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**CREA/CRACTC Governing Board Meeting
August 2024
Lyle Krueger, CRACTC Asst Director**

Hello CREA/CRACTC Board Members,

Hope you are all doing well! Below are some larger item updates regarding CRACTC business that I wanted to keep you in the loop on.

- 1. Brick & Mortar Programming (discussion):** As I previously mentioned in June's monthly memo, Bismarck Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Jeff Fastnacht, has started a discussion with some area schools in our central and southeast portions of CRACTC membership, along with CRACTC administration, regarding the development of a brick/mortar CTE Center, similar to what he helped lead to fruition in Mandan with the Heart River CTE Center, while serving as the Assistant Superintendent of Mandan Public Schools. The change would help to bring more collaboration of programming, more cost feasibility for cost-sharing of equipment, staff professional learning, expansion of classes, and member schools within such a center to have a higher rate of reimbursement funding from the State CTE Dept, allowing those other facets to occur. It would also help with possible expansion of programming with satellite sites within rural regions, along with more programming options get developed such as HVAC/Plumbing, Electrical, Heavy Equipment Operations, etc. to be provided within different platforms for schools.

Such discussion has included the development of a whole new center with interested school districts or to move brick and mortar programming that is currently occurring within those schools under the CRACTC center programs. Previously State CTE Director Wayde Sick had stated there is no State CTE policy or ND Century Code that would hinder such a move to occur. However, we had asked Mr. Sick to check with State's Attorney General for their legal guidance to proceed accordingly. In doing so, they responded with having us reach out to our own legal counsel, of which Dr. Fastnacht has offered to do so through BPS's legal counsel; I will provide an update as we receive guidance.

According to Director Sick, at this time, he believes state funding would be provided by the type of programming offered within the guidelines established under the new State CTE Funding model that is being proposed. Meaning, the virtual programming would remain funded as a Tier 2 option under the new proposal, most of the other programming would be Tier III, CTE Center Program serving a single school district (meaning no other schools come to that location for CTE courses/programming), however, aspirations would be to develop Tier IV options, CTE Center/Satellite Program, at various locations throughout the region. According to Director Sick, a Satellite program is one in which at least two or more schools are coming to a common location for regularly scheduled hands-on application of learning on a consistent basis; the definition of what "regularly scheduled" has yet to be determined. This group is looking at innovative ways to provide more hands-on application of learning within such programming. It may not be what school looked like when we went to school or even what is occurring in most schools today, but it is exciting conversations!

Schools who have currently been asked to be involved and/or interested in this discussion include: Bismarck, Ashley, Zeeland, Strasburg, Linton, Wishek, Napoleon, Kidder Co (Steele), Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock, Wing, Wilton, Washburn, Underwood, Turtle Lake-Mercer, McClusky, and Garrison.

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This discussion is definitely still in its infancy, however, CRACTC, BPS, and other interested school admin are working on developing plans regarding what such a move would look like and entail for interested districts to take to the State CTE Department and State CTE Board for discussion and/or approval by September or October 2024 to better ensure appropriate funding is available from the legislature to the State CTE Department within the upcoming biennium and would be provided to sustain and grow program offerings moving forward within the center. Such plans will include such items as, but not limited to, updated By-Laws, Governance for Brick/Mortar programming, Operations, Locations, Programming, Staffing, PD/Training, Equipment/Supplies, and Community/Regional Partnerships.

Discussion questions:

- 1. What are your thoughts and/or interest level in CRACTC being the umbrella CTE center for both virtual and brick & mortar programming?**
- 2. What questions and/or concerns do you have regarding this possible move?**

- 2. Future Virtual Center Discussions (update):** Per conversations with State Director Sick, he has stated that the State CTE Board funding subcommittee consisting of Director Sick, Board Members Josh Johnson, Lyndsi Engstrom, Sonia Meehl, and Mike McHugh are still working on plans/ideas on how to address, coordinate, and fund Virtual CTE programming moving forward in North Dakota. Ideas that have been mentioned is one statewide virtual center developed by State CTE Dept but operated at the local level (like CRACTC currently operates for example), an RFP for current centers to apply to oversee virtual CTE statewide, or, although highly unlikely, current virtual centers be broken apart and virtual handled by brick/mortar regionally (CRACTC would no longer exist and schools would join brick & mortar centers to receive any virtual programming; Example: Nedrose would receive their virtual from Minot's new Workforce Academy).
- 3. CRACTC Registrations 24/25SY (update):** As of August 22, our registration numbers for CRACTC programming in Ag, Aviation, FACS, Graphic Design/Photography, Health Sciences, Marketing, and Technology & Engineering for the 2024/2025 school year were sitting at 1,130 enrollments, our highest ever! To help provide these offerings, with CREA's assistance, I've hired two retired Ag teachers to fill the 0.20FTE Ag positions for Welding/Fabrication and Mechanics Power Systems. As well, we will be subcontracting a health science teacher from the Roughrider Area Career and Technical Center (RACTC; SW Region) to help fill a need within our Health Sciences I course as we currently had close to 30 students on the waitlist for that course. Additionally, I've hired another 0.2FTE teacher for our Graphic Design/Photography program. All other current and previous Health Science I teachers that we have hired and/or worked with in the past are already on overload contracts. Additional overload contracts include teachers in our IT, Graphic Design/Photography, Aviation. Lastly, we are working with the Southeast Region CTE Center to sub-contract our Marketing teacher for 21 students in Oakes. This is a new venture for us as we are trying different things to help determine if such operations are feasible when the RFP for the virtual programming is released.
- 4. CRACTC 23/24 Financial Report (Motion needed):** Please see accompanying financial report

As always, please feel free to reach out to me directly at your convenience if you would like to discuss any of these items! Thank you for your time and service!

Sincerely,
Lyle

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