



e-News Blast  
UPDATE



*save  
the date!*

**WA-ACTE Summer Conference**  
**August 8-11, 2021**  
**Spokane**



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[ACTE Announces Washington Student Services Coordinator as 2021 National Award Winner](#)



On December 3, the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announced **Nora Zollweg, Student Services Coordinator at Bremerton School District/West Sound Technical Skills Center in Bremerton, Washington as the 2021 National ACTE Counseling and Career Development Professional Award winner.** This award recognizes school counselors and career development professionals who have demonstrated commitment to connecting students with opportunities for success, shown innovation in career exploration and development, and have advocated for CTE as a viable option for all students.

Nora Zollweg is a Student Services Coordinator at West Sound Technical Skills Center in Bremerton, WA. Zollweg earned a bachelor's degree in Human Services from Western Washington University, Master's Degrees in Organizational Leadership and Human Resources from Brandman University, plus a master's degree in Educational Leadership with a Principal's endorsement from Western Governors University. She also completed her CTE Director's training through OSPI and holds a CTE Directors credential. Zollweg served as the President of the Washington Association for Career Counseling & Employment Readiness (WA-CCER- Career Guidance) and served on the WA-ACTE Executive Board.

Zollweg was one of five finalists for the 2021 national title. The national winner was announced at the [ACTE Virtual Awards Gala](#), the first virtual award presentation recognizing the best CTE educators in the country. The event took place on Thursday, December 3, during ACTE's Virtual CareerTech VISION 2020. The Awards Gala was sponsored by Express Employment Professionals, CareerSafe, Goodheart-Willcox, eDynamic Learning and Stratasys. For more information about the ACTE Excellence Awards, [visit our webpage](#).

# FUTURE EVENTS

## [Upcoming Conferences](#)

WA-ACTE, Sections, Region V, and National ACTE Conferences

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## In the News

### [Wash. district rolls out pre-apprenticeship training](#)

Students in a Washington state district will be able to receive hands-on career training with new investments in pre-apprenticeship career and technical education programs. The career training program in Federal Way Public Schools is expected to enroll as many as 75 students in its initial year, and offer career pathway programs in construction, carpentry, electrical, painting and masonry fields.

### [Seattle Promise program grows during pandemic](#)

A program that provides tuition-free community college to public high-school graduates in Seattle has seen enrollment increase at a time when community-college enrollment nationwide is declining. The Seattle Promise program includes about one-third of the 2020 graduating class.

### [Agriculture offers hands-on science at Wash. school](#)

A school in South Whidbey School District in Washington is bringing hands-on science to socially distancing students through outdoor lessons on the school farm. Created six years ago on an unused sports space, the farm supplies food for school lunches and offers lessons that resonate with students, including those with family members who work in agriculture and those struggling in other subjects, says sustainability coordinator Derek Hunsaker.

### [Skilled trades focus of careers program](#)

A Washington state community college is helping to prepare high-school students for careers in the skilled trades through the Running Start for Careers program. About 70 students are pursuing 21 degree or certificate programs, including in paralegal, hydraulics, welding and fire science fields.

### [Schools, businesses seek to build skilled workforce](#)

K-12 and college leaders joined with employers in a Washington state community to discuss strategies to support a pipeline of skilled workers in the area. Christine Johnson, chancellor of Community Colleges of Spokane, said the school has ramped up online instruction during the pandemic and is changing the way it partners with the private sector.

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## [Washington ACTE Membership Webpage](#)

Renew your membership for WA-ACTE, Sections, and/or National ACTE.

Advocate for your CTE interests and achieve your career goals by ensuring your membership is current.

[Join or Renew Membership Dues with a Check or Purchase Order](#)

[Join or Renew Membership Dues Online with a Credit Card](#)

# TEACHERS AND STUDENTS



## Now Open: The State of Innovation Challenge

We are pleased to announce that the State of Innovation Challenge has officially opened and is accepting submissions now through March 4. Please help us spread the word about the Challenge by sharing the info with your networks. Sample emails, social media posts, and blurbs are provided at the end of the email to make sharing a little easier.

## Explore the Cases

You can now explore the Challenge on the expanded [website](#), where you will find detailed information on the three Challenge cases:

- [“The Food Chain.”](#)
- [“Responding to COVID-19.”](#)
- [“Our Communities after COVID-19](#)

Each case includes an instructional guide and an introductory video created by the teen apprentices at [Reel Grrls Pro](#) -- not to be missed!

## New Website Resources

On the expanded website you'll also find [guidance for submitting project solutions](#), a schedule of upcoming [industry engagement opportunities](#) for youth, information on [postsecondary pathways](#), and [resources for teachers and adult advisors](#).

## Next Steps: Submit Solutions and Share with your networks – sample emails, social media, etc. included below

Youth can now submit their solutions for their chosen Challenge case through the [website portal](#). Educators and adult advisors also have the option to upload lesson and activity plans to the [lesson bank](#), to share with peers across the state. The most innovative ideas from both adults and youth will be recognized at our end of Challenge event in March.

Please share the Challenge with your networks and encourage them to [sign up on the website](#) to participate with their class, club, or youth-serving program. We've included a sample email, blurb, and social media post below that you can share with your networks. The Challenge is open to middle school, high school, and out of school youth statewide.

Washington has always been a state of dreamers, doers, and innovators. Thank you for helping us empower the next generation of problem solvers. We can't wait to hear their ideas.

WASHINGTON STATE  
**OPPORTUNITY**  
SCHOLARSHIP

CAREER & TECHNICAL

RURAL  
JOBS

WASHINGTON STATE  
**OPPORTUNITY**  
SCHOLARSHIP  
A CAREER & TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE

The **Career and Technical Scholarship (CTS)** offers \$1,500 per quarter for Scholars pursuing a certificate, apprenticeship or associate degree in a high-demand trade, STEM or health care field.

The **Rural Jobs Initiative (RJI)** provides an additional \$2,000 in the first quarter, \$1,000 in the second quarter and \$500 per quarter for the remainder of the program for eligible rural CTS applicants.

### **CTS Spring 2021 application period**

January 6, 2021 to February 11, 2021

### **CTS Fall 2021 application period**

April 14, 2021 to June 4, 2021

[Learn more about CTS and RJI here!](#)