Becky’s President’s Message December 2018

“Say YES to CTE: Educating the Next Generation,” the theme for our fall institute this year provided all CTE teachers with more knowledge and tools to spread the word about CTE. We are teaching during an exciting time when CTE is expanding and growing across the country. Becky Cox, the National ACTE President, opened our fall institute in Billings. She is passionate about CTE, her enthusiasm is contagious and it was great to have her in Montana. Andrew McPeak, our Keynote Speaker, inspired us with creative ways to connect with Generation Z. He talked about how we all need to speak our student’s language and make connections with them. Experiential learning is growing, students will support what they complete, what they construct, and we must create the opportunities for them to do this. All the Division Presidents put in extra time to make the fall institute one of the best. Thank you for your excellent leadership and hard work.

The National ACTE Vision 2018 Conference was held in San Antonio, Texas November 27th through December 1, 2018. Our Montana delegation was fortunate enough to hear Jenna Bush Hagar open the conference telling us about her passion for literacy. She gave the audience a challenge, “What is it you plan to do with your wild and precious life?” Her grandmother gave her this challenge and she in turn passed it on to us. Jenna feels CTE teachers have the opportunity to teach people how to live, love, and feel compassion for others. Teaching service and caring about others is something all CTE teachers can work toward. We are lifelong learners and have an obligation to help others. I was able to represent Montana at the ACTE Annual Assembly of Delegates and attend the State’s Presidents Meeting in San Antonio. Vision 2018 brought in approximately 5000 CTE teachers from across the country, it was great meet so many other CTE teachers.

I am moving into the position of Past President so I want to thank our Executive Director, Mark Branger, all the Montana ACTE Officers, and all the board members for their hours of planning and preparation that have made this year a great CTE year. I am so fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve on this amazing board and work with this fantastic group of people. Thank you for allowing me to serve you. I will leave you with a quote from educationdiscussion.com, “Sometimes it only takes a single teacher to turn a child’s life around. Some children will come to school today because of that teacher,”