

Knutson to serve as IACTE president-elect

SENTINEL STAFF REPORT

MT. VERNON — An MVTHS educator will soon be affecting the education of students throughout the state of Illinois.

At the Illinois Association of Career and Technical Education annual summer conference held in Tinley Park last week, Mt. Vernon Township High School Assistant Principal and Chair of the Career and Technical Education Department Rob Knutson was elected as president at the House of Delegates meeting on June 18.

Knutson stated, "I have to admit, when moving from a rewarding 10 years as the dean of students at MVTHS, I wasn't sure what to expect in the process of transitioning from attendance/discipline to leading a CTE department and AVC with the history and past successes of those at Mt. Vernon Township High School."

Knutson has served on the IACTE Board and in various leadership positions since he became a member in 2005 and will assume his post as presi-

dent-elect in 2010, then as president for a one-year term in 2011.

According to a press release, the IACTE consists of nine affiliate organizations representing all areas of career-technical education. The organization's goals include provisions for quality career-technical education, in-service opportunities and program improvement for Illinois' career-technical educators, administrators and guidance counselors.

An educator from MVTHS has not served as president of the IACTE since agricultural instructor Mr. C.F. Anderson was president of the association in 1939.

The release states, "He will be the first Mt. Vernon Township High School educator in over 70 years to serve in this capacity, and he will have the honor of joining a small group of six educators south of Interstate 64 that have held the office in the last eighty-plus years of IACTE history."

Former presidents of the

association from the Southern Illinois region include Anderson, Dr. Eileen E. Quigley of Carbondale in 1954, Dr. Harves Rahe of Carbondale in 1959, Janice Augustine of Red Bud in 1990, Ethel Holladay of Du Quoin in 1996 and Margie Doolen of Nashville in 2000.

In addition to holding the position as president-elect, Knutson was also re-elected treasurer of the association.

He stated, "I am grateful to work for a district with such a rich tradition in career-technical education that encourages such opportunities. I look forward to working with the many outstanding career-technical educators, administrators and guidance counselors in Illinois that are dedicated to providing young

people with outstanding career-technical education programming and opportunities."

Knutson, who stated that individuals such as former MVTHS Principal Jerry Pepple, regional Tech Prep coordinator Betty Musgrave, system director Pat Garrett and his colleagues at the state level have all played a part in him achieving the leadership role.

He stated, "I am humbled by the confidence that my colleagues have placed in my leadership. It is an honor and privilege to serve as the next president-elect of IACTE. As you can see, however, many played a part in making this type of leadership role possible. It is my utmost goal to see that IACTE continues to develop and flourish as an organization. Even in these challenging times of economic change and hardship, I envision a bold and exciting future for career-technical education faculty, programs and institutions statewide."



Rob Knutson

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