



2022

NCE CONFERENCE

AWARDS PROGRAM



2022 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

ELAINE STUHR LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY AWARD



Bonnie Sibert

Bonnie Sibert retired in 2017 after 44 years as a vocational educator. As a University of Nebraska graduate with a Bachelors in Business Education and Masters in Vocational Education, Bonnie taught at Milford and Geneva and was a finalist for Nebraska Teacher of the Year in 1981. In 1986 she was hired as the Nebraska FBLA State Advisor and career field specialist for Business, Marketing and Management. An add-on responsibility included conducting ADA compliance reviews of career education programs in Nebraska's public high schools and two-year postsecondary institutions.

Working at the Nebraska Department of Education for 31 years afforded her many opportunities to work with outstanding CTE secondary and postsecondary educators in Nebraska and across the country, and to set policy and procedures that improved student learning. She facilitated the development of five curriculum handbooks (course standards) for Business, Marketing and Information Technology (BMIT). Bonnie also taught methods classes at UNL which allowed her

to collaborate with BMIT teacher educators and provided support for new BMIT teachers.

Professional leadership roles included serving as President of the National Association for Business Education State Supervisors and Delta Pi Epsilon. She held additional leadership positions for the MBA Research Curriculum Consortium, Nebraska State Business Education Association, Mountain Plains Business Education Association and National Business Education Association.

Bonnie was actively involved in many professional organizations and received the ACTE Award of Merit for Outstanding Service, the ACTE Outstanding Service Award for Business Education and ACTEN's Service Award. Other recognition included Delta Pi Epsilon Outstanding Educator, National Business Education Association Outstanding Supervisor, Nebraska State Business Education Association Service Award, Mt. Plains Business Education Association Supervisor Service Award.

"I have been privileged to work with many outstanding students and educators during my 44-year career in education. I admire the dedication and commitment you bring every day to the classroom. I have been blessed and made better for knowing and working with many of you. Thank you for sharing this journey with me."

2022 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

DISTINGUISHED PARTNER AWARD



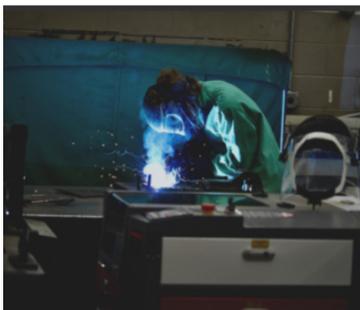
Kelly Clapp

Kelly Clapp is a Teaching & Learning Coordinator at Educational Service Unit 10 in Kearney. ESU 10 delivers services to 34 school districts in 12 counties in Central Nebraska. For the last 13 years Kelly has helped administer the ESU 10 Perkins Consortium grant for 29 member schools and has provided training and assistance to teachers and administrators in the areas of Continuous school Improvement, Leadership, Data, Curriculum, CTE, and Approved Programs of Study. Prior to this, she served 12 years as a Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher and Activities/Athletic Director for Fullerton Public Schools. Kelly is especially passionate about supporting Career Educators and CTE programs that prepare students for a successful, productive future.

Annually, ESU 10 hosts the CTE Collaboration Day in partnership with ESU 9, ESU 11, and the Nebraska Career Education Department. For 9 years, Career Educators have come together for this event to engage in professional learning, collaboration, and the sharing of ideas for enhancing and growing high quality Career Education Programs.

Kelly feels strongly that collaborative partnerships are the key to maximizing Career Education in Nebraska which is why she also helped initiate the creation of the ESU/NCE Perkins Cadre that fosters communication and collaboration between Nebraska's ESUs and the Nebraska Career Education Department. Kelly is a past member of the Partnerships for Innovation Leadership Council, serving for 7 years.

OUTSTANDING SECONDARY CTE PROGRAM AWARD



**Louisville Public
Schools -
Skilled and Technical
Science Program**

Louisville Public Schools actively promotes a strong Skilled and Technical Science program where the students are provided unique learning opportunities which promote the industry, work habits, and life skills, as well as prepare our students for future occupations. The Skilled and Technical Science program begins at the middle school level. Louisville Middle School courses are intended to be introductory and promote exploration of our program prior to transferring to the high school. Louisville High School students have multiple Skilled and Technical Science courses to choose from. Course offerings include Automotive Technology, Drafting, Exploring Technology, Metal Technology, SkillsUSA, and Woods.

The Skilled and Technical Science pathways are focused on expanding our student's knowledge through problem-solving, collaboration, and teamwork, as well as understanding the importance of developing a strong work ethic and life skills. We believe the students have found a true appreciation for learning from taking the Skilled and Technical Science courses.

2022 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATIVE LEADER AWARD



**Susan
Christopherson**

Susan L. Christopherson serves the students, staff, and families of Omaha Public Schools as the Chief Academic Officer. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa and completed her master's in educational leadership from Doane University.

In her 28 years with Omaha Public Schools, Christopherson has worked as a high school English teacher, a dean of students, an assistant principal at both the middle and high school level, a middle school principal, and most recently, as the district's executive director of secondary education.

Christopherson is committed to student-centered leadership, fostering high-quality learning experiences that prepare students for their future. As executive director for secondary education, Christopherson jointly led transformational work for district high schools, expanding access and elevating student expectations through the Omaha Public Schools College & Career Academies and Pathways. Christopherson is a board member of the D2 Center and Friends of KIOS.

She has two amazing children, Catherine and Cale, who are both Omaha Public Schools graduates. Her husband, Bryan, supports Susan's unwavering passion for making a difference for students.

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP AWARD



**Younes
Hospitality**

Younes Hospitality operates 15 hotels in Kearney, Columbus, Norfolk, Hastings, Fremont and Grand Island, Nebraska. Each hotel offers upscale accommodations with features that today's hotel guest has come to expect. In addition, Younes Hospitality owns and operates two of the largest conference centers between Omaha and Denver.

"We would not be the company we are today without the hard work and dedication of our outstanding employees. Everyone plays a vital role in ensuring the day-to-day success of our hotel & convention properties. Across our family of hotels, we work hard to attract, hire, and train an extraordinary staff that is notable for its friendliness, intelligence, work ethic, empathy, and self-awareness."

2022 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

OUTSTANDING POSTSECONDARY CTE PROGRAM AWARD



Northeast Community College

Northeast Community College is dedicated to the success of its students and the region it serves by creating pathways for students to engage with and enter the 21st century job market. At its core, career and technical education (CTE) pathways begin well before a student enters college. It provides collaborative tools through unique endeavors such as Early College (dual credit), Fridays @ Northeast, and Pathways 2 Tomorrow in which high schools students complete workforce related hands-on curriculum at Northeast, taught by college CTE instructors helping to increase access, relevancy, and rigor. The CTE programming serves as a springboard to other initiatives including entrepreneurship, workforce training, and community engagement all with a foundation in education.

Over 99.5% of Northeast's graduates are employed or continuing their education with 88% of the 2020-2021 career and technical program graduates working in their chosen field of study. Ninety percent of Northeast's graduates are filling high demand positions within the state.

Furthermore, engaging employers as partners in program design, curriculum development, program evaluation and assessment of student work remains a foundational pillar of Northeast's CTE success.

OUTSTANDING RULE 47 ACADEMY PROGRAM AWARD



The Career Academy

The Career Academy is a joint venture between Lincoln Public Schools and Southeast Community College. The goal of TCA is to provide academic and real-world experiences to high school juniors and seniors through high school and dual credit courses in 16 different career pathways.

Students attend TCA for two hours a day during the regular school year while taking their remaining courses back at their home high school. Transportation in the LPS district is provided, books are free, and tuition is free through scholarships or paid at a 50% discount to the regular SCC credit hour charge.

Expert instructors at TCA stretch the students while over 150 professionals in business and industry provide real world connections. These 150+ professionals serve on pathway support teams that advise, mentor, judge, provide field trips, and sometimes even offer internships for students at TCA.

2022 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

OUTSTANDING MIDDLE SCHOOL/JUNIOR HIGH PROGRAM AWARD



Martin Luther King Middle School

Martin Luther King Middle School opened in September 1973 and represented a new concept in education. It was the first middle school for the Omaha Public Schools and it offered 800 students in the north Omaha community access to industrial arts, homemaking, art, and science - subjects not currently available to youngsters this age in a regular elementary building.

In 2003, technology was added as a magnet theme and the school was renamed King Science and Technology Magnet Center.

The King Science and Technology Magnet Center serves as a district-wide middle school magnet giving all students from across the Omaha area an opportunity to attend. Students in the grades 5-8 study biology, astronomy, chemistry, earth sciences, and physics. Each grade level engages in science lessons in renovated science laboratories. King also has a planetarium, where students explore the solar system and the universe. In addition to the extensive science curriculum, students are involved in an exceptional offering of the core content areas of reading, language arts, mathematics, and social studies. Most of these core curricular areas include a focus on science themes as well.

Technology is an essential component to the education at King Science and Technology Magnet. There are four classroom technology labs, multiple learning labs, and a science technology lab. Students utilize a variety of technology-based equipment including palm-pilots, probe ware, graphing calculators, and digital cameras. The annual school-wide science fair showcases students' abilities through projects that are the result of the integration of science and technology.

2022 ACTEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

ACTEN CARL PERKINS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Darla Windholz
Family and Consumer Science Teacher,
Holdrege Public Schools

Darla Windholz currently serves as the Family and Consumer Science teacher at the middle school and high school for Holdrege Public Schools. She previously taught in Kansas and Wyoming. While in Wyoming, Darla was named the Outstanding Wyoming Home Economist New Achiever. In Wyoming she served as an officer of WATFACS and is currently serving on the Newsletter Committee for Family and Consumer Science Teachers of Nebraska.

Darla has incorporated several service projects in her curriculum. The walker caddie idea developed after focusing on giving her middle school students a project that would teach them to sew and use as a community service project. However, first she needed new machines for her students. She wrote a grant to purchase new computerized machines. The walker caddies were given to the area nursing and assisted living centers. Each completed caddie has a note that reads "Made Especially for you by" with the student's name tucked into the pocket.

ACTEN CTE TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Angie Ehlers
Family and Consumer Science Education Teacher,
Overton Public School

Angie Ehlers is the Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Overton Public Schools. Angie received her FCS degree from Wayne State College with a master's degree in Early Childhood Development from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Mrs. Ehlers has created a high quality CTE program which contains some of the newest technology in her school. She has made sure her content adheres to state standards by serving on a standards revision team for Nebraska.

A colleague states "Angie has created a wonderful classroom, mostly due to her creativity and ingenuity in designing lessons. Her teaching style is engaging, connected to standards, and brings in real-world applications."

Angie serves as the FCCLA adviser. The FCCLA chapter participates in community service projects that have near and far-reaching impacts. She has several national qualifiers that she has helped coach in their various projects ranging from community service to childhood development. In addition, she is on the Farm to School team at Overton. This collaboration between the cafeteria, FCS, and FFA classrooms brings agriculture and tangible products into her classroom allowing students hands-on skills with produce that is relevant to their culinary needs.

2022 ACTEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

ACTEN AGRICULTURE EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Siera Meyer
Agriculture Education Teacher of the Year,
Kenesaw Public Schools

Siera Meyer began her teaching career at Bruning-Davenport USD where she started the Agriculture Education program and FFA chapter. After seven years at Bruning-Davenport, she became the Ag instructor at Kenesaw Public Schools where she again started their Agriculture Education program and FFA Chapter. During her 10 years as a CTE educator she has been able to develop two agriculture education programs, added a greenhouse to the Bruning-Davenport program, and is assisting in building the CTE Work Based Learning and Career Pathways program at Kenesaw.

Throughout her teaching career, she has participated in several professional development opportunities including the NAEA Teacher Turn the Key, attending the NCE Conference every summer, attending the Tri-State Delta Conference focused on SAEs, and participating in the NCE Beginning Teacher Institute. Siera is a true professional belonging to ACTE, ACTEN, NAAE, and NAEA. Within these organizations she has

held several leadership positions including being an ACTEN board member, NAEA District 5 Chair, and NAEA Awards committee member. These programs and organizations provide quality opportunities for her to network and grow as an educator.

An administrator writes “Siera’s positive, can-do attitude is infectious. She has impacted our students in exponential amounts in her time at Kenesaw and her level of dedication to every class, grade, and student is evident in everything she does from teaching to mentoring to sponsoring. From the moment I met Siera, she has continued to impress me with her passion for teaching.”

2022 ACTEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

ACTEN COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR AWARD



Rick Painter

District Coordinator of Secondary Counseling,
Westside Community Schools

As District Coordinator of Secondary Counseling at Westside Community Schools, Mr. Painter oversees the counseling department at the high school, middle school, and has a caseload of students at their West Campus location. During his 18-year career in education, Rick was a teacher at Bryan Middle School, a middle school counselor at Bryan Middle School and High School, a curriculum specialist at Bryan, and an elementary counselor at Paddock Road Elementary Schools in the Westside district. Throughout these roles, he has made an impact in the lives of students and teachers. He promoted career fields while advocating for teachers. He helped implement the first Agriculture Academy in Nebraska in a Class A high school. He wrote grants totaling almost \$3 million dollars. The grants covered professional development, curriculum, a greenhouse, and distribution center.

As the District Coordinator of Secondary Counseling at Westside Community Schools, the counseling department has been able to set up industry tours, college tours, and career cafes. Each of these events allow their students opportunities to meet with business leaders and seek input.

Rick's goal is to create equal access for each of their students. Westside has many classes offered in the CTE field. As counselors, they work hard to make sure all students take a variety of these classes. They want students to be exposed to as many opportunities as possible in order for them to have a broad overview of all the possibilities for future careers.

To bridge the gap between business and industry, higher education, and Westside High school, Rick formed an advisory council. The purpose of the advisory council was to provide a partnership between the schools and business community. The advisory council was an instant success and continues to grow. Rick serves as the Counseling and Career Development representative on the ACTEN board.

2022 ACTEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

ACTEN MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Steven Woodside

Retired Administrator from
Columbus High School

Mr. Woodside grew up in Cozad and started teaching technology education after graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The first two years of his career were spent in Elgin and then another eight in Lexington. In 1989, he started teaching at Columbus High School. He went on to serve as the school's assistant principal for six years prior to taking on the role of the school principal in 2009. After 30 years in serving the Columbus Public School District, Steven retired in 2019.

Does an educator truly retire? Columbus High School offers a dual-credit opportunity for the students that want to explore teaching as a possible career. Through Wayne State College STEP program, CHS is offering three classes. Steven Woodside is the instructor for these courses. As quoted in the paper, "He will bring a wealth of knowledge to our students and give them a first-rate opportunity as they begin their educational journey."

Mr. Woodside has served on the ACTEN board as president-elect, president, and past president. Not once, but twice. Steven served as the ACTEN president in 2003-2004. His leadership skills have left a tremendous impact on the board. His commitment to CTE is commendable. He is a strong advocate for CTE by connecting to our members of Congress at the National Policy Seminar and serving as a delegate to the Assembly of Delegates at the ACTE national convention.

Steven's passion and dedication to career and technical educational is to be commended. We thank him for his service to and support of career and technical education and ACTEN.

2022 ACTEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

REGION V POST-SECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Eric Knoll

Associate Professor of Practice;
Skilled and Technical Sciences,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Eric Knoll earned his bachelor's degree in Industrial Technology and his master's degree in Vocational Education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He was the District Curriculum Specialist for the Skilled and Technical Sciences program in the Lincoln Public School system for seven years. Additionally, he taught Industrial Technology for 24 years at Lincoln High School in Lincoln, Nebraska before serving at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. He currently serves as an Associate Professor of Practice in charge of the Skilled and Technical Sciences Teaching Option. The STS teaching option is a 2+2 program where the students gain 60 credits towards this bachelor's degree program at the community college and combine those with 60 credit hours earned at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Eric serves as the advisor and coordinator for this unique teacher preparation program.

A colleague writes, "A significant strength of Eric's is his strong relationship and commitment with business and industry which aligns with the Quality CTE Program of Study Framework in the emphasis on Business and Community Partnerships and Work-based

Learning. Eric has singlehandedly raised over \$125,000 from local businesses and industries to support STS pre-service teacher scholarships and paid internships. In my 32-year career as a CTE teacher, teacher educator, and university administrator, I can think of no one else who embodies the passion for teaching and learning in the context of career and technical education combined with the vision of 'CTE for All' as much as Eric Knoll."

2022 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND NATURAL RESOURCES TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Jason Hirschfeld

Jason Hirschfeld is currently completing his 18 year of teaching in Ag Education. Jason teaches 6-12 grades at York High School. He is passionate about educating students and exposing them to the wide range of careers available in the ag industries. Jason is very creative and spends hours thinking and creating pedagogy that is unique for his community, school and students. Jason helped design a program where York was one of the first programs to offer a live animal lab. This lab has over 100 animals which are housed at the school and are incorporated into the curriculum.

In addition, Jason teaches York Middle School, York High School, Adjunct for Southeast Community College as well as serves as the Swine superintendent at the Nebraska State Fair, mentors UNL Student Teachers and serves on the Ag Advisory Board at Concordia University. Jason currently advises Skills USA and FFA at York High School. He proudly advises over 200 students in these organizations. Jason, along with his wife Jennifer, are proud parents of three daughters.

BUSINESS, MARKETING, AND MANAGEMENT TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Tennille Allison

Tennille Allison is the College and Career Readiness Coordinator for Kearney Public Schools. She supervises work-based learning experiences at Kearney High School and coordinates several activities such as mock interviews, job shadows, and college visits. In the past year, she has helped coordinate mock interviews for 300 seniors. With her school's leadership team, she organized a day of college and career readiness experiences for the entire high school of 1550 students. She also continues to teach their Information Technology III course which is dual credit with Central Community College. During her career, she has taught at Humphrey St. Francis Jr.- Sr. High School and Wood River Jr.-Sr. High School. At all three schools, she has served as an FBLA adviser. In FBLA, her members have earned state and national recognitions and awards. She is currently serving as the Nebraska FBLA Board of Directors Chairperson. Besides school, Tennille is married to John Allison. They live in Kearney in a home that was built by students through the Kearney High School Construction Tech course. They enjoy watching and attending sporting

events together. Favorite teams include UNL Cornhuskers, UNK Lopers, Kearney High Bearcats, or watching her nephew or niece in their activities. Other than school, she enjoys reading, crafting, and watching television or movies.

2022 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Dawn Freidrich

Dawn has devoted 34 years of her life teaching business. The past 25 years have been at Wausa Public Schools in Wausa, Nebraska. Throughout her time at Wausa, she has aligned the curriculum to meet state Programs of Study in the Business, Management, and Marketing field along with the Communication and Information Systems career field. In 2011 she connected her Personal Finance class with W!se (Working in Support of Education), a non-profit organization located in New York that provides financial education. My students have done amazingly well on the national test by placing in the top 10 four times and the top 100 seven times.

Dawn began an FBLA chapter in 2000 and truly found her passion for helping students learn the relevance of business education. She has taken several students to the State and National Leadership Conferences. Throughout the years, the chapter has maintained over 80% of its students in grades 9-12 as members.

Dawn has also been involved in numerous professional organizations ranging from NBEA to NSBEA, MPBEA and MBA Research. She has been a presenter at conferences on topics ranging from Personal Finance to Technology.

HUMAN SCIENCES & EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Tonya Stutzman

Tonya Stutzman is a Family and Consumer Science Teacher in Omaha, NE, in the Millard Public School District at Millard Central Middle School. Ms. Stutzman has a passion for keeping bodies healthy through healthy eating and keeping minds healthy through positivity and wellness. This is what led to her training in nursing early on at Northern Arizona University. She later combined her love of nursing with her love of helping others learn, and she received a Masters in Education from Liberty University. Now she teaches others how to live healthy lifestyles through her Foods and Nutrition classes and her school garden that she was able to bring to reality.

Ms. Stutzman sees the value in her curriculum as practical and necessary for students. As a special area educator, she teaches valuable skills for the kitchen and the home, but she also loves to build relationships with students to help them learn other lifetime valuable skills such as coping, understanding life, etc. She is the cross country and volleyball coach as well as leads the FCS club, Garden club and Spirit Crew. She also holds leadership positions within her building. In addition, she mentors staff and students, and represents her building for the teacher union. In her free time, Ms. Stutzman enjoys reading, hiking, traveling, and spending time with her four children, daughter in law, fiancé, and her dogs. Finally, she loves to spend time catching up in the Word and learning how to be a better person in God's eyes every day.

2022 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

SKILLED AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Robert Hjelle

Over 15 years of teaching at Omaha North High Magnet School, Robert Hjelle has taught 8 different math courses and 4 different engineering courses. From Consumer Math to Calculus and Tech EX to Engineering Design and Development, he has used a passion for problem solving to help students develop their own skills and appreciation for challenges. Robert has served his school on the School Improvement Team, Model Schools Transition Team, and MTSSB. Within the Engineering Academy, he has served as the Lead Engineering Teacher, a sponsor for Student Advisory Board, and a member of the Industry Advisory Board. In 2015, he presented at the NCAC Annual Conference on “Teaching English in a Career Academy.” Robert has a passion for bicycling and convinced a fellow teacher to cycle with him across the United States in 2011. He now enjoys shorter rides with his wife and 3 kids.

If you are interested in learning more information on these awards or are interested in nominating yourself or a deserving educator you know for next year, please visit the Nebraska Department of Education CTE Awards website:

<https://www.education.ne.gov/nce/nebraska-career-education-conference/awards/#1623437365194-2859ab90-27bd>

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NEBRASKA CTE EDUCATORS!



It is the policy of the Nebraska Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, age, national origin, or genetic information in its educational programs, admission policies, employment, or other agency programs.

The Nebraska Department of Education recognizes the value of Career & Technical Student Organizations in the personal and professional development of career education students through Nebraska Career Education. Per state statute 79-772-79-775, the Nebraska Department of Education provides financial and administrative support for state leadership and administration of Nebraska CSLEL.

This project was funded through the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V), administered through the Nebraska Department of Education. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the United States Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.