

Jan. 2025

Wyoming Association for Career and Technical Education (WACTE)



WCSTA Highlight:

Wyoming Computer Science Teachers Association

The Wyoming Computer Science Teacher Association (WCSTA) is thrilled for our first WACTE newsletter division spotlight!

The 2024 Annual WACTE Conference was a milestone for WCSTA, as it marked our formal recognition as a WACTE division. The conference was an incredible experience, filled with valuable sessions, meaningful connections, and a strong sense of community. The warm welcome we received from our fellow WACTE members affirmed that we have joined something truly special. We are excited and dedicated to continue contributing to the mission of advancing CTE education in Wyoming.

December brought another highlight for WCSTA. On December 12th, we had the honor of participating in a Proclamation signing with Governor Gordon, officially recognizing December 9-12, 2024, as Wyoming Computer Science Education Week. This event coincided with the nationally celebrated Computer Science Education Week, and truly highlighted Wyoming's continued commitment to computer science education. As noted in the proclamation, computer science is no longer a standalone subject, it is now a foundational skill interwoven into nearly every career in Wyoming and it was evident that this is not only recognized, but also supported by our state leaders.

The proclamation signing was attended by industry partners, our partner and supporter, Superintendent Degenfelder, numerous members from the Wyoming Department of Education, and the WCSTA Leadership Team (in person and virtually). It was a testament to the ongoing and enthusiastic support for both computer science and CTE education in our state.

We look forward to continuing to grow within WACTE and working together with all divisions to strengthen CTE pathways and advance educational opportunities across Wyoming.

Thank you for making WCSTA feel so welcome – we are proud to be part of this incredible association!



NATIONAL Carl D. Perkins Community Service Award Recipient: Troy Reichert

For over 26 years, Troy Reichert has dedicated his career to shaping the future of Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Wyoming, with the past 16 years spent at Guernsey-Sunrise. His journey exemplifies a commitment to both educational excellence and community engagement. Through his comprehensive curriculum and hands-on leadership, he ensures students graduate with the skills and confidence needed for success in their careers and communities.

Leadership Through Community Service

Through the years, Reichert has worked tirelessly to continually develop a competent workforce through his work with students and CTE educators alike. Locally, his program has built partnerships with organizations like the Platte County Chamber of Commerce, Guernsey Economic Development and Tourism, and the Guernsey VFW. These partnerships have facilitated meaningful community service projects, including an ongoing five-year effort to remodel the Guernsey VFW Post. More than 100 students have transformed what was once a shell of a building into a facility with insulated walls, a new ceiling and floor, and an ADA-compliant bathroom and front entrance. Reichert shares, "My belief has always been to get kids working with their hands and learn by experience through community service." This ambitious project has certainly given students this opportunity and further, has been funded primarily by student-written grants.

Following winning the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools teacher prize in 2019, Reichert established Wyoming307woodworkers, a student-led business, in collaboration with EdCorps and Real World Scholars. The business, which sells handcrafted items online, provides students with practical experience in both craftsmanship and business operations. By managing finances and interacting with customers, students gain business skills alongside technical expertise. The initiative gained national attention, including a short film by Prominence Films and a partnership with Kayleen McCabe, a skilled trades advocate and TV personality, to build toolbox kits for elementary students across the nation.



Help Us Build the Best Conference Lineup!

The search for vendors for the WACTE Annual Summer Conference and PD presenters is ongoing—and **we need your input!**

Spotted a product you love? Heard of a company that could inspire? Know someone who'd be a perfect fit? We don't know what (or who) you're excited about without your help.

Send your suggestions to Megan Garnhart, our Conference Coordinator, at megangarnhart@gmail.com, and we'll take care of the rest.

Let's make this year's conference lineup the best one yet!

Troy Reichert: National Carl D. Perkins Recipient Highlight Cont.

Servant Leadership and Lifelong Impact

Beyond his classroom duties, under Reichert's guidance, the SkillsUSA chapter at Guernsey-Sunrise has grown from just a handful of members to over 50 active participants, with multiple state champions and national medalists since 2019.

Reichert also founded a Skilled Trades Camp which invites high school students, from across the nation, to improve their trades while renovating the state's oldest YMCA. Now in its fourth summer, the camp has reached maximum capacity, drawing students from nearly 10 states. Fully funded through grants and partnerships that Reichert has sought out, these camps are free for



participants. During the school year, the Guernsey-Sunrise students contribute by fabricating items in the shop to be used in the summer projects, further connecting classroom learning with real-world applications.

Reichert has also dedicated his time to helping other CTE educators. As the 2023-2024 Wyoming Technical Education Association (WTEA) President, Reichert worked to unite CTE educators across the state, fostering collaboration in order to further develop a competent Wyoming workforce. His leadership extends beyond state lines, as he contributes nationally as a NOCTI subject matter expert, revising woodworking and construction assessments to better align with industry standards and therefore meet the needs of more CTE students.



Reichert stated, "I am a firm believer in servant leadership, and I take it upon myself to demonstrate leadership to my students so that they see the value of helping their community." Those who know Reichert recognize that he embodies this philosophy daily, building programs for students and CTE educators alike that create pathways to lifelong success.

WACTE is certainly proud to be represented by Mr. Troy Reichert as the ACTE 2024 Carl D. Perkins Community Service Award recipient. **Congratulations, Troy!**

Mark your Calenders

DECA State Convention

February 3-4
Casper, WY

WACTE Governor's CTE Month Proclamation Signing

February 10, 7:30 am
Cheyenne, WY

Wyoming School Counselors Associations Annual Conference

February 19-20
Casper, WY

FBLA State Leadership Conference

March 19-21
Laramie, WY

FCCLA State Conference

March 26-28
Cheyenne, WY

FFA State Convention

April 9-12
Cheyenne, WY

SkillsUSA State Conference

April 14-16
Casper, WY

WACTE Annual Summer Conference

June 11-13
Casper College
Casper, WY



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