

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

My research advisor and friend, Dr. Carol Mooney, Professor Emeritus from UW-Stout, was one of major inspirations to get involved with ACTE. My first ACTE experience was VISION 2012 in Atlanta, GA. The amount of energy and passion throughout the conference was inspirational! Ever since, I have been hooked and look for ways to help our association and profession progress forward.

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

The one big issue I want to help improve in PK-12 education is the relationship between education and work. CTE educators and practitioners play a critical role in assisting our students learn about the world of career opportunities. Today's learners may experience 10-15 career changes in their lifetime, in fields with technologies that do not currently exist. Preparing students for the range of opportunities requires us in CTE to work with our businesses, communities, and colleagues in education to prepare our students for our rapidly advancing societies, for work and life.

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

Building partnerships with internal and external stakeholders assists in changing the perception of what CTE is and is not. Improving the relationship between education and work will require a breaking down of silos to connect thinking and doing with contextualized learning experiences amongst PK-12 education and: the community; our students' families; businesses and employers; post-secondary education and training; and the other areas of education (general education, physical education, and the arts), including us across CTE content disciplines.

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

I hope to help the organization move forward and work with my colleagues to identify and share best practices within CTE. I wish to inspire others to become involved and have their voices be heard with elected officials around a common message of Career and Technical Education.

### What's your greatest 'useless talent?'

I am immune to the ice cream headache.

### What are you reading right now?

I am bouncing around reading three books: Jordan Peterson's 12 Rules for Life: An Antidote to Chaos, Brene Brown's Dare to Lead, and John Kotter's Accelerate: Building Strategic Agility for a Faster-Moving World. When ACTE's Techniques arrives, I like to read what the field is thinking and acting on.

### What's your favorite food?

Cheese and anything with cheese. Hey, I'm from Wisconsin!

### What's your favorite travel destination?

I enjoy the mountains and ocean beaches.

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

"Give the pupils something to do, not something to learn; and the doing is of such a nature as to demand thinking; learning naturally results" ~John Dewey

# EDUCATORS in ACTION SPOTLIGHT



## Christopher Neff

Director of Career and Technical Education  
Racine, Wisconsin