



**From the
Director's Office**
by Cindi Chang



We are excited to celebrate Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month® 2023 with each of you! We have student stories and data points we will be sharing on social media throughout the month of February that showcases the amazing work our educators and leaders do - from the classroom, to advocacy, and everything in between. On behalf of the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) and the Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Education Options (CRALEO), I want to provide a sincere thank you for making our CTE programs so successful for our students!

This time of year has many events happening in CTE, to include our state Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) conferences where our students learn leadership skills and have the opportunity to showcase their multitude of talents. Our end of program and workplace readiness assessment season also begins. This provides our educators a chance to assess how their program is doing and make future adjustments as needed. Additionally, these assessments allow students to achieve a certification to share with employers, obtain possible college credit in their program area, and endorsement towards the College and Career Ready (CCR) diploma. Our request for proposal (RFP) process has concluded and the evaluation team has chosen to continue with Career and Technical Education Consortium of States (CTECS) for the next two years' assessment cycle. A huge thank you to the team for their timeliness, quality of review, and expertise in supporting that important endeavor.

I would also like to highlight another event this month, the upcoming first-ever *Celebrate CTE Virtual Conference* in partnership with the Nevada Association of Career and Technical Education (NACTE) to be held on Saturday, February 4th from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Please visit [Registration.pdf](#) to register by February 1st. Attendees will receive six professional learning hours towards state licensure renewal. This will be a wonderful time for us to gather throughout the state to “communicate, collaborate, create, and celebrate”.

And finally, CTE is strongest when we align our work with like-minded partners. Recently, I was able to tour the Workforce Connections (nvworkforceconnections.org) and the EmployNV Career Hub (nvcareercenter.org) facilities in Las Vegas. This particular location services youth 16-24 in Clark, Nye, and Lincoln counties, but they have other locations that support youth services throughout the state. They provide job search and training support, entrepreneurship skills, financial literacy, tutoring, and study skills training for youth, as well as access to adult mentoring, guidance, and counseling services. Additionally, Workforce Connections has a counselor “fellows” cohort each year that trains and supports secondary guidance counselors in work-based learning, workforce development, and career and technical education opportunities for our youth. We applaud their efforts and look forward to further collaboration between our teams as we explore more ways to support our CTE students.

As our upcoming legislative session begins, our CRALEO office looks forward to highlighting the many extraordinary things you do as CTE educators and to support you as you continue to advocate for CTE and your students. Thank you again, for all that you do!

Cindi Chang, Interim Director of the Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Education Options



By Sonny Lopez

Nevada FFA Association Reporter

Agriculture is one industry we need in order to sustain our growing world. As the global population grows, so does the demand for supplies. Many schools in Nevada and the United States provide agricultural education classes that can pique students' interest in agricultural careers.

But how many students actually end up choosing an agricultural career with no background in the industry?

At Oasis Charter School's FFA Chapter in Fallon, student Hunter McNabb developed an Agriscience Fair project to find the answer.

Hunter (at right) described his project as a "study about agricultural engagement and occupational preferences for students in northern Nevada."



He developed a survey that asked students about previous agricultural exposures and their perceptions of agriculture, and whether they planned to work in agriculture in the



future. He sought answers to three research questions: Do agriculture-related extracurricular activities impact students' professional goals? Do generational concerns deviate from occupational preferences? And how does Generation Z recognize modern agriculture?

He collected data through a sample survey distributed at his school. Among the negative perceptions of agriculture, students involved in agriculture and those with no prior experience listed animal welfare and environmental impact as serious

concerns about the industry. However, their positive perceptions of the industry varied. Agriculture students appreciated the economic side of things while those with no agriculture experience appreciated the stability it brought to the region.

After codifying the responses, Hunter found it enlightening to see similar answers and patterns even though the survey was open-ended.

To the other questions, data suggested students were much more likely to go into an agriculture career field if their parents had exposed them to it. But being involved in an agriculture-related extracurricular activity did not appear to affect the students' occupational plans.

Hunter's research provided him an opportunity to compete in the 2022 Nevada FFA Association Agriscience Fair, which qualified him to compete at the National FFA Convention in Indiana. As a national finalist, Hunter scored 10th overall in the nation for his Agriscience Fair project within the Social Sciences category, Division 3.

To learn more about the Agriscience Fair, to go: <https://www.ffa.org/participate/awards/agriscience-fair/>.

Nevada FBLA cannot wait to welcome students, advisers, and FBLA supporters to this year's State Business Leadership Conference!

The annual conference will be held at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas from April 23-25, 2023.

Plans are still being finalized to make this a fun and memorable experience for everyone.

Consider being a competitive event judge at this event and see how truly talented our students are. Go to the following address to register online: [Judge Registration](#).

As we all prepare for the State Business Leadership Conference, we hope all our chapters are celebrating CTE Month and specifically FBLA week in February.

Throughout the week, members will be given opportunities to engage



with the National Officers through a variety of workshops and broadcasted sessions.

FBLA has launched a plan for FBLA Week that includes daily themes, and they are as follows:

February 5:

"Sunday Spotlight" – to spotlight members and their achievements in FBLA.

February 6:

"Motivational Monday" – to look ahead at the rest of the program year.

February 7:

"Tuesday Talks" – to connect with

National Officers, past officers, and other FBLA members.

February 8:

"Work Wednesday" – to understand the job market through live online panels and workshops.

February 9:

"Thoughtful Thursday" – to thank local chapter advisers and members of chapter leadership by creating a video montage.

February 10:

"Fund-raising Friday" – to promote community service within FBLA.

February 11:

"Spirit Saturday" – to promote the FBLA rebranding.

The State Officer Team met in January to plan the State Business Leadership Conference. We hope to see everyone in Las Vegas!

SkillsUSA Week will be held from February 6-10 this year in conjunction with Career and Technical Education Month. It is one of our most important celebrations of the year and a highlight for students in Nevada and across the country.

National SkillsUSA Week includes presentations to administrators, business leaders, and legislators; community service events to benefit local charities and organizations; interviews with the news media; student-led events and campus outreach; and industry partnership development.

SkillsUSA Week also is a time to empower our students, chapters, and teachers, and to recognize business partners who bolster support for local programs that define student excellence. SkillsUSA is a talent pipeline that each year graduates 100,000 students who strive to be career-ready the first day on the job.

We encourage you to celebrate by planning activities that follow the daily schedule of events that will be used by local chapters nationwide:



Monday - Recognition Day: A day to recognize and honor the members, advisers, administrators, business partners, community leaders, and supporters who make a meaningful impact on your CTE program and SkillsUSA chapter.

Tuesday - Giveback Day: Rally around your school community by focusing on ways for your chapter to give back.

Wednesday - Partner Day: Invite local business and industry leaders to connect with SkillsUSA members, highlighting the importance of developing career-readiness skills found in the SkillsUSA Framework.

Thursday - Advocacy Day: A day to amplify CTE in your community by conducting a public relations

activity such as presenting to the school board, administrators, and community group leaders.

Friday - SkillsUSA Day: Celebrate SkillsUSA by wearing your favorite SkillsUSA T-shirt, planning a celebration activity, or by posting your SkillsUSA Framework story on social media.

We can't wait to see what you do for the upcoming SkillsUSA Week! Make sure to tag us on social media so we can share how our local chapters are celebrating SkillsUSA Week!

Our State Conference will be held in Reno from April 18-21. Students will compete in over 65 events and new officers for the 2023-24 school year will be elected. All gold medalists are eligible to compete at the National SkillsUSA Conference in June.

We are always looking for volunteer judges from industry and the community. If you or someone you know would like to judge at the 2023 State Conference, contact Sindie Read at sread@washoeschools.net.

Nevada FCCLA had an exciting fall 2022 semester that included students traveling to the National FCCLA Fall Conference, the Nevada Fall Leadership Experience, and state officer retreats.

This year's theme is incREDible FCCLA. During the fall membership campaign, state membership grew to 1,120 members, and it is still growing into our winter/spring campaign. The membership count is exciting to see, as it is a record-setting count, blowing the goal for the year out of the water. This growth is attributed to the hard work and dedication our FCCLA Advisers put into their chapters every day.

Nevada FCCLA has a team of four student state officers (at right) who have been hard at work all year to lead students and events across the state. They had an incredible opportunity to meet and network with State Superintendent Jhone Ebert at the joint CTSO training in Las Vegas. The officers received key insights on the state's education system and



how they can contribute to initiatives from the Department. The officers have also been managing the social media accounts for Nevada FCCLA, creating content for students around leadership, FCCLA facts, and Career and Technical Education. The accounts have seen great growth this year. Recently, two

officers volunteered at the ACTE conference in Las Vegas, and they welcomed CTE professionals from across the country, networked, and visited the National FCCLA booth.

The association is looking forward to an in-person State Leadership Conference in Reno in March.

Students across Nevada are preparing to learn, lead, network, and compete. In preparation for various competitive events, two students attended the Skill Demonstration Events at the National FCCLA Fall Conference in Columbus, OH.

They both received first place in their events — Pastry Arts & Technical Decorating Skills, Level 2; and Speak Out For FCCLA, Level 2.

Our students are looking forward to experiencing Reno and Carson City as they have the opportunity to visit the State Capitol and Nevada State Museum. We hope to see over 400 members in Reno as they celebrate their accomplishments and experience IncREDible FCCLA!

The Nevada HOSA State Officer team has made progress on their 2022-23 Program of Work. First, the State Officers, Board of Trustees Chair, Deputy Executive Director, and Coach held their first meeting with their Guatemalan HOSA charter.

We are impressed with the Guatemalans' motivation to learn more about health care and their dedication to helping their families and communities. We are incredibly honored to aid them on their journey, and more information will come on how the Nevada HOSA chapters can extend their help and support to the Guatemalan members.

The Guatemala HOSA chapter will allow NVHOSA to receive recognition at the 2023 ILC for Outstanding HOSA Achievement.

The State Officer Team is excited to announce that the annual Sister Chapters Program has begun. For the 2022-23 school year, 12 chapters signed up. Sister Chapters is an initiative the Nevada HOSA State Officer Team started to connect chapters and members from across



Nevada. Chapters are paired and are set to do tasks for points. The pairing with the most points will be recognized at our State Leadership Conference. The State Officer Team looks forward to seeing the chapters' progress as we get closer to the State Leadership Conference.

We have also begun our chapter visits as the State Officers have been busy seeing all our chapters around the valley. The Officers have been educating fellow students about HOSA history and competitive events, and even playing HOSA trivia. We hope to continue seeing more chapters over the year and we are thrilled to meet new members.

Additionally, we had our secretary and treasurers meeting this past month to provide the opportunity for officers to talk about upcoming

events. We also discussed ideas for fund-raising for their clubs as well as creating volunteering opportunities for their members. This was a great opportunity to meet everyone, and we are grateful that we could help them in something that these officers are passionate about.

Lastly, the State Officers attended the Fall Leadership Conference where we interacted with other CTSO officers and connected with HOSA chapters. The event began with an opening statement from the CTSO presidents and a humorous motivational presentation from our keynote speaker.

Our HOSA chapters got the chance to attend presentations by our speakers on topics ranging from career counseling with an associate degree to the path to a diversified career in physical therapy as well as many more interesting topics. It was a great opportunity for our chapters not only to connect with other chapters but also network with our esteemed speakers knowledgeable in their fields.

Nevada DECA has been working hard on a variety of initiatives to provide members with valuable experiences in the 2022-2023 academic year.

This year's Association Officer Team had the opportunity to visit multiple high schools as well as attend numerous conferences and retreats to network, grow their leadership, and put their Program of Leadership into action.

Among the initiatives accomplished:

— During the first semester, the state officers held chapter visits with approximately 20 schools. Officers had the opportunity to grow engagement, enthusiasm, membership, leadership, and recognition levels by putting an emphasis on intentional visits with these chapters.

— To increase engagement levels, community service events were planned in October with GetOutdoors Nevada, a group that does park cleanups.



— To grow enthusiasm and membership, the state officers hosted a Speed Friending event that allowed for chapter officers and members to network with peers in the Las Vegas Valley.

— To grow leadership, officers hosted a Virtual State Office Mentorship Program.

Training was provided to members in a variety of ways. The officers initiated a state office mentorship program for perspective officers, held virtual competition training to hone competition skills of members and hosted One Nevada Calls to provide updates for members on many topics.

November, DECA month, provided the backdrop for advocating and promoting DECA and CTSOs in Nevada. DECA members attended the Las Vegas CTSO Fall

Leadership Conference, DECA's Ultimate Power Trip in Virginia, and the Western Region Leadership Conference in Anaheim, CA.

December kicked off with the ACTE Conference in Las Vegas, where two Nevada DECA State Officers had the opportunity to volunteer at this national conference and assist the ACTE management team.

Also, the University of Nevada, Las Vegas hosted the Las Vegas Competition Academy. The mock competition allowed Nevada DECA members to get a taste of what competition looks like before the State Career and Development Conference.

Nevada DECA will host the State Career and Development Conference in Las Vegas February 13-15. It's the biggest and most exciting Nevada DECA event of the year with three days of competition, workshops, state officer campaigns, networking, and countless other opportunities.

Upcoming Events in 2023

February 13-15, 2023	Nevada DECA State Career Development Conference Las Vegas, NV
March 5-8, 2023	Nevada HOSA State Leadership Conference Reno, NV
March 7-9, 2023	Nevada FCCLA State Leadership Conference Reno, NV
March 20-23, 2023	Nevada FFA State Convention Reno, NV
April 12-15, 2023	ACTE Region V Conference Fargo, ND
April 18-21, 2023	SkillsUSA Nevada State Leadership & Skills Conference Reno, NV
April 23-26, 2023	Nevada FBLA State Business Leadership Conference Las Vegas, NV
July 17-21, 2023	NACTE Summer Conference Lake Tahoe, NV



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CTE Mission Statement:

The Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Education Options is dedicated to developing innovative educational opportunities for students to acquire skills for productive employment and lifelong learning.

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