

Mondragon, Ed

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

Mondragon, Ed

Email Address

ebmondragon@graniteschools.org

Title

CTE Coordinator & Utah ACTE IT Division President

Employer

Granite School District

Phone Number

3856467034

Relationship to the Candidate

Professional Colleague

Candidate Information

Please provide information on the candidate being nominated.

Candidate's Name

Tim Clark

Title

Vice President of Academic Operations

Employer

Neumont University

Work Address

143 South Main Street
Salt Lake City Utah 84111 US

Email

tim.clark@neumont.edu

Phone Number

801.302.2940

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

No

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

Tim received his Bachelor of Science in Computer Science from Neumont University (2006) and a Master of Science in Information Technology from Southern New Hampshire University (2014); he has an extensive work history in IT which include: Web Application Architect (StayWell Interactive), Chief Software Architect and CIO (INTI Laureate International Universities, Malaysia), Computer Science Instructor (Neumont University), and CEO/Partner/Owner of various software development companies. Tim is currently the Vice President of Academic Operations at Neumont College of Computer Science, a college founded in Utah that is dedicated to changing lives through CS/IT education.

Page: Description of Candidate

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

Tim has been an active advocate over the past three years in presenting computer science professional development workshops for educators at various Career and Technical Education conferences in Utah. Every year Tim offers his services as a personal investment of time and money to develop content-rich workshops that will provide engaging, interactive trainings to increase the skills and knowledge of secondary educators. Additionally, Tim has served as a member of the Granite School District IT Advisory Board during the same time span through which he has been instrumental in directing and shaping the IT programs offered in Granite and closely associated school districts. Recently, Tim has been instrumental in establishing discussions with Granite School District to create an articulation program for computer science courses in which Neumont University instructors teach higher level courses at the Granite Technical Institute which will be accepted by Neumont and will also be concurrent enrollment courses accepted by state post-secondary institutions. Currently, his passion has led to nine workshops being offered at the upcoming Utah ACTE Winter Conference (February 2/3, 2018) by various Neumont instructors in a variety of areas thus enhancing the professional development opportunities for teachers.

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

Tim's involvement in professional development has enriched the skills and knowledge of teachers who are then relaying their knowledge and skills to their students, and his continued involvement and desire to progressively develop computer science skills in Utah are second to none.

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?

Tim's involvement on the IT Advisory Board has brought about a focus upon the educational standards that are being taught within Utah. His interest in seeing computer science gain a strong foothold in Utah has led to more teachers receiving professional development and strengthening the computer science abilities of students. Through his partnership and professionalism, he has introduced a goodwill opportunity not only for himself, but also for his Neumont University colleagues who have jumped on board to offer a more diverse professional development program at the upcoming Utah ACTE Winter Conference. This relationship has introduced the Neumont instructors who are current and former industry professionals to the need of developing a formidable secondary computer science educational program.

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