

Welcome to the family. NCACTE is the perfect opportunity for Career-Technical Educators from across the state to collaborate and serve as a source of support for one another.

My name is Kaye Harris, and this year it is my privilege to serve as president of the North Carolina Association for Career-Technical Education. I am an agricultural education teacher in Cleveland County at Crest High School where I have had the opportunity to advocate for Career-Technical Education for fifteen years. My teaching partner, Matt, also happens to be my husband. We have two children, Faith (12) and Andrew (6).

As a young person growing up in eastern North Carolina on a tobacco farm, I learned from an early age the value of hard work. I also learned that the last thing I wanted to do as a career was to work in the field of agriculture. My goal was to graduate from high school, go to Duke University and then graduate from law school. I would never have to work in hot and dirty fields and could enjoy the comforts of the indoors and air conditioning.

Plans have a way of changing, though. When I attended orientation for my sophomore year of high school, I noticed that my worst nightmare had come to fruition. I was enrolled in Ag Production 1. Being a student at a small school didn't really lend itself to a lot of flexibility in scheduling. If I wanted to keep my other courses in place, the only option was agriculture.

I thank God each day for that scheduling mistake. I learned to embrace my roots and developed a real love for CTSOs, especially FFA. After graduating from high school I attended NC State University where I would eventually decide that CTE and Agricultural Education were so important to me that I would devote my career to that cause. I also met and became best friends with the man that would eventually become my teaching partner and husband.

This year my goal is to embrace whatever comes my way through this opportunity to serve NCACTE. We have jumped the hurdle of reunification with ACTE and must now move forward on our new united front. There are exciting changes coming with the way we provide professional development and want to look at new opportunities to find ways to serve you, the membership, better.

I truly believe in the power of transparency and communication. Please do not hesitate to contact me this year if you have ideas for our organization or feel that I can be of service to you.