

HARBOR FREIGHT TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

The annual **Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence** spotlights achievements among high school skilled trades teachers – a group of educators that is often overlooked and underappreciated. In recent years, the importance of high-quality skilled trades education has received more attention nationally because of an urgent shortage of skilled tradespeople in the workforce.

Now in its sixth year, the challenge annually awards more than \$1M to 20 outstanding skilled trades teachers and programs in US public high schools, including three Grand Prize winners of \$100K each (\$30K going to the teacher and \$70K going to their program) and 15 Prize Winners of \$50K each.

The application process is rigorous, and skilled trades teachers must be able to communicate their programs and their backgrounds in teaching – specifically, what they do for their students in the classroom and beyond.



\$4.5M

**Total Awarded
Prize Money**



88

Number of Winners



34

States Represented



100K+

**Number of Students
Impacted**

Success Stories

“High school skilled trades teachers and their programs are an essential part of addressing the skilled trades worker shortage,” says Danny Corwin, executive director of Harbor Freight Tools for Schools. *“These dedicated educators make a huge difference in the lives of young people every day, setting them on a course for a meaningful career and to make a difference in their community.”*

Past Winners

Scott Burke, Green Mountain High School, Lakewood, Colorado

Scott Burke co-created the nationally recognized Geometry in Construction (GIC) program so that students learn the skilled trades and math through the process of building affordable homes for families in need. Over the past 15 years, Burke has personally taught GIC to more than 2,000 students and trained more than 700 schools to adopt GIC to expand his impact to more than 70,000 students nationwide.

Students in Burke’s GIC classes work with Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver to help address the growing affordable housing crisis in the area, while learning valuable construction and math skills. The students engage in all hands-on aspects of framing, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, drywall, and trim carpentry while simultaneously learning all relevant math standards, and the utility of math in any career they pursue.

Kim Rosenbaum, Twin Lakes High School, Monticello, Indiana

While rebuilding her high school welding program, Kim Rosenbaum has won numerous awards, including the American Welding Society’s Bob Richie Award and being named one of the Top 25 Teachers in Indiana in 2018.

Rosenbaum established the Women in Welding program, training female teachers and staff at her school — and now the greater community — in welding fundamentals. She regularly connects her students to industry as they explore career paths and deepen their understanding of evolving industry standards and practice. They also attend FABTECH, a leading industry trade show, to meet with potential employers and learn about new technologies.

Graduates of her program have gone on to work in the welding industry and beyond: as welders, millwrights, pipefitters, and technicians. Others have continued into the military or gone on to college with a focus on business.