

# Newsletter

## Did You Lose Some Money?

-Brad Hoffarth, Technology and Engineering / Information Technology Education Supervisor

One of the great aspects of being the Technology and Engineering Education Supervisor for North Dakota CTE is the privilege of working with three STEM Grants. These grants offer a fantastic opportunity for schools and students in our state to gain new experiences or try out new technologies, thanks to the efforts of those who take the time to write and apply for them.

### Are You That Someone?

If you're reading this, then the answer might be yes. Perhaps these grant opportunities will spark an idea that benefits the youth in your community. It's a chance to create partnerships with teachers in your building and even those in neighboring districts. The next step is up to you.

### Tell Me More About These Grants.

As I mentioned, I work with three distinct grants each offering a new funding source:

#### Grants for Innovation (Up to \$3,500 for Public Schools)

- This grant aims to support new, innovative science, technology, engineering, or innovative programs for K-12 students with preference for projects involving co-curricular STEM competitions.
- Recently, this grant has supported robotics programs in the state. Schools have used the funds to start and sustain robotics programs and tournaments. If you're interested in similar initiatives or have a new idea, fill out the application [here](#).

#### STEM Innovation and Integration Matching Grant (Up to \$15,000)

- This grant encourages business and industry partners to participate in and contribute to STEM activities in K-12 education, integrating STEM into existing or new programs.
- With a high demand for skilled people across fields, now is a great time for schools to seek business and industry partners. If you need equipment that isn't affordable for your department, this grant provides an opportunity to find partners willing to fund your dream project. More information is available [here](#).

#### STEM Days for Students Grant (Up to \$3,500)

- As a member of the NDSTEM Ecosystem Board, I work with passionate STEM advocates statewide. This grant encourages educational entities and business/industry partners to engage in STEM activities/projects for K-12 students within North Dakota's four designated STEM Ecosystem Regions (Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest) especially benefiting rural and tribal communities.
- Eligible recipients include K-12 districts, Area Career and Technology Centers, REAs, colleges and universities, non-profit organizations, and other entities directly impacting K-12 education. More details can be found [here](#).

I want to thank the North Dakota Legislators for supporting STEM in our state. If you have the opportunity, I hope you will do the same. We've been entrusted with funds to support and grow STEM and I hope you feel inspired to enhance STEM in your school. Remember, funds are limited so apply early. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out.

## DATES OF INTEREST

### October 13-14, 2024

DECA Fall Conference, Fargo

### October 15-16, 2024

DECA Collegiate Fall Conference  
Fargo

### October 6-7, 2024

FBLA Fall Conference, Bismarck

### October 27-28, 2024

TSA Fall Conference, Valley City

### December 2-4, 2024

Legislative Organizational Session

### January 7, 2025

1<sup>st</sup> Day of Legislative Session

### February 3-5, 2025

CTE in Memorial Hall, Bismarck

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# NDACTE Updates:

- Carla Hixon, NDACTE Director

## Membership Winners!

NDACTE is pleased to announce the following winners:

**Membership Recruitment Drawing** for \$35 incentive awards goes to: Ashley Sailer, Paul Zettler giving the winnings to new member recruited Cara Davis, Pam Strokland giving the winnings to new member recruited Heather Speer and Greg Heitkamp giving the winnings to new member recruited Candi Smith.

**Congratulations** and THANK YOU for sharing with others why NDACTE / ACTE is a great investment in yourself!

**Membership Incentive Drive** – all active NDACTE members by Sept 1 were entered into a drawing for six \$50 gift cards from either Scheels or Amazon. Members drawn were:

\$50 Scheels Gift Card winners are Shelly Christensen, Shawn Feiring, and Cameron Young

\$50 Amazon Gift Card winners are Seth Murray, Karissa Schaffer, and Shannon Balerud

**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 postsecondary 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. More information can be found at [careertechvision.com](https://careertechvision.com).



- Carla Hixon, NDACTE Director





## NDACTE Updates:

### ACTE Region V Leadership Conference

April 30 - May 3, 2025

Las Vegas, Nevada

#### Registration

- Early Bird rates  
\$450 for ACTE Members and \$500 non ACTE Members, ends February 1,
- \$ 475 for ACTE Members and \$575 non ACTE Members, from Feb 2-April 10  
\$ 500 for ACTE Members and \$600 non ACTE Members, from April 11-25

#### Hotel Rates and Reservations: Conference Venue – South Point Hotel and Casino Room Rates:

Monday 4/28/2025: \$85.00

Tuesday 4/29/2025: \$85.00

Wednesday 4/30/2025: \$85.00

Thursday 5/1/2025: \$85.00

Friday 5/2/2025: \$205.00

- Minutes away from the famous Las Vegas Strip
  - A variety of 11 restaurants that cater to all appetites and tastes
  - More than 2,100 of the most popular slot and video poker machines
- A unique feature to this property is its Equestrian Center, which is the finest horse facility in the country

**Call for Presentation Proposals** is open until November 1, 2024. This is an excellent opportunity for educators and community/business partners to share resources that support career and technical education and promote this year's theme: Rolling the Dice on Innovation in CTE.

**Keynote Speaker is Dr. Yong Zaho** - His work focuses on the implications of globalization and technology on education. He has also worked with numerous schools to design new models of education within the existing school.

**More Information can be found at [Region V 2025 \(google.com\)](#)**

#### First-time attending an ACTE event this year? Apply for a travel stipend!

##### Professional Development Travel Stipends Available

ND Association for Career and Technical Education has set aside \$1,000 to assist in national conference first-time attendees' expenditures (Maximum \$500 to an attendee). To be eligible, you must be a current NDACTE member and a first-time attendee to any ACTE national conference. All application forms must be submitted before **October 1, 2024**, to be considered. Forms can be found on the NDACTE.com website (use QR Code) under Professional Development or by contacting NDACTE Executive Director, Carla Hixson at [NDACTE@outlook.com](mailto:NDACTE@outlook.com).

## Understanding Sponsorships, Placements, and More at Golden Path

Welcome back to school from Golden Path Solutions! We're excited to partner with NDCTE and schools across the state for continued student career exploration opportunities this year. Watch for our updates in the NDCTE newsletter to keep informed about what's available for your students.

We really want to spread the word about Sponsorships and Placements through Golden Path. These services help students to secure employment after high school. There is no cost for students to participate in either of these opportunities.

With Placements, our professionals actively match students with open job positions at our partner employers. We work hand-in-hand with students to guide them through the application and interview process and regularly check in with them during their first six months of employment.

Sponsorships are similar but include a postsecondary element. In these partnerships, employers cover part or all of a student's schooling costs in exchange for a signed work agreement to work for the company for a set amount of time. Often, the employer provides sponsorships for postsecondary schools and programs they feel best prepare their future workforce.

[Learn more about these services](#) at Golden Path Solutions, including how to get started.





# State Director's Column

-Wayde Sick, State Director, NDCTE

## North Dakota Be Legendary Board Training

As I reported back in August 2023, the State Board for Career and Technical Education is participating in the North Dakota Be Legendary Board Training. This has been interesting and exciting work as the Board focuses its work on student outcomes. If you remember, in April, my article focused on the adopted Board's Student Outcome goals and Goal Progress Measures. To recap they are as follows:



The percentage of students identified as concentrators in Career and Technical Education as measured by the Consolidated Annual Report will increase from 28.5% in January 2024 to 40% in January 2028. The percentage of students who graduate Workforce Ready will increase from 88% in the 2022-23 school year to 93% in the 2027-28 school year as measured by the North Dakota Choice Ready Report.

The percentage of rural students that enroll in a program at a CTE Center will increase from 36% in 2022-23 to 41% in 2027-2028 as measured by the CTE Center Membership Report.

Since then, Director Guardrails have been drafted and approved. A guardrail is defined as a specific operational action that is not used or allowed and are aligned with the vision (goals) and grounded in community values. The Director Guardrails are listed below:

- The Director will not allow inequitable access to quality programs with the State of North Dakota to go unreported to the Board.
- The Director will not allow the Department to operate without systems to ensure high quality instructors.
- The Director will not allow the Department to operate without systems in place to encourage public/private partnerships.

There is still a lot of work to be done, but the Board and I are excited and motivated to continue to move forward with a new focus.

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

Wayde Sick  
State CTE Director

**Wayde Sick**

**ND CTE**

**State 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

## Assistant Director's Corner



Mark Wagner, Assistant Director

NDCTE

### 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.



### Updates from the Data Quality Institute Fall Conference Career Clusters Framework

Advance CTE has announced major updates to the National Career Clusters Framework. Initially developed in 2002, the framework has undergone limited revisions since its inception, leading to the need for a more modernized approach to reflect current industry demands and interdisciplinary trends.

The National Career Clusters Framework provides a structure that bridges education and the workforce. It exposes learners to new and emerging fields, ensuring industry alignment, and preparing students for the dynamic future of work. They hope that with updated language and groupings, the framework will reflect the interconnected nature of today's industries and prepare students for interdisciplinary roles.

Efforts to update the framework have been extensive and data-driven, including input from:

- Industry profiles based on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) and Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes.
- Labor market data points from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
- Industry advisory groups and educator focus groups.
- A national implementation survey and gap analysis.

The initial release of the updated framework is scheduled for October 21-23 at Advance CTE's Fall Meeting.

One of the key goals of the update is to create a framework that reflects the entire world of work. By incorporating industry feedback, the framework introduces new sub-clusters that may lead to opportunities for new programs of study. The updated framework can be adjusted or customized to meet local labor needs, making it more responsive to regional and state-specific workforce demands.

The major changes to the framework are as follows:

- **Reorganization, not removal:** All previous components of the framework remain but have been reorganized to fit modern structures.
- **Introduction of modern industry focuses:** The inclusion of advanced technologies, automation, and robotics reflects the significant changes in the industrial landscape.
- **Expansion of IT to Digital Technology:** This change emphasizes the growing importance of digital skills across industries.
- **Merging of clusters:** For instance, Law and Public Safety have been combined with Government and Public Administration, while Health Sciences and Human Services have also merged.

**Dissolution of STEM cluster:** STEM has now been absorbed into other cross-cutting clusters, ensuring that the interdisciplinary nature of science, technology, engineering, and math is better integrated across the sector.

With the upcoming release of the revised framework, career and technical education stakeholders can expect significant shifts in how students are guided toward their career paths. The framework aims to better prepare learners for a future driven by technological innovation, interdisciplinary roles, and evolving career opportunities. For more information, visit [CareerTech.org](https://www.careertech.org) and follow @CTEWorks on social media.