

Newsletter

Guenther Scholarship Reminder

- Michael Netzloff, Educational Equity, Private Career Schools, & Special Populations – Standards & Curriculum Specialist

The Reuben T. Guenther Scholarship is given in memory of Reuben T. Guenther, a leader in Career and Technical Education (CTE) in both the state and nation. Mr. Guenther was first a CTE student, then a secondary CTE instructor, a local administrator supportive of CTE programs, and finally a member of the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education from 1968 to 1995.

Mr. Guenther was also appointed to the National Advisory Council on Career Education by President Reagan in 1982. At the time of his retirement in 1995, Mr. Guenther was the North Dakota State Director of Career and Technical Education.

One scholarship in the amount of \$500 will be awarded in May 2025, to be used for the 2025-2026 school year. Eligible applicants must meet all the following requirements:

- Be a graduating senior from a North Dakota high school in 2025.
- Have completed one or more career and technical education courses between grades 9 and 12; (Career and Technical Education courses may be in any of the following programs: Agriculture Education; Business Education; Family and Consumer Sciences; Information Technology; Marketing Education; Technology and Engineering Education; or any of the programs in Trade, Industry, Technical and Health Education).
- Enroll in a two-year North Dakota public, postsecondary institution.
- Enroll as a full-time student in a career and technical education program of two years or less.

Please watch the ND CTE website under Students/Family and Scholarship Opportunities for this year’s link to the application material to appear here: [RTG Guidelines for Website.pdf](#)

The application portal will open January 15, 2025, and close April 1, 2025. Please encourage all eligible CTE students to apply!

Dates of Interest

January 7, 2025

1st Day of Legislative Session

January 21-23, 2024

Bismarck State College Vision Visit

February 3-5, 2025

CTE in Memorial Hall, Bismarck

February 12-13, 2025

Collegiate DECA State Conference

March 2-4, 2025

DECA State Conference

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North Dakota Financial Literacy Standards

- Jessica DeVaal, Business Education Supervisor

North Dakota CTE, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, and the Bank of North Dakota have been working together on the North Dakota Financial Literacy Content Standards (K-12) as a part of the North Dakota Financial Literacy Commission. The North Dakota Financial Literacy Content Standards provide educational guidelines for school and district curriculum development. They are designed to equip learners with essential knowledge and skills for managing their finances as they transition into adulthood. The standards emphasize practical skills such as balancing bank statements, saving, budgeting, managing credit, and understanding paycheck withholdings and taxation. Additionally, learners will gain proficiency in completing job-related forms, handling college expenses, navigating mortgages and rent, planning for retirement, and making informed investment decisions.

The Financial Literacy Standards are currently under development and scheduled to be completed in the spring of 2025. Schools and districts are encouraged to become familiar with these standards and should review and align local curriculum and instructional materials for full implementation in 2026-2027. The standards developed for K-8 around financial literacy will provide background knowledge for those schools that offer a high school CTE Financial Literacy course.

The standards writing committee has met twice this fall and will be releasing the standards for public comment the beginning of January. DPI will also be looking for people willing to serve on the Review Committee (scheduled to meet on February 6). The standards writing committee will meet two more times during the spring of 2025 to review public comment and make final revisions. The Public Comment survey and Review Committee application will be available on the [ND DPI website](#) under Content Standards and Upcoming Events.

Questions? Please reach out to Jessica DeVaal (jdevaal@nd.gov) or Davonne Eldredge (deldredge@nd.gov)



North Dakota FCSE Professionals Receive Recognition at ACTE's Vision 24 National Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

- Ann Dietchman, FCSE Program Supervisor



Isaiah MacDonald, FCSE teacher at Mandan High School

Isaiah MacDonald, FCSE teacher at Mandan High School received the 2024 ACTE/FCSE Division Graduate Fellowship Award. Mr. MacDonald receives a \$2000 Scholarship to use towards furthering his education at North Dakota State University (NDSU) as a graduate student in Family & Consumer Sciences Education (FCSE). Isaiah was unable to attend the conference. Mrs. Ann Dietchman, FCSE Program Supervisor at ND CTE, presented Isaiah with his award on December 16th

Dr. Mari Borr, Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences at NDSU, received recognition for her outstanding contributions to the field of FCSE. For more than 35 years, Dr. Borr has worked tirelessly to promote the field of FCSE across the nation. As a teacher educator at North Dakota State University Dr. Borr guides potential Family and Consumer Sciences teachers through the higher education system.

She has re-defined the teacher education program in such a way that students are drawn to it – some as eager college freshmen and others as seasoned adults seeking additional knowledge and skills to bring to their own middle school and/or high school classroom. The FACS education program has been revitalized and stabilized by her energy and enthusiasm for teaching and for the massive body of knowledge labeled as Family and Consumer Sciences. She continues to go out of her way to ensure that students at NDSU receive both her personal and professional support on their journey to becoming professional educators.

Dr. Borr is a recognized role model by the North Dakota FACS teachers. She develops and teaches on-site and on-line courses needed by current professionals to retain their teaching licenses and for those seeking a deeper understanding of subject matter to improve their own teaching skills. In addition to working with NDSU enrollees she has been an active participant and presenter in conferences and workshops within the state of North Dakota and across the nation. Under her leadership NDSU has become a participant in the Great Plains IDEA (Interactive Distance Education Alliance) providing students with an online option for a master's degree in FACS Education.



Marla Sterling, Award Presenter Representing ACTE-FCSE Division: A
Dr. Mari Borr, Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences

NDACTE Update

- Carla Hixon, NDACTE Director

NDACTE Receives QAS Award at VISION

North Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education representatives accepting the North Dakota's Quality Association Standards (QAS) award at this year's ACTE VISION Conference.

The purpose of the QAS is to provide benchmarks for state associations to assess association performance levels and help evaluate the quality of service offered to members and prospective members. The key objective of the award is to aid states in assessing their organizational structure and determine whether leadership is delivering minimum, average or superior programs for members. The goal of the QAS is to prompt states to challenge themselves to improve and maintain the very best possible organization and leadership for their members within the association's means



ACTE's National Policy Seminar 2025

Registration is now open for ACTE's National Policy Seminar to be held March 16-19 in Arlington VA at the Crystal Gateway Marriott.

- Engage on key federal education policy priorities
- Influence federal policies related to career and technical education (CTE) advocacy and messaging
- Participate in Capitol Hill visits

To see firsthand how attendees engage with policymakers on Capitol Hill at ACTE's National Policy Seminar (NPS) visit our [NPS photo album](#) and [CTERN album](#)

Early Bird (by 2/16)

\$410 – ACTE Member Rate

\$430 – ACTE Member Rate

For more information go to [ACTE's National Policy Seminar 2025](#)

NDACTE CTE Learn

Get free access to a wide variety of professional development tools and resources, including ACTE community groups and webinars. This upcoming webinar is an overview of the trends from 2024.

State Policies Impacting CTE: 2024 Year in Review

Feb. 27, 2025 2:00 PM CST

Each year, Advance CTE and ACTE track and analyze state CTE policy. The 2024 report marks the 12th annual review of CTE and career readiness policies from across the United States. This webinar shares an overview of the trends from the 2024 report and online tracker, highlighting key topic areas including funding, industry partnerships and work-based learning, and access and equity. State leaders will share in-depth examples of policies enacted in their states, including insights as to why and how these policies came to life and their thoughts on implementation strategies. [Sign Up](#)

NDACTE Update

- Carla Hixon, NDACTE Director



ACTE's National Work-Based Learning Conference 2025

2025 Work-Based Learning Conference will be held April 2-4, 2025 at Hyatt Regency in Bellevue, Washington.

More than 1,000 CTE professionals will gather to discuss the hottest topics in Work-Based Learning, network with colleagues and industry partners, and hear from exciting keynotes. This Conference is designed for you to:

- Build strong education-workforce connections, opportunities and experiences
- Cultivate a comprehensive and collaborative work-based learning ecosystem
- Provide students with core employability, technical and career-readiness skills
-

Registration and more information is available can be found at [2025 ACTE Work-Based Learning Conference](#)

ACTE Region V Conference: April 30 - May 3, 2025

Region V: Rolling the Dice on Innovation in CTE

The Region V Conference will be held at The South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.



The analogy of "rolling the dice" in Las Vegas aptly illustrates the uncertainty and risk involved in trying new approaches in the classroom. Just like in a game of chance, introducing innovative teaching methods or materials can bring unpredictable outcomes—sometimes resulting in success, while other times, not yielding the desired results. However, despite the uncertainties, taking these risks is an integral part of growth and improvement in education. Each attempt, even if it doesn't turn out as expected, offers valuable insights and the opportunity to learn and refine strategies for future success. The key is to embrace the uncertainty, learn from both successes and setbacks, and adapt accord-

ingly to continually enhance the learning experience for students. This is what CTE educators do best! You are invited to attend and learn from the best!

Register Now, early bird registration ends Feb 1! [Region V 2025 - Registration](#)

State Director's Column

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

69th Legislative Assembly



I hope you all had a relaxing and fun filled Holiday Break. The calendar has now rolled over to 2025, which means the 69th Legislative Assembly is upon us. For the next four months, the North Dakota Legislature has the tremendous task of debating several policy bills and setting the State's budget for the 2025-27 Biennium. This article provides information on how to stay informed and be involved in the Legislative process.

First, there are a few important dates to keep in mind:

January 7th – First day of session. Governor Armstrong will also provide his first State of the State address that afternoon.

January 20th – The last day for members of the House of Representatives to submit a bill. Senators can only submit three more bills after this date.

January 27th – Deadline for Senators to submit a bill.

February 28th – Crossover: All bills must be out of the originating Chamber and crossed over to the 2nd Chamber. Legislators are on recess until March 5th.

April 9th – All Bills must be reported out of Committee in the 2nd Chamber. Bills the two Chambers disagree on are assigned to a Conference Committee to iron out differences.

May 2nd – 80th day of session. The North Dakota Constitution limits our State Legislature to 80 days per biennium. The Legislature typically tries to save a few days, in the event they need to return during the Interim to handle special business.

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 needs to be created to track bills and submit testimony. A login is not necessary to watch video of Floor Sessions or Committee Hearings.

[North Dakota Legislative Branch | North Dakota Legislative Branch](#)

Thank you for all you do for the students of North Dakota and for Preparing Tomorrow's Workforce.

For any questions, please feel free to contact me at wasick@nd.gov.

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Assistant Director's Corner

CTE Month—Elevating CTE's Impact

- Mark Wagner, Assistant Director

Each February, the Career Technical Education (CTE) community celebrates CTE Month to raise awareness of opportunities and impact achieved for every learner and leader through its programs. CTE month is an opportunity to reflect on the success of CTE programs while looking ahead to new opportunities in an ever-changing job market. CTE Month provides a platform to highlight the importance of career technical education and its far-reaching impact on students, industries, and communities. During CTE Month, schools, communities, and industries engage in a variety of activities, including open houses, career fairs, workshops, and competitions. These events offer a closer look at the different career pathways available through CTE while providing students with networking opportunities and industry exposure. Social media campaigns, posters, and videos also help raise awareness about CTE's value and showcase its real-world impact. Each year, this special month allows for a multi-faceted celebration of CTE's role in the educational system and workforce development.

Introducing CTE to New Audiences: CTE Month offers an opportunity to introduce the concept of career and technical education to those who may be unfamiliar with it. For many, the term "CTE" might not immediately bring to mind the diverse pathways it offers for both academic and career growth. During this month, CTE advocates and educators actively engage with local communities, policymakers, and the public to demonstrate how CTE programs serve as a powerful tool for student achievement. It also allows industry partners to highlight how CTE-trained workers are critical to their operations and innovations.

Highlighting Success Through Storytelling: For those already familiar with CTE, CTE Month is a chance to share success stories that illustrate the impact of these programs on students' lives and the economy. From high school students discovering their passions in welding, to adult learners acquiring new skills in cybersecurity, storytelling is a powerful way to showcase how CTE programs help shape learners into confident, capable professionals. These narratives not only inspire others to consider CTE as an option but also demonstrate how CTE training directly addresses the needs of an evolving job market.

Empowering CTE Students and Educators: Beyond awareness, CTE Month serves as an opportunity to motivate and empower those currently in the CTE field to continue striving for excellence. Students in CTE programs are gaining the skills, knowledge, and experience that will set them apart in their chosen career path. Educators, too, are celebrated for their dedication to developing curricula and creating pathways that bridge the gap between education and the workforce. Through CTE Month events, students are encouraged to explore their passions, pursue certifications, and continue growing in their chosen fields. For educators and administrators, the month provides a moment to reflect on the innovations in CTE delivery, technology integration, and the critical partnerships formed with the business and industry.

CTE Month reminds us of the importance of providing quality career technical education to the next generation of workers. By raising awareness, sharing success stories, and empowering current students and educators, to ensure that students are well-prepared for the future.

As we celebrate CTE Month, we acknowledge the transformative power of education that equips individuals with the skills needed to succeed in careers, industries, and communities. With CTE, learners are not just preparing for



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.