



2023 Outstanding Teacher of the Year **Alex Beene**

Alex Beene, Lead Instructor at Tennessee Adult Education, has been named Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

As dedicated as he is to his own growth as a life-long learner, he is far more passionate about the growth and success of his students. As an instructor, he is kind, compassionate, and empathetic. He recognizes the setbacks many of his students face and puts in time and effort to learn about them as people, not just as students.

He is willing to teach in any environment necessary for his students' development. During the pandemic, Alex worked diligently to give the same level of instruction they had been receiving before. He would bring packets weekly to the jail, drive to students' houses to drop off their work, and assist his fellow instructors in getting their online classrooms up and running.

"Alex has got to be one of the most involved instructors I've ever seen," says Angela Hollingsworth, coordinator at Tennessee Adult Education. Knowing that he teaches, does community outreach in five different counties, serves on the board of the Carl Perkins Center for Domestic Violence Prevention, is the treasurer for the McNairy County Literacy Council, and is a member of the WestStar Leadership program, she says, "If he's not doing something, he's already planning something new to help learners in his area."

Alex's knowledge, skill, and compassion have been recognized nationally. He is an award-winning author and educator. He has been featured on ABC, CBS, ESPN Radio and various print publications for his children's books. His business knowledge has been presented in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, *USA Today*, *Reader's Digest*, *The Washington Post*, and on CNBC, and he was honored by the NASDAQ for his philanthropy. Alex holds a master's degree in journalism and mass communications from the University of Mississippi.