

MISSOURI ACTE TEACHER OF THE YEAR



Some people pick a career or join an association and merely “pay their dues.” Then there are those, like Jon Wilson, who choose to invest their time and talent to improve the lives of their students and protect their industry ... in other words, to make a difference. Over the past 14 years, Jon has served in numerous officer and chairperson capacities in both MVATA and Missouri ACTE. He currently serves as MVATA Past President and Legislative Chair, as well as Missouri ACTE’s Legislative Chair.

One of his past students put it best when she said:

“My name is Tyne Rose and I am a 2009 graduate from Gainesville High School where Mr. Jon Wilson instructs the agriculture program. ... As I learn more about the education system and the effects teachers have on students, I have learned to value the outstanding teachers I have had, like Mr. Wilson.

“Mr. Wilson is one of the most influential teachers I have had through my 17 years of education. I had the pleasure of taking many classes with him, as well as doing extracurricular FFA trips and contests, including serving on his officer team for three years. Mr. Wilson’s demeanor inside and outside the

classroom was always respectful and encouraging. I learned about agriculture and its importance in every person’s life; not only did he ensure we were learning our content area, Mr. Wilson also cared about us as students with futures. The quality that separates Mr. Wilson from other educators is his love for the students and his genuine concern for their best interest.

“His classes are fun and upbeat, but also well-managed. Mr. Wilson does an excellent job of balancing in many areas of his life. He does a wonderful job with Gainesville’s successful FFA program. That part of his job takes up a lot of the free time that teachers do not really get. In addition, I know he is a phenomenal father and husband, and he lets his students know how much he values and prioritizes his family. Lessons such as prioritizing family set Mr. Wilson apart; he teaches his students virtues to be successful in life, not just in the classroom. His genuine care and concern for his students’ lives make those lessons well received.

“I plan to become an educator and I can only hope to have the type of heart for my students as Mr. Wilson did for us and still does to this day. I am confident that I can go to him at any time with any issue and he will be more than happy to talk and share wisdom with me. Education is a powerful tool with which the world is changed, but life skills and virtues must be taught in order for students to really thrive. The care with which Mr. Wilson conducts his classroom and his life will leave a lasting impact on his students; it definitely did on me.”

And, according to Jon, his students have also impacted him:

“A young man entered my classroom, I knew him from the show ring. He was quiet and shy, but because of our

previous encounters, we were comfortable. I heard the news prior to his arrival and wasn’t quite sure how to engage him. Tragedy had brought him to our school and would keep him here until his graduation. His sibling had been involved in a debilitating accident. Being around him; you would never know the adversity he faced daily. He never complained or spoke of the situation. Instead he worked and struggled just like every other student in class trying each day to do his best.

“... He expressed his interest in welding so we began to plan his courses ensuring his ability to take Ag Construction where he would be able to experiment and hone his skills.

“... As I observed him in the shop, I noticed when he became stumped, faced with a problem, he would approach the situation differently than most students. Instead of giving up because it was hard and scrapping the project, he would sit down and figure out the solution. Time would pass, but he would always push through resulting in the completion of the project he was working on.

“... Upon completing high school, he signed up for welding school. He graduated and currently provides for his family with his certification. I may have learned more from this student that he learned from me. I watched as he faced adversity and never gave up. I observed him push through when it would have been easier to stop. I saw someone who had a dream and never took their eyes off it even when obstacles tried to derail their path. This experience is why I love my job.”

And, this is why Mr. Jon Wilson is so deserving of the 2013 Teacher of the Year Award!

OUTSTANDING NEW CAREER AND TECHNICAL TEACHER



AARON J. KLIETHERMES



Aaron Kliethermes may be new to teaching, but he has jumped in with both feet, currently serving as Design Drafting Technology Department Chair and Instructor, Home Builders Association Student Chapter Faculty Advisor, and Linn State Technical College SkillsUSA Lead Advisor.

One of his students, Jennifer Goodman, endorsed his receipt of this award when she wrote:

"The ACTE Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher award is made to show appreciation for excellent performance by a dedicated and accomplished young technical teacher. Aaron Kliethermes is definitely a good fit for this title. This man has been my college advisor and instructor for almost two years now. Throughout the time I have worked with him, he has always done his best in educating his students, and putting all his time and effort to make this a better learning and interactive environment.

"I have enjoyed being a student of Mr. Kliethermes. In the short time with him, I have learned a significant amount about Design Drafting and also how to be successful in the work world. When in class, he will teach on a level that we

can understand, and works personally with people who need more help to comprehend the work at hand. This teacher exceeds many standard teacher practices [with] his hard work and dedication to make our college experiences a success.

"Mr. Kliethermes is also involved with students outside of the classroom, such as SkillsUSA and Home Builders Association. I have seen this teacher dedicate long and work-filled hours to make events such as Regional SkillsUSA Competition and our Home Builders Association 5K Run turn into a success. The new career he has chosen gives him the opportunity to use his multi-tasking and excellent performance skills.

"Even though Mr. Kliethermes is still in the beginning of his teaching career, he is growing with more creative ideas, experience, and excitement every year. This combination, along with his own continuing of his education, proves to be an awesome setting for a great educator at Linn State Technical College. I would, with no doubt, count Aaron Kliethermes as an Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher."

And, Aaron's strengths are equally visible to his colleagues. Janet B. Clanton, Associate Dean of Instruction at Linn State Technical College echoed his students' endorsement when she wrote:

"I first met Aaron when he was a student at Linn State Technical College earning his Associate of Applied Science Degree in Design Drafting Technology. He was an excellent Dean's List student who served as a peer tutor and demonstrated strong leadership skills as the college Assessment Committee student member, Design Drafting Club

member, Phi Theta Kappa member, Student Government Association officer, and SkillsUSA chapter officer. Aaron was selected as the 2005 Design Drafting Technology Outstanding Student and the one recipient of the 2005 President's Award.

"After gaining industry work experience, Aaron was selected in 2007 as a faculty member [at] the Linn State Technical College Design Drafting Technology Department. In 2010, Aaron earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Occupational Education and was selected to serve as the Design Drafting Technology Department Chair. He is now studying to earn his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis.

"Aaron is a highly effective, dedicated, creative, and energetic Instructor and Department Chair. A few of the initiatives he has undertaken include incorporating online learning methodologies in the classes he teaches, delivering Design Drafting Technology classes online and via telecommunications, and developing advanced certificates in Design Drafting Technology based on industry needs.

"He is also a faculty leader who contributes at a high level to the college as a whole. Aaron serves as the faculty advisor for the college SkillsUSA chapter. In 2010, he was selected by his peers as the Missouri post-secondary SkillsUSA advisor of the year. He initiated the college's Home Builders Association student chapter and serves as the chapter advisor. He is currently a member of the Student Learning Outcomes committee and has served on Faculty Senate."

We see a very bright future for this Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher award recipient and his students!

CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION



U.S. Representative Blaine Luetkemeyer

Cheryl Hill, Northland Career Center, was one of several people to nominate Rep. Luetkemeyer for this distinction. In her nominating letter, she said it best when she said: *"Contacting legislators for assistance is not new for those of us working in Career Education. However, in 30 years in education*

I have never met a legislator who was willing to fight as long and hard to support Career Education as Congressman Luetkemeyer and his Legislative Assistant, Chance McNeely. When I was frustrated and ready to "give up", they persisted and eventually won our cause. ... Thanks to the leadership and persistence of Congressman Blaine Luetkemeyer, Missouri Career and Technical schools continue to serve adult students. Congressman Luetkemeyer's efforts epitomize "the highest meritorious contribution" to Career and Technical Education and because of this, I highly recommend him for the Certificate of Appreciation Award."



Sarah Topp - Gamble & Schlemeier

Since 1996, Sarah Topp, has been a Governmental Consultant with Gamble & Schlemeier. Through her hard work and dedication, she has helped Missouri ACTE become a stronger organization. Speaking on our behalf for the support and passage of legislation, Sarah has spent countless hours promoting Career and Technical

Education (CTE) and encouraging legislators to support our association. She has conducted legislative workshops for CTE educators, giving them opportunities to learn the legislative process, and is the driving force behind the Missouri ACTE Legislative Day, providing a program that gives insight to our students and teachers before they visit their legislators. With her leadership, important CTE legislation was passed in 2012 and 2013. Sarah's hard work has ensured CTE educators a bright future and made her worthy of this Certificate of Appreciation award.

LEGISLATIVE RECOGNITION AWARD



Senator Brian Munzlinger (R-18)

Senator Brian Munzlinger's efforts to advance and preserve career and technical education surpasses expectations. Through his initiative and leadership, the Missouri General Assembly passed legislation to revamp an advisory council that will provide meaningful input and shape the future of career and technical education in the state.

Sen. Munzlinger has resided in northeast Missouri his entire life, except for the period he spent at the University of Missouri - Columbia earning his Bachelor of Science in General Agriculture which included a teaching certificate in Agriculture in 1978.

His fondness for Career & Technical Education began at an early age when he participated in a program during high

school. This program helped him earn money to attend the University. I bet you are thinking he was an FFA member- but guess what; it was actually the Construction Trades program. He probably won't share this with you - but as a farmer and family man, he uses those skills every day. For example, as his father got on in years and needed to live closer to family, Sen. Munzlinger built him a home, mostly by himself, with the skills that started all those years ago.

He shared the frustration of many of you in the past few years as we watched budgets tighten and more and more emphasis placed on students attending only post high school, four-year institutions. He challenged himself and his staff to make sure there was a voice for Career and Technical Education. He understands that the skills you expose the students to may or may not end up being their career, but they are also life skills. These are crucial life skills and more so with the absence of many parents in the home.

His vision is that Senate Bill 17 will help guide our students as they transition from high school to post secondary training and throughout their life with the many challenges they may face.

DIVERSITY ACTION COMMITTEE AWARDS



The Diversity Action Committee Award annually recognizes individuals and/or organizations that promote diversity in Career and Technical Education.

Marc Griffen - Inclusion Sports LLC

Inclusion Sports LLC promotes sports that are all-inclusive; building a bridge between the disabled, seniors, veterans (wounded warriors), and students through the common interaction of sports.

The table sport of BulletBall is a non-adaptive "all-inclusive" sport that allows everyone to play competitively against anyone, on a level playing field; disability, age, and gender notwithstanding.

The mission of Inclusion Sports is to focus on new and innovative ways to 'level the playing field' by way of sports and competition for people with disabilities; providing therapy, self-esteem, and additional employment opportunities by exposing new avenues of integration between communities.

Darell Hawley - Week of Diversity

After attending a leadership seminar, Darell Hawley, a junior at South Nodaway High School, decided to invest her time in establishing the first Week of Diversity for South Nodaway. Her community is 99% caucasian and she recognized that exposure to other cultures, religions, and races would be vital to their students as they prepare to enter the workforce.

As Hawley said, "We all have to get along, and if we understand each other better, it is easier." The week-long event included speakers from a wide range of backgrounds, hands-on exercises for participants, and time for questions and answers.

The event was very successful and Darell has already started work on the 2013 Week of Diversity.

RECOGNITION AWARD



Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives (AMEC)

Linn State Technical College and AMEC embarked on a partnership in the mid-1990s, intent on developing a win-win relationship to provide formal training and meet the demand for linemen in Missouri. With the support of the Electric Cooperatives of Missouri, the College started Missouri's first Associate of Applied Science degree in Electrical Distribution Systems (EDS).

The Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives and its electric cooperative members continue to assist in the acquisition of new equipment, as well as donating and lending

equipment to the program. Annual donations by the Association and cooperatives provide matching funds to purchase and update equipment. Cooperative employees provide instructor training, assist with instructor hiring and present additional training to students. Several of the cooperatives offer scholarships to students in the program.

Because of the support of Missouri's electric cooperatives, the existing program continues to meet the demand of the cooperatives providing them with professional, highly skilled technicians ready to start careers as linemen.