



JOE VANWELL

Outstanding Junior High Teacher



Award Biography

The Outstanding CTE Junior High Teacher of the Year aims to honor some of the nation's greatest heroes – middle school teachers! Join me in honoring this year's recipient, Joe Vanwell from the Mesa Unified School District.

Joe is masterful at innovating curriculum to add elements that appeal to students' interests, include hands-on elements, and advance student learning. He consistently works on assignments that spark all students' interest and promote student individuality.

Joe has been attending the ACTEAZ summer conference for over 10 years. He always has a full agenda of courses that improve his teaching craft. He joined ATIEA about the same time that he attended the conference. Four years ago, he was voted onto the board as the ATIEA representative for Junior High Schools.

Joe intentionally embeds opportunities for student leadership development. From class projects to city and state competitions, Joe takes every opportunity to create leadership roles from group projects and city and state competitions. He has the students promote themselves to develop their own leadership potential.

Joe serves as a district leader, strengthening the Industrial technology curriculum. He also serves as a strong teacher advocate.