



# CTSO ALASKA

## Performance Based Assessment Conference

### BUILDING SUCCESS TOGETHER

~ BPA ~ DECA ~ FCCLA ~ HOSA ~ SkillsUSA ~ FEA ~ FFA

Black Spruce Design

February 2016

#### ***Hello Local Advisors!***

The New Year is now a month old and the slippery slope of deadlines, not to mention winter, has a firm grip on all of us. I've got several important items as we move towards State Conference, so here we go!

With the changes in State testing that began last year, now computer-based and with the window starting in March and continuing through April, our CTSO students may be impacted. It might be wise to take a walk over to see your testing coordinator and provide them with a list of names of your students so that they can make adjustments now rather than later to forstall any make-ups that might arise.

Notice down in the lower right corner of this newsletter the dates for registration. They will be here sooner than you think and while the window is mostly a short two weeks to get it done, this helps your state advisors in providing more time to develop their competitive event schedule and to secure judges where needed.

Also, two things about registration payment:

- 1) Payment needs to be made to Steven Cook or Black Spruce Design, NOT your local chapter or district, and
- 2) I am not set-up to accept credit cards.

Registration links are provided on our CTSO website at [www.ctsoalaska.org](http://www.ctsoalaska.org).

Hotel reservations can also be started through the CTSO website and must be completed by March 15. After that date rooms will be released and the conference rate of \$99 cannot be guaranteed. Be sure to use the code CTSO16 to get this room rate.

We are also hoping to have a couple of tour options Thursday evening. Your evaluations from last year expressed the desire for some more evening activities the first night at conference. We tentatively plan on having two sessions of a tour of the Hilton complex and have reached out on two other tour possibilities within walking distance of the Hilton. We will keep you apprised of this with the next two newsletters. Friday evening will continue with the dinner and dance and we plan on having a movie/game room and possibly a room for dance lessons. FCCLA will also be starting a quiz

bowl this year and the finals will be Friday evening with room for spectators.

And it's never too early to start saving your coins. The Money War proceeds this year will go to Covenant House along with our Service Project theme of Building up our Homes. Some youth do not have a home, for a variety of reasons, and basic supplies are always in short supply for homeless and transitioning youth. Let's try to break the \$400 level this year in our Money War contribution.

At our recently completed Winter Planning meeting we had a Skype session with our guest speaker, Laymon Hicks. Your State Officers had a great conversation and got a sneak peek at the humor and enthusiasm of this year's keynote speaker. We think you'll have a great time with some good laughs during our opening ceremonies.

Until February, enjoy those lengthening days.

#### ***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 three years:

#### **Registration Dates:**

Registration starts . . . . .	February 1
BPA/FCCLA/FEA registration ends. . . .	February 15
BPA/FCCLA/FEA late registration ends .	February 22
Skills registration ends . . . . .	February 29
Skills late registration ends . . . . .	March 7
<b>State Conference . . . . .</b>	<b>March 31-April 2</b>

2016-2017 Conference . . . . .	Mar 23 - 25
2017-2018 Conference . . . . .	Mar 22 - 24

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