

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACTE Announces Minnesota Farm Business Management Instructor as National Award Finalist

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announces Tom Anderson, a farm business management instructor at Riverland Community College in Plainview, Minnesota, as the 2015 ACTE Region III Postsecondary Teacher of the Year. The ACTE Postsecondary Teacher of the Year award recognizes career and technical teachers and teacher educators who have demonstrated excellence and best practices in CTE at the postsecondary level.

Tom Anderson began teaching farm business management (FBM) for Riverland Community College in 1997, after 18 years of teaching high school agricultural education across Wisconsin and Minnesota. His program, which began with six dairy farms, now reaches 74 farms with an average size of 275 head across Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Eric J. Deters, FBM director/instructor at Riverland Community College, says “I have seen very few programs that I could say should be modeled in their entirety. I can confidently say that Tom Anderson’s is one of those programs.” Anderson’s instructional methods include on-farm student visits; in-person and virtual presentations from farm professionals, producers and lenders on all aspects of farm business management; small group discussion; and regional education tours to showcase innovative practices. Exposure to farm professionals across the country and overseas provides Anderson’s students with a broad economic perspective. Anderson works collaboratively with over a dozen lending institutions, and he has cultivated a network of nutritionists, milking equipment dealerships, building contractors and veterinarians to support the program. In 2014, his students produced an annual average of 1,800 pounds more milk per cow than Minnesota’s Dairy Herd Improvement Association average.

Anderson has served as a leader in multiple capacities, including leading the Train the Trainer initiative in southeast Minnesota for the National Farm Bill Program in 2014, hosting two National Farm Bill education programs for dairy producers in 2014, and serving as the farm management representative to Minnesota’s Dairy Path Forward State Committee. He received an honorary American FFA degree in 2009, and was elected to Minnesota’s FFA Hall of Fame in 2011.

Anderson 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 Stratasy. 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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