

2020 STATE OF THE STATE for ACTE Annual Report/QAS



“Please describe briefly the current status of your association. What are the issues and needs? What are your goals for next year? How can ACTE help?”

Colorado ACTE is alive and working hard to survive #COVIDlife! The Board members are learning more about how to support the organization with their leadership. Several divisions are thriving and the rest are evaluating how to successfully serve their members by emulating best practices of other divisions and CACTE itself. Division leaders are learning that “nuts and bolts” details often make a huge difference in the operational success of the group. More people are getting involved through service on Division Boards and CACTE committees. Board members appreciated the opportunity for ten of them to receive a “free” CTE Learn Course, paid for by CACTE. They also receive a CACTE polo shirt as a thank you for their service. Having each Division actively involved with Board meetings and planning puts them in a position to effect change in the larger organization and recommend division members who are willing to become more involved.

A huge part of 2020 was shifting from an in-person summer conference to a virtual event in July. We are ever so grateful to the ACTE staff for their selfless sharing of lessons learned in providing a virtual event. Thanks to this guidance, we were able to pivot and provide the annual CACTE CareerTech VIRTUAL Summit for ~305 attendees! There was a keynote from Dr Sarah Heath, Colorado CTE Director; 10 breakouts from which to choose one to attend live; updates from the content area Program Directors and CTSO State Leaders; and Division content/networking time. A fun perk to registered attendees is the ability to view additional sessions via Colorado CTE Learn. Folks who were unable to attend the Virtual Summit can purchase the conference to view via CTE Learn as well.

Since the annual ACTE National Policy Seminar was cancelled due to COVID, Colorado ACTE members pivoted to a virtual connection with our national legislators. Legislative staff members were eager to meet with us virtually. Five CACTE members connected with representatives from the offices of District 4 Ken Buck, District 5 Doug Lamborn, District 7 Ed Perlmutter, District 6 Jason Crow, Senator Michael Bennet, and Senator Cory Gardner on March 31.

In Colorado, the CACTE legislative specialist, Tonette Salazar, did a great job during a COVID interrupted legislative session, to keep CTE in the spotlight. Before the COVID interruption, CACTE sponsored a “CTE Showcase at the Capitol”, with Tonette encouraging key legislators to visit. We had each CTSO and several content area programs represented with table displays. A Catering class provided the appetizers, which legislators enjoyed immensely. And they love talking with students! 😊

Working with key CCCS personnel, Tonette was able to correct how CTA funds were being reported (incorrectly) and now the legislature has a clear and correct picture of CTA funding; this was critical when the legislature returned after the COVID interruption to a whole different world, including greatly reduced funding. The CTA line item remained untouched; while we had hoped to increase it, the reality of current life made the status quo seem like a gift!

Speaking of money, CACTE is also working with CCCS to support members' learning about how Perkins V is being implemented in Colorado. Dr Heath's keynote address at the Summit was the update on Colorado's new CTE strategic plan and Perkins V.

CACTE is thrilled to reach QAS status (in our opinion)! The bylaws have been updated and approved and the Policies/Procedures Manual was approved by the Board. The Board approves annual payment of the premium for our non-profit association insurance. More divisions are moving their financial accounts to an institution that better represents the business ethics taught in CTE classes. We are using Quickbooks Online, purchased through TechSoup, to keep the books and developed a written budget for the Association and for the CareerTech Summit. The Executive Committee developed an investment plan for some of the CACTE savings, which was implemented by the purchase of three "laddered" CDs at the end of October 2019.

CACTE uses Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, as well as the website, to provide news and current information to members and the public alike! Monthly (almost) e-newsletters, *Connecting with CACTE*, keep people informed – and anyone who wants to be on the email list can be included, not just members.

The Executive Committee, Board and Divisions are actively pursuing ways to continuously retain and recruit new members into the organization. We have noticed a serious membership decline, we think due to COVID situations. Some of the decline is related to one division conference which mistakenly did not get membership renewal on the conference registration options and some folks who usually attend the in-person Summit and renew dues with registration did not attend the virtual event. Those people have been contacted. There are also some delays in Colorado with Perkins plans, due to numerous changes, and so some membership dues cannot be paid with these funds right now. It seems rather a perfect storm of events that is resulting in lower membership numbers – we are working to stop the losses and get members back!

The CACTE Board goals for 2020-2021 were developed based on the ACTE Strategic Plan, which CACTE has utilized to strengthen the link between the state and national organizations.

- MEMBER VALUE/ENGAGEMENT: Support growth in membership for each division, expand recognition efforts across all divisions and enhance member buy-in through vision and goal development
- MEMBER VALUE/ENGAGEMENT: Establish and strengthen partnerships with postsecondary institutions
- PROFESSIONAL/LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: Establish strong connections with each division of CACTE throughout the year
- ADVOCACY/AWARENESS: Develop a comprehensive CTE Showcase, portal of resources for teacher to implement, and enhance our communications/awareness of legislation throughout the year

ACTE can help by continuing to provide "nuts and bolts" training for state leaders, an opportunity to share ideas, ideas for retaining membership in these COVID days and professional marketing materials. The support of the national staff is greatly appreciated!!!