



## Career & Technical Education

*Skills for Employment and Lifelong Learning*

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## Nevada Students Going to FCCLA National Conference in Orlando



FCCLA officers and advisers with the FCCLA National staff at the state conference awards dinner.

Students from Beatty, Carlin, Elko, Henderson, Jackpot, Lincoln, Mesquite, and West Wendover will be traveling to Orlando this July to represent Nevada at the FCCLA National Conference. Students will be participating in leadership development workshops, working with the Feed the Children Organization distributing food to needy families and competing in a variety of STAR

(Students Taking Action with Recognition) events. Nevada students will be competing in the following events: Career Investigation, Chapter Service, Chapter Showcase, Culinary Arts, Entrepreneurship, Financial Planning, Focus on Children, Illustrated Talk, Interior Design, National Programs in Action and Parliamentary Procedure. For more information on FCCLA visit [nvfccla.org](http://nvfccla.org) and [fcclainc.org](http://fcclainc.org).

—Karen Chessell

## Measuring Success in CTE — A New Dimension

Accountability in career and technical education has taken on a new meaning under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006, referred to as Perkins IV. One of the most talked about areas of accountability is measuring skill attainment. That is, states are being called upon to provide data that show how CTE students attain related skills. Under Perkins III, states could devise their own means to measure skill attainment contingent, of course, upon approval of the Education Department. A common means to do so was to document grades, whereby students earning a "B" or better in an exit

level CTE course were considered to have met the required performance indicator standard for skill attainment.

Now, the game has changed with emphasis placed on third-party assessments. So what are third-party assessments? Third-party assessments are tests developed and monitored by an outside source, such as NOCTI or VTECS. The tests are developed and validated by the vendor and states contract with the vendor to purchase and administer the assessments to students. Third-party assessments are part of the much larger picture of

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## FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Exciting Events at Annual CTE Directors Meeting



Phyllis Dryden, Director

On the national front, CTE State Directors from across the country met in Washington, D.C., in April for their annual spring meeting with a record number of USDOE's Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE) staff attending. The following exciting events occurred that could have a long-reaching, positive influence on CTE's future:

A private marketing firm paid by the Ford Motor Company Fund met with the national state directors to develop a keystone message for CTE and an effective communication plan.

For the first time in history, all five of the following representatives from prominent national associations participated in a panel at the meeting and publicly supported CTE. The Associations were: National Governor's Association; U.S. Chamber of Commerce; National Conference of State Legislatures; National Association of Manufacturers; and Achieve, Inc. (American Diploma Project).

OVAE staff covered the following important topics during the meeting: Staff will notify state directors by May 27 of any deficiencies in their Perkins IV State Five-Year Plans; State CTE Directors will have until June 13 to respond and work out any deficiencies; OVAE will mail grant award letters to the states on July 1. Additionally, OVAE recently hired Pat Stanley as the Deputy Assistant to the Secretary for Community Colleges.

At the state level, the good news is that Career Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are still strong and growing stronger in Nevada. March and April were filled with six state competitions by Nevada's CTOSs, FBLA, 882 members; FCCLA, 192 members; FFA, 1,455 members; DECA, 1,393 members; HOSA, 167 members; and SkillsUSA, 2,483 members. The state competitions are extremely important events for the students. Not only do students have the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills as individuals and/or teams in competitive events against other local chapters, but compete to see who will represent their CTOSs in the national competitions. At the nationals, state event winners not only receive national recognition along with gold, silver and bronze medals, but in many cases receive thousands of dollars worth of scholarships from private business sponsors.

While the success of CTE programs is evident throughout the state, Nevada will receive about a \$700,000 cut in federal Perkins IV funds for FY 09. Additionally, the \$4 million in state funds allocated to CTE programs for FY 09 has been completely cut from the budget. With support from our stakeholders, especially business and community partners, we will continue to grow CTE in Nevada despite these difficult economic times.

*Phyllis L. Dryden*



From left: Jan Routsong, Lynda Spann and Michael Haney at NBEA opening session.

## Business Educators Attend National Conference

Twelve Nevada business teachers and administrators attended the National Business Education Association (NBEA) Conference in San Antonio, Texas, March 19-22. As the premier professional development for business educators, there were many great sessions and trainings. Attendees brought home many ideas to share with their colleagues. The Nevada chapter, NVBEA, is one of the fastest growing chapters of NBEA in the country and meets throughout the year in the northern and southern part of the State with the annual business meeting in July at the NACTE Summer Conference division meeting.

NVBEA announced the winner of their annual student scholarship at their training on May 15 in Las Vegas. Janet Tran of Spring Valley High School is this year's recipient. The NVBEA scholarship is awarded through an application process to a Nevada business student with at least a 3.00 GPA who has been involved in various business-related activities and student organizations.

—Melissa Scott

## Marketing Students Assist Office of Child Nutrition with Wellness Challenge

Marketing students across the state had the opportunity to apply their skills to develop a real marketing plan and win scholarship funds for their DECA chapter. In a true collaboration, the Office of Child Nutrition and School Health challenged marketing students to create a marketing campaign for the late summer launch of their Wellness Challenge.

The Wellness Challenge will be a Web-based educational campaign for students age six to nineteen to promote healthier lifestyles. A grant from the Fitness and Advisory Council made possible \$5000.00 of scholarships to the winning entries. A team of community partners reviewed the entries and chose two winners, whose ideas will be combined to create the final promotion of the challenge.

Sierra Vista High School came in first under the advisement of teacher Kim Fisher, and the Northwest Career and Technical Academy students of Denise Tighe came in second place. The DECA chapters of these schools will receive the awards to assist with travel scholarships and educational materials for DECA activities. DECA, an Association of Marketing Students is integral to marketing classes and is an international career and technical student organization of over 190,000 members.

—Melissa Scott

# Community Service is Key for CNA Students

The Nursing Assistant program students of the Area Technical Trade Center, led by instructor Nancy Sutter, R.N., see much value and have benefited by participating in community service projects for over than five years.

This year, thirty-two students began their community service by fundraising for the American Cancer Society's *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer*. The students raised approximately \$3,000, independently and by selling paper ribbons in the cafeteria; the entire bulletin board was covered with ribbons by the beginning of October. A student employed at Smith's sold ribbons at work, eventually covering an entire wall of the supermarket. On Saturday, October 6, twelve of the students met at the J. W. Marriott in Summerlin for the annual walk. Students brought relatives and friends to the event and one even took a bus from across town at 4:00 a.m. to participate that day.

In October, the Alzheimer's Association requested the assistance of the ATTC students to help assemble the "goody bags" that would be distributed to *Memory Walk* participants the following weekend. On Saturday, October 20, Miss Sutter and ten students met at the Fashion Show Mall at 7:30 a.m. to help event organizers make the walk a successful one.

As in past years, Miss Sutter and eight of the students traveled across town on a Wednesday evening early in November; the students were fundraising again and were selling paper whistles

to benefit the American Lung Association. By the day of the *Blow the Whistle on Asthma* walk, Saturday, November 10, the students had raised over \$400.00. Miss Sutter and nine students participated in the walk. Once again, students reached out and gained the involvement of many friends and relatives, who also walked.

In December, the students geared up for their biggest project yet. This project, first suggested by a student several years ago, has been dubbed "Adopt a Grandparent." Each of the 51 students in the Nursing Assistant program brought in at least three small gifts (lotion, socks, hard candy, etc.) to be wrapped and distributed to residents of a nursing home during the winter holidays. More than 200 gifts were collected and wrapped. On Friday evening, December 7, three of the

students, who brought along friends to help, assisted Miss Sutter in distributing gifts to the Jewish residents and decorating their rooms for Chanukah. A week later, on Saturday, December 15, more than a dozen students and their friends spent the afternoon distributing gifts and decorating resident rooms for over 150 residents who were celebrating Christmas.

The Nursing Assistant students have learned the value of community service. One student researched how the dollars given to the American Cancer Society would be spent, and shared this with the class. The students have seen the faces of the forgotten, to which they have brought cheer. These teens have also spread the word to others in the Las Vegas community.

—Nancy Sutter, R.N.



CNA students "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer."



ATTC fundraises for the American Cancer Society.

## Measuring Success in CTE

continued from page 1

credentialing, where students earn a credential, either industry-based or other, upon successful completion of an exit-level course.

To expand its vision of how other states are measuring student outcomes in CTE, the Nevada Department of Education hosted a presentation at the spring CTE Administrators Meeting on April 4 in Reno by Dr. Patrick Konopnicki of Virginia Beach City Public Schools in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Under Dr. Konopnicki's leadership, VBCPS has developed a comprehensive system to document outcomes for CTE program completers. All students completing a CTE program either earn an industry credential through an industry-driven certification process or complete a third-party assessment. Earning an industry credential or passing the third-party assessment indicates a successful program completer. Furthermore, through a statewide initiative promoted through

the governor's office, students in Virginia will take a workplace readiness assessment at the conclusion of their CTE course sequence.

What can Nevada take from looking in-depth at the model developed in Virginia and particularly in Virginia Beach City Public Schools? What potentially are the next steps? First, a commitment must be established to develop a reliable system to document student achievement in CTE. This is not to suggest that much is not already in place. Quite the contrary is true. Nevada has taken great steps forward to show how CTE benefits students, from lower drop-out rates to equal and above-average academic performance when comparisons are made to entire student populations. Because of these efforts, the legislature and much of the public are seeing that CTE is not an education side-show. Rather, CTE is proven to be an effective model to keep students in school

and help develop a career focus that motivates students to pursue postsecondary education.

With that said, it is time to "step up to the plate" in terms of developing a stronger system to clearly distinguish CTE's accomplishments. A mandate to ensure all CTE program completers earn either an industry credential or pass a third-party assessment is certainly not out of the question. And who could argue that establishing a means to measure and credential work-place readiness would not benefit students in Nevada in the long run? The model established in VBCS is one of many that may be explored, but the time for development and implementation is now. The future success of CTE in Nevada is dependent on how well student outcomes are accounted for, and this could not be truer in times of scarce resources.

—Mike Raponi

# 2008 NACTE Conference Includes Golf Outing

This year's conference promises to be even better than before with the CTSO State Officers kicking off the Opening Session, Wednesday, followed by the dynamic Amy Gilmore, our keynote speaker. No stranger to CTSOs and CTE educators, she will have you rolling in the aisle as she talks about the power of laughter in the development of student leaders. Division meetings will offer you program-specific workshops and networking opportunities. On Thursday, there will be plenty of interesting breakout sessions you won't want to miss and then you can have the afternoon off to

sightsee, rest or play golf. The panel discussions on Friday are must hear sessions for everyone followed by the annual awards session. So, register online, check-in early and meet your colleagues poolside at the hosted reception on Tuesday, 5:00-7:00 p.m. See you there!

Conference registration is \$150 for members and \$190 for non-members and is available online at [www.nacte.org](http://www.nacte.org).

You may also join or renew your NACTE and national ACTE memberships on the Website: [www.nacte.org](http://www.nacte.org).

## Conference Schedule

### TUESDAY, July 29

#### Horizon Casino Resort

6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Early Conference Registration

5:00p.m.-7:00 p.m. Hosted Poolside Social

### WEDNESDAY, July 30

7:00 a.m.-7:30 a.m. Executive Board Meeting

7:30 a.m.-8:40 a.m. Registration

(Danish and Coffee with Exhibitors)

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. View Exhibits

8:45 a.m.-10:30 a.m. First General Session

**Keynote Speaker-Amy Gilmore**

10:30 a.m. Introduction of Vendors

10:45 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Fifty Dollar Chip Draw with vendors

11:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Lunch and Division meetings

6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Aggie Barbeque, Round Hills Pines Park

**Silent/Live Auction/Dance**

### THURSDAY, July 31

7:00 a.m.-7:30 a.m. Executive Board Meeting

7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. Danish and Coffee with the Exhibitors

8:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Second General Session

10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m. Break-Out Session I

11:15 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Fifty Dollar Chip Draw with vendors

11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Buffet Lunch

1:00 p.m.-1:55 p.m. Break-Out Session II

2:00 p.m.-2:55 p.m. Break-Out Session III

3:00 p.m. Family Time/Fun Time/Golf Tournament

6:15 p.m. Agriculture Awards Dinner

### FRIDAY, August 1

7:00 a.m.-7:30 a.m. Executive Board Meeting

7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Danish and Coffee with vendors

8:00 a.m.-8:45 a.m. Third General Session

8:55 a.m., 9:50 and 10:45 a.m. Panel Discussions

11:35 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Awards Luncheon

2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

# Annual NACTE Golf Outing!

Golfers and Hackers join us in playing one of Lake Tahoe's most scenic golf courses nestled in the majestic pines of the Sierra Nevada, just four miles from South Lake Tahoe! Fun for all!

**Thursday, July 31, 2008, 3 p.m.**

Tahoe Paradise Golf Course  
3021 US Hwy 50, South Lake Tahoe, CA

18 Holes, Par 62

\$41 includes your cart!



Sign up today by contacting Warren Hioki

Office: 702.992.2752

Cell: 702.465.6169

[warren.hioki@nsc.nevada.edu](mailto:warren.hioki@nsc.nevada.edu)



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Pollution—Smog  
Millions of People  
Large city



## Lake Tahoe

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Both places lead to winners!

# Join NACTE at the . . .

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HORIZON CASINO RESORT ♦ LAKE TAHOE ♦ NV ♦ JULY 30-AUGUST 1, 2008

HORIZON ROOM RESERVATIONS 1-800-648-3322

CONFERENCE CODE: NACTE SUMMER CONFERENCE—\$68.00 —PER NIGHT

DEADLINE: JULY 1, 2008

REGISTER ONLINE: [WWW.NACTE.ORG](http://WWW.NACTE.ORG)

### Go for the Gold in your classroom . . .

- ★ Visit with Vendors
- ★ Workshops for your division
- ★ Workshops for all CTE teachers
- ★ Guest Speakers
- ★ Network with all Nevada CTE teachers
- ★ University Credit
- ★ PDE and/or NDE Inservice Credit
- ★ Get energized and bring back the **Gold**



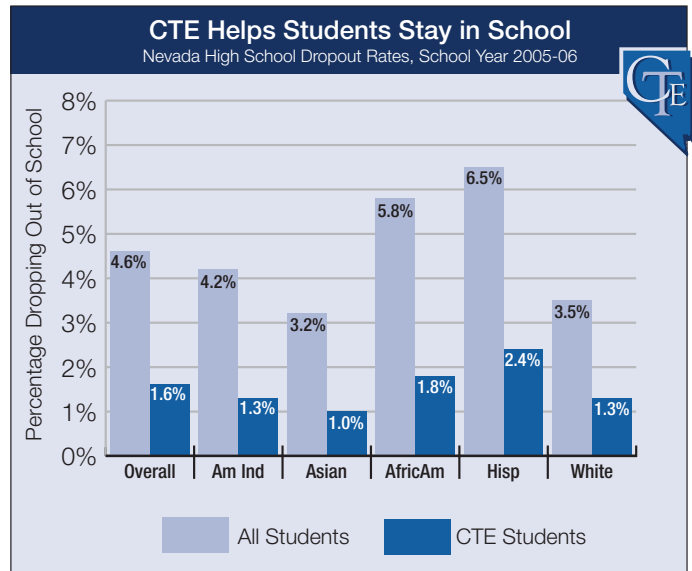
# Graduation Rates High, Dropout Rates Low for Students Enrolled in CTE Programs

For the Class of 2006, the graduation rate for Nevada high school students enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs was a very respectable 82.5%, 15 percentage points higher than the state rate of 67.5%. Such large differences are not surprising given that previous research in Nevada has found that CTE students, as a group, perform higher on the Nevada High School Proficiency Examinations required for graduation and have considerably lower dropout rates than state dropout rates.

The figure below provides Nevada dropout rates by gender and race/ethnicity category for high school students enrolled in CTE programs and the state figures for all high school students. As in the previous school year, the CTE students' dropout rate in Nevada was a low 1.6% in the 2005-2006 school year. The state's overall high school dropout rate was 4.6%, a reduction from the previous year. The overall dropout rate in Nevada is influenced by the low CTE students' rate since nearly half of the public high school students (over 49.7%) participate in CTE programs, suggesting a considerably higher dropout rate for non-CTE students than the overall state rate.

The impact of CTE programs on lower dropout rates among minority students, especially black/African American and Hispanic students, continued in the 2005-06 data. The data shows that the dropout rate in each category of CTE students is lower than the corresponding rate for

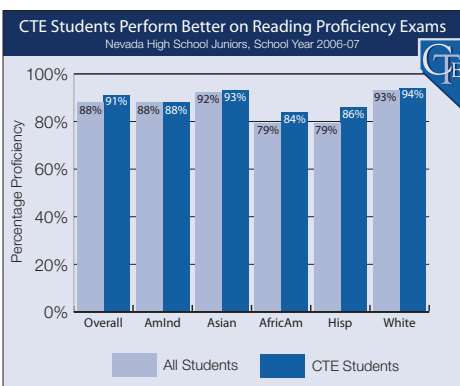
all students in the same category. Further, no dropout rate in any of the general population categories fell below the highest dropout rate for CTE students (2.4% for Hispanic CTE students).



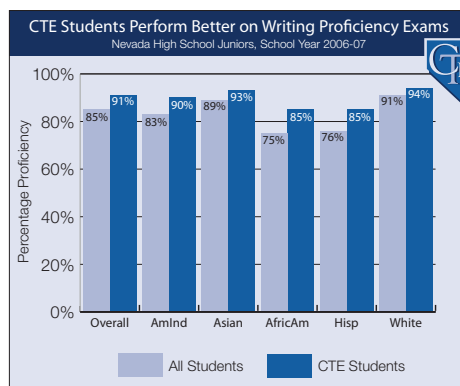
# CTE Students Perform Well on the Nevada High School Proficiency Examinations

The present study looks at academic proficiency in each area of Nevada High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE) of high school juniors who were first-time examination takers by comparing juniors enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs with juniors who were not enrolled in CTE programs. To determine the proficiency results for

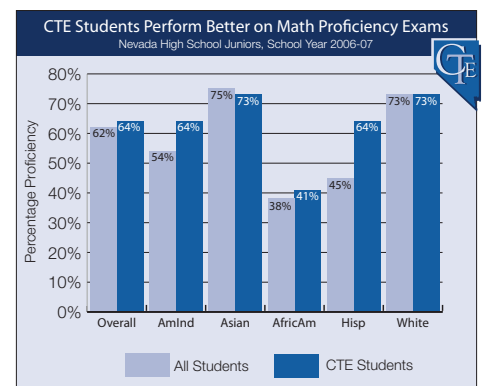
students who were not in CTE programs, the results of the 10,955 CTE juniors eligible for testing by the spring of 2007 were removed from the database and the 12,496 eligible juniors who were not removed comprised the non-CTE juniors.



**For reading, 91% of Nevada CTE juniors were proficient compared to 88% of non-CTE juniors. Notable differences in reading proficiency is evidenced for Black/African American and Hispanic CTE juniors compared to similar Black/African American and Hispanic non-CTE juniors.**



**For writing, 91% of Nevada CTE juniors were proficient compared to 85% of non-CTE juniors. Each race/ethnicity category of CTE juniors had a higher percent of proficient students than the non-CTE juniors.**



**For mathematics, 64% of CTE juniors were proficient compared to 62% of non-CTE juniors. Considerable differences were seen between the higher percentage of proficient American Indian and Hispanic CTE juniors and American Indian and Hispanic non-CTE juniors.**

# Business and Marketing Students Celebrate Nevada Entrepreneurship Week



Business and marketing students across the state took part in the second annual E-Week Nevada, celebrating entrepreneurship in Nevada as part of the National Entrepreneurship Week, February 23-March 1, 2008.

At Elko High School, a week-long open house allowed marketing students an opportunity to display their unique business plans. Students, staff, and visiting eighth graders were greeted by DECA president Travis McKenna and co-advisor Mike Hunton who shared specific information about writing a business plan and enrollment in Marketing & Entrepreneurship. Advertising flyers and announcements were used to promote Entrepreneurship Week at the school and FBLA president Jaya Bhakta and DECA president Travis McKenna took the opportunity to encourage visitors to join their chapters. This week-long activity was viewed by over 1,000 people.

Basic High School celebrated the week with guest speakers who were business owners such as Kim Flowers, the first African-American woman to own a franchise of a world-renowned acting and modeling school, and Mo Majid who emigrated from India with very little and now owns several businesses in the Las Vegas valley. They shared their stories of success with students in Terry Ertman's business classes.

The highlight of Nevada E-Week in the southern part of the state was the Entrepreneurship Expo, sponsored by the Nevada Center for



**Above left:** CTSO officers watch as Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman opens the Entrepreneurship Expo.  
**Top right:** Mike Hunton's students prepare for E-Week Open House.  
**Bottom right:** Elko High School students present business plan.

Entrepreneurship and Technology and planned by numerous volunteers and organizations. At the Expo, over 30 vendors and 20 workshops were available to help aspiring and existing business owners become successful. Nevada State Officers of SkillsUSA and DECA served as workshop moderators and helped host the event. Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman was also on hand for the ribbon cutting and proclamations from the governor, city mayors, and congressional representative were displayed.

—Melissa Scott

## Health Sciences Breaks New Grounds

### NWCTA Opens in Clark County

The Northwest Career and Technical Academy (NWCTA) is Clark County School District's newest career and technical academy. Freshmen and sophomore students were admitted in August 2007 from over 2,000 applications for 500 positions. According to Dennis Ryan, the Medical Professions program is one of the eight programs that students may choose. Freshmen students take a semester of Introduction to Health Occupations and a semester of Introduction to Biotechnology. Sophomore students in the Medical Professions program will select either a Biomedical or Biotechnology strand. The Biomedical strand prepares students for working with patients, while the Biotechnology strand prepares students for careers that support the medical field. In both strands, students take part in "hands-on" activities, which include projects and problem-based learning activities. Students are being prepared for careers in medicine and biotechnology as well as additional postsecondary education. The mission of the NWCTA is to, "Boldly educate today's learners

*for tomorrow's challenges by developing advanced skills through unique hands-on experiences in a professional setting, utilizing community partnerships, innovative ideas, and contemporary technologies."*

### HOSA Conference Breaks Ground in Las Vegas

Career and technical student organizations won't be the same after Nevada's health sciences students show off their skills and talents. The first State HOSA conference was held on April 25, 2008 at the College of Southern Nevada, Charleston campus. The conference had over 15 competitive events that were national conference qualifiers. The newly elected student leadership team will begin their year in office by brainstorming and putting together a draft of where the next 12 months will take HOSA in Nevada. A NACTE pre-conference workshop is being organized for all secondary and postsecondary educators. It will be offered Tuesday, July 29 and will be approved for one CEU.

—Randi Hunewill

## DATES OF INTEREST

- June 18-21 .....HOSA National Conference, Dallas, TX
- June 23-26 .....FFA Leadership Camp, 4-H Camp
- June 24-27 .....SkillsUSA National Conference,  
Kansas City, MO
- June 24-28 .....FBLA National Leadership Conference,  
Atlanta, GA
- July 13-17 .....FCCLA National Conference,  
Orlando, FL
- July 26-29 .....CTSO Officer Summit, Lake Tahoe
- July 30-Aug. 1 .....NACTE Conference, Lake Tahoe

### Nevada Department of Education Vision and Mission Statements

**Vision:** Quality education for all.

**Mission:** The Nevada State Board of Education/Nevada State Board for Career and Technical Education is dedicated to fostering excellent education opportunities provided to all learners by sustaining a coherent, aligned system of instruction and support in partnership with all educational communities.

#### CTE Mission Statement

The Office of Career and Technical Education is dedicated to developing innovative educational opportunities for students to acquire skills for productive employment and lifelong learning.



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## THE REFLECTOR

The Nevada Department of Education is an equal opportunity / affirmative action agency. The Department does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, political affiliation, disability or sexual orientation.

### Family and Consumer Sciences Education

#### The Standards are Done!

Three teams have worked hard to create standards for Family and Consumer Sciences Education. They are Fashion, Textiles and Design; Foods and Nutrition; and Housing and Interior Design. All three sets of standards have been validated by business and industry and the State Board of Education has adopted them, noting how impressed they were by all the work that went into developing them. Standards can be downloaded from the Department of Education Website at [www.doe.nv.gov](http://www.doe.nv.gov). Hard copies have been sent to district CTE directors, high school principals and FCS teachers.

#### AAFCS Celebrates 100 Years!

The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences will be kicking off their 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration of the profession in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this June. Visit [www.aafcs.org](http://www.aafcs.org) for more information. For information on the Nevada affiliate, contact Mary Rector, State President, at: [mmrector@aol.com](mailto:mmrector@aol.com).

#### Healthy Relationships is Focus of FCS Division Session at NACTE

We'd like to invite you to join us at NACTE. Educating students on Healthy Relationships will be presented by our keynote speaker during the FCS Division meeting.

#### FCCLA National Director Joins Nevada State Conference

FCCLA National Director, Michael Benjamin, joined Nevada FCCLA during our state conference in March as students participated in leadership workshops and demonstrated their skills in competition while celebrating their theme, "Life is a Highway — Travel it with FCCLA." Delegates elected Crystal Morgan, from Elko High School, as the 2008-2009 State President. The conference was held at Circus Circus in Reno with nearly 200 participants.

—Karen Chessel



Carson culinary students.

# SKILLS FOR EMPLOYMENT AND LIFELONG LEARNING!