



ALASKA ACTE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 1, 2005

Alaska Association for
Career & Technical Education
<http://www.actealaska.org>

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President's Message *From Kris Forrester*

It has been a challenging, yet rewarding year for me as president of the Alaska Association of Career and Technical Education. Ellen Long, who is president-elect, will become the president of the organization July 1, 2005. In this newsletter you will find the information on officer nominations for next year. Please take the time to consider nominating someone or running for an office yourself, the organization needs you. We are also looking for people to serve on Ad Hoc committees; it is time for the organization to grow and to start to let Alaska know the importance of Career and Technical Education.

The proposed Bylaws were passed and will be posted on the AACTE website. The changes in the bylaws will allow the organization to run smoothly and efficiently.

The Professional Development Conference received high marks from its participants on the evaluations. This year the emphasis of the conference was to provide up-to-date relevant training for instructors and administrators. This training will be continued at the Anchorage School District Technology Conference in February and in June at weeklong camps. The information about the February conference is included in this newsletter and the information about the summer trainings will be made available on DEED website under the Career and Technical Education portion.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the entire AACTE executive board, which has worked at the highest level of professionalism throughout the year. Each of them took on additional work and made a personal commitment to meet the needs of the members.

Happy New Year!

We Need Help – Join A Committee !!

Regional Council Committee: Committee members will work with the executive board to represent their region on the needs of members in areas such as: professional development, advocacy, best practices, etc. There are six regions that are formed by the guidelines under the Alaska School Activities Association. (See Map Below)

Members will need to commit to monthly teleconferences and be willing to sit on ad hoc committees such as the Professional Development Conference Committee, Legislative Committee, etc.



AACTE Awards

The following awards were presented at the November 2004 Professional Development Conference:

Business/Information Technology Teacher of the Year

Steven Cook from Palmer High School was selected as the Business/Information Technology Teacher of the Year. Glencoe/McGraw Hill sponsored this award. Steve was recognized for his efforts in curriculum development, student-run enterprises, and Business Professionals of America (BPA).

He is currently the Alaska BPA advisor who organizes the student Performance-Based Assessment Conference and represents the State of Alaska on the national Classroom Advisory Educators Council (CEAC) for BPA. Steve was honored for his professionalism and impact on students, particularly in assisting students in reaching national certifications.

Career & Technical Education Administrator of the Year

Dwight Probasco, Principal of Wasilla High School, received the CTE Administrator of the Year Award. This award was sponsored by AACTE. Dwight was honored for the continued support offered to CTE programs at Wasilla.

The Career and Technical Student Organizations such as BPA and SkillsUSA have had decades of success. The CTE staff is well connected to industry. Programs such as the Mat-Su Construction Trades and the Certified Nursing Assistant had their beginnings there. Dwight was recognized for his understanding of the goals and mission of CTE and long-term commitment.

Community Contribution Award

Laurie Prax from Valdez was selected for the Community Contribution Award, sponsored by ACTE. Laurie operates the KVAK radio station in Valdez where high school students have created and produced weekly radio broadcasts for over ten years through the Communication Technologies class. Ms. Prax has also served as the Junior Achievement Coordinator for Valdez City Schools for many years.

She was recognized for her ability to highlight student achievement, her countless hours of working directly with children, and her willingness to develop the ties between local commerce and the schools.

Hospitality/Tourism Teacher of the Year

Sarah Parks, the Family & Consumer Sciences teacher at Houston High School, was selected as the Hospitality/Tourism Teacher of the Year. Glencoe/McGraw Hill sponsored this award. Sarah was honored for being the first in Alaska to develop a ProStart Program, which emphasizes culinary arts tied directly to the industry. There are now eight schools in Alaska who participate.

Sarah has been teaching for over 30 years, but she continues to seek innovative teaching techniques and programs to meet the needs of her students. Her students are receiving industry certifications in sanitation and customer service. She is recognized for leadership and excellence.

Industrial/Technology Teacher of the Year

Dan Sparkman, Radio and Television instructor at the King Career Center in Anchorage, is the Industrial/Technology Teacher of the Year. Glencoe/McGraw Hill sponsored this award. His students are well prepared and valued as they transition to the industry; many of them intern at

KTUU. Mr. Sparkman's students are held to high performance standards and are participants in Skills USA.

Dan was honored for his community ties, curriculum ties to industry, and willingness to help any learners. His integrative approach to teaching seamlessly blends academic and technical skills in a project-oriented curriculum. His energy and positive attitude were noted as the key to building the student and community collaboration.

Leadership Award

Dr. Karen Schmitt, Career Education Dean for the University of Alaska Southeast, was recognized with the AACTE Leadership Award. The Community and Technical College at UAA sponsored this award. Dr. Schmitt's efforts towards the revitalizing of the Career Education Department were noted. According to her peers, she has a management style that has taken care of business yet also increased the morale and camaraderie in the department.

Karen was honored for tireless energy, wisdom, professionalism and understanding of what it takes to be a team player. She has over 15 years of leadership in career education and directing research and outreach programs.

New CTE Teacher of the Year

Diane Maples from Valdez High School was selected as the New Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year. Glencoe/McGraw Hill sponsored this award. She is a business teacher, recognized for her standards-based approach to learning and providing for real life experiences for pupils. Students have received Alaska Food Handlers licenses and Alaska Host Certificates.

Ms. Maples sponsors a BPA (Business Professionals of America) chapter that has done well on the state and national level. Her mentorship of BPA students has helped grow students into leadership positions. Diane was recognized for her professionalism, work ethic, and enthusiasm—a trendsetter for career and technical education.

Promising Practices Award

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District Welding Advisory Committee received the Promising Practices Award, which was sponsored by the Business Education Compact. The criteria for this award required strong partnerships, best practices, vision, longevity, and professionalism.

The classroom teacher for the Welding Program is Jack Simpson.

The committee's membership represents post-secondary instructors and providers, union training programs, small business owners, statewide employers, school district operations and maintenance, and American Welding Society (AWS) members. It is this partnership which has allowed the MSBSD to move to a newly remodeled facility, upgrade curriculum, renew the teaching site as a SENSE school, start adult training classes, and offer state-of-the art welding instruction to students on a district-wide basis.

Please Join Us!!

Why join AACTE? We are the state's professional organization for anyone who has a sincere interest in promoting career and technical education. We work to provide professional development opportunities for teachers, to keep our members up-to-date on legislative affairs, and to spread the word about the benefits of CTE for Alaska's students. But we can't do it alone! We need active members—not only from secondary schools but also from post-secondary institutions, businesses, labor organizations, and other agencies—who will work together to strengthen CTE and to encourage professional growth among career & technical educators.

AACTE currently has around 150 members—just think—if we could double our membership, we could double our capacity to support and strengthen CTE for students in Alaska!

Please join us as we work to ensure that Alaska's students are able to achieve the technical and academic skills they need. Individually, we each do so much at our own school or agency; collectively we can do a great deal more throughout our state.

We invite you to become involved in AACTE. Volunteer for a committee, run for office, or just join and give us your input on how we can better serve the cause of CTE in Alaska.

ELECTION OF AACTE OFFICERS

Throughout Alaska are many highly qualified, energetic CTE professionals that must come forward and nominate themselves or another CTE person for the AACTE executive board. We have stronger membership in numbers and enthusiasm but it must be sustainable with quality leadership.

If you are interested in running for an executive office or know of an individual who is willing to run please contact Therese Pempek, AACTE Past President by February 28, 2005. She will then contact each candidate and will have them write a brief description of their goals for the association and their involvement in CTE. Nomination statements will be featured in a future newsletter with an enclosed ballot.

Nominations currently sought are President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email address _____

Return your nomination to the following by February 28, 2005.

Therese Pempek
Wrangell High School
PO Box 651
Wrangell, Alaska 99929

Phone 907-874-3395 ext. 238
FAX 907-874-3143
Email therese_pempek@fc.wsd.k12.ak.us

Anchorage School District Career & Technology Education 2005 Fifteenth Annual February Conference

Welcome to the fifteenth annual C&TE conference hosted by the Anchorage School District. Information and registration is now available on the ASD-C&TE web site:
http://www.asdk12.org/Depts/career_technology

This year's Anchorage School District conference will host over thirty sessions. In addition we are excited to provide a continuation of the "Teacher Strand" training initiatives from the November, AACTE Professional Development Conference.

Career & Technical Education Teacher Strands
These strands will offer participants up-to-date training that is aligned with industry standards

and current materials and resources available for use in the CTE classroom. Training started at the Professional Development Conference (PDC) in November and will continue at the Anchorage School District's February Conference and later at the summer professional development training events. Real world practices and standards will be utilized by business and Industry partners. In most strands if a participant attends all of the trainings at each of these continuing events they will be prepared for nationally recognized industry certifications. Gaining these certifications will allow them to prepare their programs to deliver industry recognized certification to their students.

Strands for teacher training will be provided in slightly different menus to accommodate the uniqueness of the ASD-C&TE mid winter district conference. We are very appreciative to Helen

Mehrkens and the Alaska DEED-CTE for their continuing funding support. Funding is available for travel, substitutes or conference registration. The State has announced that local districts can use their Carl Perkins funding for this training. For more information about state support, go to the ASD-CTE web site, or contact Marcia Olson.

Marcia_Olson@eed.state.ak.us.

Don't delay register today. Deadline for State stipend applications is January 17th. We look forward to a great gathering of C&TE district and state members.

Sincerely,
Rick Rios

"Career – A sustained social contribution for a sustained compensation"
"Technology – The modification of the natural environment in order to satisfy the perceived human needs and wants"

A Few Good Websites

American Career and Technical Association (www.acteonline.org) —The website is a valuable source of up-to-date information on legislative activities, CTE research, and association actions.

Project Lead the Way (www.pltw.org) – National program to increase the quantity and quality of engineers and engineering technologists graduating from our educational

system. PLTW forms partnerships among public schools, higher education institutions and the private section in order to achieve its goal.

NASA's Virtual Skies

(<http://virtualskies.arc.nasa.gov/>) -- This website is designed for use in high schools and flight technology programs. Teachers and students can find current research and explore the fields of aviation technology and air traffic management.

Great Books To Encourage Students To Read

The following books are books that teachers can use in the classroom to highlight employability and work skills with students:

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff series by Richard Carlson
The Right Words at the Right Time by Mario Thomas
The Seven Habits of Highly Successful People by Stephen Covey
Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway by Susan Jeffers
Life Strategies for Teens by Jay McGraw
Who Moved My Cheese? By Spencer Johnson
Fish! By Stephen Lundin, Harry Paul, and John Christensen
Write it Down and Make it Happen by Henriette Klauser

Dates to Remember

Date	Event
February 4 -5	Anchorage School District Technology Conference
February 7 – 11	National Counselors' Week
February 13 – 19	Career and Technical Association Week, (Theme: Creating Tomorrow's Workforce) http://www.acteonline.org/career_tech/tech_week/index.cfm
February 24	Alaska Workforce Investment Board Meeting
April 20 -23	Region V Conference, Mandan ND for information contact Cathy A. Langemo at cathyl@bis.midco.net



**Alaska Association for Career & Technical
Education (AACTE)
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Date: _____

Name: _____

School or Organization: _____

Position or Title: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email (work): _____

Email (home): _____

Please indicate your Membership Category:

- Regular Membership: \$35.00
- Loyalty- Retiree \$15.00
- Full-Time Student \$5.00

**Complete this membership application form and mail it along with your check
made out to AACTE to:**

**Marcia Olson, AACTE
PO Box 33361
Juneau, AK 99803-3361**

**If you have any questions, please contact Marcia Olson, 907-465-8704
or email marcia_olson@eed.state.ak.us.**