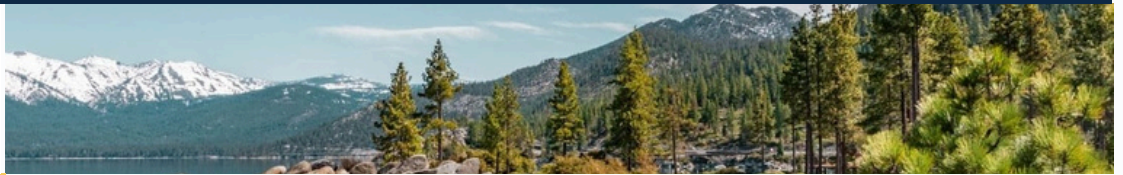


# THE REFLECTOR



**NEVADA**  
Department of  
Education



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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.

## INTRODUCING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR INGRID CEPEDA

Ingrid Cepeda has recently been appointed as the Assistant Director of the Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning, and Education Options (CRALEO). With a diverse and dynamic career in education, Ingrid brings a wealth of experience spanning various roles, including special education teacher, behavior specialist, project facilitator, K-12 school administrator, consultant, and a strong background in Career and Technical Education (CTE).

Originally from New York City, Ingrid's educational journey began in Newark, New Jersey, where a passion for supporting and empowering students ignited. After earning a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, Ingrid further pursued a master's in Educational Leadership and Supervision from Saint Peter's University, equipping her with both the academic foundation and practical leadership skills needed to make a significant impact in the field of education.

Throughout her career, Ingrid has demonstrated a deep commitment to improving educational pathways and outcomes. As an Educational Programs Professional, she played a key role in overseeing the implementation of Assembly Bill AB428, which established the Teacher Academy College Pathway, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at expanding access to teaching careers.

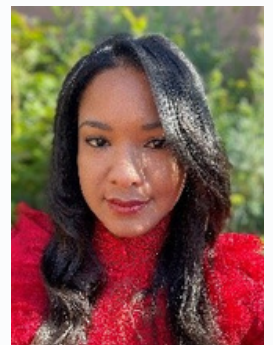
In this capacity, Ingrid worked closely with educators, policymakers, and community stakeholders to ensure the program's success and expand opportunities for students pursuing careers in education.

Ingrid's work in CTE has been another cornerstone of her career, where she has advocated for and helped implement programs that equip students with practical skills and certifications to excel in the workforce. She has worked with CTE educators, industry partners, and government agencies to design and expand pathways that connect students to high-demand careers, providing them with hands-on learning experiences and credentials that increase their employability. Her leadership in this area has contributed to aligning educational outcomes with labor market needs, ensuring that students graduate with the skills necessary to succeed in both technical fields and evolving industries.

Ingrid's trajectory includes pivotal roles in special education and behavior management, where she developed expertise in individualized support strategies and behavior intervention plans. Her work as a project facilitator allowed her to manage and guide collaborative efforts focused on improving student outcomes, while her time as a K-12 school administrator provided her with invaluable leadership experience in school operations, staff development, and community engagement.

In addition to these roles, Ingrid has served as a consultant, providing expert guidance to schools and districts on educational strategies, policy implementation, and professional development. This diverse background allows her to bring a unique perspective to the Office of CRALEO, where she is poised to continue advocating for students and educators while shaping the future of education in the region.

With a deep commitment to educational equity and access, Ingrid looks forward to leveraging her experiences to help students, educators, and communities thrive, ensuring that all learners are prepared for success in both their careers and lifelong learning endeavors.



# THE REFLECTOR

## CTSO STATE OF NEVADA EVENTS

I've had the honor of attending, participating in, assisting with, and judging four Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) conferences and conventions. Witnessing firsthand the results of our team's hard work and seeing these students thrive has been truly inspiring. Career and Technical Education (CTE) offers students a unique and engaging way to learn, and it was incredible to see the dedication, passion, and perseverance each student brought to their chosen path.

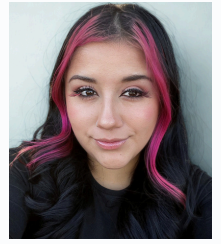
My first experience was with Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) on testing day. The atmosphere was a blend of nerves, excitement, and confidence. Students were practicing CPR on mannequin and quizzing each other, showcasing how CTE fosters collaboration, motivation, and mutual support.

At the Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) conference, I was impressed by the creativity and talent, especially in Fashion Design. One student, a senior and a member of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls (IORG), stood out for her passion. She creates stunning ball gowns for her fellow members and showcased one of her own designs with pride. Her enthusiasm for both fashion and her organization was truly inspiring.

I also attended the National FFA Organization convention, where I helped judge Floriculture team activities and individual flower arrangements. The teamwork and creativity on display were remarkable. Students supported each other, valued each other's input, and created beautiful arrangements and floral head pieces. I also had the chance to connect with Sparks Florist, learning about their family business and where it originated from.

Finally, at SkillsUSA, I had the opportunity to assist with the Quiz Bowl, a fast-paced Jeopardy-style competition. The students' quick thinking and vast knowledge were astonishing. One student stood out, he was like a human calculator, visibly processing complex information. Some were able to answer the questions before they were fully asked. On the second day, I had the opportunity of joining graphic designers with over 15 years of experience to interview and judge digital posters. I learned so much about layout, color theory, and the creative process. As someone currently involved in designing newsletters for the Nevada Department of Education's CTE program, I found this experience especially enriching.

Though I was never part of a CTSO myself, these experiences have been eye-opening. The motivation, talent, and drive these students exhibit is nothing short of amazing. I'm confident that CTE will continue to empower them and lead them toward bright futures. Not to mention, working with the most amazing, inspiring, and encouraging team and group of people I could ask to work with has made the experience even more meaningful.



**For questions, contact:**

**Catie Wood, Admin Assistant III - [cteinfo@doe.nv.gov](mailto:cteinfo@doe.nv.gov)**



**Nevada SkillsUSA**



This year, the Nevada Association of SkillsUSA has worked diligently to increase membership. Today, the organization has almost 5,000 Student, Professional, and Alumni registered members. The Nevada Board of Directors and the SkillsUSA Officer team were excited to host the SkillsUSA Nevada State Championships in Reno, April 8 - 11, 2025. During the championships, SkillsUSA hosted over 2,000 members and competitors. Many business and industry partners and volunteers were in attendance as well. This school year, in November, SkillsUSA held two Fall Leadership

events; one in Las Vegas, and one in Reno. This summer, gold medal champions will travel to Atlanta, Georgia, where they will compete against the best in the nation. During the 2024 National SkillsUSA Championship, held last June, Nevada brought home one gold and two bronze medals. SkillsUSA Nevada is extremely grateful for all the support received over the last few years, and looks forward to the future success of members.

- **Ben Sandusky, President - Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology**
- **Alayna Haughey, Vice President - Southeast Career Technical Academy**
- **Laisha Sanchez, Secretary - Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology**
- **Kyle Moyer, Treasurer - Academy of Arts, Careers & Technology**
- **Roki Serflaten, Reporter - Green Valley High School**
- **Joyce Morales, Parliamentarian - Southeast Career Technical Academy**





# THE REFLECTOR

## ROOTED IN PURPOSE: GROWING OUR FUTURE 98TH ANNUAL NACTE SUMMER CONFERENCE JULY 15-17, 2025

The 98th annual Nevada Association for Career & Technical Education (NACTE) Summer Conference is taking root July 15-17, 2025. With the theme "Rooted in Purpose: Growing Our Future," this is your chance to strengthen Nevada's CTE community and plant the seeds for success. Whether you're a seasoned educator, industry leader, or new to the field, this conference is your opportunity to branch out, share knowledge, and nurture the future of Career and Technical Education (CTE).



We are honored to welcome Mark Perna, a renowned author, speaker, and expert in education and workforce development. As the creator of Career Trees, Mark is a leader in building pathways that empower students to demonstrate real-world skills, ensuring they are both career- and life-ready. We also look forward to learning from our own educators, who are growing the future of CTE every day in their classrooms, schools, Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs), and districts. Consider submitting a Presentation Proposal by May 1, 2025, to share your expertise and inspire others.

We are also accepting donations for our annual [NACTE Pathways to Success Scholarship Auction](#) to help fund CTE student scholarships: [Donations](#). Last year, we were able to award four deserving CTE students with scholarships to support their post-secondary education, but we could not do this without the generous support of our donors. We are looking for student work, gift cards, gift basket items, event/service certificates, etc.

- Regular Registration – Secure your spot before June 1, 2025: [Registration](#)

If you are a business, industry, or community leader – or know of one who may want to support Nevada's CTE ecosystem – consider becoming an exhibitor, sponsoring an award, or donating to the Scholarship Auction. See the [2025 Summer Conference Partnership Flyer](#) for details.

Let's grow the future of CTE together! Find all conference details, deadlines, and registration links on our [2025 Summer Conference Webpage](#).

**For questions, contact:**

**Candi Robles, Conference Chair – [Conference@nvacte.org](mailto:Conference@nvacte.org)**

**Tina Statucki, Executive Director – [ExecutiveDirector@nvacte.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@nvacte.org)**



## NEVADA TSA SHOWCASES STUDENT TALENT AND LEADERSHIP AT 2025 STATE CONFERENCE

The Nevada Technology Student Association (TSA) held its annual State Conference on February 17, 2025, bringing together some of the most innovative and driven students from across the state. Hosted in Las Vegas, this year's conference welcomed approximately 200 student competitors representing 15 different school chapters, all

vying for top honors in 20 distinct competitions that tested their knowledge, creativity, and technical skills.

The Nevada TSA State Conference is a highly anticipated event each year, offering students the opportunity to engage in hands-on challenges that reflect real-world STEM applications. Events ranged from CAD and architectural design to robotics, video production, and leadership-focused competitions. Judges from education, industry, and the community praised the professionalism and problem-solving abilities of Nevada's student participants.

In addition to showcasing technical talent, the conference also served as the platform for electing the 2025-2026 Nevada TSA State Officers. These student leaders will guide the association's activities in the coming year and represent Nevada TSA at both state and national events.

The newly elected officers are:

- **Meila Diaz, President – Sierra Vista High School**
- **Maybrie Naylor, Vice President – Northeast Career and Technical Academy**
- **Eleanor Gibbens, Secretary – Sierra Vista High School**
- **Ozzie Patton, Treasurer – Northeast Career and Technical Academy**
- **Eliza Pangilinan, Reporter – Southwest Career and Technical Academy**

These outstanding students demonstrated exceptional leadership throughout the conference and are ready to continue promoting TSA's mission of preparing students for careers in a technology-driven world.

Looking ahead, Nevada TSA is excited to participate in the upcoming **National TSA Conference**, which will take place **June 27 – July 1, 2025**, at the **Gaylord Opryland Resort in Nashville, Tennessee**. Nevada plans to send approximately 20 students, accompanied by advisors and chaperones, to

this prestigious national event. The national conference is expected to draw thousands of students from across the country for competitions, leadership sessions, and networking opportunities that highlight the best in STEM education.

With a strong showing at the state level and a dynamic new officer team in place, Nevada TSA is poised for another year of innovation, collaboration, and success on the national stage. The future of STEM in Nevada is bright, and these student leaders and competitors are leading the way.



# THE REFLECTOR



## NEVADA FCCLA EMPOWERS STUDENTS THROUGH LEADERSHIP AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Nevada Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) is a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) dedicated to students in Family and Consumer Sciences education. FCCLA provides intra-curricular resources and opportunities that prepare students for careers supporting families, reinforcing its role in career preparation, leadership development, and workforce readiness.

### Nevada FCCLA Membership and Career Clusters.

Nevada FCCLA serves over 2,600 members across 30 chapters, supported by 59 dedicated advisers. These mentors help students address various youth concerns, including parenting, family relationships, substance abuse, peer pressure, sustainability, nutrition and fitness, teen violence, and career preparation. The organization focuses on six specific Career Clusters: • **Arts and Design** • **Education and Training** • **Financial Services** • **Hospitality and Tourism** • **Human Services** • **Public Services**

Through these clusters, members cultivate essential skills, including technical expertise, academic knowledge, and career-readiness abilities, all of which prepare them for success in college, careers, and leadership roles.

### State Leadership Conference and Competitive Events

On March 12–13, Nevada FCCLA hosted its annual State Leadership Conference, Dare to Dream, at the Grand Sierra Resort. The event featured general sessions led by the State Executive Council and a keynote address by John Hamilton, Executive Director of the Lead4Change Program. This year's conference saw a record number of participants, with 217 individuals competing in 126 individual events and 30 team events across 30 states and national competitions. The competition results were outstanding: **137 Gold Medals, 219 Silver Medals, and 128 Bronze Medals**

### Gold Medals, 219 Silver Medals, and 128 Bronze Medals

Over 80 competitors qualified to advance to the National Leadership Conference, set for July 3–9 in Orlando, Florida.

### 2025–2026 State Executive Council Elections

During the conference, Nevada voting delegates elected the 2025–2026 State Executive Council:

- **President: Nately Reyes, Rancho High School**
- **Vice President of Records: Valentina Escobar, Southwest Career and Technical Academy**
- **Vice President of Competitive Events: Hope Moreno, Southeast Career and Technical Academy**
- **Vice President of Public Relations: Neveah Hubert, Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology**
- **Vice President of National Programs: Moises Medina, Rancho High School**
- **Vice President of Community Service: Alejandro Kau, East Career and Technical Academy**
- **Executive First Vice President: Ashton Osbahr, Rancho High School**
- **First Vice President: Tegan Richardson, Academy of Arts, Careers and Technology**



### Looking Ahead

As Nevada FCCLA continues to Dare to Dream, we extend our best wishes to all national competitors, officer candidates, and conference attendees as they prepare for the National Leadership Conference. The future is bright for Nevada FCCLA, and we look forward to celebrating the achievements of its talented members.

## NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION

Across Nevada, more than 30 agricultural education programs excel, creating opportunities for students from every corner of the state to thrive. These programs inspire individuals who uphold the principles of agricultural education and FFA. Among these programs, the Northwest Career and Technical Academy is home to many students who are flourishing with the opportunities agricultural education is providing. Rachel Pope is one of those dedicated members of the Northwest Career and Technical Academy FFA chapter and agricultural education program.

Throughout her time in FFA, Rachel has developed invaluable communication, leadership, and cooperation skills. From speaking with her local and state legislators during the Nevada Agricultural Youth Legislative Experience to learning how to dance and make connections at the Nevada FFA state convention, her involvement in FFA has always left her searching for more ways to be involved. Rachel has also served as the President and Secretary of her local FFA chapter. She says that serving as a chapter officer has allowed her to foster a community of individuals interested in the same field as her and pursue extracurricular interests past her textbooks. Through this role, Rachel also serves as a mentor and role model for younger students and helps them find their value in FFA, school, and life.

Rachel's ambition and dedication to agricultural education has allowed her to reach outstanding accomplishments such as placing first in many Career and Leadership Development Events at the state level. She has found a love and strong passion for the Veterinary Science opportunities within agricultural education. In fact, when asked what encouraged her to join FFA, she said, "I've wanted to be a veterinarian since the first time I watched an episode of Doc McStuffins. That is actually what brought me into FFA." Although veterinary science is her passion, she has also found a love for the Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event. Rachel thrives in anything she puts her mind to but has particularly excelled in the Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event where not only did she lead her team to place first in the state, but then went on to place 9th overall in the nation at the National FFA Convention and Expo this past fall.

Rachel is truly a remarkable student and embodies what it means to be an FFA member. When asked what FFA has done for her, she says that "FFA has truly brought [her] out of [her] shell and shaped [her] into the strong, confident, and passionate individual [she is] today." Rachel is not certain what her future holds but has no doubt she will be successful as FFA and agricultural education have given her a great path and kickstart to a future career.



**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.

*Steve Canavero*  
Superintendent of Public  
Instruction

*Ann Marie Dickson*  
Deputy Superintendent of  
Student Achievement

*Megan Peterson*  
Deputy Superintendent for  
Student Investment Division

*Christy McGill*  
Deputy Superintendent  
for Educator Effectiveness  
and Family Engagement

*Anna Reynolds*  
Director for the Office of  
Career Readiness, Adult  
Learning, and Education  
Options

**State Board of Education**

Dr. Tricia Braxton

Maggie Carlton

Dr. Katherine Dockweiler  
**President**

Tate Else

Danielle Ford

Stephanie Goodman

Tamara Hudson

Tim Hughes  
**Vice President**

Michael Keyes  
**Student Member**

Angela Orr

Mike Walker

## Upcoming Events in 2025

June 18-21, 2025

HOSA  
International Leadership Conference  
Nashville, TN

June 23-27, 2025

SkillsUSA  
National Leadership & Skills Conference  
Atlanta, GA

June 27-July 1, 2025

TSA  
National TSA Conference  
Nashville, TN

June 29-July 2, 2025

FBLA  
National Leadership Conference  
Anaheim, CA

July 5-9, 2025

FCCLA  
National Leadership Conference  
Orlando, FL

Oct 29-Nov 1, 2025

FFA  
National FFA Convention  
Indianapolis, IN

*The Nevada Department of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.*