

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

Volunteering has given me opportunities to stay connected with CTE networks and translate many best practices and technology into my classroom. Recently, I've seen ACTE become reinvigorated, and made amazing strides to bring back a vibrant network of young CTE professionals throughout the nation.

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

We've enhanced our programs to match high academic standards; complement secondary and post-secondary degree programs; and foster partnerships to refine workplace skills. However, I constantly hear the lament that we don't have "vocational" programs in our schools. We need to affirm how widespread our CTE programs are, and the enormous impact on the quality of life and careers that CTE has on our students.

What do you see as upcoming challenges?

I'd like to see greater strides made in education to ensure higher competency rates for all children in literacy and numeracy by middle school; more focus on career planning as early as possible; and the development of standard CTE elective sequences offered in high school reflecting the 16 career pathways that will make education a beacon for achievement.

What do you hope to accomplish through volunteering?

Someone once said "volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in." I want to share the wisdom of experience and build on the foundation we've created.

What's your greatest 'useless talent'?

Students often told me that I should be a cartoon character for my ability to impersonate, replicate, and colorize the academic content. It's funny to think I made a 'two-dimensional impact' on their 3D lives!

What are you reading/listening to these days?

Right now, I'm reading *Thinking, Fast and Slow* by Daniel Kahneman, a Nobel Laureate. I have great respect for National Public Radio (NPR) and Public Broadcasting System (PBS) for covering authentic scientific pursuits. I am very proud that my students and I have been featured.

What's your favorite food?

Assorted cheeses paired with great wines from unexpected places.

What's your favorite travel destination?

My favorite travel destination is Liberty Island, NY, where no one feels like they are from out-of-town.

EDUCATORS in ACTION SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Robert L. Marraccino

STEM & Career Tech.Ed Instructor,
Biotechnology Specialist,
Microbiologist/Medical Lab Instructor
Staten Island, New York

- + ACTE Member since 2004
- + Attended CareerTech VISION every year since 2007
- + Writer for the Educators in Action Blog, Virtual CTE Discussion leader, and CTE Awareness Advisory Group member
- + ACTE Educator in Action since 2015
- + Presented at over 30 national and regional CTE meetings in the last 18 years.

