

Newsletter

Discover Weld Ed: Elevate Your Welding Instruction and Student Success

If you are new to teaching welding or a seasoned vet, there’s a national resource you should know about: Weld Ed. The National Center for Welding Education and Training works with educators, industry partners, and professional organizations to strengthen welding education programs across the U.S. Weld Ed provides tools, curriculum resources, and professional development designed specifically for instructors.

Weld Ed helps welding teachers access curriculum materials, instructional guides, and industry-aligned resources that support high-quality learning and prepare students for welding careers. Whether you are new to teaching or want to refresh your program with the latest best practices, Weld Ed’s offerings can enhance what you already do in your classroom and lab.

One of the most valuable opportunities through Weld Ed is hands-on professional development workshops. These week-long workshops for welding educators provide practical experience with instructional techniques, welding processes, technology, and best practices. They offer time to collaborate with peers and learn from industry-connected experts — all with the goal of improving instruction and student outcomes.

The 2026 Weld Ed Summer Training season includes a workshop hosted at North Dakota State College of Science (June 15-19, 2026, Wahpeton, ND) and other locations across the country, tailored to equip instructors with up-to-date tools and strategies for welding education. Training is designed for both new and experienced teachers looking to build confidence and bring industry-relevant skills back to their programs.

[Registration is now open for the 2026 workshops](#)

Whether you’re just beginning your welding journey as an educator or want to enhance your current instruction, Weld Ed and the NDSCS summer training are valuable resources to grow professionally and help your students succeed in welding careers that are in high demand.

Please reach out to [Joel Johnson](#) at NDSCS with questions on the NDSCS workshop June 15-19, 2026.

Dates of Interest

March 1-3, 2026
DECA State Conference

March 8-10, 2026
TSA State Conference

March 29-31, 2026
FBCLA State Conference

April 12-14, 2026
FCCLA State Conference

April 19-21, 2026
SkillsUSA State Conference

June 1-4, 2026
FFA State Conference

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Unlocking Student Potential: Connecting Today's Learning to Tomorrow's Dreams

-Laura Glasser, Career Resource Manager

Job shadows are one of the best and easiest ways for your students to start building connections with employers, while also gaining valuable insight into careers that interest them.

Golden Path Solutions is making the process easier by smoothing out the management details in Compass. You can skip the paperwork and handle all of the approvals, scheduling, invites, and collection of contact information all electronically through the Compass Console in the [RURReady.ND.gov Professional Center](https://www.ruready.nd.gov/professional-center).



See the information below and [register for a virtual workshop](#) hosted by NDCTE on March 5 at 11:00 a.m. CT, which will cover the process in detail.

Recent Compass job shadow feature updates

- Many improvements to job shadow management, including the flow
- Ability to schedule a job shadow time and send calendar invites to students, yourself, or any other individual. These Invites can include the job shadow date, start time, and end time.
- Improvements to how the primary contact of an employer is made accessible to you for easier connections
- A comprehensive calendar shows you all scheduled shadows for easy management.

How students can request Job Shadows

- 1) Students log in to [RURReady.ND.gov](https://www.ruready.nd.gov) through the ND Education Portal.
- 2) They launch Compass by selecting "Go to Your Compass Profile," "Opportunities," and then "Employers."
- 3) Students can select the "Job Shadow" icon on each employer card or choose "Request Job Shadows" and then add employers or enter one if they don't see it listed.
- 4) Students can stack rank job shadows in order of preference and then submit for approval.

Managing your job shadows in Compass as a professional user

- 1) Log in to the [RURReady.ND.gov](https://www.ruready.nd.gov) Professional Center.
- 2) Select the "Work-Based Learning" tab and then the "Compass Console" tab.
- 3) Select the "Compass Console" button.
- 4) Click on the "Tool" icon in the upper right corner, and then "Job Shadows."
- 5) View job shadow requests under "Student Requests." Approve or reject them.
- 6) Manage employer approvals in "Employer Approvals." Send emails to employers for approval or manage them manually, schedule shadows, and send calendar invites.
- 7) View all scheduled job shadows under "View Detailed Schedule."
- 8) Send out electronic agreements for shadows under "Agreements."

Quick Tip!

This semester, when you encourage your students to update their Compass student profile and Four-Year Rolling Plan, use that time to also do a quick refresh of your class list. Go to the Compass Console in the [RURReady.ND.gov Professional Center](https://www.ruready.nd.gov/professional-center), click on "My Class Lists", and make any changes necessary, including adding classes, deactivating classes, and changing names.

For more information, contact Laura Glasser, Career Resource Manager at NDCTE, at leglasser@nd.gov. You can also reach Golden Path Solutions at info@goldenpath.net.

NDACTE Updates

-Carla Hixson, NDACTE Director

NDACTE Awards are Open for Nominations

North Dakota ACTE is conducting a statewide search for excellence in CTE to highlight outstanding educators as part of our annual awards program during the ND CTE PDC. We are seeking nominations from all divisions, positions and content areas this spring 2026 for the following awards:

- North Dakota ACTE Teacher of the Year
- North Dakota ACTE Postsecondary Professional of the Year
- North Dakota ACTE New Teacher of the Year
- North Dakota ACTE Teacher Educator of the Year
- North Dakota ACTE Administrator of the Year
- North Dakota ACTE Counseling and Career Development Professional Award
- North Dakota ACTE Carl D. Perkins Community Service Award
- North Dakota ACTE Lifetime Achievement Award
- Agriculture Education New Teacher of the Year
- Business Education New Teacher of the Year
- Career Development New Teacher of the Year
- Family and Consumer Science New Teacher of the Year
- Health Sciences New Teacher of the Year
- Marketing New Teacher of the Year
- Special Populations New Teacher of the Year
- Technology and Engineering Education New Teacher of the Year
- Trade and Industry New Teacher of the Year

Learn more about the nomination guidelines and how to submit a nomination for the awards above online here: [North Dakota - ACTE Awards](#). Award recipients will then be judged and North Dakota ACTE award winners will have their nominations forwarded on to be considered for the ACTE Region V Awards.

Innovative Program Award

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, 2025**. 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

NDACTE Updates

-Carla Hixson, NDACTE Director

North Dakota ACTE - Award Winner Spotlight - Isaiah Macdonald - Family and Consumer Sciences Education Teacher of the Year

- **How long have you been teaching in CTE?** This is my 4th year teaching CTE



Can you talk a bit about a program / initiative that you are most proud of?

My FCCLA chapter is what I am most proud of. In my time with Mandan High FCCLA, we have doubled our chapter member base, increased district/state/national involvement of the chapter, and grown our program to be an organization that Mandan can look to for support. My students pick projects they are passionate about, such as building safe driving kits, supporting local daycare staff through volunteer work, or collecting goods to donate to the abused adult resource center. All these efforts are an extension of my passion in the classroom to inform future family members/household leaders and equip them to lead responsible lives to reduce parent absenteeism/childhood abandonment and increase personal responsibility for the betterment of oneself and the community.

Why did you join NDACTE? I saw the support and recognition that NDACTE promotes of its members, and I knew I wanted to be a part of it. In my first year, I was approached by NDATFCS to run for Vice President of the subdivision, and I received the position. Since then, I have done my part serving at recruitment booths and PDC and look forward to serving as President to build FCS involvement in NDACTE.

- **What advice do you have for new CTE teachers or NDACTE members?** To be frank, teaching CTE can be a lot some days. You have a great opportunity to build community with your students and faculty through your experiential work that many teachers do not have. Take one thing at a time. Remember— in teaching there's always more you can do, more parents you can reach out to, more grades you can enter, more cleaning you can do in your classroom, so make it a priority to be willing to stop every once in a while, go home, and care for yourself so that you can do the same for others!
- **Anything else you would like to add?** Nothing at this time but I am happy to provide more details if needed

Best of luck to NDACTE 2025 Award Winners at the upcoming Region V Conference

NDACTE annually recognizes individuals who have contributed to Career and Technical Education. Recipients of the 2025 Awards announced at the ND PDC in August are advancing to the regional competition to be held April 8–11, 2026 in Salt Lake City, Utah, at Little American Hotel. Award winners will be announced during the Region V Awards Banquet. ND is represented by the following deserving candidates:

New Teacher of the Year Overall

Cara Davis, Grand Forks Public Schools, Grand Forks, ND

Counseling and Career Development Professional Award

Danielle Luebke, Southeast Region Career & Technology Center, Wahpeton, ND

Teacher of the Year

Cameron Young, Southeast Region Career & Technology Center, Wahpeton, ND

Post-Secondary Professional of the Year

Benjamin Whitmore, North Dakota State College of Science, ND

Administrator of the Year

Eric Ripley, Grand Forks Public Schools, Grand Forks, ND

Lifetime Achievement Award

Mark Wagner, North Dakota Career and Technical Education, Bismarck ND

Innovative Program Award

David Leier and Erik Johnson, Killdeer Agriculture Education Program, Killdeer Public School District, Killdeer ND

NDACTE Updates

-Carla Hixson, NDACTE Director

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CTE PROFESSIONALS:

ACTE's Work Based Learning Conference

April 29-May 1, 2026 - Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, Rhode Island [ACTE's Work-based Learning Conference - ACTE Online](#)

ACTE Region V Conference

April 8–11, 2026 in Salt Lake City, Utah

In Utah, we don't shy away from the climb — we embrace it. CTE educators lead the way, taking bold steps to try new tools, strategies, and technologies in the classroom. Like scaling a new peak, there's risk and uncertainty — but also growth. Each challenge met, each lesson learned, helps our students climb higher toward success in the real world. Utah ACTE is thrilled to welcome you to the **ACTE Region V Conference**.

Location: [Little American Hotel](#), Salt Lake City, Utah

[Region V Early Bird Registration Rates \(through Feb. 15\)](#)

Member: \$450 and Nonmember: \$500



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.

Banquets: An FFA Tradition

-Darin Spelhaug, Agricultural Education Supervisor

Roast beef and mashed potatoes, a spring BBQ, coffee and dessert, or someone's secret chicken and strudel recipe. It does not matter what is on the menu, FFA banquets are a longstanding tradition throughout the nearly 100 year history of our organization in chapters across our state and country. In addition to feeding the masses, banquets serve to highlight member accomplishments, recognize support from family and community, and share a message of premier leadership, personal growth, and career success.

During a banquet, chapters acknowledge the achievements of members in every area of Agricultural Education. Students who complete proficiency applications are recognized for their growth in their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), which could include work placement, an entrepreneurial endeavor, or research. Outstanding achievement in Career Development Events (CDEs) is applauded, but so is improvement or trying something new. Many chapters give awards for leadership or community service to give concrete approval to something that is often intangible.

As important as it is to recognize the accomplishments of our youth, it is equally important they are able to show their gratitude to those who provide support and guidance. Family, sponsors, and community members generally make up the bulk of the audience of an annual banquet. Each chapter may choose to recognize each group in a different way, but the appreciation is always evident. A highlight of the traditional banquet is the induction of some of these individuals or groups as honorary members of the local chapter. Honorary membership truly shows the focus on building community.

After the meal has been served a guest speaker frequently gives remarks or an inspirational message as a capstone for the year and encouragement for the future. This is often our chance as a state association to participate. Last year, our state FFA officers traveled to 62 banquets in March, April, and May throughout North Dakota. As of this writing, 52 chapters have requested officers to be present at their banquet to give greetings from the state, inspire their attendees, or assist with awards. There were even a couple of requests for participation in a dance competition; each chapter has their own traditions.

Throughout the spring, if you have the opportunity to attend a local FFA banquet please take it to enjoy the tradition, recognition, and celebration.

CTSO STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

My name is Alec Wolf and I serve as ND FBLA Collegiate State President and I am currently a Student at Minot State University, and I am majoring in marketing with a minor in leadership studies. I joined FBLA my freshman year at MSU just to join a club, never did I think that I would end up as the state president. The skills that I have learned from being a state officer have changed my life; these skills include networking skills, public speaking, planning events, and much more. I will use these skills in all aspects of my life in the future. During my time in FBLA Collegiate I have served as a vice president for two terms and as the state president for one term and have been re-elected for the 2026-2027 membership year. I am grateful to CTSOs for helping me to become the person that I am today!



Alec Wolf

State Director's Column

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



Secondary CTE Funding Levels Set for 2026-27

The North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education (NDCTE) has finalized funding levels for the 2026–27 school year, marking an important milestone in the implementation of the updated Secondary Program Funding Policy. The policy, effective July 1, 2026, ensures that state CTE funding is aligned with the Board's principles of equitable access, program quality, performance incentives, administrative efficiency, and a focus on student outcomes.

The annual review of funding levels is now complete, with preliminary allocations shared by March 31 and final allocations communicated by May 31. These finalized levels will guide districts and CTE Centers as they prepare for the upcoming academic year. Updated allocations take effect July 1.

Under the policy, funding is provided to support high-quality CTE programming across the state, including equipment, curriculum development, staffing, and student opportunities. Funding is based on a combination of base allocations, performance incentives, and—specifically for CTE Centers—access and operations factors.

The newly set funding levels for 2026–27 include:

- Base allocations for approved instructional or career development FTEs, with rates of \$14,750 for comprehensive high schools and \$44,550 for CTE Centers.
- Performance allocations of \$900 each for meeting state-determined Work-Based Learning and CTE Concentrator targets.
- Center access allocations, including \$13,100 per program offered, \$12,600 per member school district, and \$147 per enrolled course credit.
- Infrastructure allocations of \$75,000 for brick-and-mortar centers and \$37,500 for virtual centers.

NDCTE will continue to monitor program eligibility and compliance, with annual reporting requirements and desk audits ensuring fiscal accountability. Funding for existing, new, expanding, transferring, or reinstated programs remains dependent on available statewide resources and program performance.

Completion of this year's funding-level process reflects the state's ongoing commitment to strengthening CTE programs and supporting the educators, schools, and regional centers that prepare students for North Dakota's workforce.

Please contact me with any questions you may have.

Wayde Sick
CTE Director

Assistant Director's Corner

-John Gruenberg, Assistant State Director, North Dakota Career and Technical Education

Vision Visit Risk Assessments: Preparing for 2026-2027

As we begin looking ahead to the 2026–2027 school year, our Team Vision Visit process is entering its next phase:

Risk Assessment and Selection.

Using our five year rotating schedule, we will evaluate programs across North Dakota using a structured risk analysis model that helps determine which schools and centers will participate in a full Team Vision Visit. This process ensures we remain strategic, equitable, and responsive to areas of highest need while continuing to support strong, high-performing programs.



What Does “Risk” Mean in This Context?

Risk is not a label. It is not a reflection of effort or commitment. It is a data-informed indicator that helps us prioritize support.

Our analysis considers multiple factors, including:

- Program performance data and accountability indicators
- Prior Vision Visit findings and compliance trends
- Fiscal and Perkins monitoring considerations
- Leadership transitions or staffing changes
- Program size, scope, and regional impact

The goal is simple: **deploy support where it will make the greatest difference for students.**

Why This Matters for 26–27

As North Dakota continues aligning programs of study to high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand occupations, Vision Visits are evolving beyond compliance reviews. They are becoming strategic conversations about:

- Pathway coherence and sequencing
- Work-based learning quality
- Industry advisory engagement
- Credential attainment and postsecondary alignment
- Facility and equipment modernization

The 2025–26 Team Evaluation Schedule reflects the breadth of our statewide work this past year. The upcoming risk assessment will guide where we focus next for 2026–27.

What Schools Can Do Now

Preparation is not about waiting for a visit. It is about building systems that are always visit-ready:

- Ensure advisory committees are active and documented
- Align course titles and pathways to approved state codes
- Review master schedules for sequence integrity
- Maintain up-to-date course outlines
- Monitor performance data disaggregated by subgroup
- Evaluate work-based learning structures for quality and documentation

When these systems are strong, a Vision Visit becomes confirmation and collaboration rather than correction.

A Continuous Improvement Mindset

Risk assessment is a compass, not a spotlight. It helps us navigate statewide priorities while honoring local context. Every school, whether visited this year or next, plays a critical role in advancing Career & Technical Education across North Dakota.

Our responsibility at the state level is to provide clarity, consistency, and support. Your responsibility at the local level is to continue building programs that connect students to purpose, credentials, and workforce opportunity. Together, we ensure that every learner in North Dakota has access to high-quality, aligned, and future-focused CTE programs.

Please continue your amazing work for our students of North Dakota!

John