FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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2,300 ALABAMA TEACHERS PREPARE FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR
“Attending 2015 Career Tech Conference in Birmingham to Sharpen Skills - Increase Student Performance”

Montgomery, Ala. – Thousands of Alabama career and technical education (CTE) teachers, administrators, and counselors from across the state are traveling to Birmingham to attend the 2015 Alabama CTE Professional Development Conference, July 28-30.

Educators attending this conference at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC) will have opportunities to participate in more than 60 workshops and professional development events.

CTE is a national program that works to prepare high school students for college and the workforce.

Interesting Facts and Statistics
Nationally, CTE programs have been shown to significantly reduce high school dropout rates. They focus on equipping students with communication, time management, and leadership skills.

Many students are now earning specialized academic and workplace credentials through this program. Currently, 312,000 students in Alabama participate in CTE classes and student organizations.

Conference Highlights

Tuesday – July 28

- Opening Session (nationally acclaimed speaker Patrick Grady) – 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Exhibitors Exposition – 11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Deputy State Superintendent Workshop and Concurrent Sessions – 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday – July 29

- Program-Specific Sessions and Workshops – 8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
- Exhibitors Exposition (Passport) – 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Alabama Jump$tart Coalition Luncheon for Educators – 11:30 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.
- Chrome Apps, Extensions, and Add-ons for the Classroom – 9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
- FDIC – Free Resources for Educators - Money Smart for Young People – 1:15 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
- Business Meeting and Awards Program – 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday – July 30

- Additional Workshops and Professional Credentialing Sessions – 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

To see an online copy of the full conference agenda, visit http://www.alacte.org.

Currently, the high school graduation rate for Alabama CTE concentrators is more than 90 percent. CTE concentrators are students who earn two or more credits in a program of study. Also, conference co-sponsor, the Alabama Association for Career and Technical Education (ALACTE), serves as one of our state’s key education resources nationwide and in the legislature.

Careers that Alabama CTE students learn about are in the following professional areas:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
- Health Science
Alabama’s 2015 Career Technical Education Conference
July 24, 2015

- Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources
- Architecture and Construction
- Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications
- Business, Management, and Administration
- Finance
- Education and Training
- Government and Public Administration
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Information Technology
- Human Services
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security
- Manufacturing
- Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics
- Marketing

Examples of some of the occupations that students can begin to prepare for in CTE classes are Engineering, Journalism (radio, television, print), Culinary Arts, and Medical Professions (physician, nursing, dentistry).

To learn more about this annual event or any of the other opportunities offered by Alabama CTE, contact ALACTE Executive Director Ann Gilmore at (334) 262-4694 or Alabama State Department of Education CTE Administrator Craig Collins at (334) 242-9111.

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