



OUR PURPOSE

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



ACTEAZ Board of Directors Minutes

Monday, May 4, 2026

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Executive Board Members Present: Heather Webb, Jennifer Kaufman-Fourness, Jim Grieshaber, Patrick Clawson, Lori Luzier, Michelle Crary, Cathy Bagby, Patti Pastor

Board of Directors Present: Michelle Martinez (ADE), Jim Kaltenbach (AATA), Eric Sorenson (ACOVA), John Morgan (AAOC), Dennis Esparza for Brad Whitaker (ATIEA), Donte Delia for Brandeice Garza (AZHCEA), Jennifer Brooks (AZCTECC), Michael Terry (Business Partnerships), Lisa Draper (University Liaison), Amy West (CTEDs), Kathryn Strevell (ASA), Kris Guy (AzSCA), Jim Grieshaber (Retiree Committee), Dennis Esparza (Financial Review Committee)

Fellows Present: Kathryn Strevell, Donielle Winzeler, Alexis Hastert, Bree Michaels, Tarnisha Tilson, Maritza Delgado, Deborah Abley

Special Guests: Kimberly McCroy, Luran Moraga

ACTEAZ Employees Present: Stephen Weltsch, Shelly York, Courtney Cook, Amber Gloria

Proxy Voting: Let the minutes reflect that:

- Lori Luzier will serve as proxy vote for Patti Pastor when she exits the meeting.
- Heather Webb will serve as a proxy vote for Cathy Bagby when she exits the meeting.

Welcome & Quorum Established: Heather established there was a quorum present. Meeting was called to order by Heather Webb at 4:00 pm.

Motion to Adopt the Agenda: Heather called for a Motion to Adopt the Agenda; Patti Pastor makes a Motion to Adopt the Agenda, 2nd Cathy Bagby and there being no opposition, motion carries.

** ACTEAZ practices a flexible order agenda allowing items to be taken out of order at the president's discretion.*

Welcome: Heather welcome everyone and gives the President Updates and the Board of Director Updates.

Motion to Approve Consent:

- Approval of February 6, 2026, Executive Board Minutes



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- Personnel Report
 - Employee Goals and Evaluation Cycle
 - 25-26 Staff Compensation Study & Recommendation

Heather called for a Motion to Approve Consent; Patrick Clawson makes a Motion to Approve Consent, Donte Delia seconded and there being no opposition, motion carries.

** Per Robert's Rules of Order and parliamentary procedure, all items on the Consent Agenda will be taken with one vote. Board members can request an item to be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.*

Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report: Lori stated that the Association is in good financial shape. The budget was through March 2026, and Lori stated that Association remains within the adopted budget. Stephen noted approximately \$850,000 is committed liabilities to future hotel contracts and payroll, leaving about \$250,00 unencumbered. There being no questions pertaining to the budget, Heather called for a Motion to Approve Treasurer's report; Donielle Winzeler makes a Motion to Approve the Treasurer's Report, Cathy Bagby seconded and there being no opposition, motion carries.

ACTEAZ National Board Pre-Candidacy: Stephen welcomed and introduced guest presenters Kimberly McCroy and Lauren Morgana to discuss National Board Certification opportunities for our teachers. This new opportunity is designed to support CTE educators in pursuing National Board Certification, creating a pathway to elevate their practice and showcase the expertise that defines our field. This emerging partnership has the potential to expand how CTE is recognized across Arizona, as both workforce leaders and instructional experts. Kimberly and Lauren described the National Board certification process tailored for CTE professionals, reviewed a flyer, and outlined outreach and website plans. There is a scheduled hybrid pre-candidacy workshop with an in-person session on September 12, and virtual sessions scheduled for September 14, 21 and 28. Board members were asked to share the flyer and refer potential candidates to the Connection Conference session or presenters' emails.

A discussion ensued around scholarship coverage and Kimberly responded that final funding decisions typically arrive in the summer but those costs are covered for this year and hopefully next year. Time commitment was clarified for candidates and consists of one required support meeting per month, and initial candidates typically spend about 120-130 hours, with up to three years to complete all components. The assessment remains one component and can be completed at any time within the three-year candidacy window.

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ADE Report: Michelle provided ADE Report and thanked Kimberly McCroy and Amber Gloria for great partnership opportunities within the Program Services team. The TSA are completed, 40K tested this spring. They are finishing semi-conductor standards. The 25-26 Program Monitoring is due May 15. The 26-27 Program Monitoring has opened, and they are offering virtual training opportunities monthly. Michelle reminded us of the Innovative and Leadership Grant Applications are due May 15. They are working on the credential's applications finishing, multiple reviews upcoming. Currently they are piloting WBL database in CTE Data Portal and transitioning to new AdvanceCTE career clusters. Michelle is excited that they have hired a new Grants Supervisor, starting the second week of May.

Affiliate and Special Group Representatives Reports:

- *Arizona Agriculture Teacher Association (AATA): Jim Kaltenbach*
 - It is banquet season in the world of Agriscience/FFA. Check in on your FFA advisors and make sure they are doing ok.
 - Arizona Ad Teacher Premier series course titled (I think): Ag Ed 1 launched on January 20-21 at the Peoria FFA Mini camp.
 - The second offering will be during the Connection Conference.
 - AZ FFA Leadership Conference will be June 4-6.
 - AZ FFA State Camp is June 22-26.
- *Arizona Business Education Association (ABEA): Hector Reyes*
 - No report provided.
- *ACOVA: Eric Sorenson*
 - New board announced and the scholarship winners will be announced shortly.
 - The board is working on what Camp M & M will entail for summer conference.
 - Eric will be transitioning from Tempe Union to EVIT on July 1 and requested that his contacts shift to his ACOVA email. His new role is an instructional support role for satellite programming and adult education.
- *Arizona Occupational Administrators Council (AOAC): John Morgan*
 - Pima opened FITS Center (flexible industrial Training)
 - Mesa is opening a \$39 million tech center for expanding welding and vet tech spaces and emphasizing growing industry requests for custom training centers using college facilities.

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- AI studies show AI reduction in force with concerns about displacement in some roles and implications for future degree and certificate planning, prompting institutions to study AI's 10-year workforce effects and adjust credential offerings accordingly.
 - Pima CC facility tour will be pursued as a conference offering next year to showcase industry-aligned spaces.
- *Arizona Marketing Educators (AME): Mikayla Cerwinske*
 - No report provided.
- *Arizona Technology Industry Education Association (ATIEA): Dennis Esparza for Brad Whitaker*
 - Dennis reported steady growth in affiliate membership and fundraising for scholarships to provide tools and training for students.
 - ATIEA is working on improving recognition for teachers, students and business.
- *Arizona Health Careers Education Association (AZHCEA): Donte Delia for Brandeice Garza but report submitted by Brandeice.*
 - Donte Delia introduced herself as President-Elect for AZHCEA.
 - Strength comes from growth and growth happens when teachers learn from each other. AzHCEA is proud to continue partnering with ACTEAZ to support educators through meaningful engagement and impactful professional developments.
 - AzHCEA is proud to announce a leadership transition as Brandeice steps down as President and passes the torch to incoming President-Elect, Donte Delia, (Flagstaff High School), who is eager to continue growing and supporting our organization. As I close out my term, I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve and will be stepping into a new chapter of my "retired" life on my Texas ranch while continuing to support and cheer on AzHCEA's success.
 - AzHCEA sponsored sessions at ACTEAZ Connections Conference:
 - Utilizing a Flipped Classroom
 - 3 Easy Steps for CTSO Integration
 - Classroom Management After A Teacher Change
 - Do More with What you Have: "Thriving in Rural Programs
 - CTE Roundtables: Real Talk, Real Solutions
 - Decoding Diseases for the Healthcare Classroom
 - AzHCEA Luncheon.



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- *AZ CTE Curriculum Consortium: Jennifer Brooks*
 - A huge thank you to our member districts! This year, we had the privilege of collaborating with 78 teachers from 38 districts across the state. The instructional resources and curriculum published were strengthened by their valuable subject matter expertise, diverse industry knowledge, and real-world classroom experience. We are grateful for their dedication to supporting high-quality CTE.
 - New resources published on the CTE Curriculum Connection include an AI for Assessment Items one-pager <https://cte.ctecaz.org/courseware/lesson/6103/overview> as well as a flexible Finish Strong Unit designed to empower CTE teachers to conclude the school year on a high note by helping solidify a positive classroom culture, reflect on the professional growth students have achieved, and celebrate the many opportunities a CTE class provides. (<https://cte.ctecaz.org/courseware/lesson/6104/overview>).
 - The AZCTECC Curriculum Development Grant is open now through May 15th! Certified CTE teachers are invited to apply to be funded to create quality, relevant, and engaging curriculum aligned to CTE program standards this summer! Visit <https://ctecc.my.canva.site/azctecc-curriculum-grant> for all the details and to apply today.
- *Business Partnerships: Michael Terrey*
 - Apprenticeship in a Box – NADA & ASE Education Foundation have a Competency Based Apprenticeship program that is registered with the Department of Labor. This program is being rolled out to the auto manufactures, with Ford dealerships the first to get involved with the initiative. Rather than starting from scratch, the program provides dealerships with a ready-to-use framework that combines hands-on learning, mentorship, and clearly defined skill progress. This allows junior technicians and entry-level employees to gain confidence while contributing meaningfully to shop productivity.
 - Good Guys Car Show Careers in Hot Rodding – ASE Ed Foundation and WyoTech have teamed up to bring 150 high school seniors to the Good Guys Car Show to learn about opportunities in custom and restoration industry. One of the local builders on the panel reported a 6-year waiting list to build a car, with the average build taking 2 years and costing \$500,000. He is currently needing 5 additional employees.
 - NAPA Auto Parts has started an Automotive Instructor support and training program providing Autotech training, Tool & Parts discounts for students and TRACS program for shop management & service information.



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- Empire Caterpillar increases the enrollment in their post-secondary “Think Big Prom from 24 to 48 students and adds a high school apprenticeship program.
- *CTE University Liaison: Lisa Draper*
 - Lisa relayed the discontinuation of its master’s program with a one to two-year teach out and cessation of new admissions, while highlighting availability of TEACH grant options tied to Title 1 service commitments.
- *Career Technical Education District (CTED): Amy West*
 - No report provided.
- *AZ School Administrators (ASA): Kathryn Strevell*
 - ASA recently hosted a webinar entitled “*Bringing the State 48 Graduate Profile to Life*”. One key takeaway was how to adopt and leverage an instructional Time Model to create flexibility for students to obtain off-campus learning experiences such work-based learning. While many districts have started to pivot to using an ITM, most have focused its use for virtual and remote learning to supplement their AOI deficiencies. The Center for the Future of Arizona and the Arizona Institute for Education and the economy have produced a policy primer and innovative guide to help districts interested in establishing their own ITM for remote learning and work-based learning options, as well as how to ensure students can complete 2-year CTE pathway programs while still giving them the flexibility of pursuing additional coursework at their local high school and/or college.
 - The ASA CTE division will be presenting a CTE 101 session for school administrators at this year’s ASA Institute for Excellence and the Summer Leadership Conference in May and June.
 - ASA will be holding the Institute for Excellence at Little America in Flagstaff May 31st – June 3 and the Summer Leadership Conference June 7th – 9th at the Hilton El Conquistador in Tucson.
- *AZ School Counseling Association (AzSCA): Kris Guy*
 - Arizona is very close to our FAFSA completion goal. Seniors can complete their FAFSA through the end of June to help get financial assistance for post-secondary education.
 - At our last board meeting, we had a conversation with two of the State Superintendent of Education candidates. We allowed them time to talk about their vision for school counselors and plans to help increase positions for certified counselors.



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- Summer series of MTSS in June. Free for AzSCA members and has been our most requested PD.
- Fellows Coordinator: Paige Quinn
 - No report provided.

Heather thanked the fellows for the volunteer work preparing conference sessions and supporting conference logistics and acknowledged their role in mentoring and representing the association. Multiple board members were acknowledged for preparing conference activities and supporting member development.

Retiree Committee Co-Chairs: Jim Grieshaber and Lisa Doll - Jim reported that he, Lisa and Stephen will meet next Monday to plan projects and review materials with a commitment to support the Connections Conference. He praised their willingness to help.

Financial Review Chair: Dennis Esparza - The financial review committee is coordinating with Shelly, Dennis and Jim Hawk to finalize updates likely in June and that the review is on track.

ACTEAZ State Awards: Patrick Clawson talked about the 2026 AZ CTE Awards and said that we will be honoring them at the Awards Breakfast at the Connection Conference on Wednesday. He thanked those who read the awards for taking their time and volunteering to judge them. An error in the public awards list was identified and corrected during the meeting and the Board celebrated the first year of Quality Affiliates Awards and multiple award winners.

Branding Update: Courtney talked about the CTE Stories Project, and presented social media results and said activity is expanding outside of Arizona. The association will produce short-form reels and sit-down with teachers to create CTE stories at the Connection Conference.

Premier Series Report: Amber talked about the Premier Series offerings at the Connection Conference. We will have 10 Course offerings (Most are still available – Especially in the “New Teacher” Courses like IBP & Foundations of Classroom Management). We do have wait lists started: registrations just need to email Emeli at eventsupport@acteaz.org to be added. We are offering for the first time at the Connection Conference the Middle School CTE Essentials class, we encourage you to recommend the course to Career Exploration attendees.



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Amber said she was excited to share the Homework Completion Update data that she had been tracking and measuring against the results of last year. There has been a 22% increase of Homework Completers = 82% of participants are completing all course objectives and earning their ADE Approved Certificate. We increased communication with participants, CTE directors, and additional feedback to provide more opportunities to get teachers to the finish line and stay certified and in the classroom.

Amber is excited to share that some districts are reaching out for scheduling and needs of PS courses for 2026-2027 Course offerings. The word is out, the schedule for next school year is under way and many districts have scheduled their PD offerings to meet the demands of training and retaining their teachers.

Midwinter Conference Reflections: Heather and Stephen gave a thank you to all for making it a successful conference. The Survey Feedback was discussed. Heather and Shelly confirmed the finances for the Midwinter Conference have been reconciled and ACOVA paid. Stephen talked about the 2027 and 2028 contracts being signed, and staff will begin midwinter planning as summer conference concludes.

2026 Annual Program of Work: Stephen talked about our program of work and gave an update:

- Strengthen ACTEAZ Communication for Clarity and Reach
 - Education Forward Strategic Plan
 - Center for the Future of AZ Apprenticeship Grant
 - Elevate EdAZ Trio Talent Search Grant
- Deepen Relationships with Rural CTE Professionals
 - ACTE Track at Visions
 - Conference Sessions
- Elevate Affiliate Voices to Strengthen Collective Impact
 - 97th State FFA Leadership Conference, June 4-6, 2026 (to Support Ad Teachers)
 - What is a CTE Teacher Project
- Elevate the ACTEAZ Summer Conference as Arizona's Premier Connection Experience
 - The board reviewed the annual program of work as an organizational guide and noted the enclosed survey results in the board packet for further review. Stephen invited members to request any question around items by emailing him or Shelly.
 - Annual Board Meeting & Planning July 11- A board work session to replace the fall retreat is scheduled for Saturday, July 11 and attendance is requested. A follow-up



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communication to confirm room and attendance. A reception for board members will take place that Saturday evening right after the board meeting.

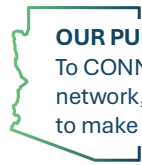
Connection Conference Planning: The following is an update of our 2026 Connection Conference:

Registrations 880	Sponsors ICEV & Pipeline – New	Exhibitors/Booths (60) 38 exhibitors/46 booths
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- Welcome Volunteers and Commemorative T-shirts
 - Meeting participants will submit their commemorative t-shirt size via the provided form before form closes at the end of the week.
- ACTE Presence – President Dr. Robert Torres
- Conference Mobile App
 - Conference App will launch next week so attendees can build schedules and modify free session selections.
- Sessions & Tracks (339 sessions v. 317 in 2025)
 - Room Blocks – Do you need a room? If yes, Email Stephen by the end of the week to secure accommodations.
- Annual Board Meeting and Board Reception – Saturday, 7/11
 - Board Training Session/ Attendance is Critical
 - Strategic & Future Conference Planning
- New Registration Features – Westin Only
 - Heather clarified that registration/check-in will be handled at the Westin with a digital check-in system
- Exhibitor Engagement – Strategic Snack Break
- Special Sessions
 - CTE 101 (for admin, school board, new CTE, etc.)
 - Middle School CTE
 - Rural Track
 - ASA Session for Aspiring Administrators

Upcoming conferences:

- 2026 – July 9-15
- 2027 – July 8-14
- 2028 – July 7-12



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2026 Elections - Executive Officers: The new positions are President, Jennifer Kaufman-Fourness, President-Elect, Patrick J. Clawson, Past-President, Heather Webb, Vice President, Patti Pastor, Secretary, Cathy Bailey-Bagby, Member-at-Large – Marsha Becker, Member-at-Large, Michelle Crary. • New Officers Take Office July 1.

Heather congratulated all new members of the executive board and thanked them for wanting to lead and serve the association.

Motion to Approve Region V Conference Bid: Heather reported that Arizona submitted a proposal for the 2028 Region V conference to be held in Prescott, Arizona.

Heather called for a Motion to Approve Region V Conference Bid and Committee Formation; Patrick Clawson makes a Motion to Approve Region V Conference Bid and Committee Formation, Kris Guy seconded it. There being no opposition, motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn: There being no further business, Heather call for a Motion to Adjourn, Michelle Crary makes a Motion to Adjourn, Patrick Clawson seconded. There being no opposition, the meeting was adjourned at 5:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patti Pastor
Secretary