

Submitted by Cheryl Graham, Montana ACTE President

"Capture the Spirit of the West" was the theme as the Wyoming ACTE hosted the Region 5 Conference in Jackson Hole on April 11-14, 2012. Montana ACTE was represented by award winners, Mitzi Richards, Shields Valley High School, As Teacher of the Year, and Edie Vogel, New Career and Technical Teacher of the Year, Huntley Project High School. Montana was also awarded the Quality Assurance Association Award for the Consecutive year. We are proud of the accomplishments of these professionals as leaders from Montana in their respective fields through professional development participation, state leadership, and as exceptional leaders of their CTSOs. Congratulations on a job well done. Montana ACTE was represented by a leadership team consisting of JoAnna Kotar, Past President, Cheryl Graham, President, and Mark Branager, Executive Director. Representatives attended Region V meetings and leadership sessions. Mark Branager currently serves on the Region V Policy Committee.

The Wyoming ACTE did a great job of hosting and running this conference. Exceptional speakers included Chad Foster and Alton Jamieson. Both emphasized the importance of leadership development in students and young adults, preparing them for their role as workers and leaders of the future. Past President, Gary Moore gave an inspiring and entertaining talk during Friday's breakfast titled, "The History and Evolution of the Outhouse". Gary did an outstanding job of articulating the life-long impact that CTE can have by incorporating a western theme that was interesting and humorous. Stay tuned, as Gary will be joining us this Fall as our keynote speaker.

Janet Bray, National ACTE Executive Director, and Kimberly Greene, Executive Director for the state director's Association, (NASDTEC), gave short but informative presentations on the scope and direction of CTE from a national perspective. There were a number of breakout sessions that covered topics in technology, developing workplace competences, and leadership development. Region 5 is an opportunity for CTE educators that has great professional value.