

From the President's Desk

By Steve Meyer, WTEA President

Hello WTEA Members. I hope all of you have had some time to relax, spend time with family, and reflect over the summer. For the most part, I took the entire summer off for one of the first times in my teaching career. I spent my time with my boys playing baseball, going to the pool, and just enjoying watching them play. I was constantly reminded how great it is to be a kid in the summer. I honed my skills finishing up an outdoor pergola, building furniture, rebuilding a vintage motorcycle, and running electrical to my patio. Some of these things I am not super comfortable with doing, but I figure you have to learn somehow. The last month has been busy coaching football. Coaching is one of the only things that keeps my mind off the daily grind of all the other things that need to get done. The two hours on the field keep me from thinking about anything else . . . "therapy" . . . in my books. It was a great summer, but seemed to go faster than ever.

Lots of Technology Education initiatives have been going on during the summer as highlighted in this issue of the Interface. It is yet another great issue in part thanks to our Editor, Doug MacKenzie and Executive Director, Joe Ciontea. A portion of things to look for include along with many others:

- Hartford Union Summer Teacher Institute where teachers developed metal manufacturing skills while building a hand cart.
- UW-Stout's R3 Innovative Digital Technologies Retreat provided in association with the Wisconsin Economic Development Council and the Discovery Center Fab Lab.
- National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) and Dremel Idea Builder 3D Printer certification held at Gateway Technical College.
- UW-Stout Summit, a Cross-Sector Innovation Conference that brought together community members, alumni, industry reps, students, and faculty members to promote collaboration.
- A new Technology Education licensure program through the Alternative Careers in Teaching (ACT) program based out of UW-Oshkosh and UW-Fox Valley.
- The Fox Valley Technical College (FVTC) Power Tool Dragster Manufacturing Camp.

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the WTEA by submitting articles and taking out advertisements in this edition of the Interface.

As the school year is upon us, I am excited to see all the new education initiatives, programs, partnerships, and projects develop. With these, I am asking that you keep the WTEA informed of your progress with these initiatives. Email me or your district director with anything you have going on big or small so we can promote them across the state and country. Please utilize the tech ed listserv. If you are not a member, email Brent Kindred at Brent.Kindred@dpi.wi.gov. All that is needed is your email and he can get you set up right away. It is imperative that we continue to promote all the great things you are doing to help develop young people.

Looking to the future, the WTEA board of directors will be having a virtual meeting on Saturday, October 22nd. If you have any ideas, recommendations, or concerns, please email me or your district director so we can put them on the agenda. Please put March 2nd and 3rd on your calendar for the annual WTEA Conference at Chula Vista in Wisconsin Dells. It will be here before we know it. Start planning to present, bring a project to the Project Showcase, nominate someone for an award, etc. We need your involvement!

In closing, good luck to all of you with the start of a new school year. I hope for success and happiness for everyone including future teachers, new teachers, teachers changing schools, veteran teachers, retirees, etc.

Remember . . . when life gets challenging . . . **KEEP PEDALING** and never forget how important you are. You are "lifechangers!"