

Ashe County Schools CTE Leaders Earn Top Northwest Regional Honors

Ashe County Schools is proud to celebrate two outstanding Career and Technical Education (CTE) leaders who were recognized with prestigious regional honors during last week's North Carolina Career and Technical Education Summer Conference in Winston-Salem.



Mandy Lovell, Curriculum & Instructional Management Coordinator (CIMC) at Ashe County High School, was named the **Northwest Region Curriculum & Instructional Management Coordinator of the Year**.

Earl Pennington, Ashe County Schools Director of Career and Technical Education and Accountability, was recognized as the **Northwest Region CTE Director of the Year**.

These awards recognize exceptional leadership, innovation, and dedication to advancing Career and Technical Education while creating meaningful opportunities for students to explore career pathways and prepare for success beyond graduation.

Mrs. Lovell has long been a champion for student success, connecting students with career exploration opportunities, work-based learning experiences, internships, and postsecondary planning. Her commitment to helping students discover their passions and build real-world skills has strengthened career readiness initiatives at Ashe County High School and opened doors for countless students as they prepare for college, careers, and military service.

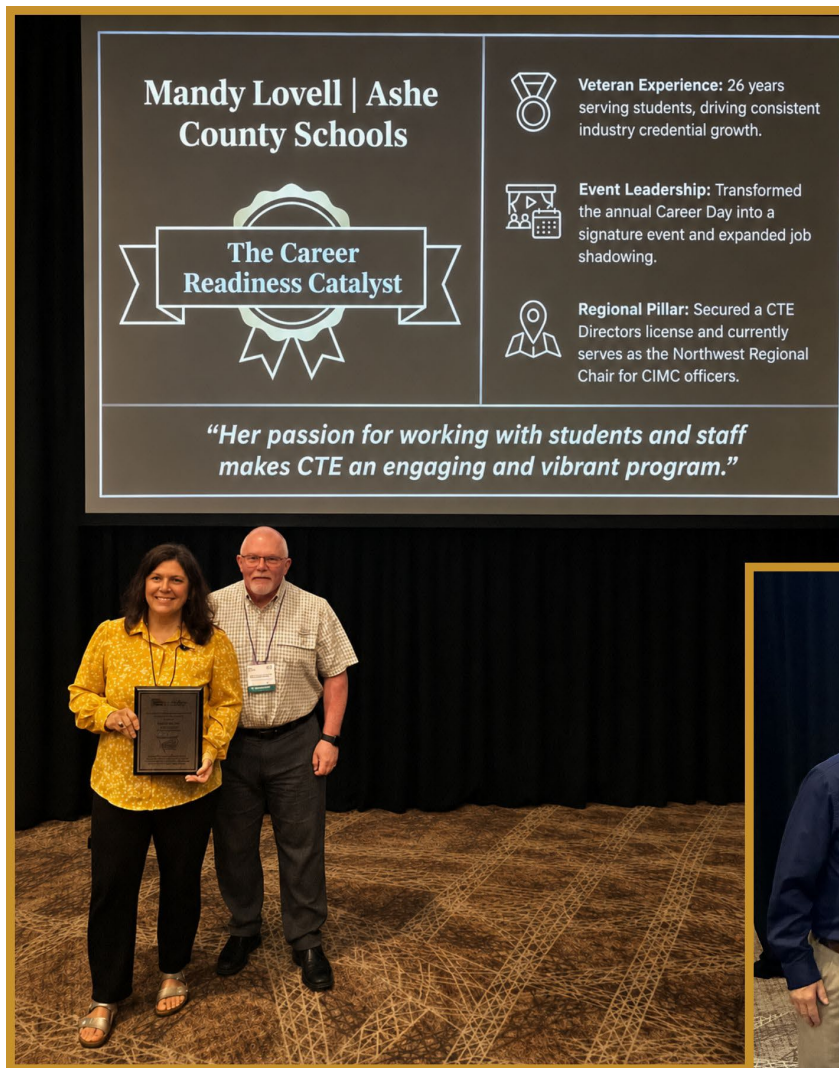
As Director of CTE and Accountability, Mr. Pennington has played an instrumental role in expanding and strengthening Career and Technical Education throughout Ashe County Schools. His leadership has helped grow high-quality CTE programs, foster partnerships with local businesses and industries, support innovative learning opportunities, and ensure students have access to rigorous, hands-on experiences that prepare them for today's workforce. His vision and dedication continue to enhance educational opportunities that benefit students across the district.

"Career and Technical Education gives students the opportunity to discover their strengths, develop valuable workforce skills, and explore meaningful career pathways before they graduate," said Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox. "We are incredibly proud of both Mrs. Lovell and Mr. Pennington for earning these well-deserved honors. Their leadership, passion, and commitment to our students continue to make a lasting impact on the future of Ashe County."

Both Mrs. Lovell and Mr. Pennington will now advance as nominees for the **North Carolina State Curriculum & Instructional Management Coordinator of the Year** and **North Carolina State CTE Director of the Year**, respectively.

Please join Ashe County Schools in congratulating these exceptional educators on their well-earned recognition and thanking them for their unwavering dedication to providing students with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need to succeed in school, in the workforce, and in life.

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At left: Northwest Region award winners Mandy Lovell (Curriculum & Instructional Management Coordinator of the Year) and Earl Pennington (CTE Director of the Year)!



At right: Mr. Pennington with Trey Michael, NCDPI's Senior Director of CTE at the state level.