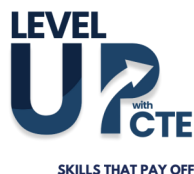


## Don't Miss the 2025 NDCTE Professional Development Conference!



NDCTE is thrilled to announce the 2025 Professional Development Conference (PDC), happening August 4–6 at the Bismarck Event Center. This year's conference will be packed with dynamic opportunities for professional development, networking, and practical learning experiences.

### Opportunities for New Educators – 1st & 2nd Year Teachers

If you're in your first or second year of teaching, PDC is the perfect event to jumpstart your success. We've designed special sessions just for you, focusing on essential topics like classroom management, curriculum design, and instructional strategies tailored specifically for new CTE educators.

- New Educator Opening Session: Monday, August 4, 9:00–10:30 AM
- New Educator Breakout Sessions: Monday, August 4, 10:30–11:50 AM
- New Educator Luncheon: Monday, August 4, 11:50 AM–1:10 PM

### Pre-Conference Sessions

Start your PDC experience early by attending our exciting Pre-Conference Sessions on Monday, August 4, from 9:00 AM to 12:15 PM. These sessions offer hands-on learning to deepen your skills before the main conference kicks off.

### Trade Show

A favorite part of PDC is our vibrant Trade Show! Explore the newest educational tools, technologies, and resources designed to enhance your teaching. Meet vendors, discover fresh ideas, and find innovative products to take back to your classrooms.

#### Tuesday, August 5:

- 7:00 AM – Exhibitor Setup
- 10:30 AM – Trade Show Grand Opening
- 10:30 AM – 5:30 PM – Trade Show Hours

### Featured Workshops

We're offering a wide range of workshops tailored to support your professional growth. Whether you're looking to sharpen your technical skills, explore new teaching approaches, or stay ahead of industry trends, there's a session for you.

### Keynote Speaker

We are excited to welcome Reagan Pugh as this year's keynote speaker! Known nationwide for his inspiring presentations, Reagan will energize and motivate attendees during the opening session at 1:30 PM on Monday, August 4. You won't want to miss his powerful message as you prepare for the new school year.



### Register Today!

Take advantage of Early Bird Registration before July 15 to lock in the best rate. The 2025 NDCTE Professional Development Conference is shaping up to be our most exciting yet—with a packed schedule of sessions, pre-conference activities, an expansive trade show, and motivational keynote speakers. Invest in your professional journey, build connections, and gain new ideas to bring back to your schools.

#### Registration Fees:

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

Please email [lruff@nd.gov](mailto:lruff@nd.gov) for any refund or cancellation requests by July 27, 2025. No refunds will be issued after that date.

## Dates of Interest

**May 31 - June 1, 2025**

Collegiate FBLA National Conference

**June 2-5, 2025**

FFA State Conference

**June 9-11, 2025**

CTSO State Officer Training

**June 23-27, 2025**

SkillsUSA National Conference

**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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## Presidential Scholars Update

- Kelly Pierce, Career Development & Career Advisors Supervisor

Semi-finalists for the [US Presidential Scholars](#) in Career and Technical Education have been named by the US Department of Education

**\*\* Candidate for U.S Presidential Scholar in Career and Technical Education.**

The following are the candidates representing North Dakota:

**\*\*ND - Braden Ficklin, Mandan - Mandan Senior High School**

**\*\*ND - Maya L Wood, Minot - Minot High School Magic City Campus**

Finalists will be announced sometime in May.

### Presidential Scholars Update: Recognizing Excellence in Career and Technical Education

The quest for excellence in Career and Technical Education (CTE) reaches the next step in the process as semi-finalists for the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program in CTE have been announced by the U.S. Department of Education. Among them stand Braden Ficklin from Mandan Senior High School and Maya L. Wood from Minot High School, Magic City Campus, proudly representing North Dakota. This prestigious recognition underscores the significance of CTE in shaping the future workforce and honoring outstanding student achievement in CTE fields. As the anticipation builds, we eagerly await the announcement of the finalists slated for May.

## BSC Career Quest

- Sara Vollmer, Dean of Continuing Education and TrainND

BSC Career Quest is a two-week summer program for high school students to explore exciting career pathways available at Bismarck State College. Each day focuses on a different industry sector, offering hands-on activities and engaging presentations. Students can register for individual days or attend all three days of a chosen week.

*On-campus dorms are available only for students who register for all three days of either week. If you would like to register for all three days with no dorms, you will need to register for each day individually.*

### Week 1: 6/10 – 6/12

- Day One (June 10): Transportation & Construction
- Day Two (June 11): Automation, Manufacturing & Energy
- Day Three (June 12): Agriculture, Engineering Technology/UAS/GIS

### Week 2: 6/17 – 6/19

- Day One (June 17): Cybersecurity & AI
- Day Two (June 18): Communication, Mass Communication, Graphic Design
- Day Three (June 19): Business, Marketing, Finance, Entrepreneurship, & Education

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

BSC Advanced Technology Center

Fees: \$25 per individual day or \$150 for all 3 days with dorms

Register at: [registeratbsc.com](https://registeratbsc.com)

# Scholarship Opportunity: SkillsUSA and Aerotek Team Up Again!

- Tracy Becker, Trade, Industry, Technical & Health Education Supervisor



## MAKE YOUR MARK SCHOLARSHIP

We're excited to announce that **SkillsUSA has once again partnered with Aerotek** to launch the fourth round of the **"Make Your Mark" Scholarship Program!** This outstanding opportunity is designed to support SkillsUSA members pursuing education and training in the skilled trades and to help remove financial barriers along their career paths.

The **"Make Your Mark" Scholarship** supports the SkillsUSA Career Model and aims to expand the talent pipeline for future skilled trades leaders, while improving economic outcomes for students. This year's scholarships are for the **Fall 2025** academic term, with individual awards of up to **\$5,000** based on verified educational costs.

### Who is Eligible?

- High school seniors or current/enrolling postsecondary students with expected direct educational costs for Fall 2025.
- Registered and paid SkillsUSA members for the 2024–25 school year.
- Students enrolling in community college, technical college, certificate programs, or apprenticeship programs.
- Students pursuing careers in:
  - Construction
  - Manufacturing
  - Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics
  - Telecommunications Cabling Training
  - Electronics Technology or Industrial Engineering Technology

*(Note: Past "Make Your Mark" scholarship recipients are not eligible.)*

### Important Dates:

- **Application Opens:** April 14
- **Application Deadline:** May 30
- **Recipient Announcement:** June 30

### Scholarship Details:

- Scholarships will be applied directly to the student's Fall 2025 tuition and related educational expenses.
- If certain expenses (like required tools) can't be billed through the school, recipients must provide documentation to receive direct reimbursement.

Recipients must also submit a Scholarship Acceptance Form, official documentation of costs, and a thank-you message to Aerotek.

Encourage your eligible students to **"Make Their Mark"** and apply for this fantastic financial aid opportunity!

🔗 [Click here to access the application and full scholarship details.](#)

Let's help our students remove barriers to their success and support the next generation of skilled trades professionals!

# Insights from the RUPReady.ND.gov Survey

-Laura Glasser, Career Resource Manager

In early 2025, NDCTE surveyed schools across North Dakota to learn how [RUPReady.ND.gov](https://rupready.nd.gov) and its integrated tools—Compass, CareerViewXR, and Methodize—are being used. Nearly 60 schools responded, representing a mix of small rural districts and large multi-building districts. The feedback highlighted what's working well and offered thoughtful suggestions for how the platform can continue evolving to support meaningful career development for students.

## Who's Using RUPReady.ND.gov —and How

Survey responses show that delivering RUPReady.ND.gov is a team effort. Career Development Counselors, CTE teachers, Career Advisors, Work-Based Learning Coordinators, and Special Education teachers were the professionals most commonly involved. Most students engage with RUPReady.ND.gov on a monthly basis. While some schools use it more often, time constraints in others limit use to just a few lessons per year.

## What's Working Well

Respondents highlighted several features that are widely used and valued. Career Assessments—such as the Interest Profiler, Work Values Sorter, and Basic Skills Survey—remain the most frequently used tools. Resources like the Career Plan Builder and Compass Career Profiles also ranked high. The RUPReady.ND.gov Plan of Study and Compass Profile are both frequently used to build Four-Year Plans.

Schools reported success using CareerViewXR for immersive career exploration, whether through VR headsets or web-based video tours. There's also a growing use of Methodize ACT Test Prep as a support for ACT readiness.

## Where We Can Improve

There were comments related to the need for a more modern, intuitive user interface. We're pleased to share that XAP is actively working on updates to streamline the navigation and improve the student experience in RUPReady.ND.gov. A barrier mentioned by respondents was a lack of dedicated time during the school day to use RUPReady.ND.gov. While we can't create more hours in the day, our goal is to make every interaction with RUPReady.ND.gov as efficient and impactful as possible so that more educators feel confident incorporating it into their work with students.

Many respondents expressed a strong interest in making the single sign-on process easier. North Dakota's upcoming transition to Infinite Campus may help streamline access—and that remains the goal.

## Training: What Professionals Want

There's strong interest in in-person training, with many valuing the chance to connect face-to-face. At the same time, the flexibility of hybrid and virtual options is appreciated. Looking ahead to the 2025–26 school year, professionals can expect a variety of formats—including in-person workshops, live virtual sessions, and short recorded videos focused on specific features. This will include customized support for tools like Methodize, based on feedback requesting clearer guidance and more targeted resources.

## What's Next?

This survey gave us more than feedback—it gave us a roadmap. Professionals across the state are using RUPReady.ND.gov to make a difference in students' lives, and they're eager to do more. We're listening. Based on your input, we're exploring platform updates, new training models, and improved integrations to support your work.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey!

If you have any questions about RUPReady.ND.gov, contact Laura Glasser at [leglasser@nd.gov](mailto:leglasser@nd.gov) or 701-328-9733 and visit [www.cte.nd.gov/CRN\\_Resources](https://www.cte.nd.gov/CRN_Resources)



# Inspiring Tomorrow

## CTE Educators Workshop

**July 14-17, 2025**

Advanced Technology Center, Bismarck State College

### Free Workshop

### Priceless Experience

Equip yourself with the tools and insights to prepare North Dakota's future workforce in automation, energy and advanced manufacturing. This workshop delves into Industry 4.0 technologies (Fanuc robots, PLCs, drones, 3D printing), advanced and assistive technologies and crucial inclusive practices that empower individuals with disabilities with the employability skills needed for Competitive Integrated Employment.



**Spots are limited!**

Register now at: [bit.ly/bsc-inspire2025](https://bit.ly/bsc-inspire2025)

#### Schedule

Monday, July 14 . . . . . 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Tuesday, July 15 . . . . . 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 16 . . . . . 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Thursday, July 17 . . . . . 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

#### Participant Benefits:

- 2 credits (\$100) or 3 credits (\$150) reimbursed
- \$500 stipend for attending
- \$100 stipend for evening meals
- Lunches and snacks included
- Travel reimbursement (up to 100 mile, based on home address)
- Lodging reimbursement (\$107 per night, 3 nights)



**FREE**

**STEMfinity Bit Board Rover Kit  
for your classroom!**



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[bismarckstate.edu](https://bismarckstate.edu)

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# INITIATIVE CHOICE-READY

TEACHER WORKSHOP  
JUNE 24-26 | 8 AM – 4 PM



Ensure your students are choice-ready by leveling up **YOUR** skills!

High school instructors, counselors, and administrators are invited to an immersive professional development experience. Gain hands-on exposure to North Dakota's high-demand career fields and discover direct applications for your curriculum and district initiatives, ensuring students graduate choice-ready. Workshop assignments are designed for immediate practical use!

## FREE WORKSHOP INCLUDES:

- Complimentary breakfast and lunch daily
- Dorm accommodations (limited)
- Hands-on learning sessions
- Teacher Credit Available
- Evening Impact Workshops for Additional
- Teacher Credit (optional)

## AGENDA

**Tuesday, June 24, 8 AM – 4 PM**

Power Generation, Oil & Gas Production, Automation & Robotics, and GIS, UAS, & Engineering Technology

**Wednesday, June 25, 8 AM – 4 PM**

AI & Cybersecurity

**Thursday, June 26, 8 AM – 4 PM**

Experiential Learning, Educator Mental Health, Student Anxiety and College Readiness, Integration of Arts and Mass Communication

## EVENING IMPACT WORKSHOP AGENDA

**Tuesday, June 24, 4:30 – 7 PM**

Prepared and Protected: Strategies for School Safety and Self-Defense

School violence has created a critical need for safety preparedness in P-12 schools. This workshop addresses this by equipping educators with self-defense skills, incident analysis, and the development of practical school safety proposals, fostering confidence and informed action to create safer learning environments.

**Wednesday, June 25, 4:30 PM – 8 PM**

Legislative Impact Mixer: Bridging the Gap Between Policy and Practice

This workshop provides a structured forum for educators, legislators, and teacher preparation programs to discuss the complex interplay between legislation and education. Participants will analyze the pressures faced by educators and explore how legislation can effectively support schools, fostering a collaborative understanding of current challenges and potential solutions.

**REGISTER AT:**

[bismarckstate.edu/ChoiceReady](http://bismarckstate.edu/ChoiceReady)

**SCAN  
ME >>**



# NDACTE Update

- Carla Hixon, NDACTE Director



## NDACTE Accepting Impact Award Applications

NDACTE is looking to recognize CTE excellence in the following two categories

- Business Education Partnership
- Champion for CTE

NDACTE Impact Awards, recognize groups and individuals from education, business and industry communities who enhance career and technical education by contributing to the improvement, promotion, development, and progress of CTE.

Learn more about the nomination guidelines and how to submit a nomination for ACTE Impact awards at: [ACTE Impact Awards - ACTE Online](#). The Impact Award nominations are automatically moved on to the national level and will be recognized at the NDACTE Awards. All nominations must be submitted on the [ACTE Awards Portal](#) by **June 30**. If you have any questions, please contact Carla Hixon [NDACTE@outlook.com](mailto:NDACTE@outlook.com).

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR CTE PROFESSIONALS:

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's suite of free professional development resources is also 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/>. 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.

This Month's CTE Learn online learning center's learn/share selection is: [High-Quality CTE: Engaging Instruction](#) - CTE students need opportunities to demonstrate knowledge and skills that are aligned to standards through active and engaged learning strategies. For this reason, Engaging Instruction is one of ACTE's 12 elements of high-quality CTE within the ACTE Quality CTE Program of Study Framework®. This course addresses instructional strategies in a student-centered learning environment that supports attainment of relevant content knowledge and skills. It is designed to provide CTE educators with tools to create cross-curricular classroom content for technical, academic, and employability skill development in a dynamic learning environment. Integrating various methods of content delivery through authentic project-, problem-, inquiry-, and challenge-based learning will be addressed, as well as differentiating learning and practical applications considering the equipment, technology, and course-related materials utilized.

## About NDACTE

*The North Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education (NDACTE) is an association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. NDACTE represents the community of CTE professionals, including educators, administrators, researchers, school counselors, guidance and career development professionals and others at all levels of education. NDACTE is committed to excellence in providing advocacy, public awareness and access to resources, professional development and leadership opportunities.*

## Division openings on the NDACTE Executive Board:

The Administration, Career Development, and Trade, Industry and Technical Divisions have board member terms expiring in August. Duties of 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:

Pam Strokland at [pam.strokland@minot.k12.nd.us](mailto:pam.strokland@minot.k12.nd.us)  
Haley Jeannotte at [haley.jeannotte@willistonschools.org](mailto:haley.jeannotte@willistonschools.org)  
Bryan Stastny at [Bryan.stastny@k12.nd.us](mailto:Bryan.stastny@k12.nd.us)  
or Carla Hixon at [NDACTE@outlook.com](mailto:NDACTE@outlook.com) if you are interested.

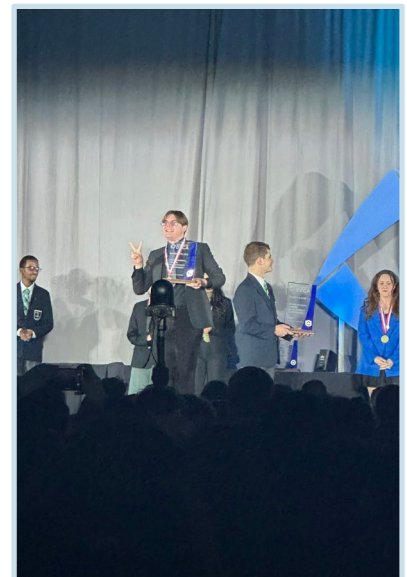
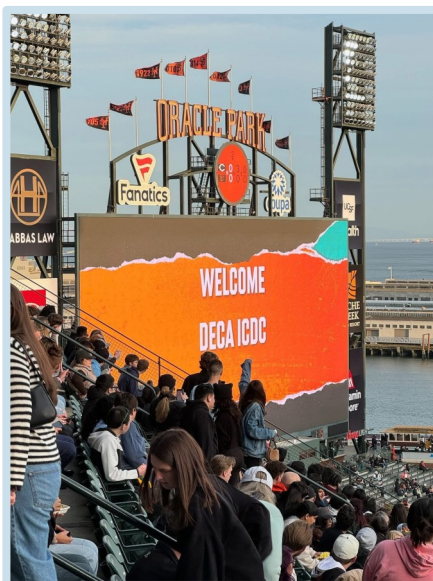
# ND Collegiate DECA ICDC Recognition

- Dustin Norby, State DECA Advisor

Forty-seven ND Collegiate DECA members competed at the International Career Development Conference in San Francisco, CA, alongside 1,300 other participants. North Dakota came home with a national champion title, a second-place finish, and five other events in the top 10. In addition, three more events made it to the finals, and four others were recognized for their exceptional exam performances. Before the conference, North Dakota also secured a first and second place in the online competitions.

ND Collegiate DECA has active chapters at Bismarck State College, Lake Region State College in Devils Lake, Mayville State University, Minot State University, North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton and Fargo, University of Mary, University of North Dakota, and Valley City State University.

Bismarck State College was a new chapter this year, thanks to former high school competitors Greyson Connelly (Beulah) and Cammie Veldcamp (Jamestown), who played a key role in organizing the chapter and were our state's top performers at the national level.





# State Director's Column

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

## 69th Legislative Assembly



By the time you are reading this, the 69<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session should be complete. This will be the agency's final Legislative update for 2025.

The Department of Career and Technical Education tracked 149 bills, with topics ranging from property tax relief, various agency budget bills, and school choice. The following are the bills that survived the session, that the agency worked on directly or watched closely and have an impact on Career and Technical Education.

**HB1098** – A bill that would allow students pursuing the General Education Educator Pathway coursework to be eligible for the State Scholarship.

**HB1188** – A bill that would provide Area Career and Technology Center Boards more flexibility in assessing fees to member schools. A CTE Center Board must now assess a membership fee to its members and then may assess a fee based on student enrollment.

**HB1498** – A bill that would permit school and area career and technology center boards to provide a signing bonus for new teachers.

**SB2019** – This is the Department of Career and Technical Education budget bill. The amounts below are increases to the Department's current budget.

\$4M was added to address Cost to Continue expenses.

\$3M was added for New and Expanding CTE programs.

\$500,000 was added for the Work-Based Learning Coordinator Grant.

\$2.5M was added for Perkins spending authority. This is only authority to spend additional dollars if the State's Perkins allocation is increased.

\$100,000 increase for Market Place for Kids.

\$750,000 increase for TrainND.

\$1,000,000 was provided to continue and expand access to Virtual Reality Career Exploration.

Finally, \$300,000 in funding was provided to the Department for moving expenses. It was decided during the Legislative Session that the 15<sup>th</sup> floor is to be used by Legislative Council and NDCTE will be leaving the Capital. In the coming months, the Department will secure a new location and move its operations. We will ensure we keep you updated as we make progress in the move.

**SB2274** – A bill that will transition the Farm Management Education program from NDCTE to the Department of Agriculture.

I would like to thank everyone for all the work done locally during the Legislative process. Thank you for all you do for the students of North Dakota!

For any questions, please feel free to contact me at [wasick@nd.gov](mailto:wasick@nd.gov).

Wayde Sick  
State CTE Director

## North Dakota CTE Board Members

Sonia Meehl, Chair  
Oakes

Mike McHugh, Vice Chair  
Bismarck

Levi Bachmeier  
West Fargo

Kirsten Baesler  
Dept of Public Instruction  
Bismarck

Patrick Bertagnolli  
Job Service ND, Bismarck

Lyndsi Engstrom  
Westhope

Dr. Mark Hagerott  
ND University System,  
Bismarck

Eric Nelson  
Williston

Jason Rohr  
Jamestown

## Assistant Director's Corner



*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.

### Thank You CTE - It's been an Honor!

*- Mark Wagner, Assistant Director*

Dear Career and Technical Education,

As the school year draws to a close, I am writing to share that I will be stepping away from my role as Assistant State Director of the North Dakota Career and Technical Education (CTE) Department, effective July 7<sup>th</sup>.

Serving the state of North Dakota over the past ten years has been one of the greatest honors of my professional life. I've been fortunate to work alongside a dedicated team.

I have had the privilege of working with an extraordinary community of educators, counselors, administrators, and board members. Your passion, dedication, and commitment to student success have been a constant source of inspiration.

Together, we've strengthened and expanded CTE programs that have empowered students, supported educators, and made a lasting impact in our communities. From launching new initiatives to driving innovation in classrooms and broadening access to meaningful opportunities, I will always take great pride in the work we've done collectively.

This decision was not made lightly. My time with the CTE Department has been incredibly fulfilling, and I'm grateful for every challenge, achievement, and partnership along the way. It has been a privilege to contribute to the advancement of career and technical education in North Dakota.

As I prepare to transition from this role, I remain committed to ensuring a smooth and effective transition. I have full confidence that the department will continue to thrive with the strength, leadership, and support of this incredible community.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you and allowing me to be part of this important work. I will always look back on this experience with pride and deep appreciation.

Take care,

*Mark Wagner*