

2021 CACTE HALL OF FAME AWARD

Michael Womochil

newly retired 😊

Agriculture & Natural Resources Program Director

CCCS

Michael Womochil retired after 43 years of service to Agriculture Education! Mike started his career in Kansas as an Agriculture Teacher. He then moved into a National FFA position for Local Teacher Success, and then finished out his career as the Colorado State Program Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Mike Womochil has been active in many aspects of Career and Technical Education. He has served on the Board of Directors for the National FFA, CACTE Legislative Committee, and served as Chair of the SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience) Committee with the Council of Agricultural Education. Throughout his entire career, Mike has served the Agriculture Education community and has worked hard to strengthen partnerships, expand the profession, and showcase the programs he serves. He has made his impact across all aspects of Agriculture Education.

Respected as a national leader, Mike has been at the forefront of many areas of AgEd and has pushed for curriculum updates, program development, industry certifications, SAE for All, teacher recruitment and retention, and partnerships to help strengthen Agriculture Education as a whole. In his role as the State Program Director, Mr. Womochil has pushed to challenge and improve teachers across the whole state and work with directors of neighboring states to provide quality professional development. He has facilitated many partnerships within the state, such as working with the Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado to provide training and development of the Landscape Careers Development and Certification process for students and training for teachers in the classroom.

Support for the Colorado FFA organization and the State FFA Advisor was important to Mike. Mr. Womochil attended the FFA State Convention on a yearly basis as well as attending many other state FFA activities. This year was no different for Mike, even with retirement looming, as he attended the week-long FFA State Convention Roadshow in June, which consisted of three mini conventions held in Delta, Sterling, and Pueblo. Mike made himself available for teachers to ask questions during the FFA Roadshow.

Mike's most recent project was not a small endeavor, as he worked with Nathan Clark from Colorado State University to organize and run a Small Gas Engine and Technical Training professional development workshop. Mike had to coordinate with industry professionals as well as obtain the equipment, instructional materials, lesson plans, and develop a means of certifying students in this specific pathway. Mike's vision led to an intensive training, with a total investment in each teacher of over \$13,000 with a class of 12 teachers. Mike's commitment to better our programs, teachers, and students can be seen through projects like this one. These events took a lot of time, effort, and cooperation through the chaos of COVID restrictions. This year really has been a test of character and Mike has worked through it all. Many people might have just stuck out the last year in a "retirement mindset" but Michael Womochil pushed forward, continuing to improve and develop the Agriculture Education profession in Colorado.

Welcome, Michael Womochil, to the Colorado ACTE Hall of Fame!