

Bellinger, Murleen

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

Bellinger, Murleen

Email Address

actenebraska@gmail.com

Title

Executive Director

Employer

ACTE of Nebraska

Phone Number

402-480-9577

Relationship to the Candidate

ACTE Membership

Candidate Information

Please provide information on the candidate being nominated.

Candidate's Name

Bonnie Sibert

Title

Career Field Specialist

Employer

Nebraska Department of Education

Work Address

301 Centennial Mall South
PO Box 94987
Lincoln Nebraska 68509 US

Email

bonniesibert@hotmail.com

Phone Number

402-326-2198

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.

Bonnie Sibert received a Bachelor's degree in Business Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1973. She began her teaching career as a Business Education teacher at Geneva High School, Geneva, Nebraska. While at Geneva, Mrs. Sibert served as the chartering adviser for the Geneva FBLA Chapter.

Mrs. Sibert received a Masters Degree in Vocational Education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1988.

From 1986 to 1990, Bonnie served as a Business Consultant and State FBLA Adviser for the Nebraska Department of Education. In 1990, Bonnie became the Director of Business Education and served as the Career Field Specialist for Business, Marketing, and Management at the Nebraska Department of Education until her retirement in June, 2017.

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

The following presentations reached a national audience following the development of Nebraska teaching strategies that focused on Promotional Strategies (2005), Assessment (2004), Crosswalking (2000), International Business (1998), Middle School Curriculum (1994), Panel member for TECH PREP: Preparation, Implementation, and Follow-up for Articulation Agreements, 1991 AVA Conference, Los Angeles.

The following publications that promoted CTE reached a national audience:

- Policies Commission for Business and Economic Education, 2005 - 2008
- NBEA Forum Editor for CSOs, two terms
- Conducted a Strategic Plan for Business Education in Nebraska, 1992-93
- Other special projects have been conducted with Educational Service Units, the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and Kearney, Nebraska School-to-Career office, Nebraska Tech Prep, and the Department of Labor.
- Secured innovative grant funds to provide four Financial Literacy 3-day workshops for Nebraska business, marketing, family and consumer science, and math teachers.
- Met quarterly with the Nebraska Council on Economic Education, Federal Reserve Bank and Nebraska Department of Education Social Studies consultant to coordinate teacher trainings across the state in the area of personal finance and financial literacy.
- Worked with State Treasurer Don Stenberg to promote financial education through NEST.

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

Standards-aligned/Integrated Curriculum

- Facilitated the development of standards for Business, Marketing and Management (BMIT)
- Facilitated the development of the Links to Nebraska Standards document that aligned business education standards to career readiness standards and Social Studies, Math, English
- Facilitated statewide workshops to implement standards

Sequencing/Articulation

- Developed the program of study for BMIT in Nebraska with input from business and industry and BMIT educators
- Facilitated the development of dual credit courses
- Served on the Career Clusters committee at the national level to develop the first national standards for the Career Clusters for BMIT

Student Assessment

- Developed a 99-page handbook of formative and summative assessments for Business Education Framework which included training for teachers
- Presented breakout sessions of these assessment models to other state leaders at national and regional conferences
- Launched the Microsoft Academy Initiative in Nebraska which provided Microsoft certification for both secondary and postsecondary teachers and students

Prepared and Effective Program Staff

- Led the revision process to merge the business education endorsement with the marketing endorsement and in the information technology endorsement which resulted in one field endorsement for BMIT

Engaging Instruction

- Provided annual inservice to business teachers on project-based learning, contextualized learning and differentiated learning

Access/Equity

- As Office of Civil Rights Coordinator for Nebraska, managed seven on-site OCR reviews annually and completed targeted plans and biennial reports as required by the Federal Office of Civil Rights

Facilities/Equipment

- Provided models for facilities and equipment that would best serve BMIT students

Business/Community Partnerships

- Supported the Future Force Finance group of business leaders in the area of banking, insurance and finance for four years, meeting quarterly
- Created a new BMIT Coalition that meets quarterly

Career Development

- Assisted in the development of Nebraska's Career Education model that led the nation
- Actively involved in the development of resources, including teacher training, student handbooks and website to launch career education in Nebraska
- Provided inservice training for BMIT teachers

Career Technical Student Organizations

- Nebraska FBLA: Served as state advisor 1986 – 1990 during which time I was also PBL state advisor
- Honored to have received both the FBLA Honorary Life Membership, 1991 and the Nebraska DECA Honorary Life Membership, 2017

- Incorporated CTSOs into standards and assessment materials and teacher in-services

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?

Bonnie has had an impact at the state, regional and national level for CTE. As a recipient of the 2000 ACTE Award of Merit for Outstanding Service and the 1997 ACTE Outstanding Service Award for Business Education Division, Bonnie has been well connected with professional leaders at all levels.

- Actively involved in the promotion of CTE through Nebraska Department of Education distribution list, BMIT website, BMIT Twitter and electronic publications.
- Working behind the scenes, Bonnie advocated for teachers to contact their state legislators, have students send letters to congressmen and shared success stories of former FBLA and DECA students.
- A member of ACTE and ACTEN since 1984, she was also named the 2017 ACTEN Outstanding Career and Technical Member of the Year.
- Legislative Advocacy--ACTEN was a strong supporter of the Nebraska Legislative Bill 476 (Center for Student Leadership) campaign during 2009 and 2010 and beyond. Bonnie helped our ACTEN Business Education rep and State Director for Career and Technical Education organize teachers who presented at legislative hearings.
- Served as secretary for AVA Nominations committee for one year
- Chaired the Nebraska Career Education Conference planning committee for two years and planned the business, marketing and information technology program offerings for each of 31 years.
- An active member and leader within the National Association for Business Education State Supervisors, she served in five officer positions including President in 1996, after which she received the NASBE Outstanding Leadership Award in 1997.

Through Bonnie's membership in the National Business Education Association (NBEA) she was able to continually promote CTE:

- Policies Commission for Business and Economic Education, 2005 - 2008
- John Robert Gregg Award Administrative Committee, 1995-98 followed by a second term as chairman
- Foundation for the Future of Business Education, 2002-2007, Chair
- Publications Committee, 2003 – 2006
- NBEA Forum Editor for CSOs, two terms
- NBEA Outstanding Supervisor, 1999

As a consortium member of MBA Research Curriculum Consortium, Bonnie served as Secretary on the MBA Board of Trustees, 2015-2017.

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

National

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

Not Sure