

List of Participants

CTECS Community of Practice 2024
The Future of Work
September 4–6, 2024 | Greenville, SC

Dr. Robin Amick, Education Associate, CTE Work-Based Certification, Office of Educator Services, West Columbia, SC

Chet Andes, M.Ed., Director of Program Quality, Idaho Division of Career Technical Education, has over 20 years of experience in education as a teacher and administrator. He has worked at a variety of levels, including middle school, high school, community college and state agency.

Richard Andrews is Executive Director of Advanced Manufacturing Partnerships at Georgia Piedmont Technical College. With over 8 years of experience in the technical college system, he specializes in Industrial System controls and Industry 4.0 and works hard to provide top level training to manufacturing companies.

Jared Ashcroft, Center Director, Micro Nano Technology Education Center, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Kelvin Byrd, Dean of Advanced Manufacturing and Transportation Technologies, Gray Court, SC

Brian Cleland, Special Projects Facilitator at West Ada School District, Career and Technical Education, Ada, ID

Kayce Cook, Interim Director and Student Transition Services, South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education, has led state-level initiatives to improve literacy and strengthen instructional efficacy and looks forward to leading transformative initiatives in career readiness and workforce development.

Dr. James R. (Bob) Couch, EdD, Former Chair of the CTECS Board, and President, Educational Innovation Group, Clemson, South Carolina, is a longtime educator, including within the K-20 system on the state, national, and international levels. His work includes building two model state and national secondary technical education centers. He serves as a member of the SC Education Oversight Committee.

Jennifer Couch, Principal at Woodmont Middle School & Principal-elect at Lakeview Middle School ELEVATE, Anderson, SC

Jairo De Jesus, Senior Director of Operations at Sugar Bowl Bakery, Atlanta, GA

Dana Depew, Education Associate, Office of Career and Technical Education/Student Transitions Services, South Carolina Department of Education, is a former Business educator of 19 years and serves as the program manager for the Business, Finance, and Marketing Cluster Programs. She also facilitates and coordinates statewide technical skills assessments and works with her program team to develop or revise CTE course standards.

Anna Duvall, Student Transition Services Team Lead, South Carolina

Rodney Farrington, Associate Professor of Hospitality Management/Director of Hospitality Programs at Lewis-Clark State College, Lewiston, ID

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Dr. Eleanor Glover-Gladney, Education Associate at South Carolina Department of Education, Lexington County, SC

Breezy Gutierrez, College and Career Readiness Bureau Director, New Mexico Public Education Department, holds a master's and post-degree certification from Eastern New Mexico University, an Associate's Degree from DACC/NMSU, and completed a Fellowship with Stanford University. She is very passionate about creating and providing opportunities for all students around New Mexico.

Dr. Zoraida Haigler, PhD, DPC, NBCT, GCDF, is a consultant who assesses organizational needs to design and deliver training/workshops or special programs to meet the needs of businesses, educational stakeholders, and communities.

Joe Haney, Education Specialist, Maine Department of Education, Career and Technical Education, Augusta, ME

Dr. Jameel Hassan, Instructor, Nanotechnology and Semiconductor Manufacturing, Division of Industrial Technologies and Professional Services, Atlanta, GA

David Heilesen, President of Southern Educational Consulting & Training, Atlanta, GA

Dr. Anjanette Hendricks, PhD, Testing Specialist, Office of Technical & Career Education, Virginia Beach, VA

Cathy Hoehn, Education Academic Program Manager, CTE Programs & Pathways Branch, Office of Career and Technical Education, Frankfort, KY

Leslie Johnson, BS, GCDF, Career Specialist, 2024 South Carolina CTE Career Specialist of the Year, 2024 Regional Career Specialist of the Year, Paul Knox and Leavelle McCampbell Middle Girls Golf, North Augusta High; Golf, Paul Knox Middle

Matt Kellam, Manager, Workforce Development & Planning, Dominion Energy, Richmond, VA

Eric Knapp, Instructor, DeKalb Public Schools, Atlanta, GA

Dwight Littlefield, CTE State Director, Maine Department of Education, Augusta, ME

Senator Dwight Loftis is a native of Greenville County, SC, and is retired after devoting 34 years to building a property and causality insurance agency. This is his final year serving in the South Carolina Senate and as an appointed member of the Education Oversight Committee. This is his 28th year in the General Assembly, House and Senate combined. Prior to his service at the state level, he was elected trustee on the Greenville County School Board. He also served 7 years as volunteer with the Greenville School District's Business Education Partnership.

Dr. Clay Long, PhD, State Administrator, Idaho Division of Career Technical Education was formerly a secondary teacher and administrator and chief of staff for Boise, Idaho's largest full-service city, and remains an active volunteer firefighter.

Heather Luchte, Chief Performance and Accountability Officer, Idaho Division of Career Technical Education, has worked with IDCTE for 11 years and oversees assessments, reporting, and SkillStack®, Idaho's microcredentialing platform.

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Chad Maclin, Director, CTE, Chesterfield County Public Schools, Virginia, is a native of Virginia and has over 30 years of CTE teaching and administration experience at the local, district, and state levels.

Wanda Monthey, Executive Director of Monthey Associates, was formerly with the Oregon Department of Education, the Maine Department of Education, and was Senior Director of the College Board in Washington, D.C.

Isai Pochtar has spent over 25 years in business development, starting on Wall Street as an institutional salesman both domestically and internationally, covering mutual funds, hedge funds and sovereign wealth funds. In 2017, he switched careers to immersive technologies, opening the first virtual reality (VR) arcade in Western NY. He expanded into workforce development, utilizing immersive technology to attract, train and retain the next generation of talent.

Tim Raftis has worked as an intern in the Obama Administration during the healthcare.gov rollout. During this time Tim saw the need for better technology rollouts and went into the private sector where he worked on some of the highest profile causes for Palantir Technologies, before becoming the second business hire at Affinity. During his tenure at Affinity, he helped grow it from its pre-revenue stage to over 50M in ARR. Tim is now the Co-founder and CPO for Training All People (TAP3d.com), where he oversees the creation of the first scalable tactile learning simulations for technician related skillsets.

Anna Reynolds, Assistant Director, State of Nevada, Department of Education, Career and Technical Education, Carson City, NV

Jason Spyres, Founder, CEO, Training All People (TAP), Austin, TX. In 2003, Jason was given a 30-year sentence for nonviolent cannabis as a teenager. He quickly realized how distorted his notions of “success” were and decided to do everything possible to make amends to society. This began a journey that led Jason to being published in over 100 newspapers on education and prison reforms. Upon his release, all the policies Jason argued for from a prison cell were implemented and Illinois’ recidivism rate dropped. In 2018 Jason was accepted into Stanford University, and he is now the CEO of TAP (Training All People), where he is working to use technology to give manufacturing skills to others, because ALL PEOPLE are teachable, and all people, be them in a prison cell or an ivy league school, deserve to share in the benefits that technology brings to education.

Kama Staton, Work-Based Learning & SC Regional Career Specialist Team, South Carolina Department of Education, West Columbia, SC

Katy Stokes, Work Based Learning Coordinator, Chesterfield Public Schools, Chesterfield, VA

Steven Watterson, M.Ed, Education Associate, Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transitional Services, West Columbia, SC

Charles Weaver, CAMT, CPO, Regional Service Manager, Thalhimer Multifamily, Richmond, VA

Jamie Whitlock, CTE Academic Specialist Coach at Greenville County Schools, Greenville, SC

Dr. Anthony Williams, CTE State Director, Virginia Department of Education, Richmond, VA

Joshua Williams, Business Relations, Workforce Development, Decide DeKalb Development Authority, Decatur, GA