



**NEWS RELEASE**

**August 14, 2019, Olympia WA**

**WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
2019 EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS**

The Washington Association for Career and Technical Education (WA-ACTE) is pleased to announce the recipients of the Washington ACTE 2019 Excellence Awards. The award winners were announced during the Awards Breakfast at the Washington ACTE Summer Conference on August 6, 2019, at The Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane, Washington.

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The **Washington ACTE Teacher of the Year Award** recognizes the finest Career and Technical Education teachers at the middle/secondary school level who have demonstrated innovation in the classroom, commitment to their students, and dedication to the improvement of CTE in their institutions and communities.

**Teacher of the Year**



**Kitti Wheeler**  
**Clover Park School District**

**Kitti Wheeler** is a marketing teacher at Clover Park High School in the Clover Park School District. Kitti is an international conference presenter, author, and teacher mentor with thirty years' experience as a business and marketing educator. She has an extensive background implementing programs and curriculum that provide students with relevant experiences to develop their potential as leaders in their schools, communities, and future careers. She has a passion for helping teachers thrive in the classroom and gives her students hope by instilling in them a positive mindset and a belief that their future is limitless. Kitti is a National Board-Certified Teacher and has a Master's Degree in Education. She is an accomplished DECA advisor, work-based learning coordinator, and student store supervisor. Kitti has been a Washington ACTE member since 2002.

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The **Washington ACTE Career Guidance Award** recognizes school counselors and career development professionals who have demonstrated commitment to connecting students with opportunities for success, shown innovation in career exploration and development, and have advocated for CTE as a viable option for all students.

**Career Guidance Award**



**Nora Zollweg**  
**West Sound Technical Skills Center**

**Nora Zollweg** is the Student Services Coordinator for West Sound Technical Skills Center in Bremerton. In 2011, Nora decided she missed working with students and took a position as Student Outreach Coordinator with West Sound Technical Skills Center. Eight years later, Nora is still working at WST though her position has been changed to Student Services Coordinator, which covers a comprehensive approach to student support and success. Along the way, Nora has earned a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services and Master's Degrees in Organizational Leadership and Human Resources, plus a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership with a Principal's endorsement. Nora has also completed her CTE Director's training through OSPI and holds a CTE Director's credential. Nora has been a Washington ACTE member since 2004.

The **Washington ACTE Community Service Award** recognizes individuals who have used CTE to make a significant impact on their community and demonstrated leadership in programs and activities that promote student involvement in community service.

#### Community Service Award



**Rachel Aszklar**  
**Sumner-Bonney Lake School District**

**Rachel Aszklar** is a Family and Consumer Science teacher at Sumner High School in the Sumner-Bonney Lake School District. Rachel has grown up in the Pacific Northwest, and CTE is in her blood as both her parents are in the CTE field. Rachel graduated Magna Cum Laude from WSU with a degree in Family & Consumer Sciences in 2012 and earned her Master's in Career & Technical Education from Concordia University. At Sumner High School, she currently teaches four CTE courses and is an active co-advisor for FCCLA. Through her involvement in FCCLA and in her Family & Consumer Science classes students have the opportunity to make an impact through various community service activities and overall make a significant impact in the Sumner community. Rachel has been a Washington ACTE member since 2014.

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The **Washington ACTE President's Award** is presented by the Washington ACTE president to the person that they feel helped them the most during their year as president.

#### President's Award

**Presented by Shani Watkins, WA-ACTE President 2018-2019**



**Owen Watkins**

The **Washington ACTE Achieve 100% Membership Award** recognizes schools or districts that have 100% Washington ACTE membership participation from each and every member of their Career and Technical Education staff. The 2019 recipients: **Bethel School District, Clover Park School District, Fife School District, Lynden High School, Quileute Tribal High School, Stanwood-Camano School District, Tumwater School District, West Sound Technical Skills Center, and Yelm Community Schools.**

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The **Washington ACTE Membership Award** recognizes the Washington ACTE section with the highest percentage increase in membership. **HSCTE** is this year's recipient with a 44% increase in membership.



## **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR 2019 EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS!**

The Washington ACTE Awards promote merit in Career and Technical Education (CTE) by recognizing individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to CTE. Award winners serve as inspirational leaders to Washington ACTE: they embody the core values of serving students and being committed to CTE. The state winners will progress on to compete at the regional level next year at the ACTE Region V Conference in Lake Tahoe, Nevada, April 22-25, 2020.

The Washington Association for Career and Technical Education is the state's largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. Washington ACTE represents the community of CTE professionals including educators, administrators, researchers, guidance counselors, and others at all levels of education. Washington ACTE is committed to excellence in providing advocacy, public awareness and access to resources, professional development, and leadership opportunities.

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