

# VACTEA

## Virginia Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators

November 2015

### **From the President . . .**

The 2015 VACTEA Annual Conference was held at the Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel & Suites Conference Center October 14–16. The pre-conference training for new administrators, held October 13 and 14, was attended by more than 50 new administrators. A special thank you goes to Phyllis Gandy and Teresa Simpson for facilitating this training.

The conference was opened with the presentation of colors by the Greensville County High School Army JROTC color guard, accompanied by First Sgt. Clarence Bowdry. Anya Simmons of Heritage High School, Newport News City Public Schools, sang the national anthem.

Mr. Jim Kelly, Chairman of the Williamsburg/James City County School Board provided welcoming remarks at the opening session. Mr. Kelly is a licensed professional engineer with over 27 years of progressive engineering and management leadership experience. He is currently the manager of Crane Engineering and Quality at Newport News Shipbuilding. For you history buffs, he was the engineer responsible for the design and construction of the rigging gear used to salvage the turret and the steam engine of the USS Monitor off the coast of Cape Hatteras in 2002. Mr. Kelly has served on the Williamsburg/James City County School Board since 2010.

Dr. Ben Kiser, Executive Director of the Virginia Association of School Superintendents and past president of VACTEA (formerly called Virginia Association of Vocational Administrators), provided the keynote address, “CTE: K-12’s Strategy for Workforce Readiness.” Ben started his career as an Industrial Arts teacher and has served public education for more than 40 years. He has held a variety of leadership roles including high school

principal, division assistant superintendent, and division superintendent of Gloucester County Public Schools. Closer to our hearts, he was the Regional Assistant Vocational Director for Clarke, Frederick, Winchester, and the Dowell J. Howard Vocational Center. He was the Director of Vocational Education in Fauquier County for 6 years. CTE has always been a priority focus for Ben.



Attendees received policy updates from Dr. Brenda Long, Jesse White, Teresa Simpson and David Bailey.

The Virginia Department of Education staff provided greetings and updates, as well.

We took time to honor the VACTEA retirees: Lee Browning from Spotsylvania; Tony Casipit from Fairfax County; Anne-Marie Glynn from Fairfax; Jesse White from Hampton City; and Anne Rowe from the Virginia Department of Education. Thank you all for your many years of service to CTE.



Kim Green, Executive Director of the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium led a discussion of the trends, politics, and views impacting CTE.

Many presentations given during the conference are available on the [Conference](#) page of the VACTEA website.

At the annual VACTEA business meeting on Friday, October 16, the By-Laws and Constitution were modified by a majority vote. In addition, the

following members were selected for VACTEA leadership positions, beginning July 1, 2016.

President-elect: **Sherri Chapman** (Alexandria City Public Schools)

Vice President: **Dinah Robinson** (Stafford County Public Schools)

Secretary: **Cathy Seal** (Clarke County Public Schools)

Please save the date for the Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education (Virginia ACTE) **Professional Development Leadership Seminar for Virginia Educators** which will be at the Hilton Garden Inn, Richmond Downtown, January 21–22, 2016.

Your professional organizations provide you with the information and training you need and the collegial support and network vital to creating and promoting CTE opportunities for your students.



**Take time, make time, to get involved!**

Lastly, if you are pursuing graduate or postgraduate studies and plan to continue in CTE Administration, please consider applying for the **VACTEA - Neils W. Brooks Scholarship** (up to \$1,000). Members of VACTEA are eligible to apply for this scholarship. For more information, please refer to the [Scholarships](#) page of the VACTEA website.

Mary Beth Dobbins,  
VACTEA President, 2015-2016