



48th Annual Mid-Winter Conference

Promoting Well-Being in Special Populations

March 10-11, 2025

The Central Hotel & Conference Center

*In partnership with the
Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators*



PACTESP

PACTESP – IN THE BEGINNING

The Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Education Special Populations (PACTESP), formerly Pennsylvania Association of Vocational Education Special Needs Personnel (PAVESNP), has a long history of serving special populations students. Wayne Grubb, formerly with the Pennsylvania Department of Education, participated in an American Vocational Association (AVA), now Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), workshop in 1976 in Houston, TX where he saw a need for a state organization to share ideas and programs, both statewide and nationally. A meeting of 37 people interested in organizing a state association of vocational education special needs personnel was held at Host Farm, Lancaster, PA on June 20, 1977. PAVESNP received its charter from the National Association of Vocational Education Special Needs Personnel (NAVESNP) on December 4, 1977, during the AVA Convention in Atlantic City. The presentation was made by Roger Sathre, NAVESNP President, and present to receive the charter were Sheila Feichtner, PAVESNP President and Mike Lynes, Treasurer. In December 1977, PAVESNP became affiliated with the Pennsylvania Vocational Association (PVA), now Pennsylvania Association for Career and Technical Education (PA-ACTE). On January 29-30, 1978, the first PAVESNP Mid-Winter Conference was held at the Treadway Inn in Grantville, PA with over 100 participants. This meeting marked the beginning of the PAVESNP Board and members being actively involved in federal and state legislation, leading national trends and encouraging successful and innovative programs. Regional and national involvement was also established during the first year. PACTESP leadership and members continue their impact through their on-going commitment to support and innovation for ALL students.

At the March, 2008 General Membership meeting, the PAVESNP membership voted to change the name of the Association from Pennsylvania Association of Vocational Education Special Needs Personnel (PAVESNP) to Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Education Special Populations (PACTESP).

PACTESP OBJECTIVES

- To serve as a unifying association for all personnel interested in or responsible for exploring and providing support services for career and technical education special populations students.
- To provide information to association members about education, legislative and legal developments or other decisions which affect career and technical education special populations students.
- To act as an advocate within the community for career and technical education special populations students and for the educational personnel who are working with these students.
- To assist professional educators to become more aware of the concerns of career and technical education special populations students and with personnel who are working with these students.
- To develop a network of communication to enhance career and technical special populations program development throughout the state.

PACTESP IS YOUR ORGANIZATION

The Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Education Special Populations is concerned with career and technical programs/services for special populations students.

Goal: To serve the membership and others working with special populations students, especially to:

- Increase membership.
- Share ideas among professionals in providing career and technical programs/services to disabled, disadvantaged and limited-English proficient individuals.
- Maintain a website, publish newsletters, and share materials.
- Promote federal/state legislation to enhance the success of special populations students in career and technical education programs.
- Provide in-service/workshop programs to promote growth among educators.
- Conduct a Mid-Winter Conference.
- Improve the opportunities for special populations students.

PRESIDENT WELCOMES CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Dear Conference Participant:

Welcome to the 48th PACETESP Conference, “Promoting Well-Being in Special Populations! Now more than ever, it is essential to support one another and the students we serve.

I sincerely appreciate your ongoing dedication to our mission at PACETESP. Change can be challenging, but it is also necessary for growth. That’s why we are excited to announce a new partnership with the Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators (PACTA). This collaboration will expand the benefits of your membership, including virtual Lunch & Learns, exclusive website access, additional special population-focused conference sessions, member directories, and a wealth of materials such as trainings, recordings, and legislative updates.

While transitions can be difficult, we believe these enhancements will strengthen our association, community and support system. Be on the lookout for our refreshed website, updated membership options (individual and group), and new opportunities to learn, connect, and collaborate.

Rest assured, our core mission remains unchanged: **to support and encourage our special populations students and those who work with them.** In honor of over 40 years of service and the legacy of Ellie Bicanich, we will continue to recognize and celebrate outstanding students and staff.

We invite you to advocate for special populations by spreading the word about our organization, getting involved (we have board openings!), attending conferences and trainings, and renewing your membership.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community. **Together, we can make a meaningful impact and difference.**

With Gratitude,

Jennifer Seal

Jennifer L. Seal, MS Ed
PACTESP President



PROMOTING WELL-BEING IN SPECIAL POPULATIONS

MONDAY, MARCH 10

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

REGISTRATION

Central Ballroom A Lobby

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

WELCOME AND CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Jennifer Seal – PACTESP President

Central Ballroom A

OPENING SESSION

Beyond the Job Description: Sustaining Ourselves and Supporting Students

Brian McGinley – Speaker and Licensed Social Worker/School Counselor

Our time together will center on the profound value of relationships, particularly the relationship we cultivate with ourselves. We'll explore how this inner connection significantly impacts our ability to effectively work with students. Even before the pandemic, our field has experienced a period of immense change, placing unprecedented demands on educators. We are now tasked with a wide range of responsibilities, extending beyond our core role of teaching to encompass the critical duties of structuring, supporting, and nurturing our students' well-being. Together, we'll delve into strategies for regaining our self-regulation, enabling us to thrive personally and professionally.

Brian McGinley is a PA licensed social worker and school counselor who had worked for 28 years with special education students and special populations with the Chester County IU.

Additionally, he has worked in a variety of mental health care treatment levels and substance abuse counseling as well as teaching on the graduate level.

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Best Practices in Supporting Special Populations in Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Joann Hudak – Educational Consultant, YouScience

James Kraft – Educational Consultant, YouScience

For over 15 years, YouScience (previously NC3T) researchers/writers have documented over 150 promising practices across dozens of career and technology centers and other CTE providers in Pennsylvania. Many of these practices were derived from the Communities of Practice that NC3T convened, or special research projects, with resulting policy papers and findings. This session will delve into the best practices for supporting special populations within CTE programs, ensuring equitable access and success for students who face unique challenges. Participants will explore documented strategies that have been successfully implemented in CTE centers across Pennsylvania.

Email: joann.hudak@youscience.com, jakraftconsulting@gmail.com

Facilitator: Joseph Terch

Location: **Cameron Room**

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Supports for CTE Teachers Roundtable Discussion

Brian McGinley – Licensed Social Worker/School Counselor
Carole Clancy – Director, Bureau of Special Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education
Amy Pastorak – Assistant Director, Bureau of Special Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education
Carol Good – Assistant Director, PaTTAN Pittsburgh

Join this interactive roundtable session to discuss challenges and support strategies in CTE. Topics will include student mental health, support for special populations, real-world skill development, teacher support, and current issues affecting CTE. Bring your questions, share your biggest challenges, and exchange ideas, resources, and best practices for fostering student and staff success. Engage in meaningful conversation and explore new ways to collaborate and support one another effectively.

Emails: themcgins@verizon.net, caclancy@pa.gov, apastorak@pa.gov, cgood@pattanpgh.net
Facilitator: Alexandra McKay
Location: [Harris Room](#)

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

PACTESP AWARDS RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

Michael McDermott – PACTESP Awards Chair

[Central Ballroom B](#)

Life/Work Challenge Award

Outstanding Career and Technical Special Populations Teacher or Teacher/Paraeducator Team

Eleanor “Ellie” Bicanich Lifetime Achievement Award

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Empowering the Next Generation: The Role of High School Pre-Apprenticeship in Career Development

Jill Stoltzfus – Career Readiness Coordinator, Chester County Technical College High School
Erin Kyle – Pre-Apprenticeship Coordinator, Chester County Technical College High School
Andrea Vaughn – Supervisor, Chester County Technical College High School

Learn about the growing role of high school pre-apprenticeship programs in equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and hands-on experience necessary for successful careers in a wide range of industries. Learners will be provided a look at how these programs prepare students for future apprenticeships, offering both classroom learning and work-based training opportunities. By integrating industry certifications, mentorship, and partnerships with local businesses, pre-apprenticeship programs ensure that students not only graduate with real-world skills and a pathway to long-term career success.

Emails: JillS@cciu.org, ErinKy@cciu.org, AndreaV@cciu.org
Facilitator: Joseph Terch
Location: [Cameron Room](#)

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Tools, Tech, and Trust: Building Solid Relationships in the CTE Classroom

Rachel Kutney – Training and Consultation Specialist, Chester County Intermediate Unit

Jennifer Seal – Learning Support Teacher, Chester County Technical High School – Pennock's Bridge

Building strong relationships in the CTE classroom is essential for fostering a culture of respect, collaboration, and student success. This session explores how proactive Restorative Practices can be seamlessly integrated into daily instruction to create a positive learning environment where students feel valued and motivated. Participants will learn practical strategies to strengthen student-teacher and peer relationships through structured circles, affective statements, and community-building activities tailored to the unique needs of CTE programs. By focusing on intentional relationship-building, educators will leave with tools to enhance student engagement, accountability, and professional behaviors that translate into the workplace.

Emails: RachelK@cciu.org, jens@cciu.org

Facilitator: Alexandra McKay

Location: [Harris Room](#)

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Materials Handling and Logistics: A Co-Taught Model of Supporting Students with Disabilities in CTE

Heather Van Aulen – Supervisor of Special Education, Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13

Sara Barnick – Special Education Teacher, Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13

Carl Warden – Program Instructor, Lancaster County Career and Technology Center

Patrice Reed – Special Education Consultant, Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13

The Materials Handling and Logistics (MHL) program is a collaborative initiative between Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13 and Lancaster County CTC. This program is co-taught by a special education teacher and a CTC instructor, with additional support from job trainers. Designed for students who aspire to pursue CTE but may struggle in a traditional CTC setting due to their individual needs, the program provides targeted support. Participants often have a history of academic, attendance, or social-emotional challenges addressed through their IEPs. This presentation will highlight how the program's structured model bridges the gap for students with higher support needs, equipping them with the skills necessary for successful employment outcomes.

Emails: heather_van_auen@iu13.org, sara_barnick@iu13.org, cwarden@lancasterctc.edu, patrice_reed@iu13.org

Facilitator: Alexandra McKay

Location: [Cameron Room](#)

Free Pathways to Implementing Industry Recognized Credentials

Justin Starr – Endowed Professor Advanced Technologies, Community College of Allegheny County

Historically, working with community colleges to offer industry certifications and college credit has been a challenging process. College in high school programs often require partner K12 institutions to meet credit hour requirements, collective bargaining criteria and other logistical hurdles that may not be the best fit for a high school schedule. CCAC has created a streamlined process that allows K12 partners to offer industry certification programs in a variety of flexible formats. A streamlined PLA process allows CCAC to articulate industry certifications for college credit. The result is a series of flexible partnerships that have allowed students to enter the advanced manufacturing workforce while still in high school. Industry sponsors and grant funding enables local educators to take advantage of these resources at no cost.

Email: jstarr@ccac.edu

Facilitator: Michael McDermott

Location: [Harris Room](#)

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3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

GENERAL SESSION

Central Ballroom A

Bureau of Special Education Updates

Carole Clancy – Director, Bureau of Special Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

PACTESP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Jennifer Seal – PACTESP President

Central Ballroom A

5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

DINNER IN O'REILLY'S RESTAURANT

On Your Own with Conference Dinner Ticket

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

7:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION

Central Ballroom A Lobby

7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Central Ballroom A Lobby

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Project

Karen Herr – Coordinator of the OTDA Project, Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13

Terrie Stauffer – Program Director of Student Services, Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13

Join this session to discover how the Pennsylvania Department of Education collaborates with Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13 to provide funding that inspires, motivates, and encourages students to say “yes” to organ donation. Presenters will discuss how implementing this grant allows teachers to purchase some amazing things for their classroom while sharing lifesaving information. Presenters will share specific activities, videos and examples of teachers doing amazing things to explain the facts about donations. Eliminating myths regarding organ donation, guiding teens to the website to register, and having a conversation with their family about their decision are the main focus of this grant education. This interactive session will share some fun ways to incorporate this education in the classroom!

Emails: karen_herr@iu13.org, terrie_stauffer@iu13.org

Facilitator: Toni Shaffer

Location: **Cameron Room**

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From Search to Submission: Navigating the Grant Writing Process

Andrea Vaughn – Adult Education, Workforce Development, and Grant Management Supervisor, Chester County Technical College High School

Join this session to learn about grant funding and successful application submissions. Shaking the money tree isn't as easy as it used to be! The presenter will show you how to find ways to search grants and write a proposal worth an award. Participants will understand where to look for grants, how to analyze the fit for capacity, and write a great proposal.

Email: AndreaV@cciu.org
Facilitator: Michael McDermott
Location: [Harris Room](#)

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A.C.E. a Personal Perspective

Chuck Culbertson – Paraeducator, Huntingdon County Career and Technology Center

This session will provide a personal perspective on Adverse Childhood Experiences (A.C.E.) and how they affect an individual from childhood to adulthood. The presenter will provide insights on how to assist individuals with A.C.E.

Email: CCulbertson@HCCTC.org
Facilitator: Michael McDermott
Location: [Cameron Room](#)

Assisting English Language Learner's in CTE

Amanda Witmer – Teacher of English Language Development, Selinsgrove Area School District
Wendy Chalmers – Resource Specialist, SUN Area Technical Institute

Are you struggling to help English Language Learner's learn the material and perform well on industry assessments and the NOCTI? Do you want to know what it's like to be an English Language Learner and how to better assist your students, setting them up for success in the CTE program setting? In this session, the presenters will explore all of these things, and you will leave with strategies to better support students in your program.

Emails: awitmer@seal-pa.org, wchalmers@sun-tech.org
Facilitator: Alexandra McKay
Location: [Harris Room](#)

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10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Intro to OVR: Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Brett Glavey – Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist, Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) is a state agency that helps people with disabilities in to obtain and maintain employment and independence. This session will provide an overview of the OVR process and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) that can be offered to students with disabilities aged 14-21, including those attending CTE programs, as well as VR services for eligible adults.

Email: bglavey@pa.gov
Facilitator: Toni Shaffer
Location: [Cameron Room](#)

YTech-X Program

Jennifer Arganbright – Special Education Teacher, York County School of Technology/Lincoln IU 12
Morgan Rineholt – Special Education Teacher, York County School of Technology/Lincoln IU 12

This presentation provides an overview of a two-year program/partnership between York County School of Technology and Lincoln Intermediate Unit 12. The program is designed to support students with complex needs by providing opportunities for academic growth in key areas such as Math, Reading, Career Readiness, while also fostering the development of essential work habits. In the first year, students rotate through six technical areas, gaining exposure to a variety of trades. This experience helps them explore potential career paths and determine which area aligns with their interest and goals for competitive employment after graduation. In the second year, students specialize in one technical area, focusing on developing entry-level skills that can be applied in the workforce upon completion of the program. This presentation will highlight the technical areas available to students, the academic components of the program, and the process for entry participation.

Emails: jlarenbright@iu12.org, mmrineholt@iu12.org
Facilitator: Joseph Terch
Location: [Harris Room](#)

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

CLOSING GENERAL SESSION

[Central Ballroom A](#)

Bureau of Career and Technical Education Updates

Judd Pittman – Director, Bureau of Career and Technical Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education

Thank you for attending!

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME

PAST PRESIDENTS

Listed below are the dedicated educators who have served as PACTESP President since 1977.

Founder	Wayne Grubb	Pennsylvania Department of Education
1977-79	Sheila Feichtner (deceased)	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
1979-80	Donald Foellner	Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School
1980-81	Kathleen Binder	University of Pittsburgh
1981-82	Janet Woods	PENNCREST School District
1982-83	Eleanor Bicanich (deceased)	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
1983-84	Donna Wood	Mercyhurst College
1984-85	Jerry Wircenski	Penn State University
1985-86	Ruth Browning (deceased)	Indiana University of Pennsylvania
1986-87	Connie Wolfe	Lehigh Career and Technical Institute
1987-88	Patricia Hannon	Capital Area Intermediate Unit 15
1988-89	Joanne Cashman	Shikellamy School District
1989-90	Marjorie Blaze	Pennsylvania Department of Education
1990-91	Kenneth Deitmen	PaTTAN
1991-92	Dolores Miller (deceased)	Temple University
1992-93	Jeannette Maitin (deceased)	Montgomery County Intermediate Unit 23
1993-94	Larry Baughman	Venango Technology Center
1994-95	Lou Dishong	Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School
1995-96	Anita Beckett	Eastern Center for Arts and Technology
1996-97	John Polto (deceased)	Dauphin County Technical School
1997-98	Marjorie Eckman	Pittsburgh Public Schools
1998-00	Carla Thimons	Lenape Technical School
2000-02	Susan Witmer	Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School
2002-04	Lynore Eisman	School District of Philadelphia
2004-06	Diane Sobolewski	PaTTAN
2006-08	Brenda Kauffman	Lancaster-Lebanon Intermediate Unit 13
2008-10	Barbara Casper	Berks Career and Technology Center
2010-12	Wendy Chalmers	SUN Area Technical Institute
2012-16	Ruth Liebold	Steel Center for Career and Technical Education
2016-18	Michael Katch	Chester County Technical College High School
2018-20	Suzanne Kuban	Forbes Road Career and Technology Center
2020-22	Wendy Chalmers	SUN Area Technical Institute
2022-24	Michael McDermott	Indiana County Technology Center