

Greetings....

It is hard to believe that our school year is almost at an end!! Where did the time go? As always at this time of the year, we begin to feel the crunch. Graduation is around the corner. For many, Technical Skill Attainment assessments are happening as well as End of Course Exams. More and more it seems that we never get a down time in the educational arena.

This year will be no different. Many of you may have heard by now that the Commissioner of Education has proposed a re-structure of the DESE. This proposal was presented as a draft to the State Board of Education at their March meeting. After carefully reviewing the organizational chart, the MoACTE leadership team and the MCCTA leadership team met to discuss the ramifications of the new organizational structure. As with anything, we realized that change is inevitable, but also noted some significant admissions to the proposal. Dr. Nicastro has received a response brief outlining our concerns and we have scheduled to meet with her in late June to discuss them. We will keep you posted on the progress of the situation. You can go to the MoACTE website and view the response brief. www.mo-acte.org

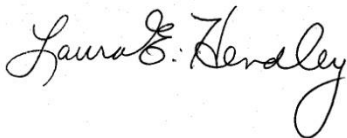
It is always important to keep our finger of the pulse of the current legislation affecting the work that we do. In March, MoACTE had a 25 member delegation participate in the National Policy Seminar. It was a great opportunity to say "thank you" to our Congressmen and Senators, and remind them about the great work that Career and Technical Education does for kids and to get a better understanding of the D.C. perspective. As we continue to be faced with the possibility of losing state funding, it will be additionally important that we continue to monitor the impact that our state legislative process will have on our mission. We will keep you posted on any legislation that will have major impact upon CTE.

In early April, the MoACTE Board of Directors met. At that meeting, it was decided, that with the significant challenges facing our organization this year, to retain the current leadership team. Believe me, I am honored that the Board has the confidence and faith in me to trust the organization to me for an additional year. I promise that I will continue to work diligently to assure the challenging times ahead will have the most positive and the least negative impact upon our organization and CTE as possible.

On a final note, the planning for the annual MoACTE conference in Springfield is nearly complete and again, the conference promises to be the premier professional development activity for CTE educators. If you haven't completed your registration, do so now. Our strength as a professional organization depends upon all of us and more than ever, the activities in which we engage will certainly impact CTE in Missouri for the future.

I look forward to seeing each of you in Springfield.

For the organization,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura E. Hendley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "L" and "H".

Laura E. Hendley, President