

CTE Trends

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A NEWSLETTER FOR CTE PROFESSIONALS FROM CCCS AND
THE COLORADO ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION



Volume 9, Issue 14, March 22, 2011

Welcome to the fourteenth issue of CTE Trends for 2010-11!

Bulletins

Longmont Educator Named Outstanding CATFACS Administrator



Deniece Cook

Deniece Cook, principal of Longmont's St. Vrain Valley School District-Career Development Center, was recently selected by the *Colorado Association Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences Association* (CATFACS) to receive their *CATFACS Outstanding Administrator Award*.

Cook was recognized at the CATFACS Winter Conference Awards Ceremony in late January in Colorado Springs.

As a Family and Consumer Sciences professional, Deniece was honored for her continued support of the mission of this area of career and technical education – to prepare students with “Real Skills for Real Life.”

CTE Trends extends its congratulations to her.

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CACTE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

March 22, 2011

Good Morning Readers:

Amidst all of the conversations with my colleagues and friends over the last several weeks I have made some observations. We are definitely faced with some challenging times. Budgets and reductions in staff as well as the continuing work on standards, concurrent enrollment and assessments are only some of the topics that divide our attention while working on the work of CTE education. Yet my observations have shown me that our direction and morale remain strong. The volunteers that give so generously of their time to plan and execute conferences, meetings and trainings, continue to do just that, give of their time. I find this quite refreshing and invigorating.

On a similar note the CACTE Executive board made a decision at our last meeting to add a couple of new ideas to the awards presented annually at our upcoming summer conference, July 18-20 in Loveland. It was suggested and agreed that we should honor some CTE students. Exemplary Alumni CTE Student and Outstanding CTE Students will be recognized at the Postsecondary and Secondary levels. Three members of your board volunteered to brainstorm some criteria for selection; I hope to be able to provide that information by mid April. In the mean time I would encourage everyone to visit the CACTE website and explore the awards link, let's acknowledge the superb things that our peers do.

I personally would like to take the rest of this column to acknowledge CACTE Secretary **Dawn Mallette**, PhD. Dawn recently received the prestigious **Superior Faculty Service Award** from the College of Applied Human Sciences at Colorado State University.



The **Superior Faculty Service Award** is given to a faculty member in the College who has made significant service contributions to the College, University, professional, or other off-campus organizations. Dawn has made substantial contributions in advancing the work in her department, the College of Applied Human Sciences, Colorado State University.

Dawn has spent countless hours volunteering as a Professional Partner for the **Colorado Association-Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences (CATFACS)**, worked on the **Colorado Association for Family and Consumer Sciences (CAFACS)**, and is currently the Secretary for the **Colorado Association for Career and Technical Education (CACTE)**. Through these experiences, Dawn gives her students the first hand knowledge of the importance of belonging to and being involved with professional organizations. Dawn encourages all FACS students to attend the annual CATFACS Conference in January where they can network with current and retired FACS teachers, find placements for student teaching and future job openings.

Dawn's work with students in the Family and Consumer Sciences Education program at CSU has been essential to the development of new teachers entering into FACS education programs in high school and middle school settings in Colorado. She provides all of the students with real life opportunities; engaging them in Career and Technical Education (CTE) by promoting membership in professional organizations such as the Association for Career and Technical Educators (ACTE), connecting them to the State Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Adviser, and enhancing their knowledge of CTE in Colorado.

Dawn works with each of the student teachers on completing their teaching license and walks them through how to apply for their CTE Endorsements, which all teachers in Colorado must possess to become a FACS teacher. This is above and beyond her call of duty, but she knows how important it is to support the students that will be our future teachers.

It will come as no surprise to anyone lucky enough to work with Dawn that she was one of the board members to step up and volunteer to research some criteria for the new awards I mentioned earlier. If you have ideas or insights for this or any award please don't hesitate to share them with the board.

Best regards,

Mark

MARK BELL

PRESIDENT, COLORADO ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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Get a Free USB Jump Drive Just for Sharing Your Advisory Committee Best Practices



The **Colorado Career and Technical Education** unit of the **Colorado Community College System** is collecting descriptions of best practices regarding the use of Career and Technical Education program business and industry advisory committees.

Anyone who submits a narrative, description, or story about a best practice discovered or used in working with their CTE program advisory committee will be repaid for their contribution by receiving a **free USB jump drive!**

Please **get your free CTE USB jump drive** by submitting your best practice **NOW!** To submit, e-mail lorrie.toni@cccs.edu and include:

- a. Your submittal (a Word document that provides your contact information and your description of your best practice – you can access this document by clicking: <http://www.cccs.edu/ctetrends/advisory.docx>)
- b. Your photo

Your Best practice and your photo will be published as part of the new Colorado CTE Advisory Committee tool kit.

HURRY – DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTAL IS MARCH 31, 2011!!! Thanks for playing!

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Administrative Division of CACTE, CACTA, Honors State Senator Rollie Heath



Sen. Rollie Heath

In February, at CACTE's Day at the Capitol, the **Colorado Association of Career and Technical Administrators** (CACTA) presented State Senator **Rollie Heath** with one of their highest honors. CACTA presented him with their coveted **Friend of CACTA** award.

CACTA Past President **Lezlie Shirk** explains some of the reasons why Heath was selected:

Senator Heath was presented with the 2011 Friend of CACTA Award during the legislative panel discussion. His support and leadership on career and technical education issues including his sponsoring the concurrent enrollment bill last year and 3 years of co-sponsoring the Career and Technical Education resolution for recognition of CTE education month is truly valued and appreciated. During this time of severe financial cuts to all budgets, Senator Heath continues to advocate for education funding which has included the introduction of an initiative that, if passed, will address the shortfalls in educational funding in Colorado.

CTE Trends congratulates Sen. Heath on this honor.

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Spotlight on Best Practices Using Perkins Funding: Academy School District Twenty



BACKGROUND

Academy District Twenty was established in 1957. It encompasses approximately 130 square miles in the central section of El Paso County. The District is located fifty miles south of Denver and immediately north of the City of Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Currently, Academy District Twenty is composed of:

- Seven high schools (including one alternative high school and one online high school)
- Five middle schools (plus one alternative program)
- Eighteen elementary schools
- One charter school, The Classical Academy, which has three elementary sites, one middle school site, one high school site, and one college pathways site. Additionally, Academy District 20 has a Home School Academy program that serves students in grades K-12.

Further, the District has multiple schools participating in the International Baccalaureate program at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

2010 October Count:	23,127 total student count	
	# of Students	% of Total
Free & Reduced	2,602	11.25
White (not Hispanic)	17,549	75.88
Minority	5,578	24.12
English Language Learners	397	1.72

2009 Academy District 20 Graduation/Completion Rate

(Source: CDE website)

Graduation Rate: 91.6%

Completion Rate: 94.3%

With minimal Perkins money, the district was able to access other funds to support programs such as Project Lead the Way summer camps and their Aerospace Institute.

The district also used Perkins funds for 29 female students to attend a day at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs' Engineering School (UCCS). This day provided hands-on experiences in math and science with Air Force Academy and UCCS instructors. This was a collaborative effort with multiple Colorado Springs school districts so slots were selectively allocated.

This past year, the district amended its Perkins plan to permit an upgrade of their Auto CAD software to enable CAD students at their Rampart High School to redesign the district's Human Resources office space.

Perkins funding also enabled the district to deploy a new performance contract for extended contract time for teachers to engage in: curriculum alignment; articulation development; or, installation/preparation of software or labs. This new contract has various levels of accountability where levels vary according to number of extra hours needed.

KEY INNOVATION(S)

Perkins funding has enabled Academy School District 20 to conduct several innovative activities including:

- Participating in an Air Force Academy grant for an Aerospace Institute (AI). This came about due to the success of the district's Project Lead the Way programs. With AI, students attended a one week program culminating with conducting a mission at the Challenger Learning Center. Students also were able to take field trips to Lockheed Martin and the Wings Over the Rockies Museum.
- Operating four camps last summer, also funded by a private entity, for elementary and middle school students. Evaluations completed by parents garnered extremely positive feedback. The Project Lead the Way instructor ran the middle school camp at Discovery Canyon High School. High School students attended the Air Academy High School camp. Mentors in two of the camps were high school grads.

One female mentor hailing from the Colorado School of Mines has been involved in this effort for three years.

- Operating a Girls STEM day at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs for middle school females.
- Redesigning the Human Resource office space at the district's administrative building Rampart

High School CAD students interviewed employees about what they wanted in a new space. Students presented work to an advisory committee. Due to advice of the committee, the students revised their design. Human Resources will be using this design to reallocate space.

- Sending Construction Tech students from three high schools to Construction Career Days in Colorado Springs. The district's Rampart High School was able to provide prefab boxes that other students were able to finish on-site during the day. Female students constituted twenty-five percent of the attendance.
- Having curriculum teams review program data (5-yr trends) with advisory committees. The CTE data has been compiled for a report to the district's school board. Data review is an intentional part of professional development and teachers can use it in PLCs, site planning and building reviews.

Academy School District 20's Perkins-funded endeavors help students set their sights on the next level of their career path. Specifically, this is done via their middle school camps and their field trip to the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs. Both of these endeavors help students transition to high school engineering programs and STEM initiatives.

The secret to the district's successful application of Perkins resources relies upon leveraging resources, providing summer camps and extended experiences for students that relate to CTE, and an improved process the CTE Director has developed for requesting funds.

Perkins-funds helped support STEM skills by:

- Providing buses to field trips and minimal pay for mentors from colleges to assist with extended experiences for students;
- Enabling female students to practice hands-on math and science skills related to engineering projects at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs.

In fact, the district dedicated an entire project in its "Local Plan" to STEM which incorporated the extended experiences, software upgrades, engineering mentors and the acquisition of digital logic boards for the Discovery Canyon High School *Project Lead the Way* program.

Again, the district excelled at implementing strategies to recruit and retain underrepresented genders in nontraditional career programs via its camps and extended experiences for female students.

KEY FACTORS TO IMPLEMENTATION

District teachers/staff having access to training resources has been, and will be, vital toward the district's success with its Perkins-funded endeavors. The district recognizes the value of their teachers obtaining continued on-going industry-specific training. They also recognize the importance of continued training to help further align their curriculum with the Colorado Community College System Office for CTE's (CCCS) content standards. Continued excellence is expected in this regard because the specialized technical training opportunities furnished by CCCS are accessible to the district's teachers.

In achieving their success, the district has had to overcome, and will continue to face, the following obstacles:

- Finding resources for extended experiences for students or requiring an increase in registration costs.

- Logistical challenges of having minimal staff to run additional extended experiences now that they have proven to be successful.
- Time for professional development to make curriculum alignment meaningful for teachers using CCCS content standards.

Key to the success of the District's Perkins-funded efforts has been:

- Having a dedicated CTE Director
- Building support from the administration
- Presentations to the school board on: student data; number of completers; how many courses they have taken, and the follow-up that has been pursued.

The district keeps its Perkins-supported programs linked to business/industry and labor market demand by:

- Having strong and functional advisory committees that review data and see presentations from students.
- Partnering with Pikes Peak Community College to sustain a Post-secondary and Secondary Advisory Committee for networking. The district has used the successful template that was developed for this group for all of its advisory committees.
- Creating a wiki for one of the advisory committees to facilitate even more industry input. To attract additional financial resources the district has demonstrated that it is quite effective at tapping into its connections with the community and its institutions.

RESULTS

The district's Perkins-funded endeavors have resulted in:

- Larger numbers of female students in STEM initiatives/programs and Construction programs.
- Their CTE Programs having embraced special needs students (the percentage of these students in CTE classes is comparable to that within the school as a whole).

Perkins funds have helped strengthened the district's CTE operations by providing:

- Professional development opportunities for teachers; and,
- Critical upgrades to software.

In sum, the district has many examples of best uses of Perkins funds that could be replicated by other Perkins recipients across Colorado. In fact, the district would be willing to host others to come see their programs and take back with them what might work in their community.

The practices of the district's *Project Lead the Way* instructor particularly should be examined by other Perkins recipients. This teacher has a phenomenal organizational structure for keeping track of tools, Fischer Techniques pieces, and computer and photo-type lab equipment built by him and his students. Further, this teacher's students have a neat, replicable contest in which groups compete against each other in creating a design and then each has to build their adversary's

project. To help facilitate the replication of its successes, the district has extensive documented pictures/success stories of students.

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Don't Miss *PLAN OF STUDY PALOOZA!*

PLAN OF STUDY PALOOZA!
(POS Palooza)

WHAT IS IT? A short webinar that guides you through creatively enhancing & utilizing CTE plans of study as a robust addition to your ICAP process.

WHY THIS? Because you can never have enough tools to pull from when resources are minimal. Learn how to effectively use what already exists!

FOR WHOM? Secondary School Counselors, Academic Instructors, CTE instructors, Pre-Collegiate Providers, Postsecondary Advisors, Administrators of all kinds and anyone else who is interested.

This opportunity is offered monthly.
(3rd Wednesday at 3:30pm until June)
P.S. You can tune in from the comfort of your own office/home/car/personal jet or auditorium. Gather your colleagues too!

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Mini Grants Available for Non Traditional Programs



Attention Non-Traditional CTE Programs!!

Mini-grants up to \$20,000, funded by Perkins, are available to complete projects that recruit and retain gender non-traditional students into non-traditional CTE programs.

Non-traditional programs are those CTE programs that less than 25% of the people who work in the occupation are one gender.

Nursing is a non-traditional program, less than 25% of nurses are men; and Auto Service Technology is non-traditional because less than 25% of auto mechanics are women.

If you have questions about whether your program is non-traditional, check with your Perkins Administrator, or Linda Forkner (Linda.forkner@cccs.edu .)

How to Apply For these Mini-Grants

1. Discuss your ideas with your Perkins Director.
2. Form a project team of 3 – 5 members. At least one of the team members must be a faculty member from a non-traditional CTE program.
3. Go online to [Http://www.rsvpbook.com/event.php?491935](http://www.rsvpbook.com/event.php?491935) and register you and your team for the **2011 Workplace Gender Balance Project Bidder's Conference**. The conference is June 9th, 2011, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, at the Lowry Conference Center. Attendance at this conference is required for everyone applying for a mini-grant.
4. Every participant will be paid \$100 for their time and travel expenses will be paid for teams coming from outside the metro area.
5. Mini-grants are currently only available for post-secondary institutions, but colleges are encouraged to team with high schools on a project.
6. Each college can send more than one team to the conference and submit more than one proposal.
7. During the course of this year's conference, titled, "Success is in the Details", participants will:
 - a. Be introduced to summaries of this year's funded mini-grants.
 - b. Explore ideas for mini-grant projects.
 - c. Work with their team and a facilitator to formulate a project idea and draft a proposal.
 - d. Present their project to a review panel for suggestions regarding ways to strengthen their proposal.
 - e. Be instructed on how to prepare and submit the final copy of their proposal.
 - f. Hear a nationally recognized keynote speaker.
 - g. Be well fed, and have a lot of fun.
8. Teams will leave the conference with the draft of a well crafted mini-grant proposal that will require a minimal amount of work to complete for submission.
9. Proposal submissions are due to the Workplace Gender Balance Coordinator at CCCS Lowry Campus, by close of business on August 31, 2011.

Here is an opportunity to fund that project you've been considering.

If you have any questions please contact Linda Forkner, Workplace Gender Balance Coordinator, 720.858.2826, linda.forkner@cccs.edu

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Get aHead for Business Entrepreneurship Curriculum Training Coming to Young Americans Center for Financial Education



Nathan Wannlund of the Young Americans Center for Financial Education (YACFE) and **Mary Stecklein** have scheduled a ***Get aHead for Business Entrepreneurship training*** on *Friday, May 6*. The workshop will begin at 8:30 a.m., with a networking opportunity and continental breakfast. The training starts at 9 a.m. and will end no later than 3:00 p.m.

The exciting news, explains Stecklein, is that the training will be held at Young Americans Center for Financial Education – just a few blocks east of Cherry Creek shopping center; 3550 East First Avenue in Denver.

The training will feature separate breakout sessions for new teachers and existing teachers (so they can learn best practices from each other).

Other agenda items include: "Banking on School Business"; revision of your program approval onsite for Advanced Credit Pathway articulation; crosswalks; and, a college level lesson on economics aligned with the GaFB economics supplement.

Special tours of the Young Americans Center will be given by YACFE staff. Plus, your CTE Director is invited to participate all day or come to lunch for the afternoon sessions.

Please respond to Mary Stecklein at msteckle@comcast.net to participate. The ***training and all materials including CD's is free*** and the continental breakfast and lunch will also be complimentary. You will need to provide your own transportation and substitutes or class coverage for the day.

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735 Students Converge on Colorado Creative Careers Festival



To view 89 other scenes from the festival, click this link,

<http://www.cccs.edu/ctetrends/cccfestival11.pdf>

Warning: this is a 12MB file and may take a few seconds to minutes for your computer to load.

The second annual **Colorado Creative Careers Festival** was held on Feb 25 at the Auraria Campus and the Colorado Film School. The event had 735 students/teachers/counselors from 22 high schools across the state. With the CTE Unit of the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) taking the lead, the day was also co-organized/sponsored by the University of Colorado Denver College of Arts and Media, The Colorado Film School and College In Colorado. Further, the day could not have happened without the assistance of nearly 80 volunteers.

The day began with a welcome from CCCS President **Dr. Nancy McCallin** and **State Representative Ken Summers**, and an opening panel of young “creatives” including a graphic designer, a computer animator, a stagehands manager, and an arts-related business entrepreneur.

Participating students then attended sessions with working professionals in the creative industry for the rest of the day.

The areas that were included were:

- Graphic Design,
- Computer Animation,
- Web design,
- Photography,
- Stagecraft design,
- Costume design,
- Lighting technology,
- Audio technology, and
- Film/Video.

Students in the areas of Photography, Graphic Design, Web Design, and Film/Video were also invited to submit works based on a “Walk More Softly” ecological awareness theme. This theme has since received statewide recognition through **Colorado Live** and the **Colorado Department of Tourism**.

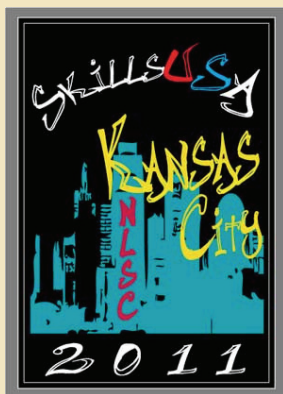
Students in the areas of Computer Animation, Graphic Design, and Photography were also able to submit portfolios that were evaluated by working professionals.

Finally, teachers, administrators, and counselors were able to attend sessions to learn about the creative industries and educational pathways to creative careers in Colorado.

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CTSO Related

Colorado SkillsUSA Student Wins National Pin Design Competition



The winning pin design.

Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation has awarded \$5,000 for a winning pin design in a national pin design contest to **Warren Tech High School** in Lakewood. **Casey Brickley**, enrolled in the graphic design program at the school, produced the winning pin design.

Casey will receive a plaque and a travel stipend to attend the **SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference** in Kansas City, June 20-24, where she and her advisor, **Pete Cunis**, will be recognized on stage during the opening ceremony. The school will receive a plaque as well as \$5,000 for the advisor to use to improve curriculum or buy software or equipment for his classroom. Each participant at the SkillsUSA **National Leadership and Skills Conference** will receive the conference pin with the winning design on it.

"The award represents Lowe's commitment to education," said **Larry D. Stone**, *chairman of Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation*. "By supporting projects in local schools, we believe we are not only investing in community projects that are important to our customers and employees, but we're also helping schools build a stronger foundation for the students who will be tomorrow's employees, homeowners and community leaders."

Lowe's is a proud supporter of SkillsUSA and SkillsCanada, Habitat for Humanity International, American Red Cross, and The Nature Conservancy, in addition to numerous non-profit organizations and programs that help communities in North America. In 2010, Lowe's and the Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation together contributed more than \$30 million to support community and education projects in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Lowe's also encourages volunteerism through the Lowe's Heroes program, a company-wide employee volunteer initiative. Lowe's is a FORTUNE® 50 company with fiscal year 2010 sales of \$48.8 billion

and has more than 1,725 stores in the United States, Canada and Mexico. For more information, visit Lowes.com/community.

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FFA Students Experience the Latest in Agribusiness at the Colorado Farm Show

Courtesy of the Rocky Mountain Fence Post and writer Gayle Smith



Lacy Mauch and Catherine Harmon of Highland FFA Chapter welcome the public to the Colorado Farm Show.

As Gilliam and Owen Steffen, and Will Schneider of Wiggins, Colo., checked out a skid loader at the John Deere display, their family reminisced about how much smaller the tractors were 40-50 years ago. "I never dreamed we would ever see tractors this big," one said, pointing to a John Deere tractor nearby. "This is what we like about coming to the Colorado Farm Show," she continued, "we can check out the latest technology. You don't get many opportunities to see something like this close-up."

Spectators at the 47th Annual Colorado Farm Show, held in Greeley in late January, had the opportunity to see everything from the newest technology in tractors and farm equipment, to feed additives and livestock supplies by visiting the hundreds of vendors at the show. Show attendees could also pick up information on everything from banking and insurance, to health and recipes. The focus of the show is to provide the opportunity for visitors to obtain information on a variety of agricultural products at one place, and generate new ideas they may be able to incorporate into their own operations.

For most vendors, the Colorado Farm Show is an opportunity to get their product or service in front of a multitude of people. Keith DeVoe of Roggen Elevator was talking with customers and handing out popcorn during the three-day event. Roggen Elevator has been a vendor at the show for nine years. "It is great public relations for us," DeVoe said. "It is a great time of year for us. This show gives us the opportunity to visit with our customers and show others what we have to offer."

In addition, **many FFA chapters** brought their youth to experience the variety of occupations available in agriculture. **Lacy Mauch** and **Catherine Harmon** of the **Highland FFA Chapter** found the whole experience quite educational. "We have had the opportunity to see a lot of interesting things here," said Harmon. "We went to hear **Temple Grandin's** presentation this morning. It was so interesting and educational." Mauch added, "I really liked looking at all the displays here."

Edna Addison was representing Guaranty Bank and Trust Company, which is based in Denver, Colo., but has 34 branches across the state. "The quality of life is great here," she said. "We come to this show to visit with our customers and show our appreciation for their business. This is what we are all about," she said.

Steve Frank of **Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association** said his company has had a presence at the show for 10 years. The company works with farmers who use bio-solids. "We come to the show to get more exposure in the Colorado market, and to develop leads and contacts," Frank said.

For Kristy Teague of Stewart and Stevenson, the show leads to equipment sales for her company. "Because it is such a big show, we get many leads and some people come to buy parts from the Denver branch," she explained.

The public also had the opportunity to learn something new during several presentations that were held during the three-day event. On January 25, the focus was on equine, beef, and an agriculture spotlight. Equine speakers talked about treatments for performance horses who have been injured, and the benefits of horse chiropractic. A highlight during Beef Day was a standing room only presentation by **Temple Grandin** discussing current issues related to animal handling and care. Other beef speakers discussed the importance of feed efficiency in beef cattle, and consumers trends. During the ag spotlight, speakers talked about commodities, taxes, and conservation easements.

On January 26, the focus was on ag business during the Partners in Ag presentations. It was also Dairy Day, with presentations on the dairy check-off, agriculture activists, and global milk marketing. On Thursday, the focus was on hay and forage. Participants learned how to maximize their forage system, analyze the quality of their silage, and learn about biotechnology in crops. Partners in Ag and Spanish Education presentations were also presented.

The Colorado Farm Show is held each year at Island Grove Park in Greeley, Colo. The annual event showcases agriculture and the importance of agriculture in the United States. Most of the event is held indoors, with a few larger exhibits outside. The event draws 30,000 to 35,000 people each year. Most are from Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Kansas, although people travel from all over the country to attend the show.

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400 Attend FBLA District IV Leadership Conference at Northeastern Junior College

Courtesy of Sterling Journal Advocate and Reporter Callie Jones



Brenda Lauer, vice president of finance and administration at NJC, talks about how to be successful with scholarship applications during a "Tips and Tricks to Rise to the Top" workshop at the FBLA District IV Leadership Conference.

STERLING -- Approximately 400 area students attended a Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) District IV Leadership Conference at Northeastern Junior College on February 9. The theme was "breaking barriers."

Gina Harris, executive director of Friends First, and a 1995 graduate of NJC, was the keynote speaker for the event. She spoke about unshakeable character.

"Character is doing what`s right, not what feels right, and making the decision to respect yourself and others by making the best choices even if its not popular," she said.

Harris pointed out character is something you build throughout your life and different circumstances in your life shape who you are and shape your character.

She shared a little bit about her life story and how that shaped her character.

Harris talked about an abusive boyfriend she had in college, who took her out to nice places and bought her nice things but was also very controlling, wanting to know exactly where she was going, what she was doing anytime she wasn`t around him. He went so far as to check the mileage on her car to see if she was exactly where she said she was going to go.

One day they got into an argument and he started punching her. When she got away he chased her as she was running down the street and continued to hit her some more. She ended up in the hospital.

That was especially devastating to her because six months before, one of her older sisters was strangled to death by her husband while her three young children were in the home.

Harris noted that February is Dating Violence Awareness month and dating violence or domestic violence affects 16- to 24-year-olds more than any other age groups.

"If you`ve ever been a victim of any kind of abuse... number one you have to know it`s not your fault and number two, if you haven`t told somebody it is important that you tell somebody that you trust," she said.

She pointed out you don`t have a lot of control over the things that happen to you but you do have control over how you`re going to respond.

"I had a choice that day: am I going to be bitter or am I going to be better," Harris said.

She chose to try to be better.

"Whatever your life story is, that`s what makes you who you are, that`s what your character is," she said. "It`s not about being perfect, and yeah we all make mistakes. I make lots of mistakes, but character is saying you know what I need to fix that and I need to become a better person."

One of the first steps to developing a stronger unshakeable character is perseverance.

"You have to persevere through hard times; a person with character finds a way to persevere no matter how difficult it may be," Harris said.

After getting out of her abusive relationship, she set a standard that she would never be hit again. She started studying domestic violence and the warning signs as well as healthy relationships.

The next man she dated never hit her; he did a lot of nice things for her and bought her nice things. However, he was arrested for a string of over 40 burglaries.

After having those two boyfriends Harris spent time working on her character.

She also talked about the importance of having a support team.

"The number one thing you can do is surround yourself around a group of students who are going to have the same standards as you," Harris said. "Also, find a mentor."

She said boldness is necessary to be strong in today`s world.

"To be a person with unshakeable character it is so important that you are bold, especially now, especially in the culture that you are growing up in," Harris said.

She ended with a few last words of encouragement.

"I want you to go out and chase your dreams with everything you have and to do it with character," Harris said.

Students were also able to attend several workshops, including: "Unshakeable Leadership, lead by Harris; I Am I-Safe, lead by Joe McBride of the Logan County Sheriff`s Office; Tips and Tricks to Rise to the Top, lead by Brenda Lauer, vice president of finance and administration at NJC; Fred Factor, led by Ronda Monheiser, business professor at NJC; and SIFE Knowledge Bowl, led by SIFE coordinator Amanda Kerker and the NJC SIFE team.

There was also a scavenger hunt.

Students competed in a number of events, including business ethics, public speaking, business plan and many others.

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Air Academy High FCCLA Student Wins Local "Top Chef"-like Competition



Kristen Dreher

CTE Trends congratulates Air Academy High School **FCCLA** member and catering student **Kristen Dreher**. She competed against students from all six bricks and mortar **Air Academy District 20** high schools in their second annual "Top Chef Competitors" competition on the night of February 24 and emerged as the evening's winner.

The criteria for entering the competition requires students to submit recipes for a healthy salad or wrap plus an accompanying beverage. The top ten recipes are selected and the students are notified. If selected, they automatically receive a chef coat, chef hat, mixing bowl, dry measuring cups, measuring spoons, a medal and certificate. Students meet in the District 20 kitchen to prep and plate their dishes. On the night of the completion, there were four judges that voted on presentation, taste and originality.

Dreher will be attending Johnson and Wales in the fall with an emphasis in Culinary Arts. *Air Academy High School Family and Consumer Science Teacher/FCCLA Advisor* **Laura Armstrong** reports, "All the students who participated were professional and creative!" She adds, "A big thank-you goes out to Sodexo, who sponsored the event!"

Armstrong concluded by saying, "Air Academy High won the competition last year, so word has it that we're the ones to beat!"

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UPDATES

VE-135/VE-130 Reporting Update



REMINDER:

The VE-135 Follow-up submission deadline of March 30, 2011 is fast approaching!

If you haven't already done so, please login to the **VE-135 website** to download lists of your **previous-year CTE program completers** and get started on your student surveys. The website address is <https://ve135.cccs.edu>.

You need to read the PDF document "**How to fill out the VE-135 Follow-up Completers Document**" before conducting your follow-up to ensure that you are reporting complete and accurate data. To download this PDF, which is also available on the Help page of the VE-135 website, click the following link:

https://ve135.cccs.edu/docs/2011_how_to_fup.pdf

If were not able to participate in the two **VE-135 Follow-up training webinars** that took place last November and in January, links are available to the recorded versions on the login page of the VE-135 website.

Now it's time for our first **VE-135 Myth Buster**. . . .

VE-135 Myth Buster #1

Myth: *The VE-135 Follow-up question on continuing education is asking if a high school student plans to go on to college at some point in the future.*

Answer: *Wrong! The question is asking if a student is continuing their education at the high school level (secondary) OR continuing at the post high school level (postsecondary/college) any time between October 1st and December 31st, 2010.*

This question is meant for all CTE program completers; which can be students who completed either secondary (high school) programs or postsecondary (technical or community college) programs the previous year.

Here are two example scenarios: (1) If your student is a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior in high school between October 1st and December 31st, 2010, then answer that they are continuing their education at the high school level (secondary). (2) If your student left high school, after they completed their program in the previous academic year, and they are enrolled in college between October 1st and December 31st, 2010, then answer that they are continuing their education at the post high school level (postsecondary/college).

CCCS is required by law to collect the VE-135 follow-up and enrollment data each year in order to comply with the accountability requirements set forth by both the state funded **Colorado Technical Act CTA** and the federally funded **Carl D. Perkins Act**.

You must report the VE-135 data even if you do NOT receive state or federal funding for your approved CTE programs because the data is used in the program renewal process and civil rights monitoring visits.

Contact **Julie Eddy**, CTE Accountability Director, by email at julie.eddy@cccs.edu or by phone at 303.595.1527 with any CTE data reporting questions or comments. You may also contact **Tim Cousineau**, CTE Programmer Analyst, by email at tim.cousineau@cccs.edu or by phone at 720.858.2843 with CTE data reporting questions or VE-135 website technical assistance.

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Valuable CTE Websites

CCCS CTE Perkins new State Plan: www.coloradostateplan.com/

CTE Directors Directory:

http://www.coloradostateplan.com/resources/CTE_Director_Directory.pdf

ACTE: www.acteonline.org

CACTE: www.cacte.org

Colorado Community College System: <http://www.cccs.edu/>

Colorado DECA: www.deca.cccs.edu/

Colorado Technology Education Association: www.cteaonline.org

Comprehensive Career Guidance: www.coloradostateplan.com/counselors.htm

Credentialing Office: http://www.coloradostateplan.com/default_cred.htm

CTE Calendar: <http://www.calendarwiz.com/contact>: Julie Eddy, 303.595.1527

CTE Forms and Reports from CCCS:

<http://www.coloradostateplan.com/formsReports.htm>

E-Colorado: <http://www.e-colorado.org>

FBLA-PBL: <http://www.fbla-pbl.cccs.edu/>

FCCLA: <http://www.fccla.cccs.edu/>

FFA: <http://www.ffa.cccs.edu/>

HOSA: <http://www.hosa.cccs.edu/>

SkillsUSA: <http://www.skillsusa.cccs.edu/>

TSA Colorado: <http://www.cotsa.cccs.edu/>

Secondary CTE Job Board: <http://www.cccs.edu/HR/CTE-JobBoard.html>

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This is issue #914 of *CTE Trends*. The next issue will be released April 5, 2011.

Scheduled publication dates: April 5 and 19 and May 3 and 17.

Distributed to nearly 1,400 CTE educators and administrators throughout Colorado, CTE Trends is made possible through The Carl D. Perkins Vocational-Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 federal funding as administered by the Colorado Community College System and a partnership with the Colorado Association for Career and Technical Education.

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