

CONNECTION CONFERENCE EMPOWER LIVES



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ACTEAZ Welcome



OUR PURPOSE To CONNECT all CTE professionals with the network, resources, and abilities they need to make a meaningful difference.

Dear AZ CTE Family,

It is my honor to welcome you to the 50th Annual ACTEAZ/ADE Arizona CTE Summer Conference—The Connection Conference: Empower Lives. This milestone event celebrates not only a half-century of CTE excellence in Arizona, but the incredible educators, counselors, administrators, CTE professionals, and industry partners like you who continue to empower students, schools, and communities.

This year's theme, *Empower Lives*, captures the heart of what we do in CTE. For five decades, Arizona's CTE professionals have equipped students with the skills, confidence, and career opportunities that unlock pathways to the American Dream. Just like Arizona's early pioneers who blazed new trails to independence and prosperity, we come together to celebrate 50 years of bold, forward-thinking education that builds futures and strengthens our workforce.

This conference offers more than professional development. It's a time to reflect on our shared legacy, exchange innovative ideas, and unite under a common purpose—to ensure every student in Arizona has the chance to build a successful, purpose-filled life. With over 300 sessions and unmatched networking opportunities, this year's gathering will showcase the power of CTE to shape both individuals and economies.

On a personal note, this year also marks my retirement after 34 years in public education. I can think of no greater way to celebrate this chapter than alongside the passionate professionals who make Arizona's CTE community so special. My career has always been about creating opportunities for students, and I leave knowing that mission continues in capable and caring hands—*your* hands.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for the work you do. And thank you for continuing to believe in the power of CTE to change lives. Let's make this 50th-anniversary celebration unforgettable. Let's continue to *Empower Lives*—one student at a time.

Warmest regards,

Juistoph

James Greishaber President, ACTEAZ

acteaz.org (623) 377-5118

Association for Career and Technical Education of Arizona 20403 N. Lake Pleasant Rd. Suite 117, PMB 615 | Peoria, AZ 85382

ADE Career and Technical Education Welcome



Arizona Department of Education

Office of Career and Technical Education

Welcome to the 50th Annual ACTEAZ/ ADE AZ CTE Summer Conference!

This year's theme is EMPOWERING LIVES and Strengthening Arizona's Workforce, a beautiful sentiment for the summer conference's golden anniversary.

In thinking about my greeting to you, I remembered that I was asked a few months ago to reflect on my "Why;" the driving force that propels me toward the work I do, and I thought it appropriate with this year's theme.

Each morning as I approach 100 West 15th Avenue, the building where I work, my path takes me past a bus stop for which two, three, or even four homeless people have sheltered for the night. Traveling closer to the reflective glass-covered building that houses the Career and Technical Education unit at the Arizona Department of Education, I sometimes wait for another homeless person to cross the street, towing their entire possessions in a wagon or shopping cart. Occasionally, I will see another who is the beneficiary of someone's good grace, as the homeless soul's clothing is relatively clean and new, thinking to myself how it must feel to have shed what most likely had been worn for months or even years.

I imagine what their destiny may have been if they had been EMPOWERED to gain experience, learn a skill, or cultivate a talent. What might their world be like if they had been EMPOWERED to enrich their capacity to build or create? How EMPOWERED they may be if they had had the opportunity to be involved in career and technical education?

In all honesty, they may have had a CTE experience. Furthermore, I am not naïve enough to know that CTE can eliminate all the challenges of mental health maladies and poverty in our communities. But I am confident that if they had been EMPOWERED through CTE, how much different their reality could have been.

My heart aches for the underprivileged. Watching those less fortunate around me tugs at my "why." How can I help others to reach their potential? What can I do to increase their station in life. Why do I champion CTE?

The fact is, whether student or teacher, CTE brings purpose, self-worth, a reason, and hope. CTE finds a way into the souls of those involved to bring value and relevancy, not only in a particular vocation but to the point where it EMPOWERS all of us to serve, move forward, and contribute to the greater good around us.

Recently, I read an article in Big Think, an online periodical in which Barry Conchie and Sarah Dalton wrote "What JFK learned about leadership from a NASA janitor" - August 27, 2024.

They wrote:

Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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"When President Kennedy visited NASA at Cape Canaveral in 1962, he noticed a worker clearing leaves with a broom. Never one to miss an opportunity, he went to the employee and introduced himself with a question: "Hey, I'm Jack Kennedy. What are you doing?" Anyone who works in aviation will tell you that the presence of debris in the vicinity of accelerating aircraft can be destructive. The backdraft from engine thrust can suck the debris into the engines and cause catastrophic failure. This was the most obvious and logical answer to the president's question, but the employee looked back at Kennedy and said, "I'm part of the team that's going to put a man on the moon."

"Research into employee engagement by Gallop captured what came easily to JFK: "Does the mission and purpose of your company make you feel your job is important?" In asking the question, Gallup realized that it wasn't knowledge of the organization's mission and purpose that is important (although that's a good starting point), it's that employees can express this knowledge through the value they create in their own job. Sure, the employee at NASA is sweeping up leaves, but his value is much greater. He sees his job as critical to the mission of NASA, and he just happens to contribute by sweeping up leaves.

Now, sure, the authors of "What JFK learned about leadership from a NASA janitor" articulate the importance of how important it is that each of us create value in the job we do. But, I think there is another point to be made. The "why" we do what we do, small or big, started when we felt EMPOWERED with the belief that we are making a difference. With CTE we are EMPOWERED. Confident and in control of our lives. Giving all of us the skills, the authority, or the freedom to do something. Giving us meaning.

Seeing the morning routine of those on the street each morning makes me realize why my job has meaning and value. It's my "Why." Sure, the "what," the "how," and the "when" I do my job have value. They comfort me in the belief that this makes me productive. But when it comes to "why" am I here rather than somewhere else?" It is because I believe the work I do can EMPOWER others.

I don't know if you are part of a team that is going to put a person on Mars, but I do know you are part of a team EMPOWERING students to learn a skill, develop a craft, and discover a passion. EMPOWERING them with opportunities other than simply waiting for a set of new clothes or looking for a warm, safe place to sleep for the night. EMPOWERING them to think forward. EMPOWERING them to solve complex problems. EMPOWERING them to find value in their lives. You are their launch pad, bringing value through CTE. You are an important part of EMPOWERING LIVES.

"Thank you" for all you do.

C. Kevin Imes CTE State Director Deputy Associate Superintendent Arizona Department of Education

Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction

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2024-2025 ACTEAZ Executive Board Officers



Jim Grieshaber President



Patti Pastor Secretary



Heather Webb Member at Large



Lindsay Duran Past President



Lori Luzier Treasurer



Patrick Clawson Vice President



Michelle Bohon Member at Large

2024-2025 ACTEAZ Board of Directors

Affiliate Members

Jim Kaltenbach AATA

Francisco Ortiz y Davis AME ABEA

Hector Reyes

Oscar Olivas ATIEA **John Scrogham** ACOVA

Brandeice Garza AZHCEA

Sara Lazar FACS ED

Representatives

C. Kevin Imes ADE Liaison

Amy West Arizona Career Technical Districts

Nicole Hampton CTE University Liaison **Tina Norton** Advocacy/Legislative

John Morgan AOAC

Dennis Esparza Financial Review **Jennifer Brooks** AZ CTE Curriculum Consortium

Michael Terrey Business Partnerships

Jennifer Kaufman-Fourness Workforce Development

2024-2025 ACTEAZ Fellows

First Year

Corinne Angello Pima JTED

Debbie MacKinney AZCTECC

Lisa Weisenfluh Chandler USD **Marci Boettcher** Saddle Mountain USD

Mike Srsen Pima JTED Moises Centeno Dysart USD

Debbie Swiers West-MEC

Second Year

Kirsten Coury Peoria USD

Matthew Gilbert Dysart USD **Lisa Draper** Northern Arizona University

Joleese Meadows West-MEC **Scott Fitterer** Humboldt USD

Paige Quinn West-MEC

Taylor Sackett Buckeye Union High School District

ACTEAZ Presidents Past to Present

1973 - 1974: Jean Dori 1974-1975: Dick Froess 1975-1976: Jerry Fielder 1976-1977: Mike St. George 1977-1978: Margaret LaVelle 1978-1979: Edna Davis 1979-1980: Ernie Hirata 1981-1982: Beverly Joder Collier 1981-1982: Don Combrink 1982-1983: Ron Meher 1983-1984: April Johnson 1984-1985: Anna Laura Bennington 1985-1986: Owen Layton 1986-1987: Kathy Beck 1987-1988: John Bradley 1988-1990: Jose Bernal 1990-1991: Pearl Lansing 1991-1992: Ray Polesky 1992-1993: Mike Nacinovich 1993-1994: Martin Hoeffel 1994-1995: Mike Gillispie 1995-1996: Nan Sparle Kay 1996-1997: Kay Marshall 1997-1998: Tom McCullogh

1998-1999: Jerome Wyche

1999-2000: Ann Wick 2000-2001: Pam Ferguson 2001-2002: Dean Petersen 2002-2003: Kevin English 2003-2004: Ted Maish 2004-2005: Dr. Patti Beltram 2005-2007: Greg Donovan 2007-2008: Dr. John Mulcahy 2008-2009: Mary Anne Berens 2009-2010: Charles Gallagher 2010-2011: Dean Petersen 2011-2012: Curt Bertelsen 2012-2013: Doris Wojtulewicz 2013-2014: Stephen Weltsch 2014-2015: Dr. John Mulcahy 2015-2016: Lisa Doll 2016-2017: Julie Stockwell 2017-2018: Stephen Weltsch 2018-2019: Curt Bertelsen 2019-2020: Lisa Doll 2020-2021: Dr. Randy Kimmens 2021-2022: Rahsaan Bartet 2022-2023: Lindsay Duran 2023-2025: James Grieshaber

ADE CTE Directors Past to Present

J. R. Cullison Eugene Door Tom Anderson Ray Ryan John Lange Barbara Border **Richard Condit** David Muelbauer Charles Losh Mary Lewkowitz Milt Ericksen/Barbara Border Mark Hamilton Dr. Marv Lamer/Dan Brown Dan Brown Jeanne Roberts Cathie Raymond Kevin Imes

2025 Connection Conference Session Coordinators

Stephen Weltsch ACTEAZ Executive Director

Shelly York ACTEAZ Asst. Executive Director

James Grieshaber ACTEAZ President

C. Kevin Imes ADE CTE Deputy Associate Superintendent

Amber Gloria ACTEAZ Premier Series Coordinator

Courtney Cook ACTEAZ Brand and Technology Manager

Emeli Belloc ACTEAZ Administrative Assistant

John Scrogham ACOVA President

Susan Farretta ADE CTE Career Development Program Specialist

Bruce Watkins ADE CTE Program Specialist Agriculture and Welding

Elena Gallego Rascon ADE CTE Program Specialist, BME Programs Career and Technical of Education Arizona Department of Education

Julie Ellis ADE CTE Director Career and Technical Students Organizations

Robert Waller ADE CTE Program Specialist, Communications Media Technologies **Kylie Chamblee** ADE CTE Program Specialist Education and Training, Family and Consumer Science

Tracy Rexroat ADE CTE Program Specialist Engineering, Manufacturing, Information Technologies

Wesley Wood ADE CTE Program Specialist Health Science Technologies

Emily Brown ADE School Counselor Director

Oscar Olivas ATIEA

Jennifer Books AZ CTE Curriculum Consortium Director

Melissa Veo Buckeye Union High School FFA Advisor

Jennifer Kaufman Fourness Maricopa Community Collges

Hailey Adams West-MEC AZHCEA

Joel Todd CTEDs

Samuel Irvin ADE CTE Director of Data & Accountability

Gina Schmitz ADE CTE Grants Supervisor



Sponsors

Download the ACTEAZ Conference App



Download the ACTEAZ Conference App!



Search for "ACTEAZ Conference" in the iOS store or Google Play.









Program Area Locations

Thank you Hotels!

Special thanks to our conference hotels Loews Ventana Canyon and Westin La Paloma Resort, and overflow hotels Westward Look Wyndham Grand Resort, Embassy Suites at Tucson Paloma Village, Ventana Canyon Club and Lodge, and the Eddy Hotel Tucson Tapestry Collection by Hilton for donating \$1.00 from every hotel room night generated by the 2025 AZ CTE Connection Conference to the ACTEAZ Scholarship Fund. We appreciate and thank you for your investment in CTE students!



Agriculture

Business and Marketing Education (BME) Communication Media Technologies (CMT) Construction Science Technologies (CST) Engineering, Manufacturing (ENGR, MFG) Information Technologies (IT) Interdisciplinary Public Service Careers (PSC) Transporation Technologies (TT) Welding



Administration Community Colleges Education and Training Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Health Science Technologies (HST) Interdisciplinary School Counseling

Keynote Session



"What You Do Matters" Dr. John Mulcahy

Sunday, July 13, 2025 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Loews Ventana Canyon - Kiva

Every day CTE professionals including teachers, administrators, support staff, teacher trainers, state department of education personnel and school counselors labor to provide students with the skills they need in order to live the lives they want. Their work is central to a strong American economy and improved lives for American citizens. There are challenges aplenty, but the research suggests considerable success. John's presentation highlights our achievements and our challenges.

Biography

Dr. John Mulcahy is a Career and Technical Education (CTE) evangelist and a life-long educator. He truly believes that student involvement in CTE is the key to a better and more prosperous country and he speaks widely on the subject.

John shares the research that suggests that CTE can help to more fully engage students in education, amplify their academic achievement and move them on to worthy postsecondary destinations with fulfilling careers as the ultimate goal.

John was a high school agricultural education instructor for over twenty years before transitioning to administration where he served as a CTE Director, Administrator for Career Services, Professional Development Director and Assistant Superintendent for Adult Learning.

John has received numerous awards during his career including the Arizona Teacher of the Year and the national Association for Career and Technical Education Lifetime Achievement Award.

John is passionate about CTE, his family, outdoor activities and the Green Bay Packers.

He holds degrees from the University of Wisconsin, the University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University.

Keynote Session Agenda

Sunday, July 13, 2025 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Loews Ventana Canyon - Kiva

Call to Order and Master of Ceremonies Jim Grieshaber, ACTEAZ President 2024-2025

Presentation of Colors

Tombstone High School JROTC Under the direction of Army Instructor Daniel S. Kilpatrick, MSG (R), USA

CTE Month 2025 Winning Poster Mitchell Speigel, Dysart USD - First Place

Visionary Sponsor - ElevateEDAZ

Greetings from the Arizona Department of Education C. Kevin Imes, Deputy Assoc. Superintendent of CTE and Tom Horne, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Remarks by ACTE National LeAnn Curry, ACTE Executive Director

ACTE Drawing Robert Torres, ACTE President and Susan Leon, Past New & Related Services Division Vice President

Keynote Address John Mulcahy

Sponsorships and Exhibitors Thank you!

Closing Comments & Drawings Jim Grieshaber and Stephen Weltsch

Awards Breakfast

Celebrate the contributions and accomplishments of your CTE peers at the 2025 ACTEAZ Awards Breakfast.

Wednesday, July 16, 2025 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM Westin La Paloma - Grand Ballroom

Welcome

Heather Webb, ACTEAZ President 2025-2026

Presentation of Colors

Sandra Day O'Connor Air Force JROTC Under the direction of Maj. (R) Vaughan Whited and MSG (R) Mike Badey, USA

Visionary Sponsor - Maricopa Community Colleges

ACTEAZ Executive Director Remarks Stephen Weltsch

ACTEAZ Officer Recognition 2024-2025 Stephen Weltsch

Presentation of 2025 ACTEAZ Awards Patrick Clawson

2025 Scholarships Lori Luzier Provided by ACTEAZ, ACOVA, AOAC and CTEDs

ACTE Region V Report Heather Webb

Closing Comments & Drawings C. Kevin Imes, Deputy Assoc. Superintendent of CTE

2025 ACTE National & Region V Award Winners

National Awards



Jennifer Kline 2025 ACTE National Post Secondary Educator of the Year Award

Region V Awards



Tina Gudvangen 2025 ACTE Region V CTE Administrator of the Year Award



ACTEAZ 2025 ACTE Region V Communications Award



Curt Bertelsen 2025 ACTE Region V Lifetime Achievement Award



Chef Wyatt Swinton - Page USD 2025 ACTE Region V Innovative CTE Program Award – Arizona

2025 ACTEAZ Award Winners



Amy De La O Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year Vail School District



Michelle Crary Career and Technical Education Administrator of the Year Gilbert School District



Stacey Etherington Teacher Community Service Award-Carl Perkins Chandler Unified School District



Shawn Vandernaalt Career Guidance Award Tolleson UHS District



Kimberly McCroy ACTEAZ Distinguished Service Award Pima JTED



Keva Wesson Outstanding CTE Administrative Assistant of the Year Award Agua Fria School District



Micah Miranda Policymaker of the Yea Award City of Chandler Economic Development



Elizabeth Peters Career and Technical Education Post-Secondary Educator of the Year Yavapai College



Kenyon Ozanne New Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year Peoria Unified School District

2025 ACTEAZ Award Winners



Amy West Lifetime Achievement Award WAVE



Sintra Hoffman Outstanding Business Professional of the Year Award Agua Fria School District





JD Burgess and Jamal Bechri Outstanding Career and Technical Education Program Award West-MEC Physical Therapy



Amy Dries Outstanding CTE Junior High Teacher of the Year Award Flagstaff Unified School District



John Scrogham Outstanding Affiliate Award ACOVA

2025 Scholarship Winners



Alexander Godbold Canyon View High School ACTEAZ



Rylee Mogalian Paradise Valley High School ACOVA



Skylynn Kenton Globe High School CTED



Kennedy Thompson Casteel High School ACTEAZ



Caden Metzger Basha High School ACOVA



Nandini Goel Paradise Valley High School ACTEAZ



Jacob West Lee Williams High School ACOVA



Nelson Supriyasilp Marcos De Niza ACTEAZ



Annabelle Williams Chandler High School AOAC

2025 Scholarship Winners



Autumn Shanahan Desert Edge High School ACOVA



Kirra Norman Campo Verde High School AOAC



Derek Ciardi Campo Verde High School ACTEAZ



Hollie Keil San Simon High School ACTEAZ



Madelyn Guy Verrado High School ACTEAZ



Keyona Richardson Estrella Foothills High School ACTEAZ

Exhibitors

We'd like to thank all the exhibitors who are participating in the 2025 Arizona CTE Connection Conference! To see the most recent list of exhibitors, please visit: <u>new.login.acteaz.org/exhibitors/view-exhibitors</u>

Westin La Paloma

AZTECH Resources LLC - W41, W40, W42, W43 Blank Canvas - W1 Advanced Technologies Consultants - W36 Rocky Mountain Tech - W22, W23 iCEV - W38 Klein Educational Systems - W34, W35 G-W Publisher - W33 Associated Minority Contractors of Arizona - W27 Stukent, Inc. - W44 Arizona Mining Association - W37 zSpace, Inc. - W47 AZ StRUT - W12 **IES Communications - W18** WBMFG-W24 DAKTIC - W32 Tosa by Isograd - W29 Pearson / NCCER - W25 Open Education and Development Group, LLC - W19 CareerSafe - W28 SolidProfessor - W39 Paxton Patterson - W45 High Country Technology Consultants - W30

Loews Ventana Canyon

iCEV - L5 Pipeline AZ - L9 G-W Publisher - L30 Earn To Learn (Early Career Pathfinders Program) - L23 National Healthcareer Association - L10 **KP Education Systems - L1** Vector Solutions - L8 SchooLinks - L2 Junior Achievement of Arizona Inspire - L18 Transfr, Inc - L19 CYBER.ORG - L11 CareerSafe - L3 Paxton Patterson - L28 MedTable AR - L16 Edge Factor - L29 National Geographic Learning/Cengage - L12

CodeHS, Inc. - W3 NRF Foundation - W5, W6 CRAS-Conservatory of Recording Arts & Sciences - W10 Western Electrical Contractors Association - W4 National Geographic Learning/Cengage - W17 Snap-on Industrial - W11 Arizona Furnishings - W2 Arizona Department of Education Certification - W21 MedCerts - W16 Knowledge Pillars - W31 Engineering for US all - W20 Woodcraft - W7 University of Arizona, Engineering 102 in High School - W26 B&H Photo, Video, Audio - W13 **SEMI Foundation - W48** SARSEF - W14 Arizona Security Group - W9 The Refrigeration School - W46 AQUAPONICS USA, LLC - W15 IEEE TryEngineering - W8 Universal Technical Institute-W49

Arizona Department of Education Certification - L24 Varsity Tutors - L6 Certiport, A Pearson VUE Business - L4 Hour Republic - L27 Skill Struck - L7 Skillify - L13 Dean Vaughn - L15 Grand Canyon University - L14 National Academy of Sports Medicine - L25 McGraw Hill Education - L20 Imagine Learning - L17 Burlington English Inc. - L22 Body Interact - L26 Pearson - L21

Loews Map - Lobby Level





Loews Map - Ventana Room



VENTANA ROOM

Loews Map - Kiva Building



WESTIN - LOBBY LEVEL

Meeting and Banquet Facilities



THE WESTIN LA PALOMA RESORT & SPA TUCSON

WESTIN - LOBBY LEVEL



WESTIN - TERRACE LEVEL



Terrace Level West



WESTIN - TERRACE LEVEL



Terrace Level East



WESTIN - MEZZANINE LEVEL

Meeting and Banquet Facilities



Mezzanine Level



THE WESTIN LA PALOMA RESORT & SPA TUCSON