

Kentucky Farm Bureau

2009 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 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 12 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.kacteonline.org or at www.acteonline.org.

This year, KACTE presents state winners in five different categories:

- ☞ 27 Years of KACTE/ACTE membership
- ☞ Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher
- ☞ Outstanding Teacher in Community Service
- ☞ Outstanding Career and Technical Educator
- ☞ KACTE 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.

27 Years of Membership in KACTE

This recognition goes to individuals who have been members of the organization for at least 27 consecutive years. The form for submitting a recipient's name for this recognition accompanies the application packet for all awards each December and is sent to all current membership. We recognize **David A. Black**, agriculture and technology teacher, Fulton County High School, for his membership in KACTE since 1982. David's distinguished professional career includes service as president of the Kentucky Vocational Agriculture Teacher's Association, as well as state and national honors.



Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher

Julie Anne Means

Todd County Schools

Ms. Means teaches agriculture courses at Todd County Central High School in Elkton, Kentucky. She serves as the local FFA advisor in addition to her instructional duties. Julie says that all four of the positions she has held have contributed to her professionalism and outstanding work in her field, but Todd Central is her home.

After graduating from Murray State's agriculture education program, she interviewed for a teaching position in Madisonville. At her interview, the school's principal asked whether she could teach CAD. She answered "Sure!" and was hired. Later, she called a family member to find out what CAD was! Ms. Means has courage, and she said that she learned on the job how to locate and utilize every available resource to help her do her job, the first skill that has served her well in her career.

She next worked at Murray State University's School of Agriculture as a grant administrator. Here, she gained experience with additional resource-development skills, she taught at the college level, and began coordinating FFA events. She received the Graduate Teaching Award from NACTE, one of only 12 individuals across the nation to receive the honor.

She then went to Hopkinsville Middle School where she was asked to implement a new agriculture program. Working with inner-city students without any connection to agriculture, she built a successful program, including a 60-member 4-H Club.

Now at Todd Central, she has a varied teaching schedule including sales, greenhouse, landscaping, small animal and equine science, and principles of agriculture. Her FFA chapter, with a membership of 154 students, is active in community service and regional/state competitions. She now has the first state officer from the school since 1983. Says Ms. Means, "I hope to be a positive example for students, teachers and future teachers of the importance of career and technical education." But a comment made by one of her students is likely the most compelling of all reasons why Ms. Means is a worthy recipient of this award. The student said, "I have been waiting my whole life to find a teacher...I can tell...really loves all kids...I know that the kids at this school really need a teacher like you...please don't ever stop being a teacher!" Congratulations, Julie Anne Means, the 2009 KACTE Outstanding New Career and Technical Teacher.

Outstanding Teacher in Community Service

Karen Grubb
Clay County Middle School



The Outstanding Teacher in Community Service Award is designed to recognize teachers with significant accomplishments and outstanding leadership in programs and activities that promote community involvement. Recipients of this award must have made significant contributions toward training, motivating and inspiring their peers and students to become involved in programs and projects that benefit their communities.

Karen Grubb teaches family and consumer science at Clay County Middle School in Manchester, Kentucky, where service learning has been embedded in her content for 18 years. Her colleagues say she is passionate about serving others and wants to instill this passion in her students and in her fellow teachers. She has presented her many projects to extension agents from across the state, and she has presented at the state Career and Technical Education Summer Program. Several of the projects she has implemented with her students stand out.

The “Clay County Military Project” came together when some of her students began telling her about their family members going to war. What started as a simple way to send family members cards and needed items from home grew and grew. One captain who received one of the early packages and cards requested that Clay County students adopt soldiers in her unit who were not receiving much from home. The project began to serve 30 additional soldiers with cards and packages. Many of these military personnel come to visit the school when they return from active deployment. The students plan patriotic receptions for them and invite the families. They also have designed a t-shirt especially for the soldiers they have supported. This service learning project has profoundly affected her students, helping them understand that freedom is not free.

Ms. Grubb and her students work with adopted grandparents at Laurel Creek Health Care Center. Students are prepared for the work by completing a survey, watching pertinent videos, studying illnesses of the elderly, and completing sensitivity training. Students are matched with their adopted grandparents. They visit with each other at least twice monthly. A local radio station, WYMT, featured this service learning activity in order to encourage other agencies to adopt grandparents.

Ms. Grubb’s project, “Warming Grieving Hearts,” is another example of how her projects take shape and impact beyond the original intent of the project. The project began with making blankets in support of the Kentucky Children’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the University of Kentucky. The blankets are given to the parents of babies that die. Parents have a beautiful, small blanket in which they can hold their babies and say goodbye. Karen Grubb and her students have traveled throughout the country to discuss this project and build awareness. Some of the blankets now come from an unexpected source...a local federal prison with only male inmates. “Crochet for Hope” took shape, and the inmates produce a number of the blankets for the project. These men also made lap blankets for the Adopt a Grandparent

program and have produced blankets for two veterans' nursing homes, one in Hazard and the other in Wilmore.

Karen Grubb has received numerous awards for these and many other service learning and community service endeavors. The awards are not what motivate her, however. She says that she can change the world with such projects. She truly believes her students are changing lives, and that fact is what pushes her to expand the projects and keep them fresh. She aims for passion in her students. She sees the kindled fire in students when they determine a community need and begin to address it. Being a part of these projects helps students gain empathy for others; she sees attitudes change and students replace apathy with a desire to do better in everything they attempt to do.

In a letter supporting Ms. Grubb's choice for this award, Karen Lawson, Clay County Community Education Director, stated: "I feel there is no better choice for the Outstanding Teacher in Community Service than Karen Grubb. She exemplifies what every teacher should strive to be in her commitment not only to her students but also to her community." KACTE is proud to present The Outstanding Teacher in Community Service Award for 2009 to Karen Grubb.



Outstanding Career and Technical Educator

Dale Winkler
**Principal, Montgomery County
Area Technology Center**

The prestigious award of Outstanding Career and Technical Educator recognizes an individual who makes significant contributions to professional organizations and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs for youth and/or adults in his/her career field, community and/or state. The person receiving this award must be a currently employed baccalaureate CTE teacher educator, administrator, guidance counselor, or program specialist. Congratulations to Dale Winkler who has served as the principal of the Montgomery County Area Technology Center for the past two years.

In his current role, he oversees the design and implementation of instruction in six technical programs. One of his first acts as principal was to meet with local business and industry representatives to explore needs for qualified employees. He conducted a needs assessment and established certified welders as an area of need for local employers. He developed funding for a new program and opened the program at his school in 2008 with an initial enrollment of 64 students.

He worked hard to implement collaborative efforts between the local school system and the technical center. Examples of results from this effort have been summer writing sessions involving English and technical instructors, the implementation of a construction geometry class at the center developed collaboratively by the math and carpentry instructors, and better relationships between the high school counselors and the center, resulting in their deeper understanding of the importance of career and technical education.

One of his contributions to career and technical education occurred while he was a service coordinator and academic consultant with the state Office of Career and Technical Education. He helped create and maintain a database of career and technical lesson plans. He worked with the development of career pathways for seven different career clusters. He also helped develop occupational skills standards and related assessments for business and marketing programs.

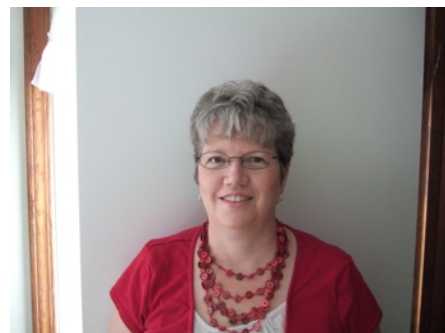
Mr. Winkler is an active member of both student and professional organizations. He is currently president-elect for KACTE and will shortly assume the duties of president. Other professional memberships include the Kentucky Business Education Association, Kentucky FBLA-PBL Professional Division, the National Career Pathways Network, Kentucky Jumpstart for Financial Literacy, and the Central Kentucky Interagency Transition Team. He has served as state chairperson for Kentucky FBLA and has served as judge for FBLA, DECA, FCCLA and SkillsUSA.

His published articles appear in the *Kentucky Business Education Journal*, and he authored a chapter in the CORD book *The Pathway from Baghdad to Tech Prep – A Success Story*. He has presented at least four times on a variety of topics at the Kentucky Career and Technical Education Summer Program. He has served on committees such as the New Teacher Institute Steering Committee and the Central Kentucky Interagency Transition Team.

Mr. Winkler is an advocate for ACTE. He states it is his goal that every CTE educator in Kentucky will become an active ACTE member. He provides an example to CTE teachers who work with him with his own active involvement in the organization. He encourages his teachers to present at the Summer Program and provides materials that highlight the advantages of involvement to his staff members.

Dale Winkler is an outstanding career and technical educator. A student has expressed his impact on her and on other students this way: “I hope you will give Mr. Winkler strong consideration for the Outstanding Career and Technical Educator Award. He has brought a new sense of pride to Montgomery County Area Technology Center, and he has made the students proud to pursue a career pathway in a technical program. His guidance has assured us that we are prepared for college or the workplace when we leave Montgomery County Area Technical Center.” Congratulations, Dale Winkler, the 2009 KACTE Outstanding Career and Technical Educator.

**Career and Technical
Teacher of the Year
Cherie Lynn Mingus
Central Hardin County High School**



Ms. Mingus has been teaching family and consumer science in the Hardin County Schools for 26 years. In her career, she has served at both middle and high schools, but when Central Hardin County High School was formed, she found her career home. She currently serves as the department chair for the FACS, Technology Education, Health Sciences, TVP and JROTC departments. She works on the

Consolidated Plan for her school and serves, for the past nine years, as component manager for Practical Living/Vocational Studies. She serves on the Site Based Decision Making Council as a teacher representative and has served on the council for nearly four years. She finds time to serve as a resource teacher for KTIP, and she supervises student teachers in partnership with Western Kentucky University. She also found time to serve as the FCCLA chapter adviser at her high school, and she has been the chapter advisor for 19 years!

Ms. Mingus is active and visible in a variety of professional organizations. She has been a NATFACS member for 24 years and has filled a number of offices within the organization. Similarly, she has been a KATFACS member and served as president-elect in 1990-91 and president during 1991-92. She has been an ACTE member for 24 years and has served as an Assembly of Delegates Voting Member since 2003. She has served admirably as the president of KACTE as well as taken on additional roles and offices with the organization. She has received Outstanding Service awards from NATFACS and KACTE, and is now serving as the president of NATFACS.

Ms. Mingus volunteers her time outside of school, as well. She serves on the Youth Theater of Hardin County Board of Directors and has the title of costume mistress with the theater. She has both chaired and judged FCCLA STAR events. She handles hospitality arrangements for sports and academic tournaments. She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma and recently served as co-chair of the organization's 2009 state convention held in Elizabethtown. Finally, she serves on the Elizabethtown Community and Technical College Culinary Arts Program Advisory Board.

Her assistant principal, a former student of Ms. Mingus, endorsed her as CTE Teacher of the Year. He stated that Ms. Mingus, as the award recipient, will be "a teacher that will make KACTE proud and... represent not only Central Hardin but also all teachers of family and consumer sciences. As a teacher and person, she shows great discipline, work ethic and problem solving ability. Her work in and out of the classroom is outstanding." The 2009 KACTE Career and Technical Teacher of the Year is Cherie Lynn Mingus.