

CAVIT recognizes teachers from its Quality Program

Staff Reports | Posted: Saturday, June 14, 2014 10:29 am

COOLIDGE — The Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology honored its Quality Program teachers with a reception last week.

The program's accountability system requires its teachers to achieve standards in curriculum, instructional support, workplace readiness and professional development — and document their efforts.

Superintendent Mike Glover said, "After seeing the results documented in teachers' portfolios this year, it is evident that quality experiences are being offered to students in each district."

Teachers were recognized for portfolios showing "emerging" (for the first two years of a program), "high quality" and "excellent" programs.

CAVIT's criteria for excellence includes, among other things:

- An advisory committee that holds at least three meetings a year with at least three business people present from different careers in the field.
- A 90 percent passing rate on state-mandated, end-of-program assessments — 100 percent if the program tests fewer than 10 students.
- A fully functioning career and technology student organization with students placing in the top five in a state or national competition.
- A unique, student-created educational event that includes the program's advisory committee members.
- At least 45 hours of out-of-district professional development a year for the teacher.

Teachers who receive an "excellent" rating earn a \$1,000 stipend. Teachers who don't meet CAVIT's standards have a year with coaching to come into compliance.

From Casa Grande Union High School District, Denise Blease, early childhood education; Ann Hunter, business; Kimberly Rains, culinary arts; Brittnie Nilson, agriculture; and Mike Wagner, construction, were recognized for their excellent programs. Stephanie Adams, culinary arts; David Carter, marketing; Eric Eberle, automotive; Jeanine Leary, multimedia; and Kathy Sweeney, early childhood education, were recognized for their high-quality programs.

From Coolidge Unified School District, Joe Galish, business; Hope Gilbert, early childhood education; Nighly Gillespie, business; Patrick McBride, construction; Jadee Rohner, agriculture;

Brian Snow, education professions; Teresa Suan, engineering; Jacob Tafoya, sports medicine; and Cassie Yeo, culinary arts, were recognized for their high-quality programs.

From Florence Unified School District, Amanda Celaya, culinary arts; Tracey Celaya, fashion design; Richard Franco, radio/TV; Jim Nephew, business and radio/TV; Angelica Rudow, agriculture; and Lawrence Williams, business, were recognized for their high-quality programs. Alise Kraus, engineering, was recognized for her emerging program.

From Maricopa Unified School District, Brad Chamberlain, multimedia; Chuck King, multimedia; Greg Mahon, culinary arts; Kevin Piquette, technical theater; Bernadette Russoniello, marketing; and Joby Thompson, multimedia, were recognized for their high-quality programs. Javier Torres, welding, was recognized for his emerging program.

From Santa Cruz Valley Union High School, Larry Beets, construction, and Lisa Woodruff, culinary arts, were recognized for their high-quality programs.

From CAVIT's centralized campus, Ben Barth, massage therapy; Mike Berger, fire science; Tiffany Brown, medical assistance; Devon McLaws, law enforcement; and Jeff Wooley, medical assistance, were recognized for their excellent programs. Shane Blakeman, law enforcement; Jennifer Schwartz, veterinary assistance; Elizabeth Turner, cosmetology; and Ashley Williams, veterinary assistance, were recognized for their high-quality programs.

Glover said CAVIT created its Quality Program accountability system six years ago so its board could see how joint technological education funds would improve the quality of career and technical education classes.

Six years ago most of CAVIT's teachers did not have a strong curriculum, successful student leadership and active advisory committees, he said. Now, all of the programs exhibit those traits with students earning regional and state medals in leadership and technical competitions, extensive community service projects with business partners, partnerships with community members and industry representatives on their advisory committees.

Four years ago when the state created its technical skills assessment system, program passing rates were 70 to 85 percent, Glover added. This April an overwhelming majority of CAVIT teachers achieved 100 percent program passing rates.