

Dear Fellow Business Educator

Let me start off by introducing myself. My name is Kim Dhority and I am the current president of the Kansas Business Education Association (KBEA). I am the Dean of Instructional Services of the Flint Hills Technical College in Emporia, Kansas. I taught at the high school level for 33 years before coming to the college as a business instructor.

I recently went through Work Ethic Training and am now a certified Work Ethic Trainer. During that training we did an exercise on personality traits and how we all work together. Each person was labeled with a shape...octagon (has to look at all sides), circle (want everyone to get along and be included), square (rigid, has to have everything one way) and the list goes on. I was a lightning bolt! A lightning bolt likes new ideas and always wants to be trying new things. They sometimes irritate the octagons (my boss is an octagon) who likes to look at all sides. The reason I tell this story is because I believe change is good. I know sometimes it can be overwhelming. In our field of education change is necessary. I once was asked, "Don't you get bored doing the same thing for 40 years?" My response was nope...my field changes every three or four years. As business and technology teachers we have to be willing to move with that change. We have to be the people that say...let's try it and see what happens!

We are also working with a generation that is used to change and actually thrives on it. The Generation X's the Millennials, and the Generation Z's have seen more change in their lifetime than any other generations. They are used to things not being stagnant and they are used to having information at their fingertips. They are also used to being very social and interacting with their superiors, their peers and their family. We as educators need to be sure that we are willing to make those changes, communicate effectively with this generation and most importantly teach them to communicate effectively with the world around them.

I bring the topic of change and communication up for two reasons...

- Last year your KBEA board made several changes to the conference to make it more exciting for you all. This year we have done even more changing. We are sticking with the preconference/conference format. However, we have added a social event that will span the conference, we have added business tours to the post-conference (Tuesday) and we are bringing AV Communication and Informational Technology into our house!! As a lightning bolt, change is good!!
- Along the change lines, the board has also updated and changed the website to be better accessible for the membership.
- The second topic of my letter is communication. What better way to communicate with YOUR peers than at our annual conference. This conference not only gives you new information to use in your classroom but it also gives you the opportunity to communicate with your fellow business/technology teachers. You are not alone in the sea of new and ever changing curriculum. The board has

really strived to bring in innovative speakers and new opportunities for you to collaborate with those in your field.

So being the lightning bolt that I am.....I enjoy change and I am also looking for new possibilities to help my school and those schools that I work with on an ongoing basis. Never hesitate to call, email and/or text me with ideas for you as a teacher, your classroom and/or KBEA as an organization. Remember The Future is Yet in Your Power be a lightening bolt!!

Kim Dhority, President
Kansas Business Education Association
3301 West 18th
Emporia, KS 66801
620-341-7632



KBEA 2018