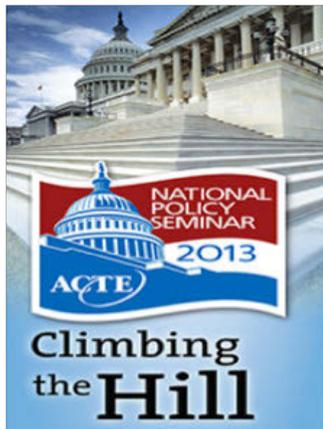


## ACTE National Policy Seminar Report



The Association for Career and Technical Education's (ACTE) hosted the annual National Policy Seminar (NPS) on March 4-6 in Arlington. Educators from across the nation met with members of Congress to talk with them about the value of Career and Technical Education (CTE). CTE delivers real-world training and skills development to more than 94% of America's high schools. Now, more than ever, the nation is turning to CTE to prepare the skilled workforce needed to keep America competitive and to grow our economy. With CTE programs expanding and changing across the country to meet employer needs, students, educators, administrators, and communities are challenged to advocate effectively for resources and support on local, state, and federal levels.

Irvin Hall, Virginia's ACTE Region II Representative, Sarah Scyphers, President, Virginia Agricultural Educators Association, and I represented our state at ACTE's three-day briefing on federal policies and consulted with representa-

tives and senators to encourage more support for CTE. While visiting Capitol Hill, we met with Rep. J. Randy Forbes, D-VA 4th District, and Christopher Maneval, Legislative Aide; Rep. Robert "Bobby" Scott, D-VA 3rd District; Rep. Bob Goodlatte, R-VA 6th District, and Lindsay Yates, Legislative Aide; Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-VA 9th District, and Legislative Aide Adam Harbison; and the Office of Senator Tim Kaine, D-VA, and Legislative Liaison Mari-bel Ramos. During each of the visits, we discussed important CTE concerns in Virginia, shared the VACTE Policy Issues, and asked for continued support for Perkins funding.



At the opening session of the NPS, we heard Dr. Anthony Carnevale from Georgetown University's Center of Education and the Workforce speak on his research findings in career outcomes for students engaging in CTE programs of study in secondary and postsecondary settings. Nearly 30 percent of associate degree holders earn more than those with bachelor's degrees, and 44 percent of graduates from four-year college have higher earnings than those with graduate degrees, said Carnevale on Monday morning. Carnevale applauded the efforts of ACTE, noting that career tech programs were efficient and a proven approach that helps students gain real-world experience and provides skilled workers for the economy.

Other speakers included James R. Stone III of the National Research Center for Career and Technical Education, Mark Edwards of Opportunity Nation, and leaders from the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Jane Oates, Assistant Secretary of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, delivered remarks during the closing general session and emphasized the importance of education that trains individuals in the skill areas needed by the workforce today and in the future. She stressed the importance of the partnerships between CTE and business and industry leaders to ensure economic vitality and strong job growth for the country.

More than 400 educators from across the nation attended the conference and participated in the Hill visits. The National Policy Seminar is an annual event every spring as policymakers begin work on the federal budget and appropriations process, as well as reauthorizations such as the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Workforce Investment Act.

### Join or Renew Your VACTE Membership Today!

Summer is close at hand and that means CTE division conferences for many of you. Whether you renew your membership or join for the very first time, joining the Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education during the summer makes sense. The cost is \$20.00; that means for .10 cents each workday, you are a member of your state's CTE professional organization. For one dime you will receive timely updates on national policy issues, leadership development, policy representation, recognition and awards, and information.

Do you know how easy it is to join VACTE? Go to [www.vacte.net](http://www.vacte.net), click on membership, complete the online form, and hit return. A one click process! What's stopping you?

Rita L. Griffith, RN  
VACTE President  
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### Next VACTE Board Meeting

VACTE board meetings are open to all members. The planned board meeting on May 2, at the CTE Resource Center in Richmond, will be from 10:00 a.m.-2:00p.m.



# VACTE Policy Update: The 2013 General Assembly

The 2013 General Assembly was a short session—45 days—and very busy. VACTE did not submit its own bills but monitored others that were of interest to Career and Technical Education (CTE). A complete list of the bill tracking and the outcomes is listed on the VACTE website ([www.vacte.net](http://www.vacte.net), click on Public Policy).

The bills of special interest to VACTE are summarized below.

**HB 1602 - Watson - Virginia Workforce Council; annual informational brochure for 11th-grade students, public high school.**

*VACTE had concerns with HB1602 because it was a duplication of effort and financing for this activity. The VDOE, Office of CTE, coordinates the "R U Ready" career magazine along with distribution. This bill would be a duplication of that as well as the costs involved. It was left in the House Education Committee.*

**HB 2097 - James - Career Pathways System Advisory Council; established, report.**

*This was an interesting bill to create another advisory council along with a score card on interagency cooperation. The impact statement indicated there would be no cost for the council other than travel expenses assumed by the agencies involved. However, it was left in House Appropriations.*

*The Senate companion bill, SB1188- Martin-(see below) passed in the Senate Finance Committee but with amendments that only if appropriations of general funds included in general appropriations act passed by 2013 General Assembly. The impact statement was the same as for the House companion bill. This bill is now being considered in the House Education Subcommittee on Higher Education and Arts.*

**HB 2101 - Ramadan - High School to Work Partnerships; Board of Education to develop guidelines for establishment.**

*Even though information was provided that CTE programs include school-to-work partnerships as a component of instruction, this bill passed the House and went to the Senate Committee on Education and Health and passed there and went to the Senate, which passed the bill on 2/11 (40-Y0-N).*

**HB 2154 - Byron - Virginia Workforce Council; powers and duties.**

*This bill had lots of concern due to funding statements. VACTE had lengthy conversations with the administration staff, Delegate Byron's staff, and other partners promoting the bill. Even though it seems the changes in the bill were minor, VACTE picked up some strong advocates along the way that will be beneficial in the future. These advocates now have a better understanding of the Perkins funding stream for secondary CTE programs and any concern that would relate to changes. The next step is to monitor the Virginia Workforce Council, attend the open meetings, and participate during the open comment period when applicable.*

**SB1177 - Ruff**

*The Senate companion bill passed the Senate Committee as a substitute bill and went to the Senate floor, where it passed. It is now in the House Committee on Commerce and Labor.*

While expressing concerns on some bills and not necessarily getting all of the changes we requested, VACTE was at the table, acknowledged, and was part of the conversation. We cannot offer recommendations and ultimately effect change if we are not at the table.

VACTE would like to thank everyone for their assistance and hard work on our public policy issues. VACTE now has established a presence and recognition within the General Assembly. This is only because of your help in contacting and networking with legislators while they are in your districts and during the General Assembly session. As one individual stated during negotiations on a bill, **"Can you hold off on the VACTE Blitz?"**

Let's continue to educate the policymakers about CTE and about what is happening in CTE programs—how students are engaged and moving on to colleges or careers of their choice. There is strength in numbers! We must encourage colleagues, business partners, parents, and the community to advocate for CTE. Policymakers pay attention if they know you are active and encouraging other constituents in their district to advocate on the same CTE concerns and issues.

Continue to work and build a meaningful and professional relationship with your policymaker and their staff members. Remember, they serve you, your community, and your students.

Please feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions regarding VACTE's public policy concerns. We'd love to hear from you and/or work with you and your regional groups on policy updates and initiatives.

***We Need Your Help!***

It is time to revise the Issues and Solutions document for 2014. Please review the current Issues and Solutions document, which may be found on the VACTE website at [www.vacte.net](http://www.vacte.net). Please submit any recommendations by May 10. Your input is needed.

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## Looking Ahead . . . 2013 CTE Summer Conferences

July 15-18	VAAE-Virginia Association of Agriculture Educators Conference	Bristol
July 29-31	VATFACS-Virginia Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences Conference	Portsmouth
July 29-August 2	VBEA-Virginia Business Education Association Conference	Northern Virginia
July 30-August 1	VAHAMSEA-Virginia Health and Medical Sciences Educators Association	Virginia Beach
July 31-August 2	VATIE-Virginia Association of Trade and Industrial Educators Conference	Norfolk
July 31-August 2	VTEEA-Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association Conference	Hampton
July 31-August 2	VAME-Virginia Association of Marketing Educators	Virginia Beach

## And in the Fall . . .

October 1-4	VACTEA-Virginia Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators	Virginia Beach
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### Marketing Teacher Whitney Ketchledge Wins Dual Awards

Mrs. Whitney Ketchledge, a marketing teacher for Hampton City Schools, recently was awarded VAME's Eastern Region Teacher of the Year, and Kecoughtan High School's Teacher of the Year! In her seven years of teaching, Mrs. Ketchledge has grown to be an exceptional Marketing teacher, DECA advisor, and role model for several young women.

Kecoughtan's DECA chapter is one of "the best" in District 25 due to Mrs. Ketchledge's leadership and experience. At Kecoughtan she coordinates and oversees the community service projects (Soul to Sole's shoe drive, CHKD collections, and the Susan G. Komen Think Pink Fashion Show). She is dependable, dedicated, and determined to instill excellence and accountability from her students. It is because of Mrs. Ketchledge's high expectations and commitment to DECA that her students gain self-confidence

and skills that make them successful in life. Proof of her dedication is evident, with Kecoughtan having three state officers and two national officer candidates under her leadership.

Mrs. Ketchledge's professional demeanor, organizational skills, attitude, and work ethic set her apart from her peers. Because of her high standards and work ethic, she is Kecoughtan's CTE Instructional Leader. Whitney is so efficient, she makes the job look effortless. Her leadership, determination, and pursuit of excellence has made the Career & Technical Education department one of the best managed in the district.

Ketchledge also has a unique ability to multi-task several projects and makes it look easy. In addition to her teaching and being Instructional Leader, Whitney completed and received her National Board Certification, is a DECA Board of Trustees member and continues to work on her Ph.D.! She amazes all because she does everything well. Attention to detail, creativity, teamwork, and a positive attitude make her a true leader. It is no surprise the Whitney Ketchledge is Kecoughtan's Teacher of the Year AND VAME's Eastern Region Teacher of the Year!



# Virginia ACTE News

## VACTE Awards

VACTE is honored to acknowledge the following people and entities for their contributions to CTE in the Commonwealth.

VACTE 2012 Policymaker of the Year  
**Senator Charles W. Carrico, Sr.**

40th District

Bristol City; Grayson, Lee, Scott, and Washington counties; parts of Smyth, Wise, and Wythe counties



VACTE 2012 Business Partner of the Year  
**Virginia PTA**

VACTE is pleased to announce its 2013 Scholarship Recipient.

VACTE Scholarship Recipient

**Laura Albrecht**

Longwood University

## NEWS FROM VTEEA

Three Virginia Technology and Engineering Education Association (VTEEA) members were recognized at the 75th annual International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) Conference in Columbus, Ohio, in March 2013.

1. The ITEEA Children's Council awarded George Willcox, the Virginia Department of Education Coordinator, Planning, Administration and Accountability, Office of Career and Technical Education, with the prestigious Mary Margaret Scobey Award for his continued support and dedication to elementary school technology education. Mr. Willcox is an outstanding proponent of technology education at all levels.
2. During the ITEEA conference, Mr. Mohamad Barbarji, a Technology Education teacher at West Point High School, and Dr. Johnny J. Moye, CTE Supervisor at Chesapeake City Public Schools, received the International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEEA) Distinguished Technology and Engineering Professional (DTE) designation. The DTE designation is a coveted mark of distinction in technology and engineering education that recognizes educators who have demonstrated a high level of competence and conscientiousness in the field of technology and engineering education.
3. Dr. Moye also received the Dr. Gerald F. Day Outstanding Writer's Award. The award recognizes outstanding articles published in The Technology and Engineering Education Teacher Journal. The ITEEA membership rated his article as the top volunteer-generated article of 2012. The article was titled, "The Status of Technology and Engineering Education in the United States: A Fourth Report of the Findings From the States (2011-2012)," and was published in May 2012.

Additionally, Mr. Jesse W. White, CTE Curriculum Leader at Hampton City Schools, received the Virginia Children's Engineering Council Curriculum and Instructional Leadership Award at the 17th annual Children's Engineering Council Convention, February 28–March 1, 2013, in Richmond, Va.



# From Agriculture: The “Fishy” Side of Hands-on Learning

by Sarah G. Scyphers, Washington County Public Schools

As you pull beside the Agriculture and Horticulture buildings at Holston High School in Damascus Va., you hear a lot of different noises: heaters or fans for the greenhouses, depending on the weather, the livestock in neighboring fields, and then a low hum of the aerators at the newly built Aquaculture facility. This facility is not a new concept at this high school in Washington County.

In fact, Aquaculture has had a place in the Agriculture and Horticulture Department for more than 15 years. It began as an alternative way to grow plants with teacher Warren Wells. The program moved into its own building, where it stayed for about eight years. The initial building was a converted storage shed that sat beside the Agriculture Shop. The Agriculture and Horticulture teachers who were at the school applied for a grant and were able to purchase equipment to fill the small storage shed, now converted to the Aquaculture facility, or Fish House.

This is where my story begins. I was new to the concept of Aquaculture and learned a great deal from the current students and the Horticulture teacher. After a few years, I realized we needed a new facility or needed to improve our current one.

The building held a lot of humidity year round, which created a problem with the wooden frame and insulation. We also needed a sanitary field to harvest our fish. Early in 2011, a grant became available to Southwest and Southside Virginia FFA chapters that wanted to begin or expand an Alternative Agriculture venture.

This would be the perfect way for the chapter to improve the current Aquaculture facility and make necessary changes. I wrote the grant to include a fillet room at the back of our current facility, with the permission of our maintenance department. I was awarded the grant that spring and began ordering supplies.

Meanwhile, the head of our maintenance department recognized that we needed a new facility and that the addition we were planning was only a temporary fix. At this point, we began to plan for a new Aquaculture facility that would be built with funding from our school system and the grant. When we had our ribbon

cutting ceremony this past October, we showcased our 3,000-plus-square-foot Aquaculture facility.

After the building was constructed, students in the upper-level agriculture classes installed the tanks and the accompanying plumbing systems. These students check for leaks and repair pipes as needed. Daily, students are required to check water quality in each tank. These tests include pH, nitrite and nitrate, chlorine, and temperature. Students determine if significant changes in the tank environment require correction.

Our Aquaculture program at Holston is student-run with teacher supervision. One class deals primarily with raising fish, constructing systems, maintaining environments, and harvesting and marketing the finished product.

At Holston, we raise tropical tilapia from 2–3 inches to market size. Students are taught to size the fish and sort them according to their size to avoid competition for food. The students also decide when the fish have reached market weight and are ready to harvest.

In the new facility, a fillet room was built to create a sterile environment when filleting and packaging fish. Students learn how to harvest, fillet, and prepare the fish for sale to consumers. The product is then sold to teachers, employees in the school system, students, parents, and community members.

A small endeavor that began many years ago has now become a trademark of the Agriculture program at Holston High School. Students enjoy taking Aquaculture and often take what they have learned to their earth science, biology, chemistry, and ecology classes. These core classes often visit the Aquaculture facility when there is a direct correlation to their unit of instruction. The facility has allowed the Career and Technical Education programs at Holston to collaborate with the core programs.

Our Aquaculture program started small, but has certainly gained momentum through the years and continues to thrive.



## Loudoun Focuses on Business Partnership to Develop Apprenticeships for Special Needs Students

This year VACTE-SND has been highlighting innovative CTE programs for our Special Needs population. One of our most creative counties is Loudoun, where they have been focusing on business-based partnerships to develop apprenticeship programs. Their initial partnership, one that is receiving national recognition in the field of wastewater treatment, is with Loudoun Water.

This pilot program, run through the Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) Transition Program, allows students to learn real job skills that lead to employment in the field of Wastewater Management. Students who apply and are selected for this unpaid pre-apprenticeship will have actual work for the majority of the day with an hour and a half of specific career academic training at the end of the day. An LCPS transition teacher provides the academics for career training, and work mentors at the facility provide hands-on training and job coaching. Completion of the internship can lead to obtaining a Class IV Virginia Wastewater Certification License and employment in a green and growing career field!

The internship at Loudoun Water is part of a new business partnership program that allows students to gain work skills and training for specific careers outside the walls of the school system. Like students who attend Monroe Technology Center, students in the Business-based Work Skills Program focus on the skills and education they need for work in a specific career. Unlike Monroe, they actually get this training free, at a real workplace, under the tutelage of working professionals. Course work accompanying the program will focus on career skills and curriculum material pertinent to licensure and/or accreditation in the field.

It should be noted that the Business-based Work Skills program is competitive entry, and students must fill out an application and participate in an interview with the business representatives. A limited number of seats in the program are available for qualified students. Students must be 18 years of age or older, in their last year of eligibility for LCPS services, and must be citizens of the United States.

Additional partnerships are in the works for hospitality and viticulture, with start dates planned for 2014!

## GREAT JOBS GREENER PLANET

### Why water?

- Water is a resource that is always needed—rain, shine, sleet, snow.
- It's a **green** job—providing water to the community while promoting public health and safety is ecologically critical.
- An aging workforce and an increased need for healthy, safe water sources ensure job opportunities for many years to come.
- These jobs are always needed and can't be outsourced.



## Virginia Credit Union Benefits Now Available to Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education Members

VACTE members are now eligible to join Virginia Credit Union (VACU) for access to affordable loans, mortgages, checking, and savings accounts and a variety of financial services. VACU members benefit from lower fees, attractive rates, member discounts and free financial education resources.

Convenient access is available through online and mobile banking with mobile deposit; VACU branches and ATMs; CU Service Centers in Virginia and nationwide; fee-free ATMs in all Wawa stores in Virginia; use of ATMs anywhere with rebates available on ATM fees; and full-service telephone representatives.

VACTE members can join VACU, open accounts, apply for loans, and sign loan documents online. The membership deposit to join is \$5.

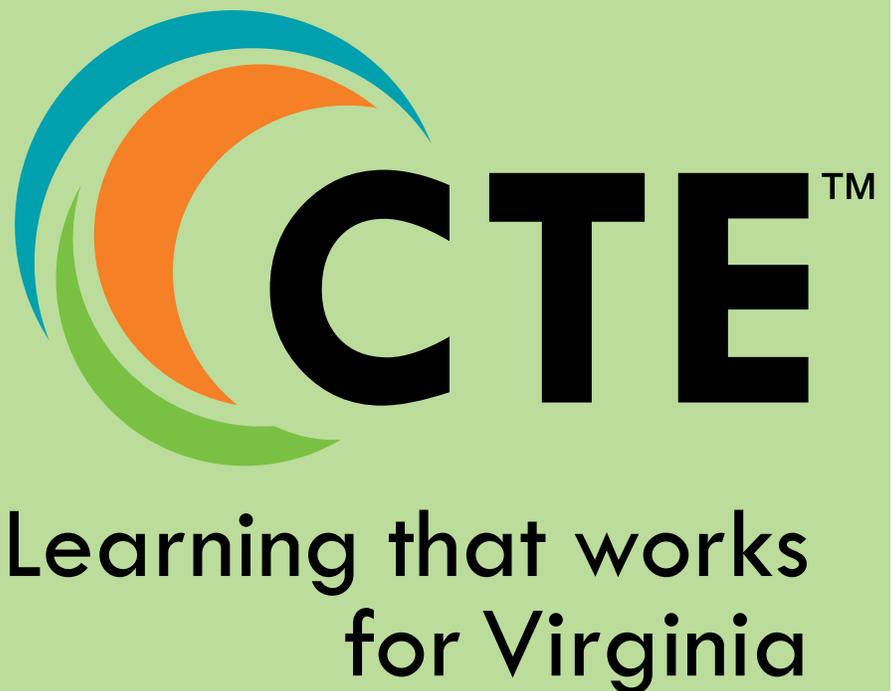
To learn more, visit [www.vacu.org](http://www.vacu.org) or call (804) 323-6800 or (800) 285-6609. Virginia Credit Union is an equal housing opportunity lender. Federally insured by NCUA.



# The 15th Annual VACTE Professional Leadership Seminar for Virginia Educators



January 23–24, 2014  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Richmond, Virginia



- *Become a leader and advocate for Career and Technical Education in your school division, region, and state.*
- *Become better informed about state and federal public policies that affect CTE programs in your school division.*
- *Support statewide Career and Technical Education (CTE) initiatives.*
- *Network with other CTE teachers, administrators, business/industry partners, and policymakers.*
- *Learn the latest on Perkins and Virginia CTE funding.*



# News From VAHAMSEA

VAHAMSEA is blessed to have dedicated professionals teaching students about healthcare in Virginia. As the population ages, those of us in the "Baby-Boomer" generation will find comfort in knowing that the future healthcare workers are being trained by the best in Virginia. This is evident in the awards received by teachers in our organization:

- **Robin Ward:** Auxillary Teacher of the Year 2012-2013, Norfolk Public Schools
- **Jane Best:** Teacher of the Year Award for Chesapeake Center for Science and Technology, 2012
- **Regina Artz:** Teacher of the Year award for Chesapeake Center for Science and Technology, 2013
- **Wendy Jacobs:** Teacher of the Year for Norfolk Tech Center

On July 25, 2012, **Rita Griffith**, Medical Assistant Instructor, Chesterfield Technical Center, was presented the VAHAMSEA Outstanding Vocational Educator Award. President Michele Wright nominated Rita for her dedicated service as our VACTE representative. Rita's dedication and leadership skills did not go unnoticed. This year, Rita is the VACTE President, and VAHAMSEA is very honored and proud to have her leading our state organization!

Our State HOSA conference was March 15-17, 2013 in Williamsburg, VA this year with more than 800 students in attendance. We are looking forward to having a great showing at Nationals.



Virginia Health and Medical  
Sciences Educators Association

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