

VAAE January/February Update

Awards & Members in the News

Katie Reames was selected as the recipient of the 2016 Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year Award and will be representing Virginia in the ACTE Region II competition.

Award applications are now available for the 2016 VAAE Awards and Dr. Anderson Scholarship. Applications are due March 15, electronically to Mr. Byrd. Go to www.vaae.info and click on the awards tab for more information.

National Policy Seminar

Members attended the NAAE/ACTE National Policy Seminar in Washing, D.C. February 29 through March 2. Members learned about legislation that impact CTE and spent time advocating for Agriculture Education and Career and Technical Education. Members met with their Congressmen to discuss Perkins Funding as well.

Middle School Teacher's Conference

The 2016 Virginia Middle School Agriculture Teacher's Conference will be held March 11-12, 2016 in Woodstock, VA. This professional development is designed to meet the specific needs and challenges of Middle School teachers while offering an opportunity for collaboration.

Registration: A non-refundable registration fee of \$25.00 will be billed to each participant - registration includes dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday. Participants can register online at <http://goo.gl/forms/yOgwTnznea>. Registration closes March 4, 2016. Each participant will receive an invoice via PayPal - payment will be accepted by check, or with credit card through PayPal, for your convenience.

Tentative/working schedule: The following is a working schedule for the conference.

Friday (at Holiday Inn, Woodstock)

WORKSHOP DAY

11:30 - Registration

12:00 - Welcome and Housekeeping

12:15 - 1:15 Dan Swafford - Drones in Agriculture

1:30 - 2:30 Lesson Plan Share Time Please bring lesson ideas, shop projects, or FFA meeting ideas to share!!

2:45 - 3:15 Virginia FFA Update

3:15 - Transition to PMMS Ag. Department

3:30 - 4:15 - Food and Fiber CDE Update with Jimmy Hisghman

4:15 - 4:30 - Break

4:30 - 5:30 - Proposed Changes to Ag Mechanics CDE

5:30 - 6:30 Dinner

6:30 - 8:30 – Ag. Mechanics Hands-On

Saturday
GOOGLE DAY
Schedule to be determined.

Lodging: Hotel reservations can be made at the Holiday Inn Express in Woodstock, Virginia under the "Virginia Middle School Agriculture Teachers Conference" Block. You may contact the hotel at 540-459-5000 or reserve online at www.hiexpress.com/woodstockva and use group code VMC. The rate is \$89 plus tax (\$98.17 total). **The hotel block closes February 11.**

Please note from Holiday Inn Express: Cancellation policy without penalty: 4pm February 27, 2016 (Two weeks prior to arrival)—All reservations will be charged for the entire stay. If paying by school check: the check must be received by the hotel no later than February 27, 2016.

Contact Information: Please contact Derek Ritenour at dbritenour@shenandoah.k12.va.us with any questions or concerns.

Curriculum Review Teams

The following courses are under review and accepting applications. To take a look at the course and competencies currently utilized go to: <http://www.cterresource.org/verso/categories/agriculture-food-and-natural-resources> and select the course you wish to see. If you would be willing to serve on the teacher panel please apply at <https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/cteaps> - if you have any problems, call Ashley at 804-225-2052 or email at Ashley.Brown@doe.virginia.gov. Additionally, if you have suggestions for industry panel participants, please contact Carly Woolfolk at Carly.Woolfolk@doe.virginia.gov.

Urban Forestry – 8048 – NEED TEACHERS WHO TEACH FORESTRY, LANDSCAPING, TURF OR NATURAL RESOURCES COURSES!

- o Combination Teacher/Business Panel: April 6-20, 2016 – Face to face (April 6th) with Virtual follow-up (April 7 – 20th)

STAR

The Star team has been working hard to develop programs to increase teacher recruitment and retention. We will be receiving an \$8,000 grant to use for our programs for the coming year. Check out the VAAE webpage (www.vaae.info) under the Teach Ag tab for updates.

VACTE/ACTE

Reasons to join ACTE:

-An annual subscription to ACTE's flagship publication, [Techniques](#), featuring engaging profiles and programming in CTE!

- **Unlimited access to invaluable CTE resources** – [Free online seminars](#), *Career Tech Update*, *STEM SmartBrief* and more!
- **Member discounts on numerous CTE professional development** and networking opportunities, including [ACTE’s CareerTech VISION](#), [National Policy Seminar](#), and [Best Practices and Innovations in CTE Conference](#)
- **Complimentary \$25,000 common carrier AD&D insurance**, and with continuous annual renewal of your membership, your coverage increases by \$5,000 annually (up to a maximum of \$50,000) through Forrest T. Jones Insurance Company. ACTE’s insurance program also gives you the opportunity to purchase professional liability insurance at a discounted rate.
- **Discounts on CTE publications and resources** – including CTE Month products – at [ShopACTE](#)
- **Advocacy efforts that address the impact of proposed CTE-related legislation** and funding to state leaders, policymakers and the public. ACTE’s Public Policy Department produces a variety of valuable resources, including [CTE Policy Watch](#), ACTE Issue Briefs, CTE Fact Sheets, and much more!
- **Awards and recognitions** – **Agricultural Educators have been very successful in being recognized by the ACTE Awards program.** <http://www.acteonline.org/awards/#.Vengf0rD8kU> **The last three years in a row, the ACTE Teacher of the Year was an Agricultural Educator. Consider submitting your application for one of several awards next year.**

Announcements

Forestry Camp – June 20-25, 2016 – Holiday Lake, Appomattox, VA

State FFA Convention - June 20-23, 2016 - Virginia Tech

State FFA Camp – July 11-15, 2016 – Graves Mountain Lodge

Work-Based Learning Conference – June 28 -29, 2016 – Richmond, VA

New Teacher Institute – July 11 – 15, 2016 – Richmond, VA

VAAE Professional Development Summer Conference – July 18-21, 2016 – Culpeper, VA (Central Area)

VAAE Upcoming Events:

I. Middle School Ag Teachers’ Conference – March 11-12, 2016; Woodstock, VA

II. VAAE Award Applications DUE- March 15 electronically to Mr. Byrd

III. Region VI Conference and Awards Judging- April 29-30; Trenton, NJ

IV. 2016 VAAE Conference – July 18-21, 2016; Culpeper, VA - Central Area