

Hello ITE and CTE teachers!

### The Hype

Last year, many KHSD CTE teachers went to the CCPC conference in Anaheim. I went and I was amazed at the large turnout and I was expecting something awesome. However, half way through the first day I was sure this was NOT what I needed.

The problem was that this conference was geared towards administrators and program directors, and not to classroom teachers. Some of the breakout sessions included CDE presentations on how they were going to overhaul and “improve” CTE in California. Others sessions were 60 minute advertisements for packaged curriculum from a variety of “academy” programs like Project Lead the Way, “Engineering by Design,” Geometry in Construction, etc. At the end of the two days there was nothing I could take back to the class with me and immediately put to use. Additionally, it covered all 15 industry sectors, so it is hard to go into depth when you have to have a little something for everybody.

### The Real Article

A much more practical and useful conference I attend annually is the 3-day (Thurs, Fri, Sat) conference put on by CITEA (California Industrial Technology Education Association). This year it is in Fresno. The workshops are typically 1 to 2 hours long, and geared toward industrial technology education (ITE) (Automotive, Woods/ Construction, Drafting & Design, Electronics, Metals & Manufacturing, and Graphic Arts.) The presenters are not telling you about plans to implement accountability systems, but rather, classroom teachers and college ITE instructors who want to share their best practices, their experiences, and their curricular materials with you. You leave with a box full of materials that you can bring to class Monday morning after the conference and IMMEDIATELY put to use. It is hands-on skills training for professional instructors, and there is nothing else out there like it.

Some of you have attended the CITEA conference in the past, and can attest to its value. Many of you have never even heard of it or have not been in a while, which is too bad, because the CITEA has been fighting educational battles on your behalf and providing real ITE in-service and training for over 80 years. They are YOUR professional teachers’ organization, and I encourage you to attend by saying “Yes, I want go to this year’s CITEA conference so I can improve my craft as a professional ITE educator.”

This conference is about commitment to our profession. Your attendance is an investment in your craft. Please join us at this years CITEA conference in Fresno. You are needed.

Thanks!

### **Darren Willis**

Highland High School

*Drafting-CAD-Architectural Design*; CDTC Legislative Liaison;  
CTE Department Chair; KHSD I.T.E. Subject Area Facilitator