



Trade and Industrial Education Association  
OklahomaACTE

# NEWSLETTER

Spring 2004

## The Power of Simplicity

**Grass**, green or dried, does not seem like much of a topic, does it? To many, grass may seem like a simple, abundant, living “commodity” easily taken for granted. It often grows where it’s not wanted and may struggle where it is wanted. Grass grows, is cut, and thrown away. Have you heard of anyone ever stealing a pile of dried grass? Grass has little perceived value.

**If** you think grass is a simple substance, ponder this. As grass is consumed and digested by a cow, the grass turns into leather, milk, beef, horns, hoofs, and a host of other natural products. Now, how simple do you think grass is? Behind the scenes grass must be very powerful.

Many other examples exist relating to the power of apparent simplicity. A navigational instrument off by a simple fraction of a degree can result in a great variance in a few hundreds miles. If an individual saved \$100 a month from age 19 to age 59 (this seems fairly simple), and assuming compound interest of 12%, it would be worth about \$1,176,477.

**How** much value would you perceive a brick in a tall building is worth? Perhaps one brick is not worth a lot in dollar value. However, the same brick becomes extremely valuable because another brick

cannot be put on top of it unless the first brick is in place. Have you ever viewed our Trade and Industrial Education Association (T&I) like that? Each T&I member is like the brick in



*“Individually, we may be just a simple blade of grass or a single brick. But collectively, we can make leather, milk, beef, and build tall buildings .”*

Gary Bell  
T&I President

than what a non-member is worth individually. Each person within the T&I trade group, and under the ACTE umbrella can help make a positive difference politically, financially, and for each of

our careers by becoming a paid member. Imagine a pilot, CPA, attorney, politician, or plumber not being a member of their professional organization. None of us should be non-members either.

**Yes**, this is a tough time. But we need to be tougher than the times. I like to tell my students about a sure-thing winning formula.

To be sure you are going to win in a sporting event, you have to be better than the other team—and better than the referees. Depending on a lucky or a missed call near the end of a game is playing with uncertainty. If you are not a member of T&I or OkACTE, or ACTE, you may be playing with a possible loss of image, benefits, or even employment, and it puts more of the burden on the rest of the members.

**If** you are not a member of your professional organization, consider doing something simple—join this week. If you are a member, encourage someone who is not to join this week. Individually, we may be just a simple blade of grass or a single brick. But collectively, we can make leather, milk, beef, and build tall buildings.

the building. And every T&I member has power beyond what one might perceive. Collectively, we can carry clout greater than the sum of all of us individually.

**Are** you involved the T&I trade division and not a member—a dues paying member? Are you involved in Career and Technical Education and not supporting and using the benefits of your professional organization—Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE/OkACTE)?

**Each** year a monitored statistic is the number of members joined, renewed, and non-renewed, and never joined his or her professional organization. Unfortunately, the number of dues-paying members out of the potential pool of members has been on the decline. For each non-member, we lose more clout

Gary Bell



## From The State T & I Director

It has been a great year at T&I. We have just finished up one of the best SkillsUSA conferences ever. This year we had a number of Tech Ed teachers serve as judges at SkillsUSA and I would like to encourage all of you to reciprocate at next year's TSA state conference. Many of your students come from the Tech Ed ranks! Enrollment in T&I programs is nearing an all time high and overall things are looking very good for next year. It seems like there is an article in the paper everyday

about the shortage of skilled workers we are facing in the upcoming years. For T&I programs this is not a problem, it is an opportunity. As CareerTech educators, it is of vital importance that we do everything we can to present a positive image of our programs and help fill them with the next generation of skilled workers. As always, it is an honor and a pleasure for the TE/TI staff to work with all of you. Thanks for all you do.

*Dennis Ruttman  
State T & I Director*

## New and Updated T&I Association Website

Well, our new and improved T&I website is finally online. There are still some enhancements and things that will continue to be updated, but this should happen in the near future. I would like to thank a few people that stepped up to make this possible. Randy Henderson (Mid-America Technology Center – Wayne, OK) who is hosting the site for us. Anita Parks (Metro Technology Centers, OKC, OK) and her Graphics Arts students for designing the new look and feel of the website. We could not have accomplished this without the help of these key people. Be sure and tell them about a job well done the next time you see them.

We will be working very hard to keep the website current with any information you

might need about the goings on of the T&I association. Also, we will be keeping a copy of our newsletters (including the most recent one) on the website for you to look at, at your convenience. Please let us know anytime there is noteworthy news involving our membership so that we might post this and give recognition where it is due.

You may view the website at <http://www.okti.org>. Please use your browser, take a look, and let us know what you think. The officer team hopes you will find this as a valuable part of your membership in the T&I association. I am looking forward to seeing you this summer!

*Darin Lackey  
T&I Vice-President*



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## Region IV Report

### Theme

ACTE Region IV was held in San Antonio, Texas, April 21-25, 2004. There were approximately 200 attendees. The official theme was "It's the Whole Enchilada!"

### Bears in Town

An unofficial theme was the "Teddy Bear" Project. All bears brought to the convention were to be distributed to various children's hospitals in San Antonio. However, due to the success of the Teddy Bear push, there were more bears in Texas than in all of the Rocky Mountains and Alaska combined. Mississippi took honors contributing about 1,800 teddy bears. Oklahoma's contribution was about 850 bears and was second. The excess bears have been distributed to children's hospitals in other Texas communities.

### ACTE Changes

Oh! Do people abhor change! One of the larger issues discussed at the conference was the proposed restructuring of ACTE. One element of change that seemed to

*"The Road to the Future is neither well marked nor easily navigated."*

- Unknown

raise an eyebrow or two was the proposal to eliminate the five regions and replace them with eight districts. The intention of the change was to provide a more even representation of the members of ACTE nationally. Watch the ACTE Website, [www.acteonline.org](http://www.acteonline.org), for more of the restructuring proposals.

### Legislative Update

Another key piece of information shared with attendees was the Legislative update from the Second Session of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress. The overwhelming themes for ACTE and CareerTech concerns are the changing economy, growing budget deficit, divided Congress, and the election year politics. The current proposal is a 25% cut in the Perkins Reauthorization. The Workforce Investment Act passed the House and Senate and is awaiting the conference committee.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families has passed the full House and Senate Finance Committee. The Senate debate has been suspended. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act has passed the House and Senate Committee and is awaiting full Senate vote. The Higher Education Act has passed some parts in the House while the Senate has just started hearings.

### Toody Byrd

The keynote speaker was Toody Byrd. Yes. That's right, Toody Byrd. With an incredible sense of humor, this former Texas State Treasurer and school counselor reminded us that "Work is Not a Dirty Word." She emphasized the point that what ever you call studying, training, opportunity, or any other description of what we used to call work, it is our obligation to "work" at whatever we do.

### Glenace Habbershaw

Glenace Habbershaw was the Trade and Industrial Division Winner for Teacher of the Year. Congratulations to Glenace!

### Summer Conference

Summer Conference is just around the corner. Make plans for August 3-5 in Tulsa.

### ACTE 2004

ACTE this year will be in Las Vegas. I encourage every T&I member to attend.

### Region IV 2005

Region IV, 2005, will be in Biloxi, Mississippi. The dates are April 13-17, 2005.

### Summary

We have multiple responsibilities as T&I members and ACTE members. We should be touting CareerTech every time there is an opportunity, telling our story. There are a few people who help us keep serving our customers. These are the individuals who volunteer for leadership positions and help keep our name in front of the money and legislators. Let's support them by becoming, staying, and recruiting others to be members in our professional organizations.

Gary Bell



## Update from Washington, D.C.

“What an experience!” So says Steve Cole, Northeast Technology Center instructor, concerning his recent visit to Washington, D.C. as part of the Association for Career and Technical Education’s National Policy Seminar. Cole, who is the northeast president for the trade and industrial group of the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, attended the seminar as its representative.



latest issues surrounding the ‘No Child Left Behind Act’ and how implementation is impacting career and technical education.

“The Oklahoma chapter of ACTE was very active,” says Cole. “Charlotte Edwards, the executive director, had already made appointments with several legislators or their representatives, and our group divided up and went to see them. We spoke with Rob Johnson, staff assistant for congress-

The purpose of the seminar was to push for funding reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational Technical Act. While there, Cole attended many seminars designed to give attendees valuable insights into how the legislative process works and the most important do’s and don’ts to make meetings on Capitol Hill more productive. He was also provided up-to-date information on key initiatives affecting various CareerTech programs that helped develop a stronger advocacy plan for career and technical education nationwide.

Various meetings allowed representatives time to work together with colleagues from their own state to plan strategies for meetings on The Hill, to ask any last minute questions and to hear some final tips from public policy staff members. Cole and the 500 other nation-wide delegates participated in several

general and breakout sessions designed to allow communication between the delegates and their elected officials. Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) president Tom Applegate presided over a panel consisting of Whitney Rhoades and Denise Forte, staff members from the house of representatives, and Kelly Scott and Jane Oates, staff members from the senate. Each gave a brief presentation on the Perkins funding act and took questions from the audience.

The general session entitled, “The Administration’s Perspectives on the Perkins Reauthorization” featured Office of Adult and Vocational Education assistant secretary Susan Sclafani and deputy assistant secretary Hans Meeder relating the Bush administration’s proposal for the reauthorization of the Perkins funding and the future of career and technical education. Later, Joel Packer of the National Education Association, presented an overview of the

man Tom Cole, Chastity Bedonie, staff assistant for congressman Brad Carson, and Scott Weaver of congressman John Sullivan’s office. They all assured us of their continuing support of career and technical education,” he adds.

Later, Cole was given a tour of the capitol by Keri Nash, staff assistant to congressman Brad Carson. Following the tour, Ms. Nash presented him with a flag that had flown over the capitol. “This was a wonderful experience,” says Cole. “I was so impressed with Washington DC. The history and heritage of our country that can be seen everywhere is so magnificent. All of the staff members I met with were extremely friendly, helpful, and supportive of our concerns. They make our jobs as educators much easier. What an experience!”



## Summer Leadership Institute

Oklahoma SkillsUSA sponsors a summer leadership camp July 13 through 16. This camp is for 2004-2005 district officers, state officers, potential SkillsUSA leaders who have at least one year remaining in school, district advisors and instructors.

At Oklahoma's Summer Leadership Institute (SLI), advisors will learn how to facilitate student activities for maximum growth. Students will have a chance to learn and practice leadership skills while participating in a variety of workshops and activities.

This is an excellent opportunity for you and potential leaders from your program to develop and polish leadership skills, practice public speaking, learn to work effectively in teams, and learn how to train other students to run a stronger chapter.

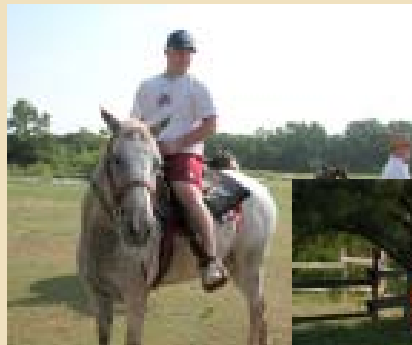
While the focus of SLI is leadership training, SLI campers also

experience many teambuilding and athletic activities. Highlights of the week include an "Outrageous Olympics", a "Challenge Course" experience, a shuttle competition, volleyball contest, a dance, and a special banquet at the closing ceremony.

Campers (advisors too) who complete the group and leadership activities for the week have an opportunity to earn their Statesman's Award as well as many competitive ribbons.

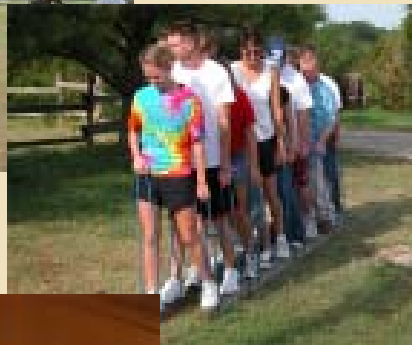
This year camp will be held at the beautiful Rogers State University in Claremore. For more information click on the link for Summer Leadership Institute on the ODCTE website: <http://www.okcareertech.org/ti/vica.htm>. This is an opportunity you won't want to miss!

*Cheryl Licklider  
Northwest District Advisor*



*"SLI was a lot of fun. Thanks for taking me."*

*-Jeff Holt*



*"SLI was a very worthwhile experience. I wish I could do it again."*

*-Sarah Holle*





# NEWSLETTER

## OkACTE Update

The 2004-2005 school year will find nearly 50 new legislators at the Capitol. It is vital that CareerTech get involved with this election activity. We also have the challenge of educating not only the new legislators about our system but also educating the incumbent legislators of updates CareerTech has made while they have been in office.

OkACTE is developing an advocacy plan for our



*"We also have the challenge of educating not only the new legislators about our system but also educating the incumbent legislators..."*

*-Charlotte Edwards*

members. OkACTE members will use the plan to identify candidates that will support CareerTech. By using this plan, members will be able to educate the candidates about CareerTech issues while becoming more knowledgeable about each candidate.

Once this plan for advocacy is complete, it will be posted for your convenience on our website.

*Charlotte Edwards, CAE  
OkACTE Executive Director*

## T & I Award Winners

The T & I Awards Committee is pleased to announce that we have several outstanding candidates for the T & I Awards this year. It was tough, but we finally chose the winners.



**Terry Robinson**  
*Teacher of the Year*

Terry Robinson the Graphic Arts teacher from Canadian Valley Technology Center was selected to represent our division as the Teacher of the Year. Terry has been very involved in the T & I Association where he currently serves as our past President. He is also active in SkillsUSA where he provides leadership as a Northwest District Advisor.



**Gay Johnston**  
*Outstanding New Teacher*

Gay Johnston the Graphic Arts teacher from Gordon Cooper Technology Center was chosen to represent T & I as the Outstanding New Teacher of the Year. Gay utilizes cutting edge technology in her program to do digital photography, create an up-to-date school



**Dennis Carruth**  
*New Professional*

newsletter, and more. Gay is also active as a SkillsUSA advisor.

Dennis Carruth from Pioneer Technology Center was selected to represent T & I as our New Professional. Dennis works in the Machining Program and though it's early in his career, has shown that he is a potential leader of our division.

These winners will represent the Trade and Industrial division at the OkACTE convention in August.

*Cheryl Licklider  
Awards Committee Chairman*



## New National T&I Vice President

Thank you so much. I know that without the Oklahoma T&I division, I would have never had the chance at being the National T&I Vice-President. I will do my best to work on behalf of all T&I members across the nation.

Our association faces many new challenges over the next few years; many I have discussed in the task force report. If the restructure is taken as proposed, I may have little chance to make changes; yet I will still try. Some of the changes I would like to see:

- An e-mail listing of the T&I representatives from each state to allow members access to others across the nation.
- A T&I website on which members can post plans, helpful tips, events,



*"I will do my best to work on behalf of all T&I members across the nation."*

*Ed Melott  
National T & I Vice President*

forms, or whatever you think will benefit other T&I members.

With the technology that T&I teachers have, the possibilities could be endless. Any suggestions you have will be very helpful in my effort to continue the improvements within our division.

Thank you again for your support.

Ed Melott  
ACTE T&I Vice-President Elect  
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## T&I Salutes Virginia Osgood

Dr. Virginia M. Osgood, after 18 years in the field of education, is retiring from the University of Central Oklahoma. She served as a Commercial Art instructor at Canadian Valley – El Reno before becoming a member of the UCO faculty. While at UCO she has inspired, advised, and educated hundreds of T&I instructors from all over the state of Oklahoma.



Aside from the many hours spent in preparation for her diligent teaching, Dr. Osgood has

numerous hobbies. When she finds some free time, she enjoys calligraphy, flower arrangement, crossword puzzles, and ink drawing.

The T&I officer team and members of T&I salute Dr. Osgood for her dedication to Career and Technical Education in Oklahoma. You have left a lasting impression on so many of us that will never be forgotten. Thank you, Dr. Osgood, for your teaching, friendship,

and fun. Virginia, enjoy your retirement!



## Task Force Report to ACTE

A little over a year ago, a task force was put together by the President and Executive Director of the ACTE. Their objective was to look at how our association functions, how to increase membership and funding, along with any other ideas that would help us to be the best association for the career tech educator. Oklahoma was very fortunate to have two members on this task force, our Executive Director Charlotte Edwards and Superintendent Gene Callahan.

As we all know, in December, a disaster hit our association at the national conference. The task force was then asked to speed up the process of it's work, so changes could be made to our structure and ensure that no such disaster happened again.

At the April board meeting, the Task Force report was given to the board of directors. After several hours of discussion, it was decided that more membership input was needed. The report was placed on the web and members were asked to give their response to the national office.

I would like to cover some of the high points and give some thoughts for you to consider.

ACTE business lines include: Advocacy, Networking/Knowledge Connectivity, Awareness, and Leadership Development. Keeping each of these items in mind, let's look at the new structure.

### Membership: Institutional

This membership would allow schools, tech centers, and colleges to join and show support for the career tech system. This would not take the place of individual members.

### State Agencies

This membership would allow state departments of career tech education to have a voice in the association. The current structure does not allow for this, even though several states have state departments in place.

### National Affiliated Organizations

Several National Affiliated Organizations have started under ACTE and have now grown to stand on their own. This membership would allow them to have come back to their roots and have a stronger voice.

### Individual

This membership offers all the benefits we now have with some additional items. The one major benefit would be a \$1 Million professional liability insurance policy. (NO teacher should be in a classroom without this)

### Divisions:

As we know them today, divisions would be eliminated. No more T&I, AG, Health, Tech Ed. Etc... Under the new structure, Community Alliances would be utilized. These alliances would be made up of any group of 25 or more individuals. They may charge dues and have meeting space at the national conference. They would not receive any moneys from the ACTE budget. All Alliances will have to be approved by the national board.

### Districts:

Districts would take the place of the regions. Eight districts would divide the nation into a more equitable distribution of membership. No more regional meetings would be supported. How awards will take place is still under review.

### Councils:

This is a new item. Councils would provide a forum for similar entities to meet and elect representatives to the board of directors. For example: the Institutional Members or the National Affiliates would meet as needed and then elect one from each group to the board.

### Foundation:

This new ACTE Foundation would be utilized to raise funds for the awareness activities, research and scholarships.

### Board of Directors:

The board would have a new structure as well.

#### Officers (4)

President, President-elect, Past-President  
Treasurer

#### Directors (12)

8 Members at large – 1 per district  
1 Foundation Representative  
1 Affiliate Organization Representative  
1 Institutional Representative  
1 State Agency Representative

### Assembly of Delegates:

The composition of the Assembly would change to match the new structure.

ACTE board of directors  
State Associations – 1 per state, plus 1 per 100 members in unified states

1 per state, plus 1 per 500 members in non-unified states

(Note: Oklahoma is a unified state; meaning if you join at the State level, you must also join at the National level.)  
Institutions  
Affiliated organizations

Many of these changes I welcome and look forward to seeing being enacted.

I do, however, have some concern about doing away with the divisions and the regions. I have always viewed the divisions and regions as a way for the classroom teacher to get involved and have the opportunity to develop leadership skills. In today's climate, a classroom teacher has a very difficult time getting involved. Without these opportunities, this will become even harder, as the only office you can run for is the National President's office. Also, how would a teacher get the national exposure to run for office?

I will be asking this and many other questions at the next board meeting and whenever I get the chance. I would like to encourage each of you to look these over and view the rest of the PowerPoint. It can be found on the ACTE web site. Then, express your opinions to Jan Bray, Francie Russell, or me. I will make sure the task force and board get to hear your voice. The next meeting of the board will be in July, so do not hesitate. Please Get Involved!

**Ed Melott**  
*Oklahoma ACTE President*