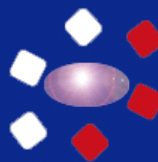


V-TECS Vision



Empowering Tomorrow's Workforce

Second Edition

September/October 2002

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Front Features

An Homage to 9/11

We, as an organization, would like to take a unique moment to pay homage to those individuals who lost their lives in the 9/11 tragedy that occurred a year ago.



Local Georgia Software Users Get a Gander of V-TECS Connect 2.0 at the GACTE Conference!

V-TECS showed their new software, V-TECS Connect 2.0 at the Georgia Association for Career and Technical Education Conference (GACTE) in Atlanta on July 21st and 22nd, 2002. Many long-time Connect users were elated after seeing a glimpse of the new Connect. It was nice to have experienced users who had positive things to say about the older versions of Connect be so enthused about what they were calling a truly new software piece in V-TECS Connect 2.0.



Meeting in the Low-country

The 63rd V-TECS Board of Director's Meeting will be held on September 11-13 in Charleston, South Carolina. The Executive Director Chair, [Dr. Bob Couch](#), has guaranteed genuine low-country hospitality during these important meeting days. We all look forward to this productive, and spirited meeting. And Bob: bring on the shrimp and grits!

Star State - South Carolina

In the second edition of V-TECS Vision, we are delighted to feature the wonderful state of South Carolina. In South Carolina, lots of exciting things are happening, and the growing prevalence of V-TECS' products and services, is one of them.

Thanks to the hard work of Dr. Bob Couch and his dedicated Staff at the [Office of Career and Technology Education](#), all career center directors, Tech Prep– School-to-Work Consortia directors, district CTE coordinators, and comprehensive high school principals have received the V-TECS DIRECT and Connect CD-ROMs, with instructions to contact CTE staff to set up training. On-site user training as well as overviews of both programs have been provided in most school districts. In addition, state-adopted core competencies in all CTE program areas have been input so that they can be used by the local school districts to "compose occupations."

The Office of Career and Technology Education has recently received access to WebEx, a state-of-the-art Web-conferencing tool that allows training of secondary school faculty without individuals having to leave their offices/classrooms. [Dawn Sudduth](#), Education Associate in the Office of Career and Technology Education, has been instrumental in launching WebEx in South Carolina. In fact, Ms. Sudduth set up two important V-TECS Executive Committee WebEx meetings.

With WebEx, participants can see the workings of the program, ask questions, and receive immediate feedback right at their desktops. This allows high school and career center instructors to receive training during their planning periods—no longer having to wait until after-school hours or in-service days for user instruction.





V-TECS wants to go on record in thanking [Amy McCaskill](#), Education Associate at the Office of Career and Technology Education and V-TECS Technical Coordinator for South Carolina, for her outstanding assistance in validating two occupational inventories, Construction and Physical and Occupational Therapy. Ms. McCaskill was instrumental in making contacts and coordinating the inventories to help Ken Potthoff and Tim Withee collect the duty/task data for these occupations. Without Ms. McCaskill's help, these occupations could not have been nationally validated.

With construction occupations, Jim Spencer, Engineering-Industrial Technology Education Associate in the Office of Career and Technology Education, arranged contact with John C. Cone, CAE, Executive Director of the [Home Builders Association of SC](#). This arrangement allowed surveys to be sent to nine of their regional directors. We want to thank both Mr. Spencer and Mr. Cone for their efforts.

As for OT/PT occupations, Jane Boston, Executive Director of the [SC Physical Therapy Association](#), allowed us to use their membership roster. Ms. McCaskill also got the mailing list for licensed OTs from the state agency that issues their certifications/credentials. For Ms. Boston's help, we also extend our gratitude.

Last but not least, there are a number of new and exciting events/projects being planned with South Carolina and V-TECS. First, as with other V-TECS members, we are excited to bring V-TECS new software, V-TECS Connect 2.0 to South Carolina CTE professionals. We are also pleased to announce three newly proposed projects that will involve the collaboration of V-TECS and South Carolina:

- Finalize the Business Administrative Cluster and produced a publishable document.
- Develop a publishable document for the "Chemistry for Career and Technical Education" Curriculum.
- Design an electronic Career Planner.

Details and progress on these projects will be discussed in the next issue of V-TECS Vision.

Project Plus - ICIA and V-TECS Partnership

We are pleased to report a fruitful partnership with V-TECS and ICIA, [infoComm](#) (International Communications Industries Associations, Inc.) – a world-class, global trade association that provides audiovisual industry and presentation technology training.

Using the grant from the [Arts, A/V Technology & Communications](#) (AAVTC), and V-TECS' Staff resources, V-TECS and ICIA have agreed to form a working partnership to complete an occupational analysis project specific to the Audio-Visual (AV) Industry. The objective of this project is to develop and deliver a nationally validated duty/task list and tools/equipment list to be shared only by V-TECS and ICIA.

On July 17th, V-TECS and ICIA had their first formal meeting, hosted by infoComm's Office Staff in Fairfax, Virginia. Acting as the liaison for this project, Larry Smith, organized this meeting with V-TECS representatives Ron McCage, Tim Withee and Ken Potthoff, and ICIA's Melissa Taggart, Louis Nanni and Amanda Collett. Since this successful meeting, Tim and Ken have analyzed the first few AV occupations. The beauty of the partnership is ICIA will provide the subject-matter experts, and V-TECS will provide the instructional design expertise. As Ron put it, this is a win-win for us. Moreover, by working with such a global organization, V-TECS will mark its name in countless business and industry organizations throughout the world.

Project Plus - V-TECS / Vermont Assessment Alliance

infoComm

COLLISION REPAIR ASSESSMENT/CERTIFICATION



V-TECS' partnership with Burlington Technical Center in Vermont and the Vermont Auto Body Association (VABA) to design and implement a certification system for the Secondary Collision Repair Programs in Vermont is making great progress. The task list has been finalized and scenario development is underway. We owe much of this progress to our contact, Ms. Donna Robert, Cooperative Education Coordinator at Burlington Tech.

Brenda Hattaway has been invited to speak at the fall conference of VABA on October 8 in Burlington. She will address the importance of this partnership from the V-TECS perspective and share information on expanding the results of the project nationally.



WELDING ASSESSMENT/CERTIFICATION

On July 2, 2002, Brenda Hattaway, Robyn Marshall, and Melissa Briscoe met with Doug Webster (V-TECS Technical Coordinator, Vermont) and a group of welding professionals and instructors from Burlington Tech to explore the possibility of developing a certification system for the Secondary Welding Programs in Vermont by forming a partnership using the collision repair model. As of September 2, 2002, we are moving ahead with this project. Ms Donna Roberts will serve as our contact.

Software Scene - V-TECS Connect 2.0 Slated for September Release



V-TECS Connect 2.0, the eagerly awaited upgrade of V-TECS' popular work-based learning management software system, will be officially released at the V-TECS Board of Directors meeting on September 11-12, 2002, in Charleston, South Carolina. During this board meeting, the Board will also make the final decision on cost to upgrade and on distribution

policy. Member state Technical Coordinators and other registered Connect users will receive information regarding distribution of the new software by the end of September. V-TECS anticipates disseminating V-TECS Connect 2.0 on CD-ROM.

Several V-TECS member states have already started planning for introducing the new software to their educators. The software is very easy to use and we don't expect users to need extensive training. For those who want to plan workshops, we're suggesting no more than a 3-4 hour session.

- Virginia, have the distinction of sponsoring the first training sessions on the new software during conferences in August:

- Brenda Hattaway led a training session at the annual *Idaho Professional Technical Educator's Summer Conference* in Boise, Idaho. Both experienced and novice users of V-TECS Connect participated and expressed unanimous approval of the upgrade.

- Tim Withee presented two Connect 2.0 training sessions at the *Career and Technical Education Professional Development Institute* in Roanoke, Virginia. The first session drew participants from the secondary Cooperative Education Coordinators group and the second session focused on Post-Secondary Apprenticeship Coordinators. The theme of the institute was "Putting knowledge to work." And the hands-on sessions gave Virginia educators a chance to learn all about the usability and versatility of Connect 2.0.

- Minnesota has a *Train-the-Trainer Workshop* scheduled for September 19, 2002, facilitated by Brenda.
- Ken Potthoff will be doing a hands-on demo/training session for approximately 80 Hawaii educators on September 27, 2002, in Honolulu.
- Robyn Marshall will join Brenda in facilitating a workshop in Vermont on October 7, 2002.

- Georgia plans to distribute the software initially to Youth Apprenticeship Coordinators via half-day, hands-on sessions this fall. The coordinators will then facilitate the dissemination and training of additional users.
- Maryland has scheduled training for January 9-10, 2003.

Training Tracker - Fairfax, VA: V-TECS Shows & Trains at Career & Technical Education Professional Development Institute



Several key events occurred during this conference.

V-TECS Connect 2.0 was unveiled to Virginia CTE Co-op Coordinators and Virginia Community College Apprenticeship Coordinators. These professionals were privileged to be one of the first groups to receive a hands-on demonstration of our new software. Tim Withee and Ron McCage both reported that participants were extremely enthusiastic about the new Connect. The ebullient groups found it easy to use and said the software had immediate application in their schools. Naturally, Tim and Ron were pleased to see such positive reaction up-close and personal.

In holding a meeting with the Virginia Community College Apprenticeship Coordinators, they also benefited from seeing a demonstration of V-TECS DIRECT and its prototype. This was encouraging because these post-secondary professionals saw a use for not only Connect, but also DIRECT in their institutions.

Tim also demonstrated Workplace Skills in two general sessions and the feedback was positive. Several attendees pursued Workplace Skills by asking more questions about its application at the V-TECS booth. There was overall interest in augmenting the crosswalk between Virginia's Workplace Readiness Standards and V-TECS Workplace Skills.

To learn more about career and technical education in Virginia, visit the Virginia [CTE Resource Center](#).

Training Tracker - We're in the Army



Since the last newsletter, we have completed two V-TECS DIRECT Training Sessions with the U.S. Army and have three scheduled in September and October. Robyn Marshall hit the training road when she and Ken Potthoff traveled to [Fort Benning](#) in Columbus, Georgia. Her colleagues here at the central office in Decatur, teased her by saying she ought to be at every software training session because she seems undaunted by any technical support question thrown her way. Fort Benning is home to the U.S. Infantry School.

On June 10th and 11th, Tim Withee and Ken Potthoff conducted two training sessions in St. Robert, Missouri at [Fort Leonard Wood](#)—the base for Military Police Schools Center of Excellence for Homeland Defense & Rapid Assessment and Initial Detection (RAID). These training sessions were particularly interesting and challenging when you consider some of the trainees were specialist in training individuals in the area of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

We will be sure to continue to keep you informed of our upcoming training sessions with the U.S. Army.

National Nexus - Career Clusters Calendar



The [calendar](#) allows you to see all the action going on with the [Career Clusters Initiative](#).



Agenda Access - Ron on the Road

Since the last newsletter, Ron McCage has been a traveling man, to say the least. Ron has been to the six states listed below:

- Indiana – July 24, 2002
- Missouri – August 15, 2002
- Illinois – August 16, 2002
- Idaho – August 21, 2002
- New Hampshire – August 26, 2002
- Vermont – August 29, 2002

Based on Ron's earlier visits to New Jersey, Maryland, and Arizona, this means Ron has ten states left to visit. Please sign up as soon as possible.

- Alabama
- Arkansas
- Florida – October 31, 2002
- Georgia
- Hawaii
- Minnesota
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- Virginia
- Wyoming

Agenda Access – In the Next Issue

- Debriefing the 63rd V-TECS Board of Director's Meeting
- News on the Hot New Release of V-TECS Connect 2.0
- Foundation/Sponsor Efforts
- The South Carolina-V-TECS Project Status
- Occupational Duty/Task List Updates
- Ron's Continued State Visits



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