



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**August 8, 2023, Olympia WA**

**WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
2023 EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS**

The Washington Association for Career and Technical Education (WA-ACTE) is pleased to announce the recipients of the Washington ACTE 2023 Excellence Awards. The award winners were announced during the Washington ACTE Summer Conference, which was held August 6-9, 2023. 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. Congratulations to all of our 2023 Excellence Award winners!

**Teacher of the Year**



**Becky Lovern**  
**Bethel School District**

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.

**Becky Lovern** is a 21-year Career and Technical Education Veteran Teacher. She has taught in the Kennewick School District, Sumner-Bonney Lake School District, Tacoma School District, and has spent the last eight years teaching in the Bethel School District. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Becky is CTE Department Head, FCCLA Advisor, and Graham-Kapowsin High School Curriculum Leader, and serves on several district and state committees. At the district level, Becky is on several district level committees such as Social-Emotional Learning Implementation, Standards Based Instruction and Grading Implementation, and serves on the CTE Teacher Leadership Team. In addition, she chairs the Family and Consumer Sciences Program Advisory Council and is a member of the CTE General Advisory Committee. Becky also mentors Year 1 and 2 CTE Teachers in the areas of curriculum and classroom management, as many are coming from Plan 2 Industry Route. Becky serves on the District Superintendent's Hunger Task Force with her students and works closely with the Director of Community Connections with service projects that help meet the needs of local community members. Becky has been instrumental in developing Bethel School District's Career and College Readiness curriculum for Family and Consumer Sciences common Canvas pages, and has assisted other program areas when teachers were struggling. Becky has worked hard to maintain CTE Dual-Credit articulation agreements, and continuously looks for new and relevant Industry Credentials for her programs. In addition, she models and coaches inclusionary practices to provide students with voice and choice. Recently, she has worked diligently with community members to align her programs with the new Work Based Learning requirements. At the state level, Becky is heavily involved with the Washington Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (WA-FACSE) serving for four years as Awards Chair, and two years as Secretary. Her duties as Awards Chair also allowed her to serve on the WA-ACTE Awards (FAME) Committee. She served as the Area 3 FCCLA Advisor and mentored three Washington FCCLA State Officers while she served on the WA-FCCLA Advisory Committee. Her FCCLA program has successful yearly State and National Competitors who have won many titles and monetary awards for their events. Becky is an award-winning instructor. In 2012 she was Washington State Prostart Teacher of the Year and won the National Prostart Excellence in Education award. In 2020, Becky was Bethel School District CTE Teacher of the Year and in 2022 she was WA-FACSE Teacher of the Year. Becky holds BS degrees in Family and Consumer Sciences Education, BA in School Health Education, and is finishing her Masters in Career and Technical Education Administration through Eastern Washington University, and is serving as a CTE Director Intern.

### Administrator of the Year



**Dan Tedor**  
**Lake Stevens School District**

The **Washington ACTE Administrator of the Year Award** recognizes administrative CTE professionals at the school, district, county, or state level who have demonstrated leadership in ensuring teacher and student success and have made significant contributions toward innovative, unique, and effective Career and Technical Education programs.

**Dan Tedor** is currently the Director of Career and Technical Education for the Lake Stevens School District. He began his career in education as an Agricultural Education Teacher in Rochester, Washington, where he was named the WA-ACTE New Teacher of the Year and selected for the DuPont Agriscience Ambassadors Program. He later moved to teach in the Federal Way School District in Federal Way, Washington. Dan attended Colorado State University for Graduate School, where he obtained a Master's degree and began working towards a Ph.D. in Agricultural Education. His research focused on under-represented student populations in CTE. After completing his Master's and a year of research, he accepted a position as the STEM Supervisor for the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, where he supported STEM programs statewide and worked closely with content partners across the nation. After nearly four years in this position, Dan completed his Washington State Administration credentials and took his current position with the Lake Stevens School District. Outside of his professional world, Dan is an avid horseman and passionate about working with AQHA halter horses.

### New Teacher of the Year



**Heather Gamache**  
**Selah School District**

The **Washington ACTE New Teacher of the Year Award** recognizes new CTE teachers who have made significant contributions toward innovative and unique Career and Technical Education programs and shown a professional commitment early in their careers.

**Heather Gamache** is a pharmacist and educator who has dedicated her career to improving the health and well-being of her students and the wider community. With over 20 years of experience in the field, Heather has made significant contributions to innovative and unique programs that are helping to improve the skills and career readiness of health sciences students. In the face of the COVID pandemic, Heather joined the teaching profession and has brought her wealth of knowledge and experience to the classroom. Under her guidance, students have gained valuable leadership skills and certifications that are helping them succeed in their chosen careers. In addition to her work in the field of health sciences, Heather is also a devoted mother and spouse. She and her husband Andy have been married for almost 20 years and are the proud parents of four daughters: Emma, Addy, Gigi, and Rylee. Despite their busy schedules, the family loves to travel and spend time together on their small acreage farm in Selah, where they enjoy landscaping and keeping up with the kids. Heather's dedication to her students and her community is evident in the success of the programs she has developed and the impact they have had. Her effectiveness as a teacher has been noticed and recognized, and she continues to be a valuable asset to the field of health sciences education.

### Counseling and Career Development Professional Award



**Patti McMullan**  
**Puyallup School District**

The **Washington ACTE Counseling and Career Development Professional 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.

**Patti McMullan** is a Career Counselor in the Puyallup School District, currently working at Emerald Ridge High School. She has been working in this position since 2003. Prior to her career in education, Patti worked in the business industry for 14 years. Patti specializes in working with students in grades 9-12 helping them to identify, plan for, and achieve their current and future goals. Patti works very closely with her community including serving as a Rotarian with the South Hill Rotary Club, a longtime member of her church, and truly has a servant's heart. Patti also serves as the current WA-CCER Treasurer. Patti has earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees and has also completed her Teaching and Administrative credentials through Western Governors University. She is an avid hiker, kayaker, and loves adventure. The true loves of her life are her two grandsons.

### Community Service Award



**Suzanne Walker**  
**Yakima School District**

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.

**Suzanne Walker**, a Career and Technical Education Teacher at Eisenhower High School in the Yakima School District. She is a 1989 Graduate of Washington State University with a Bachelor of Science degree and a major in Family and Consumer Sciences Education and a minor in Chemistry. Suzanne's educational background includes additional teaching endorsements from Central Washington University with a major in Elementary Education, and minors in Early Childhood Education and Reading. Suzanne has taught for 30 years, mostly in the Family and Consumer Science Education section. Her teaching experience includes working for some excellent school districts: Sunnyside, Quincy, Kennewick, Finley, and Yakima. In 2020, Suzanne earned her master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Western Governors University. Professionally, she was part of the 2015 committee that created the OSPI CTE Equivalency Frameworks for Food Science, Dietetics, and Nutrition course as a lab science equivalency for school districts across Washington State. Suzanne has been an adviser for Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), which is a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) for 23 years.

The **Washington ACTE Impact Awards** recognize individuals and groups from the education, business and industry communities who enhance Career and Technical Education (CTE) by contributing to the improvement, promotion, development, and progress of CTE. The **Champion for CTE Award** is given to 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. These individuals have also repeatedly demonstrated their public support for CTE and who exhibit an understanding of the components of modern, high-quality CTE. The **Business-Education Partnership Award** is given to partnerships that are designed to support high-quality CTE programs. These partnerships make a measurable and significant impact on student achievement and on the development of the local community and economy.

**Champion for CTE Award**



**Lew Keliher**  
**WA-ACTE President 2015-2016**  
**WA-ACTE President 2019-2020**  
**Retired, Auburn School District**

**Champion for CTE Award**



**Roxanne Trees**  
**WA-ACTE President 2007-2008**  
**WA-ACTE President 2008-2009**  
**Retired, Seattle School District**

**Champion for CTE Award**



**Tim Knue**  
**WA-ACTE President 1999-2000**  
**WA-ACTE Executive Director 2009-Present**  
**Retired, Mount Vernon School District**

**Business-Education Partnership Award**



**Washington ACTE President's Award**  
**Kevin Davis, WA-ACTE President 2022-2023**



**Lori Davis**

### Washington ACTE Achieve 100% Membership Award

(recognizes schools or districts that have 100% Washington ACTE membership participation from each and every member of their CTE staff)



**The 2023 recipients:**

- Bethel School District
- Centralia High School
- Clarkston School District
- Clover Park School District
- Lake Stevens School District
- Mount Vernon High School
- OSPI CTE Division
- Prosser School District
- Rochester School District
- Stanwood-Camano School District
- Washougal High School
- West Sound Technical Skills Center
- Yelm Community Schools

### Washington ACTE Membership Award

(recognizes the Washington ACTE section with the highest percentage increase in membership)



# WITEA

Washington Industrial Technology  
Education Association

WITEA is this year's recipient with a 34% increase in membership.

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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