

**EVALUATION SUMMARY**  
**WA-ACTE FALL CONFERENCE**  
**“CTE and STEM: Moving from Innovation to Integration and Implementation”**  
**October 31 - November 1, 2013 – Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound WA**

**Objectives:** This is a hands-on conference for school teams to attend! We will be sharing some of today’s best practices in bringing the philosophy and systems needed to embrace Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) for all students. Attendees will be provided the opportunity, time, and information on key components needed to develop a plan in delivering CTE and STEM for all students in their schools.

5=Excellent      4=Very Good      3=Good      2=Fair      1=Poor

1. The extent to which the written objectives have been met:	3.99
2. Participant perception of relevance and quality of the conference:	4.09
3. The extent to which the following activities have been met:	
a. Opportunities for participants to collect and analyze evidence related to student learning.	3.63
b. Professional certificate standards.	3.15
c. School and district improvement efforts.	3.66
d. K-12 frameworks and curriculum alignment.	3.29
e. Research-based instructional strategies and assessment practices.	3.50
f. Content of current or anticipated assignment.	3.74
g. Advocacy for students and leadership, supervision, mentoring/coaching.	3.61
h. Building a collaborative learning community.	4.06
4. The quality of the physical facilities:	4.62
5. The quality of the opening keynote speaker:	4.06
6. The quality of the lunch speaker:	3.29
7. The quality of the oral presentations:	3.99
8. The quality of the written program materials:	3.94
9. Comments or suggestions for improving the conference:	

## Content Comments

- Great opportunities to learn. Now I just need to know where to start.
- A lot of information for classes that small schools could never have. Bio Medical, Vertical Wind tunnel, etc., require skilled instructors.
- Good conference. Would be helpful if all presenters had presentation materials available at WA-ACTE website or, at least, a link to resources.
- Need more breakout sessions. Towards Friday the offerings get pretty scarce.
- Great conference
- I thought when I looked at the schedule there would not be anything for me. I was so wrong. I loved every session I attended. My favorite, Scott LeDuc, very good and relevant.
- Good relevant sessions, good conference. No changes or suggestions.
- By far one of the BEST conferences I have been to in years. Next time gave evaluations for each session.
- This was fun. Excellent job people!
- Thank you for all your hard work!!!!
- My expectations were exceeded! Excellent conference.
- Thank you!
- I would have liked a folder cover for all the goodies I picked up!
- More diverse sessions and make sure all sessions are really what they say on the schedule.
- More session options on day 2, especially the last slot so we all have options on where to go.
- Would like to see more hands-on like the robotics section.
- Please have a General Session on day 2 to bring it all together in the A.M.
- Continue the good presentations.
- Good work.
- Really great conference.
- Great conference, a lot of positive energy, good use of space. All and all very good. It is great to see people being excited about CTE and what it means to our future as a nation.
- Presentations were great. Really enjoyed the variety. Not overloaded with vendors, thank you. Food choices included something healthy at every meal, excellent.
- Have the sessions be more hands-on instead of lectures.
- I really enjoyed and am inspired by the robotics sessions.
- Need better restaurants for dinner in area. Food served at conference was tasty. Liked soft drinks and morning snacks. More chocolate needed.
- The selections were varied and applicable.
- Need QR codes so we can carry our schedules with us on our phones.
- Great Job
- More. Enjoyed what I saw on Friday. Main speakers not really appropriate. Not enough to walk away with.
- This is probably the best conference I have attended in terms of relevance. A nice balance of classroom practitioners, resource, curriculum materials/vendors and partners.
- Have more seminars that cater to Washington specific issues, Common Core, Frameworks, etc.
- Excellent line-up of presentations and appreciated flexibility of offering multiple sessions. Every session but one had multiple options that fit my interest and needs. One of the strongest conferences I have been to.
- I came with little knowledge of STEM. Would have liked for opening speaker to tell us about the focus and purpose of the conference, and overview. Most presentations were amazing but would have liked things to take back that I can use. I am not a member, so do not have access to materials.
- Very nice selection of strands that offered a great deal of information, relevant information.
- This is my first WA-ACTE conference. Overall, I am very pleased with the presenters and content as well as the perceived state of CTE. Thank you for a well-organized and informative venue.
- More on Digi-tools content. Please have it here again Spring and Summer at GWL. Bring back Forensics lady.
- Very timely and relevant presentations, exciting times. I hope our speakers are being invited to present at places like AWSP and WSSDAWASA!
- Good sessions relevant to topics where needed additional information and updated trainings.
- I'd love to see more general sessions. It felt like some of the time blocks only had content specific kinds of presentation so if you're not in those content areas, there's less options. As a presenter, I appreciated the longer transition times (15 minutes as opposed to 5 minutes at some conferences) and that there was already an AV cart to plug into. Appreciated healthy food options available.
- I was able to learn about PLTW Bio Medical Program and that was my reason for being here. The other sessions were of little use, but I enjoyed the opportunity to talk to colleagues.
- There should be a session with a title just NETWORKING. Have a facilitator allowing participants to network with various people in the session. For lack of a better term, "Speed Dating format for NETWORKING."

- More teacher presentations with OSPI feedback concurrently especially re: Frameworks; STEM; Common Core; Standards.
- As always, WA-ACTE exceeds my expectations! My brain could “pop” with all the quality information. I brought a team from school to focus on PLTW and they were impressed with all the sessions. Proud to be CTE.
- Very nice job again!
- The conference is better this year than last year. I liked the different projects other teachers are doing and having business/manufacturing present.
- Either more sessions or longer sessions. I had sessions where I needed to repeat or attend a session as of closely related to my work.
- Let’s move to the new technology of either having an APP or QR Reader with schedule and bios of speakers. I didn’t bring a leather portfolio or computer but did bring a tablet. So much easier than carrying a load of stuff. Handouts are fine, even better if PDF and online.
- There could be additional sessions for internet. For really popular sessions; Forensics, SnoCamp, CTE Common Core, have an extended session for deeper understanding with questions.
- Very good variety of presenters. Especially liked sessions that had industry/community presenters. Would like to see sessions included for new CTE instructors. Also, would like to see some with Ag/Horticulture emphasis.
- Nice to have all info on the CTE website. Stayed at hotel. Bar/cafe closed, had to go to buffet, overpriced and not very good. Husband had a soup that even he said was way too spicy hot, and he loves hot, should have had a warning note.
- Involve all leadership...DECA, FCCLA, FBLA, FFA, SKILLS.
- Really do need CCSS, speaker was unprepared and unprofessional.
- Scott LeDuc was awesome and many presentations were really strong. Need agenda earlier.
- More on data-driven information on how CTE and STEM keeps kids in school – instead of being the budget and class that cut first.
- We have huge issues facing us in CTE with Common Core and evaluations, common assessments and many of these sessions were good but not applicable to our issues. The common core was not anything we didn’t already know. Perhaps follow TED talks format: shorter presentations, bigger groups, one hall for everything. Wenatchee Learns was the best!

### Workshop Comments

- Some presentations needed more time, perhaps fewer presentations with a bit more time allotted to others.
- Friday from 11-12 pm, block was very sparse, resulting in very crowded sessions. Recruit more presenters or try to get earlier presenters with only one session to offer a repeat.
- Forensics - Keep this speaker. Taming the Internet, Keep this speaker.
- Very good presenters and topics.
- CTE + Stem = Common Core is the only workshop that did not meet expectations.
- Joy Giovanini: CSI Forensics, do a pre-conference session. Scott LeDuc: Taming the Internet, please do a pre-conference session. Good job!!
- A big plus is using the round tables, promotes good focused discussions at each session.
- Taming the Internet was outstanding because it helps save time in my job with useful resources. Underwater Robotics was outstanding. SnoCAMP, great stuff / Wenatchee Learns, great job.
- More of Scott LeDuc, follow up with Wenatchee Learns project
- 4 of presenters on Thursday were selling products. It was not nearly the quality of the conference at Great Wolf Lodge 4 years ago.
- Have Scott LeDuc do a 2-3 hour presentation at a future conference. Have Joy Giovanini do a longer session at a future conference.
- Really liked Scott LeDuc.
- Bring Snohomish SnoCAMP presentation to WITEA in spring.
- Some workshops were far higher quality than others, independent evaluations might be good. I would love to attend a longer session of LeDuc’s Taming the Internet.
- Some were great, some not. CTE + STEM = Core by Rod Boyes was very poor. STEM Integrated Robotics by Levi Wilson & Tom Diehl was fantastic.
- Have enough handouts for attendees.
- More handouts.
- Taming The Internet – 4; SnoCAMP – 5; CTE Stem Common Core – 1; Wenatchee leaves – 4; STEM Robotics 101 – 5.
- Not all sessions have data to support best practices although obviously best for students. Need to demonstrate data and collection methods to demonstrate student growth.
- Some speakers were late. There were tech problems for more than one speaker. Have the systems set up before the speakers need them.

- I appreciated the sessions that had new and innovative ideas.
- Hope we did not pay for Dr. Rod Boyes, extremely negative.
- CSI Forensics was fantastic.
- Great CSI Forensics presentation. It would be great to have Lance from OSPI do a seminar!
- Best sessions: ROV (Peninsula SD) and CSI forensics. Lab Coats was better once they discussed the partnership with the hospitals and how those partnerships were formed. But most districts already use Career Bridge, it is not new to us.
- Education Isn't a Game – 5; basically the best.  
Pathways to Prosperity – 4; very good.  
Scott LeDuc – 4; relevant, informational.  
CSI - EXCELLENT +++++
- Scott LeDuc provided loads of interesting materials. Jay Giovanni from Peninsula SD was very good and enthusiastic.
- Presenters from area teachers way better and more relevant than presenters by company based presenters. CTE + STEM = Common Core, worst presentations ever. Did not address topic at all.
- The CCSS seminar was full to popping. I came expecting one Mucho sessions on what I'm focusing on this year, CCSS and TPEP. Where are the leaders in this area? Forensics was my last presentation, much better quality.
- Aerospace Meets Shop Class, not at all good. Only talked about how great he is and his program.
- Session on Increasing Female Enrollment canceled last second with no replacement, very disappointing. Session on CTE + Common Core was useless, no information was shared that we could use.
- Partners in Careers Youth First presentation is only accessible in Vancouver. Not relevant to others.
- Really felt that I didn't get a whole lot out of the session "STEM via the Cloud" and Randy Steele: "STEM Robotics 101" was excellent and the only two that was really worthwhile. Conference facility and setup was very good.
- Scott LeDuc: Awesome, please return. Wenatchee Learns: Great!! Education Isn't a Game...But Maybe it Should Be; Glad I went to learn the student's point of view!
- Doug from Wenatchee was the best presenter this year. One thing, so many presenters on Thursday that the rooms were too small and I couldn't fit into two sessions.
- I was very confused with the CTE + STEM = Common Core presentation. Dr. Boyes seems knowledgeable, but still not sure how it fit in with the conference. Enjoyed all the other sessions attended and took a lot with me to take back to my school and students. James Flatmo, Lee Grams, Joy Giovanini did an amazing job presenting.
- Few of the presentations were relevant to helping teaching skills or required connection between CTE and STEM
- Best: Forensics, great, wonderful!
- Awesome - Scott LeDuc: Wenatchee Learns: TechGeometry

### Facilities Comments

- Wonderful place for such a conference!
- Location is poor for eating options.
- Fun location, do it again. Made easy to bring family along.
- Great Wolf is not my favorite, but I understand why WA-ACTE uses the facility (my staff brings family) the reservations system is challenging.
- Great facility.
- It is so nice to come to a family friendly location. So many times we are forced to choose between family and work. It feels so good to be able to do both. Thank you.
- Great place, staff.
- Too cold, turn up the heat.
- The rooms were too cold.
- Great facilities.
- Great place to have a conference.
- Our room on the 2nd night was not completely cleaned. Found a grape on the floor, no soap, shampoo, etc. in the room.
- The food and creature comforts are unbelievable. Thanks.
- Keep coming to Great Wolf Lodge. Great Food and hospitality.
- Great conference center. Heads above Yakima and Spokane.
- Rooms too cold, hard to listen when freezing. Not usually negative or complainer, just thought you should know.
- Check in staff helpful and pleasant.
- Why do we keep coming to GWL? It is not a good facility, rooms 1/2 mile away from conference center, always cold, noisy children in dripping swimsuits, mediocre food, and no local restaurants. I will not come to another conference here.