

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

I had been wanting to get more involved with CTE and was already actively involved with the Family Consumer Sciences division for Colorado. I have many mentors who have showed me their involvement in professional organizations have greatly fostered their careers both personally and professionally.

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

I would love to help resolve the issue we are finding with new education professionals not being as actively involved or members of professional organizations as compared to previous generations. I believe there needs to be a stronger campaign to educate new education professionals (especially those in CTE) the benefits of being a part of and involved in organizations that advocate for advancements in our careers.

What are some of the major challenges facing this issue?

I believe one challenge is the financial aspect many new educators are facing. With some of the lowest pay in the country, Colorado teachers are trying to find ways to save as much money as possible, which for many means not being involved in professional organizations.

What do you hope to accomplish through volunteering?

Through volunteering I want others to see that it is possible. I am in my 4th year of teaching, a wife and a new mom trying to balance personal and professional life. However, through my involvement I have found my personal life has benefited tremendously from the ability to network across the country and gain professional support that then spills into making my personal life easier.

What's your greatest 'useless talent'?

My greatest 'useless talent' is the ability to sleep just about anywhere. Being really busy I also know I need more sleep than the average adult. I have always been able to curl up into small positions and get super comfortable and just sleep. Lets just say, power naps in the CTE office might be a regular occurrence for me. You need sleep to function to your best of your ability.

What are you reading right now?

I am currently reading Backbone: Living with Chronic Pain without Turning into One by Karen Duffy. I personally struggle with various health conditions and like to read about others' experiences. It is always good to load your toolkit with various coping techniques you might not have thought of before.

What's your favorite travel destination?

I love to travel anywhere new with my family. I am a foodie though and love seafood (especially since I live landlocked) and get super excited whenever we are somewhere we can get fresh fish!

What's your favorite quote or motto?

My favorite motto is "You are stronger than you know". We all go through struggles and various challenges throughout life and hit a point where we think we just can not keep going. We can get through things and look back in amazement of the strength we had.

EDUCATORS in ACTION SPOTLIGHT



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