

Kentucky Farm Bureau

2024 Career Technical Education Awards

The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) participates in the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) national awards program to promote excellence in Career and Technical Education. The **Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation** sponsors the annual Career and Technical Education (CTE) Awards, which seek to recognize:

- ☞ individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the field;
- ☞ programs that exemplify the highest standards; and
- ☞ organizations that have conducted activities to promote and expand Career and Technical Education programs.



KACTE conducts the awards program, which is organized under the guidelines established by ACTE. There are 13 award categories, each with various criteria and eligibility requirements. KACTE members and individual program areas are encouraged to participate each year by submitting nominations to the KACTE Awards Committee chair. The Awards Committee reviews the nominees and selects the winners. Information on awards, the criteria, and the nominations process may be viewed on-line at the KACTE website, www.kyacte.org in the membership section or at www.acteonline.org.

KACTE award winners are entered into the appropriate ACTE national award category for the following administrative year. In recent years, several KACTE members have been recognized nationally, including:

- ★ 2024 ACTE National Career and Technical Teacher Educator of the Year finalist Angela Gott, professor, Western Kentucky University.
- ★ 2023 ACTE National New Career and Technical Teacher of the Year finalist Tara Poe, agriculture teacher, Bourbon County High School.
- ★ 2022 ACTE National New Career and Technical Teacher of the Year Ashley Rogers, agriculture teacher, Nicholas County High School.
- ★ 2021 ACTE National Carl Perkins Community Service Award winner Tammy Camel, family and consumer sciences teacher, Rockcastle County High School.
- ★ 2020 ACTE National Career and Technical Administrator of the Year Laura Arnold, Director of Workforce Development, Nelson County Schools; and Lifetime Achievement Award finalist Doris Sikora, Ph.D., professor, Western Kentucky University.
- ★ 2019 ACTE National New CTE Teacher of the Year finalist Bethany K. Mattingly, agriculture teacher, Seneca High School, Jefferson County, and ACTE Carl Perkins Community Service Award finalist Rosemary O. Jones, family and consumer sciences teacher, Bell County High School.
- ★ 2018 ACTE National CTE Teacher of the Year finalist J. Wes York, agriculture teacher, Caldwell County High School.
- ★ 2017 ACTE National CTE Teacher of the Year Sarah Raikes, family and consumer sciences teacher, Washington County High School, and ACTE National New CTE Teacher of the Year Jacob Scott Ball, agriculture teacher, Locust Trace Agriscience High School, Fayette County.
- ★ 2016 ACTE Champion of the Year Terry Holliday, Ph.D., former Kentucky Commissioner of Education and a leader in promoting Career and Technical Education throughout the United States.

- ★ 2013 ACTE National Career and Technical Educator of the Year Tony Brannon, Ph.D., Dean, Hutson School of Agriculture, Murray State University.
- ★ 2011 ACTE National Outstanding Teacher in Community Service finalist Phyllis Sweatt, family and consumer sciences teacher, Bowling Green High School.
- ★ 2010 ACTE National CTE Educator of the Year finalist Dale Winkler, Ed.D., then principal, Montgomery County Area Technology Center; formerly Associate Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education and Kentucky CTE State Director.
- ★ 2009 ACTE National CTE Educator of the Year finalist Ginny Ellington, University of Kentucky, and ACTE National Teacher of the Year finalist Ellie Pribble, health science technology, Harrison County Area Technology Center;
- ★ 2007 ACTE National CTE Teacher of the Year Leslie Watkins, family and consumer sciences teacher, Reidland High School;
- ★ 2001: Sarah Raikes, family and consumer sciences teacher, Washington County High School, was the first recipient of the ACTE Outstanding Teacher in Community Service Award (now the Carl Perkins Community Service Award); Donnalie Stratton, Program Consultant, Kentucky Department of Education, Office of Career and Technical Education, received the Carl D. Perkins Humanitarian Award, then one of the highest honors bestowed by ACTE; and Sandra Miller, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, University of Kentucky, received an ACTE Outstanding Service Award.

In 2024, KACTE presents state winners in seven categories:

- Counseling and Career Development Professional Award*
- Career and Technical New Teacher of the Year*
- Carl Perkins Community Service Award*
- Business-Education Partnership Award*
- Career and Technical Administrator of the Year*
- Lifetime Achievement and Hall of Fame Award*
- Career and Technical Teacher of the Year*

KACTE expresses its sincere thanks to the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation for the support that makes these awards possible year after year.

Vanessa Ruda

COUNSELING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL AWARD

Throughout the duration of her 17 year public education career, Dr. Ruda has worked to promote college and career readiness and provide work-based learning opportunities. Over these many years, she has consistently and effectively provided timely information to students about navigating their transition from high school to college or career. She has provided college and career counseling to students and their parents, assisted them with applications for college admissions and jobs, guided them through scholarship applications, and conducted dozens of visits to colleges and universities.

In addition, Dr. Ruda has managed the College and Career Readiness course and its accompanying work-based learning experiences for more than 2,000



Vanessa Ruda

students during her tenure at the Jessamine Career Technology Center. Annually, the number of students participating in this work-based learning program has grown from 97 in the 2007-2008 school year, to 259 in 2023-2024. Dr. Ruda obtained her Doctorate of Educational Leadership in 2016, which culminated in her dissertation addressing the impact of Career and Technical Education Student Organizations (CTSOs), gender, parental education level, and socioeconomic position on the Kentucky Occupational Skills Standards Assessment. She is an ardent advocate for CTSOs, and proved through her research they play a statistically significant impact on student achievement.

CATHERINE POOLE

CAREER AND TECHNICAL NEW TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Catherine Poole

Catherine Poole has been an agriculture teacher at Franklin-Simpson Middle School for the last four years. Coming in during COVID, she understood the importance of getting students involved. Ms. Poole piloted her FFA chapter in 2020. She empowers students by teaching them to apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings, fostering a deeper understanding of agricultural concepts. By engaging students in community service projects, such as Operation Christmas Child and donation drives for local animal shelters, she works to instill a sense of civic responsibility and encouraged students to make a positive impact beyond the classroom in ways they are passionate.

Ms. Poole has served as the Kentucky Middle School Agriculture Advisory Committee Chair, middle school agriculture professional development facilitator, pre-service teacher agriculture education workshop facilitator, mentor of pre-service teachers, and she led the pilot program for a new middle school agriculture curriculum.

She encourages her students to apply for scholarships and grants available to them through the FFA. By learning how to effectively write and apply for this funding now, these students can use their experience in high school to get scholarships to fund post-secondary education, and earn more FFA grants. Ms. Poole has had more than \$4,000 awarded to 7th and 8th grade students in the form of SAE grants, FFA jacket scholarships, and FFA Camp scholarships.

CLEARY CONSTRUCTION

KENTUCKY BUSINESS-EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Cleary Construction is an underground utility company in Tompkinsville, Kentucky. Currently, Cleary Construction supports career and technical education students in Monroe and Metcalfe Counties with the Cleary Academy, which is very similar to an internship for high school students. They also have an internship for college students, as well.

Students who participate in the Cleary Academy begin with thorough safety training and then have an opportunity to learn all aspects of the industry. Students are trained so they can begin working full-time after high school graduation. Cleary Construction is a valuable partner in all college and career fairs and senior mock job interviews. Furthermore, if a student desires to further his or her education, Cleary provides internship opportunities and supports earning postsecondary credentials.

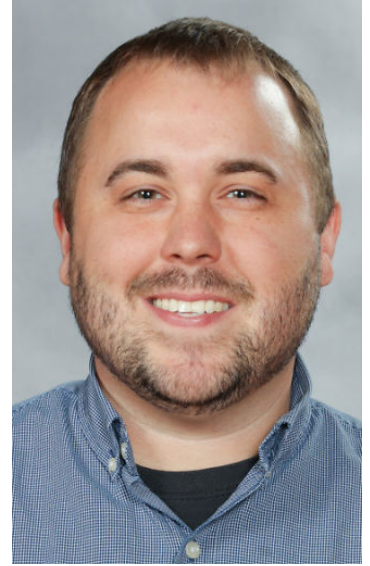
BRIAN WELCH

CARL PERKINS COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Brian Welch is an agriculture teacher in Hopkins County. Mr. Welch believes that true community service is not easily replicated, but instead fits the need of the time. He makes an intentional effort to ensure all of his students and classes have a direct tie to service-learning projects.

The projects range from washing emergency vehicles for first responders or washing dogs and creating adoption posters for animals at the Humane Society, to building wheelchair accessible raised garden beds for nursing homes during covid lock-down.

Mr. Welch's students build wooden toys that get donated to the local Salvation Army's Toys-for-Tots program and sheds for Habitat for Humanity homes. He has even led his students through the creation of a shipping container medical clinic for Liberia. Mr. Welch truly bridges the gap between his classroom and his community.



Brian Welch

JEFF BLYTHE

CAREER AND TECHNICAL ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR



Jeff Blythe

Jeff Blythe is the principal at Monroe County Area Technology Center. As principal, he understands the importance CTE makes in students' lives. He ensures students have postsecondary opportunities in front of them. He has an intensive data collection tool to monitor each student's pathway completion and postsecondary goals.

He works closely with local businesses to keep up with industry changes and evaluates his programs and pathways to ensure they offer students what they need. Whether it is updating equipment to include the latest technology or connecting students to business and industry through tours or internships, Mr. Blythe looks at each student individually. He meets them where they are, ensuring they get the training they need to earn a credential of value.

He believes every student deserves a space where they can flourish, and he works hard to make the Monroe County Area Technology Center the space where any student can and will succeed.

CARY YORK

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AND HALL OF FAME AWARD

Cary York is a family and consumer sciences teacher in Jessamine County. She has dedicated her career to serving CTE. In her years in education, Ms. York has served on various local, regional, state and national committees for the Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences.



Cary York

In addition to the local advisory committee, she formed a committee of local culinary business partners and educators to assist with grant writing and implementation of new culinary equipment.

She served on local Site Based Decision-Making Councils for several years, partnered with the Kentucky Poultry Federation, Kentucky Beef Cattle Council, Kentucky Soybean Council, Jessamine County Beef Cattle Association and local farmers, worked with the Jessamine County Fair Board to offer events for family and consumer sciences students, and led sessions for other teachers at the Kentucky CTE Meetings, National ACTE Meetings and CAFE (Center for Advancement of Food Service Education).

Ms. York also worked at the state level to develop and write curriculum for Culinary and Food Service, develop and write new curriculum for Food Science and Dietetics, and served at the state level to write and score materials for the Kentucky Occupational Skills Standard Assessment for Culinary

MARK LAMASTER

CAREER AND TECHNICAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mark Lamaster is a fire science teacher at Fern Creek High School in Louisville, Kentucky. Over the last five years under his direction, with strong support from his administration, the program has tripled in size.

Mr. Lamaster’s main goal has been to make this as realistic and genuine as possible for his students. He connects with leaders from fire departments across our community to acquire resources such as surplus personal protective equipment and firefighting tools and equipment. In order to increase student engagement and provides a safe and realistic way to teach firefighting concepts, he implemented a virtual reality training system specifically designed for firefighting in his classroom.

Mr. Lamaster also has developed a strong partnership with the community. His students make weekly visits to the Fern Creek Fire Station, go to fire training facilities, and tour the local Emergency Management Agency and 911 call center. Mr. Lamaster works tirelessly to give his students the most real life experiences possible.



Mark LaMaster

Congratulations to the 2024 Kentucky Farm Bureau CTE Award Recipients

2024 ACTE Award Candidates from Kentucky

REPRESENTING KENTUCKY in the 2024 ACTE national award competition are last year's honorees:

- ★ **Shannon Roberts**, family and consumer sciences teacher, Mason County High School, Carl Perkins Community Service Award.
- ★ **Rachel Stanfield**, Mason County School High School, Counseling and Career Development Professional Award.
- ★ **Naomi Chamblee**, information technology teacher, Shelby County Area Technology Center, New Career and Technical Teacher of the Year.
- ★ **Kentucky Family Resource and Youth Service Centers**, Kentucky Business-Education Partnership Award.
- ★ **Mark Hobbs**, manufacturing teacher, retired from Harrison County Area Technology Center, Career and Technical Teacher Educator of the Year.
- ★ **Joey Norman**, principal, Glasgow High School, Career and Technical Administrator of the Year.
- ★ **Phyllis Sweatt**, retired family and consumer sciences teacher, Bowling Green, Lifetime Achievement and Hall of Fame Award.
- ★ **Elizabeth McGinnis**, health sciences teacher, Paul Blazer High School, Career and Technical Teacher of the Year.

The first level is ACTE Region 2 competition. Winners will be announced at the ACTE Region 2 Conference in Orlando, Florida, Sept. 25-27, 2024. Regional winners will be forwarded to the ACTE Awards Committee. National winners will be announced at Career Tech Vision 2024, the ACTE convention, in San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 4-7, 2024.

**KACTE extends a special thank you to the
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation for
sponsoring the awards program.**

KACTE Award for Meritorious Service on Behalf of Career and Technical Education in Kentucky

Two of the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) purposes embodied in the organization's bylaws are to foster excellence in Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Kentucky, and to advocate for Kentucky and national policy to benefit CTE. These efforts have led, in part, to increased awareness by the Kentucky General Assembly of CTE's vital contributions to the Commonwealth's economy and workforce development. **In 2022, the Association instituted KACTE's Award for Meritorious Service on Behalf of Career and Technical Education in Kentucky.**

This discretionary Award is determined by the KACTE Advocacy Committee Chair and the KACTE officers based on individual contributions to enhancing the quality, equity and access of CTE in the state. In recognition of his championing the value of CTE, KACTE bestows the 2024 award to:

- ★ **The Honorable Bobby McCool**, Representative from District 97, Kentucky House of Representatives.

In the 2024 Kentucky General Assembly session, **Rep. McCool**, a retired CTE teacher and administrator, introduced House Bill 499 in the House of Representatives. The legislation codified the funding distribution method for secondary CTE in the state to equalize access and equity in CTE instruction for every CTE student. The legislation passed with wide support in both houses of the Kentucky General Assembly and was signed into law by Gov. Andy Beshear. His legislative initiatives continued the evolution of CTE as a necessary and vibrant part of Kentucky's public education system.

KACTE Scholarships, Grants and Awards

The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) annually presents several scholarships, grants and awards. These programs are the professional association's continuing mission to support its membership and grow the profession of Career and Technical Education (CTE) teaching. The recipients of the 2023-24 programs are listed below. KACTE looks forward to presenting additional scholarships, grants and awards during its 2024-25 administrative year. The complete list of available scholarship, grants and awards is posted on the KACTE website, www.kyacte.org in the Education section.

Carl D. Perkins Assistanceship Award

The oldest KACTE scholarship program is the Carl D. Perkins Assistanceship Award, which annually presents two \$500 scholarships; one to a secondary student preparing to study CTE at a Kentucky postsecondary institution, and one to a postsecondary student continuing his or her studies at a Kentucky postsecondary institution. Applications are available on the KACTE website, www.kyacte.org. In 2024, due to the financial success of the 2023 CTE Summer Program, KACTE awards two additional scholarships to deserving high school students. **The 2024 recipients are:**

Joseph Hazlet
Mason County High School

David Hall
South Central Kentucky Community and Technical College

Lance Willen
Cumberland County High School

Kiera Oakley
South Laurel High School

Michael A. McMillen Student Teacher Scholarship

The Michael A. McMillen Student Teacher Scholarship honors Mike McMillen, a KACTE/ACTE life member who died unexpectedly while preparing to attend the 2013 Kentucky CTE Summer Program. He was an administrator with the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. During his service to his

profession, Mike was KACTE President and Treasurer. He held many committee positions at both the Kentucky and national levels.

The Michael A. McMillen Student Teacher Scholarship presents up to 15, \$500 awards annually to pre-service teachers who will be pursuing their first classroom student teaching assignment. The money may be used for any purpose, such as transportation, clothing or supplies. KACTE will accept new applications for student teachers beginning with the fall semester of the 2024-25 school year. Teacher educators are asked to announce to their classes the availability of the scholarships for student teachers. Secondary teachers who know former students who will be student teaching in the upcoming year are asked to advise them of the availability of the scholarships. **The 2023-24 recipients are:**

- ★ **Ana Feedback**, University of Kentucky
- ★ **Fielden Bechanan**, University of Kentucky
- ★ **Lauren Ervin**, Murray State University
- ★ **Abigail Wilson**, Murray State University
- ★ **Lacey Denny**, University of Kentucky
- ★ **Madison Goodlett**, University of Kentucky
- ★ **Sunnie Roberts**, Western Kentucky University

Donnalie Stratton Middle School Summer Program Stipends

The Donnalie Stratton Middle School Summer Program Stipends are named for Donnalie Stratton, who retired in 2014 after 62 years of service as both a family and consumer sciences classroom teacher and program consultant with the Kentucky Department of Education. Ms. Stratton died in 2016. She held several positions on the KACTE Board and was 2001 recipient of the ACTE Carl D. Perkins Humanitarian Award.

Middle School CTE teachers are not eligible to receive professional development reimbursement from Perkins Act funds. KACTE created the Middle School Summer Program Stipend to support professional development through attendance at the annual Kentucky CTE Summer Program. Eligible teachers may apply in the spring of each year for a \$500 stipend, which covers the cost of registration plus expenses. **The 2024 recipients are:**

- ★ **Lekisha Hembree**, Garrard Middle School
- ★ **Katie Blanford**, Burns Middle School
- ★ **Ali Moore**, Warren East Middle School
- ★ **Taylor Stewart**, Drakes Creek Middle School
- ★ **Megan Thornton**, Henry County Middle School
- ★ **Jennifer Strunk**, Clark-Moores Middle School
- ★ **Denver Darrell Newsome**, Pikeville Junior High School
- ★ **Felicia Dalton**, Barren County Middle School

Stratton-Tipton Scholarship

The Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) administers the Stratton-Tipton Scholarship, which is awarded annually to support a special needs student pursuing a postsecondary degree. The scholarship is named after Donnalie Stratton (see information above) and Bettie Tipton, a long-time administrator in the Kentucky TECH system, both of whom were pioneers in promoting education of special needs students. Contact KACTE (krisstone56@gmail.com) for more information on the Stratton-Tipton Scholarship eligibility requirements. **The 2024 recipients are:**

High School Recipient
Kiera Oakley
South Laurel High School

Postsecondary Recipient
Kelsey Ruble
Murray State University

KACTE Entrepreneurial Contest

Each year, the Career and Technical Education Student Organization (CTSO) State Advisers conduct a contest to recognize outstanding student-designed and -presented entrepreneurial enterprises. KACTE sponsors the contest and provides \$2,500 in prizes. Please watch for communications in the fall from the CTSO State Advisers announcing the contest and deadline. **The 2024 KACTE Entrepreneurial Contest winners are:**

- ★ **Abby Treat**, Marshall County High School, \$1,000
- ★ **Anna Chaliff**, Rockcastle County High School, \$750
- ★ **Jasmin Davis**, Newport High School, \$500
- ★ **Emma Heck**, Assumption High School, Louisville, \$250

DID YOU KNOW

KACTE is working for you?



Advocacy: *Contract Legislative Agent, White Papers, Position Statements, Issues Updates*



Professional Development: *CTE Summer Program, Leadership Fellows, CTE Learn, PD Grants*



Grants and Scholarships: *Pre-service and Middle School Teachers, Special Needs, Students, CTSOs*



Member Benefits: *Gala at Summer Conference, Techniques magazine, group insurance, ACTE services, kyacte.org*

KACTE seeks to earn your membership, too.
In numbers there is strength.