



CAP ACE Program



2021 National Award Winners



CAP's K-6th grade [Aerospace Connections in Education \(ACE\) program](#) began in 2008 and has impacted over 375,000 students since its inception.

Click on each award, below, for each winner's story!

[National ACE School of the Year: Creekside Elementary, Livingston, TX](#)
and

[National ACE School Coordinator of the Year: Melanie Justice](#)

Principal, Elisha Bell ACE School Coordinator and P.E. Teacher, Melanie Justice
School Specialists ACE Team: Candice Cozart, Music Teacher and
Paraprofessionals, Crystal Valdez, P.E.; Vernell Wright, Computer Lab; Rachel Bily, Utility

[National ACE Teacher of the Year: Kelli Jo Wilson](#)

Holtville Middle School, Holtville, AL

Adopted by:

SER-AL-032 Maxwell CAP Composite Squadron and AFA Montgomery Chapter 102

[National ACE Adopt-a-Classroom Teacher of the Year: Kala Jo Grice-Dobbins](#)

Sparkman Middle School Toney, AL

Adopted by:

SER-AL-119 CAP Redstone Composite Squadron and AFA TN Valley Chapter 335

[National ACE Specialist Teacher of the Year: Tara Shaw](#)

Friendship Elementary School Buford, GA

[National ACE "Special" Science Teacher of the Year: Marian Gilmore](#)

Silver Sands School Ft Walton Beach, FL

[National ACE Sustained Excellence Award: Brainard Harris](#)

Tech Resource Specialist/Aerospace Tech Teacher

Stewart Middle Magnet School, Tampa, FL

National ACE Students of the Year:

[Braden King \(primary\)](#)

Hillsboro Charter Academy, Hillsboro, VA

Megan Tucker, Teacher

[Rosalena Gonzalez \(intermediate\)](#)

West Elementary School, Mt Vernon, IN

Dan Koch, Teacher



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How are our ACE Awards determined?

First, we accept nominations for our major awards of National Teacher, School and Student of the Year for the Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) program.

Then, we work as a team at the CAP National HQ in Montgomery, AL, to decide which school and/or teacher has gone above and beyond; which school coordinator has worked tirelessly to ensure all students are involved in the ACE program; and which individuals have uniquely stood out (with our knowledge by keeping us updated on what they are doing via photos and communications).

Please join us again for the 2021-2022 ACE program and keep us informed of all you are doing with our ACE kids! Registration opens August 1st!

Points of Pride for 2020-2021

Even during a full year of COVID restrictions, there were 60,450 ACE students; 435 schools; and 977 teachers in 46 states + PR + Europe (DoD). (See list by state [HERE](#).)

- 98% educators view ACE as fitting well with standards; supporting STEM education; a valuable use of time; and a positive influence on behavior and learning.
- The inaugural [Adopt-a-Classroom program](#) began with the amazing [Adopt-a-Classroom Ambassadors, Col Brian Schmuck and C/1st Lt Rylee Schmuck](#), who, as a team, adopted 7 classrooms representing GLR-IN-220, River City Cadet Squadron, with squadron commander, Capt Michael Schultheis. (Col Schmuck is the new KYWG Commander!)
 - See the [AFA magazine article about their program](#) upon which the “Adopt” program is based.
 - See the [CAP.NEWS “Adopt” launch article](#).
 - See [CAP Volunteer Spring '21 article](#) about the “Adopt” program.

Through the Years

Since 2008 inception, over 375,000 ACE students in 50 states + DC & PR + Europe (DoD)

- ***The Air Force Association has been a steady partner, providing certificates, shirts and award grants!***
- See [10-year ACE anniversary story](#) in CAP’s Volunteer Magazine.



Registration opens August 1st. We hope to see YOU as a FACE of ACE!