

# A message from the Executive Director

## CELEBRATING 50 YEARS DURING COVID-19

Our plans to host a number of celebrations marking the first 50 years of the Six District Educational Compact screeched to a halt in March with the coronavirus outbreak. I'm proud to report that our students and teachers made a quick pivot and used technology in new ways to continue to make an impact on our six districts. Classes were held virtually, and students and teachers stayed in contact throughout the rest of the school year. New students were accepted for the 2020-2021 school year and took advantage of online "Meet the Teacher" events. You can read about other successes in this Annual Report.

When we learned there was a shortage of Personal Protective Equipment in our communities, our teachers stepped up. Supplies, including surgical masks, gowns, gloves and booties from Athletic Health Care and Fitness, Construction Technologies, Cosmetology and Health Careers Technologies programs were donated to local hospitals and other entities. Our CADET teachers **Jeff Bee** and **Troy Spear** and their students manufactured "Ear Savers" and donated them to first responders. These are just a few examples of the Compact's response to this national crisis.

## A SPECIAL THANKS

**Susan Howiler**, who served so ably as the Compact's Administrative Assistant for more than 18 years, retired this spring. Susan's organizational skills, talent and friendly manner was appreciated by the many who worked with her.

**Edna Hensel**, longtime secretary in the CTE office at Roosevelt, **Randy Kline**, school counselor at Roosevelt, and **Lisa Mowls**, who co-taught the International Business Academy at Stow-Munroe Falls, all retired this year. We thank them for their support of the Compact.

The **Burton D. Morgan Foundation** awarded a \$225,000 grant to the EntrepreNEW Academy, which opens at Woodridge High School this fall. The EntrepreNEW Academy is an innovative and immersive Career-Technical Education program for students interested in learning about creating and launching their own businesses.

## VALUE OF OUR CTE PROGRAMS

In these challenging times, it is still important to consider the value of our Career-Technical Education programs and the benefits for our Compact students. Consider these points:

- Our students form tight, small learning communities and make lifelong friendships.
- Our students make connections with business and industry professionals, including members of Advisory Committees, and take advantage of worksite visitations to observe career opportunities.
- Our students learn from program completers and, in the future, can become advocates and contacts for future students.
- Our students develop authentic projects and hone leadership skills through their Career-Technical Student Organizations.
- Our students have opportunities to interact with representatives from area educational institutions through Northeast Ohio Regional College Tech Prep.

Thank you to all who contributed to the successes of the 2019-2020 school year!

Mary Jane Stanchina  
Executive Director

