

Eshelman, David

Page: Overview

While “career and technical education (CTE)” is new to many, those in the field have long understood the power and importance of education that provides students with high-tech, real-world learning infused with career exploration. Not only is CTE at the roots of today’s most relevant education trends such as ‘STEM’ and ‘Maker Spaces,’ it’s a vital component to ensuring America’s economic prosperity and status as a leader for innovation. It is part of ACTE’s mission to ensure the value of CTE continues to grow and gain the recognition it deserves.

ACTE’s Champion for CTE Awards were created to recognize education leaders, business and industry executives, celebrities and thought leaders who support and champion CTE programs as a vital part of developing a prepared, adaptable and competitive workforce. The words and actions of a few dedicated and influential individuals have the power to further best practices, foster supportive policies, and shape a more positive public opinion of CTE. These awards showcase outstanding champions—from local leaders to national figureheads—who have leveraged their influence to expand, improve, and promote CTE.

These examples of model leadership serve to inspire and inform other leaders on creative and meaningful ways to positively impact the field. Highlighting their stories aligns with ACTE’s goal of cultivating a positive image of CTE and recognizing a broad community of supporters, ultimately creating a stronger vision for the future of CTE and empowering its leaders to speak with a unified voice.

If you know of a deserving candidate for this recognition, we urge you to explore ACTE’s preeminent awards program.

These awards are open to education leaders, business and industry executives, celebrities, thought leaders and other individuals who have made a significant impact on the improvement and expansion of CTE programs and/or on positively influencing policymakers and public opinion regarding CTE. *Federal policymakers are not eligible for these awards and should instead be nominated for [ACTE’s Policymaker of the Year Award](#).* Greater consideration will be given to candidates who have repeatedly demonstrated their public support for CTE and who exhibit an understanding of the components of modern, high-quality CTE.

Nominations will be accepted online until May 1 and may be submitted by the candidate or by a third party nominator. All candidates who meet eligibility and criteria requirements will be highlighted on ACTE's website as a 'Champion for CTE Spotlight.' Top nominations may be featured as model leaders in a future issue of *Techniques*, and/or invited to present sessions at ACTE's CareerTech VISION.

An independent panel will review all submissions to select the national recipient(s) of the ACTE Champion for CTE Award, which will then be considered for approval by the ACTE Board of Directors. Winners will be notified in August and recognized at the ACTE Awards Banquet during CareerTech VISION.

All nominators permit ACTE to use and edit content of the application for promotional activities. ACTE reserves the right to maintain the anonymity of judges and confidentiality of their scores. Non-winning candidates may be re-nominated for the same or another Excellence Award the following year. Winning candidates at the national level may not be nominated for the same or another national ACTE Excellence Award within three years of their win.

Page: Basic Information

Nominator Information

Please provide your information as the nominator of this candidate.

Your Name

Eshelman, David

Email Address

david_eshelman@ccpsnet.net

Title

Director of Career and Technical Education

Employer

Chesterfield County Public Schools

Phone Number

804-690-2473

Relationship to the Candidate

Director

Candidate Information

Please provide information on the candidate being nominated.

Candidate's Name

Sam Leone

Title

Technology and Engineering Teacher

Employer

Chesterfield County Public Schools

Work Address

14300 Fox Club Parkway
Midlothian Virginia 23112 US

Email

samuel_leone@ccpsnet.net

Phone Number

804-690-2473

Does the candidate have a background (diploma, certificate, degree) in a career and technical education field?

Yes

If yes, please provide more detail about their background in CTE.

Mr. Leone is a third year Engineering teacher at Cosby High School. In his first year of teaching he developed Business/Marketing curriculum and technical drawing curriculum. That year he worked with CTE and building administrators where he proposed a state approved engineering sequence which has been implemented the past two years.

Page: Description of Candidate

1. Please describe actions the candidate took to help expand, improve, and/or promote CTE.

Mr. Leone is a third year Engineering teacher at Cosby High School. In his first year of teaching he developed Business/Marketing curriculum and technical drawing curriculum. That year he worked with CTE and building administrators where he proposed a state approved engineering sequence which has been implemented the past two years. In his first year he received his master's degree and did his project on how PBL positively impacts student success with a hovercraft project. Over the past two years he has revised drafting and engineering curriculum's and has been a member of the CCPS Tech Ed PLC working on revamping the tech ed curriculum. This school year Mr. Leone was nominated the South Central VTEEA President, was selected to work on revising the state's engineering curriculum, and is also working on a 1-Year PMC in Educational Leadership.

2. How did the candidate's actions shape the adoption/expansion of best practices in CTE?

In the past 3 years, Mr. Leone has worked diligently in expanding, promoting, and improving CTE and Engineering courses within Chesterfield County Public Schools. In his first year of teaching he researched student interest, worked directly with CTE, school administrators, and counselors on proposing a new engineering sequence with an industry certification for students. Last year Mr. Leone was a member of a PLC committee designed to create equity across the county for CTE courses. This school year Mr. Leone is the South Central Region VTEEA President where he is offering professional development opportunities for teachers. He is a team leader driving the vision for CTE equity across Chesterfield County, and is on the VDOE curriculum revision team for engineering courses this school year. He has also helped promote CTE by volunteering to give presentations to make the community aware of what CTE is and its importance.

3. How did the candidate's actions impact CTE policies or positively influence public opinion of CTE? How did these actions contribute to a broader understanding of modern CTE (not 'vocational education') that is robust, rigorous and relevant?

Mr. Leone action's in and out of the classroom resemble CTE best practices. Through utilizing scaffolding and project based learning strategies, he creates a fun and active learning environment, meets state and national standards, and prepares students for industry certifications. Over the past two years over 90% of the students have passed an industry certification related to Technology and Engineering Education. Along with being an active member with professional organizations on developing curriculum, Mr. Leone has reached out to the community to push into the classroom where students have designed and 3D printed fidget spinners for donation to an occupational therapist, and has another class developing a 3D mouth piece to be given to a child who is paralyzed.

4. What is the scope of the candidate's impact on CTE?

State

5. Would the candidate be willing to speak about their supportive efforts on behalf of CTE at an ACTE event?

Yes