

VTECS Vision

A Consortium for Innovative Career and Workforce Development Resources

Third Edition

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Front Features

VTECS Connect 2.0 CD Shipped to Users

VTECS Connect 2.0, our work-based learning management software system, was shipped to member state Technical Coordinators and other registered Connect users in October, 2002!

VTECS staffers, Brenda Hattaway, Ken Potthoff, and Tim Withee, have conducted training sessions in several member states and confirm that the software is very easy to use. A 3-4 hour session is all users need to get started.



Our last workshops for 2002 were on December 4 & 5 in South Carolina. Georgia and Maryland will have the distinction of hosting the first training sessions scheduled for 2003...both have workshops set for January 9 & 10!

VTECS Connect 2.0 is the highlight of the VTECS booth at ACTE, December 12-14, in Las Vegas.

VTECS to Showcase Connect 2.0 at ACTE 2002 in Las Vegas

For the 2002 [ACTE](#) Conference in Las Vegas, VTECS will be showcasing its new software, VTECS Connect 2.0. VTECS has a brand new logo for the organization and for Connect 2.0.

As you'll see at ACTE this year, VTECS is developing an entire new look. Come by our booth to see the new VTECS Brochure, Advertising Signs, Flyers, and other surprise items—you might even win something valuable to your profession. We'll have Connect 2.0 up and going and look forward to the chance to introduce the new software to all you educational professionals. Come by the VTECS Booth and enter our contest!

VTECS Seals Contract on Army Project: U.S. Army Recruiting Command Project

During the September 11-12, 2002, board meeting, John Buckley described a joint initiative of the U. S. Army Training and Doctrine Command at Fort Monroe, Virginia, and the U. S. Army Recruiting Command at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The initiative involves awarding new enlistees rank and pay incentives based on relevant education and training, or work experience acquired prior to enlistment that could be matched to a military occupational specialty with the ultimate goal of providing pre-enlistment education and training as a military sponsored activity. After John finished his presentation, he asked the board if they would like for VTECS to be a U.S. Army Preferred Provider for the purpose of being considered for military projects, etc. The response was a unanimous "yes."



Since the board meeting, much has transpired to make this exciting and challenging project happen. VTECS is now in the process of getting this contract underway. As we move ahead, we will be calling on you for help.



VTECS is responsible for the following:

1. Identify all U. S. Army Military Occupational Specialties (primarily enlisted), which could potentially be cross walked to a parallel VOTEC program or course for which pay or grade consideration could be given.
2. Define all VOTEC programs and courses that might provide some of or all of the preparation for a given military occupational specialty as well as develop a database that allows for cross walking of the same.
3. Identify and recommend a national coding structure that the military can use for identifying educational programs. We think the IPEDS/CIP will probably work given their descriptive information.
4. Review U. S. Army Recruiting Command data files on current practices related to this issue to identify trends, recommendations, etc.
5. Prepare a final report with recommendations for next steps.

If you have questions about this activity, please contact [Ron McCage](#).

Singing in Savannah

The 2003 VTECS Technical Coordinator's Conference will occur on February 24th-26th at the Radisson Hotel Historic Savannah Hotel. A memorandum will be sent out soon to Member States. We look forward to seeing all your smiling faces in Savannah.



Star State - Minnesota Makes it All Happen

In this edition of VTECS Vision, it is our honor to celebrate Minnesota as **The Star State**. Minnesota has been an official member of VTECS since 1998. Prior to that time there was an informal working arrangement dating back to the early 1980s. Without the diligent and innovative work of Minnesota's VTECS Board Member and Technical Coordinator, [Barbara Herrmann](#), VTECS would not be as prevalent and successful in Minnesota as it is today. What follows is only a brief account of Barb Herrmann's accomplishment with VTECS products and services in Minnesota. We have also provided some links to examples of how Barb has spread the value of VTECS in Minnesota. It should not go unnoticed that Barb does a wonderful job with VTECS public relations as well. Created by Barb Herrmann, click on the PowerPoint link to learn more about the new directions VTECS is going: [VTECS NEW DIRECTIONS](#).

[Minnesota State Colleges and Universities](#) (MnSCU) and [Children, Families and Learning](#) (CFL) have been working collaboratively in areas involving Perkins and Tech Prep since prior to 1995. Meetings involving Perkins and Tech Prep are held jointly at the same location, date and time. To support the VTECS effort, eight trainers have been trained by VTECS. Trainers receive a stipend to



deliver training. Barb Herrmann has been contracted to provide support to the trainers and to faculty in both MnSCU and CFL. To that end Barb provides the following support information:

- A manual has been developed based on the technical coordinators manual for each trainer and a CD of support materials.
- A web site <http://www.grantsplus.mnscu.edu> (under Skills Standards) a calendar of upcoming training dates.
- The ASE Automotive Technician programs in both secondary and post secondary are using VTECS Connect to track students. They have received training and a special version of the ASE courses listing the coding with each task has been developed for their use.
- A Listserv of all users of VTECS Connect and VTECS DIRECT within the state is maintained by Barb. Information is sent to the list on such things as upgrades, training opportunities, and new support materials.
- A second Listserv exists for the trainers.

A [VTECS newsletter](#) is developed to provide information to users. Information on new postings is sent via a listserv.

A special version of Connect 2.0 for vocational students is being developed by VTECS and will be available in December to work-based students taking courses from the University of Minnesota and Bemidji State University.

MnSCU recently signed a pilot program with WebEx. We are looking at using this as a vehicle to get the trainers together and to possibly providing training.

All software requests go through Barb Herrmann. Thus make it easy to track on users. Once training has been given and the trainees information submitted to Barb she invoices the contact person for the cost of the update at \$50 per registered user and the new user price from VTECS for new users. The software is then sent out to each of the trainees.

To see another example of Barb Herrmann's work, go to this Word Document: [VTECS Connect 2.0 and Training Opportunities](#). From all of us at VTECS, we would like to extend our gratitude to Barb for her outstanding work.

Project Plus - ICIA and V-TECS Partnership Pulls Ahead

Progress with the job/task analysis project for the 14 audio-visual (AV) occupations is being made with five of the occupations slated to be validated in January and February. Tim Withee and Ken Potthoff met several times with two local AV companies, [WaveGuide](#) and [MCSi](#), in order to consult with AV Systems Designers and Technicians. They will travel to Washington D.C. to meet with an AV design consultant firm, [Shen, Milsom & Wilke](#), and hold meetings with the Fairfax, Virginia ICIA staff.

Additional news and results regarding this partnership will continue to be updated in each addition of VTECS Vision.



Special Call for AV Subject Matter Experts: If any of you have contacts with AV professionals who could aid in completing the national occupational analysis surveys to be conducted for the AV industry, please contact the VTECS central office.

Project Plus - Construction Project Converges in Columbia, Missouri



Dennis Hardin, [Technical Coordinator of Missouri](#), is doing a wonderful job of arranging an Academic Skills Meeting for the Construction Occupations Update. Dennis is working with Charlie Losh, Brenda Hattaway, and Ken Potthoff to set-up a meeting with Construction Business and Industry professionals and teachers who are taxonomic experts in Math, Science and Language Arts. They will work to identify the appropriate academic skills needed to build construction curricula and training materials. This meeting takes place on February 19th and 20th in Columbia, Missouri. VTECS would like to thank Dennis and his staff for their help in making this meeting possible.

Software Scene - VTECS DIRECT 5.0 Development Underway

Initial development of VTECS DIRECT 5.0 has begun! Brenda Hattaway and Robyn Marshall have had several meetings with software developer Steve Scherb to discuss software features and operation.

VTECS DIRECT 5.0 will be oriented around occupational clusters, foundations, pathways and specialties and will include many new features in a user-friendly package. The software will also include a powerful new test generator.

Look for more VTECS DIRECT 5.0 software development news in future issues of the VTECS Vision Newsletter.

Training Tracker - Florida State Directors Learn Connect 2.0

On October 31st, Tim Withee gave a full days training on VTECS Connect 2.0 and DIRECT to program coordinators from the Florida DOE as well as individual school coordinators. Rose Raynak and Andy Anderman were gracious enough to let us use their outstanding facilities at the Florida DOE in Tallahassee to conduct the training.

National Nexus - Career Clusters Pulling into Phoenix

Details are still rolling in on this announcement, but The National Career Cluster Institute will hold a major conference in Phoenix, Arizona June 2-4. There will be at least 25 general and/or breakout sessions on Career Cluster topics, along with other topics such as Technical Assistance.

For more information, contact [Sandra Davison](#), VTECS Administrative Assistant or [Pam Stacey](#), Career Clusters Coordinator.

Agenda Access - Ron on the Road - Arkansas and Florida State Visits

Since the September 11-12, 2002, Board of Directors Meeting, the Executive Director has conducted two very good state visits – one to Little Rock, Arkansas, on October 22, and one to Tallahassee, Florida, on October 31. Both of these visits were unique in their own way.



The Arkansas and Florida visits truly represented what the task force had in mind when they recommended that the host state invite their counterparts from other agencies as well as selected representatives from business and industry. In Arkansas, Ron McCage met with Steve Franks, John Davison, and their primary state staff. Also present was a representative from economic development apprenticeship, customized training, and the executive director of the WIA Board, as well as a representative from the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, who works with them to validate their curriculum frameworks, which are housed in VTECS DIRECT. The end result of the meeting was that these same people will be getting together soon to develop a state strategy for broadening the scope and application of VTECS in Arkansas. This will result in additional visits and training sessions by central staff to Arkansas.

Florida's visit involved the state director, Lannie Larson, board member Rose Raynak, and Career and Technical Education Program Director, Nancy Cordill. Additionally, Ron McCage met with a representative of the academic side of the Florida Department of Education, along with two local technical center directors and the executive director of the Florida Automobile Dealer's Association. At the same time this group was meeting, Tim Withee and Andy Anderman were in a state-of-the-art training facility downstairs bringing their state staff up to date on VTECS Connect 2.0 and the prototype for the new VTECS DIRECT.

Ron has scheduled a visit to Rhode Island on February 3rd. If you haven't had your state visit, it's time to sign up before we reinstate the selective service agency and draft you.

Agenda Access – In the Next Issue

- Report on the 2003 Technical Coordinator's Conference
- Detailed Agenda for the National Career Cluster Institute Conference
- Report on The U. S. Army Recruiting Command Project
- News on Grant Seeking Projects
- Development Details on the New VTECS DIRECT
- "Mystery Star State"



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