, and am more certain on the career I want to fulfill! Before DECA, I was terrified of public speaking and networking with others, but DECA pushed me to speak in front of judges and audiences as well as allowing me to be in situations, meeting new people! Competing and attending workshops have also taught me a lot about myself, one thing being my passion for marketing and finance, steering me into a confident plan for my future to pursue a career in finance! I am so grateful for every opportunity and experience DECA has given me and look forward to more in the upcoming year!



Private Career Schools in North Dakota

-Michael Netzloff, Special Populations & Private Career Schools Administrator Standards & Curriculum Specialist

Hopefully you are aware that the ND Department of CTE has and continues to authorize all private career schools in the state so that they can legally operate. These schools are defined as private, vocational, technical, home study, business, professional, or other private schools or colleges offering educational credentials primarily to persons who have completed or terminated their secondary education or who are beyond the age of compulsory high school attendance, for attainment of educational, professional, or vocational objectives at a level no higher than the associate of applied science level. Some state professional boards have their own jurisdiction over their own professional schools of this type (such as in nursing, cosmetology, etc.), but many certificate-offering, post-secondary schools work with NDCTE to become authorized.

Through a yearly process of submitting documents to the agency, these schools operate in the state and offer professional certificates for hours of completion toward such jobs as massage therapy, welding, full stack engineering, electrician apprentice, etc. The aim of this statute of state law is to provide validity to these schools (in addition to them working toward gaining national accreditation) and primarily to protect the citizens and potential students of North Dakota from predatory or dubious businesses, which could provide a meaningless certificate or take money and provide nothing (i.e. fraudulent degree-factories). Most schools on the authorized list are in-state; however, out-of-state schools can and should apply.

The list of authorized schools can be found under the Business/Industry tab (then Private Career Schools link) on the NDCTE website.

Any questions can be directed to Michael Netzloff at mnetzloff@nd.gov.

Fill Your Bucket Initiative – Calling All Ag Teachers!

-Nikki Fidely-Doll, Agricultural Education Supervisor

The ND STAR Committee invites you to take part in the *Fill Your Bucket* initiative during our program area session on Monday. This is your chance to help welcome and support new ag teachers by filling a bucket with resources, ideas, and encouragement!

What can you contribute? The possibilities are endless:

- Print a few of your favorite lessons with your contact info.
- Share a “Top 10” list of go-to curriculum resources or classroom activities.
- Include your favorite classroom supply—like a pack of sticky notes.
- Write a welcome note with the ag pathways you’re strongest in and offer support.
- Drop in a letter or handout you give to FFA parents.

Or anything else that showcases your creativity and support—classroom-related or not!

Everyone has something valuable to share. Our goal is for each new teacher to leave with a bucket full of ideas, support, and inspiration to carry with them into the school year.

Bring your items on Monday—let’s fill those buckets together!

Enderlin FFA Leads Massive Volunteer Effort After Tornado Devastation

- Nikki Fideldy-Doll, Agricultural Education Supervisor

After a powerful EF-3 tornado struck the Enderlin, North Dakota area on June 20, the community was left reeling from the loss of life, destruction of property, and widespread damage to farms and homes. In the face of such devastation, the Enderlin FFA Chapter stepped up to lead a large-scale volunteer effort to support recovery and cleanup efforts across the region.

Organized by Enderlin FFA, the response brought together more than 150 volunteers—including FFA members from Enderlin, Lisbon, Kindred, and Central Cass. These students worked alongside local farmers, first responders, and community members to clear dangerous debris, remove fallen trees, and prepare fields for the upcoming harvest.

“With so many farms impacted and harvest just around the corner, we knew how important it was to get to work,” said Jocelyn Birkliid, one of the student leaders from Enderlin FFA. “It wasn’t about being asked—it was about showing up for our neighbors when they needed us most.”

Volunteers used everything from drones to chainsaws to locate and remove storm debris. Local businesses and families supported the effort by providing tools, equipment, water, and meals to keep volunteers going throughout the day. The cleanup was a true demonstration of the FFA motto: *Living to Serve*.

Missy Sanford, a volunteer from Lisbon, shared, “We all come together, and that’s the best part of a small community. No one hesitates to help.”

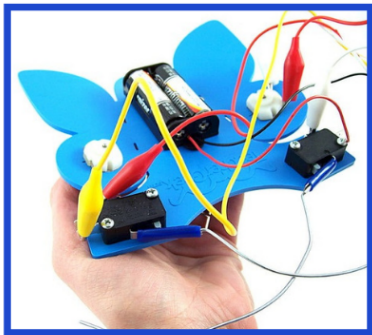
Thanks to the leadership of Enderlin FFA and the outpouring of support from surrounding chapters and the broader community, progress toward recovery is well underway. It was a day of healing, hard work, and hope—proving that even in the face of tragedy, the spirit of service and unity can shine through.

To read the full story scan the QR Code:



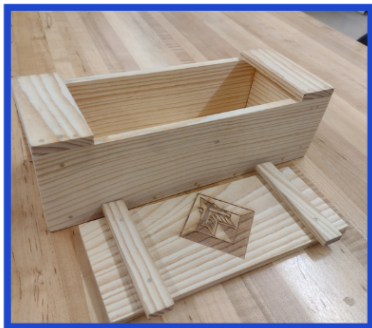
NDTEEA EVENT

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD, 2025
10:00AM – 4:00PM
SIMLE MIDDLE SCHOOL



**ELECTRONIC
BUGS**

**SOLAR
SPRINTS**



**GUMBALL
MACHINE**

**CHINESE
PENCIL BOX**

BRAD HOFFARTH
HOFFARTHBRADLEY@ND.GOV



NDACTE Update

- Carla Hixon, NDACTE Director

Meet NDACTE President Randal Brockman



It is an honor to serve as the 2025–2026 President of the North Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education (NDACTE). My journey in education began as an Industrial Technology instructor, a role I proudly held for 12 years in Nevada. I later returned to my home state of North Dakota, where I served as Principal at North Sargent School. For the past nine years, I have had the privilege of working as the Assistant Director for the Southeast Region Career and Technology Center.

What I value most about Career and Technical Education (CTE) is the opportunity to work alongside a remarkable group of educators—both locally and across the state. North Dakota is home to some of the finest teachers in the world, and I'm fortunate to work with many of them. The impact of CTE on students is profound. It's incredibly rewarding to see their enthusiasm and sense of accomplishment when they repair a car, build a structure, create something from scratch, or help someone in need—skills that will serve them for a lifetime.

One of my goals this year is to grow the membership of NDACTE. Being part of this outstanding organization has provided me with invaluable experiences, from participating in state and national conferences to building lasting friendships with educators across the country. I encourage all of you to consider joining NDACTE and take advantage of the many opportunities ACTE has to offer.

Together, we can continue to strengthen CTE in North Dakota and beyond.

- Randal Brockman

Leadership Opportunities - It's time for you to get involved!

Interested in enhancing your leadership skills and making a positive impact on CTE? NDACTE is looking for individuals to join the NDACTE board. Volunteering for NDACTE is a great way to grow professionally, develop leadership skills, and build relationships with highly engaged peers across North Dakota and the country. As a member of NDACTE's board of directors, you have the opportunity to influence the Association's direction and make a lasting impact on CTE programs, professionals and students in ND. Are you ready to make a difference?

NDACTE Vice President position: 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. You must be a current NDACTE member to run for office and/or vote. Please contact Randal Brockman at Randal.Brockman@K12.nd.us before July 31, 2025.

Division openings on the NDACTE Executive Board:

Administration, Career Development, Marketing, Special Populations, and Trade, Industry and Technical Divisions. Duties of the 3-year term for Division representatives on NDACTE Board include: Attend meetings of the Executive Board. Preparing a division report for the NDACTE Board meetings. Prepare 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:

Admin - Pam Stroklund at pam.stroklund@minot.k12.nd.us

Career Development - Haley Jeannotte at haley.jeannotte@willistonschools.org

Marketing - Greg Borders gborders@west-fargo.k12.nd.us

Special Populations - Barb Quintus Barbara.Quintus@msdl.org

Bryan Stastny at Bryan.stastny@k12.nd.us

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

NDACTE Update

- Carla Hixon, NDACTE Director

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

The ACTE National Leadership Fellowship Program is designed to empower CTE professionals by enhancing their leadership skills, offering hands-on experience in policymaking and supporting their professional growth. The 2026 cohort will run January – December 2206, with fellows receiving a \$1,500 stipend, along with complementary registration for ACTE’s CareerTech VISION and National Policy Seminar. Applications are open until Sept 15, 2025. Learn more at acteonline.org/acte-national-leadership-fellowship-program.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CTE PROFESSIONALS:

VISION 2025 Join 5,000+ career and technical educators, business leaders and industry experts for an unparalleled professional development experience at ACTE’s CareerTech VISION 2025. As the largest annual gathering of its kind, VISION offers:

- Hundreds of concurrent educational sessions covering instructional best practices, curriculum design, hands-on strategies for improving student outcomes and more
- Inspiring keynote speakers and thought leaders sharing insights on the latest trends and the future of CTE

The CareerTech Expo, a dynamic space to explore the latest tools, technologies and resources that drive innovation in CTE

This year, we're headed to Nashville, Tennessee! Join us Tuesday–Friday, Dec. 9–12, at the stunning Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center — the perfect backdrop for networking, collaboration and career growth. Register now! www.careertechvision.com



CTE BOOKS, RESOURCES & MORE!

Explore the complete collection of books for career and technical educators in ShopACTE! Discover essential new titles like Instructional Strategies for Career and Technical Educators, The CTSO Competition Survival Guide, The Advisory Board Advantage, Transformational Work-Based Learning, the Perkins V Guide, and more! ! [Shop now](#)

NDACTE APPAREL AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE!

Long-sleeve and short-sleeve polos, knits, and cardigans featuring the NDACTE logo are due **July 8**. All items ordered will be available for pickup during the ND CTE PDC at the NDACTE booth on **Tuesday, Aug. 5 between 10:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.** The NDACTE member order form can be found below.



[ORDER HERE](#)

North Dakota Educators Dive into Engineering by Design Curriculum

- Brad Hoffarth, Technology & Engineering and IT Education Supervisor

Last week, Technology and Engineering educators from across North Dakota gathered for an immersive training session on the **Engineering by Design (EbD) Curriculum**. This invaluable project was funded by North Dakota Career and Technical Education, with expert trainers provided by the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA).

Teachers explored various facets of the EbD curriculum, gaining hands-on experience that they can directly bring back to their classrooms. Highlights included:

- **Coding with Micro Bits:** Learning foundational coding skills using MicroBIts. A small device to help students learn basic coding skills.
- **Structures & Cranes:** Teams built cranes with limited supplies and tested them to failure, providing practical insights into structural engineering.

Solar Sprint Cars: Participants collaborated to build functional solar sprint cars.

Basic kits, generously donated by the **U.S. Army** (who also sponsors the National TSA Conference event and provides free kits to students nationwide), included a solar panel, motor, and gears. ITEEA supplemented these with boards, glue, and wheels. The challenge was to build for speed, leading to exciting testing and adjustments before the final race. Even Mother Nature seemed to approve, as the morning rain cleared just in time for the race!

A huge thank you goes out to the ITEEA trainers for a fantastic week of learning and to **Valley City State University** for hosting such a wonderful event.

Interested in EbD Curriculum? Technology and Engineering educators who want to learn more about the EbD Curriculum are invited to attend a short session on Wednesday during PDC in August. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your classroom!

Brad Hoffarth



State Director's Column

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



If you are like me, you are watching intently what is occurring nationally concerning Career and Technical Education, the US Department of Education and Carl D. Perkins. My article this month is to provide an overview of what we know currently.

Transition of Carl D. Perkins from the US Department of Education to the US Department of Labor

As many of you saw in June, during the legal proceedings concerning the operations of the US Department of Labor, an Interagency Agreement (IAA) between the US Department of Labor and US Department of Education was disclosed. The IAA would transfer the administration of Career and Technical Education funding, specifically Carl D. Perkins, from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor. This agreement has been paused due to legal proceedings, but the State will continue to evaluate the impact if this does happen and keep you all posted on any updates.

Administration's Budget Proposal

The current Administration has provided its budget proposal which is being reviewed by Congress and will be acted on in the upcoming months. Congress does have the final say, as this is simply a proposal. Highlights specific to Career and Technical Education are as follows:

- The Carl D. Perkins Basic State Grant funding will be held level.
- Funding for national activities is reduced.
- The emphasis of funding will be on Middle School and High School CTE Programming.
- Post-Secondary Career and Technical Education funding would be eliminated.
- Post-Secondary Accountability Measures would be phased out.

Carl D. Perkins Reauthorization

Finally, there has been very initial discussion concerning the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Act, therefore bringing forward Perkins VI. These are very initial conversations, with other large reauthorization bills in line in front of Perkins. I will continue to provide updates as information is made available. Please contact me directly if you have any questions.

Wayde Sick
State CTE Director

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A Grateful Farewell: It's Been Awesome!

- Mark Wagner, Assistant Director

As I am preparing to turn the page to a new chapter in life, I want to take a moment to reflect with gratitude on my journey in Career and Technical Education. It has been an honor and a privilege to be part of a field that equips students not only with skills but with confidence, purpose, and opportunity.



*Mark Wagner, Assistant Director,
North Dakota Career and Technical
Education*

CTE has never been just a job for me. Over the years, I've enjoyed watching students grow

from hesitant beginners to skilled professionals, discovering their passions and building futures filled with promises.

Learning from a young female student who has gone to Duke for medical school, on returning from a break, she shared that the most valuable class she took in high school to prepare her was a medical terminology class. Or the student stating how valuable his construction class was in preparing him for a career as an Architect.

I've had the chance to work alongside dedicated educators, counselors, administrators, and community partners who share a belief in the transformative power of hands-on learning and real-world preparation. Together, we've helped young people find pathways that matter—whether it's through welding, culinary arts, health sciences, information technology, or any of the dozens of other career paths CTE supports.

As I retire from the 15th floor of the Capitol, I carry immense pride in what we've accomplished together. But more than that, I carry a deep appreciation for the relationships, the shared mission, and the belief that every student deserves a future that fits who they are. I believe that CTE is for all students. Not just other people's kids, but mine included. The benefits for all are positive, no matter the choice they make for their future.

To my colleagues: thank you for your passion and your partnership. A sincere appreciation to Director Sick and the state staff and the state board, current and past members, for their dedication. To our students: thank you for your courage and hard work. And to the CTE community as a whole: thank you for reminding me every day why this work matters. Though I'm stepping away, my belief in CTE's power to change lives remains stronger than ever. Keep building, keep teaching, and keep believing.

With heartfelt thanks,

Mark Wagner