



#### SDACTE Fellow Members and Friends of SDACTE:

I am proud to be representing our organization for the 21-22 association year. Education is alive in a time of transformation, and we are experiencing change at a pace that has been previously unknown to teachers. The unknown is scary, but it is so exciting!

Our job as career and technical educators is to prepare our workforce for tomorrow, but what does tomorrow look like? We are having to find new ways to keep pace with what we think is coming instead of what we know is coming. Preparing students for a world that we have no idea what it looks like, while constantly being asked to punt and reverse direction. I find it invigorating, but it can be harrowing, and it IS hard work. Being a part of the Association of Career and Technical Educators gives you an advantage in this new challenge. We have built the partnerships and connections to better prepare ourselves for the future and our members are better because of it.

South Dakota's CTE programs are so very innovative. SDACTE's leadership team is working hard to support you as teachers today and in the future. We have set goals to increase member interaction, in hopes of giving you more tools throughout the school year. We will be intentional in our outreach and hope that you will choose to seek opportunities to grow in your profession. Our board of directors is a true representation of our state with educators from large and small districts, eastern and western South Dakota, and all clusters seated at the table. We are in the trenches with you, and we cannot wait to work with you learning your wants, needs, concerns, and successes.

I encourage you to interact with your board representatives and seek opportunities to build relationships within the organization and profession. Being a member of SDACTE has been one of the most enriching parts of my professional career and I am proud to call myself a CTE teacher. Good luck in the coming year and I cannot wait to meet you all!

Yours in Education –

Lori Christensen

SDACTE President 2021-2022