

## **3 CAVIT instructors, community partner earn state awards**

**Staff Reports | Posted: Saturday, June 14, 2014 10:30 am**

COOLIDGE — Three Central Arizona Valley Institute of Technology instructors and one of its community partners have earned state awards.

The Association for Career and Technical Education of Arizona has named CAVIT massage therapy teacher Ben Barth the 2014 ACTEAZ New CTE Teacher of the Year.

CAVIT Superintendent Mike Glover said ACTEAZ defines a new teacher as someone who goes directly from industry into the classroom and has not taught more than five years. Barth, who was a licensed massage therapist in Texas, is in his fifth year at CAVIT. He previously won the 2012 ACTEAZ Program of the Year award and the 2013 Community Service Teacher of the Year award.

“Ben Barth is a master at placing increased responsibility on his students for their own learning outcomes,” Glover said.

Students manage every aspect of CAVIT’s award-winning, on-campus massage clinic from scheduling appointments and maintaining inventory to delivering services to clients.

CAVIT medical assistance teacher Jeff Wooley was named the 2014 ACTEAZ Community Service Teacher of the Year.

“Jeff Wooley created a wellness clinic within his program to create a viable outlet for students to display their technical skills and to instill pride in providing community service,” Glover said.

Run by students on the CAVIT campus, the wellness clinic offers free height/weight, blood pressure and glucose/cholesterol checks to community residents. Medical assistance students also travel across Pinal County providing wellness services at industry events during the school year.

Fire science teacher Mike Berger was named the 2014 Arizona SkillsUSA State Adviser of the Year.

Glover said, “Mike was hired six years ago at CAVIT to develop a quality fire science program. During this short period of time, his program has developed a rich history of getting students career and college ready.”

Berger’s students successfully know, do and apply their skills in assessments, state certifications, community service and SkillsUSA competitions, Glover said. They have won 12 medals in firefighting and leadership in state competitions since 2009 and a bronze medal at nationals. Since Arizona began offering the state Outstanding SkillsUSA Chapter competition in 2010, CAVIT has

won gold in this event every year, and its fire science students have been elected to regional and state SkillsUSA officer positions.

Renee Louzon-Benn, director of community outreach at Sun Life Family Health Center, has been named the 2014 ACTEAZ Business Partner of the Year.

CAVIT's business partners have won this award four years running, with the recipients being Tamatha Villar at the Pinal County Sheriff's Office in 2011, Chief Scott Miller of the Casa Grande Fire Department in 2012 and Director Kaye Dickson at Pinal County Animal Care and Control in 2013.

Glover said Sun Life and its staff were nominated because the partnership has provided CAVIT students with professional mentors.

"Our two program teachers rely on agency staff to provide input in the program's direction, assist in evaluating students in their technical skill mastery, offer internship site experiences and bring the latest workforce trend information so our teachers can prepare our students for the ever-changing workplace," he said.

Wooley, Barth and Louzon-Benn will receive their awards at the ACTEAZ Summer Conference July 16 in Tucson. Berger received his award at April's Arizona SkillsUSA Leadership Conference in Phoenix.