

## **February is Career & Technical Education Month**

“Forty-eight years ago when entering the teaching profession, I could not have chosen a more exciting field--Career and Technical Education. Entering that first classroom I was so proud of my manual typewriters, manual adding machines, rotary calculators, and transcribing machines. Little could I imagine how technology would enter our classrooms and totally change the content of Career and Technical Education. What has not changed is the reason I am in the classroom—the students. I care about my students unconditionally. I am not a teacher for me—I am a teacher for my students. When teaching becomes about me, I will know it is time to leave this wonderful career.

Enjoying what you do is infectious and soon you will find students giving everything they can to succeed. CTE has allowed me to touch the lives of so many students. CTE has given me opportunities to stay knowledgeable in technology that keeps changing daily. This area is exciting, enjoyable, and rewarding.

Teaching is caring, motivating, inspiring and, yes, at times frustrating and frightening. Teaching is a blessing and gives me a reason for facing the past 9,500 days with enthusiasm. Teaching has given me a unique opportunity to touch lives every day. Teaching is our future and being a CTE teacher has given me an opportunity to contribute to the future. I am constantly in awe of my students, their abilities, and successes.

Being a CTE teacher is a vocation. It is preparing youth for a wide range of high-wage, high-skill, and high demand careers. It is a career that I do for life because I want to give youth the opportunities that are available to them. Some past students are now in their mid '60's and still remember lessons taught. As long as I still feel I am contributing to our youth and our future, I will remain in the classroom—trying to stay up with the ever changing technology.”

*---Bobbie Timmermann, Nettleton High School*



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