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Nevada Department of Education

Vision:

All Nevada students are equipped and feel empowered to attain their vision of success.

Mission:

To improve student achievement and educator effectiveness by ensuring opportunities, facilitating learning, and promoting excellence.

From the Director's Office

by *Craig Statucki*



Before I provide our office update, I would like to recognize one of our team members who recently retired after 20 years of service in the State of Nevada. Karen Chessell retired in September after dedicating two decades to students and educators across the State. Karen was instrumental in the development of standards and assessments for some of Nevada's most popular programs of study including Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Tourism, and Teaching and Training. We will miss Karen's expertise and knowledge and wish her the best as she spends quality time with her new grandchildren.

Since my last update the US Department of Education (USED) has approved the revisions to the Perkins V State Plan. The Plan has a renewed focus on the aspects of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs that employers want in their future workforce including participation in work-based learning experiences, earning industry-recognized credentials, and receiving college credit related to CTE programs. The Plan also removed the previous 35 strategic goals to narrow the focus on the following 3 strategic goals:

-Nevada's CTE Strategic Goal 1: Improve access to and achievement in high quality career and technical education programs of study aligned to high-skill, high-wage, and/or in-demand occupations for all student population groups as measured by State Determined Performance Levels (SDPL) targets.

-Nevada's CTE Strategic Goal 2: Develop a systematic approach to ensure access for all student population groups to career pathways and skill development from pre-kindergarten through postsecondary education as measured by participation and concentrator data in the State Determined Performance Levels (SDPL) targets.

-Nevada's CTE Strategic Goal 3: Ensure employers have a pipeline of skilled talent.

Our team is actively reshaping our responsibilities, e.g., technical assistance to teachers, schools, and districts, as well as streamlining our processes to ensure that we are providing students with the best opportunities to participate and be successful in their CTE programs.

While our team is transitioning our work to support the Perkins V State Plan, we have been busy updating regulations to meet the changing dynamics of CTE. On September 16, 2024, the Legislative Commission approved the following regulations:

-The regulation that identifies CTE Programs of Study has been updated to meet the new programs of study that have been introduced. We are working with the licensure office to update teacher licenses and endorsements accordingly.

-Employability skills have been removed from regulation which allows our office to update the employability standards through the State Board of Education. We are currently working with the workforce-related agencies and higher education to update the standards. The current assessment and standards are not changing.

-Culminating industry recognized credentials can be utilized in lieu of end-of-program assessments for the Skill Attainment Certificate.

-A regulation was developed for the curriculum related to the Teacher Academy College Pathway. We will spend the coming months updating documents, procedures, and guidance documents to meet the revised regulations. Our office will continue to inform educators as we update our documentation.

Thank you,

Craig Statucki

Director, Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Education Options



Elevating Leadership and Success on the International Stage

By: Robert Chondro

Nevada DECA continues to shine as a beacon of leadership, innovation, and success among Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs). With a mission to prepare emerging leaders for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality, management, and entrepreneurship, Nevada DECA has once again demonstrated our prowess at the International Career Development Conference, bringing home multiple top finishes and showing that, even as a smaller state, members always succeed.

Beyond competition, Nevada DECA is committed to empowering members with skills necessary to thrive. This year's association officer team was able to attend many chapter visits, partake in leadership training, and attend various conferences to network, grow their skills, and put their Programs of Leadership into action.

This year, Nevada DECA made its mark at ICDC, held in Anaheim, California, with over 23,000 students from across the globe. The event was a testament to the hard work and determination of Nevada chapters, as multiple students advanced to the finals. Yael Ivan and Asher Leventhal, two students from The Adelson School in Las Vegas, won Top Ten in their respective events. State Vice President of Career Development, Robert Chondro, won Third Place in his event. And two Davidson Academy members from Reno, Nehal Bokka and Vishal

Karuppasamy won First Place internationally in their event. State President Karen Wu waved the state flag in front of over 20,000 attendees, while DECA Inc. High School Division International President Alex Ellsworth from Palo Verde wrapped up her term in office.

As Nevada DECA continues to grow and evolve, the organization remains committed to its mission of preparing students for successful futures. In the coming year, Nevada DECA plans to offer even more opportunities for students to engage, learn, and lead. The inaugural *Camp DECA* is a new event being offered to members this year, fusing a fun outdoors experience with networking opportunities and leadership training.

As the organization looks to the future, it remains dedicated to shaping future leaders, ensuring that Nevada's students are equipped to meet challenges and seize any opportunities that lie ahead.



HOSA Nevada Future Health Professionals

Nevada HOSA is a community geared towards furthering future health professionals, but HOSA is also about the people. From the countless hours spent preparing events to the gregarious times laughing and having fun at the State Leadership Conference Dance, the members stand in solidarity! This past year, 1,200+ members, advisors, alums, and officers ventured to the North of this amazing state to engage in another year of fun competition, creating a networking hub full of lively communication. This is most highlighted in the astonishing symposiums held by partners and student leaders, such as the '23-'24 State Officer Team. Students shined during events and symposiums, showcasing their amazing leadership skills as 10-11 brilliant youth leaders had the courage to run for state office. They shared their leadership skills through effective speaking and relationship building- all pillars that Nevada HOSA exudes as an organization. Four students emerged victorious, with state leaders Anushka Madhira, Anirudh Prabu, Vanessa Rosales, and G'Yanna Perry taking the reins as this year's '24-'25 State Officer Team.

The journey for the '23-'24 year did not end there, with over 100 students from Nevada progressing to the International Leadership Conference in Houston, Texas, to represent all of Nevada HOSA! They had the opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation with students and advisors from all over the world, from Alabama to South Korea, breaking barriers that had never been seen before. Nevada HOSA also made an impact and was awarded Fifth Place in exponential membership growth among all states. Aside from that, much like the State Leadership Conference, members had to compete in events, but also go up against twice as many people. And did our members shine? YES! Members such as past State Officer Lily Kazemi showed ILC what Nevada is all about by placing in very competitive events and coming in on top. With all the seriousness and late-night preparation comes excellent bonding opportunities. Members were graced with the opportunity to explore all Houston offers, from the mind-blowing cuisine to the bustling culture, creating lasting relationships.

Nevada HOSA's achievements over the past year are a testament to its commitment to fostering future health professionals and building a vibrant community, all powered by people. Through spirited competitions, leadership development, and meaningful connections, members exemplified the values of dedication and camaraderie. With a record number of participants advancing to the International Leadership Conference and achieving significant recognition, Nevada HOSA continues to thrive. Looking to the future, the spirit of unity and excellence will undoubtedly guide members towards even greater success.



Nevada FBLA: Building Future Business Leaders

Home to nearly 230,000 students spanning across three divisions (Middle Level, High School, and Collegiate) and chapters in nearly every state and territory, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) is the premier business Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO). The organization’s goal is to “inspire and prepare students to become community-minded business leaders in a global society through relevant career preparation and leadership experiences,” as worded in the FBLA Mission Statement.

Nevada FBLA is a vibrant state association, boasting over 30 high school chapters among three regions. State President Alexis Bertuzzi (Senior - Advanced Technology Academy) and her team of eight other State Officers tirelessly work to expand essential business and leadership knowledge across the state. FBLA seeks to bridge the gap between education and business.

Competitions/Conferences

One of the most exciting aspects of FBLA is the various competitions and conferences available to students. The most fundamental of these is the State Business Leadership Conference (SBLC). Held in March, the SBLC is an opportunity for members to showcase the skills they developed throughout the year. This four-day conference enables students to network with like-minded ambitious individuals, learn from seasoned business professionals at world-class workshops, and compete in nuanced events. If members place in the Top Four in their respective event, they have the opportunity to compete at the National Leadership Conference (NLC); a platform for over 10,000 members from across the country to grow their network and compete. For more information on conferences, visit nevadafbla.org

Community Service

A defining characteristic of Nevada FBLA is the dedication to community service. The State Officers create various service opportunities that help members develop a sense of social responsibility, enabling them to apply their business skills in a real-world setting. By partnering with the Alzheimer’s Association, FBLA empowers students to contribute to causes larger than themselves, fostering a spirit of service and awareness in its members.

Other Opportunities

The vast outreach of FBLA reveals a variety of other opportunities for students to take advantage of. Lead4Change, LifeSmarts, The Stock Market Game, and The Virtual Business Challenge, for instance, are four of FBLA’s student challenges that provide unique ways for members to develop their skills, hone their interests, and even earn money.

Is This for Me?

If you are a student at any level passionate about business, leadership, or making a difference in your community, Nevada FBLA is for you. Whether you want to learn practical skills by leading a financial literacy workshop, connect with other members through dynamic conferences, or compete against talented peers, FBLA will put you in a position to grow, excel, and make a meaningful impact.



CTE: Cultivating A Robust Foundation for Every Learner
By: Ingrid Cepeda
Educational Programs Professional, NDE

Career and technical education (CTE) is essential for preparing high school students with the necessary knowledge and skills to transition to postsecondary education and future careers. CTE programs, which include academic courses and hands-on skills training, are designed to educate students for specific careers in industries such as education, technology, and healthcare. CTE programs educate students for high-wage, in-demand careers in emerging and established industries. Students who participate in CTE are well-prepared for their future, benefiting from a comprehensive array of resources. These include increased high school graduation rates, opportunities for leadership, industry-based assessments, hands-on experience, career exploration, and career training. Additionally, students can enroll in dual-credit courses aligned with career paths and postsecondary education. Each CTE Career Cluster provides students with a thorough understanding of the industry and an overview of career options, ensuring they are well-prepared for the future.

Rather than limiting a student’s options, well-designed CTE Pathway help prepare students for college or career by weaving together the skills needed for both. One of the most recognized CTE programs is Education and Training, which lays the groundwork and explores the multiple clusters a career Pathway in education includes. The CTE Teaching and Training Program sets the Pathway for career exploration in education, and it can seamlessly connect high school students interested in becoming teachers to the Teacher Academy Career Pathway Program (TACPP). The CTE Teaching and Training Program is designed to equip

students for immediate employment. This program ensures that high schools obtain the qualifications and credentials employers seek for future employment by graduation. The Teaching and Training Program consists of a multiyear course sequence that combines technical and work-based learning with foundational academic content.

The Teacher Academy Career Pathway Program (TACPP) is alternative Pathway required under the Nevada NRS 233B.066 number R074-24, and it must be implemented in schools within the Clark County School District (CCSD) with 250 or more students. The Teacher Academy Career Pathway Program (TACPP) and CTE Teaching and Training aim to provide high school students with a well-rounded career path in teaching. Both programs can be effectively synchronized since Pathway’s objective is to systematically prepare high school students with the knowledge and skills required to become teachers. The CTE Teaching and Training Program maps education and work-based training through partnerships with postsecondary institutions, aiming to culminate in postsecondary degrees, certificates, apprenticeships, and employment. The Teaching and Training framework provides an advantageous initiative for high school students interested in becoming teachers as it supports and aligns with the TACPP objective of preparing students to become future teachers in the state of Nevada

Thai tofu tacos, anyone? CCSD student chefs battle in Las Vegas



Clark County School District students went knife to knife in a cooking competition on Monday. The goal: create a healthy, delicious meal that costs under two dollars.

The competition marked the first in a three-day healthy meals summit hosted by the United States Department of Agriculture. The gathering at Caesars Palace was the largest federally-led event to date in support of school meals, according to Sara Awelah, a spokesperson for Healthy Meals Incentives. Studies have shown that improving nutrition in school meals leads to better outcomes in academic performance, emotional well-being and attendance, according to the USDA.

“I never thought I would be at an event like this, where our school lunch team is being celebrated as the incredibly professional culinary art that it is,” said USDA Deputy Under Secretary Cindy Long said when she first saw the competition underway.

The competition

Each student partnered with a chef to create a meal from their mystery basket, which contained four different proteins and pantry items such as grains, produce, herbs and spices.

Prinz Villagracia, a student in the culinary program at Rancho High School, took home \$500. His high school will also receive \$500. Villagracia’s winning recipe — Thai tofu tacos with spicy Mexican carrots — will be posted online and made available to other schools across the country.

Villagracia said the meal was inspired by his work at a Thai restaurant and his Mexican heritage. He first fell in love with cooking when he would help his grandparents growing up. Eventually, he hopes to become a chef.

“Sharing that love with everyone is something I can always carry with me every day,” he told the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Changing guidelines

Rob Bisceglie, CEO of Action for Healthy Kids, an organization that supports schools as they work on nutrition, said he was particularly impressed by the low budget the students had to meet. Across the board, he said, budgets are the largest obstacle for schools trying to meet healthier guidelines.

In addition to guiding regulations for lunches, Long highlighted the importance of supporting schools as they adjust. The USDA has invested over \$13 billion into healthy school lunches and \$30 million into small and rural schools this year, she said.

Jake Yarberry, a menu coordinator for CCSD, said that the most difficult component of crafting healthy meals is the district’s size. In order to plan for changing regulations for reducing adding sugar in 2027, for instance, he has had to start now.

Although Nevada no longer has guaranteed universal lunches, CCSD still does.

Throughout the conference, he hoped to learn from nutritionists across the country who had won awards for their school nutrition.

Funding

Nevada was allocated \$644,423 in 2022 in a USDA equipment assistance grant, which is designed to assist schools in providing healthy and appealing menus. That year, 41 sites around the state purchased milk coolers, warming cabinets, refrigerators, ovens and freezers. This past year, the state got just under \$80,000.

In 2022 Nevada also received a \$850,015 grant towards farm to school programming. Garden Farms Foundation, which will work with CCSD to support outdoor edible gardens and implement comprehensive agriculture educational programming, also received under \$50,000.

With these healthy initiatives, some CCSD students may be worried about the fate of cinnamon rolls, which Yarberry said are particularly popular among students.

While Yarberry could not guarantee the future, he said the district is “really working on it.”

“The cinnamon rolls are a staple of the Clark County School District, so I think we’ll figure it out,” he said.

Monday, Oct. 21, 2024

Written By: Rachel Aston/Las Vegas Review-Journal

Upcoming Events in 2024/2025

November 7-9, 2024	Nevada DECA Western Region Leadership Seattle, Washington
November 14-16, 2024	SkillsUSA Nevada Fall Leadership Conference Elko, Nevada
December 4-7, 2024	NACTE CareerTech VISION 2024 San Antonio, Texas
February 8, 2025	SkillsUSA Nevada Regional Conferences Statewide
March 5, 2025	HOSA Nevada State Leadership Conference Reno, Nevada
April 30-May 3, 2025	NACTE ACTE Region V Conference Las Vegas, Nevada



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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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