



March 1, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALACTE TO HOLD VIRTUAL SUMMER CONFERENCE

[**Montgomery, AL**] – The Alabama Association for Career and Technical Education’s Board of Directors, in conjunction with feedback from partners and stakeholders, has unanimously voted to hold the 2021 Alabama Career and Technical Education Professional Development Conference virtually. After conducting a careful review of available public health information, and with ample consideration given to feedback from the virtual conference held in 2020, ALACTE found that a virtual format for this year’s conference would be the safest and most effective way of providing a high-quality learning experience for Alabama’s educators. Please review the following notes of rationale and considerations:

- **SAFETY:** In addition to state and national organizations across the country, the Alabama State Department of Education elected to hold all 2021 CTSO conferences virtually out of concern for student, faculty, and communal health. Amidst the growing COVID-19 pandemic that continues to impact Alabama, ALACTE’s decision to hold a virtual conference utilized leading public health guidance and recommendations. Furthermore, ALACTE found that an in-person conference could potentially jeopardize ongoing efforts to safely reopen schools in the fall with a healthy workforce, a cost that would have impacted teachers, students, and their families.
- **LOGISTICS & ADAPTABILITY:** After reviewing feedback from 2020’s virtual conference, it was determined that an event occurring before the start of the academic year, and with more live sessions, was preferred by stakeholders. The dates for this year’s virtual conference will be **July 26-29**, with a majority of sessions currently planned to occur in real-time. Live sessions will enable attendees to interact with speakers directly, with recordings of sessions being made available as well. Additionally, more opportunities for attendee-to-attendee networking and exhibitor packages are being explored. All planning efforts will work to further mimic the in-person environment that many attendees are accustomed to and enjoy.

Amid a time of immense uncertainty, ALACTE’s commitment to Alabama’s educators and learners remains steadfast. Please consider registering for this year’s conference as our communities prepare to welcome students back to classrooms, both virtually and in-person. **Registration will open on March 15 and will close on June 1.** Questions should be directed to the staff contact below.

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