

Gillett, Torilyn

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

Gillett, Torilyn

Email Address

torilyn.gillett@canyonsdistrict.org

Title

School Counseling Program Specialist

Employer

Canyons School District

Phone Number

801-826-5096

Relationship to the Candidate

Colleague

Candidate Information

Please provide information on the candidate being nominated.

Candidate's Name

Lillian Tsosie-Jensen

Title

School Counseling, Equity, and Prevention: Educational Coordinator

Employer

Utah State Office of Education

Work Address

250 East 500 South
Salt Lake City Utah 84111 US

Email

Lillian.Tsosie-Jensen@schools.utah.gov

Phone Number

801-538-7962

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.

Lillian Tsosie-Jensen has worked as a School Counselor and a School Counselor Special for the Utah State Office of Education.

Page: Description of Candidate**1. Please describe actions the candidate took to help expand, improve, and/or promote CTE.**

As the School Counseling Specialist for the Utah State Board of Education, Lillian was a primary player in presenting, promoting, and advocating to the Utah State Legislature in passing a bill that funded up to 500 Utah school counselors to earn a College and Career Readiness Certificate. The certificate allowed current licensed school counselors to participate in continuing education courses from two local universities in the subject of College and Career Readiness. The courses included professional development in areas such as stackable credentials, career pathways, business partnerships, and more. The certificate is heavily focused on CTE and "1, 2, 4 or More" post-secondary options and promotes the "and" in College and Career Readiness. Hundreds of practicing Utah school counselors have participated in earning or working towards earning the certificate.

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

As a Utah State Board of Education Coordinator over school counseling, Lillian has always kept CTE as a main component of school counseling programs. She is constantly looking at how to best serve and support students in their goals through Career and Technical Education. She recognizes and constantly promotes the need for students to develop their own path to their future, valuing the opportunity that CTE programs provide students. In addition, Lillian has been a main contributor in the development and refining of UtahFuture.org. Utah Futures is an online platform for educators, students, and parents to use for career exploration, career planning, career interest inventories, and more. She has advocated for the continual funding of Utah Futures from our state legislature.

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?

Lillian is constantly promoting CTE and its ever-changing nature. She organizes a yearly two-day conference for educators (specifically, school counselors and adult educators). Much of the focus is on improving knowledge and implementation of CTE programs as well as building business partnerships. She brings in speakers from industry that are at the forefront of CTE and top careers. Each year, the conference exceeds my expectations.

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