

Award Biography

Michelle has been an exceptional counselor for 25 years. During that time, she worked at three high schools to support student success. For nine years, Michelle was a counselor at Dysart's alternative high school. This school specifically serves at-risk students who are not on track for graduation. Michelle built positive professional relationships with these students and their families to encourage the completion of not only high school requirements but also career exploration. For the remaining 16 years of Michelle's career at Dysart District, creating opportunities for students with disabilities to participate in CTE.

Michelle supports students and families in finding their career path through ECAP meetings and career guidance presentations. Michelle is also an active supporter of CTSOs with her school. She takes interested students to the annual Construction Days event and is a chaperone for many CTSO-related events.

Michelle continuously develops innovative means to encourage engagement in CTE. As a Co-Chair of the ACTEAZ Fellows Program and the current ACTEAZ Member at Large, she shares her wealth of experiences with individuals new to leadership and advocacy in CTE and best practices. As an ACTEAZ board officer, Michelle is actively engaged in planning the Mid-Winter and Summer Conference.

Michelle has intentionally expanded her knowledge of CTE through active engagement in the larger community. Her service as both West-MEC Representative and Counselor Advisory Member has created depth in her knowledge of CTE. She also presents at state, regional, and national conferences and is a four-time participant at the National Policy Seminar to advocate for CTE for ALL students.