

Career & Technical Education: Fast Track to Careers

The beginning of the school year is always a slightly bittersweet time as we say goodbye to the summer, but look forward to the possibilities of what the new year can bring. As we get back into our routines, remember that routine can be boring and that change is rarely that bad. We always tell our students to step out of their comfort zones as they try new things in class and in their CTSO's and as teachers we sometimes forget to do this ourselves. So, as you venture further into the school year remember to try new things, teach new things, learn with your students and step out on the edge now and then!

Now is the perfect time to start filling your calendar for the year. There are some outstanding opportunities available to you through MACTE and ACTE! We should never forget that professional development opportunities can help us improve as teachers, get us out of our regular routine and give us the chance to build networks with our fellow teaching professionals. Having said that, we are making great plans for our fall institute that will be held in **Billings at the Career Center and City College on October 15-16**. [Learn More>](#)

Kari Hanson, Montana ACTE President

SkillsUSA: Champions at Work

The topic to be addressed by contestants in the Chapter Display, Prepared Speech and Promotional Bulletin Board competitions is how our theme, SkillsUSA: Champions at Work, addresses the SkillsUSA national program of work in the area of professional development. Within this topic, contestants might illustrate or discuss any of the following: Why is ensuring career success for every member of SkillsUSA important to the economic health and stability of our nation? Describe how the mission of SkillsUSA — to empower its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens — guarantees career success. How has the vision of career success changed over the decades? Describe the skills and attitudes that business and industry are demanding of students for career success. What elements of SkillsUSA ensure that members experience career success? How has the definition of career success changed for the current generation of students from their grandparents' generation? What does career success look like in the 21st century? In the next 10 years, what skills are needed to fill the job-market skills gap, and how do SkillsUSA members ensure career success through their SkillsUSA involvement? [Learn More>](#)

Landon Stubbs, MITEA President

MAFCSE News

Ready or not here we go! I hope as you are reading this you are enjoying one last summer fling before the beginning of the new school year. I'd like to think of you all sitting on a deck somewhere enjoying a beautiful mountain view, drinking a cold ice tea (or something) and relishing the last bit of warm summer sunshine. As hard as it is to flip the switch I am confident that all of you will be ready to engage with your students and embark on a very productive year!

October 15th and 16th has been set for our MACTE conference in Billings. We have a great line up of presentations set up and I hope you can join us for some rejuvenating workshops and fellowship. The theme for this year's conference is "Career and Technical Education...The Fast Track to Careers".

[Learn More>](#)

Joanna Krogstad, MAFCSE President

MBEA News

As the beginning of our school year rapidly approaches, MBEA is geared towards another great year!! We are really focused on membership this year as we would love to see a significant increase this year. First, please consider attending the Fall Institute, October 15-16, 2015 held in Billings, MT at the Homewood Suites. While many school districts offer "trade days" during this time, it's important to remember the essential networking and valuable skills and concepts that are offered at the Fall Institute. On a personal note, I have gained most of my great insight, fundraising ideas, and new lesson plans from my fellow business teachers at the Institute. [Learn More>](#)

Doug Anderson, MBEA President

Chapter Spotlight—Billings Career Center

Fridays are SkillsUSA day at the Billings Career Center. School administrators join members in wearing their chapter SkillsUSA sweatshirts to show their support of the local chapter. Our chapter would like to thank the administration at the Billings Career Center for their excellent and continued support of chapter members and their SkillsUSA activities.

Pictured from left to right are Scott Anderson, Principal; Jacob Winter, chapter president and state president; Darwin Schaaf, Associate Principal.



Montana ACTE Fall Institute

Sign up today for the 2015 Montana ACTE Fall Institute.

[Learn More>](#)

Montana Student Elected to National Office

Garrett Christiaens, a senior at Valier High School in Valier, Montana has been elected the 2015-2016 National Vice President of Programs of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). Garrett is one of ten national officers elected during the 2015 National Leadership Conference, held July 5th-9th in Washington, D.C. Being elected a national officer is the highest leadership honor an FCCLA member can achieve.

[Learn More>](#)

Lesson Plans

Check out the link below for Lesson Plans for CTE teachers. Latest link is **Wheat You Eat**. Teaching tips, instruction sheets and completed samples are provided. Check it out!

[Lesson Plans](#)

Important Dates

October

- 1 Fall CTE Data Collection begins
- 4-6 FCCLA Leadership Rally, Bozeman
- 14 CTE New Professional Training, Billings
- 28-31 National FFA Convention—Louisville, Kentucky
- 31 Perkins Grant Applications DUE

November

- 20-22 DECA Western Regional Conference, Austin, TX

December

- 31 Fall CTE Data Collections DUE

January

- CTSO State Officers with Governor

February

- 7-9 DECA Conference—Great Falls

Professional Development

OCT 15-16, 2015, [Montana ACTE Fall Institute](#), Billings, MT

NOV 19-22, 2015 [ACTE CareerTech VISION](#), New Orleans, LA

MAY 20-25, 2015, [WBEA Conference](#), Scottsdale, AZ

MAR 22-26, 2016, [NBEA Conference](#), Las Vegas, NV

APRIL 20-23, 2016, [Region V ACTE](#), San Diego, CA

News from ACTE

Latest ACTE News, ACTE Podcasts, Book of the Month, Legislative Alerts, and Career Readiness. [Learn More>](#)