

To CTEC Students, Parents, Community members and Industry Partners,

It has been my great honor to serve as the principal of the Career Technical Education Center for these past three years. Working with dedicated school professionals in our District, partnering with industry experts and crafting a national model for CTE education with Mountain West Investments has been such an incredible journey.

Helping design and provide a program where applied student learning and professional standards are the focus has been my greatest professional experience and watching staff and industry partners work together with students in a manner that supports our expectation of “rigor with relevance” has re-framed my thinking as a high school principal. During the first month of CTEC being open, a student described the value of our program. He said, simply put, “Everything we do here is connected to everything else we do”. When students say that CTEC makes them feel “important”, that their work “matters” and that they now have “more confidence in themselves” and that they now have a “plan” for their future, it reinforces the fact that what we are doing at CTEC and in Salem-Keizer Schools is the right work.

I have enjoyed working with open-minded core curriculum teachers and industry experts, eager to become CTE teachers. I am impressed by high school juniors and seniors who took a chance on this new concept and joined us for the start of something new. And I am thankful for industry support that makes this all possible. In September, 2017, we will open two new programs of study at CTEC: collision repair and a UAS/drones program. English and science will be embedded in these two programs along with electronics. We keep getting bigger and better thanks to the hard work of so many people.

As we pass the halfway mark in our 5-year rollout plan for CTEC, I am announcing my retirement from education. I am officially retiring on March 31, but will continue to serve as your principal and biggest supporter until June 30. While a little sad to be leaving something to which I have been so deeply committed, I am very excited to announce that Mrs. Rhonda Rhodes will succeed me as the new CTEC principal. Mrs. Rhodes and I have known each other for nearly 15 years and I served as her principal at both Walker Middle School and North Salem High. Like me, she believes in the great capacity for learning that all students possess and she recognizes the great value of CTE programs and the integration of core curricula. Mrs. Rhodes will continue to be a champion of our school, programs, students and staff. She will engage and support our industry partnerships and she will make certain that future programs get started on the right track in order to foster our efforts in preparing students for high wage, high interest, high demand jobs in our community.

I am confident that our amazing District leadership, industry partners and incredible CTEC staff will make certain that the six programs slated for implementation in 2017, 2018 and 2019 will be just as successful and engaging as the first four areas of study.

Thank you for your past, present and continued support of CTEC. I look forward to reading about and witnessing our District’s great accomplishments in preparing students for careers and college.

Sincerely,

John Honey

CTEC Principal (retired)