



NOMINATION FORM

FISSEA EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Please review the nomination information including the due date provided on the FISSEA website before completing the form.

Name of Nominee: J. Paul Wahnish

Employing Organization: Career Technical Education Foundation, Inc./East Lake High School

Position and/or Title: President and Teacher

Nominee's Phone Number: _____

Nominee's E-mail Address: www.CareerTechEdFoundation.org

Qualifications Statement: (What has the nominee done to warrant this nomination?)

I nominate (full name and title) of (organization) for FISSEA Educator of the Year:

Mr. J. Paul Wahnish is the president and founder of CTEF (Career Technical Education Foundation, Inc.), and a member of SAE, ASME. Mr. Wahnish received his Political Science bachelor's degree from University of South Florida and then attended Stetson College of Law. He started several engineering companies including: Wahnish Consulting, Inc, and Metro Automotive Marine Accessories, Inc. While traveling the globe as an entrepreneurial owner of several businesses it became apparent to Mr. Wahnish that the structure of education in the United States was not preparing today's students to fill the workforce needs for tomorrow. In 2001, he sold one of the engineering companies and began a new career as a professional educator. He received his State of Florida certification in Social Studies and Technology Education and recently served as the Department Chair at the Academy of Engineering at East Lake High School. He has grown the school from 22 students at its inception seven years ago to 600 students. In 2008 the Academy achieved the Center of Excellence from Pinellas County and was recognized by Project Lead the Way as one of the Top 10 Best Engineering Academies in the U.S.

In 2010 STEM^{Florida} awarded CTEF the STEM Business and Education Award recognizing CTEF as the best program producing the STEM proficient workforce needed by Florida employers. Mr. Wahnish received recognition at the 2010 Tampa Bay Technology Forum (TBTF) as an Industry Achievement Award winner. CTEF won TBTF's Community Supporter of the Year Award, as an organization making a significant impact on advancing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiatives and educational programs in the region. Mr. Wahnish was additionally honored by TBTF for Outstanding Leadership, and received a finalist award for his significant

and positive impact on the region's technology community with his demonstrated leadership. The Tampa Bay Times Newspaper elaborated on CTEF's STEM SUMMIT and its contribution to STEM education and industry in 2011; in 2012 Mr. Wahnish was featured in the top 20 best people making a difference in Tampa Bay.

CTEF has been holding community awareness seminars in public schools and publishing information on industry and education statistics since 2001. Mr. Paul Wahnish has addressed secondary school's deficiency creating workforce-prepared graduates utilizing notable sources such as The Bill Gates Education Foundation and the Kern Family Foundation. He is an activist in building career awareness and articulating the wave of Florida Technology job growth. With his engineering background, Mr. Wahnish has developed and taught at a high school Engineering Academy which has produced numerous success stories both for students and businesses.

CTEF is proud to be the catalyst for providing a technical workforce. CTEF provides a secondary technical training model for public schools in cyber security, biomedical and engineering, including aerospace, biotech, digital, civil and architecture genres and a training model for Post-Secondary Adult Vocational schools in cyber security. Curriculums are designed to include a strong core of science and math, the opportunity to earn professional certifications, job internships with local tech companies, and projects that offer hands-on, real-world applications. The most innovative companies are attracted to communities with a strong workforce, and CTEF is providing a sustainable workforce.

W. Hord Tipton
(Person making this nomination)

2-1-2013
(Date)

(Daytime Phone Number)