

# Newsletter

## Grand Forks PLTW Recognized

Grand Forks Public Schools has been recognized as a 2023-24 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School. It is one of just a few hundred high schools across the U.S. to receive this honor for providing broad access to transformative learning experiences for students through PLTW. [PLTW](#) is a national nonprofit organization that serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in over 12,200 schools across the U.S, aiming to make every student in every grade STEM successful.

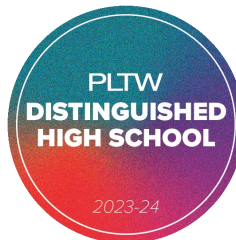
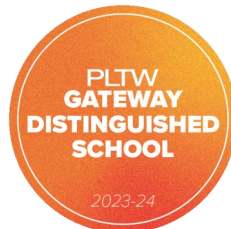
*"This is a well deserved recognition for your instructional efforts and commitment in providing high-quality STEM educational opportunities to your students. Grand Forks was the only district in North Dakota recognized..." says Eric Ripley, the Executive Director of CTE and Technology.*

The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, Grand Forks Public Schools had to meet multiple criteria in the 2022-23 school year, such as the number of PLTW courses available to students, percentage of students enrolled in PLTW, percentage of students taking more than one PLTW course, and efforts to ensure equitable access to PLTW courses.

"We are honored to recognize Grand Forks Public Schools for their commitment to providing students with exceptional educational experiences while ensuring equitable access to PLTW programs," said Dr. David Dimmett, PLTW President and CEO. "We congratulate them on this achievement and celebrate their dedication to empowering students with the knowledge and skills to succeed, not only in STEM subjects, but also preparing them for future careers and life outside of the classroom."

PLTW high school programs prepare today's students for the careers of tomorrow, by not only incorporating STEM skills into their learning but building students' collaboration, teamwork, and communication skills so that they can be ready for whatever path they take.

Twining Elementary & Middle School was recognized with **PLTW Distinguished Launch School**. Schroeder Middle School, South Middle School, Twining Elementary & Middle School, Valley Middle School were all recognized as a **PLTW Distinguished Gateway School**. Grand Forks Central, Red River High School with recognized as a **PLTW Distinguished High School**.



## DATES OF INTEREST

### June 3-6, 2024

State FFA Conference  
Fargo

### August 5-7, 2024

North Dakota CTE Conference  
Bismarck

### August 6, 2024, 2024

Exhibits Open at CTE Conference  
Bismarck

### February 3-5, 2025

CTE in Memorial Hall  
Bismarck

### August 3-5, 2025

ND CTE Professional Development  
Conference  
Bismarck

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# CTE Around the State

**Flasher High School** FCCLA members sold puppy chow to raise money to purchase stuffed animals that resemble Morton County therapy K9 Major Teddy Hugz. The stuffed animals will be available for students to use as companions when Major is not in the school.



Students in FACS classes in **Rolla** have been busy this spring. 7th grade students were busy making dirt cups one day and made air fryer doughnuts a few days later, decorating and making their menu as part of the project with the students in STEM class. 9th grade students made all things pasta in FACS including Mac and cheese, broccoli and cheese, buffalo chicken, and lazy lasagna.



The 9th grade Entrepreneurship class at **Southeast Career and Technology Center** in Oakes hosted Market Day on April 19th from 10am-2pm in the SRCTC Community Room.



The community was welcome to stop in and see these talented entrepreneurs and what they had created! The students needed to work on product selection, price, and promotion.



**Grand Forks Public Schools** invited businesses in and around Grand Forks to participate in a summer career fair, giving students the opportunity to explore various career fields and connect with potential employers.



## Did you know ....

....the CTE Professional Development Conference is the premier conference for all Career and Technical Education teachers, counselors, and administrators in North Dakota.



## Engstrom and Bachmeier Chosen for North Dakota Board

Governor Doug Burgum appointed Lyndsi Engstrom and Levi Bachmeier to the Board of Public School Education and Career and Technical Education.

Lyndsi Engstrom of Westhope, who is chief operations officer of the Central Regional Education Association, was reappointed to a new six-year term. Engstrom has been a board member since January 2022.

Levi Bachmeier, the business manager of West Fargo school district, was appointed to his first six-year term.

Engstrom represents Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, McHenry, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Renville, Rolette, Towner, and Walsh counties. Bachmeier will represent Barnes, Cass, Grand Forks, Griggs, Nelson, Steele, and Trail counties.

State Director Wayde Sick said, "I look forward to continuing to work with Ms. Engstrom as a Board member and welcome Mr. Bachmeier to the State Board. Their broad expertise will be a benefit to Career and Technical Education."

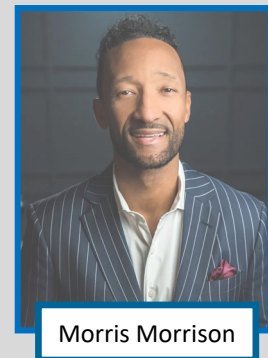


## Career and Technical Education Professional Development Conference Keynote Speakers Announced

The 2024 North Dakota Career and Technical Education Professional Development Conference is going to inspire you from beginning to end. Our Keynote Speaker on Monday, August 5th, at 1:30 PM is D. Paul Miller, a proud educator, highly-sought-after speaker, best-selling author of the book, "Hey Teachers, Don't Quit!", and founder of 3in1ExpertConsultation.com. He shows educators how to feel like they are truly "livin' the dream" while making huge impacts on student achievement. Paul Miller's message will help you renew your purpose and make a greater impact on student learning through applying the lead, serve, and teach philosophy.



Paul Miller



Morris Morrison

Morris Morrison will be the Keynote Speaker at General Session Two on Tuesday, August 6th, at 8:30 am. Morris is obsessed with building *Stronger, Kinder, Focused* human beings. He has become a world-class Entertainer, Futurist, Author, and Entrepreneur whose journey began in New York City after being orphaned a second time. Morris Morrison has been the go-to voice impacting countless youth, college/university, and major Fortune 50 events. You won't want to miss his life-changing inspirational message.

## New at PDC in 2024: Join Us for Monday Morning Sessions

—Dawn Ulmer, PDC Conference Coordinator

### New Educator Sessions:

This year we will be providing new educator (teachers, counselors, and administrators) sessions for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year educators to share information, answer questions, and celebrate the decision to pursue a career that allows you to impact young lives. The New Teacher Luncheon will be an engaging time to make connections, develop a support system and enjoy a meal together. We are looking forward to seeing all the new teachers Monday morning from 9:00 am to 1:10 pm.

### Pre-Conference Sessions:

While the new educators are enjoying their time, veteran teachers, counselors, and administrators will have the opportunity to learn more about topics that are relevant to education, such as AI and cybersecurity. These Pre-Conference Sessions will go from 9:00 am to 12:15 pm. Please plan to attend!

There is still time to register! Visit our site to register and learn more about the 2024 CTE Professional Development Conference! (PDC) <https://www.cte.nd.gov/pdc>

# The Generational View of Career Exploration and Planning

- Kelly Pierce, Supervisor, Career Development and Career Advisors

In the vast landscape of career exploration, each generation embarks on a unique journey, shaped by its distinctive values and experiences. From the trailblazing Millennials to the tech-savvy Gen Z and the future pioneers of Gen A, the evolution of career planning reflects a dynamic interplay of aspirations and advancements.

## Gen Y – Millennials: The Trailblazers

Millennials, born between 1980 and 1994, champion the pursuit of work-life balance and meaningful work. For them, career planning transcends mere job titles; it's about seeking purpose and fulfillment. Embracing technology as a tool for job searches and networking, Millennials redefine traditional career trajectories.

## Gen Z – i\*Gen: Tech-savvy Innovators

Gen Z, born between 1995 and 2010, prioritize flexibility and diverse experiences. As early adopters of technology, they leverage its power for learning and skill development. With an entrepreneurial mindset and a keen focus on social responsibility, Gen Z reshape the landscape of innovation.

## Gen A: Future Pioneers

Growing up in a highly connected, tech-driven world, Gen A emphasizes diverse skills, adaptability, and a global perspective. Career planning for them involves exposure to advanced technologies, paving the way for groundbreaking innovations.

Despite generational disparities, all cohorts seek purpose in their careers. Technology remains integral, facilitating career exploration and fostering continuous learning. Recognizing these shared values enables effective guidance across generations. To address diverse generational needs, strategies must adapt. Incorporating technology-driven tools and recognizing shared aspirations are crucial for navigating the ever-evolving career landscape.

Career Exploration and Planning Strategies Across Generations		
Gen Y (1980 – 1994)	Gen Z (1995 – 2010)	Gen A (2011 – Present)
Purpose-Driven Career Assessments	Early Exposure to Technology	Technology Integration
Work-Life Integration	Entrepreneurial Mindset	Focus on Digital Literacy and STEM Skills
Continuous Skill Development	Focus on Skills Development	Customized Learning Paths
Entrepreneurial Ventures	Pragmatic Approach to Education	Global Connectivity
Tech-Savvy Job Searches	Digital Networking	Emphasis on Creativity and Innovation
Education and Certification	Global Perspective	Entrepreneurial Mindset
Global Perspective	Socially Responsible Careers	Continuous Learning and Adaptability
Mentorship and Guidance	Flexible Work Arrangements	Focus on Sustainability and Social Responsibility
Seek Impactful Roles	Digital Branding	Virtual and Augmented Reality in Career Exploration
Networking and Professional Associations	Continuous Adaptation	Early Exposure to a Variety of Professions

## Register for ND CTE's Best Professional Development Opportunity

Join CTE instructors, counselors, administrators, exhibitors, and speakers at the 2024 Professional Development Conference for Career and Technical Education. The conference will be held in Bismarck, August 5-7, with pre-conference and post-conference sessions. Registration is now open at [www.cte.nd.gov](http://www.cte.nd.gov).



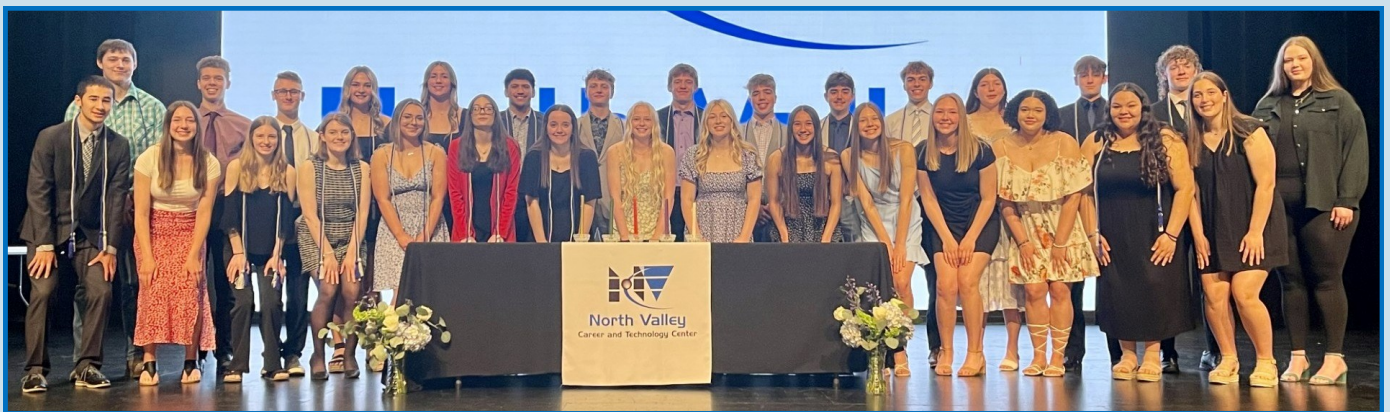
## The National Technical Honor Society Inducted Hundreds of Students From Across North Dakota in the Spring of 2024

**Fargo Public Schools** held its inaugural induction into The National Technical Honor Society on April 2, 2024. Twenty Juniors & Seniors were inducted during the ceremony held at Gate City Bank's Swiontek Center. Students inducted were a mixture from Fargo North, Fargo South, and Davies.



The **Minot High School** National Technical Honor Society Chapter inducted 50 seniors into the organization for the 2023-2024 school year. Students were inducted based on a nomination by their CTSO advisor for outstanding leadership and also completed a minimum of two credits (3.5+ GPA) of CTE courses from the same program area as well as possessed a minimum overall cumulative GPA of 3.0. All students invited and recognized a "Very Important Teacher" at the ceremony. Ryan Hendrickson was one of 250 recipients of the \$1,000 Jon. H. Poteat Scholarship.

Congratulations to all the outstanding students who have been inducted into the **North Valley CTC** Technical Honor Society! Your commitment to academic excellence, leadership, and service to the community is truly commendable. We are incredibly proud of your accomplishments. Keep shining bright and inspiring others with your passion and achievements!



**Grand Forks Central and Red River** held their induction ceremonies. Grand Forks also has each inductee identify an educator that has made a positive impact on their lives, and then write a letter of appreciation and an apple for that VIT (Very Important Teacher).





## More Students Inducted Into National Technical Honor Society



Horace Inductees

**West Fargo Public Schools** hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual National Technical Honor Society Induction Ceremony on March 28, 2024 at Titan Machinery.

Horace High School had its first Induction Class with 4 senior inductees.

West Fargo High School had 7 senior inductees.

Sheyenne High School had 7 seniors inductees.



West Fargo Inductees



Sheyenne Inductees

On May 2, 2024, at the **Bismarck Career Academy, Bismarck Public Schools** held their annual Student Recognition Ceremony to honor National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) inductees. Additional students recognized included CTE Capstone students, CTE Empower[Ed] learners, and SKILLS USA students. As Bismarck Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Jeff Fastnacht stated, the many qualities students gained while in CTE classes at the Career Academy, through interactions and mentorships, will help them pursue the “immense possibilities” that await. “The future belongs to those who are prepared.”



**Southeast Region Career and Technology Center (SRCTC's)** National Technical Honor Society 2024 Inductees. They inducted 30 members on May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Wyndmere Community Center with a meal catered by SRCTC's- Wahpeton culinary department and dessert catered by SRCTC's- Oakes Culinary/Baking students. 24 of the inductees are pictured.



# NDACTE Update: Nominations Sought

- Carla Hixon, NDACTE Director

## NDACTE Vice President Nominations

**GET INVOLVED! 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.**

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 Gabes Kieffer with their intent no later than 7/31/24. 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 Gabes Kieffer at [gabes.kieffer@may-portcg.com](mailto:gabes.kieffer@may-portcg.com).



## Now Accepting Impact Award Applications

The ACTE Impact Awards recognize groups and individuals from the education, business, and industry communities who contribute to the improvement and promotion of CTE. The deadline to apply for the two Impact awards, the Business-Education Partnership Award, and the Champion for CTE Award, is **June 30**. While there is no membership eligibility restriction for applicants, **all must be nominated by an ACTE member**. [Learn More](https://www.acteonline.org/professional-development/acte-awards/) about the nomination guidelines and how to submit a nomination for ACTE Impact awards at: <https://www.acteonline.org/professional-development/acte-awards/>. The Impact Award nominations are automatically moved on to the national level and will be recognized at the NDACTE Awards.

**North Dakota ACTE Membership renewal** is available online through ACTE's website, go to [www.acteonline.org/join](http://www.acteonline.org/join). Select ND as your state association and national, state and division dues will be available for you to select in one convenient location. The cost to renew your membership is \$115 (\$80 ACTE/\$35 NDACTE). Don't let your benefits slip away; renew today!

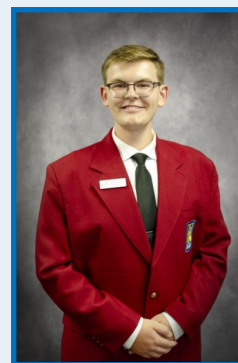
## What can North Dakota ACTE do for you?

- Quality resources (including online content), networking opportunities, and professional development at the state, regional and national level.
- Professional Recognition. Whether you are an educator, administrator, or business leader, NDACTE and ACTE Awards Programs give you the opportunity to nominate a colleague or personally receive recognition on the state or national stage for your professional accomplishments and dedication to career and technical education.
- Leadership development. Join the NDACTE board and gain leadership experience.
- Keep you abreast of what is going on in the legislative process to ensure continual state and federal dollars for CTE.

## CTSO Leadership Perspective

*"Through the Bismarck Career and Technical Center, I became an active member of SkillsUSA my sophomore year and continued. Over the years, I have become more connected with the motto of SkillsUSA "Preparing for leadership in the world of work" by learning the values SkillsUSA. Senior year I gained the leadership and confidence to become a state officer. It was the best decision I have made in SkillsUSA. I served as the Vice President which allowed me to organize events and speak at fall and state leadership conferences. SkillsUSA has not only helped me learn skills but make connections along the way. I will forever be grateful for the opportunity that CTSO's offers to students like me."*

*Karler Sabin is a senior at Century High School and served as vice president of SkillsUSA North Dakota this past year. He graduated in May 2024.*





## Kathy Walsh named finalist for National FCCLA Honor



A Harvey Family and Consumer Sciences educator is a finalist for a National Adviser of the Year award. Kathy Walsh, who has served as Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) adviser at Harvey High School for 27 years, was selected by the organization as one of five finalists for the first-ever FCCLA National Adviser of the Year award.

The highest honor a chapter adviser can receive, the adviser award will be presented at the National Leadership Conference in Seattle this summer.

Walsh was selected from 70 nominees, along with finalists from Alabama, Indiana, Minnesota, and Virginia. Each of the finalists will receive a \$1,000 cash prize, and the national honoree will receive an additional \$2,000 cash prize. Walsh has spearheaded numerous initiatives that have left a lasting impact on her students and the broader community. Her accomplishments include securing numerous state and national program awards. Her innovative approach to education is highlighted by her successful integration of FCCLA activities into the curriculum, ensuring that students engage in meaningful real-world experiences.

## Welcome McKenzie and Cindy to the North Dakota CTE Staff

Two new program specialists joined the staff last month in Bismarck. Many of you will be hearing from or working with McKenzie or Cindy throughout the year.

**McKenzie Berube** is a Mandan native who attended the University of Jamestown and the University of Mary. After a stint at the University of Jamestown in the field of nursing, she decided to change career fields and attended the University of Mary where she joined Collegiate DECA. After her first competition she was hooked and switched her major to Business Administration and Marketing. During that same time she was building her own business including her passion of health and fitness and helping others. She said, "I love being able to help young adults showcase their skills through CTE."



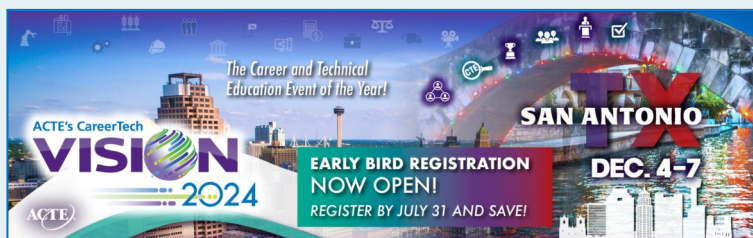
McKenzie Berube



Cindy Sorenson

**Cindy Sorenson** is a Bismarck native who was born and raised in Bismarck. After graduation she continued her education and received an AS degree from Bismarck State College and a BA in Accountancy from the University of North Dakota. She has 20 + years in the banking and finance industry and five years as a Program Lead for the Girl Scouts. She has one daughter and enjoys hiking, kayaking, and quilting. She enjoys spending time with her dog and cat as well. Cindy has enjoyed learning about and getting involved with all of the Career and Technical Student Organizations the past month. She said, "I enjoy being part of a great team!"

ACTE's CareerTech VISION is the must-attend event for career and technical education (CTE) professionals. Happening Dec. 4-7 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas, VISION offers comprehensive programming covering high-quality CTE in secondary and post-secondary environments and emerging trends in the field to help career and technical educators thrive in their careers. VISION provides attendees with a rich array of networking opportunities, an Expo, hundreds of concurrent program sessions, and numerous networking opportunities. Register by **July 31** to secure the early-bird rate ! More information can be found at [www.careertechvision.com](http://www.careertechvision.com)





# State Director's Column

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

## Give Your Input on the Modernized National Career Clusters Framework

It has been two decades since the National Career Clusters® Framework was established. After over a year of working with representatives from across the CTE field, including the Advance CTE Board of Directors, a 23-member National Advisory Committee, 13 distinct Industry Advisory Groups, dozens of State CTE Directors, input from over 50 partner organizations, and getting responses from over 2,100 CTE stakeholders to the National Implementation Survey, we will soon unveil the draft modernized Framework for review by the Career Technical Education (CTE) community.



### We need your input!

On June 6, 2024, Advance CTE, which has been coordinating the modernization process, will hold a national webinar to provide a first look at the updated Framework. This will be an opportunity for CTE educators, state and local leaders, industry representatives, and allied organizations to learn about what's new, why changes were made, and how they can provide valuable input through the National Validation Survey open through July.

[Sign up for the Webinar here](#)

By registering, you will have the option to receive project updates and event invitations. If you are already signed up to receive updates but will not have access to your institutional email account after your academic year ends, please click 'Update Your Email' below to sign up for updates with a different email address.

If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact me directly at [wasick@nd.gov](mailto:wasick@nd.gov) or (701) 328-2259



Wayde Sick, State CTE Director

**A NEW NATIONAL CAREER CLUSTERS®  
FRAMEWORK IS COMING!**

**GET A FIRST LOOK – JUNE 6, 2024**

See the proposed changes to the Framework and learn how you can provide valuable input through the National Validation Survey open through July 2024.

**Register for the national webinar introducing the Framework today!**



Wayde Sick

State Director

North Dakota CTE

### North Dakota CTE Board Members

**Kirsten Baesler**  
*Dept of Public Instruction  
Bismarck*

**Lyndsi Engstrom**  
*Westhope*

**Dr. Mark Hagerott**  
*ND University System,  
Bismarck*

**Burdell Johnson**  
*Tuttle*

**Josh Johnson**  
*Valley City*

**Patrick Bertagnolli**  
*Job Service ND, Bismarck*

**Mike McHugh, Vice Chair**  
*Bismarck*

**Sonia Meehl, Chair**  
*Oakes*

**Eric Nelson**  
*Williston*



*Mark Wagner, Assistant Director,*

## Assistant Director's Corner

### The Importance of Having a Technical Honor Society

*- Mark Wagner, Assistant Director*

Congratulations to all the National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) awardees in this month's newsletter. NTHS is the honor society for Career & Technical Education, serving high schools, career centers, community & technical colleges, and universities. In today's rapidly evolving technological landscape, the establishment of a Technical Honor Society holds immense importance. This society serves as a beacon of academic and professional excellence and a crucial catalyst for personal development, community engagement, and economic growth. Below are four reasons to have an organization such as this.

#### Recognizing and Encouraging Excellence:

A Technical Honor Society is instrumental in recognizing and celebrating students' achievements in technical fields. This recognition serves as a powerful motivator, encouraging individuals to strive for higher standards of excellence. For students, being part of such a society enhances their academic credentials, making them stand out in college applications and job searches.

#### Fostering Networking and Collaboration:

Membership in a Technical Honor Society opens doors to a vast network of peers, mentors, educators, and industry leaders. These connections are invaluable for personal and professional growth.

#### Enhancing Career Opportunities:

Employers regard the Technical Honor Society membership as a mark of distinction and competence. It signifies an individual's dedication, skill, and commitment to their field, making them more attractive to potential employers. This can lead to better job prospects, higher salaries, and faster career advancement.

#### Engaging with and Improving the Community:

Technical Honor Societies play a crucial role in community engagement. Members frequently participate in outreach programs, using their skills to tackle local issues and improve the quality of life in their communities. Whether it's developing sustainable solutions, improving infrastructure, or providing technical education and support, these contributions have a lasting positive impact.

The importance of having a Technical Honor Society and the student recognition of excellence that it provides cannot be overstated. NTHS serves as a vital platform for recognizing excellence, enhancing career opportunities, driving innovation, and promoting a positive community in shaping our student's future.

### Mission of CTE

The mission of the State Board for Career and Technical Education is to work with others to provide all North Dakota citizens with the technical skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for successful performance in a globally competitive workplace.