

VTECS Vision

A Consortium for Innovative Career and Workforce Development Resources

Fifth Edition

August/September 2003

◆
◆ Inside
this
◆ Edition



Front Features

- [Kudos for VTECS Redesigned Website](#)
- [VTECS Sells Complete Package of Career Cluster Materials](#)
- [VTECS Wins Rhode Island Project](#)

Star State

- [Noticing New Hampshire](#)

Project Plus

- [VTECS Wins Rhode Island Project](#)
- [U. S. Army Recruiting Command Project Marches Toward Completion](#)

Training Tracker

- [FACTE Folks](#)

Software Scene

- [Beta Testing of VTECS DIRECT 5.0 Begins Soon!](#)
- [VTECS Connect 2.0 Quick Reference Manual](#)

National Nexus

- [Another Solid Board of Directors Meeting](#)
- [Wyoming—WACTE Workshops and Meetings](#)
- [VTECS Attends Skills-USA VICA](#)
- [Show-Me MOACTE](#)
- [Going GACTE](#)
- [VTECS Visits VA—Virginia DOE Career and Technical Education Professional Development Institute](#)

Agenda Access

[In the Next Issue](#)



With the summer winding down, we hope all of you had a pleasant break. In this edition of VTECS Vision, we welcome all educators back to school. At the end of this edition, we've come up with a few helpful resource links to help ease your transition back into the new school year.

Best of luck educating our future stars—we salute you for all your hard work!

Front Features

If you did not already know (*shame on you*) VTECS is celebrating its 30th year as an organization. In the next, special edition of VTECS Vision, we will showcase VTECS illustrious history: 1973-2003. Please look for this unique 30th anniversary newsletter edition sometime in November, if not sooner.

Please also note that the 30th Anniversary VTECS Vision Edition will discuss highly critical news on Career Clusters, possible grant funding projects, and marketing strategies.

Kudos for VTECS' Redesigned Website

Attention Members and Non-Members! Check out the new VTECS website. Thanks to the hard work and artistic craft of Robyn Marshall, we now have a fully functional new VTECS website, and we are exuberant.

The redesigned site has additional information about VTECS as an organization under "About Us" including Accomplishments, Professional Development, and a recently completed document entitled "VTECS Statement of Organizational Capability." This document provides an excellent overview of VTECS' 30-year history by highlighting the organization's large-scale project experience, state-wide assessment projects, research in assessment, general educational research, and experience in professional development.



Site visitors can request a demo version of VTECS Connect 2.0 and join a VTECS DIRECT 5.0 mailing list. We've also added a page on Career Clusters and ordering information for the Career Cluster Institute Material. The reorganized "Site Map" helps visitors easily navigate the site.

The VTECS staff hopes you are pleased with the Web redesign! Your feedback is appreciated and encouraged. Please feel free to submit suggestions for additional content and new "Related Links."

VTECS Sells Complete Package of Career Cluster Materials

As the co-host for the past **National Career Cluster Institute** held in Phoenix, VTECS is currently selling extra Career Cluster Materials Packets at \$75.00 a piece. This complete package includes:

- ◆ 16 Knowledge and Skills Booklets containing pathway models, cluster/foundation knowledge and skills, and pathway knowledge and skills
- ◆ 1 General Career Cluster Brochure
- ◆ 16 Cluster-specific Brochures
- ◆ 1 CD containing all booklets and brochures

This is clearly a steal! You can also purchase this same packet by going to www.careerclusters.org. Order your packet today by clicking on the Career Clusters Material graphic or visit www.vtecs.org.

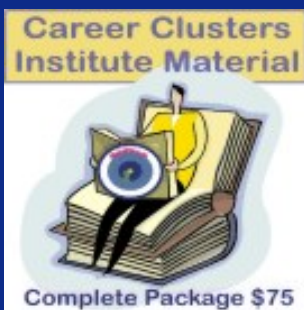
VTECS Wins Rhode Island Project

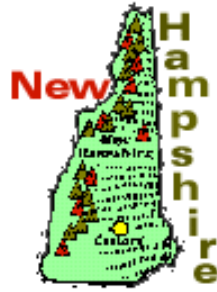
As promised, we have a brief report on grant seeking news, and it is good news, so read about it in the Project Plus section.

Star State

Noticing New Hampshire

This edition of VTECS Vision makes special note of New Hampshire and calls attention to the wonderful work of Joan Fossum, Educational Consultant for the New Hampshire State Department of Education and the Technical Coordinator for VTECS.





Having joined VTECS in November 2000, New Hampshire is relatively new to the family. As a small state, New Hampshire gains exposure to many important issues/events at the national level and a chance to be actively involved with projects like the Career Clusters project. As an example, New Hampshire has access to valuable information such as the occupational analysis information in VTECS DIRECT. Some of this information has been used in the development of our state-level CTE core competency student profiles, which we are all excited about.

Brenda Hattaway presented an excellent train-the-trainer workshop of the new VTECS Connect 2.0 at a Work Based Learning Coordinators conference in July. These participants are now actively using the software and organizing training opportunities all over the state. They all reported that it was a superb training and they were thrilled about all the ways that Connect can make their lives better.

In a word, VTECS is happy to see that both our software systems and the in-state training are paying off for New Hampshire in different ways.

Joan Fossum's Brief Biography

Joan has served as the Technical Coordinator since New Hampshire became a member in November 2000. She has also been one of two Technical Coordinators' Representatives to the Board since February of 2002.



Joan has been an Education Consultant in the Career Development Bureau for the New Hampshire Department of Education for four and one half years. In this role, she is the curriculum supervisor for Family and Consumer Science and related occupations and also a Perkin's project manager. She works with field coordinators in the development of Tech Prep programs.

This year she has been elected as the President of the National Association of State Administrators for Family and Consumer Sciences.

Joan's education includes a Bachelor of Science in Vocational Home Economic Education from the University of North Dakota and a Master of Arts in Home Economics from Ball State University.

Project Plus

VTECS Wins Rhode Island Project

The Rhode Island Skills Commission (RISC) recently released a ***Request for Proposal for Services to Assess the Validity and Reliability of the Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM) System*** in Rhode Island. The RISC is recognized for leading education toward the high performance workplace by providing a set of standards that incorporate aspects of academics and the workplace into a comprehensive set of skills.



Living and working in this century requires combining skills in new ways and students need to provide documentation of these new combinations of skills and knowledge sets for the workplace and for advanced education. Thus the CIM was established. This assessment system makes use of performance and on-demand assessment and brings the information together to provide a comprehensive picture of each student's attainment of knowledge and skills.

In this vein, VTECS has been contracted to provide a third-party evaluation of the CIM. We are therefore pleased to announce that we wrote the winning proposal for this project! If you have additional questions, please contact [Ron McCage](#).



Marches Toward Completion

According to Ron McCage, VTECS is nearly finished with the U.S. Army Recruiting Command Project. It has gone extremely well and a final report is currently being delivered to the Ft. Knox, Kentucky U.S. Army Recruiting Command. Ron McCage, Tim Withee and Dr.

Charles O. (Chuck) Hopkins, who served as Assistant State Director of Vocational and Technical Education in the Oklahoma Department of VOTECH for several years, will give a formal presentation in Ft. Knox this September.

To learn more about this project, and the findings and recommendations, read the [Executive Summary](#).

Training Tracker

FACTE Folks

The Florida training session consisted of Florida Association for Career and Technical Education (FACTE) participants from all over the state. Secondary and Post Secondary educators as well as administrators were well represented in the session. During the session, participants were trained on both VTECS Connect 2.0 and VTECS DIRECT. Yet again, Technical Coordinator Andy Anderman came through for VTECS by setting up the sessions at Mid-Florida Technical School and registering participants. Thank you, Andy.



In the upcoming 30th Anniversary Newsletter Edition, we will be reporting on other training events.

Software Scene

Learn More About VTECS DIRECT 5.0

If you want to learn more about the new DIRECT, take a look at the [DIRECT 5.0 flyer](#) that overviews the new software.

Add your name to the VTECS DIRECT 5.0 Mailing List by going to www.vtecs.org

Beta Testing of VTECS DIRECT 5.0 Begins Soon!

VTECS DIRECT 5.0 is an exciting upgrade and expansion of VTECS' classic occupational analysis information management software system! DIRECT 5.0 has a bold, new look with added usability and versatility for the end-user. Many new features have been added to provide a multifaceted system for the management of Career Cluster information in addition to the traditional occupational analysis data. Among the many new features and functions is a sophisticated test generation engine.



Last week, VTECS staff received a beta version of VTECS DIRECT 5.0 and expect to expand the beta testing within the next month. Our projected release by the end of 2003 stands! We'll keep you posted on our progress.

Are you interested in Beta Testing? Let us know by sending your contact information to info@vtecs.org.



Learn More About VTECS DIRECT 5.0

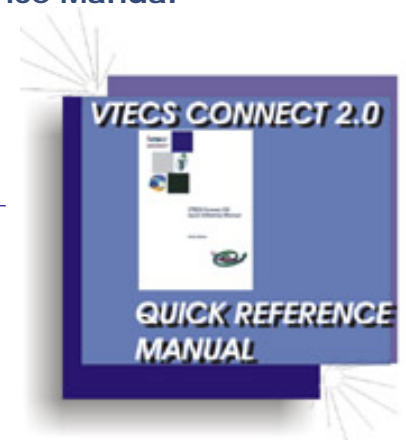
If you want to learn more about the new DIRECT, take a look at the DIRECT 5.0 flyer that overviews the new software.

Add your name to the VTECS DIRECT 5.0 Mailing List by going to www.vtecs.org



VTECS Connect 2.0 Quick Reference Manual

VTECS Connect 2.0 Users, the highly sought after, much anticipated **VTECS Connect 2.0 Quick Reference Manual** is now available for download. Just go to the [VTECS Connect 2.0 Support](#) link from www.vtecs.org.



National Nexus

Another Solid Board of Director's Meeting

The 64th VTECS Board of Director's Meeting was held on June 4th and 5th in Phoenix, Arizona. We are happy to report that it went smoothly. Please direct any questions to [Ron McCage](#).

This summer has been a busy one! Many of the VTECS Staff have been moving from one member state to another attending trade shows, providing marketing overviews of VTECS, and doing training sessions on VTECS Connect 2.0. Here are just a smattering of the productive trips.

Wyoming—WACTE Workshops and Meetings

Technical Coordinators Phil Trujillo and Lyn Velle were gracious enough to put VTECS on the program at the Wyoming Association of Career and Technical Education (WACTE) Conference in Thermopolis, Wyoming. Tim Withee demonstrated VTECS Connect 2.0 to a variety of participants. Some of the groups on hand were from secondary education as well as the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services.



During the WACTE Meeting in Thermopolis, Wyoming Ms. Lori Morrow from Wyoming Workforce Services Department expressed interest in VTECS duty task list information. A meeting was then organized for the regional managers, administrators and Deputy Director of the Workforce Services Department to get an introduction to VTECS. Board member Teri Wigert and Technical Coordinator Phil Trujillo were also on hand to aid in the discussion. At the meeting, Ron McCage and Tim Withee gave a detailed overview of VTECS occupational analysis information in relation to how it could help workforce services in Wyoming. VTECS Connect 2.0 has now been set up in each of the regional offices for the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services.

VTECS Attends Skills-USA VICA

Summer



Travel

As the culminating event of the 39th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), VTECS exhibited at the SkillsUSA Championships on June 26th. This was a great opportunity for VTECS to network with CTE teachers and students who have achieved exemplary performance-driven results in career and technical education. Ken Potthoff ran the booth and established several good contacts which could prove fruitful in the future.

Show-Me MOACTE

VTECS was invited to exhibit at the Missouri ACTE Summer Conference Trade Show on July 21-22 in Springfield, Missouri. This trip was beautifully arranged by Dennis Harden, VTECS Technical Coordinator for Missouri. Ken Potthoff exhibited at the Conference and the turn-out was strong. He also presented a demonstration of VTECS Connect 2.0 and overviewed VTECS to the Missouri Council of Career and Technical Education Administrators (MCCTA). As a result, several schools have shown interest in actively implementing Connect in their schools. As a follow-up, Ken will travel to Jefferson City, Missouri to train the interested schools in September.



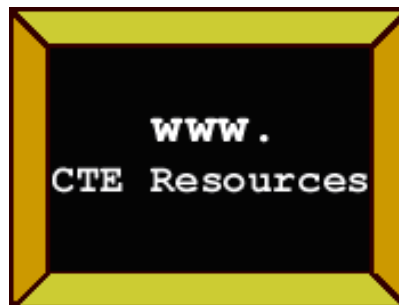
Going GACTE

In a two-day exhibit, Ron McCage, Robyn Marshall and Tim Withee ran a booth at the Georgia Association of Career and Technical Education (GACTE) on July 20th and 21st.

VTECS Visits VA—Virginia DOE Career and Technical Education Professional Development Institute

Coinciding with Virginia's Department of Education's Career and Technical Education Professional Development institute, "Connecting Education and Careers," Ken Potthoff marketed VTECS and Connect 2.0 to ICT and Co-op teachers at the Burton Technology Center just outside of Roanoke. The response was positive. Hence, Ken will return to Virginia to train the interested parties in the fall.

Arrangements were made by Darren Morris through the Career and Technical Resource Center. VTECS also shared a booth with the Center and the traffic flow was steady to say the least. Thanks for your help, CTE Center Staff.



Back to School Educational Resource Links for You!

www.cteresource.org - Virginia's CTE Resource Center

www.acteonline.org - Association of Career and Technical Education

www.nccte.com - The National Centers for Career and Technical Education

www.ed.gov/offices/OVAE - Office of Vocational and Adult Education

www.ericacve.org - ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education

www.nces.ed.gov - National Center for Education Statistics

www.youthbuild.org - National Nonprofit Support Center and Intermediary for the YouthBuild Movement

Agenda Access



www.vtecs.org

In the Next Issue

- ◆ VTECS Celebrates 30 Years . . .
- ◆ Crystallizing the Career Clusters—a report that will fully explain VTECS' relationship with the National Career Clusters
- ◆ Something Special could be in South Carolina—tune-in for the next issue to learn more . . .
- ◆ Marketing the new VTECS—the next special issue will explain how VTECS is branching out as an organization to embrace the future of career and technical education



Copyright 2003 by VTECS. All rights reserved