**Background**

Dr. Dennis Portis, III had a legacy as a leader. Dr. Portis began his teaching career at Metro Technology Centers in 2003 as a pre-engineering instructor. After becoming passionate about education, he went on to get his master's degree in Education and later received his Ph.D. in Education Administration in 2013 and became the Associate Superintendent of Instruction at Metro Technology Centers.

While short in tenure, he has been compared to Dr. Arch Alexander and Dr. Francis Tuttle, and his legacy as a leader has been felt throughout every aspect of our education system. Everyone who met Dr. Portis remembers his genuine caring approach and his heartwarming smile.  He was extremely thoughtful and thorough, and his leadership style is still discussed among those who had the privilege to work with him. He was highly respected among his peers, community and students. He had a gift to find the potential in someone and dedicated his career to investing his time and the success of others.

**Purpose**

This award recognizes individuals who are striving to make a difference in their division and association. These individuals have demonstrated great leadership, potential devotion, and a strong commitment to the success of the Oklahoma CareerTech system. They are a true rising star.

**Eligibility**

Each division may select one candidate and must be a current OkACTE member at the time of initial nomination.

**Criteria**

Candidates will be evaluated on the following criteria:

* Shows a high level of leadership potential in furthering the success of the Oklahoma CareerTech system
* Devoted in encouraging member growth and leadership development
* Dedicated and engaged in self improvement
* Inspires others in professional development
* Participates in division leadership or activities

**Nomination Requirements**

Each nomination must include the following (incomplete nominations will not be considered):

* Description of Candidate’s Qualifications for the award based on criteria above
* Photo/Headshot
* Biography

**Submissions**

Award nominations should be submitted to your OkACTE division President-elect by May 1 annually.

Division award winners and supporting materials must be submitted to OkACTE office by May 15 annually.