

2021



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

AWARDS PROGRAM



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2021 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

Elaine Stuhr Leadership And Advocacy Award



Lloyd Bell

Professor Emeritus, (ALEC),
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Lloyd Bell is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication (ALEC) at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Lloyd began his career as an instructor of vocational agriculture in West Point, NE. He has been a faculty member in the College of Agricultural & Natural Resources (CASNR) since 1979.

Dr. Bell taught and advised extensively in the teacher preparation and instructional delivery program of ALEC. He coordinated both traditional as well as provisional agricultural education teacher endorsement programs.

Within the undergraduate curriculum, he specialized in program planning instruction and professional practice.

In 2019 he received the University of Nebraska system President's Outstanding Teaching and Instructional Creativity Award of Excellence.

Lloyd has served as vice-president for the American Association for Agricultural Education North Central region as well as president of the AAAE. He has received recognition from the North Central Region of AAAE as an Outstanding Agricultural Educator and for Distinguished Teaching. He has achieved the status of Senior Fellow within the AAAE recognizing his exceptional and sustained contributions to agricultural education.

2021 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

NCE Distinguished Partner Award



Scott Volk

Vice President, COO,
MetalQuest Unlimited INC

Mr. Volk is a vocal supporter of CTE education in the state of Nebraska and every year speaks to several groups of CTE students about the exciting careers in manufacturing and the importance of Skilled and Technical Science careers.

Scott's involvement includes the Academy of Technical Sciences in Grand Island and helping to create the NCAPS Advanced Manufacturing pathway at South Central Unified. Scott has worked with Thayer Central on a partnership program where students take manufacturing classes at MetalQuest. He has also worked with Thayer

Central and Deshler Public schools on job-shadowing programs. He is currently working with Thayer Central on internship possibilities for local businesses connected to the CTE programs.

Scott serves as an advisor for the NCAPS Advanced Manufacturing pathway at South Central Unified, the Academy of Technical Sciences in Grand Island, the Precision Machining & Automation and Manufacturing Engineering programs at Southeast Community College, and the Advanced Manufacturing Design Program at Central Community College.

2021 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

NCE Distinguished Business Partners Awards

BHECN | BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
EDUCATION CENTER
OF NEBRASKA

**Behavioral Health
Education Center of
Nebraska**

BHECN was created in 2009 when the Nebraska legislature passed LB 603 to address the statewide crisis in mental health access. Since then, BHECN has received two national awards and is considered a best practice for innovative programs to recruit and retain licensed mental health professionals in rural and urban communities. Housed at UNMC, BHECN has a unique partnership with all of the graduate behavioral health training programs in Nebraska and is dedicated to improving access to behavioral health care across the state.

 **NEBRASKA COUNCIL ON
ECONOMIC EDUCATION**

**Nebraska Council on
Economic Education**

The mission of the Nebraska Council on Economic Education is to lead a statewide initiative to advance economic and financial literacy. NCEE believes students should be financially literate and develop economic ways of thinking that they can use in their lives as consumers, savers, investors, members of the workforce, responsible citizens, and effective participants in the state, national, and global economy.

2021 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

NCE Outstanding Administrative Leader Award



Dr. John Skretta

Administrator, ESU 6

Dr. Skretta is the Administrator for Educational Service Unit Six which serves 16 school districts across five counties in Southeast Nebraska. Dr. Skretta has been a K-12 school administrator for over two decades and has been a school district superintendent, assistant superintendent, high school principal and began as a high school English teacher. He was the 2017 NCSA Superintendent of the Year.

Dr. Skretta helps oversee administration of the ESU 6 Perkins consortium, which has developed an innovative work-based

learning initiative through a cooperative effort with Seward County Economic Development, and has initiated enhanced partnerships with post-secondary institutions and businesses in the service area through ESU 6's affiliation with the York/Thayer/Seward Counties Manufacturing Partnership facilitated by SCC.

2021 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

Outstanding Middle School Program Award



**Columbus
Middle School**

The Columbus Middle School STEM program is a comprehensive program for all 5th through 8th grade students. The STEM program focuses on the design process to solve problems in the areas of engineering, electronics, manufacturing, architecture and robotics.

Students explore different areas of STEM in each grade level which allows students to learn about careers within the Columbus community, gain technical skills, and learn how to use various kinds of equipment.

In 5th and 6th grade students are exploring STEM through the units of robotics, design, drafting, manufacturing, electronics and flight. In 7th grade Discovering STEM, students build trebuchets, create 3D modeling, and design and build scale model floor plans for homes. 8th grade Investigate STEM through mousetrap cars, programming VEX robotics and the assembly of parts in Solidworks.

Students apply their math and science skills, and work collaboratively to improve communication, creativity and critical thinking skills. The benefits of the STEM courses go beyond academic skills and teaches the skills needed for potential careers.

2021 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

Outstanding Secondary CTE Program Award



Pathways 2 Tomorrow

For five years the Pathways 2 Tomorrow or P2T consortium has offered career and technical education (CTE) classes to high school students within five career pathways: building construction, computer sciences, education, health sciences, and welding. Students may also enroll in classes to earn their Commercial Driving License (CDL). As part of the P2T consortium the Northeast Community College extended campus in West Point has offered classes for two years. All the programs offered through P2T are aligned to ensure transferability to all Nebraska public postsecondary institutions.

P2T, is facilitated through Educational Service Unit (ESU) #2 and includes seven-member schools: Bancroft-Rosalie, Emerson-Hubbard, Guardian Angels Central Catholic (West Point), Howells-Dodge, Lyons Decatur Northeast, Oakland-Craig, and West Point-Beemer.

Outstanding Postsecondary CTE Program Award



Metropolitan Community College's Early Childhood Program has a long-standing commitment to preparing students for the early childhood workforce. Using an innovative path forward approach in educating students, the program has developed several avenues for students to advance their careers while earning college credit toward an associate degree in early childhood education. Congratulations, NCE looks forward to continuing building this valuable relationship!

2021 NEBRASKA EXCELLENCE IN CAREER EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

Outstanding Rule 47 Career Academy Program Award



Benson High School Magnet Academies

Benson High School Magnet's academy focuses on three factors: high demand, high wage, and high skill employment. Benson High School Magnet's academy is the only wall-to-wall academy high school in the Omaha Public Schools district engaging students through programs of study that range from business management and marketing to construction, architecture, and digital design; the nursing and medical healthcare field, human performance, and meeting the rising need for teachers. Every program includes options for student skills, appropriate certifications, and college credit opportunities.

The Benson High School Magnet's Freshman Academy and Health Professions Academy were recognized by the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC) as a "model status" academy for the gold standard level of success. Students are offered connections with professionals beginning in the 10th grade and culminating in mentoring and internship opportunities as seniors. Students are offered the experience of running their own school store, accessing the CNA and Pharmacy Technician certifications or experiencing the work force through community board members including Turner Construction and local trade unions.

2021 ACTEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

ACTEN CTE Teacher of the Year Award, Trade and Industrial Education Teacher of the Year Award



Ronald Haefner

Trade and Industrial Education Teacher,
Columbus Public Schools

Ron's principal says, "As an educator, Mr. Haefner is one of the most knowledgeable educators in his field. He is constantly looking for ways to increase the knowledge of the students through techniques and technology. With the help of local industry partners and Columbus Public Schools, Mr. Haefner was able to design an automotive lab that houses some of the most advanced technology and equipment available to automotive education."

ACTEN Family and Consumer Sciences Education Teacher of the Year Award



Michelle Galles

Family and Consumer Sciences
Education Teacher,
Wakefield Community Schools

For 7 years, Michelle Galles has been teaching Family and Consumer Sciences Education at Wakefield Community Schools.

Michelle has served as the FCCLA District Adviser, FCCLA District STAR Coordinator, Nebraska FCCLA Board of Directors and serves on a committee for Family Consumer Sciences Teachers of Nebraska FCSTN. Michelle's FCCLA chapter of 70 members have competed at the district, state and national level along with receiving numerous awards and recognition from Nebraska State FCCLA. Michelle has also continued to work with pre-service college students from Wayne State College (WSC), and has supervised three student teachers.

2021 ACTEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

ACTEN Postsecondary Teacher of the Year Award



Eric Knoll

Skilled and Technical
Sciences Teacher,
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Eric Knoll 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+(plus)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.

Eric has singlehandedly raised over \$125,000 from local businesses and industries to support STS pre-service teacher scholarships and paid internships. He embodies the passion for teaching and learning in the context of career and technical education combined with the vision of 'CTE for All'.

ACTEN CTE Administrator of the Year Award



Daniel Phillips

Director of Innovation for Career &
College Readiness,
Grand Island Public Schools

Daniel Phillips is the Director of Innovation for Career & College Readiness for Grand Island Public Schools, responsible for the Academies of Grand Island Senior High, all career and technical education programs, and dual education partnerships within the district. He is responsible for all curriculum implementation as well as managing partnerships for all CTE programs.

Dan currently serves as the past-president of the Association for Career and Technical Education of Nebraska and serves on the Nebraska Career Academy Advisory committee to help establish and monitor Career Academy standards statewide.

The Grand Island Public Schools superintendent states that because of Dan's work in research and data, this ultimately led to all students receiving dual credit classes at no cost. GPIS is indebted to having him on the team!

2021 ACTEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

ACTEN Counseling and Career Development Professional of the Year Award



Ronda Ras

School Counselor,
Bancroft-Rosalie
Community Schools

With 27 years at Bancroft-Rosalie, Ronda Ras now serves as the school counselor, teaches two dual-credit English courses, junior high career readiness, and the senior advisory classes.

She serves on the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Team, the High School Multi-Tiered System of Support Team, the regional Psychological First Aid for Schools Committee, the Pathways 2 Tomorrow Counselors' Group, the Habitudes for Career Ready Students Leadership Committee, and the Career Readiness School Improvement Committee.

A colleague states that witnessing the transformation of CTE within the Bancroft-Rosalie School is because of Rhonda's dedication and long-term vision that helps students focus on their future!

2021 ACTEN TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

ACTEN New Teacher of the Year Award



Rachel Hruza

Family and Consumer
Sciences Teacher,
North Star High School

Rachel Hruza is part of the Family and Consumer Sciences Department staff at North Star High School. She currently teaches Infants & Toddlers, Lifespan Development, Preschool & School Age Child, and Families & Crises. Rachel is passionate about creating innovative FCS curriculum, influential relationship building activities, and creative instructional practices.

A teammate describes Rachel as dynamic and powerful; who knows how to create lessons that help motivate and inspire students to strive for excellence; and has a way of making learning fun!

ACTEN Member of the Year Award



Debra Ziegler

Retired Teacher/Director of Alumni
Development / HOSA,
Ralston High School

Debra has served for 37 years at Ralston High School. From 1993-2012, Debra served as the State HOSA Adviser. As the State HOSA Advisor, she coordinated state-wide events; three state conferences, travel to National Conferences and coordinated the leadership training for state officers.

Debra has developed the Medical Sciences Academy and the Health Sciences pathway for Ralston High School. As Director of Alumni Development for Nebraska HOSA, she developed a data base of health science/HOSA members.

2021 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Teacher of the Year Award

SPONSORED BY:



Nebraska FFA
Foundation



David Gibbens

Ag Education Teacher/ FFA,
West Holt Public Schools

Since 1990, David Gibbens has taught ag and FFA at West Holt Public Schools. Gibbens has integrated science into the curriculum through the use of CASE Curriculum. Serving as a CASE Lead Teacher, Gibbens helps to certify teachers across the country in the use of Natural Resources and Agribusiness courses. ing and small engines.

In 2020, Gibbens converted the CASE teacher workshops to a virtual format. West Holt students use an inquiry based approach and experimentation to explore all areas of agriculture. As the advisor for the West Holt FFA, Gibbens has trained 50 state winning teams, two state presidents, and 2 National Star Finalists.

School Based Enterprises have recently been added to the West Holt program in order to provide greater work experience for students. Both a greenhouse production and laser cutting business have been added for students to gain new business experiences.

Gibbens is a member of the NAEA and has served on the board of directors since 1994

Thank you to The FFA Foundation for sponsoring this award.

2021 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

Business, Marketing, and Management Teacher of the Year Award

SPONSORED BY: **NBA** Nebraska Bankers Association



Dawn Danauskas
Business Marketing and
Management Teacher,
Bellevue East High School

Dawn Danauskas has a passion for guiding her students to become outstanding business leaders. Dawn partners with co-workers, DECA Advisors, administrators, and business professionals, both locally and nationally, to bring her students the best business experiences possible. After earning her degree in Business Management and Marketing and spending two decades working in Corporate Retailing and Management, Dawn understands what her students will face in both the post-secondary classroom and the business world. After working in Industry, Dawn returned to the college classroom to earn her Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and BMIT endorsement.

Dawn's passion for teaching and business began early in life when she would find local neighborhood children that would play school and store with her after they had just come home from school and even on the weekends! Dawn's passion for business continued at Papillion-LaVista High School where she was a DECA member, State DECA Champion in Marketing Management and National Top 21 finalist. After college, Dawn became a DECA mentor and judged State DECA for twenty-two years. Dawn is currently serving in her tenth year as a DECA Advisor. She has helped over seventy-five students qualify to compete at DECA's International Career Development Conference. She especially enjoys seeing her students work with local businesses and nonprofit organizations to raise awareness, donations, and improve business practices for the betterment of the entire community.

Dawn has served as the Business Department Chair at Bellevue East High School for the past four years, where she is in her tenth year of teaching. Dawn has taught all Nebraska Business and Marketing courses as well as MBA Research's High School of Business Program courses. Dawn is excited to prepare students for the ever changing and challenging world we are faced with today!

We want to thank the Nebraska Bankers Association for Sponsoring this award.

2021 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

Communication and Information Systems Teacher of the Year Award

SPONSORED BY:



NEBRASKA
TECH COLLABORATIVE

An Aksarben workforce initiative.



Kristeen Shabram

Communication and Information
Systems Teacher,
Westside Middle School

For 17 years, Kristeen Shabram has taught Business and Technology teacher at Westside Middle School in Omaha. She currently teaches 7th grade Business and Technology and 8th grade Digital Media and Literacy.

In addition to teaching, Kristeen assists administrators and counselors at Westside Middle School with scheduling students in the student information system. Kristeen sponsors a Girls Who Code Club, is a member of her schools Design Team and Career Education Committee, is the school webmaster, and is a member of the Westside Community Schools Computer Science Toolbox Committee.

Professionally, Kristeen is a member of the Nebraska State Business Education Association, the Nebraska Educational Technology Association, and the Computer Science Teachers Association. She is currently serving as past president of the Metro Omaha CSTA Chapter, as one of the K-8 Representatives on the National CSTA Board of Directors, and is a member of the CSTA Annual Conference Planning Committee.

We want to thank the Nebraska Tech Collaborative for Sponsoring this Award.

2021 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

Health Sciences Teacher of the Year Award

SPONSORED BY:



nebraska
health care association

advocate. educate. support.



Jen Harre

Health Sciences Teacher,
Scottsbluff High School

Jen Harre is an instructor in the Scottsbluff High School (SHS) Health Science Career Academy. She has been a Registered Nurse for twenty-two years. Prior to teaching, Jen worked at Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Medical/Oncology/Stroke care unit. She then worked as a school nurse in both the Scottsbluff and Gering School Districts.

For 5 years, Jen's has taught Health Sciences including Project Lead the Way Medical Interventions and Principles of Biomedical Sciences. Jen also serves as an adjunct instructor for Western Nebraska Community College and teaches the Dual Credit classes of Medical Terminology, Basic Nursing Assistant and Medication Aide.

Jen is the HOSA Future Health Professional Co-Advisor for the Scottsbluff High School Chapter which has 81 members. Their HOSA chapter assisted Team Ashtyn with Childhood Cancer Awareness month, hosted an Aid Station at the Monument Marathon, and volunteered at the Regional West Medical Center Flu Shot Clinic. In addition, they assisted in putting 32 snack baskets together for Community Healthcare Providers, have been volunteering at COVID vaccine clinics and are planning a Blood Drive.

Jen has a passion for introducing Health Sciences and mentoring students as future healthcare professionals. She knows that these students will be taking care of her and her family in the future.

2021 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

Human Sciences and Education Teacher of the Year Award



Michelle Galles

Human Sciences and
Education Teacher,
Wakefield Community Schools

For 7 years, Michelle Galles has been teaching Family and Consumer Sciences Education at Wakefield Community Schools. Michelle holds an endorsement in Health Sciences.

Michelle has served as the FCCLA District Adviser, FCCLA District STAR Coordinator, Nebraska FCCLA Board of Directors and serves on a committee for Family Consumer Sciences Teachers of Nebraska FCSTN. Michelle's FCCLA chapter of 70 members have competed at the district, state and national level along with receiving numerous awards and recognition from Nebraska State FCCLA.

In the past 9 years of teaching, Michelle has taught; Child Development, Early Childhood Practicum, Culinary Arts, Nutrition, Medical Terminology (college credit), Health Careers, Fashion & Interior Design, Junior High FCS, Freshman Health and Adult Living.

Michelle currently teaches over 120 students.

Michelle has continued to work with pre-service college students from Wayne State College (WSC), and has supervised three student teachers.

In addition, for three years Michelle taught as an adjunct professor for the WSC Family & Consumer Sciences department.

2021 RICH KATT CTE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

Skilled and Technical Sciences Teacher of the Year Award

SPONSORED BY:



AGC
NEBRASKA BUILDING CHAPTER
THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION



AGC
NEBRASKA CHAPTER



Matt Hurt

Skilled and Technical
Sciences Teacher,
Hastings Senior High School

For 13 years, Matt Hurt has taught the advanced manufacturing and welding at Hastings Senior high school.

Matt has been very involved with leading students into local industries by creating major partnerships between employers and students. He is a founding member of Hastings local Manufacturing Pathway Advisory Team. This team strives to provide manufacturing students with a pathway from exceptional classrooms to a career of excellence in manufacturing.

Matt is the lead advisor of the Hastings SkillsUSA chapter averaging 35-40 students, annually.

Hastings SkillsUSA chapter is very successful having multiple placers and champions at the state level and a continuous presence at the national level with 5 National placers.

We want to wish these winners the best of luck. Please tune in tomorrow at 12:45pm to find out the overall winner.

We want to thank The Associated General Contractors-Nebraska Chapter and the Nebraska Building Chapter-Associated General Contractors for sponsoring this award.

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.

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