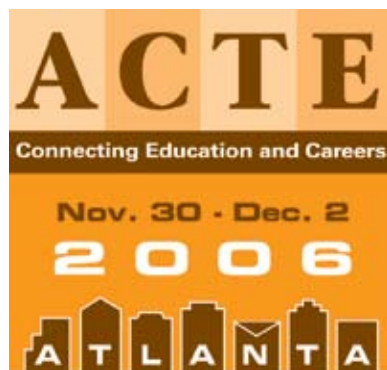


# Southern Hospitality and a Ton of People



GEORGIA SHOWS  
HOSPITALITY AND  
HOSTS ACTE'S  
MOST SUCCESSFUL  
CONVENTION IN YEARS.



**I T HAD BEEN MORE THAN 20 YEARS SINCE** ACTE had held its Annual Convention and Career Tech Expo in Atlanta, Georgia, and the overwhelming success of this year's Convention guaranteed that there won't be another 20 years in between visits.

More than 6,000 career and technical educators filled the Georgia World Congress Center to network with colleagues, learn exciting new ideas and experience the premiere professional development opportunity for the entire career and technical education industry.

Great General Session speakers, a full exhibit hall, and more than 200 educational sessions and workshops, and even a few new surprises, gave attendees an event that they will be talking about for months. Southern hospitality combined with a great group of people led to an outstanding event. In this issue of *Techniques*, we provide a brief recap of what transpired in Atlanta.

### Opening General Sessions Kicks Off Exciting Convention

Imagine walking into a huge room, being greeted by 50 career and technical education students, listening to an amazing choral group, and hearing some inspiring and amazing speakers.

For those career and technical educators who made it to the Opening General Session in Atlanta, that is exactly what they got.

### Directly Speaking

ACTE Executive Director Janet Bray shares the future of ACTE with Convention attendees.



Attendance at the first session of the Convention was so good, the Association had to add more chairs at the back of the hall.

Georgia state career and technical student organization (CTSO) leaders were on hand to welcome attendees as they entered the Opening General Session hall. Once inside, students from local Douglass High School entertained attendees with a variety of vocal music.

To open the session, students from the Houston County AFJROTC program presented the colors, and local CTSO officers sang the National Anthem and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

As ACTE President Robert Scarborough opened the Convention, attendees were entertained by the Board of Directors singing "Georgia On My Mind." This was a result of a lost wager to the Georgia ACTE, which brought more than 1,500 educators to the ACTE Convention. It was also a great way to kick off the Opening General Session and the Convention itself.

### Weber Challenges Attendees to Overcome Obstacles

To overcome life's Goliaths—the barriers, obstacles and challenges that we encounter in our daily lives—it takes tenacity. This was the message of ACTE's Opening General Session speaker Dave Weber, a self-described "Chihuahua on caffeine." Weber said that Goliaths can prevent us from accomplishing our dreams—if we let them. For educators, one of the biggest challenges they face—a Goliath if you will—is dealing with change.

The education landscape is changing at a fast pace, and educators are at the center of



### Early Morning Exercise

Opening General Session speaker Dave Weber gets attendees out of their seats.

this transformation. To be sure, all of this change can be rather frightening. The key to keeping the Goliath in check is to recognize that change is inevitable, get a fresh perspective on the problem by shifting our vision from the problem to the reward, and overcome the negativity of others.

Weber used the story of David and Goliath and a poignant story about a terrible accident that left his sister fighting for her life—hopelessly in pain and paralyzed, but indomitably hopeful—as examples of how the human spirit can triumph over all the challenges that life throws our way.

"What you choose to become can have a greater influence on who you are today than all your yesterdays," Weber said.

### Bray Shares Association's Path

Although the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) was victorious in ensuring the successful reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Act, ACTE has a lot more work to do in the months and years ahead, noted ACTE's executive director, Jan Bray, during the Opening

General Session.

During her brief remarks, Bray outlined the Association's priorities and gave some indication of the path the Association will take to accomplish them.

Bray said that over the next two years the Association will be working on some strategic priorities identified by its board of directors. Foremost is cementing the recognition of ACTE as an integral leader in education reform.

To do this, the Association has put together a series of widely disseminated publications such as "Reinventing the American High School for the 21st Century," an "Issue Brief on American Competitiveness," and the upcoming "Postsecondary Education Reform Paper." The Association has also been invited to serve as an advisory member on the Business Coalition for Excellence in Education as that committee works to come up with its recommendations for the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. ACTE is one of only two non-business organizations that have been invited to be on that committee.



Even though Perkins passed, another priority is to continue to make advocacy a major focus. Bray noted that members are being kept abreast of developments through Webcasts, regional workshops and other resources.

The other priorities that Bray commented on are that the Association will have in place programs and services that ensure its long-term financial stability; efficient and effective policies, practices and procedures and an organization structure that will enable continuous member service and value; and the ACTE brand will be integrated into all organizational activities and recognized by the career and technical education (CTE) profession.

### Friday Session Invites Discussion and Recognizes Leaders

In Atlanta, the Friday General Session was

an opportunity to gather national representatives, noted experts, and the best career and technical educators.

This informative and celebratory session opened with remarks from Troy Justesen, assistant secretary for the Office of Vocational and Adult Education. Justesen was followed by a panel discussion on the future of CTE and the ACTE National Awards program.

### Education to Focus on Career Pathways

Addressing attendees at the Friday General Session, Troy Justesen, assistant secretary for the Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE), said that the U.S. Department of Education will be working on a major initiative over the next two years to give students improved career pathway transitions from secondary education to community college and the workforce.

“You’ll see over the next two years a focus on making sure that we build a strong partnership between high school and postsecondary opportunities for all young people who choose that as their option,” Justesen said.

The initiative is a collaborative effort that will include OVAE, the departments of Commerce and Labor, and representatives from business and industry. Business leaders are being brought into the Department of Education so that educators can work with them collaboratively “to make sure that the programs and efforts we invest in at the federal level meet the needs of your young people and adults who will benefit from CTE,” according to Justesen.

The department is also working with a consortium of community colleges on the College and Career Transitions Initiative, which develops model career pathways and implementation strategies that seek to ease student transitions from secondary to postsecondary education, and improve academic performance at both the secondary and

postsecondary levels. The education department’s expanding State Scholars Initiative is also being used to bring business and industry leaders into high schools to work with students to explore options in CTE.

Justesen, who described himself as a product of CTE, said that it is important the CTE community communicate its im-

portance to the rest of education, business and industry, and the public at large. More than 97 percent of all high school students take at least one CTE course, and at least 25 percent of high school students take at least two CTE courses during high school; this translates into young people who are better prepared for postsecondary education and the workplace.

“I am privileged and honored to be working with you, to be your representative in the department of education and to Secretary Spellings and the president and sharing with them the successes,” Justesen said. “We know one thing: CTE students are among the best students and typically do better than students who don’t take CTE.”

### Panel Discusses Future of CTE

The education landscape is changing and CTE is at the forefront of that change. But

much work needs to be done to ensure that more CTE programs are on the cutting edge—integrating rigorous academics and technical education—as they work to prepare students for life after high school. That was the sentiment expressed by a panel of experts during the Friday General Session.

The panel consisted of Richard Blais from Project Lead the Way, Gene Bottoms from High Schools That Work, and John Ferrandino from the National Academy Foundation. Moderating the discussion was John Bailey from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Bottoms said CTE is changing the most in states and school districts where they have linked high-quality CTE and rigorous academics. And that change is at its best in states with reform policies in place that require the integration of both.

“That’s where I find the most exciting programs—programs that are adding value in both technical achievement and academic achievement and producing graduates who not only pass required certification exams, but can go on to further study without having to take remedial courses,” Bottoms said.

The state legislative process is a positive

asset in fostering education reform, Bottoms said. In Kentucky, for instance, the state worked with business and industry to develop 20 exams in broad career fields. Since the tests have been in use over the past six years, the academic gap between CTE students and their contemporaries has been closing in that state. In New York, state board of education policies were fashioned so that the BOCES could create CTE courses incorporating academic content for which students could get credit.

“Each one of those sent a message and signal that career-tech is important and provides a role for them [students],” Bottoms said.

One of the biggest challenges facing schools today is getting students involved in the learning process so that they are better prepared for life after high school, according to Ferrandino. The pedagogy used in most schools today tends to best serve abstract thinkers who are but a fraction of those sitting in the classroom, he noted. But CTE programs such as Project Lead the Way bring to the table project-based, structured rigorous curriculum that engages students. Ferrandino added that as CTE schools work to transform themselves, they must change not just their curriculum, but their approach and pedagogy. They must embrace an interdisciplinary approach to instruction in which academic and career-tech teachers work side by side.

“So if we’re talking about reform, we’re talking about all of us getting out and burning the laminated yellow lesson plans and starting to talk to our colleagues, not only the other career-tech teachers, but the academic teachers,” Ferrandino said. “At the center of the conversation it’s not about your subject area, but it’s about the kids who you all serve. And that’s what you see is starting to change.”

### ACTE Announces National Teacher Awards

As part of the Friday General Session in Atlanta, ACTE presented its national awards.



### ▲▲ Efforts Awarded

Sandy Hume of Wisconsin is announced as the 2007 ACTE Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher.

Each year, ACTE’s Awards Committee completes an intense review of applications and interview of finalists before it announces the national award winners.

This year, ACTE worked with the Georgia state CTSOs to help present the awards.

Taking home the ACTE Teacher of the Year award was Leslie Watkins of Paducah, Kentucky.

Watkins teaches family and consumer sciences at Reidland High School where she developed culinary and early childhood programs. Watkins received her National Board Certification and took

classes at the Culinary Institute of America to prepare for the new programs. She develops lessons and programs that students can apply in the real world.

Before she came to Reidland, Watkins worked at a school with a 10 percent teen pregnancy rate. Recognizing the need to address this problem, she wrote a proposal for a school day care program, and received a grant to implement it. She also established “Project Graduation,” which is designed to prevent alcohol related car accidents by organizing safe after-prom and graduation activities.

Watkins has been a member of ACTE



### ▲▲ The Future of CTE

Assistant Secretary for OVAE Troy Justesen (left) shares some of the initiatives of the Department of Education. Sharing their thoughts on the future of CTE are (from left to right above) moderator John Bailey, Richard Blais, Gene Bottoms and John Ferrandino.

## More Amazing Educators

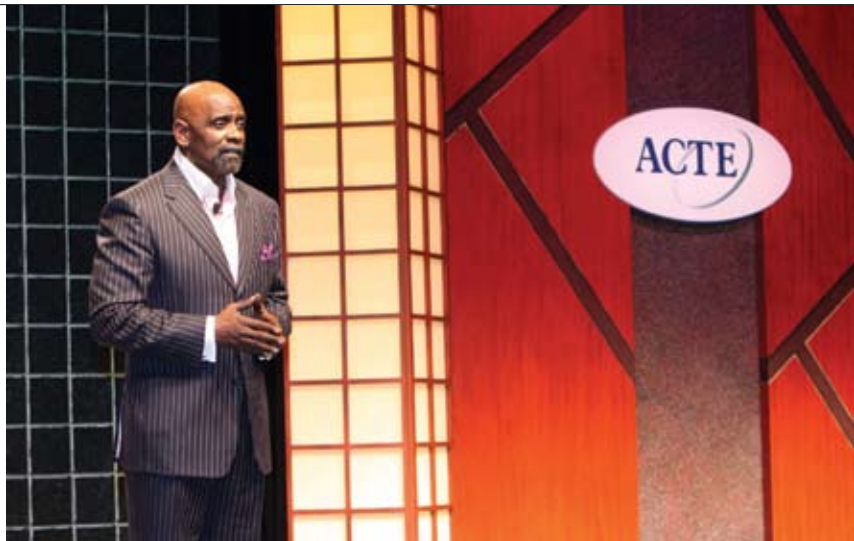
In addition to the Teacher of the Year and the Outstanding New Teacher awards, ACTE presents a number of other educator awards to recognize the great work of career and technical educators. This year’s winners and their awards are:

Outstanding Career and Technical Educator	Mike Gillispie
Outstanding Teacher in Community Service	Joline Dunbar
Carl Perkins Humanitarian Award	Richard Prows
Outstanding Service Award	Katherine Cliatt
Award of Merit	Walter “Woody” Woodhull
Arch of Fame	Verlyn Velle

### Automotive Winners

Secondary—Eastside Technology Center Automotive Technology  
 Postsecondary Programs, Generic—Automotive Technology Center  
 Specialized Automotive Technology  
 Postsecondary Programs, Manufacturer Affiliated—Seminole Community College, General Motors ASEP

For more information on ACTE’s award program, including criteria and deadlines for the 2007 awards, please visit [www.acteonline.org/about/awards/](http://www.acteonline.org/about/awards/).



### ▲▲ Happiness Guru

Christopher Gardner shares his inspiring story, which was recently made into a movie, with attendees at the Closing General Session.

for six years and was a representative on the Kentucky ACTE board. She is the president of the National Association of Teacher Educators for Family and Consumer Sciences, and has been a presenter

at several ACTE conferences, including the 2002 National Policy Seminar.

### Outstanding New Teacher

ACTE understands the vital role that new

teachers play in motivating students and continuing the long tradition of teaching career and technical skills. This year, ACTE bestowed the honor of outstanding new career and technical teacher on Sandy Hume of Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Hume is the business technology instructor at Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC). Through her relationships with Eau Claire businesses, she is able to provide her students with a unique and well-rounded perspective. In her quest to stress the importance of building strong relationships between students and instructors, Hume created an "Advisee Program." This mentoring program was developed to assist students with scheduling and any other college-related concerns.

With her Wisconsin Instructional Design System certification, Hume developed

curriculum for five classes. As a member of ACTE and the Wisconsin ACTE for over four years, she has represented her state association at CVTC events and recruited new members to the organization.

### Everyone Should Pursue Happiness

The ACTE Closing General Session is an event in which the Association likes to share an inspiring story and a message that attendees can take home with them as they get back into the classroom and prepare for the next year.

In Atlanta, ACTE was proud to present Christopher Gardner as the Closing General Session speaker because he knows a little something about motivation, education and giving people a chance.

By now, you probably know more about Christopher Gardner than you think. The

movie, "The Pursuit of Happiness," which opened in December and stars Will Smith, is the story of Gardner's life.

A former homeless man, Gardner used to sleep in a church shelter and in train station bathrooms with his son. He used to teach his toddler never to open the bathroom stalls they called home no matter how much someone pounded on the other side.

Today 52-year-old Gardner is a millionaire stockbroker with his own 15-employee firm in Chicago and he owns three homes, one in New York's Trump Tower.

Tenacity, commitment and a vision kept him going. Gardner said breaking the cycle of men not taking care of their children, something he knew about because of his own absentee father, and his goal to have a career on Wall Street served as the motivat-

ing factors that helped him transcend his obstacles.

"Because I broke the cycle, because I raised a young man who finally understands that the first and most important thing to being a man is being responsible, because I raised a young woman who understands how a man should treat her . . . I'm going to have influence on generations of my offspring that I probably will never meet," Gardner said.

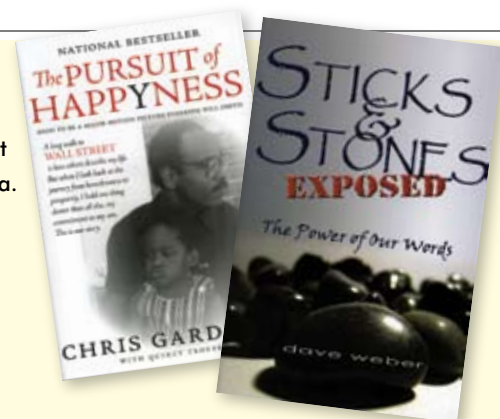
Gardner spent more than an hour sharing his life's story and regaling the audience with the experience of creating and shooting the movie. His most important points centered around the times in his life when someone gave him a helping hand and a chance to succeed.

His message to the educators was that giving someone that chance is sometimes

## Grab These Great Titles Now!

What sells at the ACTE Convention Bookstore is a good barometer of what is hot in career and technical education. Here is a list of the top 10 titles sold in Atlanta.

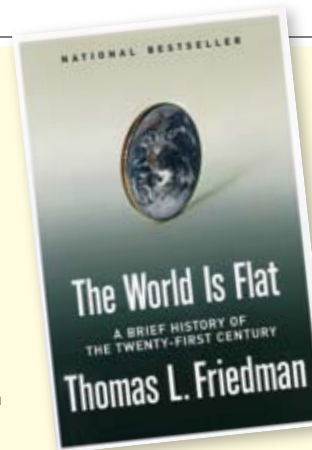
- 1 *The Pursuit of Happiness*—Christopher Gardner. From the Closing General Session speaker, this book focuses on Gardner's life story, which was recently released as a movie starring Will Smith. A compelling read that shows the value of education and the importance of giving students a chance to succeed, it is available in both hardback (\$25.95 #bpursuit) and paperback (\$14.95 #bpursuitpb).
- 2 *Sticks & Stones Exposed*—Dave Weber. Opening General Session speaker Weber uses this book to help readers develop strong, positive, mutually beneficial relationships. This title sold out in Atlanta. \$19.95 (\$22.95 nonmembers) #bsticks
- 3 *Perkins Act of 2006: The Official Guide*—ACTE and Michael Brustein. This is a comprehensive guide that provides the complete



- 4 *Teachers are Special*—Nancy Burke. This tribute to and for teachers celebrates the special, and often heroic, role they play in their students' lives. *Teachers Are Special* is created as a simple way of saying "Thank you" to our most inspiring teachers. Offer it as a gift to a special educator, or read it to remind yourself of the value of learning. \$6.00 #btrspecial
- 5 *Body Language*—Patrick W. Miller. This book provides a concise look at the nonverbal messages that take place in the classroom. Covering facial expressions, eye behavior, vocal intonation, touching, body movements and gestures, use of space, and dress,

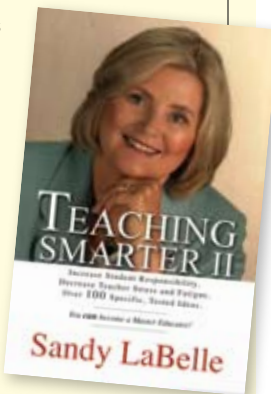
*Body Language* is packed with insightful explanations and ideas that teachers can use to improve the learning process. \$14.95 (\$17.95 nonmembers) #bbodylang

- 6 *The World is Flat*—Thomas Friedman. When scholars write the history of the world 20 years from now, what will they say was the most crucial development? The 9/11 attacks and the Iraq war, or the development of technology? Friedman demystifies the brave new world for readers, allowing them to make sense of the often bewildering global scene unfolding before their eyes. \$27.50 (\$30.50 nonmembers) #bworldflat. ACTE also sells *The World is Flat 2.0*. \$30.00 (\$33.00 nonmembers)
- 7 *Career Pathways*—Dan Hull. Hull and some of the nation's leading practitioners and educational leaders show how to remake high schools to improve academic outcomes, prepare students for today's high-skills workplace, and motivate them to learn because they see a pathway to their future. Building on what has been learned in Tech Prep and other reform initiatives, this book gives the "who's," "why's," and "how's," of career pathways. \$13.95 #bcpathway
- 8 *Teaching for Understanding*—Gene Bottoms and Deede Sharpe.



This book explains clearly what integration is and isn't, why it makes sense, what conditions support effective integration and the 10 steps for getting started. Actual high school programs are highlighted. \$12.00 #bteachund

- 9 *1001 Ways to Reward Employees*—Bob Nelson. A chock-full guide to rewards of every conceivable type for every conceivable situation, this book offers innovative ideas beyond the expected raise or promotion. No matter how many people you manage, you will find lots of ideas that will work for you and your business. \$12.95 #b1001ways
- 10 *Teaching Smarter II*—Sandy LaBelle. LaBelle's teaching techniques are based on proven practices from the business world, successfully modified for easy application, and put into practice in real classrooms. They are designed to produce more responsible students, fewer behavior problems, less paperwork for teachers and higher quality student work. These methods produce more on-task student time, which results in more time to increase state test scores. \$23.95 #bteasmar2



All of these titles are available through the ACTE bookstore by calling 800-826-9972 or visiting the product catalog at [www.acteonline.org](http://www.acteonline.org).



### ▲▲ Decked Hall

Thousands of career and technical educators explored the Exhibit Hall looking for new products and services to take back to their schools.

all they need to succeed. It's obvious that the message struck a chord as no one left the session, despite it going a bit long. Following the session, Gardner spent nearly two hours signing copies of his book and spending time with Convention attendees.

### A Fun, Filled and Exciting Exhibit Hall

With more than 6,000 people in attendance, the exhibit hall was bound to be crowded. More than 200 companies were in Atlanta to help these educators learn about new products, explore new services, and discover ways to help their students succeed.

Last year in the Convention recap, ACTE mentioned that "next year's Career Tech Expo is shaping up to be an even better event, with the addition of the Market-Place, an area dedicated to cash-and-carry sales; more focus on student involvement; and more time for attendees to spend with exhibitors." ACTE easily delivered in each of these areas and more.

For the first time, ACTE dedicated a row of booths to those companies interested in making direct sales to attendees. This addition helped attendees who were looking for holiday gifts or trinkets for teachers. On the exhibitor side, this has been an addi-

tion exhibitors have been asking ACTE to add for years. ACTE expects this to expand in Las Vegas.

Working with Georgia ACTE and the Georgia career and technical student organizations, ACTE dramatically increased the student participation in the exhibit hall by providing a student demonstration area. In this area, attendees were treated to student demonstrations in such areas as culinary, construction trades, and CTSOs presentations.

ACTE also brought back the Kids for Careers demonstration. This program, which takes place in the exhibit hall, is designed to introduce elementary students to CTE. This year's students were a fifth-grade class from East Valley Elementary School, in Marietta, Georgia. The 30 students were instructed by teachers from Wyoming, Arizona and Region V in the construction of straw rockets, which were donated by PITSCO. After building the rockets, students charted the length of the flight and the degree of the launch, and then were given a target to hit. Judging by the laughs and smiles, this was a huge success.

### New Advanced Learning Space

The major addition to this year's exhibit hall was the Advanced Learning Space (ALS). Designed by architectural firm Burgess & Niple and supported by the Auburn Career Center, the ALS was a unique way to showcase the integration of technology and architecture.

Attendees who participated were given a brief introduction to the ALS and then invited into the space that included moveable furniture, Internet access, smartboards, and other innovative technology pieces. From the exhibit hall, attendees could see into the ALS and watch the session in action as it was broadcast into the exhibit hall onto large screens.

This new addition was an exciting place for the attendees to learn about how architecture and technology impact student learning. It also gave attendees the

opportunity to explore the functionality of some technology.

### Capacity Workshops, Exciting Cash Machine and More

In addition to these exciting additions to the exhibit hall, ACTE continued to offer some traditional favorites. This year, ACTE added a third exhibitor workshop, which proved a popular option among attendees. These workshops provide an opportunity for exhibitors to give attendees hands-on demonstrations of their products and services. This year's workshops included sessions on Web design, TV production, Apple digital tools, CareeReality, implementing HTI, and more.

Attendees were also encouraged to participate in the Passport program. This program asks attendees to visit certain exhibitors for a stamp. Once they collect all the stamps, they can enter their passport in a drawing for some time in the cash machine. In Atlanta, the lucky drawing winners collected more than \$500! Congratulations to the winners!

ACTE would like to thank all the companies that sponsored pieces of the Convention as well as those who exhibited. The next issue of *Techniques* will include a complete list of all of these companies.

### AOD Passes Bylaw Changes

The Assembly of Delegates (AOD) passed all the proposed bylaws changes. The majority of these changes were designed to implement the ACTE reorganization. With these changes members will now have the ability to create Divisions with only 200 individuals, although 1,000 members will still need to be maintained in order to have a seat on the ACTE Board of Directors and serve on standing committees. Also, Division names will no longer be included in the Bylaws to make it easier for Divisions to change their names and speed the process for new Divisions to be created. This change does not impact the existence of Divisions as they are included in the sections on organization structure.



### ▲▲ High-Class Class

Attendees listen intently in one of the many full sessions in Atlanta.

Changes impacting the AOD include the number of delegates for each state association, elimination of the committee chairs as voting members, and a change in status of Educational Institutions and National Affiliate Organizations to non-voting members of the AOD.

The complete, newly revised bylaws can be downloaded from the ACTE Web site at [www.acteonline.org/about/leadership/upload/ACTE\\_BYLAWS07.pdf](http://www.acteonline.org/about/leadership/upload/ACTE_BYLAWS07.pdf).

### Lucky Las Vegas

While it's sad to say goodbye to Atlanta, we now look forward to Las Vegas. In 2007, the ACTE Annual Convention and Career Tech Expo will take place December 13-15 in the Las Vegas Convention Center.

We are already two months into 2007, and planning for the ACTE Annual Con-



vention and Career Tech Expo is well under way. In fact, ACTE has already signed its Opening General Session speaker. Ruby Payne has been involved with education as a teacher, principal, consultant and administrator. The lessons learned during those years and years of research led to her first book, *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*.

Payne is working to spread the word throughout North America that children of poverty need not suffer through an educational system oblivious to their needs. More than educators are heeding her message. Judges, social workers, ministers, community leaders and health professionals are all learning from Payne's work. A gifted synthesizer, Ruby Payne presents her research and observations in such a way that many people

experience "eye-opening learning," enhancing their own abilities to help children of poverty succeed. This is sure to be an interesting session, and one that is sure to get you thinking.

ACTE is looking to make changes to the program schedule to help attendees get the most out of their time in Las Vegas. In 2007, look for:

- More targeted concurrent sessions;
- More new items in the exhibit hall;
- Exciting and thought-provoking speakers; and
- Much, much more!!

Please continue to visit the ACTE Convention Web page at [www.acteonline.org/convention](http://www.acteonline.org/convention) for the latest news and information about the 2007 Convention. Viva Las Vegas! **I**

