

McCollough, Julia

**Page: Overview**

While “career and technical education (CTE)” is new to many, those in the field have long understood the power and importance of education that provides students with high-tech, real-world learning infused with career exploration. Not only is CTE at the roots of today’s most relevant education trends such as ‘STEM’ and ‘Maker Spaces,’ it’s a vital component to ensuring America’s economic prosperity and status as a leader for innovation. It is part of ACTE’s mission to ensure the value of CTE continues to grow and gain the recognition it deserves.

ACTE’s Champion for CTE Awards were created to recognize education leaders, business and industry executives, celebrities and thought leaders who support and champion CTE programs as a vital part of developing a prepared, adaptable and competitive workforce. The words and actions of a few dedicated and influential individuals have the power to further best practices, foster supportive policies, and shape a more positive public opinion of CTE. These awards showcase outstanding champions—from local leaders to national figureheads—who have leveraged their influence to expand, improve, and promote CTE.

These examples of model leadership serve to inspire and inform other leaders on creative and meaningful ways to positively impact the field. Highlighting their stories aligns with ACTE’s goal of cultivating a positive image of CTE and recognizing a broad community of supporters, ultimately creating a stronger vision for the future of CTE and empowering its leaders to speak with a unified voice.

If you know of a deserving candidate for this recognition, we urge you to explore ACTE’s preeminent awards program.

These awards are open to education leaders, business and industry executives, celebrities, thought leaders and other individuals who have made a significant impact on the improvement and expansion of CTE programs and/or on positively influencing policymakers and public opinion regarding CTE. *Federal policymakers are not eligible for these awards and should instead be nominated for [ACTE’s Policymaker of the Year Award](#).* Greater consideration will be given to candidates who have repeatedly demonstrated their public support for CTE and who exhibit an understanding of the components of modern, high-quality CTE.

Nominations will be accepted online until May 1 and may be submitted by the candidate or by a third party nominator. All candidates who meet eligibility and criteria requirements will be highlighted on ACTE's website as a 'Champion for CTE Spotlight.' Top nominations may be featured as model leaders in a future issue of *Techniques*, and/or invited to present sessions at ACTE's CareerTech VISION.

An independent panel will review all submissions to select the national recipient(s) of the ACTE Champion for CTE Award, which will then be considered for approval by the ACTE Board of Directors. Winners will be notified in August and recognized at the ACTE Awards Banquet during CareerTech VISION.

*All nominators permit ACTE to use and edit content of the application for promotional activities. ACTE reserves the right to maintain the anonymity of judges and confidentiality of their scores. Non-winning candidates may be re-nominated for the same or another Excellence Award the following year. Winning candidates at the national level may not be nominated for the same or another national ACTE Excellence Award within three years of their win.*

**Page: Basic Information**

**Nominator Information**

Please provide your information as the nominator of this candidate.

**Your Name**

McCollough, Julia

**Email Address**

jmccollough@camden.k12.ga.us

**Title**

Dr.

**Employer**

Camden County High School

**Phone Number**

912-729-7318

**Relationship to the Candidate**

co-worker

**Candidate Information**

Please provide information on the candidate being nominated.

**Candidate's Name**

Teresa

**Title**

Knowles

**Employer**

Camden County High School

**Work Address**

6300 Laurel Parkway  
Kingsland Georgia 31548 US

**Email**

tknowles@camden.k12.ga.us

**Phone Number**

912-729-7318

**Does the candidate have a background (diploma, certificate, degree) in a career and technical education field?**

Yes

**If yes, please provide more detail about their background in CTE.**

Mrs. Knowles is certified in the Business Education (6-12), Data Processing, Trade & Industry Education, and Work-Based Learning Endorsement fields. She also holds an endorsement for Director of Technology/Career Education.

Currently, Mrs. Knowles is in her 3rd year as the Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator and CTAE Testing Coordinator for Camden County High School.

Prior to her current position as YAP Coordinator, she taught Business & Technology for 3 years, Computer Science (Programming, AP, Game Design) for 2 years, and Personal Finance & Banking for 2 years.

Knowles also served ten years as a Work-Based Learning Coordinator (4 as DCT Coordinator at CCHS).

**Page: Description of Candidate**

**1. Please describe actions the candidate took to help expand, improve, and/or promote CTE.**

After serving as a classroom teacher in the CTAE department at Camden County High School, Mrs. Knowles was selected to serve as the Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator at Camden County High School in 2015.

At that time, the program had six students. Within 2 1/2 years, Mrs. Knowles has expanded the Youth Apprentice Program to 62 students. As she began her tenure YAP Coordinator, the program had 12 employers. To date, the school's YAP program has close to 50 active partnerships.

Her success is attributable to her relentless efforts to coordinate initiatives with community partnerships for student success. She plays a vital role in the success of these students as well as serving as testing coordinator for the CTAE department.

Mrs. Knowles is a recruiting member of the CTAE Advisory Board, a member of the Camden County Workforce Development Committee, and a member of the Camden County Chamber of Commerce.

**2. How did the candidate's actions shape the adoption/expansion of best practices in CTE?**

Mrs. Knowles' actions directly shaped the expansion of best practices in the CTE program through her work with the Youth Apprenticeship Program (YAP) at CCHS. Her commitment to the increase of a diverse range of employers, industry representatives, and economic development agencies has allowed for more workforce opportunities for students.

The workplace, industry and occupational practices under Mrs. Knowles' direction are reflective of current trends in the community through her active membership on the Camden County Workforce Development Committee. She has organized YAP in a way that promotes student commitments to their apprenticeship position as well as post-secondary education through student portfolio construction.

The requirements, procedures and supervision of work-based learning experiences are well documented and closely supervised by Mrs. Knowles. Mrs. Knowles demonstrates leadership and commitment to the profession in her daily activities. She promotes a program free of bias and discrimination by insuring access and equity to all students.

**3. How did the candidate's actions impact CTE policies or positively influence public opinion of CTE? How did these actions contribute to a broader understanding of modern CTE (not 'vocational education') that is robust, rigorous and relevant?**

Mrs. Knowles' efficient operation of the YAP program and the high expectations she has set for her students has led to an increase in employer partnerships. She continually meets with business community employers to promote CCHS Career Tech programs, changing their perception of how students and employers can benefit from these partnerships due to the changes in CTAE coursework and pathways.

As a member in good standing with the Camden County Chamber of Commerce, she continually recruits new business community members for the CTAE advisory committee. Her position on the CTAE Advisory Board at the school level allows her to play an integral part in the recruitment of new community members.

Knowles membership on the Camden County Workforce Development Committee has resulted in a reciprocal partnership, as many of the Workforce Development Committee members also serve on Mrs. Knowles advisory committee.

The mission of the Workforce Development Committee is to identify and promote opportunities for a partnership between the educational, business community, and government entities of Camden County so as to foster favorable workplace practices to support a skilled local workforce. This committee focuses on bringing the area workforce groups together for a strategic and comprehensive approach in identifying workforce needs and solutions.

**4. What is the scope of the candidate's impact on CTE?**

Local

**5. Would the candidate be willing to speak about their supportive efforts on behalf of CTE at an ACTE event?**

Not Sure