

VTECS Vision

A Consortium for Innovative Career and Workforce Development Resources

Ninth Edition

September/October 2005



In the Spotlight

This edition of *VTECS Vision* showcases our brand new Drive-In Events ad campaign where VTECS' products and services are about to be put on display. In an attempt to reach a deeper and more specific client base, VTECS is putting its talents and products out there for you as a courtesy. Please click on the [link](#) now to see the ad and sign-up for one of our Drive-In Events.

Searching for tools to implement Perkins, Career Clusters . . .



Find your way to a VTECS Drive-In Software Event!

Inside this Edition

- Front Features**
 - [Louisiana Officially Joins VTECS](#)
 - [Happy Trails, Charlie: Dr. Charles L. Losh Retires from VTECS](#)
- Star State**
 - [Intelligent Indiana](#)
- Training Tracker**
 - [On the Training Trail With Brenda & Tim & Ken & Robyn \(and Shellie, of course\)](#)
 - [South Carolina Business and Education Summit – Greenville, SC June 2005](#)
 - [Pre-Workshop at MOACTE](#)
 - [Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the Super Summer Institute: Connect Training Sparks Pilot Programs in new VTECS Member](#)
 - [Generation Next – Atlantic City, NJ August 2005](#)
- Software Scene**
 - [Check Out the Latest on VTECS Connect](#)
 - [DIRECTly from You: VTECS DIRECT Update is Available](#)
- Project Plus**
 - [Career Clusters Data Review](#)
 - [Virginia Task Lists](#)
- National Nexus**
 - [VTECS Threpeats at the National Career Clusters Institute](#)
 - [Save the Date for the 2006 Institute](#)
 - [Kansas City Here We Come—ACTE 2005](#)
 - [Way to Go Joe!!](#)

Front Features

Louisiana Officially Joins VTECS

VTECS is delighted to officially welcome Louisiana as the newest State Member of our Consortium. It is our sincere pleasure to have you aboard VTECS and we will do our best to serve you well as if you have been a member since 1973--the date VTECS became an official organization. We always want you to feel like you can call on us anytime. Details about the Louisiana Board Member and Technical Coordinator will be announced in the next edition of VTECS Vision.

Happy Trails, Charlie: Dr. Charles L. Losh Retires from VTECS

On January 1, 2005, one of my closest friends and professional associates, Dr. Charles L. Losh officially retired from VTECS. I vividly remember first meeting Charlie at the Terrace Garden Inn in February, 1978 when I attended my first VTECS Board Meeting as the representative for the State Board of Education in Illinois where I served as Manager of the Research and Development Section, Department of Adult, Vocational and Technical Education.

Charlie started his career as an Automotive Mechanic in 1959. From 1961-1966, Charlie served as an Electronics Technician in the United States Navy. Charlie is a Vietnam Veteran having served offshore on a destroyer in the Tonkin Gulf. In 1969, Charlie received his BS in Industrial Education from the University of Nebraska and took his first teaching job as an Automotive Mechanics Instructor at Oak Park River Forest High School in Oak Park, Illinois. In 1972, Charlie received an MS in Instructional Systems Technology from Indiana University at Bloomington. In 1976, he was awarded an Education Specialist in the same area from the same institution.



Intertwined with his pursuit of these degrees, Charlie taught Automotive Mechanics in Lincoln, Nebraska and Bailey, Colorado. From here, he had a stint as an Instructional Media and Curriculum Specialist at the Atlanta Area Technical School where he met Dr. Bob Childers who brought Charlie to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as an Assistant Director for VTECS in 1978.

In 1979, Dr. Childers asked Charlie to serve as Director of the Automobile Mechanic Training and Evaluation Project (AMTEP) which was designed to create program standards for the teaching of Automotive Mechanics. AMTEP was funded by the big three automotive manufactures of that era and was especially significant in that it is now what we know as NATEF (National Automobile Technician Education Foundation) which is the program quality side of the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence or ASE, the technician certification body.

Once the AMTEP project was over, Charlie returned to VTECS in 1982 as a Research Specialist but the 20% Reagan across-the-board federal program cuts of 1982 left VTECS with a significant shortfall which resulted in a reduction in force; consequently, Charlie left for North Dakota where he served for two years as State Supervisor of Trade, Technical and Health Occupations Programs for the North Dakota State Board for Vocational Education. Prior to his departure from VTECS, Charlie completed his Ph.D. in Vocational and Career Development in 1983 under the guidance of Dr. John Preston at



Georgia State University.

In 1985, Utah beckoned and Charlie took the position of Assistant to the State Director of Vocational Education which was followed by a stint as Director of the Utah Vocational In-service and Curriculum Center at Weber State College in Ogden.

In 1987, our friend Barbara Border hired Charlie away from Utah to serve as Director of Vocational Education Program Improvement for the Arizona Department of Education. From 1989-1997, Charlie served as the State Director of Vocational Education which for the majority of the time carried the title of Deputy Associate Superintendent and State Administrator for Vocational Education. Charlie closed out his tenure with the Arizona Department of Education in 1998 as Director of the Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Project. During his tenure with Utah and Arizona, Charlie served as the VTECS Technical Coordinator and/or Board Member for a number of years.

Ironically and coincidentally, during a June 1998 VTECS Board of Directors Meeting which was held at the same Terrace Garden Inn, I enticed Charlie to return to VTECS as Director of Product Development. However, his tenure in this particular position was short lived in that in October 1999 we were awarded a three year Linkages project in A/V Technology and Tele-communications and Charlie became the project coordinator. Later the project was to become one of the sixteen career clusters with a much longer name. In 2001, Charlie was loaned to the State of Oklahoma to head up the ED/OVAE States Career Cluster Initiative under the guidance of the NASDCTEc Board of Directors. After this activity was truncated in September 2003, Charlie came back to VTECS where he continued to work on the review and editing of the career cluster content statements and the cross walking of each state's academic standards against the Cisco Networking Academy Standards. During these years, Charlie authored several articles and publications. He was also very active in several professional organizations and has provided consulting services to several organizations and agencies.

Charlie and his lovely wife Marcia make their home in Phoenix where she recently opened a small shop in a renovated house where she does cut glass work and rents rooms to other artists where they can produce and/or market their particular arts and crafts work. Charlie and Marcia were our guests at a reception held in Charlie's honor at the Hermosa Inn in Phoenix after the *Third Annual National Career Clusters Institute*. Join me in paying tribute to Dr. Charles Losh for his long and distinguished career in Career and Technical Education.

Star State - Intelligent Indiana



Indiana has been a member of VTECS since 1990. Throughout those years, Indiana has partnered with VTECS in the development of many products and initiatives, including the **DIRECT** software system, the *Building Linkages Among Academic and Occupational Skill Standards Project*, and the **InTERS** student information management system. The Indiana Department of Workforce Development provided the financial assistance and leadership for the initial development of **DIRECT**. Taking advantage of the state's experience in the implementation of skill standards and certification, Indiana served as the lead state for the *Building Linkages Project*. The initiative led to the development of a 26-state consortium and the Advanced Manufacturing core skill standards. Indiana now has a statewide system to assess and certify the skills of students and employees in ten occupational areas, and VTECS continues to provide technical assistance.

Most recently, Indiana has developed **InTERS**. The custom software system was developed in response to a need for useful, comprehensive student data collection and



management. Specifically, the system allows school corporations and districts to collect and report information needed for local planning and decision making. The system also allows local districts to comply with state and federal reporting requirements. Indiana is able to collect skill certification information to document the skill achievement of students.

Over the past several years, Tim Withee and Brenda Hattaway have conducted training sessions on **VTECS Connect** and **DIRECT** in locations across the state. The training sessions are always well received by participants. In addition to coop coordinators and curriculum coordinators, Indiana has provided training for WIA training providers across the state. As a next step, expert users are now training additional teachers and training providers in their regions.

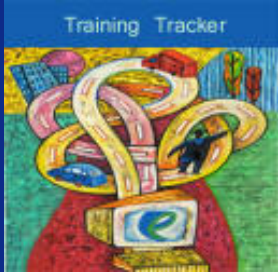
Future plans for Indiana include continuing to expand the skill assessment and certification system to develop core skills for all career cluster areas. Indiana will continue to rely on VTECS for technical assistance and support in data management as the system is expanded. Indiana will also continue to promote **IntERS** among VTECS member states. **IntERS** can be customized to fit the needs of individual users.

Soni Jones has served as Indiana's Technical Coordinator over the past ten years. Soni works as the state training coordinator for the Indiana Essential Skills and Technical Proficiencies Initiative. In the past, she held the position of Assistant State Director of Career and Technical Education where she helped to coordinate student and employee certification. She holds a BA and MA in organizational communication from Purdue University and is an elected member of her local school board of trustees.

Discover more about career and technical education in Indiana by visiting, www.in.gov/dwd/partners/tech_ed.html

Training Tracker - On the Training Trail with Brenda & Tim & Ken & Robyn (and Shellie, of course)

Brenda Hattaway and Shellie have been busy!! They were on the "training & demo trail" with stops in Rhode Island, Arkansas, Phoenix, Georgia, Minnesota, and Alabama. They were joined in several of these locations by one of their colleagues: Robyn Marshall, Ken Potthoff, and Tim Withee.



Brenda poses with Connect in her office

On May 31, Brenda led a **VTECS Connect** workshop for educators in Providence, Rhode Island. Judy Valentine, our contact in Rhode Island, made all the arrangements. Then, on June 6, she visited with old friends and met new ones in Little Rock, Arkansas. This **VTECS Connect** Workshop was specifically for cooperative education coordinators; however, several youth apprenticeship coordinators and JAG coordinators joined the workshop. So use of **VTECS Connect** in Arkansas is expanding. As always, Susan Prater and her associates were terrific hosts.

Brenda barely got home before leaving for the **Third Annual Career Cluster Institute** in Phoenix, Arizona, on June 11. She made two presentations: one on the VTECS model for developing scenarios and one on our software. Along with Tim Withee and Robyn Marshall, she facilitated a post session workshop on **VTECS DIRECT** which was attended by folks from Idaho, Kansas, New Jersey, North Dakota, South Dakota, Washington, and Washington, DC. Participants received the software as part of the training.

Brenda was joined again by Robyn Marshall on June 28 for a **VTECS Connect** workshop in Savannah, Georgia, for the T & I summer staff development conference. Now, before you get too envious, it was raining and VERY hot.

On July 12, Ken Potthoff was Brenda's partner for a "**VTECS Connect Show & Tell**" presentation during the annual staff development activities for new RVI and CVAE coordinators in Athens, Georgia. They performed a dramatization of a favorite BC Cartoon, but their acting skills obviously need work ... Shellie refused to be associated with these amateurs.

August 11 found Brenda in Minneapolis, Minnesota, leading a **VTECS DIRECT** workshop for a group of Customized Training Developers & Providers. Long time DIRECT user, Larry Raddatz (Dakota County Technical College) arranged and hosted the event. Workers who have been laid off from Northwest Airlines will benefit from the information available through this group of folks as they add **VTECS DIRECT** to their list of resources.

And finally there was the grand tour of Alabama: August 31 – September 2!! Brenda and Tim Withee did five full day **VTECS Connect** workshops in three days (don't even try to figure it out, they just did it!). Gwen Crawford worked out all the details and traveled with them and distributed **VTECS Connect software** to the workshop participants ... so VTECS Connect is "all over Alabama".

South Carolina Business and Education Summit – Greenville, SC June 2005

Tim Withee provided training at the **South Carolina Education & Business Summit** on June 26-29 in Greenville, SC. The South Carolina Office of Career and Technology Education put on the annual event and with Amy McCaskill's coordination; the sessions were a success. Special Thanks go to Amy, Dawn Sudduth, and Wofford O'Sullivan for all their time and support.

Pre-Workshop at MOACTE

On July 25th, Ken Potthoff trained on **VTECS Connect** to a fine group of Marketing and Cooperative Education professionals at the Ozark Technical Community College in Springfield at Missouri's **ACTE (MOACTE)** Summer Conference. The training went well and this was the first group to benefit from the latest Connect updates. Appreciation goes once again to Dennis Harden for doing a nice job in arranging the training.

Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the Super Summer Institute: Connect Training Sparks Pilot Programs in new VTECS Member

A wonderful group of CTE educators received a full day of training on **VTECS Connect** provided by Ken Potthoff this past July at **Louisiana's Super Summer Institute**. A warm thanks to Patricia Merrick, Melba Kennedy and Mona Bickham for working out the details of the training and putting together such a quality group. Several schools are now piloting **Connect** based on this training.

Generation Next – Atlantic City, NJ August 2005



The New Jersey Department of Education Office of Vocational Technical, Career and Innovative Programs hosted Tim Withee and VTECS for **Connect** Trainings on August 7 & 8 at the **New Jersey Generation Next 2005 Conference** in Atlantic City. The sessions were a great success with a wide range of attendees: from School-to-Work Coordinators to Juvenile Correction Staff, the session displayed the newest features of **Connect**. Special thanks go to Roger McCloughan and the entire New Jersey Department of Education Office of Vocational Technical, Career and Innovative Programs Staff for the hard work on running the conference and setting up the training.

Software Scene - Check Out the Latest on VTECS Connect

Check it out!! A new version of **VTECS Connect 2.1** is "on the streets" ... actually on the VTECS web site. And that's not all! There's a new version of the **VTECS Connect 2.1 Quick Reference Manual** too, in "pdf" format for easy downloading, viewing, and printing.

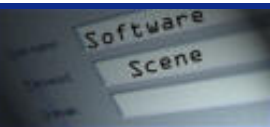
Download the file, [Connect 2.1 Update 20050919.exe](#), and load it today. Here are just a few of the great new features you'll enjoy using:



- ◆ import Training Plans/Task Lists from an MS Excel spreadsheet;
- ◆ create folders (up to 2 levels deep) to group Training Plans/Task Lists;
- ◆ import training plans/tasklists into user-created folders;
- ◆ create custom fields under Student Employment;
- ◆ change the order of question catalog items using drag/drop;
- ◆ complete a student evaluation within the software.

And we've added several new reports including:

- ◆ Student Training Evaluation,
- ◆ List of Students and Job Totals,
- ◆ List of Students and Job Sites,
- ◆ Monthly Coordination Report, and
- ◆ An alternate version of the Student by School Report.





Robyn and Brenda with the latest, greatest VTECS DIRECT and VTECS Connect Program software CDs

DIRECTly from You: VTECS DIRECT Update is Available



An update for **VTECS DIRECT 5** is now available for download on the VTECS [DIRECT 5 support](#) page of the web site. This is the first update of this terrific cluster and specialty management tool. We collected suggestions for improving the software at every presentation and workshop and included as many as we possibly could in the new release. One of the most requested features, importing Task Lists from a MS Excel spreadsheet, is there ... ready for you to import your competency lists. Update your current installation of **VTECS DIRECT 5** and see how many of your ideas made it into the new version.

Project Plus - Career Clusters Data Review



Currently, VTECS is helping **NASDCTEc** facilitate a review and update the *States' 16 Career Cluster Pathway and Foundation Knowledge and Skill Statements*. Working closely with Cluster Leaders, the review has begun. The first step will be to make the modifications that are needed to effectively carry out the process on-line.

The actual content review will be conducted by the national advisory committee's business and industry reps for each cluster as designated by the cluster leaders. Each cluster will have at least 30 subject matter experts for each pathway. Knowledge and Skills "content" will be reviewed by the cluster's designated business and industry reps. Content changes will be made by February 28, 2006, ending Phase I.

Virginia Task Lists

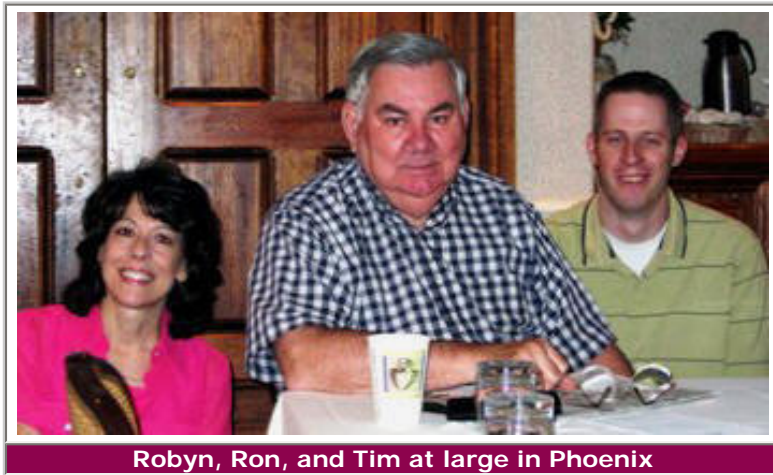
In an effort to help CTE professionals in the state of Virginia, Peggy Watson and Darren Morris, the CTE Resource Center, have asked VTECS to convert their CTE task lists into **VTECS Connect** format. Currently a group of about 30 Coop Coordinators are pilot testing **VTECS Connect**. Each of these coordinators will have access to all the Virginia Task Lists in Connect format. The conversion of the Virginia Task Lists have just been completed and will be made available to VTECS members in the near future.

National Nexus - VTECS "Threepeats" at the National Career Cluster Institute

Once more, the really big June event was the **Third Annual National Career Cluster Institute** in Phoenix, Arizona. And again, VTECS was highly visible:

Registration

VTECS staff – Ron McCage, Brenda Hattaway, Tim Withee, and Robyn Marshall – helped with registration throughout the conference providing numerous opportunities to visit informally with institute participants.



Robyn, Ron, and Tim at large in Phoenix

Exhibits

Tim and Robyn staffed the VTECS table during the reception where institute participants could learn more about all that we have to offer.

Sessions

“Discover VTECS DIRECT 5™ – Count on VTECS Connect 2™: Software Systems that Put You in Control” presented by Brenda Hattaway, Ron McCage, and Tim Withee. This session provided demos of both of VTECS’ software systems with special focus on their use in implementing Career Clusters.

“Developing Scenarios – Do Your Scenarios need a Bit of Caffeine?” presented by Brenda Hattaway. In this session participants had great fun learning about scenarios for instruction or assessment. There was much laughter during the hands-on activity of writing a scenario for making a cup of coffee. (Of course, there were actual cheers for the cappuccino jelly beans distributed at the end.) One participant wrote: “A fun presentation, practical ideas—easy to adapt to different clusters.”



Post-Session – VTECS DIRECT 5

States were invited to send up to two people for a hands-on training session on **VTECS DIRECT 5**. Representatives from seven states attended the full day of training led by Brenda and assisted by Tim and Robyn.

Save the Date for the 2006 Institute

It is not too early to begin preparing for the *Fourth Annual National Career Cluster Institute* to again be held in sunny Phoenix. Click on the links to see a [Save the Date Postcard](#) and a [Call for Presentations form](#).

Kansas City Here We Come—ACTE 2005

The VTECS staff will be in full force at this year's **ACTE** in Kansas City, Missouri. Bring your cameras because Ron McCage, Brenda Hattaway, Tim Withee, and Ken Potthoff will be there to not only promote VTECS products and services but we'll also be available for autograph signings and photo opps.

Of course, don't miss the chance to experience a courtesy **Drive-In Event** while in Kansas City—click [here](#) for details.

Last but not least, Brenda Hattaway will lead a session for **ACTE / FOCUS 2005: VTECS DIRECT: Tools for the Trade** on December 9, 11:15 - Noon.



Way to Go Joe!!

Once again, VTECS is pleased to congratulate our friend, Joe Underwood from Miami High School, Miami, Florida. He was one of 20 winners in USA TODAY's eighth All-USA Teacher Team. Joe worked with us on the AAVTC Cluster Project and we are gratified to see his great work as an educator recognized.



The 2005 All-USA Teacher Team represents all outstanding teaching in our nation's schools. "We're pleased to honor these remarkable teachers who enhance education with initiative, enthusiasm and insight. They make a real difference for their students, schools and communities," said USA TODAY Editor, Ken Paulson.

The All-USA Teacher Team was selected by a panel of judges from nominees across the country. Teachers could be nominated by school administrators, students (past or present), students' parents, colleagues or family members. Teachers were then asked to describe their schools and students' needs and how they go about meeting those needs.

Criteria for the All-USA Teacher Team were developed in consultation with our co-sponsors: the National Association of Secondary School Principals, National Middle School Association, National Association of Elementary School Principals, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, and the National Education Association.

For more information on these winners see the Thursday, October 13, editions of *USA TODAY* or log on to <http://www.allstars.usatoday.com>.

Agenda Access - In the Next Issue



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