



Greetings Health Science Educators!

I hope and pray that you and your families are well.

“Back to school” were three little words that in the past brought us excitement, anxiety and several “to do” lists. This year, we are faced with new words, “hybrid,” “phased opening,” and “virtual.” While the words may be different, the excitement, joy and to-do lists are still very present in our lives. So, I ask, is the so-called “new normal” really that new?

Although the terms may have changed and the way we teach will be somewhat different, the normal still exists. We are still planning and preparing to do what we absolutely love to do ... TEACH. I ask you to set aside the anxiety related to the “how” and focus on the same back-to-school excitement of the past.

1. **Prepare:** “How do we prepare for the unknown”? My answer, “How did you prepare for back to school in the past?” You had to prepare your classroom, lesson, opening day, your outfit, and a gift or two for the students. Prepare your “welcome” the same as you always would. You may have a new list of expectations for your students surrounding the virtual classroom; however, the goal is the same: Prepare to make the opening day welcome and fun, exciting, and filled with memorable moments. You may want to offer a scavenger hunt or other fun activities, encourage relationships building activities, or even a “dress in costume” day. Keep your eye on the students and the building of a relationship more than the anxiety of “how;” focus on the why ... why is the welcome so important? The answer is that you are building a relationship with your students that will be a foundation for your entire school year. The lessons and virtual aspects will fall into place, and the uncertainty does bring emotions of fear and anxiety; however, those feelings can be eased if you embrace and love your students no matter if you are teaching them from your kitchen or in the classroom. My

ultimate message here is to love your students, nurture them, and embrace them. Be calm and the rest will follow.

2. **Positivity:** Provide encouragement to your students as you begin lessons. When considering your lesson planning, try not to focus on the things you don't have or can't do, instead focus on the positive. In my area of health science (CNA), I will be providing a strong foundation of content by front loading the theory until clinical becomes an option. We can also explore new "telemedical" approaches to clinical practice, host a few speakers (it is easier now with virtual platforms) and offer projects that support the content. We have amazing opportunities in front of us; when you are stressed and filled with anxiety, you don't always see what is available or the positive side of things.
3. **Surround yourself with support:** You are not alone! You may not see all those around you, but we are here to help you, to support you, to agree with you, cry, laugh, tell a joke, anything that is needed is available through the network of teachers at ACTE. There is such incredible support and encouragement a click away. Please reach out to me at [Iromano@necsd.net](mailto:Iromano@necsd.net). Also, the [ACTE website](#) has resources available that can help you in the classroom and more.

Please share your experiences as you head back to school. I know many of you have started or will be starting sooner than I will, so please email to let me know how it is going. I would love to feature your school/program in a monthly newsletter or eblast, so please share.

## Virtual VISION

Have you heard? We are going virtual for VISION 2020, and I am excited! I am in the planning phase; however, I know that with Virtual VISION, the possibilities are endless!

You can expect:

- engaging sessions and workshops
- a virtual hospitality room where health science educators can network and engage in mini workshops, discussions and activities
- gifts and giveaways
- fun and interactive activities, yoga, meditation, and wellness
- lesson sharing

Do you want to be involved in a planning task force? Reach out to me via [email](#) — I am more than happy to invite you to help plan your Virtual Vision activities!

As this newsletter comes to an end, I want to let you know I am praying for you, love you and wish you all the best. You will hear from me very soon with some lesson ideas and sharing. Until then, I leave you with these Affirmations for Back to School 2020 and a [Back to School Meditation](#):

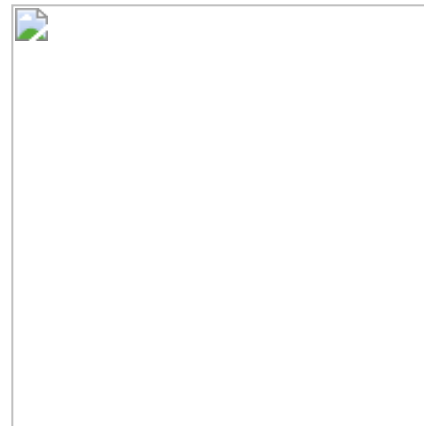
### **AFFIRMATIONS FOR BACK-TO-SCHOOL 2020**

- *I'm strong and I can manage the challenges that come up.*
- *I'm exactly the right person to support my students through this.*
- *I'm more than enough.*
- *I can handle anything that is thrown my way.*
- *Nothing is forever and I can see a better future.*
- *I will get through any storm, one day at a time.*
- *This might look and feel different than before, but I've adapted before and I'll adapt again.*
- *I can find the light in even the darkest space.*
- *I am an amazing teacher*

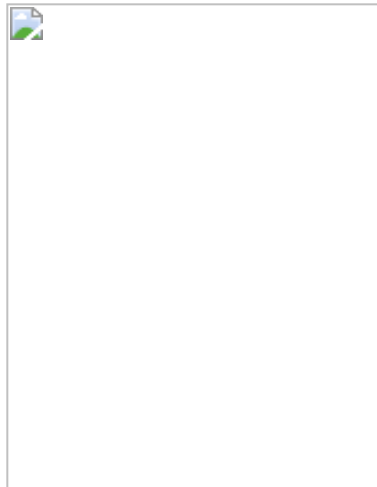
You are amazing educators ... you are amazing people, and I value each and every one of you. Be blessed and know you are never alone.

## **VISION Now Virtual — The Show Must Go On!**

After thoughtful consideration, ACTE is excited to host, for the first time ever, CareerTech VISION 2020 as a fully online, virtual event, happening **Nov. 30–Dec. 4!** We at ACTE believe this is the safest approach for our attendees and look forward to offering you, from the comfort and convenience of your own home, school or office, an immersive professional development experience that addresses timely topics impacting career and technical education (CTE)!



Learn more and register



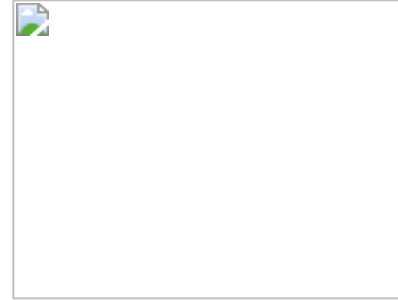
## New Guide Covers COVID-19 Implications for CTE Programs

*High-quality CTE: Planning for a COVID-19-impacted School Year* is a guide for helping CTE stakeholders identify the key considerations, guiding questions and emerging best practices that should shape future planning. The guide is accompanied by a [webinar series](#) (with archived recordings available to members), exploring issues and sharing ideas from the field about CTE planning for the 2020-21 school year.

[Read the report](#)

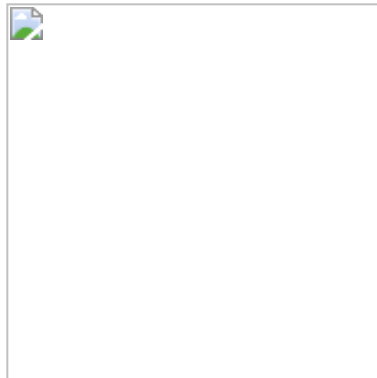
### Apply to the New IAED Mentorship Program!

ACTE's new mentorship program, offering professional development opportunities to help cultivate more diverse and inclusive work environments for CTE educators, seeks to support association members interested in inclusion, access, equity and diversity (IAED) — those who want to be leaders in these efforts and those who wish to support existing leadership. Applications are due **Nov. 1**. [Learn more and register](#)



### ACTE Seeking IAED Mentors

ACTE's new IAED Mentorship Program is looking for mentors! Applications are due **Sept. 15**. [Learn more](#)



## Call for Access & Equity Content

ACTE continues to seek content on IAED in CTE by:

- Recommending ideas for the IAED column that will be included in all future issues of *Techniques*
- Contributing resources to the ACTE IAED website
- Submitting recommended IAED speaker names
- Signing up to be a part of ACTE's IAED Advisory Group

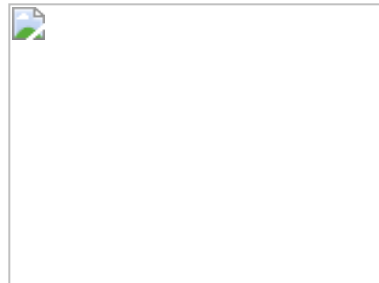
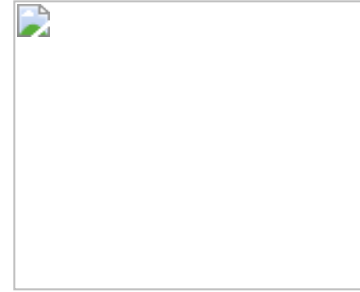
**Contribute your ideas**

## Signature Event for CTE

## Administrators Going Virtual

The world is asking for change, and it is vital for your CTE programs to be optimized to reach and support a diversified student body. Happening virtually **Oct. 8–9**, the Best Practices and Innovations in CTE Conference will offer content-rich programming and networking to strengthen the field for CTE administrators of both secondary and postsecondary CTE programs and institutions. This year's event is once again hosted by ACTE, the ACTE Administration Division and the National Council of Local Administrators.

[Learn more](#)



## Splash into Techniques in 2021

Hold on tight to the final days of summer — but also plan ahead! *Techniques* is now accepting proposal submissions for issues dated January, February and March 2021, on the following themes:

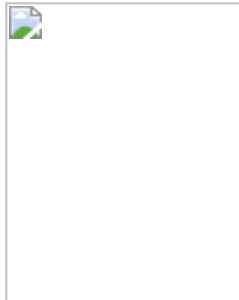
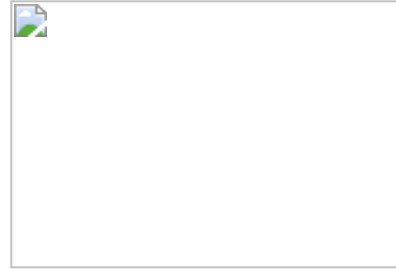
- Techniques Turns 25
- Inspiring Facilities & Innovative Equipment
- It's All Fun & Games

Review the editorial calendar and submit a proposal. For questions, please contact [Lia Milgram](#).

## Write for PAGES

The official blog of ACTE's *Techniques* magazine, PAGES seeks to foster a community of collaboration among CTE educators. Let your voice be heard. Share [Member](#)

[Connected News](#) or get an answer to CTE's most pressing questions when you ask [Dear Linda](#). Have a better idea? Contact [Lia Milgram](#).



God bless you all and keep you safe!

With love and gratitude,  
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