

**Pathways, Partnerships & Perkins  
Minnesota Career and Technical Education Conference  
November 3, 2009**

**General Session  
8:15 – 10: 15 a.m.  
Grand Ballroom**

**Education for a Sustainable Future and a Greener Economy**  
**Debra Rowe**

This session will explore the emerging green economy. Dr. Rowe will describe the wide variety of jobs that will have green components. She will describe the national trends regarding training for new and existing workers, and discuss the certifications and curricular resources for teachers at both the high school and community college levels in specific green areas and in the large number of program areas where green technology and concepts should be included. The crucial role of effective policies will be covered, and partnership models between businesses, government, non-profits, and educational institutions to build the green economy will be highlighted. Resources for next steps will be shared.

Debra has been professor of energy management, renewable energy technology and psychology for over 29 years at Oakland Community College in Michigan. Oakland Community College offers degrees in Environmental Systems Technologies and certificates in Renewable Energies and Sustainable Living. Dr. Rowe created a model energy services technician degree design for community and technical colleges, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. She also created and teaches energy management and renewable energies in an on-line format with National Science Foundation support as part of the renewable energies certificate offered by the Consortium for Education in Renewable Energy Technology ([www.ceret.us](http://www.ceret.us)), has hosted over one hundred conferences and customized trainings on energy and sustainable design practices, and has helped numerous colleges develop their energy curricula.

Dr. Rowe is the President of the U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development ([www.uspartnership.org](http://www.uspartnership.org)); Co-Coordinator of the Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium ([www.aashe.org/heasc](http://www.aashe.org/heasc)), Founder of the Disciplinary Associations' Network for Sustainability ([www.aashe.org/dans](http://www.aashe.org/dans)) and Senior Advisor to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education ([www.aashe.org](http://www.aashe.org)). She is also a U.S. Designee to the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics for their international sustainability group. She helps higher education associations and institutions integrate sustainability into mission, curricula, research, student life, purchasing and investments, facilities and operations, and community partnerships.

Debra Rowe is often a keynote speaker at national and international education conferences. She is the author or editor of numerous publications on the integration of sustainability into education (see [www.ncseonline.org/EFS/DebraRowe.pdf](http://www.ncseonline.org/EFS/DebraRowe.pdf) and [www.urbanoptions.org/SustainEdHandbook](http://www.urbanoptions.org/SustainEdHandbook) for examples).

**Minnesota's Pilot Project for Technical Skill Assessment**  
**Hans Meeder**

Hans Meeder, consultant to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System and Minnesota Department of Education, will give an overview of the Minnesota Career and Technical Education Assessment Project. This project is designed to help develop assessment approaches that will help fulfill the requirements for technical skill assessment under the Perkins Act.

Hans K. Meeder is President of the Meeder Consulting Group, LLC, a firm offering analysis of education and workforce policy, strategic visioning and implementation planning for a number of state agencies responsible for CTE and national organizations including the Association for Career and Technical Education and the Ford Motor Company Fund. Mr. Meeder has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary the U.S. Department of Education, and also held several staff positions in the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Meeder earned his B.A. from the University of Maryland College Park and holds an MBA from the University of Maryland University College.

## **Breakout Sessions**

### **Career & College Transitions**

**Deanne DeGraff, Jeralyn Jargo and Shelli Sowles**

**10:30 – 11:20 a.m., repeated 11:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m., St. Croix Room**

The Transition to College program at Century College is a collaborative approach with the intent to get students who attend 916 Career & Technical Center programs ready for college. The monthly series presented by both college and secondary professionals transcends many of the topics that could be considered the Preliminary College Basics 101. The program's goal is to educate students on the typical questions about college but also to alleviate fears and doubts about attending college through education on related topics.

Jeralyn Jargo, Academic Dean, Century College, has been part of Career and Technical Education for many years. As Dean of Science Technology, her current responsibilities at the college include the Perkins grant initiatives. This work includes bringing faculty from the college together with the high school teachers for the completion and review of Programs of Study, the articulation of course work, and the discussion around how to prepare students for transitions from high school to work and college.

Deanne DeGraff, Principal of 916 Career & Technical Center and Director of the Northeast Metro Perkins Grants, has been involved with Perkins and Career and Technical education in Minnesota for 11 years through direct supervision of the 20+ programs at the 916 Career and Technical Center and indirect interaction through articulation and programs of study with the CTE programs in the 19 high schools in the Perkins consortium. The college readiness program at 916 in conjunction with Century has grown over the past 10 years to its current status of acknowledgement as an excellent college preparatory program for 916 CTE students. The program fills a void that cannot be accomplished at the home high school.

Shelli Sowles, Career and College Readiness Specialist for 916 Career & Technical Center, coordinates the transition to college program at the 916 Career & Technical Center in conjunction with Century College. Some of her responsibilities include administration of the Accuplacer test, individual transition plan completion with students and coordination of the Transition to College program. Other duties extend to the Northeast Metro Perkins grant goals and include college credit articulation and program of study work with direct responsibility for their web sites.

### **Project Lead the Way and Real World Design Challenge**

**John Rapheal and Jim Mecklenburg**

**10:30 – 11:20 a.m., repeated 11:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m., Vermillion Room**

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) offers a dynamic high school program that provides students with real-world learning and hands-on experience. Students interested in engineering, biomechanics, aeronautics, and other applied math and science arenas will discover PLTW is an exciting portal into these industries. PLTW's curriculum makes math and science relevant for students. By engaging in hands-on, real-world projects, students understand how the skills they are learning in the classroom can be applied in everyday life. This session will focus on PLTW in Minnesota, along with information on the Real World Design Challenge.

John Rapheal is Trade & Industrial/Technology Education Specialist in the Center for Postsecondary Success at the Minnesota Department of Education. His past experiences include CTE teaching, work experience coordination and CTE administration.

Jim Mecklenburg is Project Lead the Way Program Director for the Minnesota Center for Engineering & Manufacturing Excellence (MNCEME). Jim works full-time with schools to implement and sustain quality programs for students using the PLTW middle and high school curriculum. He has 34 years of experience in education as a teacher, special needs facilitator, administrator, and was the state supervisor for career and technical education in the trades and industry areas at the Minnesota Department of Education.

## **Education for a Sustainable Future and a Greener Economy**

**Debra Rowe**

**10:30 – 11:20 a.m., repeated 11:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m., Mississippi Room**

Dr. Rowe will present and participants will discuss models, opportunities, barriers and solutions for effective programs relating to sustainability and green education, both as stand alone programs and as integration into existing curricula. Collaborative efforts will be explored where appropriate, combining local and national resources and expertise. Participants will leave with a sharper and more comprehensive understanding of relevant resources and next steps.

## **Advanced Manufacturing Education Using a Mobile Manufacturing Lab**

**Marlene Mixa**

**10:30 – 11:20 a.m., repeated 11:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m., Calhoun Room**

In February 2009, Pine Technical College was awarded a Department of Labor Community Based Jobs Training (CBJT) Grant to be used for education and training in Advanced Manufacturing. A portion of the grant dollars was used to purchase equipment for a Mobile Manufacturing Lab. Included in the lab are a Mini-CIM (Computer Integrated Manufacturing) unit with a CNC (Computer Numerical Controlled) Mill and a CNC Lathe; an Automated Material Handling learning system; a TIG (Tungsten Inert Gas) Welding unit; and Plastics Injection Molding and Extrusion units. All pieces can be transported together in a large trailer or separately for demonstrations and on-site laboratory exercises at schools, community centers, and manufacturing plants. They will be used to enhance learning experiences for new students and incumbent workers alike by providing hands-on training on real manufacturing equipment.

Marlene Mixa currently serves as the Outreach Coordinator for the Department of Labor Community Based Jobs Training (CBJT) Grant at Pine Technical College. She has 20+ years of industry experience in research and product development and has also spent time as a curriculum development consultant for customized training and post-secondary degree programs in industrial technology fields, including the energy and paper industries. As the CBJT Grant Outreach Coordinator, Marlene works with business and industry, educational institutions, community organizations, and government agency partners to raise awareness about careers in Advanced Manufacturing and to promote Advanced Manufacturing educational opportunities for high school and college students, incumbent employees, and dislocated and underemployed workers. She holds a BA from Carleton College and a PhD from the University of Minnesota, both in chemistry.

## **Going Deeper with Technical Skill Assessment**

**Hans Meeder and Jennifer Grams**

**10:30 – 11:20 a.m. – Accounting & Network Systems, Minnesota Room**

**1:30 – 2:20 p.m. – Health, Law Enforcement & Plant Systems, Minnesota Room**

During these breakout sessions, Hans Meeder will facilitate a highly interactive forum in which participants can learn more about the CTE Assessment Project, discuss their current approaches to technical skill assessments, review a proposed implementation timeline, and provide input about what approaches would be most advantageous to support teaching and learning. The morning breakout will address accounting and network systems, and the afternoon breakout will focus on health, law enforcement and plant systems.

## **Perkins 101: Overview of Perkins IV**

**Marlys Bucher**

**11:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m., repeated 2:35 – 3:25 p.m., Minnesota Room**

A short introduction to the Perkins Act of 2006 (informally called - Carl D Perkins IV) will be presented describing the rules and regulations, policies and practices, and how to survive your first few months working with Perkins.

Marlys Bucher holds a doctorate from the University of Minnesota. She has been with the Minnesota Department of Education since 1984 working as a graduate assistant in postsecondary licensing and upon completing her doctorate she was hired into the K-12 Assessment and Evaluation section to develop academic and performance based assessments. She has been the secondary coordinator for Perkins since 1999 and includes in her job description: state rules, program approval, licensure issues, and federal narrative and data reporting documents, as well as serving as the FACS department contact. She currently serves on the Minnesota Board for SkillsUSA and was recently elected to the Corporate SkillsUSA National Board of Directors.

## **Contextual Success: Geometry in Construction & Algebra 2 in Automotive Systems**

**Scott Burke and Tom Moore**

**10:30 – 11:20 a.m., repeated 11:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m., Minnetonka Room**

In a revolutionary approach, an academic and a CTE teacher teamed up to design a rigorous geometry mathematics course taught through relevant project-based application and CTE curriculum. State standardized test scores (Colorado and Texas) have been raised and are proving to close the achievement gap. Contextualized activities in these classes have significantly raised the enthusiasm of students, teachers, and the community. Attendance rates have increased leading to a thriving enrollment with 50% female participation while discipline incidents are virtually a thing from the past. Join us and learn how you to can generate the same type of success.

Scott Burke is in his 6th year of teaching at Loveland High School in Colorado and serves as the Industrial Technology Department Chair. He teaches courses in automotive, drafting, electronics, and construction. Burke received a Master's degree in Educational Leadership and a Bachelor's degree in Technology Education and Training with an emphasis on construction and building trades. His vocational credentials include construction and building trades, drafting, and vocational director. His interest in "Geometry in Construction" demonstrates his passion for connecting academic curriculum to real world situations. In this particular area, he helps students understand the relevance of vocational CTE programs to core curriculum content.

Tom Moore has 30 years experience teaching mathematics from 7th grade math through Trigonometry/Functions in Missouri and Colorado. He has vocational credentials in Applied Mathematics and Construction. He wrote the geometry curriculum for Geometry in Construction. Currently he works with the Geometry in Construction programs at Loveland High School and Mountain View High School. He is very proud of his student's involvement in building a home for a homeless family. He conducts teacher in-services in Geometry in Construction, cooperative learning, and Implementing Activities into the Math Classroom.

## **Junior Achievement Business Simulation and Partnership Programs**

**Sara Dziuk and Jennifer Bahti**

**10:30 – 11:20 a.m., repeated 11:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m., Nokomis Room**

JA Finance Park is Junior Achievement's newest educational program focused on budgeting, investments, and career exploration. Appropriate for middle and high school students, this relevant curriculum features an innovative simulation that allows students to put their learning to the test in a real world experience. Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest is one of only two markets in the country to offer this new program. Additional JA programs, including an online business competition, will be highlighted.

Sara Dziuk is the Vice President of Capstone Programs with Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest. With a focus on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work-readiness, JA has created innovative and relevant curricula for students K-12. Dziuk is an experienced leader in the non-profit industry and manages JA's premier educational programs. Jennifer Bahti is Manager for Capstone Programs with Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest.

## **International Baccalaureate Career Certification**

**Wendie Palazzo and Paula Palmer**

**10:30 – 11:20 a.m., repeated 11:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m., Pepin Room**

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) has been accused of elitism, despite considerable diversity among participants. Career and Technical Education, on the other hand, has had difficulty shedding the non-college-bound label, despite years of increasing rigor. This forum will explore the new IB Career-related Certificate (IBCC), which combines strengths of both models.

Wendie Palazzo, Director, Career & Technical Education – Minneapolis Public Schools

Paula Palmer, District CORE Program Coordinator (Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO), College in the Schools)

## **GPS Lifeplan – Goals + Planning = Success**

**Karen Hynick**

**1:30 – 2: 20 p.m. – one session only - St. Croix Room**

The session will focus on how to embed GPS and Strategies for College Success. The topic will cover how GPS is used in our freshman seminar course and embedded into other programs which has lead to a 20% higher retention rate.

Karen Hynick has served as Dean of Academic Affairs for Minneapolis Community and Technical College for the past four years. Prior to MCTC, she was a high school history teacher and department chair.

## **Career Development: Creative Ideas for the Classroom**

**Al Hauge, Alyssa Klein and Jayne Greeney**

**1:30 – 2:20 p.m., repeated 2:35 – 3:25 p.m., Vermillion Room**

A look at some of the innovative career development opportunities throughout the state.

Al Hauge, Career Development Specialist at Minnesota Department of Education, has been with the department for the past three years.

Alyssa Klein, Transition Specialist, Pathways to Employment, and Vocational Rehabilitation Services has been instrumental in several outstanding career development projects for students with disabilities.

Jayne Greeney, St. Cloud School District, wears many hats within this district but has been the leader in several collaborative efforts in the career development arena.

**Online College in the High School - Expanding Student Options**  
**Murray Turner and Steve Jatczak**

**1:30 – 2:20 p.m., repeated 2:35 – 3:25 p.m., Mississippi Room**

Learn how Online College in the High School (OCHS) is partnering with high schools to expand access to college level, online Career and Technical Education courses in health, business, computer technology, and human services. Hear what students are saying about their experience with Online College in the High School. This session is designed for secondary administrators, counselors, and teachers.

Steve Jatczak is an Online College in the High School Leadership Team Member. His professional resume includes military, manufacturing and education technology experience. He retired in June, 2008 as Director of Northwest LINKS, a regional telecommunications consortium of K-12 schools and public libraries in northwest Minnesota.

Murray Turner is an Online College in the High School Leadership Team Member. Murray has been Executive Director of the Pine to Prairie Cooperative Center since 1988. The Cooperative services 29 school districts in Northwest MN through Career and Technical Education programs, K – 12 grants, and other services that benefit the member schools. One of the services needed in Northwest Minnesota was the opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to take advantage of college courses while still in high school. Because of the small school sizes, member schools could not offer higher level courses with adequate class sizes and thus was born Online College in the High School in 2003. The Online College in the High School program has now grown to be a statewide initiative involving 5 post secondary institutions and any high school in the state that would like to participate.

**Best Practices in Non-Traditional Recruitment and Retention**  
**Eva Scates-Winston, Brenda Lyseng, and Local Practitioners**

**1:30 – 2:20 p.m., repeated 2:35 – 3:25 p.m. with difference local examples, Calhoun Room**

This session will provide an update of current statewide projects, resources available, and national and local practices on gender equity and multicultural issues. Each breakout session will feature local best practices, including: STEM Equity Pipeline Project; New Look Project; Great Lakes Girls Collaborative; Perkins Leadership Grant projects; Camps-to-Careers; EXCITE Camp and Teens Succeeding with Technology (TeST); and the Century College Young Women's Conference.

Rita Borchert is Regional Manager for Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, including Camps-to-Careers and the Perkins collaborative project.

Bridget Gilormini of PACER Simon Technology Center will speak about EXCITE Camp and Teens Succeeding with Technology (TeST).

Karen Knapton of Century College will discuss the Young Women's Conference - encouraging girls to explore and pursue nontraditional careers.

Eva Scates-Winston and Brenda Lyseng both represent the Office of the Chancellor at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and will provide opening content and context for this session. Eva is Equity & Collaboration Specialist; and Brenda serves as STEM Specialist.

**POS 101: Overview and Recommendations from Practitioners**  
**Mary Messimer, Sandy Fabian and Kathi Rusch**

**2:35 – 3:25 p.m. – one session only – St. Croix Room**

Programs of Study - yikes, what's this! This interactive session will discuss three facets of Programs of Study: 1) What are they? 2) How do we develop them efficiently and collaboratively, and 3) How do we promote "buy-in" at all levels? Time will be allowed for Q and A and suggestions for assistance. Come and join the conversation!

Kathi Rusch is the Director of the South Central Perkins Consortium. Kathi is part of the Minnesota State Programs of Study Leadership Team involved in the development and implementation of Programs of Study within a regional consortium and also at the state level. Kathi has attended multiple national sessions on Programs of Study over the last seven years and has hosted several speakers on the topic at the South Central annual regional conference.

Sandy Fabian is the Director of Academic and Innovative Partnerships at St. Cloud Technical College. Sandy is the Project Director for MNPOS.com and works closely with the Program of Study Task Force and Office of the Chancellor to shepherd the design and implementation of Programs of Study.

**Moose Lake/Cloquet Health Occupations Program & Health Careers Promotion Grants**  
**Mike Mitchell, Lawrence Colaizy, and Lynette Maas**

**1:30 – 2:20 p.m., repeated 2:35 – 3:25 p.m., Minnetonka Room**

This session will demonstrate innovative approaches for establishing health science technology programs in rural areas of the state. Details will include funding, licensure, location and post secondary connections.

Mike Mitchell, Minnesota Department of Education and Lawrence Colaizy, Minnesota Department of Health, work with the Minnesota Health Careers Promotion Grant program.

Lynette Maas is coordinator of the Moose Lake/Cloquet Health Careers Exploration Program.

**Secondary/Post Secondary Business/Industry Advisory Boards**  
**Judy Richer and Sue Boehland**

**1:30 – 2:20 p.m., repeated 2:35 – 3:25 p.m., Nokomis Room**

Central Lakes Consortium started a pilot joint secondary, postsecondary, and business partner Advisory Board Committee during the 2008-2009 academic year. The session will provide information regarding the essential elements of the advisory board meeting, the criteria for selecting members and the types of discussions that should take place. In addition, the session will talk about the successes and failures of the project.

Sue Boehland, Perkins Coordinator for Freshwater and Paul Bunyan Schools, has worked with CTE programs, Tech Prep and work place initiatives for the past 15 years.

Judy Richer, Perkins Coordinator for Central Lakes College, has worked as the Perkins Coordinator for the past 15 years, during this time she has served on State Perkins Committees, CTE program development and partnered with the K12 system in joint programming.

**FastTRAC Programs at North Hennepin Community College**  
**Jaime Simonsen and Gretchen Switalski**

**1:30 – 2:20 p.m., repeated 2:35 – 3:25 p.m., Pepin Room**

In this session you will learn about North Hennepin Community College's efforts over the past year as a part of the MN FastTRAC initiative to better serve adult learners. Learn more about the statewide initiative and the creative ways that NHCC has partnered with local Adult Basic Education (ABE), Perkins and the local Workforce Center to better serve the ever growing population of adult students and dislocated workers.

Jaime Simonsen is the Dean of Adult Education & Training at North Hennepin Community College. She holds a MS in College Student Personnel from Miami University (Ohio). In her time at North Hennepin, she has assisted with the development of the Veterans Center and reinstated the Credit for Prior Learning program. She also served on the system task force for the development of a system-wide policy and procedure. Jaime has served on the Hennepin/Carver Workforce Investment Board and the Wright County Economic Development Partnership for the past three years and been active in the MN FastTRAC initiative. The Adult Education & Training division is responsible for providing services and instruction to adult learners through flexible, credit delivery programs (Every-Other Weekend College and an associate degree in Individualized Studies), credit for prior learning, short-term training certificates and programs and customized training for business.

Gretchen Switalski serves as the Director of Student and Workforce Support at North Hennepin Community College. Gretchen works closely with NHCC adult learners, College Prep students, and WorkForce Center employment counselors. She was active in the development of the NHCC Job Support Network and College Prep Career Step program (MN FastTRAC initiative). She has an MA in Leadership in Student Affairs from the University of St. Thomas.

## **Pathways, Partnerships & Perkins Conference Planning Team**

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