

EDUCATORS in ACTION SPOTLIGHT

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

My professor at The University of Georgia, **Dr. John Scott**, first introduced me to our association and suggested that I attend my first convention. Without him and my mentor, **Cynthia Greene**, I would not have started on my leadership journey and met **Jean Kyle**, former ACTE Business Education Division Vice President, who inspired me to run for a position on the ACTE Board. As I travel and promote the value of ACTE, I always work the power of mentorship into my presentations. Without mentors and without people helping the next set of leaders along, we would not be where we are today as an association.

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

The perception of CTE. I was shocked when I first heard someone speak negatively about **the image of CTE**, or "vocational" education. I believe there is nothing more important in life than to find your purpose, or vocation, and make an impact on your community, no matter how small. We should encourage all students to be lifelong learners but if we do not have a plan addressing where they want to end up, then we have failed to get them ready for reality.

What do you hope to accomplish through volunteering?

I hope **to be a connector**. For example, I recently spoke with a cabinet member of a school district on the other side of the country who saw my name on the ACTE website and wanted to know about CTE best practices as they are looking to reform. Without my volunteer experience, I would not have been able to connect them with amazing people and programs in our CTE community to visit and speak with.

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

Throughout my life, my Dad always emphasized **the importance of having a plan...and a plan B...and plan C**. In addition to this plan, you need to know how to be adaptable and adjust to still win the war even if you have lost the immediate battle, so to speak. I think that as a society, we get bogged down with all of the "to do" list items and emails that we do not take the time to step back and plan.

What are you reading right now?

Start with Why: How Great Leaders Inspire Everyone to Take Action by Simon Sinek

What's your favorite travel destination?

I love to go to **Texas to see my family** and eat puffy tacos at Los Barrios.

What's your favorite quote or motto?

"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give."
—Winston Churchill



Dr. Sarah Heath

Assistant Provost for
Career and Technical Education
Colorado Community College System

- + ACTE member since 2003
- + Served as ACTE President 2014-2015; ACTE Business Education Division Vice President 2010-2013
- + Attended ACTE's CareerTech VISION 12 times since 2003.
- + Served as Chair of the ACTE Nominating Committee & Strategic Direction Task Force
- + ACTE Educator in Action since 2014