

Foster, John

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

Foster, John

Email Address

john.foster@nocti.org

Title

CEO

Employer

NOCTI

Phone Number

231-796-4695

Relationship to the Candidate

Friend

Candidate Information

Please provide information on the candidate being nominated.

Candidate's Name

Dr. Rodney L. Boyes

Title

CEO

Employer

Today's Class

Work Address

One Perimeter Park South
Suite 450N
Birmingham Alabama 35243-3201 US

Email

rboyes@todaysclass.com

Phone Number

205-298-8300

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.

Dr. Boyes has been an innovative leader and supporter of CTE throughout the last 20 years. Not only was he a pioneer in online learning for CTE programs across the nation, he has given of his time and expertise as a dedicated supporter of ACTE, serving and leading a number of national committees as a corporate member. Prior to his work with Today's Class he worked closely with General Motors and was one of the individuals responsible for bringing the AYES (Automotive Youth Education Services) program to life in the 1990's. His early work experience as college professor and instructor at the General Motors Institute for engineering is equally impressive as is his text on automotive electronics. One of Rod's biggest assets is his ability to develop relationships with those within the CTE community. He is passionate about his belief in CTE and his life's work reflects that.

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

Dr. Rod Boyes:

- * Enhancing technical knowledge of online learning to benefit transportation sector
- * Helping initiate AYES concept
- * Extending professional/commercial online learning to CTE students and teachers in the transportation cluster
- * Extending online learning content to include additional clusters including human services, health, and agriculture
- * Utilizing OCTAE work readiness framework to deliver targeted online instruction on specific work readiness topics
- * Giving freely of his time as an ACTE corporate member
- * Leading ACTE's business coalition
- * Financial support of Advance CTE
- * Frequent presenter at ACTE national and regional conferences
- * Utilizing company and personal dollars to enhance CTE's visibility
- * Extensive outreach to state policy makers

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

1. Standards-aligned and Integrated Curriculum: By using online instructional methodologies aligned to national standards Rod's efforts have helped align instruction in transportation, agriculture, human services, health and workforce readiness.
3. Student Assessment: By utilizing both online formative assessment and by forming summative assessment relationships with other providers, Rod has advanced instructional improvement through data analysis of both assessment modalities.
4. Prepared and Effective Program Staff: Rod has provided professional development in the use of online instruction, thus advancing the instructional capabilities of those employing these online educational strategies for CTE students.
5. Engaging Instruction: The online platform Rod has designed provides an engaging environment that is beneficial as a stand alone resource, a blended resource, or an "after hours" assignment. Additionally this resource can be made available during a student's workplace experiences.
8. Business and Community Partnerships: As mentioned previously, Rod has given of his own time and expertise providing input and leadership for ACTE and its business members. In addition he has forged partnerships with other like-minded organizations for the benefit of CTE students.
12. Data and Program Improvement: As mentioned in item #3 above the data derived from this innovative online instruction program can be used for both program improvement as well as instructional improvement. By using a pretest-posttest format CTE teachers can gauge progress between instructional sessions and they have the aggregated data to shift instruction based on this feedback.

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?

Dr. Rod Boyes' career includes a unique set of experiences including a degree from General Motors Institute and experiences as an Associate Professor and Chair at the University of Oklahoma, where he co-authored a computer textbook. He also served as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Engineering & Management Institute and received, the "Best of the Best" award from General Motors for his efforts with AYES, the Automotive Youth program. One can see that this unique set of experiences and credentials underscores his ability to contribute to CTE and his understanding of the world of technical training.

Ability and knowledge are certainly positive attributes, but application and delivery of those skill sets to benefit the CTE community is what makes his achievements worthy of recognition. Rod's relationship building skills coupled with his ability to see and adapt future trends to help the CTE community is also noteworthy.

Rod was one of the first to see the value and benefits of online learning for the CTE community. He saved valuable resource dollars for auto mechanics programs across the country thru the elimination of print based resources. After some research on which other CTE programs would benefit from this approach, he focused on agriculture, health, and cosmetology. In an effort to reinforce the importance of workplace readiness he also formed an alliance with several firms and began delivering content based on the work of the federal Office of Career Technical and Adult Education's (OCTAE) employability framework.

I had the opportunity to discuss these very skills with Rod on a television interview program that was aired in 6 countries and across the US.

Rod was also very willing to share his expertise and knowledge with ACTE and served and chaired ACTE's industry advisory committee for a number of years. He always said that the effort and commitment one puts into a project equates to the results you'll get as you complete that project. Rod always believed in advocating for the CTE community and advocating for ACTE and its members.

They say that you learn something from everyone you meet and frankly, I am very glad I met and had the opportunity to work with Dr. Rod Boyes! I strongly support his nomination for ACTE's Lifetime Achievement award.

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?

Yes