2004 ACTE Convention – See You There!

Charles Johnson

We can look forward to a great conference in December that promises to provide on-target professional development in a great location, namely Las Vegas. The 2004 ACTE Convention & Career Tech Expo, with its theme of “Connecting Education and Careers,” will begin on Wednesday, December 8 and end on Saturday, December 11. The conference includes carefully planned educational sessions where we can find ideas to incorporate back home, exhibits with the latest gadgetry, curriculum and books, and general sessions with inspiring keynote speakers. A pre-convention seminar is also available on Wednesday. In addition, remember that this is one of the few conferences that allow us to network with the entire career and technical family, including secondary, postsecondary, and university instructors.

Here are some quick hints related to the conference:

- Go to www.acteonline.org and click on Convention and Career Tech Expo to get all the details including a schedule, registration form and hotel reservations. By the way, advance registration (before November 1) will save you about $80.00. Watch those dates!
- There are not specific division (e.g. Technology Education) hotels this year. You can reserve a room at the Las Vegas Hilton at the ACTE web site. The housing form is online (www.acteonline.org) with the other convention information.
- The Career Tech Expo is ACTE parlance for the exhibits and exhibitor workshops that are being provided. As you know, the Expo is a big hit every year. The Expo is open on Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., on Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- There is a $4 one-way shuttle service from the airport to the convention center and ACTE hotels. Taxi cost is about $15.

If you are looking for sessions where you can get to know other professionals and get involved in the Technology Education Division, I have some special recommendations. On Thursday, plan to attend the New Professionals/First Timers Welcome Coffee at 7-8 a.m., and the President’s Reception at 6-7:30 p.m. On Friday, be sure to attend the Award Winners Recognition & Reception at 4:30-6:00 p.m., and best of all, the Technology Education Division Reception from 7:30 to 9 p.m., where some great snacks will be served along with a cash bar. And on Saturday, please remember the Technology Education Division Business Meeting from 1:15-2:00 p.m. These are just a few ideas, and there are certainly many more on the schedule.

Of special interest for those in Technology Education will be the TED/ADMIN/NAITTE Opening General Session from 9:45-10:30 p.m. on Friday. This is being jointly sponsored this year by our division, the Administration Division, and the National Association of Industrial and Technical Teacher Educators. And just to remind you again, remember the Technology Education Division Reception on Friday evening.

There is lots more I have not covered, such as the large number of educational sessions from which to choose, highly renowned general session keynote speakers such as Bob Krieger, Amanda Gore and Roger Herman, and hands-on exhibitor workshops. The list goes on and on. I suggest you look at all the information on the web (www.acteonline.org) and then send in your registration early and save some money.

This should be a great conference and I look forward to seeing you there.
President’s Post

President’s Vision for the Future

I would like to extend a most sincere appreciation to all members of the Division for allowing me the opportunity to serve you and our great profession. During our time together, and over the course of this final year of my presidency, we must continue to make a difference. Our ongoing efforts will continue to lead to necessary changes to enhance Technology Education and our profession. As the Association for Career and Technical Education seeks new ideas and ways to serve its members by its proposed restructuring, the Technology Education Division must also seek new avenues to serve our members.

What will be the shape of things to come? While the future is unknown, I urge each one of us to stretch ourselves, wrestle with the idea of change and seek new ways for improving what we do—knowing that maintaining status quo is not an option.

To help facilitate new ideas for change, I’d like to start a dialogue by proposing Pre Engineering Education as a career pathway within Technology Education. Justification for this inclusion seems obvious to me. No matter your current position on this issue, it is very important that this be discussed, providing opportunity for broad sharing of diverse ideas leading to an informed position. Let’s not overlook opportunities that might benefit our profession today and in the years to come. The issues and implications are complex, but I hope the division’s leadership will continue to lead the charge in a positive direction rather than be reactive to others when exploring pre-engineering as another career pathway. Keep in mind, this does not undermine what we are already doing, but only offering another pathway for both academic and technical education.

Another critical issue is the importance of providing education which will result in student Technological Literacy. Everyone should possess technological literacy—understanding systems and processes of how things work (knowing), being able to apply these systems (doing) and understanding how technology affects our lives for good and/or evil. Issues related to marketing and promoting technology education and technological literacy concern all of us. While understanding or knowing about technology may seem transparent to those outside the profession, there is the reality that the lack of a technological savvy population exists—those able and capable of making educated decisions daily related to technology at work or play, as a responsible global citizen.

Because technology education is still evolving, and its destiny unknown, the profession must realize the role of the Association for Career and Technical Education. It provides direction for Technology Education through research, publications, annual conferences and leadership that address academic issues related to career and technical education. However, it should be recognized that the Association itself does not lead our field or discipline. I challenge the leaders and members of the Division to help create a vision for the future of our discipline.

To these ends, know that your personal involvement makes a difference and will help set the direction for the division’s future. Our actions will have direct impact on a component of the division’s mission, “to provide educational leadership in developing a competitive workforce, and more importantly, to instill the belief that technological literacy is essential for all to function as productive citizens of society.”

I would like to congratulate and welcome George Rogers as the incoming Technology Education Division President-Elect. I have every confidence that he will do a terrific job as our new president.

My gratitude also goes to the TED leadership–policy committee, commit...continued on next page
**TED Snapshot: 2004 Conference Program-at-a-Glance**

**Wednesday, Dec. 8**
1:00-5:00 p.m. TED Policy Committee Meeting and Committee Chair Reports (open to division membership)

**Thursday, December 9**
6:45-8:30 a.m. NAITTE First Executive Board Meeting
7:00-8:30 a.m. Epsilon Pi Tau First Board of Directors Meeting
7:00-8:30 a.m. TED Standing Committee Session (open to division membership)
4:00-5:30 p.m. NAITTE Research Committee and JITE Editorial Board Joint Meeting
4:00-5:30 p.m. Epsilon Pi Tau Second Board of Directors Meeting

**Friday, December 10**
6:45-8:30 a.m. NAITTE Breakfast and Business Meeting
9:45-10:30 a.m. TED/ADMIN/NAITTE Opening General Session
4:30-6:00 p.m. Epsilon Pi Tau Exemplary Initiation of New Members
6:00-7:30 p.m. TED/ITEA/TSA/NAITTE/EPT Liaison Meeting
7:30-9:00 p.m. TED Reception

**Saturday, December 11**
6:45-8:30 a.m. NAITTE Second Executive Board Meeting
6:45-8:30 a.m. Epsilon Pi Tau Third Board of Directors Meeting
1:15-2:00 p.m. TED Business Meeting
2:15-3:00 p.m. TED/NAITTE Joint Research Symposium
7:30-10:30 p.m. ACTE Wrap Party (sponsored by Regions)

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**President’s Post**

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...tee chairs, and others representing the division for their efforts in policy, conference planning, awards, publications and membership. Without their dedication and service, much of what happens prior to and during conferences would not be available. You have really made a difference!

Specifically, thank you Bob Putnam for seeing the Handbook through, Charles Johnson for his efforts in conference planning, Ethan Lipton for tackling the TED News and Dominick Fazarro for coordinating the Awards.

I thank each of you for your support, friendship and leadership. It has been an honor working with you and for you. It is hope our last year working together will be a great one.

Very Respectfully,

Joseph A. Scarcella, Ph.D.
TED President

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**A Must Read!**

**Standards for Technological Literacy: Content for the Study of Technology**

We should encourage all of our educator colleagues, community partners and parents to read and understand, Standards for Technological Literacy: Content for the Study of Technology, produced by the International Technology Education Association with funding from the National Science Foundation and NASA. “It defines what all students should know and be able to do in order to be technologically literate and provides standards that prescribe what the outcomes of the study of technology in grades K-12 should be. Technology Content Standards help ensure that all students receive an effective education about technology by setting forth a consistent content for the study of technology” (Content for the Study of Technology Executive Summary, p. 2).

Endorsed by the National Research Council (NRC) and the National Academy of Engineering (NAE), this is essential for all who are involved in our field. For more information and to view pdf versions of this and related documents go to http://www.iteawww.org.
TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION DIVISION, NAITTE AND THE ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

OPENING GENERAL SESSION

Friday, December 10 -- 9:45-10:30 a.m.
Convention Center - N245, 6, 7

Dr. Alan J. Pierce
Author and Consultant

Richard R. Blais
Executive Director,
Project Lead The Way

Dr. Alan J. Pierce

Richard R. Blais

Bridging Career Pathways to Engineering:
The Roles of Administrators and Technology Educators

For the 2004 ACTE Convention, the Administration Division and the Technology Education Division will hold a joint Opening Session. Mr. Richard R. Blais and Dr. Alan J. Pierce will be the featured speakers. Mr. Blais is currently the Executive Director of Project Lead The Way. Prior to establishing Project Lead The Way, he was both a classroom technology teacher and an area career center administrator in upstate New York. Dr. Pierce is a retired professor with 37 years of teaching experience at the elementary, middle, and college levels. He has authored numerous articles and books in the field of education and has served as a technical consultant on the children’s technology book, Discover How Things Work. He created the Technology Today column in Tech Directions Magazine and has written this column since 1995. He is co-author of the 2005 publication, Introduction to Technology.

Mr. Blais will discuss the growing need for engineers and engineering technologists in the United States, and how this shortage is affecting our nation. He will also describe his views on the role of secondary education in addressing this growing crisis. Mr. Blais will provide both administrators and teachers with examples of how secondary pre-engineering education is assisting students to reach careers in engineering and engineering technology.

Dr. Pierce will focus on how teachers can bring concepts of engineering into their curriculum to address national technology education standards, and also to enhance student understanding of mathematics and science. He will present relevant sections of his book Introduction to Technology (2005) focused on engineering content. Dr. Pierce will also discuss the findings of a major NSF project on how schools can enhance the teaching of pre-engineering.