

# MISSOURI ACTE AWARDS

## New Teacher of the Year Award



### **Jason Twenter, MVATA**

Mr. Twenter is an agricultural teacher from Eldon Career Center. In his application, Mr. Twenter discusses the need as an educator to consistently review curriculum to ensure you are meeting industry standards. This past year, Mr. Twenter implemented OSHA 10 training in his shop classes. Mr. Twenter is a firm believer that a large portion of his success comes from his educational approach as a lifelong learner.

Kelli Engelbrecht, Director of Eldon Career Center, stated that Mr. Twenter is a recent, yet excellent addition to the Agricultural Department at Eldon Career Center. He is the exact type of instructor any director would want to attract to their teacher team. He not only has the aptitude for multiple areas of Agriculture education, but he is also approachable, self-motivated, dependable and driven. He has quickly become part of our leadership team and has set high expectations for his students in his classroom and contest field."

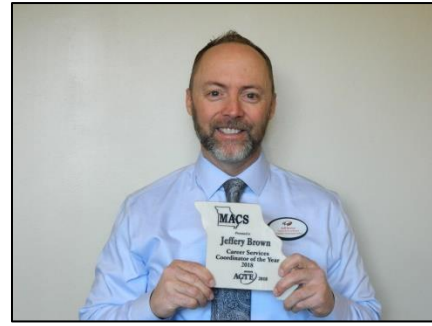


## Teacher of the Year Award

### **Louise Lunkenheimer, MoEFACS**

Mrs. Lunkenheimer is the Culinary Arts Instructor & Certified Secondary Foodservice Educator at Nevada Regional Technology Center. Mrs. Lunkenheimer has embraced the National Restaurant Association's curriculum for high school students. She states on her application, "The ProStart program allows my students to take on the culinary arts to a level that provides thorough training for related job and college entry levels. The students are learning how to appreciate food. We practice internal customer service where students are required to say "please" and "thank you" to each other during labs and class. Each year, the students host, plan and prepare Parents' Night, a five-course meal for parents and invited guests." Mrs. Lunkenheimer started Cafe 27 in 1997, which is a campus and student generated restaurant operation. Students design lunch menus and then are the featured chef once a week, serving, preparing, and cleaning up. Mrs. Lunkenheimer commented, "My teaching career is not all about teaching culinary arts. My career's purpose has also been about providing FCS teachers with the right and relevant professional development and opportunities to promote and grow within their programs."

Dr. Phillip Witt, former director of of Nevada Regional Technology Center provided the following words about Mrs. Lunkenheimer, "When reflecting on her merits for a distinguished service award, I can't think of anyone who is more committed to the success of her students. She truly has a passion for the work that she does and believes in the impact it can have on the future of those in her classroom."

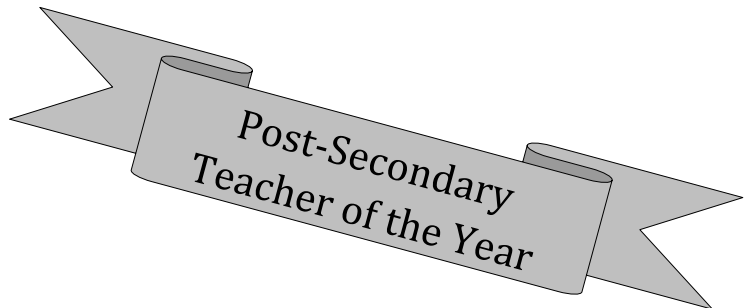


### **Jeffery Brown, MACS**

Mr. Brown is the Career Services Coordinator for Franklin Technology Center in Joplin, Missouri. Mr. Brown has co-authored and received an externship grant each of the last two years that promotes CTE opportunities in his community. Teachers in core content areas are selected as part of this externship grant and learn about industry, manufacturing, and employer needs within the community. Teachers take this information back to their departments and discuss academic needs for careers in the above areas. He states, "We have seen a huge increase in teacher interest in CTE and understanding of work based learning, employability, and community needs."

Mr. Brown explains on his application, "Communicating the value of CTE to stakeholders is an ongoing job." His work to promote CTE to community members and sending schools, is noticed. He has helped utilize social media, advertisement, and even local television stations coverage of CTE events. Through this, he started recruiting to middle schools. He hosted 240 6th graders from one of his sending schools, allowing students to learn about CTE programs and had the opportunity to have hands-on activities that engaged learning.

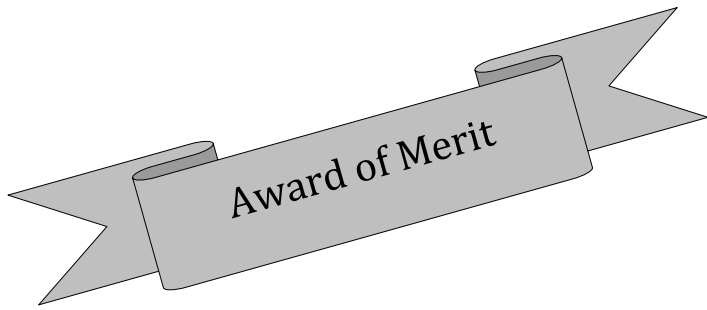
Steve Reed, assistant director of Franklin Technology Center, had the following to say about Mr. Jeffery Brown. "You wouldn't have to speak to Jeff for very long to see how much he really cares about the students and their successes in and out of the classroom. He makes it a point to know every student that walks through the doors at Franklin Tech. Mr. Brown goes the extra mile to encourage and motivate each student to succeed."



### **Brad Driskill, MVATA**

Mr. Driskill is the Agriculture Program Coordinator for State Fair Community College in Sedalia, Missouri. Mr. Driskill's focus when employing innovation into the agriculture program at State Fair Community College (SFCC) is developing technical and soft skills for students that will meet the needs of industry employers. He takes every opportunity to create or expose students to situations they will face in the workplace. With more than 15 years' experience in the seed industry, Brad draws upon his own experiences and the input from an active advisory committee to develop curriculum that arms students with the skills needed to embark upon successful careers.

Dr. Brent Bates, Vice President of Educational and Student Support Services at State Fair Community College states, "One of Mr. Driskill's greatest qualities is his ability to relate to students. Though he sets high standards and has strong professional expectations of his students, Mr. Driskill has the ability to connect with his students, no matter their background or demographic. His program is open, inclusive and inviting."



### **Dennis Harden**

For the past 32 ½ years, Dennis Harden has had the distinct pleasure of providing state-level leadership at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in career and technical education and other educational programs and services for local school districts, community colleges and four-year institutions. Most recently, Dennis served as Coordinator of Career Education. As Coordinator, Dennis oversaw a staff of 35 and coordinated the functions of the Career Education Unit within the Office of College and Career Readiness.

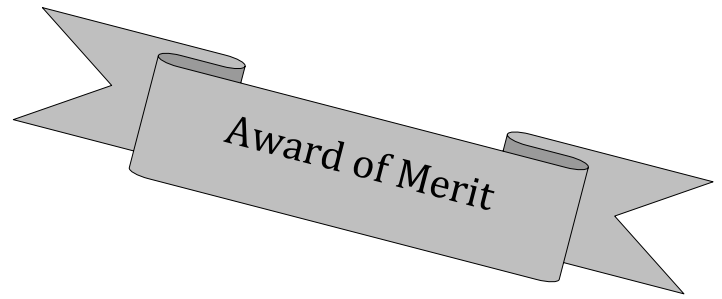
Prior to being named Coordinator, Dennis was Director of Industrial Education where he was in charge of Industrial Education, Health Sciences and Technology Education programs including SkillsUSA. He also oversaw Missouri's Customized Training Program.

Dennis is a member of a number of state and national organizations including AdvanceCTE, Association for Career and Technical Education, and the Missouri Association for Career and Technical Education. He currently serves as President of the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity Education Foundation Board of Directors. Dennis also serves on the NOCTI Board of Trustees.

Dennis holds a Doctorate of Education in Career and Technical Education as well as Educational Specialist and Masters Degrees from the University of Missouri – Columbia. His Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration is from the University of Central Missouri.

Dennis has one son, Aaron who resides in Kansas City with his wife, Dayna.

Dennis has been a champion for Career and Technical Education serving in the office of College and Career Readiness for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for many years. Dennis has seen the many changes that CTE in Missouri has undergone and always been an outstanding advocate for education and CTE! We appreciate Dennis and thank him for his devotion and passion for CTE in Missouri!



## **Wendi Bernt**

For the past 20 years, Wendi Bernt has worked in the Warrensburg R6 School District as CTE Counselor at Warrensburg Area Career Center. Wendi served for three years as the Chair of the R6 District Counseling Department. On the local level, Wendi served as CTE Representative on the board of Central Missouri School Counselor Association for 15 years, and WTA retirement committee for many years. With the release of MSIP5 Bernt negotiated an agreement with SFCC where each student (approximately 46 per year) in Construction Technology and Computer Technologies was automatically enrolled in Dual Credit (up to 18 hrs.) for no cost to the student, and only a small administrative fee which was contributed by the Warrensburg R6 foundation. Many other schools followed suit, allowing students to build transcripted college credit at no cost to the student. Bernt has effectively worked with Chamber of Commerce, Community Colleges, Industry Partners and Pilot Program for Counselor Evaluation with DESE, as well as many others. On the state and national level, Wendi has been a 20 year member of Missouri Association of Career and Technical Education (MOACTE), a 20 year member of the Missouri Association of Career Services (MACS) and served as secretary. Bernt served on the MOACTE Program Committee and Diversity Action Committee, served as MOACTE President Elect and currently MOACTE President, as well as membership and leadership in many other organizations. She currently serves on the ACTE Region III Audit Committee and is a tri-level member of ACTE. Bernt presented at the Missouri School Board Association Fall Conference in 2017 on "Pupils, Partners and Players." Bernt holds a B.S. from University of Missouri-Columbia and a Masters in Counseling Education from Lincoln University. She enjoys her three adult children and one grandchild who all reside very near the family farm. All three children were CTE students, one a Missouri FFA State President. Bernt has received the Honorary Chapter FFA degree and Honorary State FFA Degree. Bernt plans to stay actively involved in CTE. Wendi has served this past year as the Missouri ACTE President. Under Wendi's leadership we have begun Strategic Planning for our association this past year. Wendi was instrumental in moving the state association forward since unification and has worked diligently to grow the membership. Wendi is not afraid of change and this year our summer conference programming is one example of change to make improvements for our membership. Wendi has participated in the ACTE Leadership Training program as President Elect and strives to continue her professional growth as a leader. We appreciate all that Wendi has done and congratulate her for the Region III Missouri ACTE Award of Merit!



### **Harold Eckler, MVATA**

Mr. Eckler is from North Shelby and has been an agriculture educator for 36 years. In his application, he stated, "Over the course of the last thirty-six years, I have continually worked to update the curriculum, activities and facilities to reflect current trends and to meet the needs of the community and the students. I have always been passionate about participating and training Career Development teams and think that they are a great way to motivate students to get involved and to strive for success. It is my professional responsibility to pass that on to other teachers and I seldom pass up an opportunity to do so."

Kerri Greenwell, North Shelby High School Principal, said the following about Mr. Eckler. "Harold has a unique way of motivating students through critical thinking activities which promote high levels of student involvement. Harold's high expectations and expert work raise students' achievement to a higher level. The close connection he has with his students is evident in the way they respond to Harold both in and out of the classroom."



### **Rusty Black**

Rep. Rusty Black, a Republican, represents Grundy, Livingston Counties and a majority of Linn County (District 7) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2016. In addition to his legislative duties, Rep. Black worked as an Agriculture Educator for thirty-two years before retiring in 2016. During his time as a teacher, Rep. Black worked at Nodaway-Holt R-7 for five years and Chillicothe R-2 Schools for twenty-seven years. A graduate of the University of Missouri - Columbia, Rep. Black earned his Bachelors of Science in Agriculture in 1983, and went on to graduate with a Masters in Agriculture Education by 1993. Rep. Black was born in St. Joseph, MO, living in Amazonia then moving and graduating High School from King City MO. He currently resides in Chillicothe with his wife. Together they have four children and four grandchildren. Rusty and his wife attend the United Methodist Church and both are active with various community organizations.