

VOTE FOR THE FUTURE OF CTE!



PRESIDENT-ELECT

MICHAEL CULWELL

Region: IV

Division: Administration

Occupation: Campus director

Employment history

Campus director, Kiamichi Tech: 2011–present; principal, Heavener Schools: 2005–2011; principal, Bokoshe Schools: 2001–05; teacher, Spiro Schools: 1996–2001

Education

Master of Education, school administration, Northeastern State University; Bachelor of Arts, education, Northeastern State University; Associate of Arts, Carl Albert State College

National ACTE involvement

Member, board of directors: 2023–present; member, executive committee, region representative: 2024–25, 2025–26; member, Achieve 100 task force: 2024–present; representative, region budget formula advisory group: 2023; co-chair, voting advisory group: 2024–present; fellow, National Leadership Fellowship Program: 2014; supporter, CTE Support Fund: 2022, 2024–25; presenter, ACTE's CareerTech VISION: 2016; volunteer, Educators in Action: 2017–18, 2020–21; attendee, VISION: 2014, 2016–2024; attendee, National Policy Seminar: 2014, 2019, 2023–25

Regional ACTE involvement

Chair, nominating committee: 2019; member, policy committee: 2016–18; member, audit committee: 2016; conference presenter: 2016; conference attendee: 2014, 2016, 2018–2025

Divisional ACTE involvement

Conference attendee, ACTE's and NCLA's Best Practices & Innovation in CTE Conference: 2019–2021

State ACTE involvement

President, Oklahoma ACTE: 2019; president-elect, OkACTE: 2018; past president, OkACTE: 2020; fellows coordinator, OkACTE: 2019–present; award winner, Administrator of the Year, Administration Division: 2020

Platform statement

I'm running for ACTE president-elect because I believe in the transformative power of CTE to prepare learners for meaningful careers. As a past ACTE fellow and current Region IV vice president, I have vast leadership experience and a strong commitment to advocacy, professional growth, and serving our diverse membership.

If elected, I will focus on collaboration, innovation and inclusion to strengthen ACTE's impact. I will prioritize building strong partnerships with industry and education to ensure programs keep pace with rapid changes in technology and workforce needs, especially

in areas like AI, cybersecurity and renewable energy. Addressing the growing shortage of qualified CTE educators is critical, so I will promote recruitment, retention and professional development strategies that support teachers at all levels.

Equity and access will be central to my leadership, with a focus on reaching underserved communities and fostering inclusive learning environments. I will also work to secure and sustain funding, particularly through Perkins, while expanding pathways between secondary and postsecondary education.

To grow ACTE's membership, I will champion efforts that highlight the value of ACTE membership through resources, networking and advocacy, with targeted outreach to new and postsecondary educators. I will encourage open communication, transparency and shared leadership within the board and among members to build consensus and trust.

Finally, I will help position ACTE to meet future challenges by supporting innovative, data-driven programming that prepares students for a changing global workforce. With strong partnerships, clear focus and member engagement, I am ready to lead ACTE into a future where every student has access to high-quality CTE and every educator feels valued and supported.



PRESIDENT-ELECT

ANNIKA RUSSELL-MANKE

Region: V

Division: Business Education

Occupation: Instructor

Employment history

Instructor, Mitchell Technical College: 2010–present; business instructor, Mitchell School District: 2005–10; business teacher, Wessington Springs High School: 2005–08; business teacher, Sanborn Central High School: 1996–2005

Education

Master of Arts, curriculum and instruction of distance education, University of Nebraska; Bachelor of Arts, business management and administration, general and secondary education, Dakota Wesleyan University

National ACTE involvement

Member, executive committee: 2024–present; member, board of directors: 2019–2022; co-chair, CTE awareness task force: 2015–16; chair, division affiliate task force: 2019; member, young professionals task force: 2013; member, Quality Association Standards Award task force: 2009–2011; member, CTE Support Fund committee: 2011–12; participant, strategic planning session: 2011; blogger, Educators in Action: 2014; volunteer, Educators in Action: 2014–present; presenter, ACTE's CareerTech VISION: 2012,

2023–25; attendee, VISION: 2005–07, 2009–present; attendee, National Policy Seminar: 2009–2013, 2019–2021

Regional ACTE involvement

Co-chair, conference planning committee: 2011, 2017, 2022; chair, nominating committee: 2014–2019; member, nominating committee: 2012–19; award winner, Postsecondary Teacher of the Year: 2014; conference presenter: 2010–11; conference attendee: 2010–11, 2013–present

Divisional ACTE involvement

Chair, student awards committee: 2022–present; chair, professional development committee: 2013–19; member, policy committee: 2013–present

State ACTE involvement

President, South Dakota ACTE: 2010–11; president-elect, South Dakota ACTE: 2009–10; past president, South Dakota ACTE: 2011–12; division president, Business/Marketing/IT Division, South Dakota ACTE: 2007–09; postsecondary representative, board of directors, South Dakota ACTE: 2012–present; conference presenter, Washington ACTE: 2012; conference presenter, New York State: 2020

Other CTE involvement

Participant in a committee to write personal finance standards for the state of South Dakota: 2006; participant in South Dakota Department of Education's process for curriculum and standards revision for business management and finance clusters: 2006–07, 2016–17, 2020–21

Platform statement

My primary goal is to build on the strong foundation of leadership and collaboration within ACTE to further elevate the visibility and impact of CTE nationwide. Drawing from my extensive experience at the national, regional, divisional and state levels of ACTE, I aim to create a culture of inclusion and innovation that supports CTE professionals and advocates in adapting to the evolving needs of our students and workforce.

Specifically, I want to enhance professional development opportunities by expanding access to resources and training that empower educators to deliver relevant, high-quality instruction. This includes leveraging technology and encouraging the sharing of best practices through virtual platforms and targeted programming.



ADMINISTRATION DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

ALISON BELLIVEAU

Region: IV

Division: Administration

Occupation: CTE executive director and principal

Employment history

CTE executive director and principal, Rockwall Independent School District: 2017–present; CTE administrator, Killeen Independent School District: 2011–17; CTE administrator, Temple Independent School District: 2007–2011; CTE teacher, Killeen Independent School District: 2000–07; CTE facilitator for CTE alternative certification, Education Service Center 13: 2014–17 (part time)

Education

Master of Education, education administration, Tarleton State University; Bachelor of Science, business administration, Tarleton State University

National ACTE involvement

Member, audit committee: 2019–2020; presenter, ACTE's CareerTech VISION: 2024; attendee, VISION: 2018–2024; attendee, National Policy Seminar: 2025

Regional ACTE involvement

Member, nominating committee: 2015–2025; conference presenter: 2025; conference attendee: 2013–2025; finalist, Region IV Administrator of the Year: 2015; fellow, Region IV, Cohort III: 2024–25

State ACTE involvement

Director, Area 2, Career and Technical Association of Texas: 2024–27; president-elect, CTAT Area 2: 2025–27; secretary, CTAT Area 2: 2022–25; past president, president, president-elect, secretary, CTAT Area 4: 2007–2017; secretary, CTAT state board: 2013–15; administrator at large, CTAT state board: 2016–17; member, CTAT state awards committee: 2015–16; presenter, CTAT state conferences: 2010, 2014–15, 2021–24

Platform statement

As ACTE region/division vice president, my primary goal is to strengthen connections between members, educators and industry partners to advance high-quality CTE. I aim to increase member engagement by promoting accessible professional development, fostering leadership opportunities, and encouraging collaboration across disciplines and regions. By actively listening to member needs and sharing their successes, I will work to ensure our division/region remains a vibrant, inclusive community that supports innovation and equity.

I also plan to advocate for enhanced public-private partnerships that align CTE programs with evolving workforce demands, helping students gain relevant skills and credentials. Supporting ACTE's strategic priorities, I will champion initiatives that integrate academic and technical content, promote student-centered learning, and highlight the impact of CTE at local, state, and national levels.

Ultimately, I want to empower educators and stakeholders to lead boldly and creatively, ensuring that CTE continues to be a dynamic pathway for student success. Through collaboration, advocacy and dedicated service, I will work to elevate our division/region and contribute meaningfully to ACTE's vision of a skilled, competitive workforce for tomorrow.



AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

RACHEL KNIGHT

Region: IV

Division: Agricultural Education

Occupation: Career specialist and agriculture educator

Employment history

Career specialist and agriculture educator, Las Cruces Public Schools: 2018–present; agriculture and science teacher, Centennial High School: 2012–18; instructional specialist and agriculture educator, Picacho Middle School: 2011–12; agriculture and science teacher, Picacho Middle School: 2006–2011

Education

Master of Science, animal science, New Mexico State University; Bachelor of Science, with honors, animal science, New Mexico State University

National ACTE involvement

Member, bylaws committee: 2022–present; member, audit review committee: 2022–24; fellow, National Leadership Fellowship Program: 2022; presenter, ACTE’s CareerTech VISION: 2022; attendee, VISION: 2018–2024; attendee, National Policy Seminar: 2022

Regional ACTE involvement

Conference attendee: 2025

State ACTE involvement

Executive director, New Mexico ACTE: 2024–present; fellow, New Mexico ACTE Leadership Program: 2024; member, board of directors, New Mexico ACTE: 2018–2021; award winner, Educator of the Year, New Mexico ACTE: 2020; conference presenter, New Mexico ACTE: 2022–25

Other CTE involvement

Mentor professional development facilitator, National Association of Agricultural Educators: 2022–25; agriscience teacher ambassador, NAAE: 2013–2025

Platform statement

As the ACTE Agricultural Education Division vice president, my goal will be to strengthen our community of educators by fostering collaboration, advocating for our profession, and expanding opportunities for students and teachers alike. I am committed to increasing member engagement by promoting inclusive leadership, elevating diverse voices and encouraging involvement at all levels. I will work to build strong partnerships with business and industry to ensure our programs remain relevant and aligned with workforce needs. I will also support initiatives that integrate academic and technical content, promote innovation, and provide accessible, high-quality professional development. Together, we can lead the way in advancing agricultural education and fulfilling ACTE’s vision of empowering educators to deliver high-quality CTE that prepares all students for success.



AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

ROBIN MCLEAN

Region: I

Division: Agricultural Education

Occupation: Agricultural science teacher

Employment history

Agricultural science teacher, Northern Burlington County Regional School District: 2007–present; facilitator of instructional technology, Northern Burlington County Regional School District: 2018–present; New Jersey FFA specialist, New Jersey Department of Agriculture: 2003–07; agricultural science teacher, Penns Grove - Carneys Point Regional School District: 1998–2003

Education

Doctor of Education, educational leadership, Rowan University; Master of Science, vocational and technical education, Virginia Tech; Bachelor of Science, agricultural education, Cornell University

National ACTE involvement

Mentee, Inclusion, Access, Equity, and Diversity Mentorship Program: 2024

Co-chair, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) advisory group: 2016–19; member, middle school CTE advisory group: 2017–18; member, national awards program task

force: 2013; award winner, Teacher of the Year: 2013; judge, Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence: 2017–2022; volunteer, Educators in Action: 2014–19; blogger, Educators in Action: 2014–19; guest, ACTE Career Exploration in Middle School podcast: 2019; presenter, ACTE’s CareerTech VISION: 2017, 2024; attendee, VISION: 2015–2024; attendee, National Policy Seminar: 2013, 2021

Regional ACTE involvement

Member, awards evaluation committee: 2016–2021; member, ACTE/NBPTS caucus: 2016–17

Divisional ACTE involvement

Member, teacher recruitment and retention committee: 2023–present

State ACTE involvement

Board representative for New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators to Career and Technical Education Association of New Jersey: 1999–2002; 2008–2010; 2023–25; delegate to VISION, CTEANJ: 2017, 2024; workshop presenter and keynote speaker, Arkansas ACTE Conference: 2013

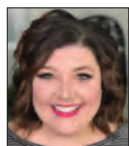
Other CTE involvement

Vice president, National Association of Agricultural Educators Region VI: 2019–22; secretary, NAAE Region VI: 2016–19; judge, regional award applications, NAAE: 2010–present; award winner, NAAE Region VI Outstanding Young Member: 2002; award winner, NAAE Region VI Teacher Mentor: 2019; ambassador, National FFA Teacher: 2020–25; champion, NAAE Teach Ag: 2012; conference presenter, NAAE conventions; conference attendee, NAAE conventions: 1998–2002, 2012–2024; president, New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators: 2016–2020; central region vice president, New Jersey Association of Agricultural Educators: 2021–25; workshop presenter and keynote speaker, Arkansas Vocational Ag Teachers Conference: 2013; workshop presenter and keynote speaker, New York Association of Ag Teachers Conference: 2013

Platform statement

The foundation for professional organization involvement was modeled for me as a preservice teacher. I still passionately believe in that value and desire to serve as Ag Ed Division vice president to share the difference active engagement makes. If elected to serve, I hope to uplift, connect and advocate.

- Uplift: Recognition can fuel motivation. In a time when education is sometimes maligned, it is important to uplift members. I will celebrate member successes and create ways to share them to inspire others.
- Connect: Our greatest resource is each other. One of my goals is to be sure to connect members to opportunities available to them for both professional growth and recognition, plus the variety of service roles offered by ACTE and encourage active participation. I view the vice president role as a connection between the multitude of agricultural education entities represented and ACTE. I will strive to provide the communication that connects us in ways that share ideas for all to grow.
- Advocate: Strong CTE programs begin with supported educators. Providing resource access to help others speak up for the profession, legislation and funding is critical. I hope to help members access available tools to use their voice.



AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

SHANNON BOSWELL

Region: V

Division: Agricultural Education

Occupation: Director of career, technical and adult education

Employment history

Director, career, technical and adult education, Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI): 2020–present; transition specialist, Montana OPI: 2019–2020; agricultural education specialist, Montana OPI: 2017–2020; agricultural education teacher, Doddridge County High School: 2005–2017; agricultural education teacher, Summers County High School: 2004–05

Education

Master of Science, agriculture, West Virginia University; Bachelor of Science, agricultural and environmental education, West Virginia University

National ACTE involvement

Member, Teach CTE advisory group: 2019–2021; active member: 2005–present; presenter, ACTE's CareerTech VISION: 2021–22; attendee, National Policy Seminar: 2006, 2012, 2017–19, 2021–22

Regional ACTE involvement

Conference presenter: 2021; conference attendee: 2019, 2021; assisted with conference planning: 2018–19

Other CTE involvement

Attendee, National Association of Agricultural Educators Convention: 2006, 2012, 2017–19, 2021–22; presenter, NAAE Convention: 2006, 2012; award winner, Teachers Turn the Key, National Association of Agricultural Educators Region VI: 2006; award winner, DuPont Agriscience Ambassador: 2012; treasurer, West Virginia NAAE: 2010–17; organizer, agricultural education summer retreat and retired teachers dinner: 2015–17; attendee, NAAE Region I Conference: 2018–19; attendee, NAAE Region VI Conference: 2006, 2019; member, NAAE State Teach Ag Results (STAR) committee: 2017–2020

Platform statement

With a passion for CTE, specifically the Agricultural Education Division of ACTE, I aim to leverage my experiences over the years to advance this division. The Agricultural Education Division has been evaluating work-based learning through its ongoing work to promote Supervised Agricultural Experiences (SAE) for All, and we are poised to lead other divisions of ACTE in this effort. Now is the time to promote cross-disciplinary collaboration. We in the Agricultural Education Division have a unique opportunity to strengthen cross-disciplinary opportunities for professional development, build individualized career pathways for students, and expand industry-recognized credentials that will enhance the workforce pipeline across ACTE. I aim to advocate for the Agricultural Education Division and ACTE at the local, state and national levels, delivering high-quality programs that position all students for success.



COUNSELING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT DIVISION PRESIDENT-ELECT

JENNIFER BREMAN

Region: II

Division: Counseling and Career Development

Occupation: CTE program specialist

Employment history

CTE program specialist, Alachua County Public Schools: 2020–present; Jobs for Graduates teacher, Alachua County Public Schools: 2018–2020; high school counselor, Alachua County Public Schools: 2016–18; elementary school counselor, Alachua County Public Schools: 2007–2016

Education

Specialist in Education, school counseling, University of Florida; Master of Education, school counseling, University of Florida; Bachelor of Arts, psychology, University of Florida; Bachelor of Arts, religion, University of Florida

National ACTE involvement

Member, bylaws committee: 2024–present; fellow, National Leadership Fellowship Program: 2025–present; mentee, CTE for All Mentorship Program: 2023; attendee, VISION: 2022–25; attendee, National Policy Seminar: 2025

Divisional ACTE involvement

Member, division representative, bylaws committee: 2024–present; member, region representative, Career and Counseling Development committee: 2023–24; awards committee volunteer: 2023–present

I have always supported the policy group in reviewing documents and giving feedback, responding to emails from the vice president of the division with requests and supported recess activities by attending and giving suggestions for presenters.

State ACTE involvement

Member, Florida ACTE: 2020–present; treasurer for a new student services professionals division of FACTE: 2025–present

We are currently creating a new division of FACTE for student services that has not previously existed. I have been helpful in reviewing bylaws, creating mailing lists for potential members and creating surveys.

I attend many statewide trainings as our representative for nontraditional populations and helping to work through the career readiness standards for the state working group.

Platform statement

As vice president of ACTE's Counseling and Career Development Division, I will champion the vital role of counselors in preparing students for meaningful futures. I am committed to supporting and empowering counselors by expanding access to high-quality professional development, encouraging active participation in ACTE conferences and promoting involvement in the ACTE National Leadership Fellowship Program. These opportunities not only build skills but also strengthen our collective voice and leadership presence within CTE. I will advocate for resources, recognition and policies that reflect the critical contributions counselors make every day. Through collaboration, visibility and strategic support, we will elevate the work of counseling professionals and ensure every student receives comprehensive, future-ready guidance.

As required by the ACTE bylaws, because there were not at least two candidates for the Engineering and Technology Education Division vice president position, the office was declared vacant. Then, in accordance with the board policy manual, the division's policy committee recommended a qualified committee member, and the ACTE board of directors appointed Ashley Adams to serve as vice president for the term, 2026–29. As a result, voting for Engineering & Technology Education Division will not be featured on the electronic ballot this year.



ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT

ASHLEY ADAMS

Region: V

Division: Engineering & Technology Education

Occupation: Executive director

Employment history

Founding executive director, AME Institute: 2022–present; project director, Arts, Media and Entertainment Leadership Institute, California Department of Education: 2019–2022; arts programming consultant, Vista Unified School District: 2019–2020; arts programming consultant, Oakland School for the Arts: 2017–18

Education

Master of Arts, curriculum and instruction, Denver University; teaching credential, National University; Bachelor of Arts, theatre and English, Middlebury College

National ACTE involvement

Conference presenter, ACTE's CareerTech VISION: 2023–25; reviewed arts, media and entertainment-related session proposals for VISION: 2024–25

Divisional ACTE involvement

Member, policy committee: 2023–present; co-lead for arts, media and entertainment area of interest within Engineering & Technology Education Division: 2023–present

Other CTE involvement

Executive director, Arts Media and Entertainment Institute: 2018–present

Platform statement

In my role as vice president of ACTE's Engineering & Technology Education Division, I will continue to elevate the essential workplace skills of analytical and creative thinking. Our division, with its rapidly changing tools and processes, is leading the charge to ensure that students have these skills. And I am excited to bring my partnerships to the table and leverage the interest that our industry partners have in ensuring that students are prepared for the workforce. An essential part of this equation is ensuring that the teachers have the best possible training and support, and that is truly what inspires me as an educational leader: bringing teachers together with industry.



POSTSECONDARY, ADULT AND CAREER EDUCATION DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

CHRISTIAN LIN ZIMMERMAN

Region: II

Division: Postsecondary, Adult and Career Education

Occupation: Assistant director of programs

Employment history

Assistant director of programs, Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities, University of Central Florida: 2023–present; teacher on assignment, Lee County Technical Colleges: 2020–23; teacher and coach, School District of Lee County: 2013–2020; foreman, Authorized Construction Company: 2004–2013; foreman, Hoffman Construction: 1999–2004

Education

Doctor of Education (in progress), exceptional student education, University of Central Florida; Master of Letters, 16th century British literature, Exeter College; Master of Education, educational leadership, American College of Education; Bachelor of Arts, English literature, University of South Florida

National ACTE involvement

Fellow, National Leadership Fellowship Program: 2024; presenter, ACTE's CareerTech VISION: 2023–24; attendee, National Policy Seminar: 2024–25

Divisional ACTE involvement

Member, policy committee: 2025–present; conference presenter: 2023–24

State ACTE involvement

For the past two years, I have organized trips for Florida attendees to the National Policy Seminar. This included contacting the schedulers for senators and Members of Congress; arranging the logistics of the visits; confirming visits a few days beforehand; and sending follow-up emails to thank the senators and Members of Congress for their time.

Other CTE involvement

Vice chair of public policy, Southeast Postsecondary Education Alliance: 2023–present; vice chair of CTE, Southeast Postsecondary Education Alliance: 2020–23

I have set up CTE signing day events in Miami-Dade and Lee counties. The Miami-Dade event attracted around 4,000 attendees, and the Lee County event attracted a little over 1,000 attendees.

Platform statement

As vice president, my top priority will be growing and energizing our membership. PACE is strongest when our community is diverse, connected and engaged — and I want more educators, industry partners and support professionals to see ACTE as their professional home.

I plan to use both in-person conversations and social media platforms to make that happen. I am fortunate that my job allows me to travel across the country, so whether I'm presenting at a conference, visiting a school, or just chatting with colleagues, I see every interaction as a chance to share what PACE offers — real resources, real connections and real impact. At the same time, I'll actively use social media to spotlight member stories, share quick wins from the field and invite new voices into the conversation.

I also want to create more on-ramps for involvement, so members, especially early career educators and those in underrepresented roles, know exactly how to plug in and lead from where they are.

Ultimately, I want our division to be known for its inclusivity, innovation and energy. If we grow our membership by being visible, authentic and accessible, we grow our impact — one conversation, one post and one new member at a time.



TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT

DARLENE MILLS

Region: IV

Division: Trade and Industrial Education

Occupation: Executive director

Employment history

Executive director, Texas Industrial Vocational Association, 2024–present; regional director, SkillsUSA Texas: 2023–24; district coordinator, SkillsUSA Texas District 7: 2010–2024; CTE teacher and adviser, Port Neches-Groves ISD: 1994–2023

Education

Master of Education, administration, Lamar University; Bachelor of Science, kinesiology, Lamar University; trade and industry certification, Texas A&M University

National ACTE involvement

Attendee, National Policy Seminar: 2025; attendee, ACTE's CareerTech VISION: 2020–25

Regional ACTE involvement

Member, awards committee: 2025; conference attendee: 2024–25

State ACTE involvement

Executive director, Texas Industrial Vocational Association: 2024–present; secretary and treasurer, TIVA: 2021–23; District 7 director, TIVA: 2015–17, 1999–2001

Platform statement

As region/division vice president, my main goal will be to strengthen the partnership between employers and educators so students can smoothly transition into the workforce. We must work together to ensure school programs teach the skills companies need. Through open communication, we can develop training, internships and mentorships that give students real-world experience. I am dedicated to finding innovative ways to engage students and prepare them for careers, while also supporting educators with the tools and industry knowledge they need. My vision is to build a strong system where businesses and schools collaborate to create a skilled, confident workforce that fuels regional growth and meets future industry demands. I believe that by fostering these partnerships, we can make a lasting impact on students' success and our communities' economic vitality.



TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT

JOSEPHINE WOLFE

Region: I

Division: Trade and Industrial Education

Occupation: Instructor & SkillsUSA adviser

Employment history

Instructor, Anne Arundel County Public Schools, Center of Applied Technology North: 2021–present; fundraising and development manager, SkillsUSA Inc.: 2019–2021; pastry cook, Atlas Restaurant Group: 2018–19; pastry cook, Walt Disney World Resorts & Hotels: 2016–18; traveling admissions representative and demonstrator, Johnson & Wales University: 2016

Education

Master of Science, nonprofit management, Johnson & Wales

University; Bachelor of Science, baking and pastry arts and food service management, Johnson & Wales University; Associate in Applied Science, baking and pastry arts, Johnson & Wales University; certificate, career and technical education, professional and technical education, Chesapeake College

National ACTE involvement

Award finalist, New Teacher of the Year: 2024; fellow, National Leadership Fellowship Program: 2024; presenter, ACTE's CareerTech VISION: 2023–24; attendee, VISION: 2022–24; attendee, National Policy Seminar: 2024–25

Regional ACTE involvement

Award winner, New Teacher of the Year: 2024; conference attendee: 2024

Divisional ACTE involvement

Award winner, Trade and Industrial Education Division New Teacher of the Year: 2023; conference attendee: 2023–24

Other CTE involvement

Vice chair, SkillsUSA Maryland: 2023–present; financial secretary, SkillsUSA Maryland: 2022–23; facilitator, SkillsUSA Maryland: 2018–present

Platform statement

As a proud graduate of a CTE program and a current high school educator, I will bring both classroom perspective and national leadership experience to the role of ACTE Trade and Industrial Education Division vice president. From serving as the SkillsUSA national president to working as a fundraising and development manager at the national level, I've seen firsthand how policy, partnerships and instruction intersect to shape opportunity for students and educators alike.

My goal is to elevate the voices of trade and industrial educators — those doing the vital, hands-on work of preparing the next generation of skilled professionals. I'm committed to growing member engagement, expanding public and private partnerships, promoting SkillsUSA as an integral part of our division, and increasing access to meaningful professional development that meets today's classroom realities.

I believe deeply in ACTE's mission and the values of our division: equity, excellence, innovation and collaboration. I will work to ensure that our programs reflect those ideals while amplifying the needs and successes of our T&I community at every level.

Together, we can grow the visibility, value and impact of CTE. I would be honored to serve as your vice president.



WORK-BASED LEARNING DIVISION VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

DAWN ULMER

Region: V

Division: Work-Based Learning

Occupation: Strategic project manager

Employment history

Strategic project manager, North Dakota CTE: 2021–present; distance education director, Shiloh Christian School: 2012–2021; business department director and teacher, Mobridge-Pollock School District: 2006–2011; school-to-work coordinator and Oracle Database and design director, Northwest Area Schools: 1992–2005; communication consultant, private contractor: 1994–2006

Education

Bachelor of Arts, business administration and marketing, Seattle Pacific University; CTE certification and teaching license, Dakota State University; Oracle Database design training, UCLA

National ACTE involvement

Presenter, ACTE's Work-Based Learning Conference: 2023–25; attendee, WBL Conference: 2022–25; presenter, ACTE's CareerTech VISION: 2024; attendee, VISION: 2022, 2024; award finalist, New Teacher of the Year: 2020

Regional ACTE involvement

Member, awards committee: 2017–2020; award winner, New Teacher of the Year: 2020; conference presenter: 2022; conference attendee: 2017–19, 2021–24

Divisional ACTE involvement

Chair, education and training, policy committees: 2023–present; member, policy committee: 2023–present; member, professional development committee: 2022–present; member, WBL advocacy committee: 2022–present; member, conference planning committee: 2022–present

Other CTE involvement

Coordinator, North Dakota Department of CTE Professional Development Conference: 2022–present; CTE WBL coordinator training director: 2022–present; chair, CTE marketing: 2021–present; CTE contributor on North Dakota's K–12 Education Coordination Council: 2021–present

Platform statement

Now is the time to expand and enhance work-based learning opportunities nationwide. As workforce demands grow and education evolves, WBL must be at the heart of a student-centered model that connects classroom learning with real-world skills, energizing instruction and addressing workforce gaps.

As a leader in the ACTE WBL Division, I will champion the expansion of WBL programs with a focus on consistent professional training, sustainable funding, workforce partnerships and strategic promotion. I am passionate about collaborative leadership that uplifts educators and transforms student outcomes through meaningful work-based learning experiences. Consistency in program development and training across the country is vital to WBL growth and quality.

My experience as strategic project manager for North Dakota Career and Technical Education has equipped me to lead statewide initiatives expanding WBL, develop training for educators, and foster partnerships between schools, businesses and policymakers. I have actively contributed to ACTE national WBL committees in policy, advocacy and professional development. If elected, I will work to grow the pipeline of trained coordinators, increase WBL's visibility and build strong employer partnerships. Together, we can ensure WBL is an essential strategy that empowers every student for career success and meets the needs of today's workforce.



REGION V VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT PEPPER POULSEN

Region: V

Division: Business Education

Occupation: CTE coordinator

Employment history

CTE coordinator, Jordan School District: 1998–present

Education

Master of Educational Counseling, University of Phoenix; Bachelor of Science, business and marketing education, Utah State University; Associate of Science, College of Eastern Utah

National ACTE involvement

President, NEDA-ACTE National Executive Directors Association: 2022–24; chair, awards committee: 2014–17; member, awards committee: 2011–14; member, high-quality CTE task force: 2016; presenter, ACTE's CareerTech VISION: 2018, 2023; attendee, VISION: 2012–present; attendee, National Policy Seminar: 2012–present

Regional ACTE involvement

Member, policy committee: 2013–16; chair, awards committee: 2010–13; member, awards committee: 2008–2013; conference attendee: 2012–present; conference host: 2018

State ACTE involvement

Co-executive director, Utah ACTE: 2008–present; president, Utah ACTE: 2012–13; awards chair, Utah ACTE: 2004–08; president, Guidance Division, Utah ACTE: 2001–03; president, Work-Based Learning Division, Utah ACTE: 1999–2001

Other CTE involvement

Member, family and consumer sciences advisory board, Utah State Board of Education: 2024–present; member, business and marketing advisory board, Utah State Board of Education: 2020–present

Platform statement

As someone committed to advancing the field of CTE, I am excited to run for ACTE Region V vice president-elect. In collaboration with the ACTE staff and board, I will advocate for opportunities for all to be involved in the evolving future of CTE. I will work to strengthen industry partnerships to ensure real-world experiences for students and resources for teachers. I am committed to ongoing professional development opportunities that empower teachers with innovative teaching strategies and the latest industry insights, ensuring we can deliver high-quality education. I will foster a culture of collaboration within our organization by strengthening communication among our members to share innovative ideas and resources. Together, we are shaping the future of CTE, and I am thrilled about the possibility of serving ACTE and Region V during this exciting time. I am eager to contribute my experience, passion and dedication to advance CTE.

When there is only one candidate put forth for the role of vice president-elect, that candidate is placed on the election ballot for a "yes" or "no" vote. This year, this applies to five ballot categories:

- Administration Division
- Counseling and Career Development Division
- Postsecondary, Adult & Career Education Division
- Work-Based Learning Division
- Region V

Members in these divisions and Region V will vote through the electronic ballot this year. If elected, the candidate(s) will serve a shadow term beginning July 2026, followed by a three-year term as vice president starting July 2027.

KEY ELECTION DATES

DEC. 10 Voting begins!

JAN. 9, 11:59 p.m. ET Cast your vote before the deadline!

WEEK OF JAN. 12 ACTE will announce the results of the election.

ACTE ELECTIONS METHODS

ACTIVE MEMBERS AS OF NOV. 10, 2025

HOW TO VOTE IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTION

BY EMAIL

Election emails will be sent to your **preferred email address** listed in your ACTE profile.

Simply click the **secure voting link** in the email to cast your ballot.

New this year! You can now choose to **opt in for SMS/Text Message invites**. Once enabled, you'll receive a text with a direct link to your secure web ballot.

BY MAIL

Election letters will be mailed to your **preferred mailing address** listed in your ACTE profile.

Each letter will include a **QR Code** that takes you directly to your secure web ballot — **no login required**.



Techniques

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

CONNECTING EDUCATION AND CAREERS

ACTEONLINE.ORG

THE WORK-BASED LEARNING ADVANTAGE

- An Innovative Approach to Youth Apprenticeships
- Student-Centered WBL Lights the Path
- What CTE Gets Right
- What Can the World Teach Us About Career Pathways?
- Vote for the Future of CTE!



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