



OUR PURPOSE

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



Board ACTEAZ 2024-2025 State of the State

Submitted by: James Grieshaber, ACTEAZ President
Stephen Weltsch, Executive Director

State Officers: James Grieshaber, President; Lindsay Duran Past-President; Patrick Clawson, Vice-President; Patti Pastor, Secretary; Lori Luzier, Treasurer; Michelle Bohon, and Heather Webb Members at Large; Stephen Weltsch, Executive Director, and Shelly York, Associate Director.

ACTEAZ Program of Work

2024-25 Program of Work Updates:

- Unifying ACTEAZ's Purpose: To better communicate our shared mission, we have created a new collateral piece that captures ACTEAZ's why and shared vision – developed from discussions at our 2024 board retreat. The Bylaws have been updated to include:

DRIVER: Empower Lives

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

WHY: ACTEAZ is committed to empowering CTE professionals who are driven by a shared commitment to make a meaningful difference in the lives of students and the community. We believe CTE transforms lives, prepares students for success, and strengthens Arizona's economy by developing career-ready individuals.

HOW: To ensure that CTE professionals make a difference, ACTEAZ authors an annual program of work to include a variety of purposeful strategies:

- Engaging and Connecting CTE Professionals
- Driving Relevant Professional and Leadership Development
- Serving as a Unifying Voice for CTE
- Equipping Affiliates with Quality Support
- Providing Resources for Building Strategic Partnerships
- Empowering Local Advocacy

WHAT: ACTEAZ is dedicated to supporting engaged membership of all CTE professionals. We ensure that members are connected by a common purpose and equipped with the instructional, leadership, and advocacy skills necessary to make a meaningful difference in the lives of students and Arizona's workforce.

- Expanding the Premier Series: To provide more consistent training opportunities, ACTEAZ has increased virtual offerings and strategically embedded Premier Series classes into the Fall and Winter Conference schedules. As a result, we have 700+ teachers this year.



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- **Strengthening Statewide Outreach:** ACTEAZ has expanded its communication efforts through enhanced social media, newsletters, and email outreach. Additionally, our President and staff have conducted in-person visits to CTE programs in seven schools and one community college outside of Maricopa County to engage with educators across Arizona. Finally, the summer conference includes a special session on supporting high quality CTE in rural communities to present learned strategies and the result of a statewide rural CTE survey.
- **Enhancing Conferences Based on Member Feedback:** We have carefully analyzed past attendee feedback to improve session offerings, streamline registration processes, expand exhibitor engagement, and introduce new networking opportunities – ensuring an even stronger experience for our members. The changes have resulted in increased registrations and exhibitors.

COMMUNICATION

- ACTEAZ significantly expanded its promotional efforts through targeted email campaigns and active engagement on social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.
- ACTEAZ launched a newly designed newsletter this year, featuring original content. Six newsletters were published, each reaching over 1,000 members, with an average of 284 individuals engaging for approximately 11 minutes per issue.
- For over 16 years, the Arizona Governor has signed a Proclamation for CTE Month in partnership with ACTEAZ, recognizing and celebrating the importance of Career and Technical Education in our state.
- ACTEAZ hosted the 2025 CTE Month Poster Contest, awarding monetary prizes to the top three student winners. The first-place poster featured at the start of the Keynote Session.
- ACTEAZ continues to send weekly CTE Job Blasts to members, connecting school districts with CTE professionals seeking employment opportunities. This service has been provided for 13 years. There is a devoted webpage that shows all the CTE jobs received by AZ school districts on one page, so it is easy to see.
- ACTEAZ invites an ACTE National Representative to deliver greetings during the Keynote Session at the ACTE Summer Conference.
- The Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction is also invited to bring greetings at the ACTE Summer Conference.



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ACTE

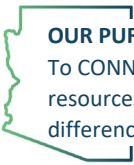
- ACTEAZ actively participates in national conferences such as ACTE Vision, National Policy Seminar (NPS), National Council of Local Administrators (NCLA), and Region V events.
- Arizona currently has two representatives serving on the ACTE National Board of Directors, providing leadership and contributing to the national CTE community.
- ACTEAZ Executive Directors are active members of the National Executive Directors Association (NEDA), collaborating with leaders from across the country.
- This year, ACTEAZ had sixteen members attend the National Policy Seminar (NPS), demonstrating our ongoing commitment to CTE advocacy at the national level.
- ACTEAZ has proudly received the ACTE Quality Association Award for over 20 consecutive years, a testament to our sustained excellence and impact.

REGION V

- ACTEAZ was honored to receive the Region V Communications Award, recognizing our efforts to effectively promote and support CTE in Arizona.
- Arizona proudly serves on the Region V Awards Committee and has also submitted an application to serve on the Region V Policy Committee.
- ACTEAZ received an Opportunity Grant to support high-quality CTE programs in Arizona's rural communities, furthering our mission to expand access and opportunity.
- We have so much to celebrate, including our Region V honorees advancing to nationals:
 - Tina Gudvangen – CTE Administrator of the Year
 - Curt Bertelsen – Lifetime Achievement Award
- Special congratulations to Chef Wyatt Swinton (Page USD), recipient of the Innovative Career and Technical Education Program Award for Arizona. His creative program design is making a meaningful difference in students' lives and futures.

FELLOWS

Since 2000, the ACTEAZ Fellows Program has graduated 198 Fellows, including 7 new graduates this year. Currently, 6 Year-One Fellows are advancing to Year Two of the program. Applications for the next cohort launched in June, continuing our mission to develop future CTE leaders in Arizona. This year, the Fellows Program introduced several key enhancements, including the selection of a new program coordinator for the upcoming year and the addition of a capstone project focused on addressing some of Arizona's most pressing CTE challenges.



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ELECTIONS

This year's officer election was one of the most competitive in recent memory, with an energized slate of candidates and strong participation from statewide membership. Each of the newly elected leaders brings a powerful combination of experience, passion, and vision for the future of CTE in Arizona.

ACTEAZ is thrilled to share the results of our 2025 ACTEAZ Board Elections! Please join us in congratulating the newly elected officers who will officially take office at this year's Annual Board Meeting during the 50th Anniversary Summer Conference.

Welcome Our New Board Members:

- President: Heather Webb
- President-Elect: Jennifer Kaufman Fourness
- Treasurer: Lori Luzier
- Member at Large: Michelle Crary

As we celebrate 50 years of impact, these leaders will help shape the next chapter of ACTEAZ's story. Elevating member voice, advancing professional development, and continuing our legacy of student success.

Thank you to all members who participated in the election. Your voice counts and drives ACTEAZ forward.

PREMIER SERIES

This year, ACTEAZ offered 35 Premier Series courses, reaching 717 participants statewide. Our offerings included 23 in-person courses and 12 virtual courses, providing flexible learning options for educators. At the ACTE Summer Conference, ACTEAZ will continue to offer Premier Series sessions, expanding access to high-quality professional development.

The ACTEAZ Premier Series is especially valuable for professionals transitioning from industry to education, as well as for serving the unique needs of rural school districts across Arizona.

These courses are fully certified by the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) for credit toward certification deficiencies and are taught by highly engaging instructors who model best practices in the classroom. Each course equips teachers with proven strategies they can use throughout their careers.



PARTNERSHIPS

- ACTEAZ and the Arizona Department of Education CTE maintain a long-standing, collaborative partnership, co-hosting the ACTE Summer Conference for decades. ACTEAZ also works closely with all CTE program areas and Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), whose students often advance to national competitions after winning at the state level.
- This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the ACTE Summer Conference, featuring over 285 sessions and welcoming more than 1,400 attendees, presenters, and exhibitors—a milestone celebration of CTE excellence in Arizona.
- ACTEAZ is an active member of the Arizona Department of Education's Quality Commission for Business and Industry, supporting efforts to align CTE programs with workforce needs.
- ACTEAZ is an active supporter of the Arizona CTE Curriculum Consortium.
- ACTEAZ collaborates with community colleges and post-secondary partners, who also serve as valued members of the ACTEAZ Board of Directors.
- ACTEAZ is a proud member of the Arizona Career Readiness Coalition, working to ensure students are prepared for success in college, career, and life.
- ACTEAZ also holds membership in the Arizona Business and Education Coalition (ABEC), strengthening partnerships that connect education and industry across the state.
- ACTEAZ partners with and supports NCLA with Stephen Weltsch serving as the NCLA Board President.

Thanks to our ACTEAZ Members for their leadership and accomplishments!