



VTECS Vision

A Consortium for Innovative Career and Workforce Development Resources

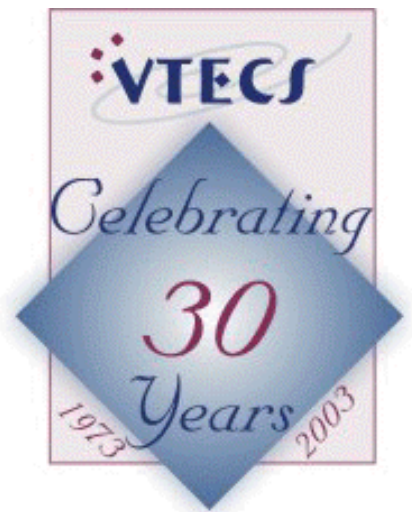
Special 30th Anniversary Edition

January 2004

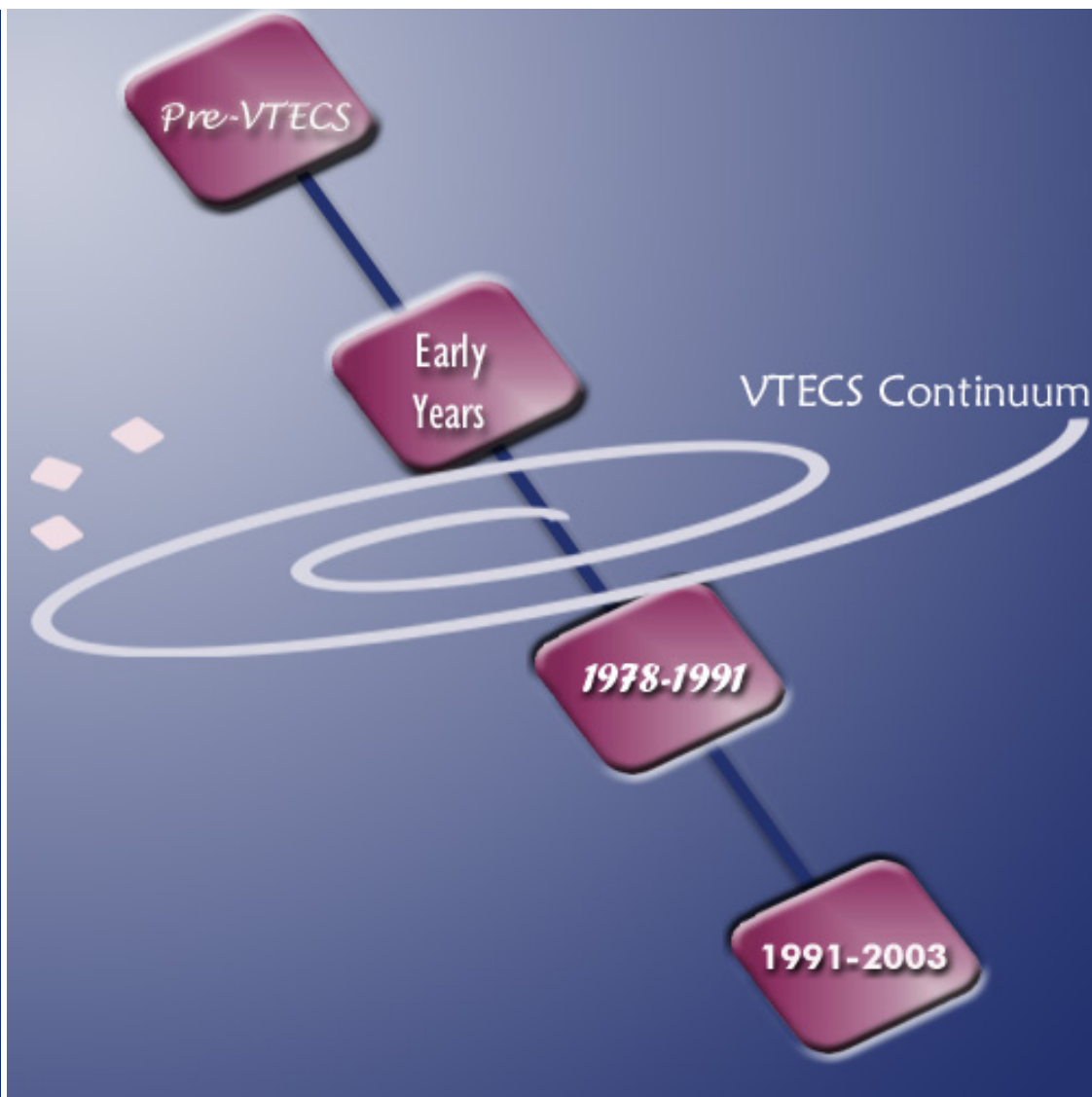
On August 2, 2003, VTECS hit a wonderful milestone, marking its 30th year as a successful organization. Today we take a moment to reflect on a few of the shining moments over the years.

Emerging Events At the end of this edition of VTECS Vision, we offer a brief report on the status of the Career Clusters Initiative and mention a few key events that are fast approaching.

We invite you to take a moment to celebrate our special anniversary together. The interactive timeline below allows you to click on the buttons to read about each of VTECS' time periods. Also, for all those trivia nuts out there, pay special attention to the facts when you read about the history of VTECS. Special prizes (real ones!) will be distributed at the 2004 Technical Coordinator Inservice, February 23-26. During the Inservice, and at the 65th Board of Director's Meeting, June 3-4, we'll all be celebrating VTECS' 30th in some way or another. We look forward to the fun--sincerely hope you do as well!



[Read VTECS' Curriculum Vitae!](#)



1969-1971--Pre-VTECS



The years leading to the birth of VTECS occurred between 1969 and 1973. The notion behind the formation of VTECS stems back to the Instructional Systems Design (ISD) Model of the United States Air Force and three research projects being conducted by the State of Florida. These research projects used an adaptation of the ISD Model to determine to what degree occupational and task analysis could be used to identify and specify job content in three occupational areas. Essentially, the research projects were designed to produce performance objectives with measurable standards for each task validated by the incumbents within each occupational area. While results of these research projects received accolades by the Florida State Department of Vocational Education in 1972, it was determined that it would be too costly and unwieldy for a single state or state agency to carry such a burden. As an example, the goal was to show that an auto-mechanic's skills in fixing your car were the same everywhere—an auto-mechanic in California was an auto-mechanic in Maine. Hence, the idea of a multi-state consortium became more lucid as a solution to developing clearly stated performance objectives to conduct and evaluate occupational programs.



Ron and Charlie holding court

Following several discussions and meetings with the principle players involved in augmenting this multi-state plan, an Ad Hoc Steering Committee meeting was held in Atlanta on May 30th, 1973. The purpose of this meeting was to determine if it was feasible to establish a consortium that could produce catalogs of performance objectives and criterion-referenced measures in vocational and technical education across state lines.

1973-1978--The Early Years



Following the successes of three critical Ad Hoc Steering Committee meetings, the group held its first Board Meeting on August 2-3, 1973 in Atlanta, Georgia. At this meeting, the newly formed Board consisted of seven charter states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Texas, and Virginia, along with the United States Air Force. The first Executive Director of VTECS was Dr. Ben A. Hirst, Jr., who served as the Project Director for the feasibility study that was conducted by the Commission on Occupational Education Institutions of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. At this first Board Meeting, the VTECS we know today, was named, Vocational-Technical Education Consortium of States with the acronym, V-TECS, where "V" was emphasized. VTECS blossomed into an 18 member organization between 1973-1978.



1978-1991--The Transitional Years



During these years, VTECS essentially remained the same regarding product development as each State was required to produce one or two products annually. These products were pooled and shared with the entire consortium of states. There were, however, several key changes that should be noted because they helped shape VTECS as a transitional organization during these years.



Sandi, holding down the fort

Between 1978 and 1981, two states withdrew from membership, leaving membership at 16. 1981 was a difficult year for VTECS. As a result of the Reagan administration rescinding 20% of the federal funds or state level vocational-technical education activities, five states left VTECS. Another state followed the following year and membership was suddenly at 10. Subsequently, a budget deficit caused the organization to operate with two staff members from July 1, 1983 to August 31, 1987.



Somewhat ironically, from 1983-1989, VTECS grew from 10-21 states, marking the greatest growth period ever. We attribute this growth burst with members accessibility to the Occupational and Data Analysis System (ODAS), which was developed by the State of Michigan and a decision by the Board of Directors to expand the VTECS product line to include curriculum guides and criterion-referenced test item banks. Ultimately, states remained faithful to the organization, were extremely productive and generous in sharing products, and expanded product richness by adding instructional elements.

1991-2003--The Evolution of VTECS' Software and The New Educational Climate

Even before software management tools were developed, VTECS distributed item banks in electronic format. The first two were shipped in 1987. The diskettes were 5 ¼ inches and the files were ASCII (i.e., plain vanilla text)! This accelerated the need to have all VTECS products in a database.



During the closing years of the eighties, a special task force along with staff developed the specifications for what would become VTECS DIRECT. In May, 1989, the Board approved the concept and an RFP was released in February, 1990. By May, work was underway; beta testing began in October; and VTECS Technical Coordinators received Version 1.2 in March, 1991. The operating system was DOS and distribution of the software was on both 5 ¼ and 3 ½ inch diskettes. A contest at the Tech Coordinator Inservice produced the name: VTECS DIRECT



Brenda and Barb Hermann who thanks to her tireless efforts over the years has created and sustained a rich local Connect user base in Minnesota

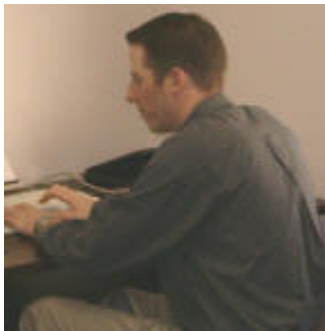
During 1991, many enhancements were added to the software and the first general release of VTECS DIRECT, Version 2.0, was in December, 1991; followed closely by Version 2.1 in April, 1992. A new version was released in 1993 and 1994. During this time, distribution of all VTECS materials was transitioned from paper to electronic media.

The year 1996 was an exciting one for VTECS: The web site was debuted and VTECS DIRECT, Version 4, was released. Version 4 marked the move away from DOS and to the Windows operating system. From 1996 through 1999, several updates were released; distribution of software and materials was via CD ROM.



Brenda and Mike McLendon who is
"The Connect Godfather"

In 1997, a new software concept was introduced at VTECS – a management tool for work-based learning programs. Youth Apprenticeship Coordinators from Georgia reviewed the prototype and worked with VTECS staff to complete the design and beta test the new software system. Before general release in 1998, the software was christened VTECS Connect. VTECS Connect is the first product from VTECS designed specifically for local users and it has proved to be very popular. Several updates were completed from 1998 through 2001. In 2002, it underwent a major upgrade with many enhancements and new features. VTECS Connect 2 was released in October, 2002. A number of minor updates have been released throughout 2003.



Another milestone was achieved during the late nineties; all product distribution was accomplished via the VTECS web site, including software updates.



Charlie + Ken="Double-Trouble"

This year, 2003, work is underway on a major revision of VTECS DIRECT. This will be Version 5. Both Connect and DIRECT are now based on the Microsoft Sequel Server Database Engine and are designed to run in the Windows® 2000 and Windows® XP environments.



VTECS' National Career Clusters Knowledge and Skills

The National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEc)/National Career Technical Education Foundation (NCTEF) and VTECS have come to a legally-binding agreement regarding their relationship with the sixteen national Career Clusters.

Taken verbatim from the Memorandum of Understanding between the aforementioned parties, the following highlights the major responsibilities involved in this agreement:

1. Establish guiding principles for the collaboration.
2. Identify validation priorities for the collaboration.
3. Develop policies related to Career Cluster validation.
4. Work to secure additional resources.
5. Design the validation framework:
 - a. Develop a validation protocol
 - b. Identify Leadership Team for each cluster
 - c. Coordinate with Leadership Team to complete validation process
6. Develop and disseminate an annual report for the boards of the partner organizations.

If you have questions regarding this momentous agreement, please contact [Ron McCage](#).

2nd Annual National Career Clusters Institute in Phoenix, AZ, June 27-29, 2004

The 2nd Annual National Career Clusters Institute, co-sponsored by VTECS with the National Association of State Directors of Career and Technical Education, will be held from June 27th to June 29th of 2004 in Phoenix, Arizona. Additionally, on June 29th and 30th, there will be a special session for States who are interested in the soon-to-be released VTECS DIRECT 5.0 software where each state department of career and technical education will be given two CDs of the software. Hands-on-training and workshops will be held during these two days. Look for a detailed agenda in an upcoming winter edition of VTECS Vision and on the homepage of our website.

VTECS' Executive Committee Board Meeting in Atlanta, February 2-4, 2004

In addressing the future of VTECS, several key issues will be discussed at this unique meeting. A PDF Memorandum entitled "Items of Importance" was emailed to all state directors and technical coordinators on December 1st. Please see this memo or contact Ron McCage or Sandi Davidson should you have additional questions/ concerns. More

detailed information will be provided in the upcoming VTECS Vision.

VTECS Technical Coordinator Inservice in Atlanta, February 23-26, 2004

All Technical Coordinators should have already received an outline agenda for the Inservice along with travel information via email. Detailed information will follow through email and in the upcoming VTECS Vision. We are looking forward to this annual event.

65th VTECS Annual Board of Directors Meeting in Atlanta, June 3-4, 2004

Details will be coming sooner than you think for this meeting to be held at Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport area on June 3-4.



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