

Missouri ACTE Teacher of the Year ~ Jessica Wade ~



We are very lucky to have Jessica Wade as a Missouri CTE teacher. Jessica is a marketing teacher and DECA advisor at the Odessa R-7 School District and, according to her letters of support, she's even more. Fantastic, passionate, intense, caring ... are just a few of the words used to describe Jessica.

Here's what Jacob Kintz, one of Jessica's students, had to say:

"When I think of Mrs. Wade, I think of intensity. I have never had a teacher that pushed me as hard as she did. She convinced me to write a 30-page business plan for [the] DECA contest, and that was not something I wanted to do. She thought that I could do well in this competition. She told me that she would be willing to come in after school or over breaks if I wanted to work. I came in and she was sitting beside me helping me every minute during the hours we spent working on this project. When I wanted to quit she told me to take a little break, but then get back to work. I was getting discouraged spending so much time on this project, and she would not give up on me. She pushed me and encouraged me to continue on. I ended up placing 3rd at State in this event and qualified for Internationals.

"Mrs. Wade is also very passionate about what she does. At competition she will cheer when we do well, and is disappointed along with us if we do not do well. She is not only passionate about DECA, but also about what is going on in her students' lives. She has come to many of my track meets, and is cheering in the stands just as loud as everyone else. When I did not do as well as I thought I would in a race, she would be disappointed with me.

"Mrs. Wade is a fantastic teacher, mentor, and role model for her students. She has put in endless hours working on projects for competition, and is always there when her students need her for something. I am proud to recommend Mrs. Wade as the Missouri ACTE Teacher of the Year."

Cheryl Kintz echoes Jacob's thoughts when she writes:

"When I was asked to write this letter, I thought that it would be easy. Then, I realized whom I was writing about. Finding adequate words to explain the impact Mrs. Wade has had on my son's life, and the lives of his fellow classmates, is quite a challenge.

"I could write about Mrs. Wade's diligence in the classroom and the high expectations she has for every student. I could write about the countless hours she spends over Christmas breaks and on snow days to support students as they prepare written events for contest. I could write about the MDA fashion shows and rock-a-thons, the hospital toy collections, the Invisible Children Program, financial literacy, safe driving and countless other activities she has guided students to compete.

"I could write about the field trips and conferences she organizes. My son has been literally coast-to-coast with Mrs. Wade. He has run on the beach in California and visited Disneyland. He has stood on the observation deck of the Empire State Building, skated in Central Park, and sat in the dugout at Yankee's Stadium. He has had breakfast at Churchill Downs. All of these things are fun, exciting opportunities that my son has had because of Mrs. Wade's commitment to her students. It's not good enough to just go and compete or visit a few tourist sites. Mrs. Wade makes sure every single moment is an adventure and an opportunity to open students' eyes to a different world - one much larger and far more diverse than the one they know here in Odessa.

"While there are many things I could write about, the most obvious is that Mrs. Wade truly cares about every student she teaches. She runs with students at track and cross country practice, shoots hoops with them, posts their funny comments on the wall in her classroom, and lends them lunch money or gives them food when they are hungry. She cheers when they win and cries when they lose. Mrs. Wade sets the standard for what a good teacher is. She takes the time to know her students. She corrects them, prods them, challenges them and motivates them to succeed. As a parent I know my son's life has been enriched because of Mrs. Wade's commitment to education. I highly recommend her for Missouri ACTE Teacher of the Year."

Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher ~ Officer Darrick Bruns ~



Formerly an officer with the Platte City Police Department, Darrick Bruns told Detective Sergeant Willoughby-Neland that he had a lifelong dream of combining his love of law enforcement and compassion for students into one career.

Officer Darrick Bruns has done exactly that by developing the Crime Scene Investigation/Law Enforcement (CSI/LE) course at Northland Career Center (NCC). And that was not an easy task. As Dr. Dee Moore with NCC puts it, “[he]

began his teaching career not only without classroom training and teaching experience, but also without an existing program and curriculum. He developed the Northland Career Center CSI/LE program from inception with very successful results.”

Basic Skills Instructor Audra Pelham quantifies some of that success when she states, “About 80% of his students return for their second year of the program and 80% remain in the career field after high school graduation. The enthusiasm also translates to large numbers that apply for the CSI/LE program where there routinely is a waiting list of 50-70 students.”

Another supporter states, “One of the best indicators of student success is their ability to demonstrate skills and knowledge learned in applied situations. Over the last three years, Officer Bruns has had 73 students qualify for District competitions, 49 qualify for State competition and six qualify for Nationals. ... His class attendance rate of 95% demonstrates his students’ high interest in the subject matter and Officer Bruns’ ability to relate the material in a way that demonstrates his commitment to them and how it will help them in their future aspirations.”

Officer Bruns doesn’t just “talk the talk.” On his classroom wall are the words “Respect / Integrity / Honesty.” Officer Bruns states, “This is how I was raised and taught, how I lived my life as a Police Officer, what I teach and are the over-riding expectations of my classroom. If my students learn but only one thing from me in the two years I have them, it would be to live by this triad of important words. These three words should mean more to us in our everyday lives than anything I could ever teach them. If my students take these words to heart they will be successful in whatever personal and/or career path they choose.

“This triad is implemented daily in our room, illustrated by the following examples:

- ♦ “Students are expected to stand when any visitor enters our room. Although foreign at first, students relate that they find themselves doing this in their home school classrooms as well.
- ♦ “Many discussions in this field [CSI/LE] can be very controversial. We not only talk about legal implications, but how these affect and shape our society. Although topics can be very personal, students openly share their experiences and opinions, yet the class remains cohesive due to the relationships built on the triad.
- ♦ “Honesty and Integrity are thoroughly woven throughout the program. Realistically, many of these students will be entering fields where the criminals with which they will be dealing make more and ‘easier’ money than what they might make in a lifetime. Without these ideals being part of the fabric of a person it would be difficult to do their job.”

Ms. Pelham recognizes another skill when she states, “Officer Bruns’ focus is on his students as a whole, not just their performance in his classroom. This is evidenced by the close relationships formed in his class, both between his students and himself, and student to student relationships. Many times he has encouraged one student to mentor another based on their personal experiences, to welcome a new student, or as encouragement in the classroom. The result of these relationships is an environment where students are comfortable and confident which allows them to excel and not be afraid to try the new skills and techniques they learn.

“Having been in education for almost 20 years I consider Officer Bruns to be one of the most highly respected, dedicated and caring teachers with which I have worked. Many of our current problems and concerns in education could be eliminated if all teachers had the ability, and desire, to connect with students in the way that Officer Bruns does.”

It is obvious that Officer Bruns’ love of law enforcement and his students has been a winning combination. As he puts it, “I have one thing that motivates me to get involved, simply my students. My desire is to expose them and help them experience as many aspects of law enforcement and related fields as they can in their two years here.” His students, Northland Career Center, and Career and Technical Education are lucky to have such a fine example to follow.

Diversity Action Committee Award

Karla Prosser, President National Association of Women in Construction

Karla Prosser serves as President of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) which originally began as Women in Construction in Fort Worth, Texas. It was founded in 1953 by 16 women working in the construction industry. Knowing that women represent only a small fraction of the construction industry, the founders organized NAWIC to create a support network. Women in Construction of Fort Worth was so successful that it gained its national charter in 1955 and became the National Association of Women in Construction.

NAWIC has a membership of more than 4,500 and approximately 167 chapters, with chapters in almost every US state. Since 1996, NAWIC has seen its Core Purpose grow worldwide and has International Affiliation Agreements with the Canadian Association of Women in Construction, NAWIC - Australia, NAWIC - New Zealand, NAWIC - United Kingdom

and South African Women in Construction. In NAWIC's 55 years of service to its membership, NAWIC has advanced the causes of all women in construction, from tradeswomen to business owners.

For more than 30 years, the NAWIC Education Foundation (NEF) has offered creative and educational programs for students from grade school to high school. NEF's award-winning Block-Kids program, Building Design program and the CAD/Design/Drafting Scholarship Awards competitions introduce students to careers and opportunities in construction.

Since its founding, the NAWIC Founders' Scholarship Foundation and NAWIC chapters nationwide have awarded more than \$4 million in scholarships to students pursuing construction-related studies.

Diversity Action Committee Award

Missouri Women in the Trades (MOWIT)

In his nomination letter for Missouri Women in the Trades, Mark Fuch writes, in part:

"Missouri Women in the Trades (MOWIT) is dedicated to increasing opportunities for women in the construction trades and helping women access those careers. Their programs support women currently in the trades, assist aspiring tradeswomen to access their chosen career and inspire girls just starting to develop their identities. MOWIT works to achieve these goals by building awareness of the trades as a career choice for women; assisting women entering and completing apprenticeship programs; providing a support network for tradeswomen; providing recruitment and retention assistance for labor, employers, and educators; and supporting local and state advocacy efforts."

MOWIT's promotional events include:

- **"Mentoring A Girl In Construction (MAGIC) Summer Camp:** During this unique week-long summer camp led by tradeswomen, high school aged young women learn basic skills of construction and explore career opportunities in the construction industry.
- **"Ms. Fix-It:** MOWIT offers Ms. Fix-It Workshops for girls ages 7-13. How does it work and how can I fix it? These questions and more are answered in this interactive workshop that includes several activities which introduce girls to the idea that building and fixing are 'girl jobs.' The highlight of the workshop is building a stool that the girls get to take home."

Legislative Recognition Award

Senator Dan Brown



Senator Dan Brown was sworn into office of the Missouri Senate in January of 2011, representing the 16th Senatorial District of Missouri. Previously he served in the Missouri House of Representatives representing the 149th District.

In addition to his legislative duties, Senator Brown has practiced veterinary medicine for over 30 years in the Rolla area and has served on the Missouri Veterinary Licensing Board.

Senator Brown is a member of the following organizations:

American Veterinary Medical Association; Missouri Veterinary Medical Association; Missouri Farmers Association (MFA); Missouri Farm Bureau; Mid-Missouri Energy (Charter Member); Paseo Biofuel

(Charter Member); Rolla Area Chamber of Commerce; Quail Forever; and a Lifetime Member of the National Rifle Association (NRA).

Senator Brown is a graduate of Houston High School and received a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the University Of Missouri College Of Veterinary Medicine in Columbia, MO.

Sarah Topp, Gamble & Schlemeier, puts it best when she says, "Senator Brown serves on a number of committees, including the Senate Appropriations and Senate Education Committees. He has demonstrated his belief in career and technical education prominently by advocating for maintaining career and technical student organizations as part of the school curriculum. Senator Brown submitted a letter to the editor of the local paper outlining his position on CTSOs. Missouri ACTE appreciates his bold leadership on our behalf."

Recognition Award

Larry Neill

In his letter of nomination for Larry Neill, Dr. Don Claycomb wrote, in part:

"Mr. Neill is owner of Larry's Motorsports in Jefferson City. His company handles motorcycles, four wheelers and side by sides. Mr. Neill was instrumental in founding the Powersports program at Linn State Technical College.

"Prior to the establishment of the program, such a program at a public institution did not exist in the state of Missouri. Mr. Neill has since been instrumental in the donation of equipment

from major manufacturers to be used as teaching aids. Today, three of his four technicians are graduates of the program. He still serves on the advisory committee and as a member of the Foundation for Linn State Technical College.

"Without a doubt, his contribution to a program and industry that is important in the state of Missouri deem him worthy of this recognition."

Certificate of Appreciation

Connie Walk

In her letter of nomination for Connie Walk, Vicki Schwinke wrote, in part:

"Ms. Walk has worked at Linn State Technical College for the past six years as the Tech Prep Director. She has done an outstanding job working with counselors and teachers in more than 80 career centers, and in several high schools to obtain over 250 articulation agreements with these schools over the past six years.

"Ms. Walk had been a teacher and coach for many years prior to coming to Linn State Technical College. She is very highly respected by educators at the secondary and post-secondary levels, which allowed her easy access to many counselors and teachers that she had worked with over the years. Connie is truly an advocate for the students and it shows by the number of articulation agreements she has with so many schools."



Certificate of Appreciation

Leonard Harris

In his letter of nomination for Leonard Harris, Mark Fuchs wrote, in part:

"It is my privilege and honor to nominate Mr. Leonard Harris for the Missouri ACTE Certificate of Appreciation Award. He is a graduate of the St. Louis Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship Program, a master carpenter, and teacher of the craft of carpentry since 1992. He began instructing with the St. Louis Special School District in 1992. In 1994, he moved to Ranken Technical College, where he became Department Head of the Carpentry Division. I first met Leonard when he was hired by the St. Louis Carpenters Joint Apprenticeship Program in 2000, and have great admiration for his dedication to career and technical education. He is a lifelong learner and has attained higher level academic degrees and earned multiple industry certifications. His pleasant demeanor and positive

attitude make him a pleasure to be around as both a cohort and manager.

"Mr. Harris feels he received positive guidance from those who mentored him throughout his career and has a personal commitment to 'pay it forward,' making the same positive influence in the lives of those he has the opportunity to mentor and teach. He is a master of instruction at any level and has a unique way of breaking down even the most complex procedure. He is a valued and dedicated teacher wherever he is, and we're fortunate to have him.

"You will not find a more dedicated, committed, and befitting educator, leader, and role model."



Certificate of Appreciation

Scott Oberkrom

In her nomination letter for Scott Oberkrom, Dr. Cynthia Arendt wrote, in part:

"Scott has always been a good partner with career and technical education and especially the Family Consumer Sciences and Human Services and the Business, Marketing and Information Technology sections at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. As Director of Community Investments for American Century Investments, Scott has been involved at several different levels with the Office of College and Career Readiness. An advocate for personal finance education, he served on a Department committee to develop course standards. Scott has also given valuable input to statewide curriculum development projects. For more than five years, Scott has displayed personal finance resources at Summer Conference at the Convention Center. He has provided professional development activities for career and technical education

teachers responsible for the personal finance courses, as well as providing free curriculum resources.

"The most significant thing Scott has done for the students in career education is to join with the Missouri Family Career and Community Leaders of America to sponsor the LifeSmarts program in Missouri. LifeSmarts is an educational program run by the National Consumers League for the purpose of developing the consumer and marketplace skills of teenagers. American Century, with the leadership of Scott, has funded the state contest and has provided an all-expense paid trip for the state winners to the national competition. He always serves as the question master at the state contest.

"He is a supporter and a friend of career education. His commitment to Missouri family and consumer educators is without question."

Congratulations to all our winners!
