President’s Message

Kimberly Wilson

2023–2024 Virginia ACTE President

Dear Colleagues: It was my honor and privilege to assume the office of President of the Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education Board of Directors on July 1, 2023. I am following in the footsteps of some great leaders that have been dedicated to expanding relevant and rigorous Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, influencing public policy for the benefit of all stakeholders, and enhancing leadership opportunities among its members. As our slogan states, I am proud to say that I am, truly, **CTE!** My CTE path began as a freshman in high school. I have been fortunate to experience CTE as a student, an alumna and a classroom instructor. I know first-hand the difference CTE programs and Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) can make in a young person’s life. I also know, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the unwavering motivation and guidance provided by my sophomore Fashion Marketing teacher Mrs. Brenda Crawley was instrumental in leading me to this position as your president. My CTE pathway was paved by an educator and I am charging all CTE educators to pursue the same efforts for our students.

This past year, under George Bishop's leadership, we conducted a successful Professional Development and Leadership Seminar at the Hilton Downtown in Richmond. This event provided educators with the tools necessary to approach our elected officials and advocate with confidence at the local, state, and national levels for the importance of our programs. Our members presented dynamic best practice breakout sessions that generated thought provoking discussions and equipped participants with takeaways, strategies, and tips that are relevant and trending with Career and Technical Education today. The upcoming months are approaching quickly and your Virginia ACTE Board of Directors are working fiercely to plan our next Professional Development and Leadership Seminar -- January 10 - 12, 2024 -- at the same location. We will continue our pursuit to illustrate that Career and Technical Education Educators in Virginia are the premier leaders in education!

Once again this year, our collective voices need to be heard among local, state, and national legislators. The Association continues to work diligently to gain legislative support so that VERSO – Virginia’s Educational Resource System Online – stays functional and up to date.The CTE Resource Center’s new website format is exactly what we envisioned when undertaking the goal of obtaining funding to complete the project. Every resident of Virginia can find something of interest on the website ([**https://www.cteresource.org/**](https://www.cteresource.org/)), and I encourage you to navigate the site and provide Mr. Kevin Reilly with feedback. The Virginia ACTE Directors appreciate and need your continued support with this endeavor, so please reach out and volunteer to assist in any way you can.

Your leadership is paramount in guiding new educators and new administrators to membership in the Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education and their own division associations. We need you ACTE members! Continue to spread the word about the importance of joining our CTE professional associations, mentoring new educators and performing your professional responsibilities as consummate professionals. Not only must we hold ourselves and colleagues accountable, but we must also provide our students with educators who lead by example. Lastly, we must continue to support our Career and Technical Student Organizations to provide opportunities for our students to experience the regional, state, and national CTSO competitions and conferences. We must encourage our young leaders to live out their dreams and enable them the space to develop themselves as CTE professionals; just as my former Career and Technical Education teacher did for me.

Again, to the Virginia Association for Career and Technical Education Board of Directors and to the Virginia ACTE members, it is an honor and privilege to serve as your President for the July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 term of office.

Thank you,

Kimberly Wilson