

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ACTE Announces Wyoming FACS Instructor as National Award Finalist

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announces Michelle D. Aldrich, a family and consumer sciences instructor at Laramie County School District #1 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, as the 2015 ACTE Region V Teacher of the Year. The ACTE Teacher of the Year award, sponsored by Express Employment Professionals, recognizes the finest CTE teachers at the middle and secondary school level who have demonstrated innovation in the classroom, commitment to their students and dedication to the improvement of CTE in their institutions and communities.

Michelle Aldrich has been teaching nutrition at two Wyoming community colleges over the last 20 years, and has spent eight years teaching the family resource management strand at the University of Wyoming as adjunct faculty. She currently teaches online nutrition and early childhood education courses for Laramie County Community College and is a FACS teacher at Triumph High School in Cheyenne.

When Aldrich first arrived at Triumph, her culinary students had no funding to cover necessary expenses for equipment, uniforms and ingredients to compete in statewide ProStart Culinary and Baking competitions. To offset these costs, Aldrich started a school-based catering business which now caters approximately 100 jobs a year to groups of up to 900 people and generates nearly \$10,000 a year.

In 2008, Aldrich acquired a multi-million dollar grant that has provided training to over 200 low-income students and teen parents over the past seven years. She led the planning, design and creation of a child care center for teen parents that provides meals and transportation services. In the six years the center has been operational, the retention and graduation rates for teen parents have grown significantly. Aldrich has served as president for WATFACS and NATFACS, and she has received awards from her division, the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation and the American Hotel and Lodging Association. Former student Tamara Barnes says, "I highly recommend Michelle Aldrich, not only as an educational professional, but also as an outstanding example of the characteristics that we strive for in life."

Aldrich is one of five finalists for the 2016 national title. The national winner will be announced at the [ACTE Awards Banquet](#), a dinner and award presentation recognizing the best CTE educators in the country. The event will take place on Thursday evening, November 19, during ACTE's CareerTech VISION 2015 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Awards Banquet is sponsored by Express Employment Professionals, Kuder, CareerSafe, Certiport, and Stratasys. For more information about the ACTE Excellence Awards, [visit our webpage](#).

**About ACTE**

The [Association for Career and Technical Education \(ACTE\)](#) is the nation's largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. ACTE represents the community of CTE professionals, including educators, administrators, researchers, guidance counselors and others at all levels of education. ACTE is committed to excellence in providing advocacy, public awareness and access to resources, professional development and leadership opportunities.

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