

NEBRASKA CTE VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM 2020

AWARDS PROGRAM



Learning that works
for Nebraska



2020 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

THE ELAINE STUHR LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY AWARD



Kathy Gifford

*Kearney Board of Education,
President*

Kathy Gifford has been named the 2020 recipient of the Elaine Stuhr Leadership and Advocacy Award for Nebraska Career and Technical education. Kathy has continually demonstrated, sustained, exceptional statewide leadership and advocacy for Nebraska Career Education. During her 41-year career in the Family and Consumer Science and Health Science classrooms, she taught in Sutton, Wood River and Kearney. Each school district that Kathy has taught in, has flourished under her strong

leadership, whether it's demonstrated through student's social emotional, and life/career preparation through Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), through her work with Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) where Kathy served as a local Advisor for 41 years and through Future Health Professionals (HOSA) where Kathy served as an Advisor for 14 years. In addition to her local leadership, Kathy led both Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) on both the state and national levels improving each organization in multifaceted ways. The impact that she has cultivated within her students and those that she has touched has been shown through her belief and "living by example" the mission of CTE.

Kathy retired from the classroom in 2014. She continues to be an exceptional, well known and highly respected advocate for CTE through her role as President of the Kearney Public School Board and supervising teacher candidates for UNK. She continues to do volunteer work for FBLA, FCCLA and HOSA and works as a Teammate Mentor and sits on the Buffalo County Community Partners Board of Directors.

2020 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

NCE DISTINGUISHED PARTNER AWARD



Harlan Feather

*Grants and Budget Specialist
Nebraska Department of Education*

Harlan Feather has been named as the recipient of the 2020 Distinguished Individual Partner Award for Nebraska Career and Technical Education. This prestigious award is being presented to Harlan, recognizing him as an essential member of Nebraska Career and Technical Education team. The role Harlan plays is integral to the multifaceted impact that NE CTE has in the State of Nebraska, whether it be his knowledgeable and attentive management of “everything” Perkins, budget development and team fiscal management.

Harlan, a descendent of Nebraska homesteaders, was born and raised in Bridgeport, Nebraska. He received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with an emphasis in accounting, and served as an auditor for the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts until 1989. Since that time, Harlan has been a grants and budget specialist for the Nebraska Department of Education. Among his many roles, Harlan assists with Perkins and federal financial reports for the Career and Technical Education office, which provides grants to career and technical education programs for Nebraska secondary schools and community colleges. He also assists with the budget development for CTE and Career & Technical Student Organizations. In 2008, Harlan was the Department of Education’s, Honorable Mention Employee of the year. In 2015, he was Department of Education Employee of the year. Harlan is an exceptional partner of Nebraska Career and Technical Education and is diligently working behind the scenes, assuring that everything is “accounted” for.

2020 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

NCE DISTINGUISHED BUSINESS PARTNER AWARDS



Common Ground
Distinguished Business Partner

CommonGround is a national movement of farm women who want to share information about farming and the food they grow. In Nebraska there are more than 40 farm women volunteers who are passionate about bridging the knowledge gap between consumers and farmers. CommonGround has hosted educational events showcasing Nebraska food products to Family and Consumer Science (FCS) teachers, providing them with classroom knowledge to take back to their students. Throughout the school year, CommonGround is a frequent presenter to FCS classrooms across the state, teaching students to be knowledgeable consumers, and to base their food purchasing decisions on food production facts, food safety, farm life and their common ground.



**Nebraska Army
National Guard**
Distinguished Business Partner

The Nebraska Army National Guard is an essential partner with Nebraska SkillsUSA. They have been a bronze sponsor for the Nebraska state conference and have coordinated a couple of major competitions – Quiz Bowl, Diesel Technology and Mobile Robotics. They have supplied 30+ contest judges for competitions such as Cabinetmaking, Masonry, Plumbing, Culinary Arts, Diesel, Quiz Bowl, Drone, EMT, Welding, CSI and American Spirit. This partnership is a perfect match as Nebraska Army National Guard have the skilled professionals that is needed at the SkillsUSA State Conference and SkillsUSA has future skilled professionals that the Nebraska Army National Guard looks to share more information with.

2020 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

OUTSTANDING CTE ADMINISTRATOR AWARD



Dr. Jami Jo Thompson

*Norfolk Public Schools,
Superintendent*

Dr. Jami Jo Thompson has served as the Superintendent of Norfolk Public Schools since July 2013, where she has demonstrated a commitment to career and technical education. Under her leadership, Norfolk Public Schools participated in a community-based strategic planning process, which resulted in the implementation of thirteen career academies. Dr. Thompson believes these career academies are critical to the district's mission of "preparing all students to pursue their goals for the future."

Dr. Thompson was also instrumental in a \$1.3 million dollar fundraising effort, which culminated in an addition to the high school for the automotive and welding academies, as well as, new equipment and technology for all thirteen academies.

Dr. Thompson continues to keep the success of this program, and its students, a priority for the Norfolk school district. Since implementation of career academies began at Norfolk High School in 2016, many additional enhancements have been made to this program. Valuable opportunities most recently added to the career academies include; expanded industry certification program that enables graduates to have marketable certifications when seeking employment; Youth Registered Apprenticeship program established through a partnership with Continental and the U.S. Dept of Labor; cooperative effort with Wayne State College to create the STEP (Students to Teachers through Educator Pathways) program that provides a career academy experience, and dual credit learning, for students seeking a future career as a school teacher; addition of a large machinery operator simulator is planned for Fall 2020. This simulator will allow students to learn required skills and safety practices of operating large machinery in a safe virtual environment.

2020 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

OUTSTANDING MIDDLE SCHOOL CTE PROGRAM AWARD



**Wahoo
Middle School**

The Wahoo Middle School Skilled and Technical Sciences program has grown to over 44 middle school students. Along with completing course work these students have all participated in the SkillsUSA Middle School Conference in STEM related competitions. The Wahoo Middle School Skilled and Technical Sciences program introduces and encourages all of its students to pursue life time careers in the trades along with showcasing the vast career opportunities.

OUTSTANDING SECONDARY CTE PROGRAM AWARD



**Wakefield
Public Schools**

Wakefield High School has an extensive Career and Technical Education Program. The CTE program offers a total of 21 different courses for students to take, including two Health Sciences dual credit classes through Northeast Community College. Wakefield CTE staff have worked hard to retain students and provide personal growth opportunities.

The Business Program offers a wide variety of business and technology courses. Certifications are also offered for students to acquire; WISE financial literacy program and Microsoft Office Specialist. The Wakefield Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter has grown to 55 active members this year with 11 students that will compete at State FBLA.

The Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) program offers many courses including dual enrollment opportunities. Students taking FCS are not only learning valuable college & career readiness skills but they have the opportunity to be certified in: CPR, Stop the Bleed, and ServSafe Training. Wakefield Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) chapter has 79 members, 14 competed at State Leadership Conference, and 1 member ran for State Peer Officer Team. In addition to outstanding members the FCCLA chapter has received multiple awards at the state level.

As part of the Wakefield reVISION process the Skills and Technical Sciences (STS) classroom and shop has been updated. The new SkillsUSA chapter has 21 members and 16 competing at State SkillsUSA. STS students have had the opportunity to work on our school's new weight lifting facility as well as attending Wayne State College to learn more about postsecondary STS careers.

2020 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

OUTSTANDING POSTSECONDARY CTE PROGRAM AWARD



Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture

The University of Nebraska College of Technical Agricultural (NCTA) is nestled in southwest rural Nebraska, and is a one of a kind two year national institution with a statewide mission of preparing students for successful Career and Technical Education careers in Agriculture and Natural Resources, Skilled and Technical Science, Health Sciences, Business/Marketing, and other Agribusiness related industries.

NCTA has been a steadfast supporter of CTE education for many decades. Along with impacting numerous FFA members through the countless events and competitions that have been sponsored and supported on its campus located in Curtis Nebraska. NCTA serves as a foundation point and economic driver in southwest Nebraska serving the region as a provider of continued education in advanced agribusiness. NCTA graduating students are highly sought after within the agricultural industry due to their advanced technical agricultural education. NCTA is known for its affordable tuition, high job-placement rate for graduates, and for the success of student teams in competitive activities. The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture is consistently ranked as one of the best two-year schools in the nation.

OUTSTANDING RULE 47 CAREER ACADEMY PROGRAM AWARD



Burke High School Aviation Academy

YOU.
CAN.
FLY.

According to Aviation Week, Boeing estimates that 790,000 pilots will be needed in the next 20 years. The numbers are similar for aviation mechanics, controllers and managers. Growing since 2011 and serving 200 students from diverse backgrounds, Burke Air and Space has been working to enter this dynamic field. Students can choose from three academic pathways leading to future careers in aviation – Flight, Aviation Mechanics, and Aerospace Technology. Academy students are members of a learning community who share common core classes taught through the lens of aviation. Through partnerships with the Nebraska-Omaha Aviation Institute and local businesses such as Jet Linx and Duncan Aviation, students can start their career in high school through internships and dual enrollment opportunities. Academy students can also be involved in activities and organizations associated with aviation. This last year, Southwest Airlines flew our private pilot students to Dallas to visit their training facility. Each day this program is fulfilling the mission of creating the next generation of aviation industry leaders by challenging all students with real world experiences and rewarding opportunities that extend beyond the horizon of the classroom.

2020 ACTEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

ACTEN BUSINESS TEACHER OF THE YEAR, ACTEN CTE TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Jodi Dierks

*BMIT instructor, Omaha
Central High School*

Ms. Dierks continually strives to implement high-quality CTE programs and is constantly encouraging the BMIT programs to evolve and change as needed. During her tenure at Omaha Central High School as BMIT department head, she was instrumental in the creation, implementation and development of business partnerships proving to have a strong impact on her students and their futures.

ACTEN POSTSECONDARY TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Janet Stalder

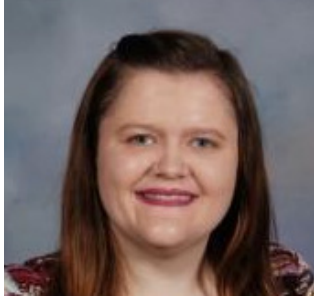
*Business Instructor,
McCook Community College*

Mrs. Stalder currently serves as a faculty member at McCook Community College. Throughout her stellar teaching career, she has taught in a variety of business areas including Accounting/Business, Business Technology and Computer Science. She also serves as co-advisor of the local Phi Beta Lambda and was named to its national Wall of Fame in 2005, and Nebraska's in 2016.

"Janet is one of the finest examples of a true professional in higher education." -**MCC Department Chair**

2020 ACTEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

ACTEN NEW TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Miranda Bright

*FCS Teacher,
Crete High School*

Ms. Bright is committed and passionate about teaching FCS education and advising FCCLA. Her philosophy of teaching centers around experiential learning through engaging strategies. Ms. Bright demonstrates innovation in her classrooms via technology and gamification, keeping all students learning for more. She holds her students to high expectations and they deliver! She currently serves on the FCSTN public relations committee.

ACTEN MEMBER OF THE YEAR



Kathleen Kennedy

*FCS Teacher,
Central Valley High School*

Mrs. Kennedy has been a strong leader and advocate for FCS and CTE throughout her entire career. She has served as the FCCLA advisor for the past 29 years, FCCLA Board of Directors for 6, and has diligently served on the ESU 7 CTE Coordinators Advisory Council for the past 15 years. Her dedication and commitment to ACTEN during the past 15 years has been commendable. Kathleen is a rock in the foundation of FCS and FCCLA in Nebraska.

2020 ACTEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

ACTEN ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR



Brandy Thompson

*Secondary Principal,
Sutton High School*

Ms. Thompson joined Sutton Public Schools in Sutton, NE in 2010 as Secondary Principal. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Education degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, a master's degree in Educational Leadership from Doane University in Crete, and is currently working towards an Educational Specialist degree also through Doane University. She has leadership experience as a teacher, an Assistant Principal whose duties also included the titles of K-12 Curriculum Coordinator and District School Improvement lead, and is in her 10th year in her current role as Secondary Principal where in addition to her many hats, is also the CTE Coordinator for her district.

Her CTE staff writes, *"The impact she has had on teachers and students has been outstanding. Her commitment to professionalism, energy, and ability to lead us at Sutton has made it a joy to work with her. Career Education is Ms. Thompson's passion. With Ms. Thompson's lead and guidance, we have established the Sutton Career pathways Program at Sutton Public Schools."* Ms. Thompson will be joining Yutan Public Schools as the Secondary Principal this coming school year.

2020 BEYOND SCHOOL BELLS AWARDS



Beyond School Bells

nebraskachildren

The Beyond Schools Bells Program promotes Career and Technical Student Organizations to participate in their community afterschool programs, to raise awareness, and to create excitement about different careers to the students participating in the afterschool program. We want to congratulate the following schools on receiving the \$500 Beyond School Bells Grants.



Lincoln Public Schools,
The Career Academy, FFA



Litchfield Public Schools, **FBLA**



Omaha Public Schools,
King Science & Technology
Magnet Middle School, **HOSA**



Southern Valley School District, **FCCLA**

2020 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND NATURAL RESOURCES TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY:



Nebraska FFA
Foundation



Melissa Bonifas

*Ag Education and Science
Teacher, Blue Hill School*

Melissa Bonifas currently teaches Agriculture Education at Blue Hill Community Schools. In her 20th year of instruction, she also serves as an FFA Advisor to over 65 members in the local FFA program. Melissa received her B.S. degree in Agriculture Education with an endorsement in Biology from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 2000. She received her M.S in Biology from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 2006. She began her teaching career at Blue Hill Community Schools in 2000, and continues to teach there today. The Agriculture Education program at Blue Hill ranges from animal science and plant science to welding and small engines.

In 2014, the chapter raised money and built a greenhouse where students have the opportunity to learn about plant science with hands on learning experiences, and participate in a plant sale every spring. Melissa's students experience success as they develop and apply essential science, mathematics, language, and technical skills to agriculture and real life. Melissa received the NAAE Outstanding Teacher of the Year in 2010. In 2014, she won the Region III Ideas Unlimited Award for best new idea in Agriculture Education. She then presented her idea at The National Agriculture Educators Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 2016, she received the NAAE Outstanding Agriculture Teacher Mentor Award for her work with student teachers and younger members.

Both Melissa and her husband, Troy, are Nebraska natives. They have two children, Aidyn and Justin. They enjoy all of the activities that their children participate in, especially the FFA program, which Aidyn was able to join this year. They are also very involved in their church where Melissa began a youth group last year for students in 7th through 12th grade.

2020 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

BUSINESS, MARKETING, AND MANAGEMENT TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY: **NBA** Nebraska Bankers Association



Jan Osborn
*Business Teacher,
Sargent Public Schools*

Jan Osborn has been with Sargent Public Schools for thirteen years as the business teacher, however, she was a student in those same halls the same amount of time. The students she teaches know that she cares about them and their future. She was instrumental in starting a Career Exploration day for 7-12th grade students, teaches four dual-credit classes, and supervises seniors in meaningful internship opportunities. Jan is a life-long learner that is always eager to try something new in her classes that will help her students and their future.

She especially enjoys projects and sees the benefit of student-run entrepreneurship opportunities. Sargent FBLA and her Entrepreneurship classes have run a school store- The Wolf Den (which has been open almost ten years), runs a healthy snack vending machine, and recently opened a coffee shop, called S'Cool Beans. She belongs to several professional organizations, but is especially proud to be on the FBLA Board of Directors and the NSBEA board and serves as the Secretary of both. She is passionate about community, especially her community and is very involved in Sargent. Not only does her husband and their family own the local packing plant, but Jan and her husband Mike recently bought an old building in Sargent that years ago was a hotel and they are working on restoring it.

2020 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY:



NEBRASKA
TECH COLLABORATIVE

An Aksarben workforce initiative.



Tennille Allison
*Business and Technology Teacher
Kearney High School*

For the past 17 years, Tennille has served as a business and technology educator as well as FBLA Adviser. She currently teaches at Kearney High School where she considers herself a bridge for students from high school to post-secondary experiences or the workforce. Most recently, she has been engaged in revitalizing the work-based learning programs at Kearney High School. She has become a key piece to the implementation of these vital experiences for students. In this role, she oversees and coordinates student placement in both our Cooperative Education and Internship programs and serves over 100 students through the various ELO programs.

She has worked to develop countless partnerships with local businesses and serves as a support, mentor and liaison to our students and their employers. Her efforts allow her to shape students' learning and guide them toward a successful transition after high school. In addition to serving in these roles, Tennille is a cornerstone of the College and Career Readiness work at Kearney High School. She is a constant champion for all areas of CTE and is well respected by her peers as a leader in the field. Kearney High School, her students and the state of Nebraska is better for having her serve our students and prepare them for a vastly changing career field.

2020 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

HEALTH SCIENCES TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY:



Robyn Jernigan
*Health/Physical Education
Teacher, Benson High School*

Robyn has taught a full Health Science program of study at Benson High School in Omaha since 2008. She entered into the world of CTE by way of her Physical Education Degree and as a Certified Athletic Trainer. As the HOSA | Future Health professionals advisor Robyn has mentored state officers and members representing Benson's highly culturally diverse student population. She is a part of the Teacher Research Partnership Program at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. She is proud to have made an impact on students and helping them find a passion to diver their future career path. Robyn and her husband Michael have been married for almost 14 years and have three awesome kids, Gable(12), Gibson(9) and Griffey(7).

2020 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

HUMAN SCIENCES AND EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY:



Jamie Batterman
FACS/HSE Teacher
Scottsbluff High School

“Every Child, Every Day.” Those four words had a profound effect, reinvigorating the passion in Jamie Batterman’s heart that led her to a career in education. Jamie is a proud FaCS/HSE teacher at Scottsbluff High School over the past 10 years and is currently the SHS CTE department chair. She began her teaching career at Leyton Public Schools in 2006 on a provisional teaching endorsement, at that time she had the opportunity to become an FCCLA advisor and witnessed the benefits of CTSO’s for Nebraska students. In 2015 she took a position at Scottsbluff High School during the implementation stage of the career academy program.

She was eager to work with like-minded individuals who are passionate about CTE. She serves as the CTE Department chair and participates in a number of leadership opportunities. Her peers would say that she is a passionate advocate for CTE programming, and that she believes in networking, cooperation, collaboration and relationship building are significant keys to CTE successes.

2020 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

SKILLED AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES TEACHER OF THE YEAR

SPONSORED BY:



Jesse Zweep
*STS Teacher,
Louisville Public Schools*

Jesse teaches Skilled and Technical Science at Louisville Public Schools. He has been teaching automotive, welding, small engines and been the SkillsUSA advisor for 14 years. Jesse is originally from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He graduated from Wayne State College in 2005 with his bachelors in education and then in 2009 with his masters in education. Jesse also earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Peru State College in 2018. Jesse taught one year at North High School in Sioux City, IA before teaching at Louisville Public Schools. Jesse is active with SkillsUSA Nebraska, where he has been the state officer advisor for 10 years.

Jesse is also on the SkillsUSA Nebraska board of directors, and has been a past board chair. Jesse was the SkillsUSA Nebraska advisor of the year in 2013.

Jesse currently lives in Louisville with his amazing wife Jaime, who owns her own salon. Three beautiful daughters Macee, Preslee and Livee, who enjoy gymnastics, and is a proud dad of each of his girls' accomplishments and awards in gymnastics. When time allows, Jesse and his family enjoy spending time at the Lake or the Ozarks boating, jet skiing and relaxing with family.

2020 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

THE RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR
OF THE YEAR OVERALL WINNER

SPONSORED BY:



Spanning over several decades, Rich Katt, former Director of Nebraska Career and Technical Education, maintained a loud and distinctive voice resulting in action. Action that brought forth the significance of CTE education throughout the Nation. The Rich Katt Outstanding CTE Educator Award is awarded annually to a Nebraska CTE Educator, who has shown in exemplary fashion, passion resulting in action, for Career and Technical Education.

The winning educator from each career field will be awarded \$1,000 that has been generously donated by our sponsors. The Richard Katt Outstanding Nebraska Career Educator has been selected through an interview process at the Nebraska Career Education Conference and will receive an additional \$2,500 donated by Allo Communication.

2020 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

THE RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR
OF THE YEAR OVERALL WINNER

Jesse Zweep

STS Teacher, Louisville Public Schools



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.