

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

As a 2016 ACTE Fellow, I became aware of the work happening through ACTE and opportunities to get involved. A product of career and technical education, I was the DECA president for my high school, a CTE teacher, and then EdRising State Director for the Arizona Department of Education. I have seen firsthand the impact of CTE on the lives of my students.

What do you hope to accomplish through volunteering?

After watching an interview of Blake Mycoskie on his one-for-one business model for Toms®, I was moved to adopt this model for my work. For every purchase, I give a presentation or service to a nonprofit or to a school that does not have funds designated for providing presentation literacy training to students. Muhammad Ali said, "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth." I believe this is true, and I've discovered that some of the most fulfilling work in my life has been volunteer work.

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

Presentation literacy is more important now than ever. Our voice has the power to reach the world instantly through technology, and it's important to find ways to incorporate presentation literacy in our CTE classes so that students can articulate ideas effectively.

What do you see as upcoming challenges?

The biggest challenge to CTE is the new administration and how the move toward vouchers may impact our education system. School choice is important, but I am concerned that vouchers will have a negative impact on the ability of to maintain CTE programs in both public schools and public charters.

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

"Write your goals as if they've already been achieved." and, "Good enough seldom is. It only takes a little bit more to go first class."

What do you do outside of work?

I enjoy good food & local restaurants; traveling; spending time with my family & pooches. I am somewhat obsessed with Fitbit and Orange Theory.

What's your greatest 'useless talent'?

I can play spoons (not the game, the musical "instrument").

What are you reading right now?

I just finished *Contagious: Why Things Catch On* by Jonah Berger.

What's your favorite food?

Only one? That's tough! I'll go with sushi.

What's your favorite travel destination?

My hometown, Mitchell's Ridge located in Almost Heaven, West Virginia. I love visiting here and reconnecting with my family and listening to the crickets & watching fireflies out on the ridge.

What's your favorite quote or motto?

"An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind."

EDUCATORS in ACTION SPOTLIGHT



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#TeachlikeTED

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- + ACTE Member since 2013
- + Attended ACTE's Best Practices & Innovations Conference every year since 2013; attended CareerTech VISION 2013 and 2016
- + 2016 ACTE Fellow for Region V
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