

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

I believe if you work in public education, you are automatically inducted into the "Servant Leader Workgroup." **I find volunteering professionally and personally fosters fresh perspectives, engaging discourse, and an opportunity to truly put others before yourself.** We all value our time; volunteering must be a conscious and motivated decision. Therefore, when my GACTE leaders/colleagues asked me to serve, and more recently Janet Goble, ACTE Administration Division Vice-President sent me an email to volunteer (serve ACTE), I did not hesitate. That led to several new opportunities such as the Educators in Action: CTE Awareness Advisory Group; the Policy Committee; the Global Awareness in CTE Focus Group; Educations in Action Blog; and the ACTE Presentation Review Committee...

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

I was featured in a SmartBrief article, "Making STEM Appeal to Girls." There is a term in K-2 education called early literacy. I stressed the simple idea of launching a campaign that begins in K-2 called early STEM innovators by establishing a state-by-state initiative to produce STEM thinkers early. **We have an intentional and purposeful commitment towards attracting and retaining girls in STEM.** STEM is a destination reach for girls/women to innovate, predict and solve the problems that shape our world today, tomorrow and beyond. The global workforce is waiting on them, which is a CTE MATTER!

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

I was told or read, and truly believe, that **successful people don't separate their job and their "personal life."** Their job is their passion and their passion is their craft. They study their craft relentlessly because it is part of who they are. It is not dependent upon time. It is merely a reflection of their own curiosity.

What do you do outside of work?

Walk! When I arrive home, I park my car in the parking deck every day after work and I walk everywhere or I take the train to eat, shop, exercise, and to attend meetings. I love to walk.

What are you reading right now?

Culturally Responsive Teaching and The Brain: Promoting Authentic Engagement and Rigor Among Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students by Zaretta L. Hammond, and I always have a Forbes Magazine.

What's your favorite food?

Lay's Potato Chips and Bison Chip Dip (my hometown of Buffalo, NY has Bison Chip Dip)!

What's your favorite travel destination?

Tokyo, Japan...the food and culture is amazing!

What's your favorite quote or motto?

"Live. Laugh. Love. Lead"

EDUCATORS in ACTION SPOTLIGHT



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- + ACTE member since 2007
- + Served as GACTE Treasurer 2011-2014; Region II Representative for the Association for Career & Technical Education (ACTE) Administrative Division; Education in Action volunteer and blog writer
- + Attended ACTE's CareerTech VISION 8 times since 2007
- + ACTE CareerTech VISION presenter 3 consecutive years

