

2014

INLA NURSERY AND LANDSCAPE AWARDS

INLA AWARD OF MERIT

Joe Ramey

Central Nine Career Center, Greenwood, Indiana

Nomination letter by Cody Giordano

Hello, my name is Cody Giordano. I am a former student of Joe Ramey and the first student to earn the CLT. Of course, this is because of Mr. Ramey's ability to teach so well to any and all of his students that walk through his classroom door. His teaching style is much more hands-on than most teachers. With that style of teaching come drawbacks, but it always gets done because of Mr. Ramey's determination and knowledge.

Since he is a hands-on teacher, he has to have the supplies to teach. Not just a textbook. To get the most and the best for his students, seven days a week, he steps into the classroom a few hours before most of us even hit the snooze button for the first time and does not quit until well after many of us have gone home for the day. Throughout the day, his phone rings nonstop and his inbox gets an endless number of emails. Each phone call and email pertains to the class somehow or another. By having the contacts he has, his students have always had the leading edge of education, equipment, and information within the industry. Not to mention all the driving he does each day for his students. With his personal vehicle, he zigzags across the state gathering anything and everything for his students. Somehow, he still keeps up with dozens of meetings and takes care of his farm.

His students get to experience more than most people do in a class. He and his students maintain the school grounds, build indoor landscapes, operate a large greenhouse, landscape homes in the community, operate an aquaponics system, maintain all of their equipment, do large projects around the school grounds, go on fieldtrips and still manage to do some bookwork in the classroom. Along with that, his students can now take the CLT

test. I was the first student to pass the test thanks to Mr. Ramey.

I met him the spring of my freshman year. Each spring, his class has a plant sale consisting of plants they have grown in the greenhouse. I was already signed up for his class, but wanted to meet him. When I met him, I informed him that I am legally blind in both eyes and wondered if that was going to be a problem the following year. He patted my back, smiled, and said that it would all be fine. Throughout the two years I was a student and one as his intern, we had all types of students come into the class. Some had disabilities, bad home lives, etc. Each student had a different background and a different story, but somehow Mr. Ramey was able to connect with each one and literally worked side-by-side with each one.

I cannot even begin to cobble together all that Mr. Ramey does for his students and others in general. My purpose for recommending Mr. Ramey for this award is that I personally have seen all that he does for his students, but he will not take credit for it. If it was not for him, I would not have gotten my CLT which I am carrying on to college. He has helped far more than just me, and I would like him to finally be recognized for it. His classes have earned many awards, but he earned this one.



Joe Ramey and Cody Giordano

INLA HONORARY MEMBER AWARD

Thank you for your support throughout the years!

Robert Joly

Purdue University

*Presented by Kyle Daniel,
Purdue University*



Tom Allen

**Allen Landscape
in Highland**

*Presented by
Jim Kenney, Price Nursery*

