

# *UCVTS Teachers of the Year 2016-2017*

## **Academy for Allied Health Sciences**



***Dr. Jason Gray***

Dr. Jason Gray has been a member of the UCVTS professional Community since September of 2006. In that time Dr. Gray has served as a teacher of science and the health professions for the Academy for Allied Health Sciences. In addition to teaching obligations, Dr. Gray has served as Allied Health's Senior Internship Program coordinator since the first graduating class of 2009. Additionally, Dr. Gray serves as, both, the curriculum coordinator and graduation coordinator for the Academy for Allied Health Sciences. Dr. Gray provides an ever challenging, engaging, and technology-based approach to the instruction of the health sciences.

Dr. Gray performed his undergraduate studies at Rutgers University, New Brunswick and continued on to medical school at both the Autonomous University of Guadalajara, Mexico, and New York Medical College in Valhalla, NY. Dr. Gray has performed residency training experiences in pathology and laboratory medicine at both Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, NY, and at the University of Rochester Medical Center.

Apart from academic pursuits, Dr. Gray enjoys oil painting, farming, and horses.

## **Academy for Information Technology**



***Senora Salazar***

Congratulations Senora Salazar!

Senora Salazar has been recognized by the AIT Community as the 2017 Teacher of the Year. Senora Salazar believes deeply that the success of our students is directly connected to high expectations. Challenging her students to read, write, listen and speak with fluency, she will do anything to help her students learn. Enter her classroom and you will see students highly engaged in learning through a variety of speaking, reading, listening and writing activities. Through careful planning, Senora Salazar's students consistently engage in activities that make learning meaningful and enjoyable.

Senora Salazar is a strong supporter of AIT's Mission and exemplifies it by encouraging critical thinking and hard work. She is a dedicated, innovative, and creative team player who has been a proponent of biliteracy for UCVTS students. Beyond the classroom, her leadership of the Multicultural Club has resulted in entertaining and informative cultural events for all UCVTS students.

Alaciel Salazar is a true professional who strives to make each day a learning experience for herself and her students. AIT is proud to call Senora Salazar our Teacher of the Year!

### **Academy for Performing Arts**



***Mrs. Robyn Horn***

The Academy for Performing Arts 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year is Mrs. Robyn Horn. Robyn is a fifth year theatre teacher whose love for the arts is infectious.

If you step one foot in Robyn's room, you will see her smiling from ear to ear. It is obvious that she loves what she does. She expects her students to work hard to do their best as she encourages them to constantly challenge themselves. Not only does Robyn inspire her students, she also inspires her peers as well.

It is her positive approach to the teaching process that stands as an example for anyone who meets her. Robyn is a dedicated teacher, an outstanding director and a phenomenal person. The Academy for Performing Arts and the UCVTS community are proud to call her the APA Teacher of the Year.

## Magnet High School



***Dr. Sedrak Jidarian***

Dr. Jidarian has been a teacher at Magnet High School since 2008. He teaches the district's highest level mathematics courses, including the three levels of Calculus to his newly created course, Mathematical Statistics and Data Sciences. Dr. Jidarian is highly dedicated to his profession, working tirelessly to help each and every one of his students be successful in learning difficult material.

He holds his students to the highest standards, but no higher than he holds for himself. "Dr. J," affectionately called by his students, displays a love of learning and curiosity, which becomes contagious among his students. Our students, both past and present, are fortunate to have worked with Dr. Jidarian, and we are lucky to have him as a member of our school community.

## Union County Career and Technical Institute



***Dr. Yihjye Twu***

The Union County Career and Technical Institute is proud to recognize Dr. Yihjye as the 2017 Teacher of the Year. Dr. Twu is a Math and School for Sustainable Science teacher who is highly respected by his students, colleagues and administrators for his dedication and commitment to his students.

Dr. Twu holds a master's degree from the University of Texas and a doctorate in electrical engineer from UC Berkeley. His first career was at Bell Labs where he worked on communication laser designs for fiber optics. In 1985 he entered teaching. As a teacher, he feels the most rewarding moments are when he can see students learn how to think. "Seeing them figure something out and then teach it to their classmates" is his favorite part of teaching.

At the end of this school year Dr. Twu will be retiring and returning to Taiwan to help care for his parents. While he is looking forward to retirement, he will always be busy. Inspired by the sustainable science classes he has taught this year, Dr. Twu hopes to dedicate his time and talents to protecting the environment.

## **UCTECH**



***Mrs. Ginny Botti-Oels***

UCTECH is honoring Mrs. Ginny Botti-Oels as our 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Botti-Oels is currently in her 14th year in our district. She is a dynamic educator who is always looking to push her students and enhance their understanding of the subject matter. Her commitment to her students is unparalleled.

Mrs. Botti-Oels is also involved in extracurricular activities as the faculty advisor for Relay for Life and UCTECH Student Government. She organizes activities such as school spirit days and Career and Alumni Day. She values the impact of school climate and how much positive influence it can have on overall student performance. Mrs. Botti-Oels is a valuable faculty member and embodies the spirit of what it means to be a UCTECH teacher.