



AWARDS GALA

Celebrate the Best in CTE

NOV. 29, 2023

Awards Gala

ACTE AWARDS GALA

Welcome to the ACTE Awards Celebration!

Dear Colleagues:

Today, we celebrate the finest career and technical educators and career and technical education (CTE) supporters from across the country. This year's 40 national award finalists were chosen from among 146 state awards winners, who were themselves selected from 251 candidates nationwide. ACTE's award winners have made extraordinary contributions to CTE, developed programs that exemplify the highest standards, and led organizations that strive to promote and expand CTE programs. We are thankful for their devoted service and for the efforts they have made to enhance the image of CTE.

We honor these individuals, not only because they excel in their fields, but because it is our duty to commend their commitment to CTE. On behalf of students, colleagues and communities who have benefited from their passion, we express our sincere gratitude.

Sincerely,



Chaney W. Mosley

Chaney Mosley
ACTE President



LeAnn Curry

LeAnn Curry
ACTE Executive Director

ACTE Awards Gala Agenda

Welcome

Chaney Mosley, ACTE President

**Katy Blatnick-Gange, ACTE Family and Consumer Sciences Education Division
Vice President**

Scott Spurgeon, Superintendent, West-MEC

Student Trophy Design Contest Winner Recognition

CareerSafe Safety Educator of the Year Presentation

Impact Awards Presentation

- **ACTE Business-education Partnership Awards**
- **ACTE Champion for CTE Award**

Member Awards Presentation

- **ACTE Counseling & Career Development Professional Award** *(sponsored by U.S. Army)*
- **ACTE Administrator of the Year** *(sponsored by Goodheart-Willcox)*
- **ACTE Postsecondary Professional of the Year** *(sponsored by Goodheart-Willcox)*
- **ACTE Carl Perkins Community Service Award**
- **ACTE New Teacher of the Year** *(sponsored by Goodheart-Willcox)*
- **ACTE Teacher Educator of the Year**
- **ACTE Lifetime Achievement Award**
- **ACTE Teacher of the Year** *(sponsored by Express Employment Professionals)*

ACTE National Awards Committee Recognition

- **Ann Rush, Region I**
- **Kimberly Wilson, Region II**
- **Shylee N. Endicott, Region III**
- **Roberta Sams, Region IV**
- **Craig Statucki, Region V**



Emcees

**Katy Blatnick-Gagne
Chaney Mosley**

The Gala will be emceed by Katy Blatnick-Gagne and Chaney Mosley.

Welcome Presenters!

Katy Blatnick-Gagne



Katy Blatnick-Gagne is a seasoned CTE professional. With educational roots in family and consumer sciences (FCS) education, Blatnick-Gagne has had the opportunity to teach high school FCS; work in Colorado and Iowa at the state level overseeing a wide variety CTE initiatives; serve as the director of the Curriculum Center for Family and Consumer Sciences in Lubbock, Texas; and was a FCSE faculty member at Texas Tech University. She and her family moved to Iowa

in 2019 where Blatnick-Gagne became the CTE curriculum facilitator in the Waukee Community School District. Blatnick-Gagne received her doctorate in educational technology leadership from New Jersey City University in 2017. She lives outside of Des Moines, Iowa, with her husband, two boys (10 and 13), four dogs, many chickens, ducks, geese, guinea hens, and a big pig named Jet.



Scott Spurgeon

Scott Spurgeon is superintendent of the Western Maricopa Education Center (West-MEC) and an educator with more than 30 years of experience serving communities in rural, suburban, and urban school districts. Further, his CTE experience dates back to high school!. Spurgeon retired from Missouri as a school district superintendent and began his new position as superintendent and CEO at West-MEC in 2022.

Spurgeon's experience also includes tenure as superintendent of the Riverview Gardens School District, assistant superintendent for curriculum, instruction, assessment, and professional development in Northwest RI School District; associate superintendent for curriculum and school leadership and interim superintendent in Rockwood School District; and superintendent in Belleville High School District #201. Additionally, he has taught graduate courses for Lindenwood University. Spurgeon has also been an educational consultant providing leadership training and professional development to more than 100 schools and districts across America.

2023–24 ACTE Excellence Award Winners

2024 Impact Award Winners

- Business-education Partnership Awards Don Wood Foundation and ACE Electric, Inc.
- Champion for CTE Award Jerry Farley, Akron, Ohio

2024 Member Award Finalists

ACTE Counseling & Career Development Professional Award *(sponsored by the U.S. Army)*

- Region I Lindy Daman, Michigan
- Region II Kelly Michelle Hoff, North Carolina
- Region III Gena Gesing, Iowa
- Region IV Merrilee Saige-Alvarez, New Mexico
- Region V Kristina Guy, Arizona

ACTE Administrator of the Year *(sponsored by Goodheart-Willcox)*

- Region I Richard Kincaid, Maryland
- Region II Tyra Pilgrim, Tennessee
- Region III Troy Haugen, Minnesota
- Region IV Kady Donaghey, Texas
- Region V Rod Belnap, Utah

ACTE Postsecondary Professional of the Year *(sponsored by Goodheart-Willcox)*

- Region I Lisa Pierce-Burger, Ohio
- Region II Angela Gott, Kentucky
- Region III Ashlee E. Spannagel, Iowa
- Region IV Patricia Edmunds, Arkansas
- Region V Justin Brereton, Arizona

ACTE Carl Perkins Community Service Award

- Region I Deanna Burch, Maryland
- Region II Alicia D. Jordan, Georgia
- Region III Paul Aarsvold, Minnesota
- Region IV Robby Branscum, Oklahoma
- Region V Kip Hansen, Utah

ACTE New Teacher of the Year *(sponsored by Goodheart-Willcox)*

- Region I Josephine Wolfe, Maryland
- Region II Clifton Williams, Georgia
- Region III Becky Cronk, Minnesota
- Region IV Mindy E. Lyle, Arkansas
- Region V McKayla Gonder Plewe, Utah

ACTE Teacher Educator of the Year

- Region I Crystal Smith, Washington, D.C.
- Region II Elaine Adams, Georgia
- Region III Laura Van Waardhuizen, Iowa
- Region IV Bonner Slayton, Oklahoma
- Region V Lisa Krumwiede, North Dakota

ACTE Lifetime Achievement Award & Hall of Fame

- Region I Scott Westenberg, Michigan
- Region II James E. Bartlett, II, North Carolina
- Region III Sandra Miller, Iowa
- Region IV Nina Morgan, Oklahoma
- Region V Jan Jardine, Utah

ACTE Teacher of the Year *(sponsored by Express Employment Professionals)*

- Region I Aris Pangilinan, Washington, D.C.
- Region II Karen L. Roberts, Virginia
- Region III Pamela Koenen, Minnesota
- Region IV Karen Upton, Oklahoma
- Region V Jason T. Goble, Utah

2023–24 Awards Committee

The awards program is made possible thanks to the dedication of ACTE's volunteer Awards Committee.



Ann Rush
Region I, Ohio



Kimberly Wilson
Region II, Virginia



Shylee N. Endicott
Region III, Missouri



Roberta Sams
Region IV, Oklahoma



Craig Statucki
Region V, Nevada

ACTE Excellence Awards Trophies

For 11 years, ACTE has partnered with Stratasy's to present the national award winners with unique trophies that not only celebrate but also embody ACTE's core values. Created by cutting-edge 3D-printing technology, the Excellence Awards trophies manifest CTE's role in preparing students for 21st century careers, and they harness the power of collaboration between CTE and business and industry partners.

This year's national trophy was designed by Madison Adams, a sophomore at Advanced Technologies Academy in Las Vegas, Nevada. ACTE is proud to adopt this elegant, dynamic and unique design as a symbol of achievement and excellence for CTE educators across the country.

"The Student Trophy Design Contest has successfully helped promote CTE classrooms across the country for the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, engineers, and more," said ACTE Executive Director LeAnn Curry. "Madison's outstanding achievements, and her passion for CTE, are further evidence of the critical role high-quality CTE plays in maintaining and growing America's role in the global economy. We are so proud of Madison and her accomplishments, and we are honored to have her as a public ambassador for all that today's CTE has to offer."

The next Student Trophy Design Contest is open for entries until May 1, 2024. The winning entry will be used as the basis for the trophy bestowed to winners at the 2024 Awards Gala.

www.acteonline.org/trophy_design_contest

In partnership with



CareerSafe Safety Educator of the Year

CareerSafe was founded under the core belief that no job is worth a young worker's life. Their vision is to advance and enhance OSHA's outreach by providing every young worker with workplace safety training prior to taking their first job. From safety and health training to employability skills and cyber awareness, CareerSafe is focused on providing the foundational skills learners need to launch successful careers.



Jamie Everett
Assistant Director of Career Development
Leander ISD

The Safety Educator of the Year Award recognizes exceptional educators who have not only dedicated their time to prepare students for the future but who have also helped students recognize and mitigate workplace hazards in their chosen careers. The winning educator receives a \$5,000 cash prize for their classroom and a national recognition of their program at ACTE's CareerTech VISION.

Jamie Everett is the assistant director of career development over CTE in Leander Independent School District (ISD), near Austin, Texas. Leander ISD offers student experiences in 13 career clusters and more than 40 programs of study, giving students real-world learning experiences. Everett is in her 14th year of education including experience in Texas, New Jersey, and Kansas. In addition to serving in her current role, she has taught CTE courses, served as a career and technical student organization (CTSO) adviser, and held many leadership/committee positions supporting CTE at local, state, and national levels.

ACTE Business-education Partnership Awards

These awards celebrate the contributions and achievements of schools and businesses that aid in the development and maintenance of partnerships supporting high-quality CTE.



Business Education Partnership Over 100: Don Wood Foundation Fort Wayne, Indiana

The Don Wood Foundation was established in 2018 to honor the legacy of Don Wood, co-founder of 80/20. The foundation emerged to address a skilled labor shortage in the manufacturing industry and nurture qualities such as leadership development, sales training, and entrepreneurial education. Don Wood envisioned a future wherein students could pursue fulfilling careers in industrial trades, advanced manufacturing, leadership and innovation, regardless of the common perception that success relied solely on a four-year degree. His dream encompassed equipping all learners with the necessary tools, skills and scholarships to thrive in these crucial fields.

The ongoing partnership between Indiana CTE and the Don Wood Foundation has yielded many positive outcomes. One significant outcome is the provision of upgraded equipment and materials to enhance CTE pathways in manufacturing, welding and precision machining. This support has been instrumental in improving the quality of education and training for students in these areas, ultimately preparing them for the workforce.



Business Education Partnership Under 100: Ace Electric, Inc. Valdosta, Georgia

The Ace Electric and Lowndes High School Worked-based Learning partnership was designed to address a critical labor shortage in the commercial and electrical construction industry. This labor shortage was exacerbated by the average employee age steadily increasing over the last decade with many retirements, and a lack of student awareness and recruiting in the electrical contracting trade. In short, Ace's high school internship program, AMPED, was formed out of necessity.

The result of this partnership was as intended. A talent pipeline was developed from Lowndes High School to ACE Electric; to address a critical labor shortage. This was accomplished by providing early access to talent resulting in a local employer gaining a competitive advantage to retain said talent. This talent was invested in further by a partnering postsecondary institution, which provided the credentialing necessary to register these students as apprentices with the Department of Labor.

ACTE Champion for CTE Award

This award recognizes 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.



Jerry Farley Vice President of Career and Technical Education at Oakmont Education Akron, Ohio

Jerry Farley is an educator with more than 35 years of experience, including roles as a direct care worker, classroom teacher, building administrator and school superintendent. His approach unites comprehensive support, industry credentialing, and hands-on job experience. Farley develops programs that provide students with the opportunity to realize their unique "life after high school" dreams while ensuring the ability to earn a sustainable living wage.

Farley has spent his career advocating for the students who are "forgotten about" in public education as he designs and builds CTE credentialing programs that can be adapted to meet the needs of students and their lives. This has been his life's work and his life's journey. The students he serves face a variety of barriers, systemic and personal, to success in education; Farley not only builds programs that set up these students for sustainable careers, but he also has the forethought to design additional services.

Farley has moved mountains at the state and national levels by continually advocating for dropout recovery students. The work he has done has changed the face of CTE for all students in Ohio. He holds a doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis from East Tennessee State University and bachelor's and master's degrees in special education from Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina.

ACTE Counseling & Career Development Professional Award Sponsored by the U.S. Army

This award is given in recognition of school counselors and career development professionals who have made significant contributions to advocate, educate and communicate the value of CTE as a viable career option to a variety of audiences in their communities.



Lindy Daman
Region I



Kelly Michelle Hoff
Region II



Gena Gesing
Region III



Merrilee Saige-Alvarez
Region IV



Kristina Guy
Region V

ACTE Administrator of the Year Sponsored by Goodheart-Willcox

This award recognizes CTE administrators, program specialists and coordinators, and other CTE personnel who have made significant contributions toward innovative, unique and effective CTE programs.



Richard Kincaid
Region I



Tyra Pilgrim
Region II



Troy Haugen
Region III



Kady Donaghey
Region IV



Rod Belnap
Region V

ACTE Postsecondary Professional of the Year *Sponsored by Goodheart-Willcox*

This award recognizes the finest professionals at the postsecondary level who have instructed and educated students involved in career and technical education pathways, demonstrated innovation in the classroom, and exhibited dedication to the improvement of CTE in their institutions and communities.



Lisa Pierce-Burger
Region I



Angela Gott
Region II



Ashlee E. Spannagel
Region III



Patricia Edmunds
Region IV



Justin Brereton
Region V

ACTE Carl Perkins Community Service Award

This award is presented to ACTE members who, through CTE, have made a significant impact on a worthy cause, demonstrating leadership and promoting community involvement. This award was named in honor of the late Rep. Carl Perkins and is designed to recognize individuals who have shown the same humanitarian concerns exemplified by the congressman.



Deanna Burch
Region I



Alicia D. Jordan
Region II



Paul Aarsvold
Region III



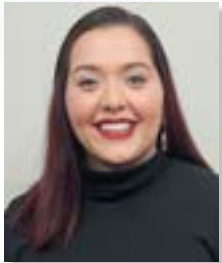
Robby Branscum
Region IV



Kip Hansen
Region V

ACTE New Teacher of the Year *Sponsored by Goodheart-Willcox*

This award recognizes CTE teachers with three to five years' experience (at the secondary or postsecondary level) who have made significant contributions toward innovative and unique CTE programs and who have shown a professional commitment early in their careers.



Josephine Wolfe
Region I



Clifton Williams
Region II



Becky Cronk
Region III



Mindy E. Lyle
Region IV



**McKayla Gonder
Plewe**
Region V

ACTE Teacher Educator of the Year

This award recognizes teacher educators, secondary or postsecondary, who are committed to preparing teachers to deliver high-quality CTE programs and who have demonstrated innovation in teacher education as well as leadership in improving CTE.



Crystal Smith
Region I



Elaine Adams
Region II



**Laura Van
Waardhuizen**
Region III



Bonner Slayton
Region IV



Lisa Krumwiede
Region V

ACTE Lifetime Achievement Award & Hall of Fame

This award recognizes the contributions and distinguished accomplishments of members who have long supported the work and purpose of ACTE. At the Awards Gala, ACTE will induct all five Lifetime Achievement national finalists into the ACTE Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame honors the leadership of CTE professionals who have made enduring contributions to CTE throughout their careers.



Scott Westenberg
Region I



James E. Bartlett, II
Region II



Sandra Miller
Region III



Aris Pangilinan
Region I



Karen L. Roberts
Region II



Pamela Koenen
Region III



Nina Morgan
Region IV



Jan Jardine
Region V



Karen Upton
Region IV



Jason T. Goble
Region V

ACTE Teacher of the Year *Sponsored by Express Employment Professionals*

This award recognizes the finest career and technical education teachers at the secondary level who have demonstrated innovation in the classroom, commitment to their students, and dedication to the improvement of CTE in their institutions and communities.



OPPORTUNITY FOR RISING STUDENT DESIGNERS!

Student Winners Honored in Concert with
ACTE Excellence Award Winners
2024 ACTE AWARDS GALA
Dec. 4 • San Antonio, Texas

ELIGIBILITY

The contest is open to secondary, postsecondary and adult career and technical education (CTE) students in 3D-design courses or other CAD courses. Students may enter as individuals or as teams of no more than two people.

The first-place designers will receive:

- \$1,000 scholarship prize for the winning team
- Free one-year lease of a 3D printer and materials for the winner's school, courtesy of Stratasys
- Paid travel to San Antonio, Texas, for the winner and teacher to be recognized at the 2024 ACTE Awards Gala in front of ACTE award winners, leaders and attendees
- 3D-printed copy of their award, courtesy of Stratasys
- One year complimentary ACTE membership for the student(s) and their teacher
- Recognition in ACTE's promotional channels, *Techniques* magazine and more!

DEADLINE: MAY 1

HOW TO ENTER

ACTE is now accepting entries! Learn more about the contest and our prizes at www.acteonline.org/trophy_design_contest.

The winning design (shown left) of the 2023 contest was created by

Madison Adams
Advanced Technologies Academy
Las Vegas, Nevada



STUDENT TROPHY DESIGN CONTEST

In partnership with



Thank You!

ACTE would like to extend a sincere thank you to the following sponsors for their support of the ACTE Excellence Awards program and 2023 Awards Gala:



With more than 860 locations, Express Employment Professionals is one of the largest franchised staffing companies. In the U.S. In 2022, Express employed 579,000 people, with the long-term goal of putting a million people to work. Express is proud to sponsor ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2023 and the ACTE Teacher of the Year Award for the fifth year.



Established in 1921, Goodheart-Willcox publishes print and digital instructional materials for CTE. G-W collaborates with outstanding authors, trustworthy reviewers, and industry-focused trade associations to provide quality, standards-based content with effective pedagogy.



CareerSafe was founded under the core belief that no job is worth a young worker's life. Their vision is to advance and enhance OSHA's outreach by providing every young worker with workplace safety training prior to taking their first job. From safety and health training to employability skills and cyber awareness, CareerSafe is focused on providing the foundational skills learners need to launch successful careers.



Formed in 1775, the United States Army is the oldest and largest branch of the U.S. military. The Army's core values are loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. With more than 200 jobs ranging from medicine to mechanics, the U.S. Army offers a career path for everyone. Be all you can be. The Army is pleased to sponsor the ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2023.



BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORS

- TIVA
- West-MEC
- Oklahoma ACTE
- Arkansas ACTE
- Utah ACTE
- Minnesota ACTE

To learn more about our sponsors, be sure to stop by their booths in the CareerTech Expo.

**ARE YOU THE BEST IN CTE?
DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS?**

Learn more about the ACTE Excellence Awards and how to apply.

acteonline.org/awards

SAVE THE DATE 2024



EXCELLENCE AWARDS GALA

DEC. 4, 2024
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Celebrating inspirational leaders who have made extraordinary contributions to high-quality CTE programs