



**Colorado Association for Career and Technical Administrators  
CACTA Mid-Winter Business Meeting Minutes**

February 9, 2024  
8:30am - 10:00am

**CACTA Mission:**

*The mission of CACTA Board is to promote professional leadership and development of members to ensure Career and Technical Education within the education systems of Colorado will meet the continually changing education and training needs of students and business/industry.*

*The CACTA Board vision is to energize and communicate the passion and value of Career and Technical Education (CTE) throughout our communities.*

**Call to Order: Kristi Weaver;** called to order 8:32 am

**Attendance Members: QR Code on tables**

**Approval of the Agenda;** motion made by Nikki Carter, seconded by Mary Krisko

**Approval of Minutes – July 19, 2023;** motion made by Jess McCalister, seconded by Andrea Bolton

**Welcome: Kristi Weaver, President Elect**

- Happy of the attendance
- Was happy to stand in for Duane Roberson, President

**Secretary Report – Jessica McAllister**

- Congratulations on a successful CACTA Conference, kudos to a high-functioning, energetic team!
- Proud to be a member, learned a lot, inspired by everyone's willingness to step up.

**Treasurer Report – Nikki Carter**

- Current Balance with Paypal registration fees: \$83,948.66
- Deductions to still incur include, conference center expenses, CACTA division membership dues to CACTE/ACTE
- Registration/checks still due to CACTA conference: \$3380.00
- Income of \$1,250 from silent auction
- Income \$534.00 from drawings

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

- **Awards**– Chris Duran/Ron Hruby
  - Very good award nominees
  - New form was distributed at CACTA
  - New awards portal
  - Awards were made by a CTSO in Lewis-Palmer School District
- **Communications/Membership** – Janet Renden
  - Not in attendance

- **Bylaws** – Kate Wagner
  - No updates
- **Legislative** – Duane Roberson
  - [Presentation from 2.7.24 as presented by Dylan Peper](#)
- **Program of Work** – Kristi Weaver
  - Strongly aligned with ACTE Program of Work
    - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, Membership and Advocacy
  - Kristi will add additional evidence in the coming months
- **Social and Exhibits** – Gill Thompson
  - CACTA vendor results:
    - 15 vendors
    - 2 coffee
    - 2 half-page ads
    - 2 full-page ads
    - \$8,000.00 revenue for CACTA
  - Feedback:
    - Unofficial vendor feedback is positive; participants asked great questions - appreciative of the BINGO cards
    - Survey to vendors will be disseminated next week
  - All vendor recommendations should be sent to Gil

#### Liaison Reports:

- **ATC Liaison** – Linda Van Doren
  - Not in attendance;
- **CACTE Board Liaison** – Debbie Nelson
  - *2024 CACTE CAREERTECH SUMMIT*
    - Planning for an in-person Summit, July 21-25, at Grand Junction Convention Center & Main Street Hotels
    - *According to evaluations, district-level financial support of people attending matters!!!!*
    - Watch the [website](#) for details!
    - In late Feb, I'll be asking for the name/email of the person who registers people for the Summit - I have a spreadsheet to help them collect the info needed - PLEASE help me emphasize the importance of answering ALL of the questions asked, ESPECIALLY THE DIETARY REQUESTS portion! Thanks!
    - Call for Proposals should open ~March 1
    - Registration should open ~March 15
      - Early bird member rate through May 15 - \$475; \$625 w dues, unless CBAM, then \$650
      - Non member rate - \$645; \$795 w dues, unless CBAM, then \$820
    - Lodging rates will range from single/double \$179-189 plus \$11 parking per night.
    - Most folks will want to be in attendance Tuesday 7/23 - Thursday 7/25
    - Annual Secondary CTE Credentialing session will be on Monday, 7/22 from 9-5
      - Credentialing folks must also attend the full conference
      - There are 100 slots available and they fill up fast - get these folks registered EARLY
  - *LEGISLATIVE ISSUES*
    - [2024 CACTE Legislative Priorities](#) document is complete and on the website for use!
      - 3 overarching priorities:
        - Workforce Development & Economic Growth
        - The Need for Additional CTE Educators
        - Education Funding: K-12 & Higher Education

- o Please use it as you interact with legislators!
- Legislative Committee is monitoring bills and other happenings, providing Tonette/Dylan with feedback; CACTA is well-represented on the committee :-)
- CTE Month Celebrations are happening all month
  - o “like” CACTE posts on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook
  - o Use these hashtags on your own social media posts (work and/or personal): #coleg #CTEmonth #CareerTechEd #CTEworks4CO
  - o [CTE Month Proclamation from Governor Polis](#), if you want to publicize! ☺

#### CACTE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

- PLEASE nominate folks for all awards - it’s never too early to start preparing for nominations
  - o [see info and awards guidelines here](#)
- Be thinking about deserving folks for 2024 CACTE Hall of Fame nominations – shoot an email to [cacte@cacte.org](mailto:cacte@cacte.org) with ideas

#### COLORADO CTE LEARN

- Awesome member benefit with ACTE
- Online professional development - some w a fee, some free
- Focus on effective and proven teaching/leading strategies with CTE in mind!
- Super cool FREE section available to use with students - [CareerPrepped](#)
- Organization subscription is FREE and tailored to your needs!
- [Check it out!](#)

#### MISCELLANEOUS TOPICS

- Encourage your new (and veteran) CTE teachers, administrators and counselors to be ACTE/CACTE members by allowing dues payment from CTE funds - sticking together matters!
  - o Membership can be a teacher retention tool, providing a community of others teaching the same thing, even if they are the only one in your district, they aren’t alone!
  - o At the very least, please consider supporting those involved in Division and CACTE leadership positions by paying their dues.
- CACTE is looking for [officer candidates](#)
  - President-Elect - must have served previously on CACTE Board; 3 yr commitment
  - Treasurer –familiarity with Google Workspace & Quickbooks Online is helpful but not required; 2 yr commitment
- Feedback is always welcome on e-newsletters, website, other CACTE activities - we are always striving to make the association responsive to members!

#### FUTURE CACTE CAREERTECH SUMMITS

- 2024 Grand Junction Convention Center, July 21-25
- 2025 Loveland Embassy Suites, July 20-24
- 2026 Pueblo Convention Center, July 19-23
- 2027 Loveland Embassy Suites, July 18-22
- **CCCS Liaison – Sarah Heath**
  - o Reminder to comment on State Plan and/or Performance Targets by February 18th
  - o Work on new strategic plan will ensue at CACTE 2024
    - Think of broad strategies
- **Community College Liaison – Vicki Aycocock**  
[Community College of Aurora](#)
  - The Center for STEM, Power Mechanics and Applied Technologies will create a dynamic training and education space for students and industry partners featuring construction, diesel power mechanics, clean energy, and applied engineering programming as well as interactive learning-lab space.

- The Center will be roughly 50,000 Gross Square Feet (GSF) and it's set to open Fall 2025.
- People can check construction progress and additional information at [ccaurationa.edu/innovation](http://ccaurationa.edu/innovation)

#### Lamar Community College

- One project Lamar is proud of right is the expansion of its Construction Trades program. They have now partnered with two secondary schools to provide off-site locations to offer their Construction Trades certificate programs at high schools. Springfield, CO has one site that services Springfield High School and Walsh High School. Then they have Granada High School which also hosts students from Holly High School. Lamar is even looking at one additional site for 2025-2026 that would service three high schools, but they are currently looking at logistics and feasibility.
- Lamar also hosted a Winter Mini-Semester which was a great success. Students were able to take courses during the winter break for approximately five weeks. The courses included Biology: A Human Approach, Intro to Human Disease, English Comp 1, English Comp 2, Humanities, and Digital Photography. They are looking to expand those more non-traditional semester offerings in the future.

#### Colorado Mountain College

- CMC has partnered with the National Ski Area Association, Alterra Mountain Company, and Vail Resorts to build a multi-level Ropeway Mechanical Maintenance certification program.
- Ropeway Mechanical Maintenance Level 1 consists of four courses delivering three credits each, totaling 12 credits. CMC has already offered this program as a summer intensive located at a resort property, and as an online lecture/lab program through Vail Resorts.
- [https://catalog.coloradomtn.edu/preview\\_program.php?catoid=17&poid=3083&returno=1790](https://catalog.coloradomtn.edu/preview_program.php?catoid=17&poid=3083&returno=1790)
- CMC is currently developing a Ropeway Mechanical Maintenance Level 2 certification. The level 2 course will have four courses of 6 credits each totaling 24 credits as we intend to offer this certification is planned to be offered in the Spring of 2025.

#### Arapahoe Community College

- ACC had its Digital Marketing Certificate program fully approved as of Spring 2024 and is actively offering this new CTE program to students. The college is also now offering a new Medical Laboratory Science BAS degree effective Spring 2024. ACC launched a new Health Information Management BAS as well this academic year.
- The college is actively using Gray Digital Intelligence solutions for program reviews, and the data-informed dashboards are helping all program areas determine program goals, mission-informed planning for the future, and various data tracking for each program area (market, margin, size, demographic, and academic data).
- **Secondary Liaison (metro) – Shelley Goerd**
  - The "CTE Metro Team" (affectionately named) has been meeting 1x per month. Open meeting for anyone who can attend. We are learning a lot from each other and finding comradery. As we continue to meet we hope to systemize the meetings to best support hearing all voices.
  - Big issues we are hearing are around program approval consistency and specifically WBL. There are also often questions about the nuance of the Admin Handbook. So far these conversations have been information gathering from each other. We encourage folks to talk to their Program Directors for more information.
  - Lastly the group is working on creating a small team to make sure the CLNA is a living process that guides work not just a 4 year check-in.
- **Secondary Liaison (rural) – Alyssa Horlick**
  - **Rural CTE Update 2024:**

- A short questionnaire was sent via email on January 22nd to rural CTE school districts. District contact information was found on the Colorado Gateway. Continuing to update the contact list for the 145 rural CTE programs to reach as many programs as we can.
- The questionnaire asked school districts to provide a few highlights of their programs, if they had areas of concern, and barriers to attending the CACTA Mid-Winter conference.
- So far, we have received responses from 35 rural school districts, which is 3 more responses than last year, however, most responses were significantly shorter this year.
- **Areas of Concern:**
- Rural CTE partners are generally feeling overwhelmed.
- High turnover rate in CTE & education as a whole due to low teacher pay and lack of affordable housing in Colorado. Struggles with finding qualified CTE instructors, or awaiting the 3 year period to obtain CTE certification for instructors. Difficulties of recruiting individuals from industry due to the large pay cut they would receive as an educator. Many CTE programs have had to start over and have lost momentum due to high turnover rates. Several school districts reported decreases in funding, as well as the high demands of CTE teachers in rural school districts, by having to build & run a program and wear multiple hats. It is difficult for small school districts to jump through all of the hoops required by the state to receive CTE funding while trying to do other jobs simultaneously.
- Substitute shortages across districts bring challenges to attending in-person CTE meetings.
- Struggles for access to Work Based Learning opportunities due to their rural setting & lack of transportation services to those WBL experiences.
- Many rural schools have begun to adopt student based enterprises to meet the Work based learning requirements, which adds additional work and demands to CTE teachers.
- **Major barriers for attending the CACTA Mid Winter Conference:**
  - Lack of substitutes, Not enough time, spread too thin, conference dates are close to other conferences, & the location of the conference is not convenient for some rural districts.
- **CTE Highlights from the rural school districts:**
  - Several healthcare related pathways are being created.
  - Big Sandy's Industrial Arts program acquired a C&C machine through Perkins a couple years ago which has revolutionized their program. They have hundreds of products including high quality furniture.
    - Contact: Superintendent, Steve Wilson, [swilson@bigsandy100j.org](mailto:swilson@bigsandy100j.org)
  - Montezuma-Cortez has a coffee shop and screen printing business run by ACE students and a technical theater program that produces two shows a year and where students run tech for touring concerts, a strong catering program where students go out into the community and cater events, and an art program where students recently hosted a show at one of the local art galleries.
    - Contact: CTE Director, Nicholas Sandner, [nsandner@cortez.k12.co.us](mailto:nsandner@cortez.k12.co.us)
  - Miami-Yoder's greenhouse production class creates a student based enterprise that focuses on their annual spring plant sale where students grow and manage plants from seed all the way through to the business of selling, distribution, and customer service.
    - Contact: CTE Director, Nolan Payne, [nolan.payne@miamiyoder.org](mailto:nolan.payne@miamiyoder.org)

- [Weld RE 5J](#) has opened a new comprehensive high school with 15 CTE state approved pathways and plan to add 2 additional pathways and have more than 20 Continuing Education opportunities. They were awarded Student Achievement Program Award for 2023 from the Colorado Association of School Board this past fall for their CTE Expansion- The Exchange
  - Contact: CTE Director, Rebecca Albert, [rebecca.albert@weldre5j.org](mailto:rebecca.albert@weldre5j.org)
- [Lone Star](#) received the Perkins innovation grant and are starting a meat processing pathway. They have already purchased and are awaiting their mobile meat processing trailer.
- [Calhan School District](#) recently added a Criminal Justice program to train dispatchers for the EPCS department. They also will complete their NEW CTE building in April for our AG and FCCLA programs!
- [East Grand School District](#) has a new Outdoor Recreational Leadership program
- [Bennett](#) is partnering with several agencies to create healthcare and emergency service pathways for high demand jobs, such as EMS and wildfire certification.
  - Contact Assistant Principal, Nick Ophaug, [nophaug@bsd29j.com](mailto:nophaug@bsd29j.com)
- [Sargent School District](#) has an amazing Aviation program that is helping students get their private pilot's license by graduation. Contact: CTE Coordinator, Deanna Bartee, [dbartee@sargent.k12.co.us](mailto:dbartee@sargent.k12.co.us)
- [Fremont School District R2](#) Construction of a 12,000 SF CTE facility to expand cabinetmaking, carpentry, welding, drafting, and business programs. Building will be complete and ready for the 2024-25 school year.
- [Delta County School District](#) is utilizing an Animal Science Innovation grant that includes Delta County Schools, Montrose County Schools, and Technical College of the Rockies in which they are expanding 5 high school animal science pathways and starting a new Vet Assistant program at Technical College of the Rockies.
- The Southwest region has developed the [Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative](#) where 9 districts and 2 post-secondary programs are sharing pathways across districts, large equipment items, summer programs, & support PLC communities, and providing WBL & internships across all districts.
- [Pikes Peak BOCES](#) is working on a regional CTE complex centralized to assist students from multiple schools and visited with Governor Polis.
- Several notable accolades about successful CTSOs across the state in FFA, FCCLA, FBLA, & DECA
- **Secondary Liaison (metro) – Shelley Goerd**
  - The "CTE Metro Team" (affectionally named) has been meeting 1x per month. Open meeting for anyone who can attend. We are learning a lot from each other and finding comradery. As we continue to meet we hope to systemize the meetings to best support hearing all voices.
  - Big issues we are hearing are around program approval consistency and specifically WBL. There are also often questions about the nuance of the Admin Handbook. So far these conversations have been information gathering from each other. We encourage folks to talk to their Program Directors for more information.
  - Lastly the group is working on creating a small team to make sure the CLNA is a living process that guides work not just a 4 year check-in.
- **Web Liaison – Chris Duran**
  - No update, not in attendance
- **Hotel Logistics Liaison – Mary Krisko**

- Under contract for 2025 conference in Loveland - February 4 - February 6
  - Will have the same layout - feedback is appreciated.
- 2026 is booked up during the first week of February, consideration to move it to the last week of January.
  - Might be desirable due to the conflict of School Counselor Week
- \$45,000-\$50,000 average hotel cost
- Registration fee increased this year due to building a fund balance
- Request to add pre-conference feedback in the survey, unofficially the feedback has been positive.

**Unfinished Business:**

- **Advocacy and Awareness: Program Spotlight & Admin Spotlight -**
  - [Program Spotlight Nomination Link](#)
  - Admin Spotlight Nomination - use [Contact Us](#) feature of CACTA Website
    - Consideration for Rural and Metro Liaisons to lead this effort
- **Other website updates**
  - Leadership updates and update links to correction bio information
    - Kristi will work with Chris to work to make the website more accurate

**New Business:**

- **Nominations for Treasurer for 2024-2025**
  - This position will be installed at CACTE Summit 2024
  - Treasurer – CACTA member for at least 2 years.
    - This is a 2 year term
    - Oversight of the financial records and all financial accounts of CACTA.
    - The Treasurer shall collect all monies due to CACTA
  - Nominees include Donna Green, Nikki Carter and Janet Rendon
  - 2024-2025 Treasurer will be Nikki Carter
- **Nominations for President-elect for 2024-2025**
  - This position will be installed at CACTE Summit 2024
  - President-Elect – CACTA member for at least 1 year.
    - This is a 3 year term, moves 2<sup>nd</sup> year to President, then 3<sup>rd</sup> year Past-President. Creates teamwork with executive committee
  - Nominees include Nick Williams and Andrea Bolton
  - 2024-2025 President-Elect will be Nick Williams
- **Community College Liaison**
  - Mason Jenkins from Community College of Aurora
- **Area Technical College**
  - Randal Palmer from Technical College of the Rockies
- **Other?**
  - Summit Division Day will encompass work to focus on the Program of Work
    - Request to also discuss best practices surrounding staffing model formula
      - i.e 4 hours per program for CTA
    - State-wide effort for recruitment/retention
    - Data-dashboard (OGA)

- Any interest in providing additional data to inform policy?
  - Story of CTA reimbursement
- 210 current CACTA members; 109 were in attendance at CACTA
  - Continue to promote the value
- **Updating Dates:**
  - April, 2024 - CACTA Board Meeting
  - July, 2024 (TBD) - CACTA Division Day @ CACTE
  - July 21-24, 2024 - CACTE
  - October, 2024 (TBD) - CACTA Board Meeting
  - February 4, 2025 - February 7, 2025 - CACTA
  - Friday, February 7, 2025 - CACTA Business Meeting
  - April, 2025 - CACTA Board Meeting
  - July, 2025 (TBD) - CACTA Division Day @ CACTE
  - July 20-24, 2025 - CACTE

**Adjournment:**

Adjourned at 9:42 am