



Missouri ACTE 2006 Teacher of the Year

Michael McCrory

Fortunately, there are teachers who recognize the opportunities in their profession and plunge in to capitalize on their insights. Their dedication enhances their work, benefits their students and strengthens their profession. Mike McCrory fits this description completely. There is only one "puzzlement." When does he sleep?

Mike has been invested in Missouri ACTE since 1979, serving as a Board member, conference participant, member of the Policy and Budget committees, even Acting Parliamentarian. He has been equally supportive of MVATA and NAAE. These organizations reinforce his overall commitment. He is a teacher!

For 27 years, Mike has been an Agricultural Education Instructor and FFA Chapter Advisor at Clopton High School in Clarksville, Missouri. The scope of the curriculum he teaches includes the "nuts and bolts" of agriculture but does not stop there. Agriculture encompasses more than soil and plants, even more than record keeping and financial management. Perhaps most important of all is the essential human component of leadership, one which Mike endorses.

An enhancement grant gave Mike the capacity to establish an Agri-Science Learning laboratory to meet the needs of each course in the curriculum. By using laboratory facilities, students receive "hands-on," real world application of the subject matter. Within the shop laboratory, Mike expects nothing less than perfection from students designing and constructing personal projects. He is proud of his Inclusion Program for students with special needs, 96% of whom are involved in his Ag-Ed program.

Mike's classes are well known throughout the community. He insists that his students understand their civic responsibilities and live up to that challenge. Through volunteer programs and community betterment activities, Mike has established partnerships with individuals, charitable organizations and industry leaders. In this way, he has opened the door for student participation. His students have earned state and national recognition for their efforts. Students have responded to his example. Mike has had seven students enter the teaching profession. He has been a supervisor for 12 student teachers in agriculture education.

As if a heavy teaching load were not enough, the list of Mike's community activities is mind-boggling and spans an incredible diversity of interests. His church is first on his list. He has been president of the Mary Queen of Peace Church Council, Knights of Columbus Treasurer, as well as Building Committee Chairman and Confirmation Coordinator. Next on the list is an astounding collection of far flung services to the community.

He has been the Neighborhood Watch Program Director and served on the Eolia Homecoming Parade Committee, even serving as the Homecoming Dinner Chairman. For 22 years, he coached Khoury League and was a member of its Clarksville Board of Directors. He served as Missouri State Fair Assistant Superintendent -sheep, swine and goats. He has been a Garden Club presenter and a 4-H Leader. He has been the Clarksville Mayor's Youth Council Sponsor, not to mention the Pike County Senior Fairboard - Mud Marathon Chairman and a member of the Clarksville Library Board.

Mike has been active professionally at local, state, regional and national levels. He has made presentations on agricultural education related topics, prepared feature articles for local newspapers highlighting students, been interviewed by farm radio talk shows highlighting student accomplishments and agriculture related issues, and served the Clopton Teachers Organization since 1979. He has been Secretary and Chairman of the Professional Development Committee.

On the state level, Mike has published three articles in the *Missouri Agricultural Education Bulletin*. He has served as presenter at numerous MVATA conferences and as guest lecturer at the University of Missouri-Columbia Agricultural Education Department - Rationale and Structure of Agricultural Education Program 4310.

Regionally, Mike has been a presenter, representing Missouri at a Region IV NAAE Conference. He is recipient of the Distinguished Professional State Association Award. Nationally, Mike served on the Strategic Planning Committee, representing Missouri to assist in rewriting the Strategic Plan for NAAE.

Mike holds a Masters Degree in Agricultural Education and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Husbandry, both from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He has participated in the Summer Institute on Food Safety, sponsored by the National Science Foundation. In Mike's spare time, he is co-owner/operator of Ashburton Farms.

An interesting observation is that Mike McCrory has come full circle, much to the benefit of his students and his community. Mike graduated from Clopton High School in Clarksville, Missouri and as soon as he had earned his B.S., he headed for home.

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Missouri ACTE 2006 Outstanding Career and Technical Educator Elaine Metcalf

Reading the comments of those who have recommended Elaine Metcalf for this honor provides a snapshot of a dedicated and competent educator. Described as “a professional who is concerned with how we do our jobs,” by one; “She is always professional and willing to serve in any capacity,” was another’s observation. She is described as “one of those administrators who has never forgotten her roots. Which is, of course ... the classroom.” Another adds, “She has great empathy for her fellow students and is always looking for ways to make things better for her staff.”

It is exhausting to read the list of Elaine Metcalf’s responsibilities for the Lee’s Summit School District. They include Career and Technical Education Facilitator, 7-12 Business and Marketing Department Chairperson and Program Coordinator for Summit Technology Academy ... and those are just the titles!

At the same time, it is refreshing to note that Elaine “is not one of those educators who feels she has reached the top of the learning curve. She continues to participate as a student, to continue gaining knowledge,” says a colleague. Currently, she is involved in Post-graduate work related to technology and administration from Central Missouri State University. And she is not selfish. Elaine has been involved in the educational process for a number of years. She has presented workshops at the local, state, regional and national levels, covering a wide range of topics from Business Technology to Perkins Reauthorization.

The Lee’s Summit community has benefitted from her skills and energy. She was the chair of the Business Expo/Job Fair Task Force in 2005, which involved leading community members in

organizing a half-day event showcasing area businesses. She has been a member of the Herndon Career Center Business Advisory Council since 2004. A member of the First Baptist Church, she teaches Sunday School and serves as a Volunteer worker.

Elaine has earned recognition in her field, receiving the Award of Merit from Region III Association of Career and Technical Education, as well as Missouri’s Outstanding Secondary Business Educator Award. She has been included in Who’s Who in Missouri Business Education.

Recognizing the inherent value of professional development in career and technical education, Elaine Metcalf has invested herself

in organizations which support career and technical education. She is a tri-level member of ACTE, Missouri ACTE and MBEA, as well as a member of NCBEA and NBEA. She doesn’t stop at “membership” but has held leadership positions in these organizations. Her contributions to Missouri ACTE include serving on its Board of Directors for three years and as its president and president-elect. She was a member of the Missouri ACTE Membership Committee for two years and Missouri

ACTE Awards Committee for three years. She has served on the ACTE Communications Committee since 2002, has helped formulate ideas for *Techniques* magazine, and has critiqued and reviewed the ACTE web site.

According to one who has worked with Elaine in the Missouri ACTE organization, she approaches every challenge with an “I can do it!” attitude, an enthusiasm which has extended far beyond the borders of Missouri. And that is what education is all about.

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Diversity Action Award - Excelsior Springs Area Career Center

There is a valid reason that Excelsior Springs Area Career Center (ESACC) continues to strive to increase nontraditional enrollment and completion ... local employers support the effort! It is sometimes difficult to support a new vision. Such has been the case in encouraging nontraditional enrollment in a business that traditionally has been male dominated, like the automotive industry. ESACC has risen to the occasion.

Being proactive as they encourage nontraditional enrollment, ESACC provides a nontraditional scholarship each year to a qualifying student. Not only are these students welcomed, they are embraced and encouraged to participate, learn and succeed.

As a result, nontraditional enrollment at ESACC has been steadily growing. According to DESE Secondary Nontraditional Performance Levels in Fiscal Year 2005, ESACC achieved 21.74% growth in nontraditional participation.

ESACC has taken advantage of every opportunity to promote nontraditional employment, never losing sight of the importance or seriousness of the effort. And, they start young! Students in the program volunteer to become candidates for New Traditions Nontraditional Guessing Game for 8th graders. We congratulate ESACC on a job well done!



2006 Outstanding Teacher in Community Service Mark Sponaugle

Mark Sponaugle and the City of Carthage, Missouri are soulmates. One could not exist without the other. In the 25 years that Mark has taught in Carthage, he has recognized the needs of the community and plunged in to help. He began as an Agriculture classroom teacher and is currently a faculty member of the Carthage Technical Center. He has used these positions as a springboard to community service. "Almost before the ink was dry on his contract," says one supporter, "his students were entered in the big event of the Carthage Community, the Maple Leaf Parade." His students have participated each year since, always with his support. Mark demonstrates his conviction that teachers must show the way. Parades are Mark's delight. He agreed to chair the Annual Christmas parade in 1987 and is still in that position. During this time, the parade has grown from 12 entries to over 75.

As Mark grew in his professional career from classroom teacher to Vocational Resource Educator, he has modeled being a good citizen. His work with special needs students lives up to the "special" designation. He knows his students as individuals, matching their talents with community needs and lending support each step of the way. In the process, Mark has earned the friendship of students, both current and former. He is interested in the progress, as well as the struggles of each student, as is evident when you are with Mark in the community and students eagerly approach him to update him on their latest achievements.

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Having grown up in a small community, Mark knows the importance of community involvement. He became active in the Grace Episcopal Church shortly after moving to Carthage, serving the church in a variety of positions. He represented the faculty of the Grace Church Youth Program at two national training programs called "Journey to Adulthood." With his help, this program was adopted into his church curriculum. Recognizing that youth programs need financial support, Mark became involved in the Annual Christmas dinner theater. He has been in every performance since the first show in 2000, as performer, assistant director and/or director. The event has served as a magnet, attracting attendees from all around the community.

In addition to serving his community, Mark has also served his school. He is a most enthusiastic MSTTA member. He joined the Carthage Community Teacher's Association in his first year of teaching and has been active ever since. He recognizes the practical. Not only does he enlist new faculty members in this group, he also helps these newcomers with down-to-

earth advice, such as the best dry cleaners or where to vote.

The list of Mark's involvements is telling. Everything is connected. He works on community projects, such as the Maple Leaf Parade, so that his students can be a part of it. He milks goats at the county fair, for publicity and a good laugh. He helps students pick up trash at the local park, so they can see the pleasure of service. He never misses a school concert, ball game, wrestling match or any other activity in which any of his students is involved. The Carthage community is lucky to have Mark Sponaugle.

Recognition Award - John Denbo CEO, Phelps County Regional Medical Center

One of John Denbo's supporters summarizes the commitment which makes him a candidate for Missouri ACTE's deep appreciation. "Rolla Technical Center unquestionably has a friend and partner in Mr. John Denbo and Phelps County Regional Medical Center." This accolade is followed by a detailed list of what has been provided by PCRMC, including contributions of medical equipment for student instruction, as well as health care training for students in the latest in skill training techniques.

Auxiliary scholarships are provided each year for students to attend RTC health care programs. Many students would be unable to afford these programs without the assistance of PCRMC. These scholarships not only assist students in meeting financial needs but have also provided opportunities for employment at PCRMC.

John Denbo leads by example and has promoted RTC by soliciting the donation of funds for its use. The development of a "Grow Your Own Nursing Program" and South Central Missouri Nursing Coalition is directed toward meeting the need for more nurses.

Customer service is a priority with John and carries over to employment of RTC graduates. He expects his staff to be student friendly and to encourage learning at all times. Thousands of hours of training are conducted at PCRMC using expert staff in innovative programs covering the latest trends in health care technology.

Not only has John recognized that the Rolla Technical Center is the hub for health care training, he also insists that its programs have the equipment needed to provide necessary training for students. In a nutshell, he summarizes, "It is our job to see that the students have every opportunity to learn while they are at PCRMC."



2006 Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher Jessica Wade

Jessica Wade fulfills the requirements of this category with ease. She is certainly "new." Having earned her Bachelor of Science in Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2002, she began her career as Marketing Teacher/DECA Advisor at Cass Career Center that year, moving to Odessa High School in the same capacity in 2003. In 2006, Jessica was awarded her Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction. The "new" is covered. Now, what about the "Career and Technical Teacher" part?

Jessica's sponsors say it all. "Ms. Wade took to teaching like a duck to water!" "She is the type of teacher we need to help education reach its lofty goals." "Mrs. Wade has influenced my High School career more than any other teacher ... she challenges her students to strive for excellence and has become a teacher and mentor I know I can trust entirely." "Mrs. Wade has helped nurture the budding entrepreneur within me."

Jessica encourages her students to take advantage of their opportunities for involvement. "With her help," says one student, "I ran for the top DECA Leadership Delegate position in my district and won. Weekly, she presents a thought-provoking, true-to-life

curriculum by making us do market research, work with local businesses, and complete other tasks that help us apply our knowledge in the 'real' world."

And Jessica takes advantage of her own opportunities for leadership. At the local level, she serves on her district A+ Committee, is a Marketing Education teacher mentor and is the DECA district treasurer. She currently serves as a Missouri State DECA Officer Advisor and is Mentor for MCEA Mentor Program. Jessica is working to complete her National Board certification, while implementing the National Marketing Education curriculum standards in her marketing program. In 2005, Jessica was named Missouri Outstanding New Marketing and Cooperative Education Teacher of the Year.

While school is her passion, Jessica also invests herself in the Zion United Church of Christ, where she has been a member since 1979. Add to that her membership in the Odessa Volleyball League, as well as her attendance at many extracurricular activities in which her students are involved, and you can recognize a very full and productive life.

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Certificate of Appreciation Rita Knight, Owner, Rolla Sonic

"Where do we go from here?" is a logical question students struggle to answer as they begin to wrap up their high school education. Students who have worked under Rita Knight's watchful eye, first at the Town and Country Supermarket and recently at the Rolla Sonic which is owned by Rita, know they can rely on and trust her to give them advice, counseling and, sometimes, a little rebuke. And because Rita is such a trusted friend, students absorb her comments and grow from them.

Working closely with the Cooperative Education Coordinator at Rolla Technical Institute, Rita has served as a training station sponsor for a number of years. She takes this responsibility seriously because she was a CTE student herself, learned from her experience and claims her success in the business world is due partially to her work experience training in this program.

And Rita feels an obligation to reciprocate. In January, 2006, she participated in the WorkKeys Profile for the CTE program and helped to establish a task list that all graduates of the program should be able to accomplish at the time of graduation.

Rita has a strong and lasting affiliation with the Rolla Public Schools. One sponsor notes, "She was very informative, even inspirational at times, in letting me know personally how vital career education was for the continued growth and development of her business and the local economy as a whole." Another sponsor adds that not only is Rita deserving of this honor, "she also exemplifies exactly the type of person this award seeks to recognize ... a dedicated, resourceful and supportive individual committed to helping students obtain their full potential through technical education programs."

Missouri Legislators Paving the Way for Career and Technical Education

Representative Maynard Wallace (R-143)



Representative Wallace is always willing to share his expertise on education issues derived from his life-long career in public education.

Rep. Maynard Wallace, a Republican, represents Ozark County and parts of Howell, Stone and Taney counties (District 143) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to the House in November 2002.

In addition to his legislative duties, Rep. Wallace is a farmer. Previously, he served as superintendent for schools in Forsyth (1979-94) and Ava (1994-99). He also worked as a principal in Butler (1973-79) and as a teacher and coach in Sparta and Butler (1966-73).

Rep. Wallace is active in community and education organizations, and has worked extensively with Little League baseball and softball programs. He is the past president of the Forsyth Chamber of Commerce, past president of SWMO Administrators Association, past president of the Bradleyville Alumni Association, a lifetime member of the Missouri State Teachers Association, and a lifetime member of Missouri Association of School Administrators.

A 1961 Bradleyville, Mo. High School graduate, Rep. Wallace received his associate's degree in science from College of the Ozarks in 1963, a bachelor of science in education from Southwest Missouri State University in 1966, and a master's in education in 1972 and education specialist in 1975, both from Central Missouri State University.

During the 2006 Legislative Session, Rep. Wallace served as Vice-Chairman of both the Appropriations - Education Committee and the Special Committee on Education Funding. In addition, he was a member of the following committees: Higher Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Joint Committee on Education, Local Government, and Special Committee on Agri-Business.

Representative Sue Schoemehl (D-100)



Representative Schoemehl brings vibrance and energy to her efforts in supporting public education on the appropriations and policy committees on which she serves.

Representative Sue Schoemehl, a Democrat, represents part of South St. Louis County (District 100) in the Missouri House of Representatives. Rep. Schoemehl was elected to the House of Representatives in November 2002. She serves as the Ranking Democrat on the House Committee on Higher Education for the 93rd General Assembly.

Rep. Schoemehl graduated from Mehlville High School and received a Certification in Dental Assisting from Meramec Community College. She worked in the Endodontic specialty field. She has volunteered in the Mehlville School District for 15 years. She is the Legislative Representative for the Regional Interagency Coordinating Council of St. Louis County.

She served as an executive board member for the legislative freshman class. Rep. Schoemehl is a member of Women Legislators of Missouri, the National Order of Women Legislators, Women In Government, Operation Missouri Clean Stream, KYDS Council Task Force, Alumni of the Greater St. Louis Girl Scout Association, Missouri Historical Society, South County Chamber of Commerce, Oakville Democratic Organization and currently serves on the advisory committee for the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life. She is also a member of Queen of All Saints Parish.

In addition to the House Committee on Higher Education, Rep. Schoemehl serves on the following committees: Appropriations - Education, Professional Registration and Licensing, Special Committee on Education Funding, and Interim Committee on Student-based Higher Education Funding Reform Models.

Missouri ACTE Policy Makers of the Year Award

Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond and Congressman Roy Blunt



↑ **Senator Kit Bond, along with representatives of the Southwest Area Career Center at Monett, hold the \$1.25 million check for new construction.**

Career and Technical Education is blessed with two fervent supporters: Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond and Congressman Roy Blunt. When the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Capital Improvement funds became unavailable to career and technical schools, Senator Bond and Congressman Blunt came to the rescue. They became key to success in acquiring federal funds to fill the gap.

Without the efforts of these two leaders, the new Southwest Area Career Center construction project could not have been



↑ **Ted Dorton (pictured left), Director of the Southwest Area Career Center at Monett, presents Representative Roy Blunt thanks for his help in securing new construction funds.**

started. Senator Bond assisted in securing an Economic Development Administration Grant of \$1.25 million for construction, as well as the Funds for Improvement of Education Grant of \$500,000 for smaller equipment. Congressman Blunt helped in securing an additional \$250,000 Funds for Improvement of Education Grant for infrastructure equipment.

Hopefully, by the fall of 2007, students from Monett and the 13 sending schools will be able to benefit from this new state-of-the-art career and technical center.