Kentucky Claims Eight National Awards at ACTE Career Tech Vision Conference

Kentucky’s quality leadership and instruction in Career and Technical Education (CTE) was recognized nationally at the annual Career Tech Vision, a professional development conference presented by the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) in Anaheim, Calif., Dec. 4-7, 2019.

Seven Kentucky CTE professionals were honored, and the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE), the ACTE affiliate, received Quality Association Standards (QAS) recognition for the 17th consecutive year. The criteria to earn the QAS designation defines provision of quality customer service provided to members of the non-profit, professional association.

The national ACTE awards program begins at the state level. The Kentucky Farm Bureau CTE Awards are presented annually at the CTE Summer Program, which is managed by KACTE. The 2020 CTE Summer Program will be held in Louisville at the Galt House Hotel, July 26-29. Kentucky Farm Bureau CTE Award winners advance to ACTE Region 2 competition among eight southeastern states. Region 2 winners become one of five national finalists for each award category.

LAURA ARNOLD, Director of Workforce Development, Nelson County Schools, Bardstown, Ky., was named the national Administrator of the Year. The award recognizes significant contributions toward innovative, unique and effective CTE programs. Arnold’s accomplishments included her work as Associate Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education’s Office of Career and Technical Education and Student Transition.

J.R. DRUMMOND, Engineering and Technology teacher, Doss High School, Louisville, Ky., received the national Engineering and Technology Outstanding Instructor Award from ACTE’s Engineering and Technology Education Division. Drummond serves on the KACTE Board of Directors as Leadership Committee and Carl D. Perkins Assistance Award Chairs.

JEFF JONES, Trade and Industrial teacher, Webster County Area Technology Center, Dixon, Ky., received the national new Trade and Industrial Teacher of the Year Award from the ACTE Trade and Industrial Education Division. Jones represents Trade and Industry teachers as a service area vice president on the KACTE Board.

LAURA SPIEGELHALTER, Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, du Pont Manual High School, Louisville, Ky., received two honors. The KACTE past-president was cited for Outstanding Contribution by the ACTE Family and Consumer Sciences Division. She also received a Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences (NATFACS).

DORIS SIKORA, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Family and Consumer Sciences, Western Kentucky University, was a finalist for Teacher Educator of the Year. The award is presented to those demonstrating innovation in teacher education, leadership in improving CTE, and commitment to preparing teachers to deliver high-quality CTE programs. Among her accomplishments when serving as KACTE president was establishing the TALENTS Leadership Academy for CTE classroom teachers.

Doris Sikora, Ph.D., right, receives a plaque in recognition as a finalist for ACTE’s Teacher Educator of the Year Award from ACTE President Nancy Trivette.
ANNA DAY SULLINGER, Family and Consumer Sciences teacher, Beaumont Middle School, Lexington, Ky., received the NATFACS Award of Merit. Sullinger was 2021 Kentucky Farm Bureau New CTE Teacher of the Year.

BRIAN WELCH, Agriculture teacher, North Hopkins High School, Madisonville, Ky., was named a fellow in ACTE’s Emerging New Professional Leadership Development Program. At the 2019 CTE Summer Program, he received the Kentucky Farm Bureau New CTE Teacher of the Year Award. He will compete in the 2020 ACTE Award program.

CTE provides the educational foundation, from middle school, through high school and postsecondary instruction, to career employment. Approximately two-thirds of all jobs require skills taught in CTE programs. In the 2018-19 school year, the graduation rate for CTE concentrators was 99 percent, and about three-fourths of all graduating CTE concentrators earned a recognized industry certification signifying their skill mastery.

For more information on the Kentucky Farm Bureau CTE Awards program or KACTE, please go to the KACTE website, http://kacteonline.org/membership/awards/, or contact KACTE at 502-223-1823 or e-mail kmstone1951@gmail.com.

J.R. Drummond, center, received ACTE Engineering and Technology Education Outstanding Instructor Award

Jeff Jones, center, received ACTE Trade and Industrial Education Teacher of the Year Award

Kris Stone, center, and KACTE Past-President Wayne King, right, receive Quality Association Standards Honors from ACTE Past-President Rebeca Cox.