

Front and Center

The NIOSH-ACTE *Safety Competition*

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a federal research agency in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), funded the 2004 ACTE-NIOSH national occupational safety and health competition among teachers/instructors at career and technical schools and community colleges throughout the country. ACTE advertised the safety competition and award in *Techniques* and on its website at <http://www.acteonline.org/about/awards/awards-niosh.cfm>.

NIOSH also advertised the safety paper competition on its website www.cdc.gov/niosh and at its exhibit booth at the ACTE annual conference in Orlando, Fla. A team of five NIOSH reviewers—coordinated by NIOSH Education and Information Division Physical Scientist/Document Manager John Palassis, CIH, CSP, CHMM—reviewed the papers. Independently and unanimously, the team chose Thomas D. Bates, career and technical teacher at Appleton North High School, Appleton, Wis., as the 2004 winner.

The winner received a plaque and a \$750 award for his winning paper, and his school received a \$250 award. When Palassis contacted Bates in March and congratulated him, he also asked Bates to come and receive his plaque in Washington, D.C. The plaque and award were presented to Bates by Captain Frank J. Hearl, PE, acting associate director for science, NIOSH senior advisor, at the ACTE National Policy Seminar (NPS) held in March at the

From left to right are 2003-2004 ACTE President Tom Applegate, AASD CTE Coordinator Mary Hultgren, Thomas Bates and NIOSH representative Frank Hearl.



Capital Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. The audience consisted of approximately 500 people and included educators and VIPs from business, state governments, federal government, and even a few Congressmen and Senators. The winner was also announced in the NIOSH *eNews* <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/enews/enewsV1N12.html> in April 2004.

According to Palassis, the award demonstrates excellence in promoting occupational safety and health in school laboratories, and Bates was recognized for his 10-part program, which includes safety and risk management, personal protective equipment, safety inspections, first aid practices, instructional techniques, equipment care and operation, housekeeping practices, fire safety, general practices and classroom rules. The program is being used throughout the Appleton School District and as an introduction to the Technology Safety Plan.

When Bates first heard about the competition through Appleton Area School District Career & Technical

Education Coordinator Mary Hultgren, he says, "At that point, our safety plan was still in its early stages, but I entered the competition and was awarded second place. This year, I was completed with the draft copy as well as 10 PowerPoint presentations to be used for staff in-service training. I entered the competition with the completed work and was fortunate enough to be awarded first place."

When asked how important focusing on safety is to career tech education, Bates says, "The safety of our students and staff should be, and is, our primary concern in the Appleton Area School District. Students are exposed to safe working habits through daily instruction from our staff. With the staff practicing safe work habits and explaining why we work that way, our students seem to develop a strong understanding of how important safety truly is. By learning safe working habits now, our students will hopefully be safety conscious individuals throughout their lives."

The Appleton Area School District Technology Education Safety Plan



has been an ongoing project since the fall 2002.

"The draft plan has been adopted by the school board, and we are moving forward with it this fall," Bates explains. "The document describes the practices, procedures, equipment and facilities used by educational instructors and students. It also includes standardized safety tests, safety resources, instructional suggestions and various other components related to safety in the classroom."

Bates is an exemplary career tech teacher who is dedicated to making his field the best it can be. Yet, he did not expect to be chosen as the NIOSH-ACTE award winner. "Yes, I was surprised," he says. "It is an honor to win a national award like this. For me, it brought some validity to the work I have done on this project."

This national competition was established by Dr. Paul Schulte, director of the Education and Information Division of NIOSH, with the first award being presented in 1998 by the NIOSH Director, Dr. Rosenstock, at the NPS in Washington, D.C. Last year's winner was Andrew N. Wermes, instructor of the Building Trades/Carpentry Program at North Iowa Area Community College, Mason City, Iowa.

NIOSH is the nation's premier research institute in occupational safety and health with 1,500 employees, but Palassis stresses that it is not a regulatory agency like OSHA. He says that NIOSH provides \$22 million per year to support more than 50 universities and colleges (more than 100 programs) to assist students to graduate with degrees related to occupational safety and health. Approximately 13,000 students have graduated with undergraduate and graduate degrees in occupational safety and health from NIOSH-supported programs since 1978. NIOSH pro-

vides continuing education courses in occupational safety and health at its 16 Education and Research Centers around the country.

NIOSH also provides free publications

about occupational safety and health for workers of all trades in industry, construction and agriculture.

Publications include information

Continued on page 12

G-W PUBLISHER

Make it Happen!

You + G-W products = A Positive Teaching Experience.

Authoritative content supported by relevant illustrations help you teach important life skills. Use G-W interactive teaching packages now featuring PowerPoint® Presentations and ExamView® Test Generator software to help you present key concepts in Family and Consumer Sciences education. Plus G-W products are backed by outstanding customer service.

Goodheart-Willcox 800-323-0440 www.g-w.com

Congresswoman *Marcy Kaptur* is Ohio ACTE Policy Maker of the Year.



ACTE Executive Director Jan Bray (left) with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (right) at the Ohio ACTE annual conference.

At the Ohio ACTE annual conference that was held this past July in Cincinnati, U.S. Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, who represents Ohio's Ninth District, received the state association's Policy Maker of the Year award. The annual award recognizes policy makers "who support and have the ability to have impact upon the improvement, promotion, development and progress of career and technical education."

According to Pat Huston, manager of products and customer services at Ohio's Office of Career-Technical and Adult Education, Kaptur is a supporter of the Perkins legislation that pro-

vides major federal funding for career and technical education and continues to work to ensure funding for the Workforce Investment Act.

Kaptur also focuses strongly on helping displaced workers who have lost jobs due to market changes. Two bills she sponsored—H.R.457 and H.R.4649—amended the Trade Act of 1974 to establish a transitional adjustment assistance program for workers adversely affected by trade relations with China.

The Ninth District of Ohio includes Erie, Ottawa, Lucas and Lorain Counties. Kaptur's Ohio office is located in her district's flagship city, Toledo.

Continued from "The NIOSH-ACTE Safety Competition," page 11

about how to recognize and control workplace hazards including personal protective equipment and engineering controls.

Palassis says that one recent popular publication—very much related to career schools and colleges—is the NIOSH *Safety Checklist Program for Schools and other Safety Databases*, a CD-ROM (2004-101) that includes a wealth of safety and health publications and hundreds of useful websites. All NIOSH publications are sent at no cost.

Palassis notes that NIOSH and ACTE are hoping that more teachers/instructors will consider submitting their unpublished safety papers to this annual competition and discussing their efforts for increasing safety and health at their schools/colleges.

When asked if he would encourage others to participate in this event, winner Thomas Bates responds enthusiastically, "Absolutely! In the past year, I have started working with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction in the preliminary stages of developing state guidelines for safety in technology education. The intent is to develop a set of guidelines for other school districts who are interested in creating their own document."

The criteria for the next competition are listed at <http://www.acteonline.org/about/awards/awards-niosh.cfm>. The deadline for submission of the papers is January 26, 2005. Winning entry selection will be done by February 11, 2005, and the award will be presented at NPS March 6-8, 2005.