

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

I was somewhat involved in ACTE at the state level and greatly appreciated the networking opportunities provided during conferences. I also enjoyed learning how CTE programs were both similar and different across our state. I was hoping that becoming involved on the national level would provide me with similar opportunities and a more diverse perspective/understanding of how different states provide CTE and address issues related to stigma, funding, teacher certification, etc.

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

I think there is still a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding around who can attend and benefit from CTE courses, as well as the level of rigor involved in learning a trade and/or studying technical content. I still hear comments about CTE being for special education students only or students that can't get accepted into colleges.

What are some of the major challenges facing this issue?

The stigma that still surrounds CTE makes it an access and equity issue. All students can benefit from CTE and should be exposed to career exploration activities prior to graduating from high school and making decisions about college and careers, but oftentimes college bound students are not offered CTE opportunities or encouraged to take advantage of them.

What do you hope to accomplish through volunteering?

I think my state, and my CTE center in particular, do a lot of great things for our students and I would like to share some of these best practices and initiatives. At the same time, there is always room for growth so I also want to learn as much as I can about other successful CTE programs and models.

What's your greatest 'useless talent?'

Shopping!

What are you reading right now?

Professionally, I'm reading Mark Perna's Answering Why
Personally, I just finished reading the All Souls Trilogy by Deborah Harkness so that I could watch season one of A Discovery of Witches. I always like to read the book before watching the show or movie.

What's your favorite food?

Definitely pizza!

What's your favorite travel destination?

Thanks to attending VISION conference, Nashville Tennessee is my favorite place to go.

What's your favorite quote or motto?

It changes depending on what is happening in my life. Right now I have two:

- Happiness is a choice
- Count the memories not the calories

EDUCATORS in ACTION SPOTLIGHT



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