

PRESS RELEASE

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Civil Air Patrol and the Air Force Association Announces 2016 National ACE Award Winners

Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL --- The ninth annual Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) Awards have been named from participants in over 141 schools, with almost 400 educators and about 20,000 students in 33 states and 1 DoD School (Turkey). Since the program's inception in 2007, about 100,000 students in 35 states have been involved in the program that increases interest in STEM careers.

The ACE program is provided at no cost to schools across the nation by Civil Air Patrol and **Presenting Sponsor, the Air Force Association**. Aimed at grades K-6, the grade-level specific program uses the aerospace theme to enhance all academic subjects (emphasis on STEM), as well as promote good character and physical fitness. The ACE curriculum and program components are provided by the Civil Air Patrol. The annual ACE winners each receive a plaque and a cash prize from the Air Force Association, the *ACE Presenting Sponsor*, which also provides the ACE students with their distinctive ACE shirts. A collaboration of CAP squadrons and AFA chapters try to connect with ACE schools to act as mentors, instructors, field trip coordinators, and award presenters.

Each year, the National ACE School of the Year is asked to be the location for the following year's National ACE Lift-off event in October. So, the 2016 award winners are listed below:

- 1- **National ACE School of the Year: Saint Aloysius Catholic School, Dr. Tina Voors, Principal, Yoder, IN.** The school had weekly ACE lessons and activities throughout the year. It is hoped that this school will work with the National HQ of Civil Air Patrol to plan the October 2016 National ACE Lift-off event with distinguished guests, exciting aviation demonstrations and displays, and stimulating student activities.
- 2- **National ACE Educator of the Year, Science Lab Teacher Anthony Vining, of Saint Aloysius Catholic School in Yoder, IN.** Mr. Vining has not only worked in the school in the ACE program for several years, but collaborates with his cadets in his CAP squadron to enhance the program.
- 3- **National ACE Coordinator of the Year, Librarian, Suzanne Costner, of Fairview Elementary in Maryville, TN.** Ms Costner's school was the 2015 ACE School of the Year and she was the 2015 ACE Educator of the Year. As the school's library/media specialist, she is unique in building an interest in reading through her engaging, hands-on CAP STEM activities throughout the year. The fall 2015 ACE Lift-off event was held at Fairview Elementary with the TN AFA Gen Bruce Holloway Chapter being the major sponsors of the school and TN CAP leaders adding support.
- 4- **National Sustained Superior ACE Educator, Barbara Gosney, Cambridge Academy, Phoenix, AZ.** Ms Gosney has moved to several schools in several states in the last few years, but always starts an ACE program wherever she moves. She promotes the ACE program at educator conferences across the nation, as well. The AZ Frank Luke AFA Chapter has been the Cambridge Academy sponsor this year, with the CAP AZ Wing Aerospace leaders lending support, as well.
- 5- **National Sustained Superior ACE Educator, Carla Chin, San Jose Catholic School, Jacksonville, FL.** Ms Chin has been coordinating her school and her students in the ACE program from the beginning of the program. She has been named the National ACE Educator of the Year and her school was named the National ACE School of the Year and conducted the National ACE Lift-off event in 2013. The FL AFA's Falcon Chapter was the sponsor of the school this year.

- 6- **National ACE Students of the Year**, four students out of 20,000 students nationwide were selected as top performers in the ACE program: **Izabelle Young**, San Jose Catholic School, Jacksonville, FL; **Bella Chastain**, Forest Lake Explorer School, Columbia, SC; **Henry Kiracofe**, Saint Aloysius Catholic School, Yoder, IN; and **Blake West**, Fairview Elementary, Maryville, TN. Each of the students showed great interest, initiative, leadership, and potential to move forth an a possible aerospace or STEM career.

For more information about the ACE program, go to www.capmembers.com/ace or contact ace@capnhq.gov. (See info page below.)

Civil Air Patrol, the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, is a nonprofit organization with 57,000 members nationwide. Its volunteers perform homeland security, disaster relief and counterdrug missions at the request of federal, state and local agencies. The members play a leading role in aerospace/STEM education and serve as mentors to more than 25,000 young people currently participating in CAP cadet programs. CAP has been performing missions for America for 75 years. For more information, visit www.qocivilairpatrol.com.

The Air Force Association, the CAP ACE Programs' Presenting Sponsor, is a nonprofit organization with almost 100,00 members and over 200 chapters across the country with the following mission:

"To promote a dominant United States Air Force, a strong national defense, to honor and support Airmen, and to remember and respect our Air Force Heritage." To accomplish this, we:

Educate the public on the critical need for unmatched aerospace power and a technically superior workforce to ensure US national security.

Advocate for aerospace power, aerospace education, STEM, and our Airmen.

Support the Total Air Force, the Air Force Family, and aerospace education.

For more information, visit www.afa.org.

Civil Air Patrol's ACE Program



www.capmembers.com/ace

The Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) Program is a **free** aerospace education program for members of Civil Air Patrol who teach in grades K-6.



Testimonials:

- *Fantastic program that engaged my students in active learning.*
- *Wonderful way to involve parents and the community in the school.*
- *My 5th grade ACE students mentor a kindergarten ACE class.*
- *My students had the highest state science test scores in our county. This validates how aerospace can and does cover state standards.*
- *The program is well organized, easy to follow, & age appropriate.*
- *The kids loved the lessons. The program has been a great addition to our STEM curriculum.*
- *It brought the school together with a common theme.*



CAP ACE Logo



ACE Presenting Sponsor



Description of CAP's ACE Program: Teachers of grades K-6 take learning to new heights with Civil Air Patrol's (CAP's) Aerospace Connections in Education (ACE) Program! This aerospace-themed program provides educators with engaging, cross-curricular lessons that support science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education. ACE program teachers can: enrich classroom instruction (teach ordinary subjects in extraordinary ways), foster good-natured and healthy citizens, foster an interest in/appreciation for aerospace, and inspire the next generation's STEM workforce, especially the future aerospace workforce.

CAP's ACE Program is available to any K-6 educator who is a member of CAP. CAP is a non-profit, humanitarian organization, and is the official Auxiliary of the United States Air Force. Visit www.gocivilairpatrol.com for more CAP information.

FREE materials included in CAP's ACE Program:

- ✦ A grade-level specific set of 21 aerospace-themed lessons that are correlated to national academic standards, inexpensive and easy to conduct, and divided into well-rounded categories of academics, character ed, and physical fitness.
- ✦ A classroom set of an aerospace item (e.g., balsa planes, foam rockets, etc.)
- ✦ A classroom set of ACE student certificates and an ACE teacher plaque upon successful completion of the ACE Program
- ✦ ACE shirts with Air Force Association and Civil Air Patrol sponsors.

Requirements to participate in CAP's ACE Program:

- 1) Have a current membership in CAP. (Go to www.capmembers.com/joinaem for more information and to register online. A one-time \$35 membership fee brings benefits that include over 30 free K-12 educational products and other free opportunities found at www.capmembers.com/ae. If an entire school wishes to participate in the ACE program, a school rep should email ace@capnhq.gov **prior** to any teachers registering for CAP membership info.)
- 2) Register online for the ACE program between August 1- December 1 each year with ACE registration directions provided for each teacher.
- 3) Teach a minimum of 10 of the 21 ACE lessons from the grade-specific ACE curriculum guide to a class of students during the school year. ***When an entire school conducts the program, the classroom teacher, the counselor and the P.E. teacher can share the instruction of the lessons and can even invite guest instructors, such as community, CAP and AFA members to teach some lessons.
- 4) Submit a brief, online program completion form.

Accolades for CAP's ACE Program:

- ✦ Program participation has reached about 1,000 educators & 100,000 students since its inception in 2007, thanks to the **ACE Presenting Sponsor, the Air Force Association (AFA)**; and supporting sponsors **Lightspeed Aviation Foundation**, and generous CAP & AFA members.
- ✦ Guest instructors and award presenters, such as CAP & AFA members, parents, and community volunteers, offer positive role models and career mentors. (*Great way to involve parents and the community in school programs! Great way to introduce the CAP cadet program to 6-12th grade students! Great way to get school media coverage!*)
- ✦ Several participants have reported a positive impact on standardized science test scores, such as a 27% improvement in scientific thinking scores.
- ✦ About 90% of educators complete the program and intend to participate again.
- ✦ Almost 90% of ACE educators surveyed stated that the ACE lessons fit well, overall, with the standards, concepts, and skills they are required to teach.
- ✦ An average 4.8 out of 5 rating for overall ACE program efficacy and enrichment.

Additional details, including sample lesson plans, are available online at www.capmembers.com/ace. Questions? Email ace@capnhq.gov.

