



2017 Teacher of the Year



Molly Barta, Business Education teacher at Billings Skyview High School, has been elected as the 2017 Montana Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year. The award was presented at Fairmont Hot Springs, Montana, on October 20 at the Awards Luncheon during the Annual Montana ACTE Fall Institute.

At Skyview, Mrs. Barta has used online competitive programs to help build her program and create fun and interactive ways for her students to learn new content. Her students have competed in the H&R Block Budget Challenge for several years now and can boast a Top 10 finish in the nation in which they brought a \$2500 grant to her business department. Mrs. Barta believes that if we don't change, we won't grow. Technology and best practices constantly change and participation in professional conferences are important to her.

Lisa Parker, Montana BPA State Director has this to say about Molly, “ During her tenure at Skyview she not only taught business classes but she is also the Business Professionals of America Advisor. Year in and year out, she increases membership significantly and is consistently one of the largest chapters in Montana. She has been the class advisor for freshman, sophomore, junior and senior classes where she has provided leadership training, organized class meetings, assisted with fundraisers, prom and graduation. She has spent her entire career striving for excellence and always willing to give back.”

Molly will now advance to be the Montana ACTE candidate for the ACTE Region V Teacher of the Year. The 2018 ACTE Region V conference will be held in April in Colorado Springs, CO.

The Teacher of the Year program is to recognize career and technical educators who have recently provided or currently are providing significant contributions to professional associations and career and technical education programs for youth and/or adults in their fields, communities and/or states. Recipients of this award must have made significant contributions toward innovative, unique and novel programs; and/or improvement, promotion, research or development of programs of career and technical education.

The Association for Career and Technical Education is the largest national education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for careers. Montana ACTE is a member state with a mission is to provide leadership in developing an educated, prepared, and competitive workforce. The Montana Association of Career and Technical Educators provides the career and technical education necessary to create the highly skilled workforce that supports the demands of the 21st century economy and promotes economic development in Montana's communities.

2017 New Teacher of the Year



The Montana Association for Career and Technical Education would like to announce that Kyle Senner, Agriculture Education teacher at Richey Public Schools, has been selected as the 2017 Montana Career and Technical Education New Teacher of the Year.

Kyle has been the Ag Ed Instructor and FFA Advisor at Richey Public Schools since 2013. Maureen Simonson, Superintendent at Richey Schools said that Kyle's teaching skills, techniques, and knowledge of his curriculum make him a solid asset for our school. Kyle builds a caring and nurturing relationship with students and they are comfortable and eager to work with him. He has a strong grasp of student's educational needs and communicates this to the students in a manner that each can understand.

Kyle is highly organized, making quality lessons that best fit the student's needs to maximize learning. Students are able to meet their educational goals due to his teaching techniques. Student management is another area of strength for Kyle. He knows the importance of consistency in the classroom.

Kyle goes beyond the regular school day to ensure his students are learning practical life lessons. Each year he brings unique opportunities to enrich his students' experiences. Some of these opportunities include; community garden, production of sauerkraut, building storage sheds/decks, creating various recipes for marinades, and creating/promoting a personal business along with defending their product.

The New Teacher of the Year Program is to recognize individuals who are currently employed as full-time classroom/laboratory teachers in a career and technical education program. Nominees must have taught for a minimum of three but not more than five years.

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2017 Administrator of the Year



This year's Montana ACTE Administrator of the Year goes to Mike Weatherbee. Under Mr. Weatherbee's leadership, Sheridan Public Schools formed a STEM Committee to assist in improving the CTE curriculum available to their students. Mr. Weatherbee was the forefront of the program improvements, which has included bringing robotics kits, 3D Printers, and other technology tools along with strengthening course requirements for CTE students. Rodney Braaten, Ag Ed Instructor had this to say about Mr. Weatherbee, "While many administrators see value in these programs, very few get involved on the level that he does. He has helped us get new equipment for our Ag facility such as a plasma table, car lift, feed grinder & mixer and a stock trailer, all of which allows more opportunities for our students. He is also active in the local alumni and advisory boards. He attends meetings and helps out with their function. He chaperones trips and substitute teacher's classes when necessary. He also helps coach our livestock evaluation team and helps many students individually, especially with their swine SAE projects. His involvement helps push everyone to improve and do their best."

Congrats to Mr. Weatherbee, this year's winner of the Montana ACTE Administrator of the Year.