

EDUCATORS in ACTION SPOTLIGHT

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

I was locally involved with Ohio ACTE, but wanted to get more involved and volunteer at the national level. By participating in the ACTE Fellowship Program this past year, I was able to meet folks from around the country and learn more about the structure of ACTE. My experience has grown this year, and I am now a part of the ACTE Region 1 Policy Committee and am the ACTE Region 1 Conference Chair.

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

I would like to help change the perception of career-technical education. This seems to be a common issue across the country. Career-Technical Education shouldn't just be presented as a back-up to college, it should be presented as an excellent option for students. There are so many great careers that don't require a four year degree and we need to start presenting CTE with the same weight.

What are some of the major challenges facing this issue?

Some of the major challenges facing this issue is perceptions. In the past, vocational education was thought to be a back-up for the students that couldn't or didn't want to go to college. There is still that perception with parents, students, counselors, community members, and even some teachers. This perception needs to change. Students are going to college just to get a four year degree because they think that's the right thing to do, but don't end up completing or end up with a degree they can do nothing with. A lot of high paying, in-demand careers don't require four year degrees, and the perception has to change.

What do you hope to accomplish through volunteering?

I hope to benefit career-technical education and students in my state and nationally. I also hope that I can make a difference in moving some of these important initiatives forward.

What's your greatest 'useless talent'?

My greatest useless talent is dancing

What are you reading right now?

Team of Teams by General Stanley McChrystal

What's your favorite food?

Bread... I know that sounds weird, but I love all different kinds of bread and for some reason crave carbs!

What's your favorite travel destination?

Florida or anywhere warm! I was born and raised in the Midwest, but can't take the snow and cold!

What's your favorite quote or motto?

"If you want to be successful in this world, you have to follow your passion, not a paycheck."



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