

Newsletter

February is CTE Month

- Dawn Ulmer, Strategic Projects Manager



Get ready to celebrate CTE Month by sharing how CTE is ***Igniting Potential, Inspiring Excellence!***

SHARE

- What you are doing to ignite potential and inspire excellence in the young people you work with.
- Use the templates that have been created to share stories, photos and achievements.
- Ask your Business Partners to share how they see the potential in young people and what they do to inspire excellence.
- Feature students and employers working together in programs supported by CTE.

INSPIRE

- Inspire others with photos of students at work matched with inspirational quotes.
- Include any inspiring or unique stories that showcase students overcoming adversity and finding success through CTE experiences.
- Ask students to express how they have been inspired to reach higher goals through CTE. Encourage them to talk about how CTE is helping them to “Ignite Potential” as they plan for the future.

CELEBRATE

- Celebrate achievements with everyone by showing how you are celebrating CTE Month!

FEATURE

- Feature a significant supporter of your school or center's CTE programs once or twice a week through the month of February. Whether it is an individual or a business, share how they support your program and what it means to you and your students.
- How are these supporters ***Igniting Potential and Inspiring Excellence?***

SPOTLIGHT

- Recognize the CTE educators or staff in your school/center!
- Feature their programs, what they are doing that is unique or special, and how they are they ***Igniting Potential and Inspiring Excellence?***

Use the following Canva Templates to share your CTE Month celebration:

Square Social Media Templates:

- [Template 1](#)
- [Template 2](#)
- [Template 3](#)

[NDCTE Story Template](#)

[Print Out Template](#)

Dates of Interest

February 3-5, 2025

CTE in Memorial Hall, Bismarck

February 12-13, 2025

Collegiate DECA State Conference

March 2-4, 2025

DECA State Conference

March 16-18, 2025

TSA State Conference

March 23-24, 2025

FBLA Collegiate State Conference

March 30-April 1, 2025

FBLA State Conference

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New Face at CTE

-Shila Leno, Health Sciences Education and Public Safety Education Supervisor

It's great to be back at the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education. I reluctantly left a bunch of wonderful people years ago and I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with them again, as well as to get to know all of the fantastic new people that have come along over the years. For those of you who don't know me, I've been asked to provide a brief introduction.

Back in the 90's, I enlisted in the Army National Guard as a medic. Over the years, I've worked in multiple clinics ranging from general practitioners to dental and optical. After returning to college and graduating from VCSU, I taught Health Science at Century High School in Bismarck and then went to work for NDCTE, but switched to the Center for Distance Education after the birth of my son so that I could stay home with him. I taught online for NDCDE for over 6 years and then took a position as CTE Director at United Tribes Technical College. After I was unable to transition into full time as planned, I moved into a consulting role and then taught as an adjunct for them for the last couple of years.

In addition to teaching, I have enjoyed my most important role as mother of three amazing kids. My oldest daughter is a physical therapist in Las Vegas and my middle daughter just graduated from NDSU in December. My youngest is a 2nd grader who keeps me very busy in my spare time. Aside from chasing him around, I enjoy time with the rest of my family, my husband, and our pets. I'm passionate about lifelong learning and enjoy reading anything health related that I can get my hands on. I have been a certified health coach with a nutrition specialist credential for over 5 years and in addition to "excessive reading," I partake in countless hobbies that keep me active such as skiing and hiking.



CTSO Perspective

- Teagan Erbele, FFA Secretary



FFA holds a special place in my life because it has taught me so many valuable life lessons that have helped shape me into the person I am. My time as an FFA member has allowed me to grow my confidence, learn new skills, expand my knowledge and interest in agriculture, and has provided me with so many amazing career opportunities. It is because of my involvement in FFA that I have the skills and mindset I need to be successful. I am truly thankful for the opportunities that CTE classes and CTSOs give to students, and I am so honored to get to be a part of such an influential organization.

Teagan was a member of the Napoleon FFA chapter for six years and is currently serving as the ND FFA Secretary. She will be attending North Dakota State University in the fall majoring in Agricultural Education with a minor in animal science.

Help Your Students Find Summer Opportunities with Compass

-Patrick Mineer, Golden Path Solutions

Help Your Students Find Summer Opportunities with Compass

Now is the perfect time to help students find work-based learning (WBL) or other career-focused work experiences for this summer. By using RUPrepare.ND.gov and Compass, students can browse available WBL opportunities, reach out to employers, and find a summer opportunity that helps prepare them for their future.

Golden Path Solutions recommends the following steps to support your students in their summer opportunity search:

1. Update their Compass student profile.

Compass can make the most meaningful recommendations when the student profile is updated and accurate. Encourage students to log into RUPrepare.ND.gov and spend a few minutes looking over their profile and adding their most recent classes and activities.

2. Browse opportunities.

Compass makes career exploration easy by recommending opportunities and Career

Profiles based on student profile information. Suggest that students start with the closest matches, but also recommend that they look around at other opportunities. They might be surprised at what they learn about a career or employer!

3. Allow Golden Path Solutions to connect them with employers.

When students or their guardians provide consent, Golden Path professionals can directly connect students with employers. Ask students to toggle "yes" for "Connect Me with Employers" in Compass if they are interested. We will reach out to them for a short phone conversation about their interests and goals.

4. Reach out to employers.

When students find opportunities that interest them, they can reach out to employers directly through Compass. They can also apply for positions. You can monitor work-based learning opportunities and applications through the RUPrepare.ND.gov Professional Center, which is integrated with Compass.

As a reminder, school professionals and students in North Dakota access Compass through [RUPrepare.ND.gov](https://www.ruprepare.nd.gov).

For more information about Compass and Golden Path Solutions, please visit us at www.goldenpath.net or contact us at info@goldenpath.net.



Don't get left behind! Enroll in Google's free Generative AI for Educators course today and unlock a world of possibilities for your classroom.

- Brad Hoffarth, Technology & Engineering and IT Education Supervisor

The newest of new tricks is AI. Many teachers are using it, many teachers fear it and what it will bring soon, and many are just keeping their distance. Like it or not, it is here, and it might be the best thing to help you become a better educator.

Google has created a **free** two-hour self-paced course designed to help teachers like you leverage the power of AI to:

- **Personalize instruction:** Meet the individual needs of every student.
- **Enhance lessons:** Create more engaging and interactive learning experiences.
- **Increase efficiency:** Save valuable time on tasks like grading and lesson planning.

Developed in collaboration with MIT RAISE (Responsible AI for Social Empowerment and Education), this course requires no prior AI experience. Upon completion, you'll receive a certificate and may even be able to use it towards professional development credits.

This all can be done with little or no previous knowledge of AI. This program was developed by Google in collaboration with MIT RAISE (Responsible AI for Social Empowerment and Education). There is no cost for this course. You will even earn a certificate upon completion of the course. Maybe you can even use it for PD credit, depending on your school district. IT teachers can use it toward fulfilling their 30 hours of continuing education needed to renew their CTE Endorsements.

Can AI help you? I am guilty, I don't use it enough. So, I just typed in "why teachers should take this course" into Google Gemini and here is the response.

Here are some reasons why teachers should consider taking a generative AI course for educators:

Stay Ahead of the Curve:

- Generative AI is rapidly changing the educational landscape.
- Understanding its capabilities and limitations is crucial for effective teaching in the future.

Enhance Teaching and Learning:

- **Personalized Learning:** AI can help create customized learning experiences for individual students, addressing their unique needs and learning styles.
- **Increased Efficiency:** Automating tasks like grading, creating lesson plans, and providing feedback can save teachers valuable time.
- **Enhanced Creativity:** AI tools can spark new ideas for lesson plans, projects, and assessments, making learning more engaging and creative.
- **Improved Student Engagement:** AI-powered tools can create interactive and personalized learning experiences that capture student interest.

Develop Essential Skills:

- **Critical Thinking and Evaluation:** Learn to critically analyze AI-generated content and guide students in doing the same.
- **Digital Citizenship:** Understand the ethical and responsible use of AI in education, including issues like data privacy and bias.
- **Problem-Solving and Innovation:** Explore how to leverage AI to solve educational challenges and foster innovation in the classroom.

Professional Development:

- Gain valuable knowledge and skills that can enhance your professional development and career advancement.
- Stay informed about the latest advancements in educational technology.
- Connect with other educators who are exploring the use of AI in their classrooms.

By taking a generative AI course for educators, teachers can gain the knowledge and skills they need to effectively integrate AI into their teaching practices and prepare their students for success in an increasingly AI-powered world.

***Disclaimer:** The specific benefits and features of a generative AI course will vary depending on the course provider and curriculum.*

I hope this helps! Let me know if you have any other questions.

I hope you consider taking this FREE training and see what AI can do for you.

Written by Brad Hoffarth and Gemini

Exclusive Opportunity for ND Tech & Engineering Educators: Elevate Your Teaching with a FREE 4-Day Training!

-Brad Hoffarth, Technology & Engineering and IT Education Supervisor

ITEEA and NDTEEA will be hosting a four-day training at Valley City State University. The training will guide teachers on how to use the Engineering by Design curriculum that is free for North Dakota Technology and Engineering Teachers. The overlap of material will even benefit teachers using the Project Leads the Way curriculum.

Benefits to ND Educators

- Free 4-day professional development
- Free meals and lodging
- \$200 stipend
- Earn 2 VCSU credits for a small fee
- Solar Sprint kit, FREE

SPACE IS LIMITED, REGISTER TODAY!

This is going to be a great week and I am looking forward to working with each of you. For more information, please see the workshop flyer below.



North Dakota Engineering byDesign™ Summer Professional Learning byDesign Workshop *Calling all Middle and High School Educators!*

June 16-19, 2025

Hosted by Valley City State University, North Dakota and brought to you by NDTEEA

Be part of an exciting and immersive four-day teacher training in 2025, in which you'll dive into the Engineering byDesign™ (EbD™) curriculum for middle and high schools. This hands-on training will provide you with practical experience through engaging activities and collaborative projects, thoroughly preparing you to bring these innovative courses to your students. You'll explore the core concepts and methodologies of EbD™, participate in real-world engineering challenges, learn about our Technology Student Association (TSA) alignment, and learn effective strategies to enhance student engagement and learning. Throughout the workshop, you'll have the opportunity to connect and collaborate with fellow educators, building a supportive network that will extend beyond the four-day training.

- Breakout sessions will focus on middle and/or high school specific content to ensure that you are equipped with the skills you need to deliver these curricula to your students!
- Two Graduate Credits are available through Valley City State University upon successful completion of the workshop (\$100 additional fee payable to Valley City State University).

[A free ITEEA account is required to register for the workshop](#)

North Dakota Educator Cost: Training is completely free to ALL North Dakota middle and high school educators. In addition all ND educators will receive free lodging, meals, and a \$200 stipend upon completion of the training (registration currently open)!

Non-North Dakota ITEEA Member's Cost: \$699 per member. Each participant is responsible for travel, meal, and lodging expenses. (Registration opens February 10th, 2025).

Non-North Dakota Non-ITEEA Member's Cost: \$899 per person. Each participant is responsibility for travel, meal, and lodging expenses. (Registration opens February 10th, 2025.) [Save by joining ITEEA for only \\$95 per year!](#)



FULL WORKSHOP DETAILS

www.iteea.org/events/nd-ebd-training

REGISTER NOW

<https://www.iteea.org/events/nd-ebd-training/register>



iteea.org/stem-center

NDACTE Update

- Carla Hixon, NDACTE Director

NDACTE Receives QAS Award at VISION

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 2025 for the following awards:

- North Dakota ACTE Teacher of the Year
- North Dakota ACTE Postsecondary Teacher 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 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 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 Nominations Are Open

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 the state association 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 **April 15, 2025**. If you have any questions, please contact North Dakota's Awards Committee Chair, Ashley Michael at Ashley.Michael@k12.nd.us or Carla Hixon NDACTE@outlook.com.

NDACTE Update

- Carla Hixon, NDACTE Director



CTE Learn Series

Just launched is the High-Quality CTE Series—designed to empower educators with the knowledge and tools to excel in career and technical education. Each course aligns directly with the ACTE Quality CTE Program of Study Framework, providing actionable insights and strategies to improve your programs and student outcomes.

High-Quality CTE Course Series consists of:

1. Standards-aligned and Integrated Curriculum: <https://nd.ctelearn.org/HQ101>
2. Sequencing and Articulation: <https://nd.ctelearn.org/HQ102>
3. Student Assessment: <https://nd.ctelearn.org/HQ103>
4. Prepared and Effective Program Staff: <https://nd.ctelearn.org/HQ104>
5. Engaging Instruction: <https://nd.ctelearn.org/HQ105>
6. Access and Equity: <https://nd.ctelearn.org/HQ106>
7. Facilities and Equipment, Technology and Materials: <https://nd.ctelearn.org/HQ107>
8. Business and Community Partnerships: <https://nd.ctelearn.org/HQ108>
9. Student Career Development: <https://nd.ctelearn.org/HQ109>
10. Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs): <https://nd.ctelearn.org/HQ110>
11. Work-Based Learning: <https://nd.ctelearn.org/HQ111>
12. Data and Program Improvement: <https://nd.ctelearn.org/HQ112>

Why take these courses?

- **Tailored for CTE Professionals** - Focused on the critical elements of high-quality CTE programs.
- **Self-Directed Learning** - Complete at your own pace and gain skills to address specific areas for improvement
- **Professional Growth** - Use the Framework's self-assessment tool to identify where you can expand your expertise
- **Convenient Access** - Part of the CTE Learn subscription, accessible 24/7 online

Visit <https://nd.ctelearn.org/category/high-quality+cte> to learn more!

State Director's Column

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



69th Legislative Assembly

The first month of the 69th Legislative Assembly has come and gone. The Department of Career and Technical Education is currently tracking 140 bills, which most we are simply watching. There are many that we are working in Committee and meeting rooms, for the benefit of Career and Technical Education and the students it serves. Below is the list of Legislative Bills we are spending most of our time on.

HB1036 – A bill to create a division of apprenticeship, within a state department.

HB1037/HB1249 – A bill that would provide an appropriation to the Department of Career and Technical Education, to provide for a grant of UAS Workforce Training. These two bills are duplicates.

HB1188 – A bill that would provide Area Career and Technology Center Boards more flexibility in assessing fees to member schools.

HB1498 – A bill that would permit school boards to provide a signing bonus for new teachers. The Department will be asking for it to be amended to include Area Career and Technology Center Boards as well.

HB1517 – A bill that would create a North Dakota Student Teacher Scholarship program.

SB2019 – This bill is the Department of Career and Technical Education Appropriations bill.

SB2131 – A bill that would place the TrainND Funding Policy in North Dakota Century Code.

SB2239 – A bill that would create an apprenticeship grant program, that would offset expenses a new apprentice may have.

SB2263 – A bill that would provide a grant for school districts funds to complete a mastery framework.

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

As a CTE advocate, and a citizen of North Dakota, you can be involved in the process. The Legislative process is transparent, and thanks to technology, can be accessed anywhere. The following link allows citizens to watch House of Representatives and Senate Floor Sessions and Committee Hearings; contact their local Legislators; search and track specific bills and submit written and verbal testimony. A North Dakota login ID will need to be created to track bills and submit testimony. A login is not necessary to watch video of Floor Sessions or Committee Hearings.

[Legislative Bill Tracking System | North Dakota Legislative Branch](#)

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.

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North Dakota's Postsecondary CTE Programs: Shaping Future Careers and Driving Workforce Development

- Mark Wagner, Assistant Director

With a growing demand for skilled workers, North Dakota's postsecondary CTE programs are rising to meet the needs of industries across the state, equipping students with the hands-on experience and technical expertise that employers need and are looking for.

Postsecondary CTE programs are educational pathways that provide specialized training and education in fields such as healthcare, manufacturing, information technology, agriculture, and more. These programs prepare students for immediate entry into the workforce with skills that are in high demand. North Dakota's postsecondary institutions offer a range of certificates, diplomas, and degrees, all designed to give students the practical knowledge and credentials needed to succeed in their chosen fields.

North Dakota's post-secondary institutions have a variety of CTE offerings tailored to local industry needs and are key providers of advanced CTE training in various specialized programs of study. These schools work closely with local businesses and industries to ensure that the training aligns with current job market needs.

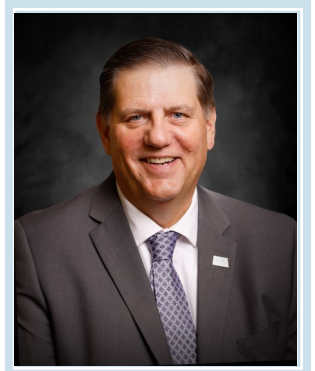
As North Dakota faces challenges related to its aging workforce and the increasing demand for skilled labor, CTE programs are a critical solution. Employers are seeking workers with specific, hands-on training in areas like welding, CNC machining, robotics, electrical work, and computer programming. CTE programs meet this demand by preparing students for direct entry into these industries, helping bridge the gap between education and employment.

Many of these programs also feature apprenticeship opportunities and work-based learning, which allow students to gain valuable real-world experience while earning their credentials. These partnerships are especially beneficial for students who want to jumpstart their careers as soon as they graduate, providing them with job offers from local companies before they even complete their programs.

By equipping individuals with high-demand skills, these programs help strengthen the state's workforce and contribute to the growth of key industries. Furthermore, as students graduate and enter the workforce, they bring valuable skills to a variety of sectors, from healthcare to construction to technology, ensuring that North Dakota's economy remains competitive and innovative.

As North Dakota continues to grow and diversify its economy, the need for skilled workers will only increase. Postsecondary CTE programs are poised to play an even more significant role in addressing this need, as they evolve to meet emerging technologies and industries. These programs are the training ground for the next generation of workers who will power North Dakota's economy. The state's commitment to expanding and improving these programs reflects a forward-thinking approach to workforce development. With ongoing investment in both educational institutions and industry partnerships, North Dakota is setting the stage for a strong, skilled workforce for years to come.

In conclusion, North Dakota's postsecondary CTE programs are essential in preparing students for successful careers and helping to drive the state's economic growth. By providing access to hands-on training in fields with high demand, these programs offer students an affordable and practical pathway to meaningful employment. As the state continues to invest in CTE, it will not only enhance opportunities for its residents but also strengthen its competitive edge in the national and global workforce. For individuals seeking a rewarding and stable career, North Dakota's postsecondary CTE programs offer a promising future in a variety of dynamic industries.



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.