



INDIANA COMMISSION for
HIGHER EDUCATION



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT of
EDUCATION

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Indiana Recognizes Recipients of 2026 CTE Awards for Excellence

Students, educators, and programs recognized for outstanding achievements in CTE

(INDIANAPOLIS) – Today, the [Indiana Commission for Higher Education](#) (Commission) and the [Indiana Department of Education](#) recognized winners of [Career and Technical Education \(CTE\)](#) Awards for Excellence, celebrating standout achievements from CTE students, programs, partners, and school counselors across the state. Those recognized exemplify the ideal qualities and outcomes of Career and Technical Education, contributing to the success of CTE through the quality of their work, their leadership, and their involvement in the community.

The recognition of the Awards for Excellence is divided between K-12 and higher education, further categorized by student awards, career coaching and advising awards, partnership awards, and program awards. Nominations for the awards were submitted by CTE Districts, high schools, or postsecondary partners.

“Congratulations to the students, educators, and programs recognized for their outstanding achievement in Career and Technical Education,” said Dr. Katie Jenner, Indiana Secretary of Education. “CTE inspires students to discover their passions, build real-world skills, and pursue their unique future aspirations. Thanks to the dedication of educators and CTE leaders across Indiana, students are gaining the knowledge and skills to succeed, ultimately strengthening our communities and shaping the future of our state.”

Winners of the 2026 CTE Awards for Excellence:

Postsecondary Career Services

- Stephanie Martin, Assistant Director of Early College – Ivy Tech Fort Wayne, CTE FWCS Career Academy

Postsecondary Partnership

- Muncie Youth Build – Ivy Tech Muncie
- Surveying Technology Equipment Program – Vincennes University, Seiler Geospatial
- Wabash Valley Nursing Workforce Collaborative – Ivy Tech Terre Haute

Postsecondary CTE Program

- Automotive Technology – Ivy Tech Kokomo
- Lee J. Merchant School of Nursing – Ivy Tech Bloomington
- Welding Technology – Ivy Tech Valparaiso



Postsecondary CTE Students

- Azeria Ackerman – Vincennes University
- Madison Becker – Ivy Tech Bloomington
- Aiden Bisagni – Vincennes University
- Amara Black – Vincennes University
- Travis Lee – Ivy Tech Kokomo



Secondary Career Services

- Chyna Galloway, CTE Student Success Coordinator – West Central Indiana CTE
- Josie Miller, Work-Based Learning Coordinator – Wildcat Creek Career Cooperative

Secondary Partnership

- Crawfordsville Fire Department – West Central Indiana CTE
- IU Health – Area 31 Career Programs
- Nucor Steel – Wabash River CTE
- Mishawaka Building Trades – School City of Mishawaka



Secondary CTE Program

- Criminal Justice – Elkhart Area Career Center
- Health Sciences – Walker Career Center
- Veterinary Science Program – Southeastern Career Center

Secondary CTE Students

- Jackson Brown – Whiteland Community High School
- Lacey Conover – West Central Indiana CTE
- Miley Gomez Trejo – Area 31 Career Center
- Owen Holt – DeKalb High School
- Maddox Jordan – Porter County Career Center
- Lucy Miller – Walker Career Center
- Eliel Pena Perez – McKenzie Center for Innovation and Technology
- Kynley Powell – Wabash River CTE
- Carter Sterrett – Indian Trails Career Cooperative
- Maisie Toosley – Indian Trails Career Cooperative



CTE provides relevant career and technical education programs of study that prepare students for high-skill, in-demand careers in fields such as advanced manufacturing, digital technology, healthcare, and agriculture. Indiana's CTE team [joined the Commission in July 2023](#) as part of House Enrolled Act 1002-2023.

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About the Indiana Commission for Higher Education

Created in 1971, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education (CHE, Commission) is the State's higher education coordinating agency, driven to improve economic and social mobility for fellow Hoosiers through postsecondary education and training, and is a part of Governor Mike Braun's Office of Education. The Commission also administers Indiana's state financial aid programs, including [21st Century Scholars](#), which celebrated 35 years in 2025.