2020 National **CAP ACE** Teacher of the Year:

Tammy Clingenpeel
Fellowship Baptist Academy
Carson City, MI

Third year is the charm for Mrs. Clingenpeel, who has been an energized ACE teacher since she began the program 3 years ago at Fellowship Baptist Academy. She has worked with the MI CAP to assist with her program, and, connected with her local AFA Chapter 179-Mount Clemens Chapter President, Randy Whitmire, to ensure her students had distinctive ACE shirts to wear on ACE Days. She has woven a common thread throughout her classroom which revolves around the ACE program: teamwork and responsibility.

Mrs. Clingenpeel wrote to CAP in October and said, “I just want you all at CAP to know that I was ready to leave teaching a few years ago. Then, I became a CAP educator member and it has changed my attitude about my job. STEM has changed my approach in the classroom and my students have benefited greatly in the last 3 years! Thank you!”

Mrs. C (as she is lovingly called) was selected because:

- She started the ACE program in October and taught her 4th-6th grade students ACE lessons on Thursdays (ACE Day) until COVID-19 halted school. This gave students the opportunity to explore all areas of the ACE program to get more aerospace and related careers exposure in academics, character, and physical fitness.

- The students were given the opportunity to reflect in their Science Journal after each ACE lesson to better imprint the themes and concepts of the lessons.

- The students were provided Tuesday STEM days in addition to ACE days so they could be exposed to as many STEM activities as possible that will lead to future STEM-related careers.

- As the aide in the classroom, as well as a parent at the school, Gina McAlvey stated: “On ACE days, Mrs. C leads students through character building lessons or physical fitness coaching, helping them discover what’s involved in becoming an astronaut. Her expressive speech engages the students, and these lessons get students out of the mundane desk work, inspiring them to spread their wings in other life opportunities.” Gina’s son, Logan was an ACE Student of the Year in 2017!

- As a secondary math colleague of Mrs. C’s, as well as a parent of one of her students, Marie Malicy stated: “Under Mrs. C’s leadership, my son has been able to participate in the ACE program for the last three years. He has been able to engage in activities that both build his character and strengthen his knowledge in the areas of STEM. Mrs. C has partnered with Central MI University and set up opportunities for her students to visit their Makerspace. These field trips allow students to further the problem solve and work with others as is taught in the ACE program. Mrs. C uses her passion for learning to encourage my son to explore new possibilities for his future.”

- Lex Nyhuis, a 6th grade student, said, “Even when we get things wrong, Mrs. C helps us persevere until we get it right. I look forward to ACE and STEM days because they are challenging, but really fun!”
Quinton Miller, 6th grade said, “Mrs. C teaches us what we really don’t understand and helps us more when we need it. She gives me an explanation and then lets me try things. She can be tough sometimes, but fun, too!”

For her dedication and commitment in preparing her students for the future, CONGRATULATIONS, Mrs. C!
Teamwork makes the dreamwork! Thanks for the shirts, AFA Chapter 179!
The future is in their hands!