



CTSO ALASKA

Performance Based Assessment Conference

BUILDING SUCCESS TOGETHER

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

Black Spruce Design

May 2016

Hello Local Advisors!

Wow! I can't believe that another CTSO conference has come and gone. This was the 19th conference that I have been a part of, and the 4th being the person in charge. Time really does seem to go by faster as we grow older.

I'm in the midst of gathering all of the materials for my final grant report and you are proceeding rapidly to your next set of progress report grades followed quickly by finals and graduation. And that can only mean one thing, fall and another year is just around the corner for another great CTSO year. Here are some upcoming changes we already know about.

Opening Ceremony will be starting at 9:00 am at our next conference. We experienced phenomenal growth this year and even with last minute adjustments, schedules were tight, hallways were full, and we barely kept chaos at bay. By starting earlier we can have our business meetings earlier and add three to four hours of competitive event time on Thursday.

There may be fewer workshops on both Thursday and Friday, but we are already developing a list of businesses that offer tours of their facilities and we are checking in to chartering UAA buses for transportation. This may involve a small fee, \$5 per person, but that is something we will have our officer team work on and we will keep you updated as the year progresses.

We've heard your concerns about opening and closing and are working on shortening the intros, speeches and other aspects of these two events. Our officer team and committees will be tasked with looking things over and offering suggestions and modifications.

Expect restricted access to the main ballroom hallway on Friday as HOSA conducts their events. The noise level was too high and non-competitors will not be allowed to hang out with their friends. Voice volume grows and grows and numerous competitors voiced their displeasure during their competitions.

We will have wristbands next year for all attendees. These will be expected to be worn from arrival through departure. With social media invites, visiting sports

tournament teams sharing the hotel, and general hotel street level access by the public, we experienced a few incidents this year that showed we needed some form of basic identification of our students and attendees. It will take a bit of work, but mostly awareness, but for safety and security, it is a minor inconvenience.

As I finish this up, the middle of May fast approaches, the State is still looking for a finalized budget, and the status of the Grant for next year and beyond is still swirling around in the crystal ball. I hope to write for the Grant again, the State Advisors are planning as if there will be a CTSO conference next year and beyond, and we all have our fingers crossed that positive results will be forthcoming. I may be in the middle of our epic summer adventure road trip when the RFP is announced, so a few motel nights might be spent being studious and writing.

Until then, I wish you the smoothest of endings to your school year, warm and sunny summer days as you rejuvenate and prepare for next year, and happy and healthy days with friends and family.

See you in the new school 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:

State Conference 2017 March 23 - 25

2017-2018 Conference Mar 22 - 24

State Officers only:

Fall Planning Meeting. September 23 - 25

Winter Planning Meeting. January 20 - 22

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