

## Steve Thornton



Steve Thornton is an experienced technology leader who has worked in K-12 school systems since 1988 as a technical manager, credentialed teacher, principal, and director of technology. Now retired, he is currently serving on the board of the Aaron Barnett Foundation supporting the development of cybersecurity and other IT careers for young people ([www.aaronbarnettfoundation.org](http://www.aaronbarnettfoundation.org)). Steve attended his first CEDPA Conference in 1992 and has been an active member since. In 2007, he joined the first CTO Mentor Program cadre, later serving as an instructor and mentor. In November 2008 he was elected to serve on the CETPA governing board, participating in the tremendous growth of our organization and eventual rebranding as CITE in 2019. He served as the organization's President in 2014. Among his roles was to serve as Publications Director, editing, organizing advertisements, and writing for the Databus Magazine. He also served as

Board Secretary and contributed CITE's collective voice in our communications with the vendor community and with our State and Federal legislative offices.

Steve is probably best remembered for his work supporting the growth of CITE's regional groups. He was a founding member of CITE's first regional group and helped other CITE leaders throughout CA to grow regional groups in their local areas. He modeled a willingness to ask for help from the CITE "brain trust" when he needed it, and that made it okay for others to trust and be vulnerable. Steve has great affection for all of his CITE friends and was always eager to roll up his sleeves to help make the organization and the people in it more engaged, more successful, and more satisfied with the meaningful work we do together.

Steve retired in November 2020. He now spends time woodworking, kayaking, and hanging out with his five children and six grandchildren (two of whom he and his wife, Wendy, are raising). The two of them bought a beautiful nine year old sorrel mare quarter horse one week after he retired. They now enjoy being outdoors every day, exercising, riding, and loving their sweet "Annie Oakley".