

## *Up-to-Date with DATE*

Important News and Information from OVAE's Division of Academic and Technical Education (DATE)  
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### ***Message from the Director***

The Division of Academic and Technical Education (DATE) bids a fond farewell to now-former Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education Troy Justesen. Troy will be returning to his home state of Utah where he has accepted a position as Vice President for Workforce, Professional, and Literacy Development at Salt Lake Community College. In this position, Troy will oversee the college's adult education, English language learning, career and technical education, and corporate training programs.

Dennis Berry, who served as Troy's senior advisor, will serve as Acting Assistant Secretary for Vocational and Adult Education until a new Assistant Secretary is appointed by incoming Secretary of Education Arne Duncan.

Sharon Lee Miller  
Director, DATE

### ***New IPA Joins DATE Staff***

DATE welcomes its newest IPA—Donna Vrbka! Donna hails from the great state of Nebraska where she works for the Nebraska State Department of Education's Career Education Team. Over the next year, Donna will work in DATE's College and Career Transition Branch on issues related to secondary-postsecondary transitions, Perkins administration and accountability, and community college initiatives.

Donna can be reached at [donna.vrbka@ed.gov](mailto:donna.vrbka@ed.gov).

### ***Job Opening in DATE***

DATE is now accepting applications for an Education Program Specialist (GS-13/14) in its Accountability and Performance Branch (APB). The incumbent will be responsible for providing national leadership and technical assistance to the states, other agencies, and local institutions in designing, improving, and maintaining state and local accountability systems for secondary, postsecondary, and career education. The deadline for applications is January 29, 2009.

Directions for applying can be found at <http://jobsearch.edhires.ed.gov> followed by entering the job announcement number # OVAE-2009-0008.

### ***New NHCTEP Competition Scheduled for 2009***

A notice inviting applicants for the Native Hawaiian Career and Technical Education Program (NHCTEP) grant awards will be posted in the March issue of the Federal Register. It is anticipated that grants will be awarded in May 2009. The Native Hawaiian Career and Technical Education Program (NHCTEP), authorized under section 116 of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (Perkins IV), provides assistance to plan, conduct, and administer programs, or portions of programs, that provide career and technical training and related activities to Native Hawaiians so they can benefit from career and technical education to the same degree as other ethnic groups in the state.

For further information on the NHCTEP competition, please contact Nancy Essey at [nancy.essey@ed.gov](mailto:nancy.essey@ed.gov).

### ***Agricultural Education Update: Scholarship Applications Available***

Each year the National FFA Organization awards approximately \$2 million in scholarships for students to support their enrollment in postsecondary education, whether at a technical school, community college, or four-year institution of higher education. Scholarships are sponsored by businesses and individuals through the National FFA Foundation and are awarded to students based on a wide range of criteria, including FFA involvement, work experience, supervised agricultural experience (SAE), community service, leadership skills, and academic achievement. Although the majority of scholarships require FFA membership, a few do not.

Further information and application materials are available on the FFA Website at: [http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c\\_programs.Scholarships](http://www.ffa.org/index.cfm?method=c_programs.Scholarships). The deadline for applications is February 17, 2009.

### ***Perkins 2009 Monitoring Schedule***

***Note: Unless specified with an asterick (\*), monitoring visits will be full, week-long visits.***

<b>State/Discretionary Grantees</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Connecticut	January 26-30
Louisiana	March 9-13
Tulalip Tribes - Tulalip, WA*	March – Dates to be determined
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe – Auburn, WA*	March – Dates to be determined
Nooksack Indian Tribe – Deming, WA*	March – Dates to be determined
Minnesota*	March 30-31
District of Columbia	April 20-24
Missouri	May 4-8
Oregon	June 8-12
Montana	July 13-17
Nevada	August 24-28
Puerto Rico	September 21-2

For further information on monitoring visits, please contact Ed Smith at: [edward.smith@ed.gov](mailto:edward.smith@ed.gov) or Len Lintner at: [len.lintner@ed.gov](mailto:len.lintner@ed.gov).

## Mark Your Calendar!

(Note: Events listed below are sponsored or funded (fully or in part) by OVAE, or are events at which OVAE will present.)

Event Title/Sponsor	Dates/Location	DATE Point of Contact
Next Steps Work Group Conference Call - DATE	February 5, 2009	<a href="mailto:john.haigh@ed.gov">john.haigh@ed.gov</a>
7 <sup>th</sup> Career Cluster Institute – <i>National Association for State Directors of Career and Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc)</i>	June 15-17, 2009 Fort Worth, TX	<a href="mailto:ellen.holland@ed.gov">ellen.holland@ed.gov</a>
ACTE 2009 Convention – <i>Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)</i>	November 19-21, 2009 Nashville, TN	<a href="mailto:scott.hess@ed.gov">scott.hess@ed.gov</a>



### ***Spotlight on Effective Practices!***

The **South Dakota State Scholars Group** hosted two stakeholder conferences in January for school decision makers. The conferences focused on developing Personal Learning Plans (PLP) for all high school students involved in the State Scholars Program in South Dakota. The state is introducing a five-year program for grades 8-12 that asks all students to identify a career cluster using the SDMyLife.com career planning Web site. Students first identify career clusters and pathways that specifically interest them. Then, with their parents and a counselor, students develop a PLP that will use the South Dakota State Scholar Core Course of Study as their basic program of study. Students then select electives and rigorous courses that will address their post high school educational needs. The booklet of activities and the DVD developed by the SD State Scholar Director and his/her team will be used to keep the students engaged in the process. The overall goal is to develop a sense of relevancy within the high school as all students will have a PLP that is designed to move them on to productive and well-paying careers.

The materials will be available at [www.wiche.edu/statescholars](http://www.wiche.edu/statescholars). For additional information, please contact Rich Deaver, SSI state director, at [rdeaver@rushmore.com](mailto:rdeaver@rushmore.com) or (605) 720-6102.