



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Sharon Kramer ExecutiveDirector@acte-maryland.org

Baltimore, MD – March 3, 2026


Worcester County teacher, Phillip Cropper, named as the 2026 Maryland ACTE Teacher of the Year by the Maryland Career and Technical Administrators (MCTA) chapter of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE).

Chef Cropper is an exceptional teacher. He possesses a rare combination of culinary expertise, pedagogical skill, and an inspiring passion for nurturing the next generation of culinary professionals. His creation of The Pines Cafe (thepinescafe.com) stands as a testament to his innovative approach to education. This teaching cafe provides invaluable real-world culinary arts experiences for youth apprentices, allowing them to learn and grow in a practical and engaging environment. The success of The Pines Cafe is a direct reflection of Chef Cropper's vision and tireless effort.



The numerous prestigious awards he has received this year including the Maryland's ProStart Teacher of the Year, Maryland Teacher of the Year Finalist, Worcester County's 2025 Teacher of the Year, and the Idaho Potato Commission Culinary Educator of the Year, among others are a well-deserved recognition of his outstanding contributions to culinary education. These accolades speak volumes about his commitment to excellence and the high regard in which he is held by his peers and the industry. Mr. Cropper's impact goes beyond the classroom. His initiative in hosting an exchange program for French students, meticulously planning their itinerary with a full schedule of educational and engaging activities, demonstrates his proactive approach to providing enriching experiences for all students. Furthermore, his consistent catering of events for the entire school district has earned him a reputation for high-quality cuisine that resonates throughout the state. This not only showcases his culinary skills but also provides further real-world learning opportunities for his students.

Mr. Cropper will move on to compete in the Northeast, United States ACTE Region I competition during the spring.

443-286-3089 

ExecutiveDirector@acte-maryland.org 

<http://www.acte-maryland.org> 

@actemaryland 

