

Welcome to a new school year and another exciting chapter with the South Dakota Association of Career and Technical Education (SDACTE)! As we embark on this journey together, I'm honored to serve as the president of this incredible association.

Ten years ago, if you had told me I'd be leading SDACTE, I would have said, "You're crazy!" But stepping into leadership with SDACTE and formerly, SDAAE, has transformed me, allowing me to expand my teaching toolbox and become the educator I needed growing up.

Being a CTE educator requires grit, balance, passion, and perseverance, qualities that make our work and who we are truly special. We wear many hats throughout the day, and that's what makes what we do so impactful.

Our Board of Directors is excited for the upcoming year and ready to lead our organization in a positive, meaningful way. During our recent board retreat at Mitchell Technical College, we mapped out key strategies for the 2024-2025 year that will drive our mission forward:

1. Increase awareness and visibility of SDACTE's membership benefits.

- We'll be sharing more reasons to become a member, advocating for active participation across divisions, and strengthening our connections with past, current, and potential members.
- We'll also highlight our award winners and programs to showcase excellence, especially during CTE Month via social media platforms.

2. Provide a summer conference rich in professional development opportunities.

- We'll be enhancing connections with industry stakeholders, making efficient use of our time, and exploring the possibility of tailored division tours.

The 2024 Summer SDACTE Conference was one of the best I've been a part of, thanks to the leadership of the division presidents, our executive team, and our executive director, Lenessa Keehn.

If you're unsure about joining, I encourage you to reach out to your division president and ask why they became a member. Being part of SDACTE isn't just another task—it's a way to invest in yourself and grow as a teacher. As technology evolves and our students' needs change, SDACTE membership provides the tools to stay ahead of the curve.

As we look ahead to the 2025 SDACTE Summer Conference in Mitchell, we are committed to delivering a meaningful experience that underscores the importance of membership. Here's to an amazing year ahead—please don't hesitate to reach out to any board member with questions. We're here to support you!

Andy Jensen
SDACTE President