July 1, 2020

Dear ACTE Members and Conference Delegates:

Arkansas’ Career and Technical Educators are known for producing outstanding “home grown” talents! Regardless of the crop—administration, agriculture, business and marketing, counseling and career development, engineering and technology, family and consumer science, health science, new and related, postsecondary, or trade and industrial, our Career and Technical Educators invest time, energy, and love into planting seeds of knowledge, tending to classroom experiences designed to develop skills, sprinkling in CTSO experiences for the purpose of further validating classroom learning and increasing student confidence in themselves and their abilities, and harvesting each crop at just the right time for optimal effectiveness. You are each amazing and deserve the Grand Champion ribbon reserved for only the top exhibits at county and state fairs!

Congratulations to Past-President Michelle Camp and the former executive board team members she served with including Ross White, a home grown talent himself now serving as ACTE Region IV President, Starlinda Sanders, and Rae Newlin. Last year, President Camp gave us a conference to remember as we “Huddle(d) Up” together to learn new plays to call and interpret new signals so that we could all go out and make our own amazing plays in classrooms across the state. Rest assured, Michelle is not leaving the CTE game. Many more outstanding accomplishments are to be expected from Ms. Camp and her students at Sylvan Hills High School.

Best wishes to President Justin Neel on the first ever Virtual Arkansas ACTE Summer Conference. He has certainly poured his heart, soul, and endless energy into ensuring the transition to a virtual experience is seamless for everyone. The countless hours Justin has spent researching virtual conferences and necessary technology might only be exceeded by the numerous online sessions he has led over the summer as he facilitated this transition. From Facebook Live experiences to zoomed conference planning sessions, Mr. Neel is undoubtedly the right Arkansas ACTE President for this unprecedented time. I believe you will be thrilled with the “home grown” conference experience being presented by President Neel and all of our ACTE Division Representative Board Members.

With your help, I look forward to serving you as Arkansas ACTE President in the year ahead as we work together to advocate for CTE, facilitate quality professional development experiences, promote membership opportunities, and recognize the work of CTE teachers, students, and CTSO members across the state, as well as continuing to strengthen relationships among our stakeholders. As you prepare to take center stage in the classroom, please do so knowing that you, our members are our most valuable resources.

Sincerely,

Kelley Todd, NBCT, MBA, Ed.D
National Business Education Association Secondary Teacher of the Year, 2020