

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.

Get to know Dr. Hiren Bhavsar from the CRALEO Team

The Nevada Department of Education is pleased to have Dr. Hiren Bhavsar as an Education Programs Professional (EPP) in the CRALEO office. Dr. Bhavsar joined NDE in February and is based in the Las Vegas office, bringing over a decade of experience in education and public service.

Dr. Bhavsar joins NDE following a year with the State Public Charter School Authority and over 11 years in higher education. His academic and professional journey spans several institutions across the country, including Tennessee State University, the State University of New York, and the University of Nevada, Reno, where he held various roles in research, outreach, and teaching.

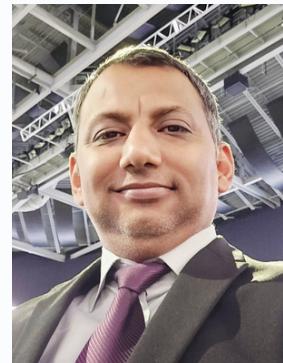
He holds a Ph.D. in agricultural economics with a minor in statistics from Oklahoma State University, and his career reflects a deep commitment to educational access and equity. After spending two and a half years in Northern Nevada, Dr. Bhavsar has relocated to Southern Nevada, where he and his family are now settling into their new home.

Dr. Bhavsar recently presented at the Nevada ACTE conference in Tahoe regarding Quality Program Reviews (QPR) that he will oversee in the districts in Southern Nevada including charter schools. Starting in 2025-26, Nevada's QPR process for CTE shifts from comprehensive reviews to focused annual monitoring. CRALEO will emphasize compliance with Perkins V, MOA, and safety standards, while districts take greater responsibility for internal reviews. This streamlined approach aims to improve responsiveness, local ownership, and alignment with evolving CTE needs. Apart from QPR, Dr. Bhavsar will also oversee many CTE programs like construction, manufacturing, transportation, STEM, government and public admin, and law and public safety. He also serves on the boards of CTSOs affiliated with these programs.

Beyond his professional background, Dr. Bhavsar is passionate about the role of education in shaping the future for the next generation, including his own young children. He believes that ensuring strong educational foundations is one of the most important challenges facing today's students.

Outside of work, he enjoys spending time outdoors with his family and is an avid sports enthusiast. In earlier years, he played tennis, chess, and cricket, and he continues to follow those interests closely.

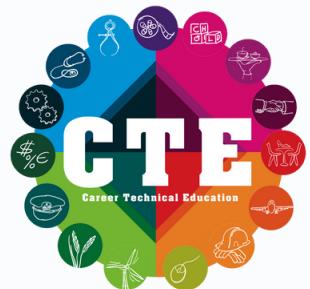
Please join us in welcoming Dr. Bhavsar to the NDE team.



NEW Phased QPR Rollout:

- Annual Site visits
- Phase 1 (2025-26) MOA compliance
- Phase 2 (2026-27): Add safety requirements
- Phase 3 (2027-28) Include full Perkins V elements

[ACTE High-Quality
CTE Framework
Resources Link](#)



THE REFLECTOR

CTE: AN EDUCATIONAL RENAISSANCE

We are in the midst of a Educational Renaissance! The old trade and vocational high schools vanished decades ago, and now Career and Technical Education (CTE) is experiencing a rebirth and picking up the void created by their demise. For years, we have not adequately prepared our students with proper pathways to explore life beyond high school. Career and Technical Education does exactly that.

We must provide our students with the necessary knowledge, skills, experience and have the competitive advantage, or "soft" skills (Effective verbal/written communication, problem solving, adaptability, etc.), so that all of our students can achieve, be successful and foster a life-long love for learning that is aligned to obtaining a high skill and earning a high wage in an in-demand occupation. Working in conjunction with our Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) in providing the proper motivation for our students to lead, build, care, feed, and ensure safety not only for their communities, but also in Nevada and for our great nation.

We see the Educational Renaissance in the Teacher Academy Career Pathway, which is designed to provide our students with a direct pathway to explore the possibility of becoming a teacher. We see a direct link for those students who want to become an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) to have the credentials to pursue that direction. The Educational Renaissance reappears for students who wish to follow a career in the healthcare field, specifically in nursing. Our students will acquire the necessary credentials to apply for an entry-level position in the field of healthcare. These are just a couple of examples of how Career and Technical Education is on the cutting edge and leading the charge in creating an Educational Renaissance in Education itself. Providing each student with their individualized roadmap to follow is truly a Renaissance in teaching and learning!

We are in an Educational Renaissance, and I am excited to be a small part of it! Career and Technical Education, together with our Career and Technical Student Organizations, will lead to the transformation of the current educational model to one that totally prepares them for the future. This ensures that our students, our cities, our state, and our country will be better prepared for the present as well as in the future, with what employers want in their future workforce. I can't wait to see all these moving parts come together and foster continued growth in our Educational Renaissance becomes a reality.



By: Victor Willert

THE BILL TRABERT MEMORIAL AWARD - KAREN CHESELL

The Nevada ACTE Bill Trabert Memorial Award stands as a meaningful tribute to excellence and commitment in Career and Technical Education (CTE). Presented by the Nevada Association for Career and Technical Education (NACTE), this prestigious honor recognizes individuals who have made outstanding, lasting contributions to CTE across the state. The award is named in memory of Bill Trabert, a passionate advocate whose leadership and vision helped elevate the importance of CTE for students, educators, and communities throughout Nevada.

Bill Trabert was widely respected for his unwavering dedication to providing students with practical, high-quality educational opportunities that prepared them for both careers and lifelong success. His belief in the power of CTE to transform lives continues to inspire educators and leaders across Nevada. The memorial award that bears his name celebrates those who embody the same passion, service, and commitment that defined his work.

This year, the Nevada ACTE Bill Trabert Memorial Award was presented to Karen Chessell, honoring her more than 20 years of dedicated service to Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS). Throughout her career, Karen has been a strong advocate for FCS programs, recognizing their critical role in equipping students with essential life, career, and leadership skills. Her work has positively impacted countless students, educators, and programs statewide.

Karen Chessell's dedication reflects the true spirit of the Bill Trabert Memorial Award. Through her leadership, mentorship, and long-standing commitment to excellence in CTE, she has helped strengthen family and consumer sciences education in Nevada and ensure its continued relevance for future generations. Her recognition serves not only as a celebration of her achievements, but also as an inspiration to all who are committed to advancing Career and Technical Education.



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THE REFLECTOR

HOW NEVADA DECA HELPED ME BECOME DECA'S HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION PRESIDENT

I put as much thought into joining DECA as I did with any other high school organization: virtually none. I joined by accident, and the only reason I stuck around was because I figured it would look good on a college application. But everything changed at my first Nevada DECA conference. I fell in love with the passion and energy of the organization almost instantly.

In my sophomore year, I ran for Nevada DECA's Vice President of Marketing. Somehow, I won. That victory became one of the best things that ever happened to me. The officer team, the members, and the advisors I worked with helped me grow as a person and as a leader.

When it came time to run again, I aimed for the position of Nevada DECA State President. I spent months preparing. I wrote speeches, built a platform, and gave it everything I had. But when the results were announced, it wasn't my name that was called.

That loss hurt as much as any loss could. Someone told me afterward, "You lost because you were too much of a cheerleader." For a while, I carried that with me and wondered if I needed to change. But eventually, I realized that my energy wasn't a flaw. It was my strength.

So, I ran again. This time, for DECA's High School Division President at DECA's 2025 International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida. I brought with me every lesson, every setback, and every part of who I am. And I won! I achieved one of the greatest feats of my life, not by becoming someone else, but by embracing exactly who I've always been. My involvement in DECA taught me this lesson - and it has made all the difference.



By: Asher Leventhal



LEADERSHIP STARTS HERE

In March 2025, Nevada Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) elected nine new State Officers at the State Business Leadership Conference (SBLC), marking the start of another year of leadership, service, and education. Led by returning officers Sophia Dai (President) and Jack Hurley (Executive Vice President), the officer team includes Vice President of Membership Nasia Perkins, Vice President of Programs Michael Chung, Vice President of Public Relations Isabella Reyes, Vice President of Media Kelley Tang, Southern Region Vice President Evelyn Hicks, Northern Region Vice President Kyle Allen, and Eastern Region Vice President Jazmyne Palomares.

Since their induction, the team has worked tirelessly to develop an ambitious Program of Work focused on three core goals: growing membership, raising awareness for career and technical education (CTE), and showcasing the lifelong value of FBLA membership. Through a collaborative "leads and mates" structure, each goal brings together multiple officers, encouraging diverse perspectives and statewide unity. Major initiatives include the "1 Chapter 1 County" campaign, interviews with Nevada business leaders, and a financial aid program supporting new and existing chapters.

Nevada's momentum carried into summer at the 2025 National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Anaheim, California, where over 150 students represented the Silver State. Highlights included the Nevada Meeting, where the State Officers hosted an interactive bingo networking event, presented their Program of Work, and celebrated student achievements, most notably Carson High's first ever *Entrepreneurs in Action* magazine, featuring local businesses and their owners within Northern Nevada.

One of Nevada's proudest moments came when Jack Hurley was elected FBLA National Treasurer, the first Nevadan to hold a national position in nearly a decade. "Changing long-standing systems is difficult," Hurley shared, "but I strive to improve what already exists and create new programs that benefit future members."

Adding to the celebration, two underclassmen placed nationally in competitive events: Erika Gutierrez, a freshman at West Career and Technical Academy, earned 3rd place in Introduction to Public Speaking, and sophomore Anirudh Polagani from Ed W. Clark High School placed 6th in Public Speaking, proving that leadership and excellence start early. As the new membership year begins, Nevada FBLA is eager to expand its reach, strengthen CTE advocacy, and make the 2026 SBLC the most impactful yet. With energy, experience, and a clear vision, the State Officer team is ready to lead Nevada into a future of bold possibilities.

By: Sophia Dai and Isabella Reyes



THE REFLECTOR

HOSA NEVADA

Nevada HOSA, a community driven by the spark to innovate, continues to empower future health professionals through leadership, service, and competition. From spirited competitions to heartwarming connections, this year's Nevada HOSA's State Leadership Conference is already one for the books!



This event brought 1,400 attendees to the Grand Sierra Resort in Reno for an unforgettable time of networking, learning, and celebrating. Highlights included engaging symposiums, inspiring keynote sessions, and the immense courage from the 20 State Officer candidates. To conclude the 2024-2025 State Leadership Conference, five new leaders rose to create the 2025-2026 State Officer Team: Yazhini Arunprakash, Ehibor Moseri, Sage Nadeau, Maria Benshoof, and Abbey Messner.

In July, the newly elected State Officer team headed to South Lake Tahoe for leadership training alongside other Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) leaders. This experience strengthened their bond as a team, built skills through leadership training, and inspired fresh initiatives to roll out this school year. They also collaborated with Nevada FCCLA State Officers, which inspired insightful planning and connections for the year ahead.

Looking forward, the State Officer team is eager to share the initiatives that are catered directly towards members and their needs. By requesting chapter visits, members can seize the opportunity to inquire more about these initiatives with their State Officers, engage in leadership activities, and actively shape Nevada HOSA's future. With this year's theme, Champions of Change, Nevada HOSA inspires members to transform challenges into victories. Now is the time to pave the path ahead with purpose and shape the future of healthcare!



By: 2025-2026 State Officer Team



All learners deserve opportunities to explore and prepare for the full world of work, and discover where they fit in. Created in 2002 and modernized in 2024, the National Career Clusters Framework has provided a shared structure and language for CTE program design across the United States. Advance CTE serves as the steward of the Framework. The Framework has the power to transform systems, career pathways and programs, and the lives of learners and communities. Whether you are an administrator, CTE or core academic educator, career advising professional, or an employer, you can use the Framework to help every learner chart their path to career success! In 2024, following 2 years of input and validation, Advance CTE released a modernized Framework designed to serve as a bridge between education and work and a central building block for consistently designed and high-quality CTE programs.

What is the National Career Clusters Framework?

The National Career Clusters Framework serves as a guiding organizational structure for Career Technical Education (CTE) leaders and partners to create industry-responsive and learner-centered CTE programs and experiences.

The Career Clusters Framework has been a crucial catalyst that helped transform what was once known as vocational education to CTE. The Framework organizes occupations for CTE learners into industry clusters and embedded sub-groupings that learners can experience and explore. It has been a central building block to achieving consistently designed and high-quality CTE programs that provide meaningful, career-relevant education experiences to learners and talent pipelines to industry.

The Framework consists of 14 Career Clusters, including 3 Cross-Cutting Clusters, and 72 Sub-Clusters organized in 6 Clustering Groupings. Initially developed in 2002, the Framework was modernized in 2024 after a two-year input process to meet the evolving needs of education and industry.

Source: <https://careertech.org/career-clusters/>

THE REFLECTOR

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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Upcoming Events in 2026

February 10-12, 2026

DECA
Alexis Park Resort
Las Vegas, NV

April 7-10, 2026

SkillsUSA
The Row
Reno, NV

April 11-14, 2026

FBLA
Westin Lake Las Vegas
Henderson, NV

June 17-20, 2026

HOSA
Indianapolis Convention Center
Indianapolis, IN

June 22-26, 2026

TSA
Gaylord National Harbor Resort
& Convention Center
Washington, DC

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