

Newsletter

Unlocking the Power of AI in Education

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

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming education, offering educators tools to enhance teaching and personalize learning. Here's a look at some cutting-edge AI tools that can revolutionize your classroom.



Khanmigo

Khanmigo, an AI-powered virtual tutor developed by Khan Academy, brings one-on-one tutoring to the next level. It interacts with students in real time, helping them with challenging concepts by providing explanations, hints, and personalized practice exercises. This tool can significantly reduce the learning curve, particularly in subjects like math and science.

Magic School is a versatile AI platform designed to streamline administrative tasks and support educators with lesson planning and student engagement. It offers a wide range of tools, from automating grading to generating creative classroom activities. Magic School saves teachers valuable time, allowing them to focus more on teaching and student interaction.



Teach AI is an innovative platform that supports educators in integrating AI concepts into their curriculum. It provides resources, lesson plans, and hands-on projects that make learning about AI accessible and engaging for students of all ages. Teach AI helps students develop essential skills for the future, from understanding machine learning to ethical AI use.



School AI focuses on improving school management and communication. It offers AI-driven insights into student performance, enabling educators to identify at-risk students and intervene early. The platform also enhances communication between teachers, students, and parents, fostering a more collaborative and supportive learning environment.



Brisk Teaching

Brisk is a productivity-enhancing AI tool that helps educators with administrative and organizational tasks. From automating email responses to managing schedules and deadlines, Brisk ensures that teachers stay on top of their workload with minimal effort. This tool is ideal for educators who juggle multiple responsibilities.

By integrating these AI tools into your teaching strategy, you can enhance student learning, streamline your workload, and stay ahead in the rapidly evolving educational landscape.

DATES OF INTEREST

November 5-7, 2024
West Fargo Vision Visit

November 12-14, 2024
Southwest Area CTE Center Vision Visit

December 2-4, 2024
Legislative Organizational Session

December 10-12, 2024
Bismarck State College Vision Visit

January 7, 2025
1st Day of Legislative Session

February 3-5, 2025
CTE in Memorial Hall, Bismarck

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The Textile Industry Re-energizes for the Future

- Ann Dietchman, Family & Consumer Sciences Education Supervisor

During my years in Family and Consumer Sciences, I have watched how the textiles and apparel industry in the United States has taken a back seat to many other workforces needs in our country. Between 1979 and 2019, employment in the domestic textile/apparel industries declined by over 80% or over 1.3 million jobs as factories in the U.S closed one by one. However, I am enthusiastic about the future of the textiles industry in our country. In recent years, we have seen our enrollments in textiles and clothing classes grow and with it brings students who are excited and looking for career opportunities in the field.

I had the pleasure of meeting Kathlyn Swantko about a year ago. Kathlyn is a native of Minot, ND, and a graduate of NDSU in the field of textiles and apparel. She has worked her entire life in this field only to witness the growth and excitement of the industry fade as the jobs in this field have been outsourced to other countries.

Kathlyn and her husband Tom along with others in the industry have been working tirelessly to create an awareness of bringing these jobs back to the United States. After years of decline, this industry is moving towards a future driven by advancements in new technologies and demands for sustainability. Textile Associations are becoming actively involved in promoting textile industry workforce education programs, skills training, apprenticeship programs, and awarding scholarships to find and keep skilled employees.



The Swantko's, who participated in the FCSE portion of our annual professional development conference in August in Bismarck, are playing an important role in this re-growth of the industry and are excited to announce the launch of "The Textile Gateway". This will connect the textile industry to students from elementary schools to universities. The central theme of this program is to

find and inspire the next generations of leaders, innovators, and the workforce needed to grow this industry. Tom Swantko, director of the Gateway program, explains, "The mission of The Textile Gateway is to educate and encourage students at all levels' outreach and promote the many career paths within the industry; and serve as a catalyst for future innovation." It's important to note the textiles industry offers more to the next generation than just fashion design. The future of the industry hinges on sustainability, smart textiles, bio-based/bio-inspired textiles and future applications for AI are expanding opportunities for scientists, engineers, and innovationists who have most likely never thought they would become involved with textiles.

In North Dakota, Family and Consumer Sciences has enjoyed watching our textiles and apparels classes grow to new heights! We are excited to see new resources for students in these classes that will promote available careers in the industry. The Textile Gateway has just launched. It provides teachers and students with a broad range of resources, including videos for education and skill development. The gateway provides resources for k-12 and university students, a library of fiber and fabric information, along with the ability to connect with the industry. The platform includes opportunities for teachers to interact, share lesson plans and ideas, and for the industry to interact with students online or in person at schools. To learn more about the Gateway, check it out at: [The Textile Gateway](#)

Welcome Laura Mehrer to the North Dakota CTE Staff

A new program specialist joined the staff last month in Bismarck. Many of you will be hearing from or working with Laura throughout the year.

“My name is Laura, and I’m very excited to be starting the position of Program Specialist with CTE! I’m originally from Wyoming and Nebraska, where I have background in agriculture and FCCLA. I received my bachelor’s degree at the University of Wyoming in International Studies with concentrations in Governance and Conflict Resolution in Europe and the Former Soviet Union.

Recently, I honorably separated from six years in the United States Navy where I was an Electronic Warfare Operator flying on Boeing P-8A Poseidon aircraft specializing in radar, imagery, and threat early warning sensors. I deployed three times to Iceland, Italy, and the Middle East.

My skillset is very dynamic and I look forward to expanding it with the State of North Dakota!”



Laura Mehrer

CTE IN MEMORIAL HALL

FEBRUARY 3-5, 2025 | 7:30A - 1:30P
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING | BISMARCK



Career and Technical Education programs play a crucial role in enhancing the workforce development pipeline by equipping students with essential skills and industry experiences that align with current market demands.

To demonstrate the value of these programs, join ND Career & Technical Education CTE in Memorial Hall event showcasing your CTE programs for North Dakota legislators. By doing so, state lawmakers can witness firsthand how CTE programs foster a more skilled and adaptable workforce, reduce unemployment rates, and stimulate economic growth.

This showcase provides an opportunity for students to exhibit their hands-on experience and real-world job training, highlighting the direct impact of CTE on their future and future workforce.

Applications Close Friday November 22nd



NDACTE Awards New Professional Travel Stipend Recipients

Each year, North Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education sets aside funds to assist in national conference first time attendee's expenditures (maximum of \$500). To be eligible, applicants must be a current NDACTE member and a first-time attendee to any ACTE national conference. This year's recipient winners are Aaron Commings from Valley Middle School in Grand Forks and Cara Davis from Red River High School in Grand Forks.



Aaron indicated he was looking forward to the ACTE VISION Conference to help him grow as a professional and to implement something that will hopefully lead to student growth and understanding of materials.

Cara indicated that she is ready to expand and improve upon what she is currently doing in the Career Development program. She is also looking forward to meeting other Career Z Finalists that will be in attendance and network with peers at the ACTE VISION Conference.

Congratulations and thank you for your commitment to make a real difference in students' success!

Career Protection for ACTE Members

Educators face many challenges in schools these days, but inadequate professional liability protection doesn't need to be one of them. ACTE's Members Insurance Program offers affordable professional liability insurance for educators in any school setting. The Educators Professional Liability Plan for employed educators provides \$1 million in liability protection starting at \$108 a year and features:

- Broad coverage for a range of exposures associated with your professional duties if your school won't or can't adequately defend you.
 - All defense costs paid in addition to the liability limit if you end up in court.
- Job protection benefits if you're subject to a job action such as demotion, transfer, reassignment or dismissal.

For more information go to www.ftj.com/go/ACTE-Pro

CTE Learn

Whether you are looking for engaging professional development or a more convenient way to obtain continuing education credits and advance your career, CTE Learn courses are designed for you. This online professional development tool offers educators 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 are available to all NDACTE members with no charge.

To learn more about CTE Learn go to [North Dakota ACTE - Online Learning Center \(ctelearn.org\)](http://North Dakota ACTE - Online Learning Center (ctelearn.org)). Free classes are under the Free Resources tab on top.

State Director's Column

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

Modernized National Career Clusters® Framework Released

There is big news for Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, professionals and the learners they serve! Advance CTE has just released a modernized National Career Clusters® Framework that is intended to be an industry-driven, learner-centered, and inclusive roadmap for learners to explore and prepare for good jobs across the entire world of work.



The Framework has served as the foundation of CTE programs across the nation for more than two decades, but to meet the rapidly changing world of work and the skills and knowledge learners need to navigate and enter that world required a more modern and dynamic Framework. This is a chance to “open the floodgates” of innovation to maximize the benefit of the Framework for learners, education, and industry, according to Advance CTE Board of Directors President Thalea Longhurst. Learn more about the Framework on the Career Clusters section of Advance CTE’s [website](#).

What does this mean for us?

The Framework not only serves the 11.4 million learners in CTE but also informs all career pathway preparation programs and initiatives in both the public and private sector to help learners have access to more personalized paths to living-wage jobs and gain skills for a variety of careers. We will be working with:

- **CTE educators** to align, design, and deliver programs that are interdisciplinary in nature, include stronger career exploration and advising models, and enhance the connection between in- and out-of-classroom experiences, such as work-based learning.
- **Industry and employers** to provide a robust pipeline of workers with a lifelong learning worldview whose interests, skills, and work-based experiences align with their hiring needs.

Advance CTE has committed to working with states and national partners through the implementation process to ensure the Framework serves as a powerful organizing tool to address states’ learners and labor market needs and to innovate the next generation of systems, programs, resources, and more for the future of CTE. curriculum and standards with the CTE field. [Sign up](#) for regular updates on the latest news and resources connected with the Framework.

Please contact me wasick@nd.gov if you have any questions.

North Dakota CTE Board Members

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Assistant Director's Corner

Ensuring Excellence in Career and Technical Education Programs

- Mark Wagner, Assistant Director



Mark Wagner
Assistant Director

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.

In today's rapidly evolving workforce, quality Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs play a critical role in equipping students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed no matter what route they take to their chosen career. High-quality CTE programs are defined by their commitment to aligning curricula with current technology, business, and industry standards and providing hands-on learning experiences. These programs help bridge the gap between education and employment, preparing students to be competitive in a range of fields from engineering, healthcare, and information technology to skilled trades and advanced manufacturing.

A hallmark of a quality CTE program is its strong connection to local industries. Partnerships with businesses allow students to learn directly from industry professionals and gain insights into the skills, knowledge, and competencies required in their future careers. By collaborating with industry partners, CTE programs ensure that their curriculum is relevant and that students are prepared for current and future workforce needs. Work-based learning opportunities are essential to this process, providing students with invaluable real-world experience that goes beyond traditional classroom instruction.

Another crucial aspect of maintaining quality in CTE programs is continuous improvement through program evaluation and feedback. Quality programs undergo regular assessments to measure their effectiveness and alignment with industry standards. Input from students, teachers, and program advisory boards that include industry partners helps CTE administrators identify areas for improvement, ensuring that programs remain responsive to technological advancements and evolving workforce needs. Many successful programs also incorporate performance metrics and outcome tracking to assess student success post-graduation, further reinforcing their commitment to continuous improvement.

Another vital feature of high-quality CTE programs is supporting students' growth with career guidance. Students are empowered to explore career pathways, develop technical skills, and gain certifications that provide a competitive edge in the job market. This holistic approach fosters not only technical proficiency but also critical soft skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and communication, which are essential in any professional setting.

Ultimately, quality in CTE programs benefits both students and the broader community. By investing in programs that align with local and national workforce needs, CTE initiatives contribute to building a skilled, adaptable workforce that drives economic growth and stability. Through innovative curricula, partnerships with business and industry, and a commitment to lifelong learning, quality CTE programs open doors to meaningful, high-wage careers and provide students with a solid foundation for future success.