

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

A commitment to the profession. As a part-time, paid staff of a state affiliate association, I could have skipped paying dues and gone about my work. I soon grasped the value of what then was called vocational education as the foundation for the nation's and state's economy, and as a vehicle to enhanced quality of life for the 60-plus percent of the population who do not hold -- nor will they achieve-- baccalaureate or higher degrees. To support the profession, I paid my dues and then became aware of NEDA, the ACTE affiliated National Executive Directors' Association. Collegially, NEDA members can enhance the ACTE mission at the grassroots level. From those two commitments, it was a logical step to volunteer to participate in activities that will benefit all: ACTE, Kentucky ACTE, and NEDA. Also, it occurred to me, how could I ask others to join the association if I was not an active member? I believe in modeling the behavior you are promoting.

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

What's in it for me? Now approaching 40 years in non-profit association management, I am very tired of hearing that question, but my fatigue does not stop if from being relevant. I want the answer readily apparent so that it doesn't need to be asked by members or prospective members. I think the answer is being and acting professional, and by that I mean the concept of professionalism. I authored an essay submitted to Techniques, "Preparing for 21st Century Professions," to explain professionalism is the way in which one commits to the job. Everyone can act professionally, and one of those ways, as Theodore Roosevelt said, is to contribute to the profession from which you gain your livelihood. The answer to the question should be another question, adapted from President John F. Kennedy's inaugural address: What can I give to my profession? Joining an association of similarly committed professionals strengthens the whole. The interesting thing, to me, is every time I've committed to something, I've always gotten more in return than I ever gave.

### What are some of the major challenges facing this issue?

Those who view their profession as just a job. Get to work at 7 a.m. Leave at 4 p.m. Don't interact with others or represent the school. Say things like: "That's my personal time, I don't have time to volunteer or contribute. Don't bother me away from school."

### What do you hope to accomplish through volunteering?

Offer what talents I have to help others.

### What are you reading right now?

I'm covered up with periodicals and newspapers. I read two newspapers daily -- the old kind still printed with ink on paper! -- and The New Yorker weekly. Kentucky and national political and policy documents and research consume a lot of time.

### What's your favorite travel destination?

The Charleston, South Carolina, area. One of our daughters attended the College of Charleston and through many trips we discovered the area fits our get-away mood.

### What's your favorite quote or motto?

If you don't know where you're going, you'll probably end up somewhere else.

# EDUCATORS in ACTION SPOTLIGHT



## Mike Stone

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- + ACTE member since 1998
- + State Leadership Training Program facilitation at NPS 2018