



CTSO ALASKA

Performance Based Assessment Conference

LIGHT UP YOUR FUTURE

~ BPA ~ DECA ~ FCCLA ~ HOSA ~ SkillsUSA ~ EdRising ~ FFA ~

Black Spruce Design

April/May 2017

In the Home Stretch!

Here I am wrapping up everything from Spring Conference for my final reports and you are racing to the end of another school year and final grades. It's always such a melancholy time. Happy for the end of what has hopefully been another successful teaching and learning year, while at the same time sad that there are students who will be crossing the stage at graduation that you will not see walk through the door next fall. You're happy for them and sad for you.

The same is true for me as your conference planner. I see, and email, and talk by phone and text, with your state officers throughout the year, and then the whirlwind of gathering luggage and catching buses as final goodbyes are said once closing and awards are over. I have nine short months with your state officer team and it is always a good thing to seem them grow and succeed as your CTSO leaders through the year while holding back tears as they walk out the doors of the Hilton. A confusion of emotions.

And yet, while one season ends, another begins and the planning and thinking ahead to next year is already underway. Dates are picked for State Conference next year, your comments on the evaluation forms are being compiled and reviewed, and we hear you that workshops need to be mixed up a bit, tours need to be offered again, and that you liked an earlier start to the day on Thursday.

So some changes that we already anticipate for next year are earlier registration deadlines for BPA, FCCLA and possibly EdRising. Tour registration will probably be for the entire month of February with additional options. There may be a dinner again, but it will be by a reservation only system and will be part of your registration process at an added cost due to the decrease in state funding for conference. Additional activities will need to be added beyond tours and workshops on Thursday afternoon and early evening as well as Friday evening during the dance which does not appeal to everyone. This is a good start to the list for the State

Officers to tackle at their Fall Planning meeting and I am sure that the list will continue to grow.

We also need to do a better job of promoting our service project and providing ideas on how your local chapters can participate.

We continue to grow as an organization, both in membership and in chapters. HOSA had a new chapter affiliate this year in Unalaska and they hope to travel to State next year. The BPA chapter in Unalaska will have a new advisor with the retirement of the previous advisor and he hopes to continue the growth and success of that chapter. We also have a new BPA chapter affiliation within the past month for Kodiak and are excited to welcome them on board and look forward to their participation next year. Additional chapters of HOSA and SkillsUSA are anticipated and we're hoping DECA will have a few new chapters next year as well. Let's keep our fingers crossed. We had 726 registered attendees this year. That is a new record since I started as a local advisor in 1997/98. We may approach 800 this next year! That would be both exciting and scary!

Until next year, have a great end to your school year, have a pleasant and revitalizing summer break, and we'll see you all in the fall for another great CTSO year.

Future Important Dates:

Scheduling our conference is always a challenge. We have to juggle spring breaks, sports, Easter, hotel venue availability, and National CTSO registration dates. We try our best but there will always be conflicts. As such, here are the tentative dates for the next two years:

Registration Dates:

Fall Planning - State Officers September 29 - 30
Winter Planning - State Officers January 19 - 20
2017-2018 State Conference Mar 22 - 24

These dates may be adjusted and additional dates may be announced for special events.