

A
Career
Technical
Education
Newsletter

Outstanding
Teacher
Award

Q & A With
Britney
Schmidt

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ACTEAZ

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President's Message

As we pause to celebrate Christmas and Hanukah, I hope each of you will have time to reflect on just how blessed we are to have been given the gift of meaningful work. A close friend of mine hasn't been blessed with this gift. He has spent a lifetime in a career that has taken its toll on him physically and mentally. He has endured in a field that is high pressure, with money as the only reward for his toil. He has never known what you and I have experienced on a daily basis—the joy of meaningful work—work that changes lives.

Yes, we each have our minor aggravations in our job. A coworker that is difficult, purchase orders that don't arrive on time, paperwork that piles up or maybe a bell schedule that just isn't CTE friendly. These irritate us and we face these challenges head-on. However, the difference is that we experience other facets of our jobs that bring us tremendous satisfaction. This past weekend, I attended the COLT Conference (FFA Chapter Officer Leadership Training) with some students from a local high school. As I watched teachers march into the Hilton in Mesa with their officer teams donning their blue and gold FFA jackets, I was overwhelmed with pride. I recalled my 23 years as an Agriculture teacher at Flowing Wells High School and the satisfaction I felt knowing that I had done meaningful work. What a true blessing it is to have had the privilege of being a Career and Technical Education Teacher.

I would like to share with each of you something that is very special to me. Please feel free to personalize the following Creed by substituting the word "Culinary", "Fire Science", "Nursing" etc. each time you see the word Agriculture.

Agriculture Teacher's Creed

I am an agricultural educator by choice and not by chance. I believe in American agriculture; I dedicate my life to its development and the advancement of its people. I will strive to set before my students, by my deeds and actions, the highest standards of citizenship for the community, state and nation. I will endeavor to develop professionally through study, travel and exploration. I will not knowingly wrong my fellow teachers. I will defend them as far as honesty will permit. I will work for the advancement of agricultural education and I will defend it in my community, state and nation. I realize that I am a part of the public school system. I will work in harmony with school authorities and other teachers of the school. My love for youth will spur me on to impart something from my life that will help make for each of my students a full and happy future.

Happy Holidays from all of us at ACTEAZ and have a Happy New Year!

Curt Bertelsen
ACTEAZ President 2011-12

Executive Director's Message And the ACTEAZ Award Nominees are?

Pam Ferguson



The Association for Career Technical Education of Arizona takes great pride in hosting the Annual

ACTEAZ Awards Breakfast at the ACTE Summer Conference each year. When you reflect over the 36 years of ACTE Conferences, many CTE professionals have been honored and applauded.

All of us took great pride in their stellar work and contributions to the many students that they helped achieve their potential. The award winners have helped to create skills in their students that gave them the tools to contribute to workforce development in their various careers. These tools helped the students provide for financial security for themselves and their future families.

While all these contributions to students are honorable, let's not forget the tremendous time that was given to CTE by these award winners. They should be recognized and appreciated. Their personal families also shared their "Teacher Parents" as these dedicated teachers worked so unselfishly to create that one extra opportunity for student

achievement. But as we reflect back, the teacher's family also had a role model of a dedicated professional who made a difference in each person's life they touched. You too, as a CTE Professional, are a role model for your family. You must be proud to see the example you set for your children that, they too, will continue over the generations.

- Review the ACTEAZ Award Nomination Application
- Nominate a CTE Professional or a Business Partner to be Recognized
- Honor an ACTEAZ Colleague who has given so much to the Education of CTE Students
- Embrace the Decision Each Year to Nominate Someone for an ACTEAZ Award
- Make sure the person you are nominating and you are ACTEAZ Members
- You can go to the ACTEAZ Website to become a Member
- Look for more information on the ACTEAZ Website regarding the Award Categories



It's in Your Hands to Honor One of Your Colleagues

**ACTEAZ
Scholarship
Application**

**The 2011-2012
Scholarship
Application is
now available.**

**Visit our website
for nomination
criteria and to
download the
application.**

National ACTE Award Outstanding Teacher in Community Service

Congrats Deb Moore!

Deb Moore has brought a decade of marketing experience to her career as a CTE professional. As a marketing instructor at Raymond S. Kellis High School, Moore believes that serving others and a need to give back to the community are not genetic traits, but learned skills that teachers need to model more often.

The efforts of her students have raised more than \$100,000 to the local community. The greatest gift Moore believes she can present to her students is to understand that building a community starts with caring, and caring starts with their knowing the power of one person to make a difference.

Moore's students have succeeded in both service and skills due to her phenomenal

instructional techniques and complete application of the Total CTE Program model. The students have earned regional, state and national awards in DECA as a result.

A fellow colleague commented on her extraordinary service, "After 30 years in education, I can assure you that I have never seen a teacher who so effectively integrates community service into her program and who has had a bigger impact on the quality of life in her community as Deb Moore."



Legislative Information

Legislation can
have a huge
impact on CTE.

Are you keeping
up-to-date on
current affairs?

Check out the
ACTEAZ website
for legislative
news and
resources.

Don't Forget to Check Us Out!

ACTEAZ has redesigned its website for a new look and is better organized for its members' needs. We invite you all to take a look at www.acteaz.org.

ACTEAZ is also now on Facebook and Twitter! Join us and get updates for CTE News and Events.

www.facebook.com/acteaz

www.twitter.com/acteaz

A CTE Success Story Out of This World

Tony York

I was recently told of an article that was published in Nature, written by lead author Britney Schmidt, a former FFA State Officer from Flowing Wells High School. The excitement caused by the article was quite wide spread across the internet as a new theory helps to explain “chaos terrains”, tips of subsurface lakes that well up and warm the icy surface located on Jupiter’s moon, Europa. The implications of such a discovery includes the possibility of biological life and has the scientific community abuzz with discussion. While no doubt busy with her continued research and the attention from recent publicity, Britney was kind enough to discuss some of her views and answer a few questions on her success and her path through Career and Technical Education.

Q: How long have you been working in the field of geophysics and space physics?

A: Basically, I am a planetary scientist. I got my BS in physics in 2005 from U of A and my PhD from UCLA in 2010, so I’ve been involved since 2001 but actually out of school for the last year and a half. During my undergrad and PhD work though I was an active researcher.

Q: Have you always wanted to do something in this area?

A: I’ve always been interested in the night sky and space. Being in Arizona was a big part of that, because I could see the Milky Way from my backyard since I was a small child.

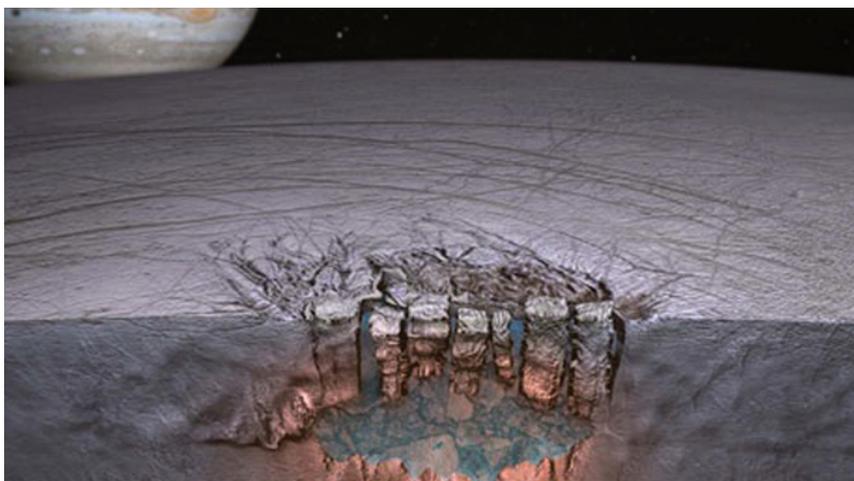
Q: In high school you were in the FFA and also an Arizona State FFA Officer. Would you say that being in this student organization helped prepare you at all for your career?

A: Definitely! I learned public speaking and interview skills in the FFA that have helped me to communicate about science with others.

Q: Looking back upon your own education would you say that Career Technical Education was helpful in getting you where you are today?

A: I would definitely say so. Beyond giving me a place to be active in school and to learn new things, CTE/FFA helped me hone communication skills and gave me self confidence that has played a major role in my career thus far.

“CTE/FFA helped me hone communication skills and gave me self confidence that has played a major role in my career”



Example of Europa’s Chaos Terrain

Do You Have News?

Do you have an article or event that you would like to share with us?

Then submit it today by e-mail at news@acteaz.org for our newsletter and website.

A CTE Success Story Out of This World (Continued)

Q: Do you have any advice for students that are now beginning to look forward and plan for their education and careers?

A: I think it's critical for students to take initiative and to be thoughtful about where they want to head. All too often people just pick a direction or course of study and just stick to it, never questioning whether it really is the right direction for them. Taking some time to think about yourself and what is important to you, where you want to be, the kinds of things you want to do and the kinds of people you would like to meet and work with helps you gain perspective on your path forward. I entered college studying Agriculture and English, but I found I needed to be answering different questions. I don't think I would be where I am today or as happy with my directions if I hadn't taken the time to think and to question myself. Sometimes being uncomfortable is a good thing—it means you aren't taking the easy way out.

Q: I've noticed quite a few news websites have snippets of information on your article. When writing it and having it published with the Nature journal did you expect this much interest and discussion?

A: Oh my gosh, not at all! It was such a surprise to have received such support for our work. When we were working on the paper and developing the ideas, we thought we were really on to something. We had hoped to give our community some new perspective and new theories to work on, and hoped it would be well received. To have our paper covered so

widely and to have received so many emails with questions and excitement has been a real honor. I'm just thrilled.

Q: So what happens now with your research?

A: Well, now we go back to the grindstone and test our model and apply it to more observations. In addition, I am spending some time trying to understand just what these conclusions imply for the habitability of Europa. The reason many of my colleagues and I study Europa is because of the potential that we might one day find life there. It's a huge question for humanity, and something very important to me. Hopefully, we can figure out how Europa really works, and then motivate a mission to go back and test whether Europa really is habitable, and even better, if life exists there. Our work is a small piece of the puzzle, but I hope the whole picture might be visible some day soon.

Congratulations Britney and thanks again for taking the time to answer our questions!



Save the Date!

**The 2012
ACTE Summer
Conference is
right around the
corner!**

**July 13th - 18th
Tucson, AZ**

**Check the
ACTE AZ website
for information
and updates!**

See you there!

Students Donate \$1,000 to Purchase Toys for Cardon Children's Medical Center

Tiffani Nichols

The Executive Club Council, a student organization at the East Valley Institute of Technology, has committed \$1,000 to purchase toys for the Cardon Children's Medical Center holiday toy drive.

Students will join Mesa District 3 Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh at 1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 2nd at the Mesa Riverview Wal-Mart (1061 North Dobson Road) to purchase the toys and gifts for children to help them enjoy their holiday away from home.

Members of the community may drop off



new, unwrapped toy donations through Dec. 8th at EVIT's two Mesa campuses, located 1601 W. Main Street and 6625 S. Power Road. EVIT is also collecting canned and non-perishable food items through Dec. 12th for the United Food Bank.

ACTEAZ Scholarship Application

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Washinton HS DECA Supports the Alzheimer's Association

Buck Nelson

WHS DECA continued their commitment to helping the Alzheimer's Association find a cure this year. Recently, WHS DECA's sponsors Buck Nelson and Maryellen Coburn educated their students about the disease and the students decided to act. The DECA students created paper elephants, the Alzheimer's Association's mascot, to sell for \$1 on campus and throughout the community. Over 135 students participated in selling the elephants.

In addition the WHS DECA program raised money by doing a bowl-a-thon and through both events raised over \$2,000. The two week effort culminated when members of the WHS DECA program participated in the "Walk to End Alzheimer's" in Downtown Phoenix on Saturday November 5th. The WHS DECA program has raised over \$5,000 in 5 years working with the Alzheimer's Association and the money is used for research and family support.

It's Time to Shine, with Arizona FCCLA!

Kym Spitali

The Arizona FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) hosted their annual Fall Leadership Conference at the Phoenix Convention Center on November 03, 2011. It was a HUGE success with over 1300 Chapter Members, Officers and Advisors in attendance from more than 75 junior and senior high schools around the state. This year, FCCLA hosted its first annual career based trade show. Exhibits were displayed by industry workers who introduced students to the different jobs available for each content area, beyond the secondary level. Students were fascinated by seeing an ice carver in action, cake decorators, learning knife skills and many more.

Led by Ryan Underwood, owner and founder of Tri Leadership Resources, LLC, students were actively participating a training workshop, involving Leadership and Career Success. Students and teachers participated in workshops that introduced them to the competitive events available to them for Spring Conference, teaching them the process of how and what to do to get started. Industry workers ended our final workshops by introducing students to the careers in their content areas and the requirements and advantages. Students were actively engaged in the workshops and left better prepared to utilize their new skills to improve the leadership experiences available in their own FCCLA Chapters.

The theme for the conference was "It's Time To Shine, with Arizona FCCLA!" FCCLA has been unknown due to the 1999 name change from Future Homemakers of America

(FHA) to Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA). The State Officers felt this is the year FCCLA will "shine" and created the theme based on the upcoming events scheduled for FCCLA. Chapter members definitely shined as they became familiar with the organization and can now introduce it to their communities. Everyone left the conference pumped up and ready to make FCCLA an active part of their campus.

The interactive activities allowed students to recognize personal strengths while building relationships and developing leadership skills. Workshop sessions provided ways for participants to work creatively together to solve problems, manage challenges, improve communication skills, and build confidence. In addition, advisors received training by participating with their students in the different workshops; to better aware themselves of knowledge students will take home with them. The FCCLA Fall Leadership Conference was a great opportunity for students to get engaged and excited about FCCLA, meet individuals from all over the state, make new friends, develop skills and create memories that will last a life time.



Support Your CTSOs

Career Technical Student Organizations are an integral part of Career and Technical Education.

CTSOs play an important role in preparing young adults to become productive citizens and assume positions of leadership in their communities.

Congratulations ACTEAZ!

ACTEAZ Executive Board

Congratulations to all who contribute in making ACTEAZ the association it is today and helping it grow for tomorrow. We have been awarded the Quality Association Award by ACTE National again this year. The award was presented to ACTEAZ at the ACTE Annual Convention on November 18th, 2011 in St. Louis, MO.

The purpose of the Quality Association Standards (QAS) is to provide benchmarks for state associations to determine levels of performance and satisfactory service to their members and prospective members.

QAS should be useful to states in evaluating their basic organization and whether their leadership is providing minimum, average or superior programs for the membership.

This award also signifies a high level of service that the state association delivers to its members as well as the way in which the President and Board advocates for career and technical education in Arizona. This award shows that the association continues to strive for excellence and provides the best leadership for the state association and its members.



**ACTEAZ Board Members with
Region V Vice President Doug Meyer
at 2011 ACTE National Convention**

Call for Presentations

**ACTEAZ and the
Arizona
Department of
Education
invite you to
participate in the
37th annual
ACTE Summer
Conference
Co-Hosted by
Loews Ventana
Canyon and the
Westin La Paloma.**

**Visit our website
for more
information.**

Upcoming Events

February 1 - 29, 2012

CTE Month

February 2 - 3, 2012

ACTEAZ/ACOVA Midwinter Leadership Conference, Prescott, AZ

February 3, 2012

ACTEAZ Board Meeting
Prescott Resort

March 1 - 2, 2012

FEA State Conference,
Grand Canyon University

March 4 - 6, 2012

DECA State Conference,
Phoenix, AZ

March 5 - 7, 2012

National Policy Seminar,
Washington, DC

March 26, 2012

ACTEAZ Board Meeting,
West-Mec Office

March 29 - 31, 2012

FCCLA State Leadership Conference,
Tucson, AZ

April 3 - 5, 2012

FBLA State Leadership Conference,
Tucson, AZ

April 11 - 14, 2012

ACTE Region V Conference,
Jackson Hole, WY

June 7 - 9, 2012

FFA State Leadership Conference,
University of Arizona

June 11, 2012

ACTEAZ Board Meeting,
West-Mec Office

July 13 - 18, 2012

ACTE Summer Conference,
Tucson, AZ

July 14, 2012

ACTEAZ Annual Board of Directors Meeting
Westin La Paloma

CTE Events

Check the ACTEAZ website for more events and information including location and registration forms.

MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



2011 - 2012 Board

The Association for Career and Technical Education of Arizona (ACTEAZ) is a volunteer professional non-profit association for Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers and administrators to provide leadership in developing an educated, prepared, adaptable and competitive workforce. Our primary goals are to provide professional development for CTE professionals and to increase public awareness about the value and importance of CTE.

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Visit us at www.acteaz.org

or call us at
(602) 377-5118

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