President’s Message

When was the last time you heard someone say thank you? According to V.J. Smith, author of the book “The Richest Man in Town,” saying thank you is a dying art, but being grateful is a good thing.

“Have you ever heard that happy people may not always be grateful, but grateful people are always happy?”

Smith then went on to say that it was definitely a good thing when people would go out of their way to say thank you. Smith also added that when you are thankful, you will always have something to smile about.

The Rich Man in Town

His challenge for all of us is to try our best to lift up the life of somebody else, it really changes things.

Food Truck: The Ronan High School CTE Program

Al Berry, the head of Region V ACTE, highlighted the Ronan High School CTE program as one to watch. As the CTE lead, Rockie (Berry) Johnson, taught the students to interact and select from over 30 breakout sessions, such as world trades, hospitality, Memorial, Hospitality and Tourism Tour of Deadwood, Black Hills Pioneer, and other industries such as mining. He is also the head of the Art medical learning Center. Each tour offers a unique CTE learning environment with an evening meal.

Awards and recognition were highlighted at the Crazy Horse Experience and Awards Banquet. Montana had four CTE professional candidates that competed on other Region V candidates: Outstanding New Teacher, Mandy Wichman, Hobson; Lifetime Achievement, Jamie McFarland, Conrad; Teacher of the Year, Kimberli McCullough, Big Timber and Montana Business Teacher of the Year, Shae Bruursema, MAFCSE Teacher.

Congratulations to our Executive Director, Mark Branger as he was recognized for his outstanding leadership and dedication to Region V ACTE. Kim Knoche, Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher at Forsyth High School was awarded the ACTE Region V Innovative Career and Technical Education Program for her use of 3D printing and 3D Printing. The Best Practice Round Table for Montana, highlighted “Teach CTE Day” by MT occupational Mandy Wichman and “Ronan Foot Truck.” The Ronan High School CTE Program by Casper Barden.

Mark your calendar for future ACTE Region V Leadership Conferences, Fargo, North Dakota, April 12-15, 2023 and Hawaii, April 9-12, 2024.

CTE can give my students many opportunities to succeed in life as V.J. Smith shared at our Region V presentation. “If we take the time to put forth the effort to lift up the life of somebody else, it really changes things,” and “even the smallest effort to show gratitude and say thank you.”

Thank you MT-CTE teachers for your leadership that ensures our students can reach for a successful career path. Plan to attend an exciting 2022 MT-CTE Institute, October 20-21 at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center with the theme of “Teaching the Skills to Pay the Bills”.

Kimberli McCullough, Montana ACTE President

Save the Date! 2022 Montana ACTE Fall Institute

This October, Montana CTE professionals from across the state will gather in Billings, MT at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center, October 20-21 for the most exciting ACTE event of the year in Montana. This year’s theme is “Teaching the Skills to Pay the Bills” with our keynote speaker, Andy Masters.

By attending the fall institute you will discover new teaching approaches, find solutions to your shared challenges, share your best practices with colleagues and leave with constructive new ideas to take back to your school. Important dates to know as you begin planning include:

- Online Registration opens August 1
- Registration packet will be posted online at www.montanaacte.org by July 1

MBAE Update

Hello fellow CTE Professionals. I don’t know about you but for me this year has gone by faster than any other year before it. Good luck with all you’re doing to finish your year strong.

The BPA State Leadership Conference was held in Billings March 13-15, and it was excellent to be back in person! There were nearly 1200 members present, including for the first time at a state live conference.

The BPA State Officer Team (SOT) met to discuss schedule changes. The State Officer Team and the Executive Board did a great job of planning an engaging and well-run conference. Over 150 middle and high school students qualified for Nationals and will be headed to Dallas, Texas, May 4-8. More than $15,000 was donated to the Montana Special Olympics. Jill Page was honored as the Advisor of the Year, and the Simms chapter received the Spirit of Professionalism Award.

MStudents who graduated from one of the three BPA Board member classes are also BPA advisors, we got together for a little bit during the conference to brainstorm ideas for the future conference. With this in mind, these are the goals the BPA Club is to again have broad CTE focus on Thursday and break out into division plans on Friday. This year’s conference will be held at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center October 20-21, 2022. The feedback we received from attendees last year centered around preference for hands-on activities that can be taken back to the classroom with little or no prep on your part.

MBAE Update

Kim Knoche

MAFCSE Update

Quite a lot has happened since our meeting at the Montana ACTE Fall Institute and Family & Consumer Sciences Professionals have been working overtime (as per usual) to keep the events and programs of FCCLA and FCCLA on track. In the past few months, we have celebrated FCCLA Week and National FCS Educator Day, our CPO Specialist, Gayla Randel, has taken her place and gathered us for webinars, and the state conference of FCCLA was held in person again this year! Over 400 students traveled to Montana State University for this conference to participate in competitions, leadership development, and fun! The focus of the conference was the Montana State Student Organization. Another exciting component added to our FCCLA conference was the state Start Competition. In ProStart, students participate in competitions focused on both restaurant management and culinary arts.

Looking ahead, the spring does not slow down for Family & Consumer Sciences, and professionals can stay involved by attending the AAFCS Montana Affiliate conference in Choteau, MT April 27th - 29th, the MSU OPI Summer Update in Bozeman, MT June 13th - 17th, and the National FCCLA Leadership Conference in San Diego, CA June 28th - July 2nd.

Kimberli McCullough, Montana ACTE President

MITEA Update

Happy Spring Everyone!!! If you are involved with SkillsUSA (our CTSO) you are aware that we have just completed our state competition in a new to us location- Helena, Montana! Previously our state competition was held at MSU-Northern in Havre for decades. The new venue in Helena used multiple host sites- mainly Helena College and East Helena High School, with a few competitions being held off site. Thank you to all the Helena City Schools and Helena College for hosting the event.

To put a pin on this, I have no doubt it was an incredible amount of work. Also, a shout out to the incredibly talented Montana CTE teachers and students who powered through and overcame the obstacles to provide a memorable event! If we take the time to interact and select from over 30...