

Contact:  
Michele Lawson, CSS  
ETA International  
Phone: (800) 288-3824  
Fax: (765) 653-4287

5 Depot Street  
Greencastle, IN 46135  
www.eta-i.org

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## PRESS RELEASE

### ETA Celebrates Excellence Awards Winners

*Several individuals make a significant impact on the electronics industry and repeatedly volunteer at a moment's notice to serve their professional trade association. ETA<sup>®</sup> International recognizes their volunteer service with the annual ETA Excellence Awards, which include the Educator and Chapter of the Year.*

**Greencastle, April 21, 2016:** The ETA International Wallace Medeiros Memorial Educator of the Year award is presented to an individual for outstanding dedication to education of those pursuing careers in electronics and related fields. This honorable award is reserved for an instructor who looks for new ways to engage students with competency-based hands-on learning, consistently makes every effort to help their students succeed and who motivates and inspires students to pursue meaningful and lucrative careers in the electronics industry.

This prestigious industry award was recently presented to Christopher Miller, CETsr. Miller is a professor and program coordinator at Heartland Community College in central Illinois where he created and developed the Renewable Energy and Sustainable Energy Associate degree programs and also oversees the Electronics and Mechatronics programs. He is an active Coast Guard Auxiliary member on communication and emergency preparedness, a ham radio operator, N9RKD, and is a mentor to both electronics students and professionals.



Miller has supported his association by presenting sessions at Education Forum and added several hands-on exercises to the Associate Certified Electronics Technician workshop at this year's Education Forum.

"It's great to be recognized. It's even better when your peers recognize your efforts, pat you on the back and say, 'thank you and good job'. Being a member of ETA, this means a lot," Miller said.

This award is given in honor of Wallace Medeiros, Ph.D. and Master CET. Wally was a retired communications worker with GTE and a veteran. In spite of his physical limitations as a quadriplegic, he spent his retirement working with Honolulu Community College and the US military teaching, inspiring, and working on career development with the future of our technical workforce.

The ETA Chapter Excellence Award goes to a group of students who actively participate in networking opportunities, contribute to school and community and increase awareness of career opportunities in the electronics industry. ETA recognizes the students from Veterans Assembled electronics (VAe) who inspire their peers and for their efforts to promote excellence through electronics with this award.

"It is our hope this new partnership will allow us to leverage the resources and tools available at ETA with our industry partners to provide outreach opportunities, advanced certifications and give our students access to ETA recognition," VAe Veteran Advocate Tom Robinson said.



VAe is an agile Service-Disabled, Veteran-Owned small business focused on providing electronics training and certifications to service-disabled veterans (SDVs). VAe's five-month immersion Skills Training and Certification (STRAC) program is designed to train and certify veterans with stackable credentials issued by ETA International, enabling graduates to demonstrate the competencies industry requires.

A growing partnership with ETA and its excellent resources, prompted VAe to establish ETA Local Chapters at each VAe training site. This will serve VAe students as they become part of ETA and see the benefits of continued membership involvement in their professional trade association, long after they are placed in jobs.

**About ETA** - Since 1978, ETA has delivered over 200,000 professional certifications. ETA certifications are widely recognized and frequently used in worker job selection, hiring processes, pay increases, advancements, and often required as companies bid on contracts. ETA's certifications are personal and travel with the individual, regardless of employment or status change and measure competencies of persons, not products or vendors. All ETA certifications are accredited through the International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC) and align with the ISO-17024 standard. [www.eta-i.org](http://www.eta-i.org)

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