



NEWS RELEASE
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WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
2022 EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

The Washington Association for Career and Technical Education (WA-ACTE) is pleased to announce the recipients of the Washington ACTE 2022 Excellence Awards. The award winners were announced during the Washington ACTE Summer Conference, which was held August 7-10, 2022. 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 2022 Excellence Award winners!

Administrator of the Year



Lynn Green
CTE Director
Aberdeen 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.

Helping students find their futures is Lynn's true passion. Serving as a CTE Director in the Aberdeen School District for the past 22 years, Lynn has used her skills to help others navigate exploration opportunities and experiences. After receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Business Management in the early 1990's, Lynn served on a local advisory committee for business education programs. She was working in the manufacturing field and not really finding satisfaction with her work. The connection to CTE drew her in right away, led her to a true interest and she pursued a Master's in Teaching degree along with CTE certification. She began teaching business education and immediately knew working in the field of CTE education was what she was meant to do. After completing the CTE Director program in 2001 and a Principal certification shortly afterward, Lynn never looked back. The CTE Director position has provided Lynn a unique opportunity in a district to influence the futures of students. Over the years, Lynn has been a part of several initiatives designed to support students in their pursuits. She has been a part of district teams around AVID, High Schools that Work, TPEP (serves as the district-wide trainer), GEAR UP (serves as the district administrator), 21st Century Programs (serves as the district administrator), Leaders that Work and many other initiatives. All of these leadership and learning opportunities have impacted her leadership style and vision for quality Career and Technical Education in schools. In addition, Lynn has become a district advisory content specialist working to develop meaningful, relevant career and college exploration experiences for ALL of students in grades 7-12. This role has complemented the CTE work in the Aberdeen district and allowed a greater impact on all students. She volunteers in the community, serving on several boards and contributing to events. Her support of area school districts through collaboration and leadership of various task forces extends her reach beyond her own school district. She has found her niche.

New Teacher of the Year



Cheyenne LaViolette
Broadcasting and Computer Science Teacher
Hanford High School
Richland 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.

Cheyenne LaViolette teaches TV Production & Broadcasting, Events & Sports Broadcasting, Documentary & Filmmaking, Podcast Production, and AP Computer Science A at Hanford High School in Richland, Washington. She advises the school's Podcast and Video Production Club and GSA Club. Cheyenne left a successful career as a commercial insurance broker to raise her children. During that time, she started building websites for businesses and creating personalized videos for clients' special occasions, such as weddings, funerals, and graduations. When her children started school, she decided to work part-time as a high school para-educator in the school district. It was then she found her passion, working with kids. She later transitioned into a data specialist position at Hanford High School. When Cheyenne learned about CTE Plan 2 certification, she signed up for a program and doubled up on classes to finish in one year. Cheyenne was hired as a part-time teacher in the fall of 2019. Even through the pandemic her program has grown to require nearly two full-time teachers. She's also added three new classes and advanced levels in many of the courses she teaches. Cheyenne has found her passion in building relationships with students and supporting them in new experiences and opportunities.

Counseling and Career Development Professional Award



Kris Neal
Work-Based Learning Coordinator
Battle Ground High School
Battle Ground 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.

Kris Neal has been a Work-Based Learning Coordinator for Battle Ground Public Schools since 2014. Prior to this position, she worked at Summit View High School as the Career Guidance Technician, supporting students and staff. As a WBL Coordinator, Kris specializes in working with local and regional businesses that employ and support the district's students. Kris is a power force in the workplace and uses her positive attitude and tireless energy to encourage students to work hard and succeed in their endeavors.

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.

Champion for CTE Award



Vern Chandler
WVA President 1994-1995
AVA Region V Vice President 1997-2000
Retired

Tacoma School District / Bates Technical College

Champion for CTE Award



Dennis "Denny" Wallace
WA-ACTE President 2000-2001
Retired
OSPI

Yelm Community Schools

Champion for CTE Award



Lance Wrzesinski
WA-ACTE President 2012-2013
Director

Financial Education Public Private Partnership

Champion for CTE Award



Kevin Plambeck
WA-ACTE President 2017-2018
Retired

Stanwood-Camano School District

Washington ACTE President's Award
Nora Zollweg, WA-ACTE President 2021-2022



Lew Keliher
WA-ACTE President 2015-2016 & 2019-2020
Retired CTE Director
Auburn School District



Doug Merrill
WA-ACTE President 2020-2021
Engineering Instructor
Wenatchee School District

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 2022 recipients:

Bethel School District, *Ron Mayberry, CTE Director*
Lake Stevens School District, *Dan Tedor, CTE Director*
Ocean Beach School District, *Shawn Stern, CTE Director*
OSPI CTE, *Samantha Sanders, CTE Director*
Stanwood-Camano School District, *Ross Short, CTE Director*
West Sound Technical Skills Center, *Shani Watkins, Director*
Yelm Community Schools, *Teri Pablo, CTE Director*

Washington ACTE Membership Award

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



WACTA is this year's recipient with a 15% 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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