

### Who or what originally inspired you to get involved as a volunteer/leader with ACTE?

Joining the Hope Street Group as a fellow inspired me to increase my voice relative to education practices and policies. Being a CTE facilitator influenced me to look to a national organization as a starting point to effect positive change for career and technical education and to raise awareness to the power of academies in secondary education.

### What's one big issue you want to help resolve or improve (in your career, in the field or in ACTE)?

Not all students should be pushed to go to college. There are many careers which students can prepare for through apprenticeships or certification programs that will lead to sustainable earnings and a comfortable life without the overwhelming costs of universities or colleges. As a nation, we must reevaluate the inordinate amounts of degrees we promote, knowing full well that a skill is often more valuable than a framed piece of paper.

### What do you see as upcoming challenges?

Old systems claiming to be the last bastion of academic freedom to explore and yet employing the same methods of assessment as when they were founded. Also, the inability for some of those in political office to see how educational experiences outside of their own academic histories can be different yet impactful and lasting.

### What do you hope to accomplish through volunteering?

I want to tell the stories of teachers and students who followed their own paths and created success amidst mostly traditional educational pedagogy. Through these stories, I hope those who read them develop or remember what made them want to succeed and persevere.

### What's the best advice you've been given?

Don't celebrate or berate yourself too much. Your decisions are half chance and so are everyone else's.

### What do you do outside of work?

I am an avid do-it-yourself kind of person. So really anything that involves design and construction is what I do in my spare time.

### What are you reading right now?

The Moral Landscape by Sam Harris

### What's your favorite food?

Chips and salsa

### What's your favorite travel destination?

A cabin in the woods does it for me.

### What's your favorite quote or motto?

"When you meet your master on the road, kill him." I was told this by a college English professor and I thought she was crazy then. I realize now that she was letting me see my path is my own. For better or worse, I should never be an idol to a student but merely a stepping stone to their future and a memory that empowered the search for their passions.

# EDUCATORS in ACTION SPOTLIGHT



## Adam Guidry

Lead Teacher

The Hands on Nashville Academy of  
Environmental and Urban Planning  
Glencliff High School, Nashville, TN

- + Hope Street Fellow
- + ACTE Postsecondary Teacher Engagement and Education Representative
- + Joined ACTE in 2015
- + Educator in Action Blog Writer since 2015