



## *What's Really Important*

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Do you sometimes feel unimportant, like you don't really have any impact on this crazy world or any influence on other people? I do.

Well, the following may make you realize your true worth. It was sent to me by some good folks who know what's really important in life.

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman Trophy winners.
3. Name the last five women to win the Miss America title.
4. Name 10 people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer prizes.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners

for best actor and best actress.

How did you do? The point is, none of us remember the headlines of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades are buried with their recipients. Here's another quiz. See how you do on this one:

1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.



4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Name five people you enjoy spending time with.

### Easier?

The lesson: The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones who care.

*Reprinted from the Manhattan Mercury,  
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Mike Dendurant, Wire Editor*

### Benefits to Being a Member of ACTE & K-ACTE:

- State affiliation in KAT-FACS, along with its services & recognition
- K-ACTE Forum and Techniques Magazine publications
- Networking Opportunities
- Conference Discounts
- Advocacy for CTE programs
- Continuing Education Credits

## *The President's Corner*

I hope everyone is having a great school year! Many events have filled this fall season such as elections, sporting events, our families and last but not least our school work and students. Jenny Prichard, Carolyn Rychener, and I have met twice with the United Conference Planning Committee. From the information received on the evaluations, the roundtable sharing was a big hit and the committee would like to repeat this part of the conference. If you are interested in sharing information, have a great lesson plan idea or something unique in your curriculum, let

us know and we will have a roundtable reserved for you. We had a wonderful turnout last year and this year's program looks to be a good one as well.

I am having some difficulty reaching everyone by e-mail and telephone. Renee Muetting has done a great job with the directory, but if you have a change of address, e-mail or telephone, please let us know as soon as you think of it. It will really help with our contacts.

KATFACS board met on Nov. 4th

and discussed the information about the United Conference and KACTE Board met on Nov. 5th to discuss Summer KACTE conference and ACTE National Conference the end of November and the Region V conference in May. The next KATFACS board meeting will be at the Sedgwick County Extension office Wednesday, February 28th, at 6:30pm.

Have a wonderful holiday season,  
Deb Hargrove  
KATFACS President

## How Can You Be Your Own Best Ally?



*It's not always about what you know, but about who you know*

**Networking—the process of cultivating productive relationships in order to exchange information or services**

Developing a good relationship with your legislators and their staff is one of the most effective ways to advocate for career and technical education and influence the legislative process.

Legislators have to make decisions on a large number of issues. These issues are divided among staff members to follow. They watch the activity surrounding the issue and also responsible for learning about constituent support. Because staffers are not experts on any one issue, they rely on resources to keep them knowledgeable.

You must be the person, however, who is proactive and offer to serve as a resource. You are the person who is serving on the “front lines” in the classroom, educating your students in the various programs offered through career and technical education. So you are the expert when it comes to how decisions will impact your students, your school, and your community. Once you develop a working relationship with your legislator’s office, they are more likely to look to you for answers when issues come up.

Successful teachers, are typically good communicators of information. This skill is just as important in and out of the classroom setting. There are many ways to talk with legislators—letters, faxes, telephone calls, personal visits, and e-mail. If you are trying to influence something that is going to happen immediately, then faxed letters and phone calls are probably your best bet. If you need to provide detailed information over a period of time, then a personal visit is more likely to get attention. E-mail typically works best if you worked with a staff member previously. Whether you write, call, or visit, there are some general guidelines that should be considered.

### Know your Legislator

Where do they stand on issues? How have they voted in the past? What is his/her political philosophy?

### Identify Yourself

Tell them you are a constituent by listing your address, location of your school, and congressional district. Let them know you are a career and technical education

teacher and have expertise in the field. Also, make them aware of your membership as a ACTE/KACTE and KATFACS (do not use acronyms when you are talking) as it increases your credibility.

### Be Prepared

Know your issue—supporting it or not, how it will impact your program/school/community, know and use statistics whenever possible, and be able to provide numbers and anecdotal evidence if requested (do not be afraid to have your students help in advocating for your program).

### Be Specific

State the action in which you want your legislator to take. If they are supportive, hold him/her to that commitment. Whenever possible, refer to a piece of legislation by it’s number.

Other things to consider include: being concise, being constructive, following up, and continuing to develop and strengthen the connection with your legislator.

*Paraphrased Resource*

<http://www.acteonline.org/policy/takeaction/toolkit-relationships.cfm>



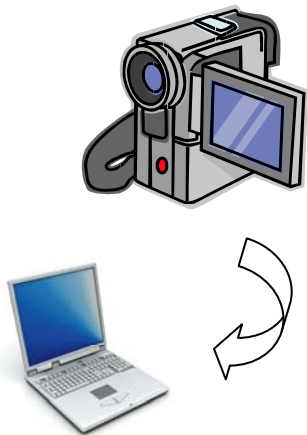
YouTube is a popular free video sharing website which lets users upload, view, and share video clips. Videos can be rated, and the average rating and the number of times a video has been watched are both published. Since early 2007 it has regularly received over 8 million hits a day. Founded in February 2005 by three former employees of PayPal, the San Bruno-based service utilizes Adobe Flash

technology to display video. The wide variety of site content includes movie and TV clips and music videos, as well as amateur content such as videoblogging and short original videos. Currently staffed by 67 employees,<sup>14</sup> the company was named *TIME* magazine's "Invention of the Year" for 2006.

The site is praised as one the most user friendly sites on the internet. Unregistered users

can watch most videos on the site while registered users have the ability to upload an unlimited number of videos. Related videos, determined by the title and tags, appear to the right of the video. In the second year, the site gave users the ability the post responses and subscribe to any registered user.

*Excerpts taken from Wikipedia*



## *Is My Classroom Motivating?*

- Have I established a positive classroom climate?
- Do my students feel that they are part of the classroom community?
- Are my students given frequent, timely, positive and encouraging feedback?
- Have I ensured opportunities for students' success by giving assignments that are neither too easy nor too difficult?
- Have I helped my students find personal meaning and value in the material?
- Have I generated student interest and enjoyment of the subject matter? As students often put it, "How can teachers expect us to be interested in a topic, if they don't seem interested in it?"
- Have I been well organized and prepared? To put it in the students' words, "We can see that they have done their homework, which makes us feel more responsible to do ours."
- Are my students actively engaged in classroom learning, which may involve group discussion or other "hands-on" activities?
- Have I tried to use variety and make sure that the same instructional techniques are not used in every day? Monotony is avoided by using a variety of strategies such as lecture, class discussion, media, or discovery learning.
- Do my students perceive me as being approachable and friendly? Do I appear interested in the students and their learning?

## *Make Time for Family during the School Year*

By Mandy H. Gross

*Oklahoma State University*

Spending quality time with the family often gets placed on the back burner when summer comes to a close, the school year begins and schedules get busy. Elaine Wilson, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension parenting specialist, offers some advice on how to gain more family time during the school year as well as enhance children's educational experiences. Parents can direct their families into participating in programs that include the entire family such as church, 4-H activities, health, sports or fitness clubs and library sponsored literature reading or information workshops, Wilson said. "While it may not be possible for parents to be in the classroom everyday, most teachers welcome parents' contributions

and involvement. Your child's music teacher may appreciate your help with recitals or sales and exchanges of sheet music and instruments," Wilson said. "Classroom teachers welcome parent volunteers to come into the classroom and to share their occupation, hobbies or cultural background." Wilson said parents could also use the time in the car to ask children about their daily activities, what books they are reading or to implement other conversation about family, community and political events. Radio, television, newspaper and Internet stories can be used to stimulate informative discussions, when shared as a part of quality family time. "When you hear your child complain that a topic is too difficult to understand or that they are going to fail a class or test, ask them to explain the problem," Wilson

said. "Be very strict about not allowing the child to say, 'I'm not smart,' or 'I'll never get this,'" Wilson said. Insist that your child is capable and offer your help. She also stressed the importance of praising children for displaying habits which lead to good grades such as reading, doing homework, getting plenty of sleep, eating a good breakfast or listening at school. "Get the focus off the grades and test scores," Wilson said. "Stress good habits, cooperation and enjoying learning." Another way to both spend quality time with family and to expand a child's educational experience is to take a field trip to a museum or to interview a specialist on a topic that your child is studying. "Family field trips tell a child that he or she is important enough to be the parental focus for part or all of a day's activities," Wilson said.

"Combine that with an educational effort and kids will get the message." One of the most commonly overlooked aspects of parent-child educational efforts is teaching children how to learn from their mistakes. This positive activity educates and builds self-esteem, Wilson said. "Help them figure out what went wrong," Wilson said. "Research shows that when students understand their mistakes, they generally understand the process of getting the right answer and are more likely to do so in the future." "Let your child see you looking up answers to your own questions in books or on the Internet," she said. "One of the most effective forms of promoting desired behavior is to lead by example." Wilson said parents should try to be role models of life-long learning.



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Get the FACS before leaving school!



## You might be a teacher if...

- You want to slap the next person who says, "Must be nice to have all your holidays and summers free."
- You can tell it's a full moon without ever looking outside.
- When out in public, you feel the urge to talk to strange children and correct their behavior.
- When you mention "vegetables" and you're not talking about a food group.
- You can't have children of your own because there is NO name you could give a child that wouldn't bring on high blood pressure the moment you heard it.
- Meeting a child's parents INSTANTLY answers the question, "Why is this kid like this?"

*(this is not meant to offend anyone, but rather make you laugh just a little)*

## Wikipedia

Wikipedia (wiki : pi di.ə) is a multilingual, web-based, free content encyclopedia project. Wikipedia is written collaboratively by volunteers from all around the world. With rare exceptions, its articles can be edited by anyone with access to the Internet, simply by clicking the *edit this page* link. The name Wikipedia is a portmanteau of the words wiki (a type of collaborative website) and *encyclopedia*. Since its creation in 2001, Wikipedia has grown rapidly into one of the largest reference Web sites on the Internet.

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