



CTAE

Career, Technical & Agricultural Education

Learning that for works for Georgia

CTAE STATE
NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 2

Fall 2013



Greetings from David Turner CTAE State Director

What a wonderful time to be a part of the CTAE program! With the incredible support and leadership of State School Superintendent, Dr. John Barge and Chief of Staff / Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Michael Buck, we have the opportunity to do great things for our current and future students.

The implementation of our new Career Clusters and Pathways is underway. This year your school should be using the new first course in each of the offered pathways. The second and third courses for each pathway will be presented for adoption by the State Board of Education in February 2014, and will be implemented during the 2014-2015 school year.

In the next few weeks, you will receive a request to review the proposed standards for the new second and third courses. Please take time to review the standards and submit your comments. Your input regarding the courses is very important to us as we finalize the courses and fully implement the new pathways.

I hope that you are working with your school counselors to ensure that your system is focusing on career awareness in elementary grades, career exploration in the middle school grades, and career development in the high schools.

I encourage each of the local system CTAE Directors to attend the Winter Leadership Conference on February 5-7, 2014. Conference information will be available soon.

Please feel free to contact any of the CTAE staff at the Georgia Department of Education if we can ever assist you. Our team is available to support you.

Thanks to all of you for the great job you do for Georgia's students by providing incredible learning opportunities.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to give me a call or email me at any time, as I welcome your viewpoint.

David

Special Points of Interest:

[NEW Career Clusters Pathways](#)
[Student Success Spotlight Articles](#)

[Career Cluster Updates](#)

- [Architecture and Construction](#)
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STUDENT SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT

North Hall High School Entrepreneurship Class

Congratulations to Hall County's North Hall High School for being the first to submit an entry in the Student Success Spotlight section of the October 2013 CTAE state newsletter.

The students in the entrepreneurship class at North Hall High School run *N Prints Designs and Promotions*, a student-based enterprise that designs and prints large-scale items such as banners, posters, yard signs and wall graphics. *N Prints and Promotions* recently received an order from the Lady Trojan Softball team for 15 custom signs to be displayed at the softball field. The class learned how to work with customers to take an idea from concept to reality. Students took part in several jobs that included designing, assembling, and pricing the custom signs. The softball team was very pleased with the finished product and has referred several more customers to *N Prints and Promotions* for large-format printing needs.

Action-oriented photographs of students engaging in hands-on learning activities, as well as a group photograph are posted below.

Submitted by Ms. Kristi Sims, North Hall High School, Marketing Education/DECA



STUDENT SUCCESS SPOTLIGHT *(continued)*

Crews Middle School Business Student Project...the “Shark Tank Challenge”

During each nine weeks, regardless of grade level, each Business Education student at Crews Middle School is expected to compete in the “shark tank challenge.” The challenge gives students the opportunity to build writing skills and public speaking skills. Several, large fast food chains have partnered with Crews Middle School to promote literacy and to develop problem-solving skills. Each student must use problem-solving skills to define a solution for the scenario given to them by the company. At the end of the semester, students present their idea to the classroom.

The students with the best presentation present their ideas in front of a panel of judges. The judges rank the speeches based on fluency, tone, and overall concepts. Finally, the judges decide upon first, second, and third place winners. Although only three students win the competition, all participating students practice speaking, writing and idea-making. Community members, school administration and members of the press attend the final “shark tank challenge” presentation.

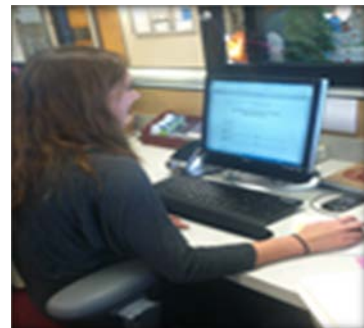


Submitted by Rod Hames, Crews Middle School, Business Education Teacher

KayLynn Samples, Graduate of Lanier Charter Career Academy

Congratulations to KayLynn Samples, a graduate of Lanier Charter Career Academy! While in high school, KayLynn completed two pathways, Marketing Management and Hospitality and Tourism. She served as a GA DECA State Officer for two years; competed on the local, regional, state and international levels all four years at high school; and won 2nd place in the International DECA Competition for her Public Relations Campaign, along with receiving many other high school awards and honors.

A current freshman at Brenau University, KayLynn is pursuing a Public Relations plan of study and is a great example of how a student is able to complete a pathway in a career field of interest, make the connection with a CTSO, and also complete an internship to fulfill career dreams.



Submitted by Jeff Jenkins, Lanier Charter Career Academy, Assistant Principal

GEORGIA'S CAREER CLUSTERS UPDATES

Architecture and Construction

The biggest change for the Construction Cluster is a reduction in the number of courses required to complete a pathway. The new pathway sequence only requires three courses: Industry Fundamentals and Occupational Safety, Introduction to Construction and either Carpentry, Masonry, Electrical or Plumbing. Students who want to advance their skills may still continue training by taking an additional course in any pathway, or complete another course in a different pathway.

In the metals pathway students may take Industry Fundamentals and Occupational Safety, Introduction to Metals and either Welding, Sheet Metal, or Machining.

The main change in Architecture is that the introductory or foundation course is now called Introduction to Drafting and Design. Architectural Drawing I and II follow as the 2nd and 3rd courses.



Architecture and Construction

Arts, AV Technology & Communications



Arts, A/V Technology and Communications

The name change from Broadcast Video Production (BVP) to Audio-Video Technology and Film (AVTF), which mirrors the cluster name at the national level, is the biggest change in this cluster. In addition, this pathway will incorporate more of the media industry than broadcast production.

The Graphics curriculum, like all other CTAE curriculum, has been updated. Efforts have been made to include more of the digital industry, as well as new methods and processes of graphic creation.

The good news in this cluster is that a few new options for End of Pathway Assessment in NOCTI and Adobe exams are available. Check them out at <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/CTAE/Pages/CTAE-Georgia-Assessments.aspx>

GEORGIA'S CAREER CLUSTERS UPDATES (CONTINUED)

Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics

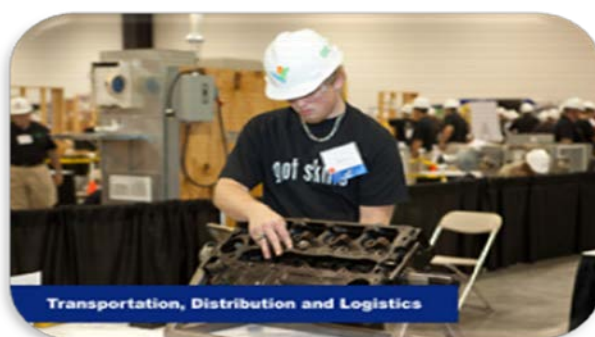
The Automotive Service Technology programs have experienced the most change this past year.

Following guidelines set down by the national organization of Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)/National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF), alignment has been made with the new standards. The first pathway is Maintenance and Light Repair (MLR), followed by Automotive Service Technology (AST) and then Master Automotive Service Technician (MAST). The courses in each pathway are sequential and build on the foundation of the other.

Collision Repair will also experience realignment with new standards set by ASE/NATEF. The Painting and Refinishing and Non Structural Damage Analysis and Repair pathways will remain, with updates to curriculum.

The Aviation courses, Flight Operations and Aviation Maintenance have a new shared foundational course entitled Fundamentals of Aerospace. Flight Operations I & II and Aviation Maintenance I & II will follow.

Distribution and Logistics has moved from the Business cluster to the Transportation cluster with revisions to the curriculum, as well. New programs have been developed in this pathway and more will be added next year!



Note: All CTAE courses have been “under construction – or at least a renovation.” We have been working with business and industry partners around the state to meet their needs to prepare entry-level employees and young people to pursue further education and prepare for a rewarding career. Find more information on the new foundational courses at <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/CTAE/Pages/Career-Cluster-homepage.aspx>. If you have questions relating to the program area formerly known as ACCT, please contact Carol Burke at cburke@doe.k12.ga.us.

CTAE STATE PROGRAM MANAGER UPDATES

DEVELOPMENT & TRANSITION UPDATE

Emily Spann, Program Manager

espann@doe.k12.ga.us

We hope your school year is progressing well and that your CTAE and School Counselor programs are now in full swing!! The members of the Development and Transition unit state staff have provided updated information for you in the articles below. Please take time to review the information for End of Pathway assessments, Industry Certification, Dual Enrollment opportunities, JROTC program updates, STEM certification and STEM without Borders, professional learning, and Career Clusters and Pathways delivered materials.

Update from Mamie Hanson,

mhanson@doe.k12.ga.us

End of Pathway Assessment (EOPA) Update:

As many of you prepare for winter EOPA testing activities, please make a note of the following changes that have occurred with some of the Assessment Information Sheets on the CTAE Web Page. For those systems that will be utilizing the National Health Science Assessment this December, please be aware that the cut-score for this assessment has been changed back to 70% for the FY2014 school year as of mid-September. Last year the cut-score was dropped to 60% for the FY2013 school year. Unfortunately, the decision was made to revert back to the original cut-score of 70% after the school year started here in Georgia. Additionally, many of the links on the Skill Connect Assessment Information Sheets changed after August 1st as well. All updated Assessment Information Sheets for Skill Connect Assessments and the National Health Science Assessment can be found at the following link: <http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/CTAE/Pages/CTAE-Georgia-Assessments.aspx>. Please remember to reference the updated Assessment Information Sheets before placing orders for these assessments. If you have any questions, please contact Mamie Hanson at mhanson@doe.k12.ga.us.

Professional Learning

CTAE provides many professional learning opportunities for administrators, teachers, and school counselors. Take a look at the upcoming professional learning workshops and conferences that are available for registration on the CTAE Resource Network right now! Just login on the CTAE Resource Network website at www.ctaern.org and click on the workshop registration possibilities for your Program area.

Update from Dr. John Pritchett,

jpritchett@doe.k12.ga.us

By now, all school systems should have received their shipment of Career Clusters posters, folders, and dual enrollment parent flyers. If not, please contact John Pritchett at jpritchett@doe.k12.ga.us to inquire.

Many local CTAE Directors have asked about the opportunity to purchase additional copies or sets of the provided college and career materials. For an individual system, these purchases may be cost prohibitive. However, in working with the printing company for this project, the state CTAE division will be able to combine individual school system orders to create a larger single printing order and save local systems money.

The Dual Enrollment parent flyer has been posted to the CTAE web page and is located at ctae.gadoe.org, click on the *School Counselor Information* link, and download the file to make additional copies as needed.

If systems are interested in purchasing additional copies of the Georgia Career Clusters folders and Career Clusters/Pathways cards, the price breakdown is provided on the next page.



For example, if 100 local school systems order 50 additional Career Cluster folders, then the CTAE division will inform these systems to create a purchase order for 50 folders at a cost of \$2.37 apiece for a total of \$118.50 plus \$10 for postage.

If local systems want to order additional sets of the 18 Career Clusters/Pathways posters, please contact John Pritchett at jpritchett@doe.k12.ga.us

	<u>500</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Cost per folder	\$10.95	\$6.07	\$3.76	\$2.98	\$2.37
Total Cost	\$5,475	\$6,070	\$7,520	\$8,940	\$11,850



Update from Dr. Gilda Lyon,
glyon@doe.k12.ga.us

STEM Without Borders Workshop

Eight high schools, sixty five (65) students, and twenty (20) CTAE, math and science teachers converged on the Georgia Tech Research Institute on October 10, 2013, to learn how to develop science and engineering research and service learning projects. Students and teachers were instructed by research teachers from Georgia's STEM-Certified high schools. Subject-matter experts in a variety of areas from Georgia Tech provided feedback and advice in face-to-face interactions about their project proposals during the conference. Student proposals to build wind turbines, research breast cancer, recycle materials, and program a fish-harvesting game were just a few of the ideas generated at the event. Students partnered with peers from a different school to collaborate as they implement their projects this school year. Plans to replicate the conference in other areas of the state are being made.



UPDATE

From Gary Mealer, Program Specialist
gmealer@doe.k12.ga.us

JROTC Update

- All JROTC instructors should complete their teacher profile on the CTAE Resource Network in order to register for workshops, conferences, drive-in meetings, etc. Please contact your CTAE Administrator for CTAE Resource Network website access.
- Please check the Georgia Professional Standards Commission webpage for the new JROTC certification information.
- JROTC instructors now have the option of continuing to use a permit or pursuing a Clear Renewable Technical Specialist certificate.

Dual Enrollment Update

- The new Dual Enrollment Matrix Course Directory will be posted on the Georgia Department of Education website under the Career, Technical and Agricultural Education Division/Transition Career Partnership webpage by November 8, 2013.
- A reminder to school counselors that contact should be made with all dual enrollment students in November to verify whether the dually-enrolled students are still enrolled in the appropriate dual program.

In addition, school counselors should begin spring dual enrollment scheduling advisement.

CTAE STATE PROGRAM MANAGER UPDATES

SCHOOL COUNSELING UPDATE

Dr. Myrel Seigler, Program Manager
mseigler@doe.k12.ga.us

**Georgia School Counselors Association
 Annual Conference, Jekyll Island,
 November 13-15, 2013!!**

Call for Proposals and Conference Announcement:

College Connections for Student Success:
 Focusing on Foster Care, Homeless, and Other
 Disconnected Youth—Evergreen Conference
 Center, Stone Mtn., GA, Feb. 18-19, 2014; hosted
 by the College Access Challenge Grant. To
 submit a proposal for a presentation, send to
CACG-GA@usg.edu no later than November 22,
 2013.

National Career Development Month

National Career Development Month promotes
 career development through its annual celebration
 of National Career Development Month. Every
 November, career development professionals are
 encouraged to celebrate with career-related

activities. In particular, National Career
 Development Association sponsors an annual
 Poetry and Poster Contest. This year, National
 Career Development week is November 11-15,
 2013 and National Career Development Day is
 November 13, 2013.

**48th Annual Poetry & Poster Contest
 "Charting the Course for the Second Century"**
**Click here for the [2013 Entry Form and
 Details](#).** Let's make Georgia a winner this year!

**November, 2013 is Apply to College Month—
 If interested in holding Georgia Apply to
 College event at your school, apply online at:
<http://www.usg.edu/apply-to-college>
 For questions, contact Sarah Wenham, Director
 of Student Access, Board of Regents, at
sarah.wenham@usg.edu**

REMINDER: HOPE requirement changes take
 effect for students graduating on or after May 1,
 2015. Visit the following site for more
 information, click

http://www.gsfc.org/main/publishing/pdf/2012/Rigor_Explanation.pdf

School Counselor Professional Learning Online Modules

These modules are being offered through the University System of Georgia's College Access Challenge Grant. The modules are designed specifically for certified middle grade and high school counselors to improve effectiveness in preparing students for college and careers. Complete registration information may be found online: <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/collegeaccess.html>

Each of the four (4) modules is designed as eight one-week sessions that require an average of five (5) hours per week to complete. Participants who complete a module will earn four (4) PLUs.

Topics covered include:

Module 1: Building a College-Going Culture for All Students; Module 2: College, Career, and Academic Planning; Module 3: Financial Aid and College Applications; and the **NEW Spring 2013** Module 4: College and Career Counseling in the Middle Grades. NOTE: An investment of \$100/module is refundable upon completion of the module. Contact Ava Baker at CCTI@usg.edu.

CTAE STATE PROGRAM MANAGER UPDATES

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION UPDATE

Chip Bridges, Program Manager

jbridges@doe.k12.ga.us

I would like to share one student and one teacher success within the FFA Family. We are fortunate to get to work with some great students and teachers in agricultural education.



Rachel Woodyard is a junior agricultural education student at Veterans High School in Houston County. She is an active FFA member and chapter officer. Rachel participates in several different career development events and attends most of the leadership rallies, conventions, and events. Her primary supervised agricultural experience consists of working with her beef heifer project. She also participates in equine-related SAE. Her agriculture teachers, Dr. Clay Walker and Mr. Mike Parker, have done an excellent job of encouraging student participation in the livestock program. School administration support has made it possible for Rachel to show her heifer project along with other student at the school's facility. Rachel is a successful agriculture

education student and FFA member because of her personal dedication and a strong support structure at Veterans High and Houston County Schools system.



Mr. Vincent Cutts is the agricultural Education instructor and FFA Advisor for Randolph Clay High School in Randolph County. Mr. Cutts is doing a tremendous job in providing student opportunities in agriculture. His greenhouse plants are always of top quality and the students learn by doing in the school greenhouse. Mr. Cutts also provides quality leadership opportunities for his students. He has students that have shown great success in FFA activities such as job interview skills, public speaking, and agbusiness. One impressive part of the Randolph Clay agricultural education program in recent years is

the addition of an active FFA Alumni Program. The adults have been very helpful in providing support for the students in the Agriculture program at Randolph Clay High School. The key to success of any great program is the support of the administration.

As always, we are here to help you in any way. Please contact your Region AgEd Director if you have a question about agricultural education.

North Region – Mr. Stan Mitchell, smitchell@gaaged.org or smitchell@doe.k12.ga.us (706) 338-7230

Central Region – Mr. Chris Corzine ccorzine@gaaged.org or ccorzine@doe.k12.ga.us (864) 844-4412

South Region – Dr. Lynn Barber lbarber@gaaged.org or lbarber@doe.k12.ga.us (912) 584-8442

FFA Office – Mr. Ben Lastly blastly@uga.edu or blastly@doe.k12.ga.us (706) 410-4604

CTAE STATE PROGRAM MANAGER UPDATES

CTAE Pathways Update

The standards-development phase for the second and third course in the CTAE pathways is coming to an end and the review/approval phase has begun. The standards for 103 courses are being reviewed by the steering committee during October and will be presented to the State Board of Education at the November Board meeting for approval to post for public review. The remaining 60 courses will be reviewed in November and will be sent to the State Board for approval to post in December. The public review period for each group lasts for 60 days. Once the course standards have been posted, you will receive information about how to view and make comments during this review period. Please watch for this event and participate because it is important that we get sufficient review and comments in order to move forward in the process. Adoption of these courses in their final state is scheduled for spring of 2014 with the goal of implementation during the 2014-2015.

Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

Most school systems are now involved in the use of Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) for measuring student progress during the school year. One primary reason for this is that this is part of the Teacher Keys Effectiveness System (TKES). TKES uses three components to provide a more accurate picture of a teacher's professional practice and his/her impact on student growth:

1. Teacher Assessment on Performance Standards (TAPS),
2. Surveys of Instructional Practice (student perception surveys),
3. Student Growth and Academic Achievement (SLOs and SGPs).

Student learning objectives – or SLOs – are a key component of the Teacher Keys. All teachers of “non-tested subjects” (which includes all CTAE courses) must develop SLOs to measure their student's yearly progress. Seventy-five percent of Georgia teachers are teachers of non-tested subjects. The multiple measures of TKES provide information that will be used in the calculation of the annual Teacher Effectiveness Measure (TEM). TEM calculations are reported as a rating of Exemplary, Proficient, Needs Development, or Ineffective.

PROGRAM DELIVERY UPDATE

Dwayne Hobbs, Program Manager

dhobbs@doe.k12.ga.us

HB 244 establishes guidance for the implementation of TKES. House Bill 244 was passed and signed into law during the 2013 legislative session. House Bill 244 mandates the use of a single, state-wide evaluation system for all teachers in Georgia and goes into effect in the 2014-2015 school year.

Systems fall into three cohorts:

Cohort 1 – Full implementation. Only the twenty six systems that are designated as the Race to the Top (RT3) systems. These are the only systems that will use the results of student progress on the SLOs as the TEM (Teacher Effectiveness Measure) incorporated into teacher's annual evaluation (TKES).

Cohort 2 – Augmented implementation. These systems have teachers developing SLOs, but the TEM will **NOT** be applied. Student assessment results are informative only, but do not count in the teachers' annual evaluation (TKES).

Cohort 3 – Study Year. These systems have modified implementation in 2013-2014. These systems may be developing SLOs, but the TEM will **NOT** be applied. Student assessment results are informative only but do not count in the teachers' annual evaluation (TKES).

The SLO is an explicit statement that clearly expresses what the student will be able to do after taking a course.

1. SLOs are measurable, long term academic goals.
2. SLOs are developed at the district level and are implemented with a pre- and post-assessment based on course standards. Districts will use historical/baseline data to set appropriate growth targets for all students in the course. Once the post-assessment is administered, district and school leaders will evaluate a teacher's performance using those targets and determine a rating for student growth.

3. SLOs must correlate with the Georgia Performance Standards and should warrant the year-long or course-long focus of students and teachers.
4. SLOs give educators, school systems, and state leaders an additional means by which to understand, value, and recognize success in the classroom.
5. SLOs empower teachers to examine data and student outcomes.
6. SLOs involve input and guidance from teachers, principals, and district leaders.

CTAE/SLOs

The development process of SLOs is designed to be done by a group of teachers in the same subject area and must be done at the local system level. The challenge for CTAE is that in many school systems the CTAE teacher of a particular pathway may be the only one in the system making SLO development by a group impossible. Larger systems have less of this difficulty. Many smaller systems in the same geographic region are partnering to have multiple teachers of the same subject area work together to develop their SLOs. The Program Specialists in the CTAE Division have worked in a collaborative effort with the Division of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness to provide assistance and a solution in the form of assessment item development. These assessment items will provide continuity across the state with SLO development.

Items are only being developed for the new Career Cluster Foundational courses that have already been adopted by the State Board of Education. The items that are available for these courses are available on the GaDOE Sharepoint website. Sharepoint is a secure site and access is restricted and permission granted by districts. Only the curriculum director or designee in each system can access the items that have been developed and share them with teachers.

CTAE/SLOs (continued)

The Program Specialists have been recommending and securing volunteers to participate in the “content weeks” where assessment items have been developed. Perhaps you are reading this and you were one of those volunteers. Recently, a content week was held to develop items for middle school courses. These items will be available on the Sharepoint site as soon as they are validated. Another content week is scheduled for the first week in November to develop additional items for high school courses. When course 2 and 3 for each pathway are adopted by the State Board of Education, writers will be secured for those assessment items. If you are interested in participating in this initiative, please contact your Program Specialist.

If you have questions about TKES or SLOs, ontact:

Michele Purvis, rpurvis@doe.k12.ga.us,
 Program Manager Evaluation System Specialist
 Division of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness
 Office of School Improvement
 404-232-1537.

CTAE Teacher Drive-in Meetings

The four fall teacher drive-in meetings have concluded. Sessions were recorded and will be posted on the web as soon as possible. All teachers not able to attend one of the sessions in person should log into the link provided and view on-line at the following link:

<http://www.useducationtv.com/Default.aspx?sid=10963>

Although this session can be viewed from any computer with internet access, CTAE administrators are encouraged to conduct an after-school event where teachers are expected to participate.

**CTAE Directors and Teachers seeking the
Culinary Certification**

It has come to the attention of Northwest Georgia RESA that there are Family and Consumer Science and/or Culinary Arts Teachers statewide who may be at risk of losing their certification at the end of the 2013-2014 school year unless they obtain the Culinary Arts Endorsement. Because of inquiries received, Northwest Georgia RESA plans to begin a Culinary Arts Endorsement Program Cohort in January 2014.

A minimum of twelve (12) candidates is needed to begin the program; however, if there are fewer candidates, Northwest Georgia RESA will adjust the program costs to help facilitate the program being offered so that a cohort can begin to ensure teachers complete the program and avoid losing certification.

Interested individuals should complete the following steps:

1. Go to the Northwest Georgia RESA Culinary Arts Endorsement link: <http://nwgaresa.com/culinary-arts-endorsement/>
2. Review the overview and criteria.
3. Download and review the Industry Experience Record and Advisement Sheet (PDF files).
4. Complete the application process.

The Culinary Arts Endorsement application deadline is **Wednesday, December 11, 2013**.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact either Karen Faircloth at kfaircloth@nwgaresa.com (706.295.6189, Ext. 37) or Cathy Myers at cmyers@nwgaresa.com (706.295.6189, Ext. 31).

This program consists of three sequential courses outlined in the chart below:

Course	Dates (2014)	Cost
Course I: Industry Experience of Culinary Arts Education	120 Hours must be completed and submitted on Experience Record <i>before</i> enrolling in Courses II and III	\$400.00 (within service area) \$450.00 (outside service area)
Course II: Foundations of Culinary Arts Education	January 11 and 18 February 1, 8, and 22 March 1	\$400.00 (within service area) \$500.00 (outside service area)
Course III: Instructional Design and Delivery of Culinary Arts Education	March 22 and 29 April 12 and 19 May 3 and 10	\$400.00 (within service area) \$500.00 (outside service area)

CTAE STATE PROGRAM MANAGER UPDATES

Accountability & Improvement UPDATE
Brenda Barker, Program Manager
brbarker@doe.k12.ga.us

The FY14 Winter CTAE Leadership Conference will be held at the Classic Center in Athens, February 5-7, 2014. Dr. John Barge, State School Superintendent, Dr. Mike Buck, Chief of Staff / Chief Academic Officer, and Mr. David Turner, State CTAE Director, will kick off the conference Wednesday morning, February 5, 2014.

This year's conference is being designed to meet the needs of CTAE directors based on their input and the hard work of the Winter Conference Planning Committee comprised of CTAE directors throughout the state. In addition to our large group sessions, this year the two and a half day conference will include small group breakout sessions featuring CTAE best practices and "hot topics" affecting CTAE today. In order to provide breakout sessions that will be of interest and need, the CTAE Regional Coordinators sent an email to the all CTAE directors during the week of October 21, which contained a link to a Google Doc Questionnaire. By responding to the topics listed on the questionnaire and by providing additional comments and input, your responses will be used to help us define and redefine the agenda for the conference.

Conference registration will be available on the CTAE Resource by November 1, 2013 through December 1, 2013. Please make plans to attend and register on line as seating and meal preparations will be based only on CTAERN registered participants. Participants who attend all sessions will be able to earn one (1) PLU. We encourage participation by all system/school level CTAE directors, but ask that you limit registration of school level CTAE supervisors of large system to two per system.

Information regarding conference hotels and cutoff deadlines will be sent to CTAE directors via email. Please look for these emails from the CTAE Regional Coordinators, so you can make your lodging reservations once they are available.

UPDATE from Georgina Howard, RN – State School Nurse Specialist

As you enjoy the last autumn days, you need to prepare for the upcoming FLU season. The days are warm and pleasant but the FLU season is coming. Please be aware of the School Based Flu Program (SBFP). Ramping up for the 4th year, this program makes flu vaccines available to students, families and school personnel in schools across Georgia. This partnership is an initiative with the Georgia Department of Public Health. The clinics are held at the schools.

SBFP's priority is to provide influenza immunizations to children whose parents are unable to take their children to receive flu immunizations at a "medical home." The program is available now through March 31, 2014, and is reaching children ages 6 months to 18 years of age, families and school staff.

A school-based flu program significantly reduces seasonal influenza in schools and subsequently increases academic performance by reducing school absenteeism related to seasonal influenza. Last year approximately 67,500 doses were administered through the program. School facilities are ideal to accommodate mass vaccination clinics and can provide families with important messages about FLU prevention.

Help spread the word, not the FLU. Get your school connected and involved. To learn more, contact ghoward@doe.k12.ga.us.

