

# ACE ADULT LEARNER OF THE YEAR 2014 Nominees

February 2014

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The American Council of Education (ACE) presents the Adult Learner of the Year Award to adult students who have benefited from the use of ACE credit recommendations to earn a college degree or advance a career. This is a national award and SIU's 2014 nominees are Ryan McKennedy and Phillip Adams.

Paul Copeland, coordinator of Veterans' Services for SIU, submitted the nomination for **Ryan McKennedy**. He noted that Ryan organized several successful charity functions, wrote a business plan that succeeded in obtaining a grant, and that he gives his attention across campus in many other areas including Non-Traditional Student Services. Copeland also mentioned McKennedy's master's program 4.0 GPA and his deployment overseas. Copeland said McKennedy is more than deserving of the award and that he would love to see McKennedy get some personal recognition for his accomplishments. Great job and good luck Ryan!



Connie K. Plessman, academic coordinator of the Off-Campus Degree Program nominated off-campus student **Phillip Adams** for the award. "His focus is on his wife and his family, which is admired. Not only is he managing his family responsibilities, his navy career, and his schoolwork very successfully, Phil is challenged by his wife's medical situation as she awaits a lung transplant," Plessman wrote in her nomination. A Navy colleague also said this of Adams, "As the enlisted submarine training division officer at Naval Submarine School New London, Phil is responsible for the welfare of over 2000 students

annually. In his daily contact with them, he often stresses the importance of lifelong learning, using himself as an example of what is possible. He shows the students it is possible, although challenging, to successfully juggle career, family, and school responsibilities." Great job and good luck Phillip!