



For Immediate Release

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Media Contact:

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

Career Tech Staff Named Top of Class for ACTE Region 1

Pat Lamb, Karmin Olds Standouts Among Candidates in 14 States, D.C.

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. – For the second year in a row, Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Career Tech is sending its staffers to the national awards stage.

Karmin Olds, a counselor at Career Tech, and Pat Lamb, North Ed’s assistant superintendent of Career and Technical Education, will travel to Nashville, Tennessee in December. There, they will be recognized among a group of educational leaders at the national Association for Career & Technical Education (ACTE) Career Tech VISION conference.

Olds and Lamb both were selected as the winners at the ACTE Region 1 Conference held in late March in Foxborough, Massachusetts. Lamb won ACTE Region 1 Administrator of the Year, and Olds won ACTE Region 1 Counseling & Career Development Professional of the Year. Both won similar awards at the [Michigan ACTE Conference in December](#).

“These awards underscore the profound contributions Pat and Karmin have made to career and technical education and the significant impacts they’ve made on the lives of students,” said North Ed Superintendent Dr. Nick Ceglarek. “The fact that this is the second year in a row North Ed has had representation at the national level is a testament to the vital roles our Career Tech team plays in empowering students to explore new pathways and pursue their career aspirations.”

Career Tech’s Power Equipment instructor, [Jared Diephouse](#), was recognized nationally as one of the finalists for Teacher of the Year by the ACTE in 2024.

In addition to Michigan, ACTE Region 1 includes Washington D.C., Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and West Virginia. Olds and Lamb will now compete for the national awards against finalists from four other regions.

“I am inspired by the work of all the other regional award recipients and I am humbled to be recognized among such esteemed educators and leaders,” Lamb said. “This achievement is a reflection of the team we have at Career Tech and the amazing things people are doing every day to help students achieve their goals.”

“It is truly an honor to be recognized among so many dedicated professionals,” Olds said. “I am especially grateful for the students who inspire me daily, and for my colleagues who create such

a supportive and collaborative environment. Seeing the impact we have on students' lives and their futures is the most rewarding part of this work.”

This recognition adds to Career Tech's recent awards, including several Excellence in Practice Awards given by the Michigan Department of Education:

- [2025](#) Health Sciences
- [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.

The [ACTE Career Tech VISION Conference](#) will be held Dec. 8-12 in Nashville. Award recipients are exceptional individuals who have contributed to the success of CTE through the quality of their work and their involvement in the CTE community, according to the [ACTE website](#).

[North Ed Career Tech](#) offers more than [20 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.

[Northwest Education Services](#) is one of 56 intermediate school districts in Michigan serving 16 public school districts, six public school academies, and 12 private schools in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties. North Ed provides services needed to improve student learning, serve children's special needs, develop teachers' expertise and maximize resources on a regional scale.

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Pat Lamb



Karmin Olds