

# 2023 CACTA Mid-Winter Conference Schedule and Session Descriptions



Sessions marked with  are required for those wishing to receive their CTE Director credential.

## Tuesday, February 7

11:30am - 4:00pm CACTA Board Working Lunch and Session  
9:00am - 3:00pm Sarah Heath pre-conference session “Brave Dialogues”  
4:00 - 5:00pm Registration

## Wednesday, February 8

7:30am - 1:00pm Registration  
8:30 - 11:15am Opening General Session #1   
11:15am - 12:00pm Visit with Exhibitors  
12:00 - 1:30pm Lunch and Networking  
1:30 - 2:30pm Colorado CTE State of the State   
2:30 - 2:45pm Break/Visit with Exhibitors  
2:45 - 3:45pm Breakout Session #1   
3:45 - 4:00pm Visit with Exhibitors  
4:00 - 6:00pm President’s Reception

## Thursday, February 9

7:30 - 9:00am Registration  
8:45 - 9:00am Welcome by CACTA President  
9:00 - 10:30am General Session #2: CTE Credentials - Deep Dive - Sarah Heath   
9:00 - 10:30am Post Secondary Breakout  
10:30 - 10:45am Visit with Exhibitors  
10:45 - 11:45am Program Director Roundtables by Cluster area   
11:45am - 12:15pm Visit with Exhibitors  
12:15 - 1:30pm CACTA Awards Luncheon  
1:30 - 2:30pm Breakout Session #2   
2:30 - 3:00pm Visit with Exhibitors  
3:00 - 4:00pm Breakout Session #3  
4:00 - 5:30pm By Appointment Only for CTA: Jacqui Geiselman  
By Appointment Only for Program Directors

## Friday, February 10

8:30 - 10:00am CACTA Business Meeting and Officer Elections (Open to all)  
10:00am - 12:00pm Opportunity Gap Analysis Pilot

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## **Session Descriptions**

The exact date and time of the sessions will be provided in the conference program upon check-in at the event.

### **Opening General Session #1**

Conference welcome and opening remarks by CACTA President, Legislative Update and Keynote Speaker

### **Colorado CTE State of the State**

Hear from Sarah Heath as we lean into elements of the CTE Strategic Plan and updates around CTE in Colorado. Additionally, the goal of this session is to review key elements to close out the 21-22 academic year.

### **It Takes a Village Session I: How Community Collaboration and Innovative Partnerships Build Work-Based Learning Networks**

Join Sheri Bryant and Marna Messer with Jeffco Public Schools, Colorado's 2nd largest school district, to hear about how a village of people, including local economic development, community college, educational foundation and chamber of commerce leaders have engaged in "being the village" to fund and expand the existing work of the Jeffco Career Links Team, Jeffco's district work-based learning leadership team. With a primary focus on inclusive programming and equitable access for all students this session will give you the ins/outs of writing grant proposals, pitching your program vision to key stakeholders and school board members that landed our team a resolution for work-based learning, but also a framework and timeline for unveiling site-based career hub managers to lead and organize WBL events, both in and out of the classroom. In addition to the key presenters, the audience will also hear directly from members of the "village", in addition to student/teacher/administrator/industry impact videos.

### **CTE Director Training Part 1 of 2**

In this session, Sarah Heath will lead the crowd in reviewing key items such as the Admin Handbook, timelines for compliance related items, and strategies for working with your CTE programs to ensure timelines are met. Additionally, there is a focus on sharing ways to lead CTE and be innovative in that leadership. This session is part of the requirements to submit an application to CDE for the CTE Director credential endorsement. This session consists of two breakout time slots. You must be in attendance at both for the credential application documentation.

### **How to Effectively Establish a CTE Advisory**

Useful tips on how to select and recruit advisory board members that will be most effective for your program/district. Arrange meetings that will have the most value for you, your students and your board members. What should your expectations be? How can you provide value to your board members and students? What should you consider when planning meetings? See how an effective advisory board benefits your students, your program, your community and local business and industry.

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### Thinking Differently, Engaging in Rural Partnerships

The Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative is the Colorado state model for an innovative approach towards sharing career and college pathways in rural communities. Learn about the Collaborative's model, how rural collaboration across 9 school districts and 2 higher education partners are changing the way rural communities provide equitable educational access to resources.

### Empowering Women to Join CTE Programs

Join our all-female panel of women who have spearheaded the workforce development strategy in rural, suburban, and urban districts. Hear their inspiring stories to discover best practices for recruiting minority subgroups and embracing new technology, including augmented and virtual reality, to prepare female students for careers in Health Science, Advanced Manufacturing, Agri-Science, Transportation, and more.

### Post-Secondary Breakout

Come to this session to discuss current issues and challenges in the world of post-secondary CTE with your colleagues!

### General Session #2

Please join Sarah Heath, Colorado CTE Director, as she discusses and reviews current trends and challenges with CTE credentials.

### It Takes a Village Session II

(Requirement: Attendees must attend Session 1 to gain the most benefit from this work session). Ready to take your CTE and WBL initiatives to the next level? Unsure where or how to start? Join our presentation team for a "hands-on" work session. During our 60-minutes together you will have time to work with any of our Session 1 presenters on your next steps. Need help in writing a board proposal? Curious on connecting with chamber and industry? Want to increase WBL in your schools and/or meet that 7% metric? Then look no further for your one-stop-shop connection.

### CTE Director Training Part 2 of 2

In this session, Sarah Heath will lead the participants in reviewing key items such as Admin Handbook, timelines for compliance related items, and strategies for working with your CTE programs to ensure assurances are understood. There is a focus on sharing ways to lead CTE and be innovative in that leadership. This session is part of the requirements to submit an application to CDE for the CTE Director Credential endorsement. This is the second training and attendance is required at Session 1 and 2 for the credential application documentation.

### Hitting All the Areas of a High Quality CTE Program

We are all working toward ensuring high quality CTE pathways in our high schools as outlined in the Colorado Secondary Program Self-Evaluation and the ACTE Quality CTE Program of Study Framework. Many districts with collective commitments to CTE programs, develop centralized CTE campuses which are amazing innovation centers, but do require a large initial financial commitment. Another often

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under-utilized system to beef up the “high quality” of CTE pathways is through the Career Academy model which has three key elements: -A small learning community (SLC) – a team of teachers, including a counselor and administrator, with a team of students, A postsecondary-prep sequential curriculum with a career theme, An advisory board that forges partnerships with corporations, postsecondary institutions, and the community. Through past experiences with leading this model, an in-depth overview and insights will be discussed which research has shown creates a positive impact on economic and workforce development, and in a social perspective of connectedness and belonging (especially for at-risk students) leads to increases in postsecondary participation and higher paying careers.

### Career and Technical Act: CTE Funding

CTA is the STATE funded reimbursement formula-based funding source for districts Career and Technical Education programs. Come learn about allowable expenses, the reimbursement process, the reimbursement formula, and the basics of what CTA is and how it impacts your districts Career and Technical Education programs. Learn what impacted last year’s reimbursements, and what mistakes to avoid, as well as what is new and to come.

### The Wild West of WBL; Strategies for High Quality Implementation

Work-Based Learning is more than internships, come to this shindig to lasso ALL the strategies along the WBL Continuum and make sure your internships and WBL programs are ace-high!

### Building Robust Middle School Career Programs

Learn how Jeffco Schools has grown middle school CTE including creating competencies that align to state high school CTE competencies. You will walk away with the knowledge and resources to replicate the process and complete a similar process in your own district.

### Let’s Meet in the Middle: Planning Middle School Career Exploration

Join the Jeffco Public Schools PWR Team to learn more about combining the efforts of counseling, CTE educators, CTE district leaders and the Jeffco Career Links (WBL) team in planning career exploration for middle school. If you are trying to find the "secret sauce" to successful and engaging MS events, this session is for you! Join our session to have tangible take-aways for event planning, industry recruiting, classroom discussions, and teacher buy-in for all content areas.

### CDIP: It Matriculates

CDIP is a critical part of CTE programming today. It has shaped the picture of certification and aligned CTE programs to the labor and workforce in new ways. During this presentation, we will look into some helpful tips to get more certifications aligned to your CTE programs. As importantly, CDIP counts for matriculation on School Performance Frameworks. Learn more how this works.

### An Auditor’s Guide to Best Practices for CTA Management

One of the greatest obstacles to accurate CTA reporting is the disconnect between the CTE Administrator who is well versed on CTA grant requirements and other departments who are not but provide the required data for reporting. This presentation will offer an overview of CTA requirements and the

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common audit findings we see. We will provide best practices for compliance, and recommendations on who to contact, questions to ask, and what documentation is needed to support claimed costs.

### Creating Intentional K- 12 WBL Opportunities for Students

This is one WBL coordinator's path to vertically align elementary and middle school student elective choices so that there is greater understanding how the WBL continuum supports CTE programs of study. Without an intentional practice of student's identifying their skills, interests and aptitudes they are not ready for job shadows or internships or other WBL opportunities at the High School Level. Resources include: research based teacher training to introduce career connected learning, editable career clusters for elementary school, grade level investigations into the work of work action plan, tips to embed a WBL coordinator on elementary career day and/or other elementary events, embedding career conversations into circle time, Career Expo journal for student use, plus 2 activities that I use during the Career assembly to build excitement and engagement!

### Designated Career and Technical Schools: The EPIC Campus

Bill Gilmore (Coordinator of Career Connected Learning) and Travis Amonson (Principal of the EPIC Campus) will tell the story of the 8 year process of going from an idea to the construction of a designated building supporting 7 districtwide pathways. We will include district visioning, financial considerations, pathway development, instructor hiring with industry competitive compensation, course development, Concurrent enrollment, industry partnerships, work based learning, content credit, marketing, collaborating with higher ed, physical design of the building, industry standard equipment, etc.

### CTA: By Appointment Only

CTA: Jacqui Geiselman via Sign Up Genius

### CACTA Business Meeting and Officer Elections (Open to all)

CACTA Annual Business Meeting and updates with the CACTA Membership. All attendees are invited. Officer Elections will take place during this meeting for a position on the CACTA Executive Committee.

- Open Executive Committee Position: CACTA President Elect