

As we begin a new school year, I want to welcome each of you and thank you for being part of the South Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education (SDACTE) community. I am honored to serve as your SDACTE President and look forward to the opportunities ahead.

CTE teachers, administrators, counselors, and other professionals have a lasting impact on our students and communities. With overflowing plates and often thankless responsibilities, you continue to prepare students for careers, help them discover their strengths, connect them with industry, and provide experiences that extend far beyond the classroom. Thank you for your dedication to preparing South Dakota students for their futures. You make a difference!

At the heart of our work this year is a commitment to strengthening the value of SDACTE membership. Membership should mean more than paying annual dues. SDACTE exists to provide meaningful opportunities, resources, connections, and support that help you in the work you do every day. We will continue to offer quality programming and work to deliver a high-quality annual conference filled with valuable learning, connections, and experiences you won't want to miss.

Making membership matter means staying focused on why SDACTE exists: **to empower educators with the leadership and resources necessary to cultivate a highly skilled and competitive workforce.** By investing in our members, we strengthen CTE programs, expand opportunities for students, and contribute to strong communities and a strong workforce across South Dakota.

We also want to hear from you. What do you need from your professional organization? What resources, professional development, or connections would help you in your role? Your input can help guide our work and ensure membership continues to provide meaningful value.

Financial responsibility is also an important part of providing lasting value. SDACTE is committed to being thoughtful and intentional with membership dollars, ensuring our resources support meaningful programs, opportunities, and services. Responsible stewardship allows us to serve our members today while maintaining a strong and sustainable organization for the future.

As we move into the year ahead, my hope is that you can clearly identify what being part of SDACTE means to you. Membership matters when you feel supported, connected, valued, and equipped to do your best work for students. I encourage you to get involved: attend events, connect with your division, nominate colleagues for awards, serve on a committee, share your successes, or encourage another CTE professional to join.

Thank you for being part of SDACTE—I'm looking forward to a great year together!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Roudabush". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" and last name "Roudabush" clearly distinguishable.

Karen Roudabush
SDACTE President 2026-2027