

# 2016 CEA OHIO Robert Blackstone, Finalist

## Carpentry Career Technical Program Sequoyah School Noble Correctional Institution, ODRC

During my sophomore year of high school I decided that I was going to enroll in Carpentry at the career center for my remaining school years. After graduating, I went directly into the construction industry. I worked for a local contractor for 11 years. My supervisor, later took a teaching position at the career center and I was promoted to supervisor. He encouraged me to apply for a temporary teaching license and start being a substitute teacher during the winter months, when the trade was slow. I enjoyed teaching the students and decided to pursue a teaching career.

I was hired as the Carpentry Instructor at Noble Correctional Institution in May of 1998. At first, I wasn't sure the correctional setting was the place for me. Apparently it was, as 18 years later, I am still here doing the same thing. It is very satisfying to see students enter the class with no skills and complete a year later and be very good carpenters.

I have also been very active within the union at our Institution. I have served as site representative for 10 years. I also serve as an instructor for In-service at the Institution as well as a Mentor in the new Resident Educator program.

Outside of work, I love to spend time with my wife, Tracy and children, Lindsey and Evan. I enjoy hunting, gardening and any sporting event. I have been very active within the youth sports program in our community. I have been very involved with our county 4-H program where I served on the Livestock Sale Committee for 8 years and currently serve on the Fair board.

My true passion is volunteering on our local Fire Department. I am currently serving my 24th year as Fire Chief of our department. I love serving our community.

