

## **Dr. Kenneth Wallace Named 2018 ACTE Champion of the Year**

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) and its Board of Directors have announced Dr. Kenneth Wallace, the superintendent for Maine Township School District #207 in Park Ridge, Illinois, as the 2018 ACTE Champion of the Year. The ACTE Champion of the Year award recognizes individuals and entities for their meritorious contributions to the improvement, promotion, development and progress of career and technical education (CTE).



Dr. Ken Wallace began serving Maine Township School District #207 in 2005 as Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. He became the superintendent to the district and its 6,300 high school students in 2009. Each of the district's three high schools has been recognized by the Washington Post, US News & World Report, or Newsweek as one of the nation's top schools. Despite growing poverty, this demographically diverse district reported the eighth highest mean ACT scores the past nine years, and under Dr. Wallace's supervision was named one of the 14 most innovative school districts in America by Tech Insider.

While assistant superintendent, which included oversight over technology, District #207 became the first K-12 school district in the world to partner with Google to use Gmail and Google Applications for education. Career exploration has also been a major emphasis for Dr. Wallace. He has expanded career-oriented classes, implemented a four-year plan for students to receive help exploring and planning careers, and hired a career coordinator for the district's internship program.

The internship program is another feature of this district. Each student creates a four-year plan to explore careers and postsecondary options. The internships program has grown by 126 percent over the past two years, while the number of community partners has skyrocketed by 263 percent. By implementing Dr. Wallace's vision, schools offer students flexibility in their schedules that allows them to take advantage of shadow days, job fairs, career panels, and non-traditional internships. He has also integrated career readiness into the district's counseling programs, grading system, and curriculum development.

"We are proud that Dr. Wallace has received this well-deserved national honor for his visionary approach to career and technical education," said Carla Owen, the district's board of education president. "Throughout his thoughtful leadership and focus, Dr. Wallace is ensuring that all of our students have authentic opportunities to explore career and college options, which will pay dividends for students long beyond their high school years."

Dr. Wallace was recognized December 6, at the annual ACTE Awards Banquet during ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2017 in Nashville, Tennessee.

# ACTE Announces Illinois Associate Professor and Program Coordinator as 2018 National Award Winner

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announced **Sally E. Arnett-Hartwick, Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois, as the 2018 National ACTE Postsecondary Teacher of the Year.** This award recognizes the finest career and technical teachers at the postsecondary level who have demonstrated innovation in the classroom, commitment to their students and dedication to the improvement of CTE in their institutions and communities.



After discovering a passion for family and consumer sciences (FCS) in high school, Sally E. Arnett-Hartwick went on to teach FCS at the secondary level for ten years before becoming an FCS teacher educator. As an Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of FCS teacher education at Illinois State University (ISU), she leads by her personal philosophy that college should prepare people for careers, not just jobs, and that her role is to instill a passion for life-long learning in her students. Arnett-Hartwick consistently receives high ratings and positive comments from students in her courses, and has received numerous awards and honors in her school and state. Since she joined ISU, her program has steadily grown total enrollment to 56 this year and is now the largest producer of FCS teachers in the state.

Arnett-Hartwick has published 21 journal articles, given over 40 conference presentations at the state and national levels, and secured 11 CTE-related research grants with funding totaling nearly \$900,000. Through three consecutively awarded Carl D. Perkins federal grants, Arnett-Hartwick and her colleagues developed several resources tailored to special populations: they manage a website, [illinoiscte.org](http://illinoiscte.org), that offers resources and lesson plans; have hosted poverty simulation experiences; organized speaker series events; and analyzed and presented state data on special populations. Through six additional innovation grants, Arnett-Hartwick has conducted studies on preparing the new green collar workforce, exploring career pathways through sustainability service learning projects, developing teacher decision-making skills through authentic teacher-related cases for pre-service and beginning teachers, and diversity curricular needs. “Sally’s contributions to the past, present, and future of CTE in our state are beyond significant, they are exceptional,” says Jennifer Banning, Association Professor at Illinois State University. “Her work illuminates the invaluable contributions of the field of FCS to all with whom she comes in contact and sets a high bar for others who follow in her footsteps.”

Arnett-Hartwick was one of five finalists for the 2018 national title. The national winner was announced at the [ACTE Awards Banquet](#), a dinner and award presentation recognizing the best CTE educators in the country. The event took place on Wednesday evening, December 6, during ACTE’s CareerTech VISION 2017 in Nashville, Tennessee.