Welcome to the new 2019-2020 school year and a time of transition for the implementation of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, our new Perkins V legislation. We are likewise “charting a new course” for our organization to navigate steps of continuous improvement of CTE in North Carolina.

I am Chip Lucas, your president of the North Carolina Association of Career and Technical Education, where I have been an active member since 2004. I have held various leadership roles within the organization over the past ten years, most recently as the president of the administration division and formerly as chair of the NC Career and Technical Education Foundation. I would not be able to serve in these positions without the support of my wife Karen, and three children, Noah (16), Haven (14) and Liam (8). I also owe a great deal of gratitude to the Cumberland County Schools family and especially the CTE team.

I have been fortunate to maneuver a personalized pathway of various education roles for the past 20 years, including marketing teacher, career development coordinator, CTE coordinator and CTE Executive Director. My calling has been a blend of my early family experience. My father was a tradesman and my mother was a teacher. These worlds collided, and as a CTE professional, my instilled passions, modeled by my parents, have made for a rewarding career of which I hope they would be proud.

I have also been blessed to have worked in the world of small business prior to my CTE journey which has helped to hone the needed skills to build team and community around members to ensure communication and collaboration for thinking through ideas and foster creativity in finding workable solutions. I hope to work with our NC ACTE family of CTE educators to encourage creation and innovation to move forward in our quest of quality educational development for all.

Our strategic priorities are our drivers to further the cause of CTE in NC. As an organization we must take these steps to see more potential in our NC team!

- Enhancing member value through **Meaningful Membership**
- Improving relationships through **Optimal Organization**
- Expanding working relations through **Relevant Resources**
- Providing CTE as an excellent education through **Exceptional Educators**

Please get ready to board and enjoy our journey as we move forward to lead and develop our future North Carolina workforce through Career and Technical Education.

Thank you. I look forward to serving, and let me know how to help you along the way!