

Teacher of the Year

CHERYL LANDERS



Cheryl Landers holds a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics Education from Central Missouri State University and a Master in Education in Family and Consumer Education from Iowa State University. Since 1994, she has been a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher for the Consolidated School District #4.

To summarize in one page all that Cheryl Landers has accomplished for her school district, students and community in her 20 years as a teacher in the field of Family and Consumer Sciences is, to put it simply, an impossible task. As Cheryl put it in her application "Without the contributions of those before me, I would not be the educator I am today, so it is my turn to give back." And, "give back," she has. Here are some comments from those who have benefited from Cheryl's time and talents:

From a parent ~

As parents of three who have gone through Grandview C4 schools, please know that we have a fairly extensive experience in working with teachers. Just as kids fall onto a bell curve, so do

teachers. Since our children span 10 years in age, we have gotten to know, much better than many, where most teachers fall on the curve.

Cheryl instills desire in kids to excel. She has been teaching for over 20 years, but her energy is nearly that of a new-hire. Her knowledge and expertise are witnessed by those within, and outside, the district. She continues to improve, expand, and promote the programs in her department.

From a colleague ~

I have observed Cheryl's strengths and skills from the classroom transfer to her leadership abilities as: Practical Arts Department Chair, FCCLA Sponsor and ProStart Sponsor.

Cheryl has been in charge of the ProStart program since its inception at GHS during the 2004-2005 school year. The ProStart students, under her tutelage, have been recognized for their culinary skills in area competitions and at events they have catered throughout the school district.

Cheryl consistently puts students needs in the forefront and is always willing to assist in any capacity necessary.

In each of her leadership roles, Cheryl has gained additional experience and opportunity to: act as a liaison for student, parent and staff communication; review data; and provide input on program direction, planning and supervision.

Among Cheryl's numerous strengths is her ability to manage and relate to a diverse group of people and situations. She has insight from experience to work collaboratively with a wide range of interests and skill levels. She is exceptionally professional, conscientious, solution-driven, analytical, practical and well versed in her area of content.

Cheryl Landers has the capability to lead and the willingness to accept responsibility.

From a student ~

Cheryl Landers is an outstanding teacher, mentor, and advisor. I have taken two foods classes with her and I have developed a deeper relationship with her through my time as an FCCLA member. Mrs. Landers is a hard working, dedicated teacher. She invests her time in the classroom, but is also an advisor for our local FCCLA chapter and the ProStart teacher. She spends many hours outside of the classroom working with students at various conferences, meetings, and competitions.

She deserves this award so much. Someone who is as passionate as she is when working with students deserves to be recognized for their hard work. She is one of the best teachers that I have ever had.

As you can see, Cheryl Landers is a very worthy recipient and we are proud to name her Missouri ACTE 2015 Teacher of the Year.



Outstanding New CTE Teacher of the Year

KATHRYN LAURENTIUS



Kathryn Laurentius is a Business & Marketing teacher and DECA advisor at Washington High School/Four Rivers Career Center in Washington, MO. In addition to all the activities her position requires, she is pursuing a Masters' Degree at Lindenwood University. As you can see by the comments below, Mrs. Laurentius is a great addition to the field of career and technical education and well deserving of Missouri ACTE's 2015 Outstanding New CTE Teacher of the Year!

From the Department Chair ...

As the Washington High School Business Department Chair, it has been a joy to watch Mrs. Laurentius develop as a business/marketing teacher. Mrs. Laurentius is deeply committed to business/marketing education and helps her students achieve success in the classroom, as well as in competitive events.

Mrs. Laurentius provides endless opportunities for her students to be involved in school and the local community. Some of the activities her students participate in include: Sink It

for Pink, Children's Relay for Life, food drives, tailgating/bbq for the high school football game, teacher appreciation and other charitable events. Mrs. Laurentius also prepares her students for DECA marketing competitions at the district, state and international level. Many students have participated in all levels of competition due to her guidance and dedication to the program.

In her classroom, Mrs. Laurentius uses engaging lessons and the best teaching strategies to help her students reach success. She helps in the writing of the business department curriculum and shares best practices with other teachers. Mrs. Laurentius is a professional who is dedicated to business/marketing education, demonstrates compassion for her students, is supporting of our local community, and strives to do her best every day in the classroom.

From a student ...

Mrs. Laurentius started here at Washington High School two years ago, and I can honestly say, she is one of the best teachers I have ever had. Before Mrs. Laurentius, DECA was known at our school as just the class that sold cookies between classes and not recognized for all the charity work and community service projects we do to help our community.

Now, because of Mrs. Laurentius, DECA at Washington, MO, is known for its unbelievable school store we have over at the Four Rivers Career Center, the amazing charity projects

we do to help our small town, and has given students the opportunity to learn more about marketing and becoming an entrepreneur. Having Mrs. Laurentius as our DECA advisor has improved our DECA membership considerably and has truly left her students with the confidence that they can go out into the real world and conquer any task thrown at them. She is truly an amazing woman, teacher and friend that any student would be proud to say they have.

Mrs. Laurentius has truly changed Washington High School DECA forever. She was the first advisor to have students win at DECA Internationals, helping students raise over \$1,700 for Shoot for A Cure, collecting goods for Loving Hearts and just changing the way students see DECA now. I personally can say that without Mrs. Laurentius being here I don't know if I would have stayed at this school. She made me feel like I can be a part of something and that I can be who I am and not be ashamed for myself.

Mrs. Laurentius is an amazing teacher in how she teaches you things that you can use all through your life, and a friend that if you need help or someone to talk to is always there no matter what. She is so hardworking, dedicated, outgoing, personable, relatable, and a unique woman that will forever change our DECA program. Her legacy at this school will never be forgotten



Special Awards

Outstanding Service Award Mike Pantleo

The Outstanding Service Award is given to recognize educators who have made the highest meritorious contributions to the improvement, promotion, development, and progress of career and technical education ... and Mike Pantleo, Director of the Career and Technology Center of Fort Osage, certainly fits the bill. His letters of nomination and recommendation all refer to Mike's tremendous skills as a leader and mentor, both locally and at the state level.

Mike serves as Chairman of the Greater Kansas City Area Ad Hoc Director's group and was recently nominated to serve as Vice President of the Missouri Council of Career and Technical Administrators. As one letter of recommendation put it ... "he was chosen for his knowledge, leadership qualities, and the success he has experienced at the CTC at Fort Osage. Under his leadership, teachers and students excel. "

CTE is lucky to count such a fine leader among our number.

Recognition Award Sherry Struckhoff

Sherry Struckhoff is retiring this year, but not before we get a chance to thank her for all her contributions to CTE and Missouri ACTE. She has served as President of MHSE, President of Missouri ACTE, and Missouri ACTE's Region III Representative. In addition to serving as a presenter on a variety of topics at the local, state, regional, and national levels, Sherry also continued to attend courses, so she could share what she'd learned with her students and colleagues.

One of her letters of nomination stated, "Sherry embodies what a CTE teacher should be – committed to service, full of energy, a life-long learner, and a great believer in the capabilities of students and her colleagues, as well." Another continued, "Sherry ... sets the bar high. Her empathy for her students and fellow educators is felt whenever you visit with her because she believes in education, she believes in her students, and she believes in Missouri ACTE."

Thank you, Sherry!

Recognition Award Wally Gray

Mrs. Wally Gray is the Administrator at Parkdale Manor in Maryville, MO. That title, however, doesn't begin to describe all she has done for Health Science. To list just a few of her generous contributions, she has:

- ♦ opened her facility to help students achieve the required clinical training for the CNA certification;
- ♦ converted a room for post-clinical conferences and adjusted that room's availability to meet the students' ever-changing schedule;
- ♦ provided scholarships, financial assistance, and informal mentoring services to students and her employees to promote continued education; and
- ♦ provided shelter and even transportation during inclement weather.

As her letter of nomination states, "At the heart of her kindness is the belief that everyone deserves a chance to do well if given the opportunity."

Recognition Award Scott Gardner

Scott Gardner, FCS Financial Vice President of Sales and Marketing, isn't one to rest on his laurels. Two years ago, Scott and FCS Financial recognized a need to advance agribusiness knowledge in the classroom. After working with the Agriculture Education Department at DESE and researching the needs of agriculture teachers across the state, FCS Financial, under Scott's leadership, provided a \$70,000 grant to the Missouri Vocational Agricultural Teacher's Association in order to update the Ag Management and Economics curriculum. As his letter of nomination states, "Without the support from Mr. Gardner and FCS Financial, our curriculum in this area would have remained outdated and, realistically, rarely used." Another recommendation letter adds, "Additionally, during Scott's leadership, FCS Financial started their Ag Youth Program as a part of their commitment to Young, Beginning, and Small Farmers."

The contributions of this tremendous CTE partner will be felt for generations to come.

Legislative Recognition Award

SEN. GARY ROMINE



Senator Romine has demonstrated support for career and technical education by working to raise the profile of student achievement in CTE through legislation in the 2015 legislative session. This is no surprise since his personal experience in career and technical education has impacted his career path throughout his life. Starting with being a member of DECA in high school, working in a skilled trade, to later teaching in the CTE field and pursuing a business enterprise. Senator Romine is a valued champion in the public policy arena for our cause. His advocacy with other lawmakers will no doubt strengthen the role of CTE through his leadership.

Senator Gary Romine was elected in November 2012 to serve Missouri's 3rd Senatorial District, which includes Iron, Reynolds, St. Francois, Ste. Genevieve and Washington counties and part of Jefferson County.

Senator Romine is a member of numerous committees, serving as chairman of the Joint Committee on Education; chairman of the Senate Interim Committee on Medicaid Transformation and Reform; and vice-chairman of the Committee on Education. He has received several legislative awards, including the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry's 2014 Freshman of the Year Award, as well as the Missouri Community College Association's Legislative Award of Distinction (2014).

In addition to his legislative duties, Sen. Romine currently serves as President and CEO of Show-Me-Rent-To-Own, a business he founded more than 25 years ago. What began as a single store in Leadington, Mo., has grown to include nine stores throughout the state, employing many outstanding men and women from southeast Missouri. He has served as chairman of the board for the Ste. Genevieve-based MRV Banks since its opening in 2007 and was president of the Mineral Area College Board of Trustees, of which he had been a member for several years.

Senator Romine has been a member of the Association of Progressive Rental Organizations for 24 years, previously serving as president and public relations chairman. During this time, he participated in Federal Trade Commission and congressional hearings, an experience that gave him unique insight into navigating the federal legislative process.

He also has served as legislative liaison for the Missouri Rental Dealers Association and as a member of the Government Relations Committee for the Missouri Bankers Association.

After graduating from Poplar Bluff High School, Sen. Romine received his associate degree from Three Rivers Community College and his bachelor's degree from Central Missouri State University in 1978. He taught high school in the Branson and Farmington school districts prior to starting his own business.

Senator Romine and his wife, Kathy, raised five children in the southeast Missouri area. They currently reside in Farmington, where they enjoy spending time with their 11 grandchildren and are active members of their church and community.

New Region III Representative

Jayla Smith has been named the new Missouri ACTE Region III Representative. Jayla will have some big shoes to fill with Sherry Struckhoff's retirement but, as Sherry says, "Jayla is the perfect person for this job."

The authors of Jayla's many letters of support all agreed. One said, "Jayla is thoughtful in her decisions and articulate. She searches for resources to help in making decisions affecting co-workers and our industry. She is a well-respected member of her local community, her state and her profession." Another stated, "Mrs. Smith will provide your group with a viewpoint steeped in experience and common sense."

We look forward to all that Jayla will bring to her new position.