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## President's Message

Thank you to the IACTE Board and Committee Chairs for their dedication to the organization and for helping to set a focus for the future. IACTE, as the umbrella organization, has been working to bring together career and technical educators from across the state. This year the Board has been working on their strategic plan and will present their goals to the House of Delegates at the Annual IACTE Conference in February. IACTE continues to promote career and technical education throughout the state and will focus on a vision for the future, leadership opportunities to achieve that vision, unification of membership, advocacy for CTE programs, and promotion of the IACTE organization, members and programs. I believe our greatest strengths lie in the collective talents, dedication, and service of our members to the field of career and technical education, its students and programs.

As the school year is well underway, I want to congratulate everyone on a great start to the new school year. The beginning of the school year also triggers a new evaluation cycle at schools across the state and as well as, reflections of educational practice. As an educator, I am always looking for ways to provide the best educational environment possible for students. Being part of a professional organization, such as IACTE, provides me with opportunities to connect with individuals from across the state. I would encourage each of you to take advantage of the wealth of expertise around you and, also, think about how you might share your skills and talents through presenting at professional development events, becoming involved in your affiliate and/or volunteering for a leadership role in IACTE. In February, IACTE will host its 85th Annual Conference: CTE is the Key. We invite you to take part in this event which will be held in East Peoria, IL, at the Par-A-Dice Hotel and Conference Center.

You might ask, "Why should I support a professional organization?" Belonging to a professional organization has many benefits, one of which is attending professional development opportunities offered by IACTE and IACTE affiliates. When Charlotte Danielson speaks of distinguished performance in some of her components, she references accessing resources from or being a part of a community larger than an individual classroom, building or district. Professional organizations provide resources that enable teachers to achieve excellence in their classrooms. Below are a few components and elements that directly relate to experiences and opportunities teachers can utilize through participation:

1D: Resources for classroom use, resources to extend content knowledge and pedagogy, and resources for students.

4D: Involvement in a culture of professional inquiry

4E: Enhancement of content and pedagogical skill and service to the profession

To those who are already actively involved in IACTE and your affiliate, I want to say thank you for your work and dedication. I truly believe CTE is the key to opportunities for our students. Consequently, I would like to encourage each of you to explore ways to become an active participant and/or to mentor others in joining our efforts. An organization is only as strong as its members, and it takes each of us contributing our knowledge, skills and abilities to keep career and technical education strong in our schools, districts, regions and the State of Illinois.

*-Elizabeth Kaufman, IACTE President*

# ACTE Region III Report

The ACTE Region III Policy Committee will be meeting at CareerTech Vision on Wednesday, November 19, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. All ACTE members from Illinois are welcome to attend.

Region III will hold their annual business meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2014, at 5:30 p.m., during CareerTech Vision. All ACTE members are encouraged to attend.

The Region III Vice President-Elect Nominee's are:

**Leslie Bleskachek**, Dean of Business, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College. Leslie was just appointed to the Region 3 Policy Committee representing Wisconsin. Leslie has 20 years of experience as a CTE educator in the post-secondary system starting as an Academic Program Manager to her present position as Dean of Business.

**Cindy Stover**, Consultant for the Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education. Cindy represents Illinois on the Region 3 Policy Committee. Cindy has 34 years of experience as a CTE educator starting as a FACS Instructor and later as an administrator of an area career center in Central Illinois.

Voting will open during ACTE's CareerTech Vision 2014, on Friday, November 21, 2014, and end on December 21, 2014.

## Save the Date – Region III Conference, June 24-26, 2015 in Kirwood, IA

The conference will be held at The Hotel @ Kirkwood, which is the only Four Diamond Hotel in Iowa. This hotel is located on the Kirkwood Community College Campus and is run by the Hospitality Program at Kirkwood Community College. In addition, Kirkwood Community College features:

- A state-of-the-art Horticulture Program & Greenhouses

- A Wind Energy Program

- An Equestrian Center

- A Viticulture Program (wine-making)

- A Sustainable Village designed for innovative construction materials and techniques

- Regional Education Centers to Share Career Academy programs with area high schools

- A Healthcare Simulation Center

- The Workplace Learning Connection that orchestrates a wide range of work-based learning experiences for high school students

*-Cindy Stover, Region III Policy Member*



# IACTE Awards

The Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education awards seek to promote excellence in career and technical education by recognizing individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the field, programs that exemplify the highest standard and organizations that have conducted activities to promote and expand career and technical education programs.

The IACTE Member Awards recognize excellence and dedication within the field of career and technical education among our association members. We seek to commemorate exceptional individuals who have contributed to the success of CTE through the quality of their work and their involvement in the CTE community. The IACTE Member Award nominees are evaluated on accomplishments and innovations that exhibit the quality of the candidate for the award, as well as contributions to the CTE community.

The IACTE Image Awards recognize groups and individuals from the education, business and industry communities that enhance career and technical education by contributing to the improvement, promotion, development and progress of CTE. Individuals or entities (from within

or outside IACTE) that have contributed to the success and promotion of CTE, thereby positively impacting the image of CTE, are eligible recipients of these awards. While there is no membership eligibility restriction for applicants, all nominations must be made by an IACTE member. The IACTE Image Award nominees are evaluated on significant accomplishments related to CTE that have contributed to the improvement, promotion, development and progress of CTE, as well as actions that have enhanced the growth and quality of CTE.

Applications should be submitted electronically on the ACTE Awards Portal, <https://acte.nonprofitcms.org/awards> by **January 16, 2015**. State winners will be selected by the IACTE Awards Committee. State winners will be commemorated at the Awards Banquet during the 85th Annual IACTE Conference and Annual Meeting, February 12, 2015.

With simple award applications and an online application process, it is easier than ever to recognize excellence among our members. If you have questions, please contact Peggy Miller or Dawn Sullivan, IACTE Awards Committee Co-Chairs at [gpmiller92@yahoo.com](mailto:gpmiller92@yahoo.com), or [sullivad@newtrier.k12.il.us](mailto:sullivad@newtrier.k12.il.us).

*-Peggy Miller, IACTE Awards Committee Co-Chair*



Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education

*IACTE provides unified, visionary leadership  
to advance career and technical education.*

**President:** Elizabeth Kaufman

**1st Vice President:** Dede Woodard

**2nd Vice President:** Chris Kendall

**Secretary:** Tera Graves

**Treasurer:** Jodi Ferriell

**Website:** [www.iacte.org](http://www.iacte.org)

**E-mail:** [info@iacte.org](mailto:info@iacte.org)

Please encourage new CTE educators to join IACTE. The *Membership Form* is posted on the IACTE website.



## IACTE

### First Vice President's Message

The IACTE 2015 Conference plans are coming along nicely. IACTE Board and Planning Committee members are focusing on **three Key elements** in planning for a successful conference:



### Quality Presentations

There are over 40 break-out sessions in progress with multiple topics related to assessment, technology and CTE curriculum and instruction, with a focus on Common Core State Standards. Sessions on assessment include those that emphasize measuring student growth, the Student Learning Objective (SLO) process, authentic CTE assessments, rubrics, the Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) and teacher evaluations. Technology topics include computer coding, programming, digital footprints, web tools, online resources, Google classroom, virtual job shadowing and more. Best practices in developing quality CTE programs will be shared within break-out sessions on topics such as work-based learning, industry certifications, school-to-apprenticeship and career planning. Two hour pre-sessions will be held on Thursday morning prior to the conference opening session on topics mentioned above. A complete listing of conference topics will be available soon at <http://www.iacte.org/>



### Conference Speakers

**Mr. Mark Williams**, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at the Academic Development Institute and former Illinois State Director for Career and Technical Education, will open the conference and address the importance of our work in CTE promoting college and career readiness.

**Ms. Alisha Hyslop**, ACTE Public Policy Director, will provide greetings from ACTE and present on *Legislative Happenings on Capitol Hill*.

**Dr. Jay Plese**, an Illinois school superintendent and a strong advocate for CTE students, will speak at the close of the conference to provide a perspective from his many years of experience in working to help educators find ways to meet the needs of students.



### FUN!

The conference site is sure to be festive and full of surprises, with a comfortable environment for learning. Affiliates will be hosting meetings and social events for their members. The Reception with Exhibitors and Awards Dinner will provide opportunities for attendees to network with colleagues throughout the state. Additionally, the conference will include a pre-session tour option on Wednesday afternoon to a Caterpillar facility to visit an assembly building with hands-on activities for participants. We hope that you are available to join us on February 12-13, 2015, in East Peoria to focus on **Key Themes in CTE** to unlock doors and provide opportunities for students.

Conference attendees are encouraged to bring a team of professionals to the conference to strengthen their organization's CTE professional learning communities. The conference registration form will be available in early November for interested attendees to take advantage of the discounted registration rates prior to January 15, 2015.

-Dede Woodard, First Vice President

## IFACSTA Illinois Family and Consumer Science Teacher's Association

As I look back, I think of all the teachers who influenced my yesterdays and prepared me to teach today. They each kindled a spark within me as they shared their excitement and passion for teaching. Although things have changed considerably in the world of education with the use of technology, standards and hands-on application in real-life situations, we, the teachers of today, must continue to light the fires of learning in our students as we prepare them today for life tomorrow. William Butler Yeats stated, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

This summer, IFACSTA members gathered together to attend the annual conference "FACS on Fire: Teaching Today for Tomorrow". The conference was held at the Hilton Garden Inn & Regency Conference Center in O'Fallon, IL. Attendees were able to choose sessions and tours which best fit their schools' family and consumer sciences curriculum needs and get them "fired up" for the upcoming school year.

Of special interest was the focus of what is new and upcoming in family and consumer sciences. This included sessions on technology uses in FCS including a variety of apps and Pinterest, incorporation of the CCSS into the FCS curriculum, fashion designing with Fashion Fr8 of St. Louis, the new foods law and the FCS classroom, and the Best Practices for the Culinary Classroom with Chef Chris Koetke, along with several others. Tours were taken to Dierberg's School of Cooking, Marcoat Jersey Creamery, Jim's Formal Wear Distribution Center, and Ann's Bra Shop.

Our keynote speaker was Mr. Stephen Steele, English and journalism teacher and yearbook advisor at Taylorville High School, Taylorville, IL. His presentation, entitled "Keepers of the Flame," shared some much needed insight into the importance of educators maintaining enthusiasm for their profession.

At the Awards Banquet, the following members received awards and were recognized for their professional achievements:

Teacher of the Year: Dawn Sullivan

Outstanding New Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher: Jackie Fontillas

Outstanding Teacher in Community Service: Rebecca Orasco

Arch of Fame: Cindy Stover

The installation of new officers included Melissa Williams as President and Jackie Fontillas and Mandy Marks as Co-Presidents-Elect.

The 2015 IFACSTA conference will be held July 14-15, 2015, at the Lisle Hotel and Convention Center, in Lisle, IL.

As we resume this school year, let us continue to be a living fire, blazing the path of learning and life for our students... today and tomorrow!

*-Melissa Williams, IFACSTA President*

## IBEA Illinois Business Education Association

IBEA's fall conference continues to be a highlight of the benefits offered to our members. **IBEA - Building the Bridge** is the theme for the 52nd Annual IBEA Fall Conference! The Conference will be held in conjunction with the North Central Business Education Conference in Normal, Illinois, November 12, 13, and 14, 2014, at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. This year's conference features:

- Over 50 sessions to choose from on timely business classroom and technology topics
- Tours of Twin Groves Wind Farm and the Bloomington Center for Performing Arts
- Keynote Speaker--Nancy Bizal
- Free Certiport Certifications
- 14 hours of CPDU credit available

At the close of our conference, officers representing IBEA will be:

- Deanna Hudgens, Immediate Past President
- Jason Tanner, President
- Heidi Eaton, First Vice-President
- Diane Mahinda, Second Vice-President
- Karen Skaggs, Treasurer
- Hope Stovall, Secretary

Mark your calendars now to attend the **2015 IBEA Fall Conference, November 11-13**, in Springfield, Illinois. To learn more about the 2015 IBEA Fall Conference or our organization, visit our website at [www.ibea.org](http://www.ibea.org).

IBEA held its first webinar and have several more planned during the winter and spring.

Congratulations IBEA members--Jodee Werkheiser and Gary Hutchinson--for their ACTE Region III awards.

*-Heidi Eaton, IBEA Second Vice-President*

## ICTA Illinois Career and Technical Administrators

The crops are being harvested and the leaves are turning color as I write this update. I find it hard to believe how fast both the school and calendar years are flying by. I hope that everyone is settled into their routines and have made great use of the first quarter of school.

ICTA has been quite busy. We kicked the school year off by hosting a *Back to School Retreat* in East Peoria, IL, in August. Everyone in attendance had a great time and learned some important facts about the licensure changes that affect all of us. We held an Administrator Academy during the first week of October. It was well attended, full of useful information, and fun. That is a winning combination any time we get together as an organization. Meg Ormiston did a wonderful job of instructing us on how to use the latest technological tools for our workshops and classrooms.

On the legislative front, I am still encouraging everyone to invite their local public servants into their schools. We must continue to showcase the wonderful work our CTE teachers and students are performing. While writing this, I just received a call to participate in a tour and press conference with Senator Richard Durbin at a local community college. We will discuss the role our CTE programs play at the secondary level in preparing students for post-secondary education. As this is an election year, many of you may have the same opportunities to share the CTE success message. Please do so without hesitation.

As I close, I want to remind everyone that ICTA is your organization. You will only get out of the ICTA what you put into ICTA. So, please become active in your organization. Encourage others to join. Suggest ways to improve your organization. Become involved in your organization and you will receive much more than your dues cost you. Thank you for reading this and I hope you have a productive rest of the year.

*-Rob Werden, ICTA President*

# IAVAT

## Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers

### IAVAT Member Announced as ACTE Region III New Teacher of the Year

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announces Lisa Oellerich, an agriculture teacher at Scales Mound High School, in Scales Mound, Illinois, as the 2014 ACTE Region III New Teacher of the Year. The ACTE New Teacher of the Year award recognizes CTE teachers with 3-5 years' experience (at the secondary or postsecondary level) who have made significant contributions toward innovative and unique career and technical education programs and shown a professional commitment early in their careers.

As an agriculture instructor at Scales Mound High School, one of the smallest public high schools in Illinois with an enrollment of 63, Lisa Oellerich has high expectations of her students. "I want students to be able to leave my classroom prepared for their future inhabiting the Earth," says Oellerich. "They need to recognize problems, communicate and work together to think through the solutions of today's and tomorrow's problems." In Oellerich's five years at the school, enrollment in the agriculture program has doubled, which resulted in a full-time teaching position.

The FFA chapter has had 21 section proficiency winners, three district winners, two third-place winners at the state contest and one state winner. In her five years, 11 members have received their state FFA Degree and four have earned their American FFA Degree. The chapter implemented its first product and labor auction in February 2013,

which netted the chapter over \$13,000 for student expenses and classroom materials.

Oellerich initiated the completion of a greenhouse for her students, which has expanded the agriculture curriculum to include horticulture and business management, and also developed a course to teach veterinary technician skills to meet student interest. Her students have taken the initiative to start a yearly farm safety day to educate children and adults in the small rural community about farm safety. As a member of the Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers, Oellerich has served on the committee to update the Dairy Foods Career Development Event, has served as a judge for the national chapter applications at the state level and currently represents her district on the FFA Board.

Oellerich is one of five finalists for the 2015 national title. The national winner will be announced at the ACTE Awards Banquet, a dinner and award presentation recognizing the best CTE educators in the country. The event will take place on Wednesday evening, November 19, during ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2014 in Nashville, Tennessee.

*-Jay Solomonson, IAVAT President*