

2020 CAREER GUIDANCE AWARD

Andrea Bolton

CTE Coordinator

Mesa County Valley School District 51

First and foremost, Ms. Bolton is a dedicated School Counseling professional turned ecstatic Career & Technical Education Champion. She always conducts herself in a competent, driven, organized, creative and welcoming fashion. She goes above and beyond the call of duty when there are students in need. In her years of counseling & teaching, she has had the opportunity to interface with students, parents, teachers, support staff, other counselors, principals, school district personnel, college personnel, legislators, state organizations and business/industry representatives. Andrea was selected as her district representative to participate in a state-sponsored trip to Switzerland to learn more about career pathways and work-based learning.

She is a persuasive advocate for teaching students about deliberate and meaningful career planning and the entrance skills that they will need for college, employment, and productive citizenship.

Andrea is energetic, personable, creative, and meticulously organized. She possesses the academic and counseling experience, interpersonal skills, and vision to develop new CTE positions and expand our K-12 Career and College Readiness programs. In her short tenure with the CTE Office, she has already fostered numerous collaborative relationships with businesses, educational institutions, and governmental agencies that are necessary for expanding work-based learning opportunities and postsecondary training options that are relevant to our students' interests today and will be competitive for tomorrow's workforce.

A colleague wrote about Andrea, "As a counselor at Fruita Monument High School, Andrea was very skilled in working with students in a variety of capacities, but it was her passion for career guidance that got my attention. She actively researched all course offerings, worked with teachers to market their programs, and always volunteered to lead career guidance sessions, host school career fairs, and the like."

Andrea is a quick study who is eager to learn and share her knowledge. She is articulate, thoughtful, respectful, and receives criticism and guidance well. Andrea has the interpersonal skills for understanding and relating to people of multiple perspectives, education levels, cultural backgrounds, and experiences. She is a delightful individual who is a quiet but strong leader, dependable colleague, passionate student advocate, enthusiastic team player, and self-starter.

Within the last 5 years, Andrea has joined the ranks of a statewide team of representatives who foster, create, develop, advise and implement meaningful career conversations (MCCs) via Colorado's ICAP (Individual Career and Academic Planning) initiative. With Andrea's expertise and championship, Colorado's ICAP has evolved with deeper meaning, impactful results and nationwide attention. Counseling and Career Development is Andrea's superpower. Colorado would be lost without her. Colorado's CTE family respects, honors and celebrates her for being such a strong School Counselor & CTE Champion. Congratulations, Andrea!