



# MSBSD NEWS

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“...developing citizens for a global society by inspiring students to think, learn, achieve, and care.”

## ACTE Awards

The Alaska CTE Leadership Award recognizes deserving professionals who demonstrate the following:

- Professional Contribution—their efforts have improved the CTE profession
- Vision—the nominee provides leadership to the profession
- Effort—dedicated energy towards improvement of career and technical education
- Longevity of service—accomplishments have been sustained over time



## MSBSD CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION— ACTE LEADERSHIP AWARD

Alaska Career & Technical Education conference announced February 13, 2010, MSBSD Director of CTE, Ray DePriest, is the winner of the ACTE Leadership Award. This year’s winners in all categories will be honored at an awards luncheon during the Region V Conference in Anchorage in April.

Teaching in the Mat-Su School District since 1985, DePriest has been an ag teacher, science and social studies teacher, and has helped open four new schools. As Director of CTE, he was tasked with opening the new Career & Technical High School in 2007—now almost surpassing enrollment capacity.

In nominating DePriest for this award, MSBSD Superintendent George Troxel said, “Anyone who knows Ray will comment on his tremendous work ethic.” He also said, “As with all gifted leaders, Mr. DePriest has a keen eye and open ear for positive ideas from his colleagues, parents, and business partners as well as many powerful ideas himself.”

Barbara Shogren, MSBSD School-to-Work Coordinator, said, “One of Mr. DePriest’s passions is the creation of a seamless CTE progression for students in grades K through 12+. To make this happen, he has worked tirelessly within the school district, with the Alaska Department of Labor, private industry, and with the University of Alaska.”

CTHS Principal Ben Eveland, wrote, “Mr. DePriest has been in leadership of the MSBSD for four years. Before this, he was a teacher in Mat-Su. Not only that, but he is a product of the Mat-Su School District. He was involved in the Future Farmers of America in high school.”

Eveland also said, “His background and commitment has been unwavering and has benefited not only the people of the Valley but many Alaskans throughout the State.”

Diane Maples, Statewide Coordinator of the Alaska Tech Prep Consortium, commented, “Ray demonstrates CTE leadership in his ability to impart a vision and motivate others to achieving a common purpose. His continued efforts to ‘celebrate student successes’, both great and small, are a reminder to us all that our students are the very essence of Alaska’s career and technical education.”

In her nomination of Mr. DePriest, MSBSD School Board President, Colleen Vague, said, “His desire to do whatever it takes to meet the needs of the students in our district is an inspiration to many. One of the recent improvements DePriest has been able to procure for the district is a \$100,000 grant for the welding program at Houston High School.”

Principal Rob Picou, Susitna Valley Jr/Sr High School said, “I can tell you that there would be no career and technical education for the students of the Upper Susitna Valley if not for the tireless efforts of Mr. DePriest. When the school burned down four years ago, it was he who led the charge in continuing to provide world class career and technical opportunities in portable buildings while the new school was being built.”



CTHS — Opened in 2007



CTE—Construction



CTHS 1% Art — “Birches”

MSBSD Director CTE, Ray DePriest (winner of this year’s ACTE Leadership Award) shown with Alaska Commissioner of Education & Early Development, Larry LeDoux, MSBSD Assistant Superintendent of Education, Dr. Deena Paramo, MSBSD School Board Member, Sarah Wellton, School Board President, Colleen Vague, and Commissioner of Transportation & Public Facilities, Leo von Scheben

