



## **Excellence Doubled: Two Leaders Honored with Top National Work-Based Learning Award**

**Bellevue, WA** – The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE)'s Work-based Learning Division is proud to announce the winners of the **2025 YouScience Brightpath Work-Based Learning Professional of the Year** award—**Michelle McClintic** of Lorain County JVS in Ohio and **Mindi Heitland** of Waukee Community School District in Iowa. In an unprecedented moment, both professionals earned perfect scores, resulting in a tie and a double win for excellence in work-based learning (WBL).

The recipients were formally recognized on **April 3** at the **2025 ACTE Work-Based Learning Conference** in Bellevue, Washington.

“It was a true privilege to recognize Michelle and Mindi—two exceptional work-based learning professionals whose dedication and impact have clearly earned the respect of their colleagues. Their leadership is advancing the field in meaningful and measurable ways.”

— *Kristy Volesky, ACTE Work-Based Learning Awards Chair*

Both Michelle and Mindi were celebrated for their unwavering commitment to student success through **innovation, advocacy, leadership, and CTSO involvement**. Their impact reaches far beyond their districts, shaping the future of work-based learning and setting new standards for excellence.

“Michelle McClintic is a natural born leader; she inspires and motivates the leaders of tomorrow—not only to believe but embrace their talents. With bold leadership and extreme focus, McClintic plays a critical role within our district and the ecosystem—advancing career-technical education within Ohio's talent economy.”

— *Dr. Glenn Faircloth, Superintendent, Lorain County JVS*

“Over the past 20 years, I have had the privilege of knowing and working with Mindi Heitland, and I have never met someone more passionate about serving students, families, and business partners through work-based learning. Her dedication has not only transformed countless students' futures, but she has also mentored and empowered educators, equipping



them with best practices and serving as a leader in the state to inform the work and advance the direction of work-based learning.”

— *Michelle Hill, Director of Work-Based Learning, Waukeez Community School District*

**Congratulations, Michelle and Mindi!** The ACTE Work-Based Learning Division also extends heartfelt thanks to everyone who submitted nominations. The awards committee was deeply impressed by the innovation, passion, and impact demonstrated by professionals nationwide.

Looking ahead, the **2026 YouScience Brightpath Work-Based Learning Professional of the Year** application window will open in **fall 2025**. Stay tuned!

### Sample Social Media Posts:

#### 1. ✨ Excellence Doubled! ✨

Congratulations to **Michelle McClintic** (Lorain County JVS, OH) and **Mindi Heitland** (Waukeez CSD, IA) — the **2025 YouScience Brightpath Work-Based Learning Professionals of the Year!**

For the first time ever, **both leaders earned perfect scores**, resulting in a tie and national recognition at the ACTE Work-Based Learning Conference in Bellevue, WA.

Their leadership, innovation, and commitment to student success are setting new standards for #WorkBasedLearning across the country.

👏 Join us in celebrating these changemakers shaping the future of education and career readiness!

#WBL #CTE #ACTE #CareerTechEd #EducationLeadership #StudentSuccess

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#### 2. 📢 Big news from #ACTE2025! 📢

Michelle McClintic & Mindi Heitland BOTH earned perfect scores to tie for the **YouScience Brightpath Work-Based Learning Professional of the Year!** ✨



👉 Leaders. Innovators. Advocates for student success.  
#CTE #WBL #CareerReady #EdLeadership

📍 Recognized in Bellevue, WA  
🔗 [Add link to article or announcement]

3. 🎉 DOUBLE the excellence, DOUBLE the impact! 🎉

We're thrilled to honor **Michelle McClintic & Mindi Heitland**, our **2025 Work-Based Learning Professionals of the Year!** ✨

They tied with perfect scores (a first!) and were celebrated at the national ACTE WBL Conference in Bellevue, WA. Their work is transforming opportunities for students through innovation, advocacy, and powerful partnerships. 📁💡

💬 "Their leadership is advancing the field in meaningful and measurable ways." –  
Kristy Volesky, Awards Chair

#WomenInLeadership #CTE #WorkBasedLearning #EducationChampions  
#StudentSuccess #ACTE2025