

As I reflect back on one year ago, I could never have imagined this spring; teaching online, postponing conferences, and trying to connect with students while social distancing. As we continually experience unprecedented territory with COVID-19, I hope this finds you healthy and confident in the fact that we are the one person our students can rely on. Looking at the bright side, what have we learned during this time?

1. We should always have a good supply of toilet paper on hand.
2. Wash your hands with soap often.
3. Spend time with your loved ones.
4. SLOW down, it is really quite enjoyable.
5. There are lots of closets, garages or shops to clean.
6. Teachers rock, and most people don't like teaching their own children.
7. Students can read directions, most of the time.
8. We can ALL learn something new in a hurry, even how to teach online.

On a more serious note, this past December I was fortunate to be able to attend National ACTE in Anaheim, California. I attended the keynote speaker, Garrett Reisman, who was a former NASA astronaut and employee at SpaceX. Another highlight included a workshop on *Gamifying Your Classroom*, where the educator created a game such as the Amazing Food Race, and based her entire semester's curriculum on the game in a cooking course. This workshop was definitely inspiring. Other activities included attending the State Leadership Training program, Assembly of Delegates, and State Leadership Breakfast. I highly encourage each of you to attend National ACTE, at least once every few years. It is a wonderful conference, and you will come back with a plethora of ideas to implement.

Three Montana ACTE award winners are scheduled to compete at Region V, April 23rd in Lake Tahoe, California. Nicole Bogunovich from Billings West High School will represent Montana as the Teacher of the Year, Austin Standley from Big Timber is our New Teacher of the Year, and Cindy Galbavy from Helena High School is our Carl Perkins Community Service representative. The three of them will travel to Region V when the conference is rescheduled, as it was postponed this spring.

Montana ACTE Fall conference will be October 15th and 16th, 2020 at Fairmont Hot Springs. The theme of this year's conference is "Cultivating Connections Through CTE." Dr. Megan Pollock, will be the keynote speaker, and will speak about how micromessages can help achieve equity in the classroom and improve student outcomes. You can check her out at www.meaganpollock.com. Reservations at Fairmont can be made until September 18th at \$95.00 for singles and \$110.00 for double rooms by going to www.fairmontmontana.com or calling 1-800-332-3272. The conference will also offer a CTE professionals workshop as a pre-conference activity, division breakouts, a trade show, and best of all create connections with resources, other professionals and friendships that will last a lifetime. Please mark your calendars for the Fall ACTE conference and bring your family to Fairmont. The Perkins Grant can be used to cover your registration and travel, while you gather useful tools and ideas to bring back to the classroom.