



NAWI NOTES

The National Association for Workforce Improvement (NAWI) is an organization dedicated to program improvement in Career and Technical Education

Dear CTE Colleagues,

STEM education in our country is an economic development and environmental issue. The shortage of STEM-related graduates compared to replacement needs, foreign country graduation rates, and the ability to innovate is of concern to us as a nation.



Shop class, as a whole, was minimized beginning in the 1980s to make way for other classes that seemed more important. Yet today, after the creation of standards and standardized testing, our ability to innovate and foster creativity is slowly slipping and conversely growing in other nations. Our country's ability to innovate is the backbone of the economy, and without individual empowerment to create and be entrepreneurial (classroom and workplace), our standard of living is compromised.

The good news is that offshoring is now being replaced with "back-shoring" (good because innovation doesn't occur in a vacuum—we need access to production to innovate), and STEM education is now on our leaders' agenda (President and governors). Additionally, the Maker movement, although in its infancy, is growing exponentially and offers great promises to reinvigorate innovation education and create the next economic revolution. It is, like FIRST's robotics competitions, "the new cool." To engage youth, it must be cool. Low-

cost technology, such as 3-D printing and Arduino devices, are enabling young children to participate in the world of innovation. Young and older adults are using this technology to grow businesses and make a decent living. We are almost at a point where if you can think it, you can make it!

Education, including public, private, secondary, postsecondary, and even libraries, is grappling with ways to define what STEM means while avoiding traditional STEM silos—silos that limit shifting to emerging 21st Century Skills needed in the modern workplace and world. Open Educational Resources and massive amounts of technological capability that enable 21st Century learning remain largely untapped by our educational institutions. In fact some states have proposed legislation to ban the use



of technology. The new rigor—not just more of the same subject content—can be advanced in learning through the use of technology tools (computer, tablets, smart phones) and a shift to Project Based Learning. MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) are forcing us to evaluate learning effectiveness and higher education relevance.

The National Association for Workforce Improvement has long had a tradition of convening minds to explore best practices in education delivery. This year, with the underlying theme of innovation education in an electronic world, presenters and keynotes will be selected to advance the STEM agenda or perhaps better defined, "ways to maximize innovation and creativity education utilizing the best practices, pedagogy, and technology available."

As an aerospace engineer, educator, entrepreneur, and government official, I invite you to send us your ideas to share at this year's conference at the Indianapolis Omni Severin Hotel,

May 21–22—the week before the Indy 500! Our official theme is "Engaging Minds for 21st Century Learning and Innovation: STEM in an E-Blended World." Please see our past

conferences, and join the amazing list of presenters at www.nawionline.org. NAWI is striving to be your association on innovation education. Become a member now.

VISIT
Indy

See you in Indianapolis!

Doug
Doug Webster
NAWI President



Visit NAWI's Web site to attend:

<http://www.nawionline.org/conference/index.html>.

Want to share your ideas through a presentation? Visit us here:

<http://www.nawionline.org/conference/2013call4presentersFill-in.pdf>.



2013
CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
WORKS!

February: Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day AND . . . CTE Month!

The U.S. Department of Education has joined the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) to celebrate February as National CTE Month. Check out this article: <https://www.ed.gov/blog/2013/02/national-cte-month-marks-pivotal-moment/>. We at NAWI want to say thank you for your contribution to the development of tomorrow's workforce today. If you are looking for ways to celebrate CTE Month, NAWI encourages you to share your best practices with your colleagues.

Need some ideas about what to share? Last April, the Department of Education released its blueprint for shaping the future through reforms in CTE and Perkins, and the NAWI national conference highlights these key national issues: alignment, collaboration, accountability, and innovation. NAWI supports collaboration among K-12, community college, and university educators and innovators to design the blueprint for tomorrow's workforce.

We are meeting in Indianapolis May 21-22 to share best practices, and we would like you to join us!

Visit NAWI's Web site to attend: <http://www.nawionline.org/conference/index.html>.

Want to share your ideas through a presentation? Visit us here: <http://www.nawionline.org/conference/2013call4presentersFill-in.pdf>.

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2012-2013 NAWI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Membership is May 1 through April 30.)

Name _____ Title _____

Institution or Organization _____

Preferred Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Fax () _____

E-mail _____

Annual dues are \$25.00. Mail this form with your check to the NAWI Membership Secretary:

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