



CTSO ALASKA

Performance Based Assessment Conference

BUILDING SUCCESS TOGETHER

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

Black Spruce Design

October 2016

Hello Local Advisors!

Some wise person once said that the only constant in life is change. Well, everything about CTSO this year is about changes in the near past, changes happening now, and changes on the horizon.

Much has been in the works this past spring and summer and the zig zag course continues. What with the budget issues our state is facing, changes in leadership in the Department of Ed., and changing directions of education in general, CTSO will be charting new courses in the years to come. That being said, let's look at the positive and not so positive aspects.

After an on-again, off-again approach to the funding of a grant for CTSO and our conference, it is on again but with a significant cut in the amount for this year, and even steeper cuts the next two years with the emphasis shifting away from a conference to growth of CTSO chapters, membership, and community outreach. EED is expecting us to leverage business and other community resources to fill the funding gap should we decide to continue with a joint conference starting in year 2018.

Yes, at this time we are still planning on having a joint conference in 2017 to be held at the Hilton like in years past. But, there have been some bumps in the road there as well. Instead of issuing a contract, it has been determined that an RFP needs to be issued and the process followed for awarding of the grant. We've had to cancel the Fall Planning meeting because of no formal contract in place with the state. Sooooo, the Advisors and Officers and I are moving forward in the planning process, albeit on an individual CTSO basis with a jointly determined to-do list, through on-line and telephonic methods. And, we plan to add one day and night to our planning in January.

We'll miss the face to face aspect that really starts off our year, but we're determined to make this happen and be one of our best conferences ever.

Changes to Know

One of the big changes this year is that the entire

conference day on Thursday will be starting earlier than in the past. Opening ceremonies are slated to start at 9:00 am, followed as usual by advisor and business meetings. Competitive events will start about two (2) hours earlier. Our membership growth necessitates more competitive event time and with no more rooms available at the Hilton, our only current option is to increase the time period.

With the anticipated cut in grant funding, we are also looking at eliminating the dinner and dance and filling this time with other activities. A dance and DJ sponsorship is in the works, so don't totally write that off quite yet.

I've held off on getting this news out to you as things have shifted daily. Be assured that I will definitely update you again as soon as more details become available. In the meantime, support your State Advisors and Officers. They are continuing to work hard.

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:

Registration starts February 1
BPA/FCCLA/FEA registration ends . . . February 13
HOSA registration ends January 16
Skills registration ends February 28
Late registration ends March 6
State Conference March 23 - 25

2017-2018 Conference Mar 22 - 24

Winter Planning Meeting January 19 - 22
(for state officers only)

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