

Shani Watkins serves as the director of West Sound Technical Skills Center in Bremerton, Washington. She has worked in education for 25 years, both in K-12 at the high school level as well as the post-secondary level for both community college and university programs. Ms. Watkins found her passion working in career and technical education (CTE) after graduating with a bachelor's degree in accounting. Her journey as a reformed accountant took her back to school to earn her bachelor's degree in Business Education, Master's in Education with a focus on business and marketing education, Master's in Organizational Systems, and an MBA.

She strongly believes in providing students with pathways to their aspirations, goals, and futures; recognizing that not all students follow the same path and every student deserves to find a career that provides a living wage and allows the individual to flourish. The best days for Shani are those when former students come back to thank their former teachers for the lessons and skills learned and to share their successes out in the world.

Ms. Watkins is active in her local community serving as a member of the local Lions club. She is also active in her local, regional and national associations for career and technical education, currently serving as the ACTE Region V vice president. Ms. Watkins was awarded the ACTE national administrator of the year award in December 2022.