A View from the Adjustment of a Conference
Kevin Reisenauer, Supervisor, Marketing Education and DECA Advisor

On Friday, March 13, 2020 at 3:30 pm all plans changed. The DECA Conference was scheduled for Sunday-Tuesday, March 15-17. Two days away. It was the 67th Annual Conference. Since 1954 a state conference was held in North Dakota. But on Friday the 13th, things changed. The North Dakota High School Activities Association cancelled the remainder of the State Class A Basketball tournament, and the Class B tournament. The 2020 International DECA Conference, scheduled for April in Nashville, Tennessee, was cancelled. Everyone said, “That won’t happen.” It happened.

One van of conference materials was already unloaded at the Ramkota Hotel; a second van of materials was in the parking lot at the capitol waiting. DECA officers were expected to arrive at 1:00 on Saturday; they were already packed and ready to go. Hundreds of students had prepared for this weekend for months. On-line testing for events had already taken place and prepared projects were mailed in advance. Officer candidates were ready to give speeches and campaign. Scholarship winners were going to be announced. But within a few minutes, that all had to change. Or did it?

Enter the Virtual DECA Conference, because scripts were done, chapter campaigns were complete, member of the year recognition was ready to announce, and other things were already determined. Thus we thought, “The Show Must Go On!” Why? Because it is an opportunity for members to use the skills they learned in the classroom, to showcase their community service, leadership, and business skills, and because we were not going to let this hamper the opportunity for students.

The conference was cancelled. Keynote speakers and entertainment were informed. Chapter advisors were emailed. The light and sound company was called. The media received a press release. The hotel was told there would be no one coming; cancel all of the sleeping rooms, the set up plans for the meeting rooms, and all meals. No one would be there.

The DECA conference was indeed offered virtually. Enter Zoom and Social Media. Tigirlilly who was scheduled to perform on Sunday evening did a virtual show from Nashville. Officer candidates were interviewed and taped their speeches. The election of officers took place virtually with speeches, voting delegates, and an election. Scholarship winners were recognized via social media. Chapters who received Chapter Campaign Awards were announced. Winners from conference testing and projects were named, presented awards (which will be mailed) and announced on Facebook and the website. Then it came time to announce the new officers — LIVE. From Bismarck, North Dakota, and across the state, the 2019-2020 officers held a mini session with a thank you to the members, farewells, and the announcement of the 2020-2021 officer team.

Although all CTSO state conferences in North Dakota were cancelled in the spring of 2020, we continue to provide opportunities for members. It is imperative that students in CTE classes have opportunities to be members of a CTSO, for experience in leadership, community involvement, teamwork, and preparing for a career through a specialized competition.

We will work together and we will come back stronger.
Distractive Driving and Seat Belt Use are Among FCCLA Projects  
-Kathy Walsh, FCCLA Adviser and FACS instructor, Harvey Public Schools - Submitted by Ann Dietchman, FACS Supervisor

More people die in vehicle accidents than any other sudden deaths in North Dakota. Seat belt use and distracted driving were the main topics discussed on Monday, February 10, as Harvey FCCLA hosted Traffic Safety Day for 156 Harvey students from 7-12th grades and 17 staff members.

Five different sessions were held. Harvey Police Chief, Tony Webb and Logan Jenner, presented drunk goggles to students as they tried walking a straight line, shooting a basketball, and driving a golf cart. Wells County Sheriff Chris Kluth, Deputy Givens, and Deputy Beaver demonstrated the seat belt convincer. It carries a dummy to the top of an incline and drops with a seatbelt to simulate a crash at 5-7 miles per hour. Due to low percentage of teens wearing seat belts, discussion was frank about risk of survival without usage.

Gene LaDoucer, AAA of Fargo, brought a driving simulator for students to use to practice various texting road scenarios without putting them or anyone else on the road at risk.

Highway Patrolman M. Vanegas, Devils Lake, and Landen Monge allowed students to experience driving a golf cart through an obstacle course while texting. With a high number of teens who are texting and driving, this session dealt with a very real-life challenge. Vanegas told the students in his 5 years with ND Highway Patrol he has placed 20 people in body bags as a result of car accidents and reminded the students of the dangers of driving in ND. Hunter Schuh, Chad Filler, Harvey Fireman, and Deputy Longie held a session on how to escape a vehicle submerged in water. All juniors and seniors were given an emergency hammer as part of this session.

This event was sponsored by the Harvey FCCLA Chapter who received a $1,000 grant with VisionZERO to educate our teen drivers in our community through the support of AAA-The Auto Club Group.

During the 2019-2020 school year, North Dakota FCCLA worked jointly with AAA-The Auto Club and ND DOT’s VisionZERO to provide grants to FCCLA chapters across North Dakota to provide traffic safety education in our high schools. Each grant was worth $1000 to cover the expenses of activities that would enable FCCLA members to act as peer educators on any topic that would engage students in learning how to become safer drivers.

Because of the COVID19 Pandemic and the closing of North Dakota schools in March, only Harvey FCCLA was able to complete their project.

Learn more about FCCLA @ http://www2.edutech.nodak.edu/fccla/
Although eight of the CTSO Conferences were cancelled in the spring of 2020, student leaders stepped up to the challenge of serving members in the state. The only conference that was held was the North Dakota Collegiate DECA Conference, February 9-10, 2020.

Outgoing officers worked to provide closure to their term of office in a variety of ways including Zoom Meetings with members, Live on Facebook farewells, or other electronic formats to thank the members for a great year.

New officer teams for 2020-2021 were also elected. The process and deadline dates for officer applications were already in place, to be held at an on-site conference; however, things changed quickly and advisors needed to adapt to a new process that would allow students to serve as leaders, members to vote on officers, and a way to announce the new officer for each student organization.

The CTSO Leadership Training scheduled for June 2020 has been cancelled. Officers and advisors of officers should check with your State Director or State Advisor for training plans.
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR EDUCATION

Let me begin by expressing my admiration for everything you are all tackling right now. The state asked all of you to completely change how you are providing instruction and where you are going to provide that instruction, while shifting all your personal responsibilities, in order to be a remote worker. This all had to be done within a matter of days.

The reason for this article is to not only thank you for what you were able to accomplish, but also to remind you to take care of yourself and your family’s wellbeing during this time of incredible disruption. Behavioral health is key for all of us to weather this pandemic.

Instead of providing advice on how to do this, I encourage you to depend on the experts at the North Dakota Department of Human Services, Behavior Health Division. They have compiled a number of resources to access to help all North Dakotans during this time. I hope you find these resources helpful. The link the site can be found below.

https://www.behavioralhealth.nd.gov/covid-19

Again, thank you for your commitment and hard work during this time. I hope you are all staying safe.

North Dakota CTE programs partner with many businesses throughout the year. One way to develop those partnerships is with the involvement of the local advisory committee. Asking business representatives to serve on your advisory committees allow the instructor to provide current projects and authentic learning for students.

We want to congratulate and thank two businesses recently recognized for their involvement at the local and state levels.

ND FBLA Businessperson of the Year
Becky Goettle
Town and Country Credit Union
Stanley, ND

ND Friend of DECA Award
Men’s Wearhouse
Men’s Wearhouse
Bismarck, ND

Wayde Sick
State Director
North Dakota CTE

Apply to be a Region V Fellow

Region V is pleased to announce the opportunity to participate in the Fellowship Program. The purpose of the Fellowship Program is to grow leaders in Region V. Fellows will have the opportunity to meet aspiring leaders from other states in the region and across the country.

Two fellows will serve from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022. The application can be found on the ACTE Region V website. The deadline for applying is May 15. E-mail Coleen Keffeler with any questions.
CTSO Leadership Perspective

“Career and Technical Education has given me the opportunity to explore my options for the future. These classes and organizations like TSA have allowed me to apply what I have learned in the classroom to my career interests and the specific skills needed for them. TSA specifically has allowed me to improve skills I will need when I enter the workforce such as effective leadership and efficient communication. TSA and CTE classes have given me a head start in my future.”

_Alyssa Haider, President, North Dakota Technology Student Association is a sophomore at Dickinson High School._

North Dakota Teachers Recognized for Outstanding Contributions!

Congratulations to outstanding advisors and teachers in North Dakota. We commend you for your dedication to providing opportunities for students as you prepare them for the workforce in North Dakota.

Dr. Gary Ross
Minot State University
_North Dakota PBL 2020
Outstanding Adviser of the Year_

Kari Mayer
Mott Regent High School
_North Dakota FBLA 2020
Outstanding Adviser of the Year_

Holly Strand-Rysgaard
Sheyenne High School
_North Dakota HOSA 2020
Outstanding Advisor_

Nancy Capouch
MayPort CG
_North Dakota FCCLA 2020
Outstanding Adviser of the Year_

Dr. Amber Aberle
Valley City State University
_North Dakota Collegiate DECA 2020 Advisor of the Year_
Strategic Messaging for Effective Communications: Using Research Insights to Connect to Key Audiences

In a rapidly changing world, it is more important than ever for learners of all ages to develop the skills and experiences necessary to succeed in high-wage, high-skilled, and high-demand careers of their choosing. Career Technical Education (CTE) is working with every state to help learners succeed, while also providing employers with skilled and talented employees across a range of industries. To connect more students to CTE programs, Advance CTE compiled model programs to address the challenge of communicating effectively with students and families about CTE options.

This resource from Advance CTE examines key findings from a national survey that explored the attitudes of families and students of those currently enrolled in CTE and those who are prospective students and explores Georgia and North Dakota’s approaches to developing statewide messaging.

https://cte.careertech.org/sites/default/files/files/resources/AdvanceCTE_StayingConnected_FINAL.pdf

Assistant Director Corner

North Dakota Career & Technical Education

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

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.

Director’s Award of Excellence – The application due date has been extended to May 29, 2020. This award is an acknowledgement of superior CTE programs in North Dakota. Nominations may be from secondary, postsecondary or continued education levels that have been operational for at least 2 years and the program must be cost effective in comparison to programs of similar scope. More information and an online application can be found at https://www.cte.nd.gov/cte-professional-development-conference-pdc

PDC Update – A decision to hold the traditional conference format will be made by June 1st. Registration will not be open until we have definite plans. Thank you for your understanding and patience. The 50th annual CTE Professional Development Conference is scheduled for August 10-12, 2020.