

*Staff Travel Report*  
*to*  
*School Board of Trustees*

Your recent request to travel has been approved. Within two weeks of the date of the conference, the following report is due in the office of the Deputy Superintendent.

**Please Download & TYPE the following information.**

*Staff Member:* Danielle Jenkins

*Assignment:* Conference

*Location of Conference:* San Antonio, Texas

*Name of Conference :* Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) CareerTech VISION Conference and Expo

*Dates Attended:* Dec 3, 2024 to Dec 7, 2024

*School:* Silverland Middle School

*General Overview:* ACTE's CareerTech VISION is an event for career and technical education (CTE) professionals. Located at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas, VISION offers comprehensive programming covering high-quality CTE in secondary and postsecondary environments and emerging trends in the field to help career and technical educators thrive in their careers. VISION provides attendees with a rich array of networking opportunities, an Expo, hundreds of concurrent program sessions, and numerous networking opportunities.

*How will this impact student learning in a positive way?*

Attending the conference as an educator of CTE offered invaluable opportunities for professional growth and program enhancement. It provided access to trending technology, workshops, and sessions focused on the latest soft skill needs, innovation, and best practices in CTE. I was able to network and connect with several like-minded educators, industry professionals, and most importantly, several educator-chefs in the culinary arts sector to share ideas and compare program strengths that benefit students. The CareerTech Expo showcased the newest tools, technologies, and resources tailored to CTE programs, helping educators bring fresh solutions to their classrooms. The inspiring keynote speaker, Heather McGowan, delivered an impactful speech focused on how we, as educators, are inspiring and teaching young minds to solve the problems of tomorrow that do not exist today. The Expo floor was packed with CTE technology and manipulatives to foster creative thinking and real world simulations for students exploring career based opportunities. I attended a few sessions on equity, diversity, and inclusion to ensure all students have access to high-quality education without the assumption that all students will attend a 4 year university. I was deeply impressed with several sessions directed toward the culinary arts initiative and how educators from different parts of the country were engaging students in a variety of culinary program tiers. Some had limited equipment and resources, but many creative ideas were presented to showcase program quality despite financial and material challenges. Basic general sessions included how educators could refine their skills and insights into workforce alignment to prepare students for high-demand careers. Overall, the conference empowered the shift in CTE popularly and highlighted strategies to drive innovation into having these

programs available in middle and high school institutions.

*How will I implement what I learned and how will I share this information with my colleagues?* This experience will greatly aid in future lesson planning in advancing career and technical education in both culinary arts and related career and technical fields. I gained many innovative ideas with new products available in culinary and hospitality and look forward to working with some of the vendors in the future should we be able to purchase additional materials to aid in student interest in these fields. The amazing technology and advances in online curriculum were outstanding. I also was able to connect with several vendors and presenters and their passion within career and technical education and learned creative ways to implement programs with different budget approaches. I gleaned the most valuable information from a culinary vendor who builds out hospitality programs within high schools and career colleges. Spending a valuable amount of time speaking with him gave me a lot to think about in the future of our own high school culinary program at Fernley High School. I am very passionate about the district's direction to implement a high school culinary arts program and hope to be involved in the development and logistics in the current and later future. Many of the workshops I attended were also very adaptable to other career and technical education content and this will help build collaboration experiences with my colleagues and align our instructional approaches and goals for students to the district's Portrait of a Learner. This is also a valuable shift in making students career oriented or life ready.

*Other Comments:* \_\_\_\_\_

Site Principal/Supervisor Approval Steve Henderson

Deputy Superintendent Approval Sauru Huckaby