



For Immediate Release

Friday, Dec. 20, 2024

Media Contact:

Ryan Jarvi
Director of Communication
Northwest Education Services
231.922.6242 | rjarvi@NorthwestEd.org

MI ACTE Honors Career Tech Staff with Administrator, Counselor of the Year Awards

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – Pat Lamb and Karmin Olds, two staff members at Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech, have won statewide awards for being recognized among their peers as going above and beyond to champion Career and Technical Education across Michigan.

Lamb and Olds are among a list of nine individuals recognized by the Michigan Association for Career and Technical Education (MI ACTE), with Lamb winning MI ACTE’s 2024 Administrator of the Year Award and Olds taking home the organization’s Counseling and Career Development Professional Award. Lamb is North Ed’s assistant superintendent of Career and Technical Education and Olds serves as a counselor at Career Tech.

“To have even one individual earn this prestigious achievement would be an honor, but to have two of our employees being recognized for their work is simply incredible,” said Dr. Nick Ceglarek, North Ed’s superintendent. “The entire team at Career Tech is made up of passionate individuals who truly value education and care about our students, and they demonstrate that by engaging students in rigorous hands-on learning that sets them on a trajectory for success. Congratulations to Pat and Karmin on this outstanding recognition.”

Prior to becoming the assistant superintendent of Career and Technical Education, Lamb served as principal of North Ed’s tech center from 2010-19. He started with North Ed in 2004 as the assistant principal of the center after working as an educator and administrator at Northport Public School and St. Mary’s Lake Leelanau. Lamb has a bachelor’s and a master’s degrees from Central Michigan University (CMU), and a teaching certificate from Olivet College.

“I consider myself lucky to work in education and to witness the growth and potential of our students every day,” Lamb said. “This recognition is humbling, and I know that I would not be in this position if it weren’t for the people around me. The team and the culture that has been developed at Career Tech is exceptional, and I am fortunate to be a part of that.”

After earning her bachelor’s degree in 1997 from CMU, Olds taught Spanish at Kalkaska High School for several years. She later returned to CMU to earn her master’s degree in counseling, and began her role as school counselor in 2013 at Kalkaska High School. Olds has worked in her current role at Career Tech since 2019.

“As counselors, our work centers around serving our students and supporting them as they learn new skills and prepare to take the next step after graduation,” Olds said. “Seeing students

succeed and flourish has always been one of the most rewarding things for me, and I am inspired every day by their dreams, resilience and growth. It is an honor to receive this recognition and a privilege to be among a group of such outstanding educators and administrators.”

Each year, [MILACTE](#) recognizes individuals for their dedication, innovation and contributions to Career & Technical Education. This year’s winners will be formally recognized at the Michigan Career Education Conference on Jan. 28 in Grand Rapids.

This recognition adds to Career Tech’s recent awards, including an [Excellence in Practice Award](#) given to its Health Sciences program by the Michigan Department of Education. Career Tech has won several Excellence in Practice awards, including:

- [2024](#) Evidence-Based Reporting and supporting the regional Jobs for Michigan’s Graduates program.
- [2019](#) Film & New Media
- 2016 Early College
- 2015 Engineering Academy (formerly Manufacturing Tech Academy)
- 2013 Teacher Academy
- 2011 Academic Integration

Career Tech has also been recognized with national Excellence in Action awards by Advance CTE:

- [2018](#) Teacher Academy in the Education and Training Career Cluster.
- 2016 Engineering Academy (formerly Manufacturing Tech Academy) in the STEM Cluster.

One of Career Tech’s teachers, Power Equipment instructor [Jared Diephouse](#), was also recognized nationally as one of the finalists for Teacher of the Year by the Association for Career & Technical Education.

Career Tech offers 22 state-approved CTE [programs](#) to high school juniors and seniors from Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties. Students are educated in career and technical fields, offering hands-on practical experiences, job shadowing, career exploration and early college opportunities, along with rigorous academic integration. For more information about North Ed Career Tech, [click here](#).

###



Pat Lamb



Karmin Olds