



NEWS RELEASE
August 4, 2020, Olympia WA

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
2020 EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

The Washington Association for Career and Technical Education (WA-ACTE) is pleased to announce the recipients of the Washington ACTE 2020 Excellence Awards. The award winners were announced during the Washington ACTE Virtual Summer Conference, which was held August 2-5, 2020. 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 2020 Excellence Award winners!

Administrator of the Year



Shani Watkins
West Sound Technical Skills Center

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.

Shani Watkins serves as the director of West Sound Technical Skills Center in Bremerton. Shani found her passion working in Career and Technical Education after graduating with a university degree in Accounting. Her journey as a reformed accountant took her back to school and earned her bachelor's degree in Business Education, Master's in Education with a focus on business and marketing education, Master's in Organizational Systems, and an MBA. For more than twenty years, Shani has served in education as a teacher, instructional facilitator, assistant Career and Technical Education Director, principal, and director. Truly, her work in Career and Technical Education at the local, state, regional, and national levels is her passion and she strongly believes in providing students with pathways to their futures, recognizing that not all students follow the same path. The best days for Shani are those when former students come back to thank their former teachers for the lessons and skills learned and to share their successes out in the world. As recently heard, "this work is heart work, and hard work, but it is definitely rewarding work." Shani lives this daily, CTE is her passion, not her job.

New Teacher of the Year



Courtney Peart
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.

Courtney Peart is a Health Sciences Teacher at Selah High School in Selah WA. She is completing her fourth year at Selah and fifth year in the teaching profession. She currently teaches Human Body Systems, Intro to Sports Medicine & Advanced Sports Medicine. Miss Peart started the Health Sciences program at Selah four years ago from the ground up and has tripled the interest in the program since then. She also serves as the high school's athletic trainer, where she not only takes care of the athletes but is able to provide real-life experience to her students during athletic events. Courtney also serves as the Vice President of the HSCTE for Washington State where she has been a board member for two years. Courtney has a passion for giving her students the best all-around experience possible with hands-on experiences, in the moment learning, and used whatever technology she can get her hands on. She is an integral part of not just Selah High School, but the Selah community.

Career Guidance Award



Marie Miller
Spokane School District

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.

Marie Miller started her teaching career 18 years ago in higher education as an adjunct instructor at Spokane Falls Community College and Eastern Washington University. In 2004, she began teaching high school while maintaining her adjunct status at Spokane Falls Community College and concurrently taught high school and at the community college for several years. Her high school experience includes both the virtual and traditional settings. She has endorsements in Marketing and Worksite Learning Coordination, and currently teaches in the Spokane Public Schools Secondary Transition Program. Secondary Transition is a program for students 18 to 21 who have disabilities and have an IEP. Throughout her teaching career, she has taken a special interest in serving underprivileged and diverse student populations and her master's degree from Gonzaga University is in Teaching At-Risk Youth. She has been involved in a wide range of student services which include, but are not limited to, academic advising, recruiting students, leading new student orientations, serving on various committees, advising student clubs, organizing events in addition to developing and delivering workshops. In her current role as the CTE teacher for Secondary Transition, she incorporates technology with career choices at three sites: IMAGES, Project SEARCH, and STEP. They have approximately 80 students this year in their program! Finding work based learning opportunities for her students in the community keeps Marie on her toes!

Community Service Award



Sierra Larkin
Wenatchee 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.

Sierra Larkin is a third-year business and marketing teacher at Wenatchee High School. She is currently teaching Intro to Business classes, Student Store Management, and Applied Math. She serves on the WAME Board as the President-Elect, on the WSBEA Board as the Central Area Rep, and an Area Leader for WA DECA. As a DECA advisor she loves being able to see students grow and learn 21st century skills that will help them beyond high school. She is a graduate of Eastern Washington University holding a B.A. in Business Administration, a B.S. in Economics, and a Master's in Education.

Business-Education Partnership Award



Meg Fallows
Kadlec Regional Medical Center

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.

Meg Fallows was nominated by WA-CCER for the WA-CTE Business-Education Partnership Award. Through the dedication of Ms. Fallows, Kadlec Regional Medical Center has been a Work Based Learning partner with the Richland School District for over 12 years, providing invaluable worksite learning opportunities for 70+ students with disabilities. Meg has been the Volunteer Manager at Kadlec since May 2004. Meg taught high school in England from 1986 -1998, then moved to the US, earning her MBA in 2002.

**President's Award
Presented by Lew Keliher, WA-CTE President 2019-2020**



Annette Keliher

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.

The **Washington ACTE Outstanding Achievement Award** recognizes schools or districts that have 100% Summer Conference participation from each and every member of their Career and Technical Education staff.



The 2020 recipients:

**Auburn School District
Lew Keliher, CTE Director**

**Renton School District
Kevin Smith, CTE Director**

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 2020 recipients:

- **Auburn School District, Lew Keliher, CTE Director**
- **Bethel School District, Ron Mayberry, CTE Director**
- **Clover Park School District, Diane Carver, CTE Director**
- **Lynden School District, Kent Victor, CTE Director**
- **OSPI CTE Department, Becky Wallace, Executive Director**
- **Renton School District, Kevin Smith, 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**

The **Washington ACTE Membership Award** recognizes the Washington ACTE section with the highest percentage increase in membership. **WITEA** is this year's recipient with a 22% increase in membership.



WITEA
Washington Industrial Technology
Education Association

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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