

**Obtaining Teacher Certification in Vocational Education:
A Moving Target**

Topic Area: Vocational Education

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Teacher Shortage

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Poster Session/ Future Project

Proposal: Current Issues and Trends in Vocational Education

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Problem: Certification requirements for vocational education teachers in high schools is so different, that preparing professionals for a career that will transfer across states is difficult to design. Because of the growing teacher shortage, especially for vocational educators, this proves to be difficult for high school administrators to recruit qualified teachers from across the nation.

There are no universal requirements for certification, (Bartlett, 2002, Gray and Walter, 2001) and states' requirements range from requiring a four-year degree, to extensive work experience in a trade. However, many educators are questioning the degree requirements, stating that some credentials have greater value in the work force than degrees, and that we may be overlooking important nation-wide data to understand the problems associated with credentialing. (Kerckhoff and Bell, 1998).

Some efforts have been made to improve technical education programs, by working through NCATE and NBPT standards (Dykman and Mandel, 2001). Most teacher preparation programs are offered traditionally, but many are beginning to be offered online (Bruening and Scanlon, 2001), thus expanding the need for more consistent requirements.

During this Poster Session, the presenters will outline and discuss the current trends in certification for vocational and technical educators, and outline a curricular program that will attempt to meet certification requirements in Montana and neighboring states

References

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