



WE-BAM  
WBEA

# Award Recipients

*February 17-21, 2022*

*Seattle, Washington*

# THANK YOU

**for attending!**

## WBEA 2021-2022 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Ariel Peterson - President, WA

Eric Swenson - President-Elect, MT

Karen O'Connor - Past President, CA

Cindy Arnzen - Treasurer, ID

Mandy Wichman - Secretary, MT

Chris Liebelt-Garcia - NBEA Director-WBEA Region, AZ

## STANDING COMMITTEE DIRECTORS

Joshua Fisher - Awards & Scholarship, OR

Roietta Fulgham - Legislative Liaison, CA

Peter Rustemeyer - Media & Communications, WA

Nancy Backlund - Membership, CA

Martin Runge - Newsletter, BC

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

ISBE Representative

Joe McClary - NBEA Executive Director

Keith Hannah - NBEA President, WA

## BOARD MEMBERS

Chris Liebelt-Garcia - Arizona President

Naresh Manak - British Columbia President

Martin Runge - British Columbia Vice-President

Nancy Backlund - California President

Lynn Keane - California President-Elect

Warren Kawano - Hawai'i President

Alicia Ward - Idaho President

Sarah Pelayo - Idaho President-Elect

Mandy Wichman - Montana President

Stephanie Hess - Montana President-Elect

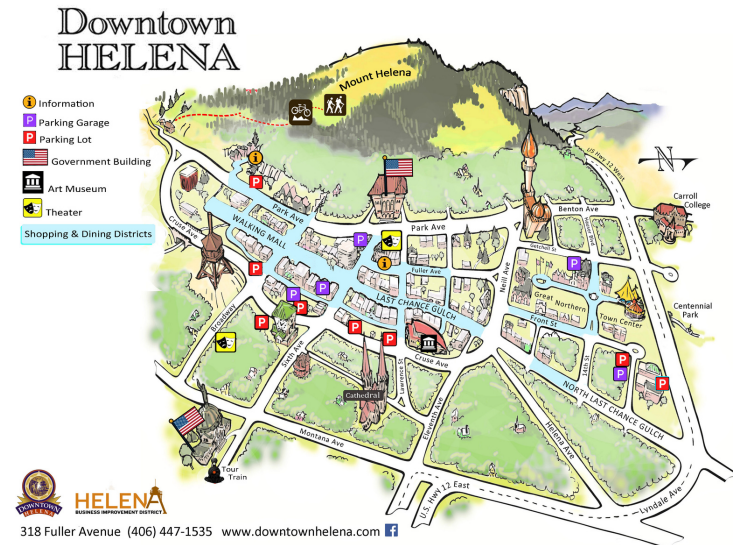
Terry Price - Nevada President

Cassandra Merritt - Nevada President Elect

Joey Running - Oregon President

Joshua Fisher - Oregon President-Elect

Peter Rustemeyer - Washington President



# WBEA 2023

Join us in February 2023 in Helena, Montana as we meet at the WBEA 2023 Conference. Plan to network with like-minded peers, discover the beauty and hospitality of Helena, attend tours and workshops, and meet new friends while reacquainting with old.

- February 17-19, 2023
- Best Western Premier Helena Great Northern Hotel



# Purpos

The purpose of the Awards and Scholarship program is to promote the WBEA Recognition program, Media Awards programs, and the Scholarship program for WBEA and NBEA.

Each year, a call for nominations is requested so that members of WBEA can be nominated and recognized for their outstanding achievements and contributions to business education within the Western Region. The following awards are available for nomination:

- **President's Award**
  - Chosen by the current WBEA President
- **Distinguished Service - Individual**
  - Nominee shall be a business educator and WBEA member
- **Distinguished Service - Company, Representative, Legislator**
  - Nominee is not required to be a member of WBEA
- **Outstanding Business Educator - Elementary/Middle School**
  - Nominee shall be a business educator and WBEA member
- **Outstanding Business Educator - High School**
  - Nominee shall be a business educator and WBEA member
- **Outstanding Business Educator - Postsecondary**
  - Nominee shall be a business educator and WBEA member
- **Outstanding Business Educator - University**
  - Nominee shall be a business educator and WBEA member
- **Outstanding CTSO Advisor**
  - Nominee shall be a business educator and WBEA member
- **Media Awards**
  - Nominee shall be a WBEA member and produce S/T/P newsletters
- **Membership Awards**
  - Nominee shall be a WBEA member and meet S/T/P membership goals

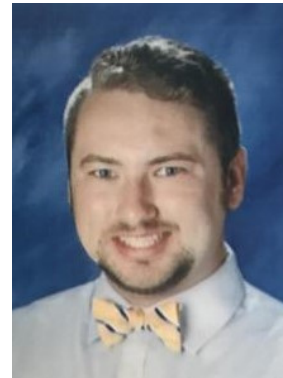
## WBEA PAST PRESIDENTS

1950-51 Theodore Yerian, OR  
1951-52 Marsdon Sherman, CA  
1952-53 Evan Croft, UT  
1953-54 Eugene Kosy, WA  
1954-55 Edwin Swanson, CA  
1955-56 Verner Dotson, WA  
1956-57 Jessie Black, UT  
1957-58 Mary Alice Wittenberg, CA  
1958-59 Clisby Edlefsen, ID  
1959-60 Ralph Asmus, AZ  
1960-61 Edith Smith, OR  
1961-62 Laura Lynn Straub, CA  
1962-63 Frances Brown, WA  
1963-64 Dean Peterson\*/  
G.W. (Jim) Maxwell, CA  
1964-65 John Lin, CA  
1965-66 Leonard Carpenter, OR  
1966-67 George Dunn, AZ  
1967-68 Robert Rose, ID  
1968-69 Ted Ivarie, UT  
1969-70 Ray Christopherson, WA  
1970-71 Robert Thompson, CA  
1971-72 Ted Stoddard, UT  
1972-73 Howard Jones, OR  
1973-74 John Chrape, HI  
1974-75 Daniel Hertz, MT  
1975-76 James Manos, CA  
1976-77 Lohnie Boggs, AZ  
1977-78 Mona Noble, ID  
1978-79 Ed Goodin, NV  
1979-80 Kenneth McDonald, WA  
1980-81 Georgiale Smithpeters, WA  
1981-82 G.W. (Jim) Maxwell, CA  
1982-83 May Oka, OR  
1983-84 H. Robert Stocker, UT  
1984-85 Lloyd W. Bartholome, UT  
1985-86 Evelyn Schemmel, HI

1986-87 Jeanette Bieber-Moses, MT  
1987-88 James Young, AZ  
1988-89 Mike Hovey, ID  
1989-90 Kathleen Richards, UT  
1990-91 Ross Byrd, WA  
1991-92 Jane Thompson, CA  
1992-93 Colleen Vawdrey, UT  
1993-94 Sue Trautwein, OR  
1994-95 George Borg, WA  
1995-96 William (Bill) Neal, HI  
1996-97 Billie Herrin, MT  
1997-98 James Young, AZ  
1998-99 Roger Rankin, ID  
1999-00 Mary Ann Lammers, OR  
2000-01 Helen Humbert, WA  
2001-02 Pauline Newton, CA  
2002-03 Alden Talbot, UT  
2003-04 Nancy Noe, OR  
2004-05 Joseph McFarland, CA  
2005-06 Jean Matsui Hara, HI  
2006-07 Julie O'Dell, MT  
2007-08 Kris Sheets, AZ  
2008-09 Angie Neal, ID  
2009-10 Eileen Wascisin, WA  
2010-11 Jackie Floetke, WA  
2011-12 Roietta Fulgham, CA  
2012-13 Greg Colf, UT  
2013-14 Christy Ekroth, OR  
2014-15 Ken Kuhn, BC  
2015-16 Kay Fujimoto Ono, HI  
2016-17 Elaine Stedman, MT  
2017-18 Dona Orr, ID  
2018-19 Chris Liebelt-Garcia, AZ  
2019-20 Karen O'Connor, CA  
2020-21 Ariel Peterson, WA

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD

*Presented by: Ariel Peterson, 2020-2022 WBEA President*



**PETER RUSTEMEYER,  
WASHINGTON**

"I met Peter at a conference in the fall of 2015 and boy did I have an opportunity for him. Little did he know that by agreeing to join the WSBEA Board that he would still be on the board with me nearly seven years later.... and I managed to convince him to join the WBEA Board with me for the last two years. Somehow he managed to do all of this while joining the National FBLA Board of Directors and the Washington State FBLA Board of Advisers as well as his full time job of teaching at Hazen High School. Through it all, Peter has become one of my best friends in work and life. The number of times I've called him asking for help, to vent, or even to clarify that I'm not as crazy as I feel makes him more important to myself and the quality of these associations than he probably realizes. I would be lost without his support, kind heart, and drive to make every experience a good experience. I am so excited to have this opportunity of honoring Peter Rustemeyer with this year's WBEA President's Award." ~ Ariel Peterson

*\*Dean Peterson was elected but did not assume the president's position.*

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD - INDIVIDUAL -



**ARIEL PETERSON,  
WASHINGTON**

Our path in life takes us on many journeys and for me, on one such journey I was fortunate to cross paths with Ariel. Ariel and I met virtually in December of 2019 as preparations were under way for the WBEA conference in Torrance, CA. She reached out to me about a leadership role within WBEA and, me being me, I did not say no.

This is when I truly began to see her commitment to our profession and to her peers as individual leaders. She welcomed me into "The Club" and instantly began sharing information and resources to help with the transition in leadership that was taking place at the conference. Little did we all know during that weekend in February of 2020, that a mere three weeks later the world was going to drastically change. As the weight of the pandemic set in, our WBEA leadership team was faced with difficult choices. Ariel never wavered and led her team to success.

I was astonished at how well last year's virtual conference was handled while changing a lot of moving parts so that we could stand here before you today in Seattle, Washington. Mind you, while all of this is happening, Ariel had to balance planning another conference with her personal and professional duties, including planning her wedding! If her classroom is ran the way she has ran WBEA, it would be no wonder why her students love her and experience their own successes in life. Ariel is beyond deserving of any and all accolades she receives.

*Nominated by: Joshua Fisher, WBEA Awards & Scholarships*

## CAREER & TECHNICAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISORS

2006-07 Jean Hyde, WA  
2007-08 Colleen Vawdrey, UT  
2008-09 Kathleen O'Brien, ID  
2009-10 Alden A. Talbot, UT  
2010-11 Marjorie Carlilie, UT  
2011-12 Lucille Brizzee, UT  
2012-13 Laura Hilzendeger, WA

2013-14 Dr. Brenda Jacobsen, ID  
2014-15 Scott E. Anderson, MT  
2016-17 Warren Kawano, HI  
2017-18 Terri King, WA  
2018-19 Roger Beck, WA  
2020-21 Peter Rustemeyer, WA

## OUTSTANDING BUSINESS EDUCATOR - MIDDLE SCHOOL / JUNIOR HIGH -

1992-93 Cindi Sorensen, WA  
1993-94 Linda James, UT  
1994-95 Colleen Richardson, UT  
1998-99 Janet Leatham, UT  
1999-00 Marie Mortensen, UT

2001-02 Jackie Floetke, WA  
2004-05 Tara Haslam, UT  
2012-13 Julie G. Thorngren, UT  
2013-14 Keith C. Hannah, WA

## OUTSTANDING BUSINESS EDUCATOR - SECONDARY -

1990-91 Kathleen Richards, UT  
1991-92 Cynthia Denton, MT  
1992-93 Rita Figlenski, WA  
1993-94 Marilyn Bennion, UT  
1994-95 Linda Montanaro, AZ  
1995-96 Valerie Abbott, OR  
1996-97 Arlinda Carlson, MT  
1997-98 Joyce Johnson, AZ  
1998-99 George Borg, WA  
1999-00 Mark Branger, MT  
2000-01 Susan Boothe, UT  
2001-02 Christi Pilcher, MT  
2002-03 Joe McFarland, CA  
2003-04 Pauline Newton, CA  
2004-05 Teresa Wood, OR  
2005-06 Toni C. Simmons, UT

2006-07 Eileen Wascisin, WA  
2007-08 Jon R. Abel, OR  
2008-09 Tacey Keylon, ID  
2009-10 Eric Swenson, MT  
2010-11 Ken Kuhn, BC  
2011-12 Kimberly Gregory, WA  
2012-13 Christine Liebelt-Garcia, AZ  
2013-14 Martin Runge, BC  
2014-15 Tina L. Fulks, NV  
2015-16 Elaine Stedman, MT  
2016-17 Cindy Arzen, AZ  
2017-18 Adam Smith, WA  
2018-19 Tina Fulks, NV  
2019-20 Rod Martel, CA  
2020-21 Noelle Carstens, WA

## OUTSTANDING BUSINESS EDUCATOR - POSTSECONDARY -

1990-91 Lloyd Bartholome, UT  
1992-93 V. Wayne Klemin, WA  
1993-94 H. Robert Stocker, UT  
1994-95 Billie Herrin, MT  
1995-96 Margaret Beilke, WA  
1996-97 Doris Williamson, UT  
1997-98 Robert Gryder, AZ  
1998-99 Alden Talbot, UT  
1999-00 Pamela Weigand, WA  
2000-01 Ross Byrd, WA

2001-02 Dennis LaBonty, UT  
2002-03 Greg Colf, UT  
2003-04 Colleen Vawdrey, UT  
2004-05 Allyson Saunders, UT  
2005-06 Joseph Otto, CA  
2008-09 Cynthia O. Krebs, UT  
2010-11 Dennis Garner, UT  
2011-12 Diana J. Green, UT  
2018-19 Patti Sessions, OR  
2018-19 Dr. Brenda Jacobsen, ID

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE - INDIVIDUAL -

1983-84 Robert J. Thompson, CA  
1984-85 May Oka, OR  
1985-86 Dr. H. Robert Stocker, UT  
1986-87 Dr. Lloyd Bartholome, UT  
1987-88 Evelyn Schemmel, HI  
1988-89 Kathleen Richards, UT  
1989-90 Dr. James L. Young, AZ  
1990-91 Georgina Seals, OR  
1991-92 Jeanette Bieber-Moses, MT  
1992-93 George Borg, WA  
1993-94 Dr. V. Wayne Klemin, WA  
1994-95 Jane Thompson, CA  
1995-96 Dr. Ross Byrd, WA  
1996-97 Ginny Held, OR  
1997-98 Dr. Colleen Vawdrey, UT  
1998-99 Sue Trautwein, OR  
1999-00 Bernice Collins, CA

2000-01 Mary Ann Lammers, OR  
2001-02 Helen Humbert, WA  
2002-03 Pauline Newton, CA  
2003-04 Dr. Alden A. Talbot, UT  
2004-05 Marty McFarland, CA  
2005-06 Rita Figlenski, WA  
2006-07 Kay Fujimoto Ono, HI  
2007-08 Joseph B. McFarland, CA  
2009-10 Eric Swenson, MT  
2010-11 Jean Matsui Hara, HI  
2012-13 Kris Sheets, AZ  
2013-14 Jackie Floetke, WA  
2014-15 Eileen J. Wascisin, WA  
2015-16 Ken Kuhn, BC  
2016-17 Chris Liebelt-Garcia, AZ  
2017-18 Roietta Fulgham, CA  
2018-19 Kristina Yamada, UT

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD - COMPANY REPRESENTATIVE -



**MIKE OECHSNER,  
WASHINGTON FBLA**

Mike Oechsner currently serves as the Executive Director of Washington State FBLA. Not only does Mike serve educators and students in this capacity, but is a member of Team Tri and works with not just FBLA but also DECA, FCCLA, HOSA, and TSA. During the past year, he was instrumental in guiding the merger of two business educator associations in the Washington. According to Peter Rustemeyer, Mr. Oechsner "knows the power our associations have in helping us prepare our classrooms and lessons, and therefore he fights to make our professional associations as strong as they can be."

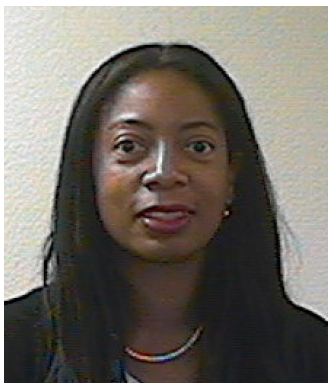
Sierra Larkin, teacher at Wenatchee High School, echoed the sentiments shared by Peter. She further embraced the nomination by stating, "Thankfully we had Mike and his wealth of knowledge. Mike helped us through the process and was willing to answer any questions we had. He also was able to guide us with the many steps to create the new organization and file all the necessary paperwork to become a non-profit organization."

It is my belief that we have stumbled upon a common theme with Mike: he loves assisting business educators in ways that ensure all educational stakeholders will be successful. Ariel Peterson states, "I do not believe that we would have been able to complete this process on our own or as efficiently."

A point of reference to this is that WE-BAM's non-profit paperwork filed with the IRS was approved with the first submission.

*Nominated by: Ariel Peterson, WBEA President*

**OUTSTANDING BUSINESS EDUCATOR  
- POSTSECONDARY -**



**DR. LAVONNE SLATON,  
CALIFORNIA**

Dr. LaVonne Slaton currently teaches four subjects (Business, Accounting, Management, and Marketing) at Solano Community College in Fairfield, California. LaVonne has over 10 years of teaching experience and over 20 years of experience working in industry. Dr. Slaton is a member of various local, regional, and national organizations which include not only WBEA, but the Government Finance Officers Association, Small Business Development Center Advisor Napa California, National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship, and Joint Special Populations Advisory Committee. "Her research and publication of underrepresented minorities include research of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). This has established her as an expert on diversity, equity, and inclusivity as a key resource for support and guidance in the areas of DEI." according to Larrese Gooden.

According to Adrienne Cary at Solano Community College, Dr. Slaton "tirelessly mentored students and developed programs and opportunities like the AON Insurance Apprenticeship Program, advised/sponsored The Rotaract Club, advised the student-led local food pantry, coordinated the Business Pitch Competition, and led the Mentor Project Management Institute."

Current WBEA Legislative Chair, Roietta Fulgham, has this to say, "She brings together students and community leaders to exchange ideas, develop leadership and professional skills, and have fun through service. LaVonne also volunteers in her community with Meals on Wheels, Boys and Girls Club of America, and IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program."

*Nominated by: Roietta Fulgham, WBEA Legislative Chair*

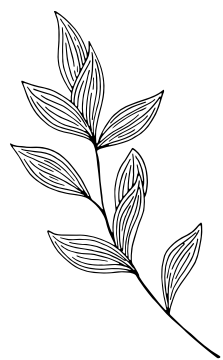
**ROBERT J. THOMPSON  
MEMBERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT**

- 1986-87 Eileen Aaberge, MT
- 1987-88 Sheila Crosmer, MT
- 1988-89 Dr. Robert Gryder, AZ
- 1989-90 Dee Hartman, ID
- 1990-91 Nevada
- 1991-92 Mary O Fury, WA
- 1992-93 Clair Schenk, UT
- 1993-94 Sue Van Meter, OR
- 1994-95 Clair Schenk, UT
- 1995-96 Arlinda Carlson, MT
- 1996-97 Arlinda Carlson, MT
- 1997-98 Arlinda Carlson, MT
- 1998-99 Jill Meyer, WA
- 1999-00 Julie O'Dell, MT
- 2000-01 Julie O'Dell, MT
- 2001-02 Denise Carlson, MT

- 2002-03 Stanley May, HI
- 2003-04 Eric Swenson, MT
- 2004-05 Lue Ann Amburn, NV
- 2005-06 Jean Matsui Hara, HI
- 2006-07 Eric Swenson, MT
- 2007-08 Michael Haney, NV
- 2008-09 Roy Davis, ID
- 2009-10 Kristen Stuart, NV
- 2010-11 Linda Cotton, MT
- 2011-12 Linda Cotton, MT
- 2012-13 Linda Colton, MT
- 2015-14 Sherry Stidhum, NV
- 2014-15 Jenny Miller, ID
- 2015-16 Jenny Miller, ID
- 2017-18 Shauna Williams, ID
- 2018-19 Shauna Williams, ID

**2022 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
LEADERSHIP TRAINING ATTENDEES**

- Joshua S Fisher, Oregon
- Heather L Gallagher, Washington
- Jessica Goosen, Montana
- Ariel Peterson, Washington
- David Powell, Montana
- Joey Running, Oregon
- Eric Swenson, Montana



# WBEA COMMUNICATION AWARD

# OUTSTANDING BUSINESS EDUCATOR - HIGH SCHOOL -



**BRYAN MONSON,  
OREGON**

Mr. Monson has worked tirelessly the last few years, especially during our global pandemic, to consistently produce and distribute quarterly newsletters for the Oregon Business Education Association. The OBEA newsletters have presented a fun and unique challenge for Bryan to create quarterly themes yet maintain consistency with overall design and layout. His function is solely as the OBEA Newsletter Editor and as such, upon completion of the document, he sends it to our OBEA representative, Ron Dodge with the Oregon Department of Education, who then distributes it electronically through his email system.



**JOEY RUNNING,  
OREGON**

Mrs. Joey Running began her teaching career in Frewsburg, New York before moving on to teach at the high school she attended. After teaching in New York for seven years, Joey made the move to Oregon where she has established herself as a champion for business education, especially subjects revolving around financial literacy. West Albany High School has been proud to have her on staff since 2006. Susie Orsborn, current principal of West Albany High School, had this to say, "Joey is highly respected by our students, staff, parents, and community. She is also very active in our state and across the nation. Joey has the skills and abilities that motivate others to learn, take responsibility for their actions, and want to improve. Her influence is profound."

Sean Saxton is an assistant principal at West Albany and shared these thoughts, "Joey is passionate about Financial Literacy and exemplifies the Lifelong Learner. She routinely seeks opportunities at the building, state, and national level for additional learning and regularly updates her curriculum to keep it rigorous, up-to-date, and relevant for an ever-changing student population."

Co-Founder of Next Gen Personal Finance, Tim Ranzetta also shared this, "I have seen first-hand her commitment to not only bringing the very best in personal finance content to her students, but also in identifying new and engaging ways to deliver it to her students."

*Nominated by: Mary Ann Lammers, OBEA Consultant*

