Melgaard Named NDACTE Outstanding Career & Technical Educator
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Valley City State University Professor David Melgaard was named the Outstanding Career & Technical Educator by the North Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education (NDACTE). Melgaard, who is also the University’s Career and Technical Education Coordinator, is being honored at the NDACTE Annual Professional Development Conference held in Bismarck August 9 – 11.

The award recognizes career and technical educators who have recently provided or currently are providing significant contributions to professional associations and career and technical education programs for youth and/or adults. It is one of the ACTE Excellence Awards that seeks to promote excellence in career and technical education by recognizing individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the field, programs that exemplify the highest standards and organizations that have conducted activities to promote and expand career and technical education programs.

Dwight Crabtree, Assistant State Director, Department of Career and Technical Education, said, “Dave has been an outstanding individual to work with, and he is a true supporter of career and technical education in North Dakota.”

Melgaard has been instrumental in providing VCSU’s Career and Technical Education Baccalaureate degree through a partnership with the North Dakota Department of Career & Technical Education. He writes curriculum, develops course syllabi, produces student guides, recruits, and advises students for the six courses required for the degree. Since 1994, VCSU has conducted 213 face-to-face classes, 42 online classes, and 25 IVN classes that have produced 81 baccalaureate graduates, with nine of those continuing and completing master’s degrees. Melgaard designed the degree program to allow emergency-certified teachers continue to teach while they earn their degree, so the program has been tremendously helpful for individuals changing their careers into CTE.

Melgaard has been with VCSU since 1978. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Mayville State University and a Master of Science degree from Bemidji State University.

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) is the largest national education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for careers. Its membership consists of nearly 30,000 career and technical educators, administrators, researchers, guidance counselors and others involved in planning and conducting career and technical education programs at the secondary, post-secondary and adult levels.