



NEWS RELEASE
August 16, 2021, Olympia WA

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
2021 EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

The Washington Association for Career and Technical Education (WA-CTE) is pleased to announce the recipients of the Washington ACTE 2021 Excellence Awards. The award winners were announced during the Washington ACTE Summer Conference, which was held August 8-11, 2021. 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 2021 Excellence Award winners!

Teacher of the Year



Jodi Jacobs
Everett 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.

Jodi Jacobs is a Marketing Teacher at Cascade Sr. High School in the Everett School District. She is a 19-year Career and Technical Education Teacher. She has taught at Lake Stevens High School, Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center, and is currently teaching at Cascade Sr. High School in Everett, Washington. She is also an adjunct Professor at Everett Community College. As a CTE teacher she has taught in the Business and Marketing, Information Technology, and Family and Consumer Sciences pathways. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Jodi serves on the Cascade Sr. High School Leadership Council, is CTE Department Head, DECA Advisor, and the head coach of the school Cross Country team.

Administrator of the Year



Cindy Arnold
Battle Ground 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.

Cindy Arnold is the CTE Director for the Battle Ground School District. Since coming back to Career and Technical Education, Cindy feels like she is back to her roots and that she brings a unique knowledge and experience to her role. Since she has worked in education at each level, she brings a depth of knowledge to her job, but she also brings a passion to continue to implement Career and Technical Education strategies at all levels. To this work, she has begun Career and Technical Education programs at most middle schools in her district where there were no CTE programs before.

New Teacher of the Year



Sammi Jo Sims
Ellensburg 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.

Sammi Jo Sims is an Agriculture Education Instructor and FFA Advisor at Ellensburg High School in the Ellensburg School District. She has been teaching Agriculture for four years, and is very passionate about Career and Technical Education. She was very involved in CTE at her high school and took classes through Ag Ed, Health, Business, and Tech Ed. She served as a past Washington State FFA Officer before going on to earn her AAAS-Agricultural Sciences Degree from Walla Walla Community College, B.S., Agricultural Education from the University of Idaho, and M.S. Curriculum and Instruction from Western Governors University. Sammi Jo lives in Ellensburg with her husband, two children (with one more on the way!), and many farm critters.

Counseling and Career Development Professional Award



Shelley Jellison
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.

Shelley Jellison is a Career Specialist and High School and Beyond Plan Coordinator at Puyallup High School in the Puyallup School District. Shelley believes in setting goals, having a positive attitude, and has a mindset for being a lifelong learner. She holds a BS Degree from CWU, a BA Degree from WSU, and a Master's in Education from CWU. She was employed with the Renton School District for 6 years as a Consumer Science Teacher and Career Counselor and is in her 17th year as a Career Specialist with the Puyallup School District.

Community Service Award



Scott Le Duc
Olympia 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.

Scott Le Duc is a CTE Skilled and Technical Sciences Teacher at Capital High School in the Olympia School District. Scott is a National Board Certified educator. He has worked at Capital High School for 25 years teaching International Baccalaureate (IB) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes focusing on arts and technology instruction, specifically music composition and recording, film cinematography, and game design. Scott has worked as an adjunct faculty at Lesley University, City University of Seattle, St. Martin's University, and Wuhan University of Technology in Hubei Province, China.

Business-Education Partnership Award



**Tapani Inc.
Battle Ground WA**

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.

WA-CCER and the Battle Ground Public Schools would like to honor **Tapani Inc.** for their continued support and integral partnerships while working with their students to prepare them for their future. They work with students from all backgrounds, cultures, and special needs. Their philosophy is to develop skills in students to supply the needs of high demand industries in Southwest Washington.

Washington ACTE President's Award

(presented by the Washington ACTE president to the person that they feel helped them the most during their year as president)



**Lew Keliher
WA-ACTE President 2015-2016 & 2019-2020
Retired CTE Director for Auburn 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 2021 recipients:

- Bethel School District, Ron Mayberry, CTE Director**
- Clover Park School District, Diane Carver, CTE Director**
- Lake Stevens School District, Dan Tedor, 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)



HSCTE is this year's recipient with a 54% 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.

###