

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Sean Lynch

slynch@acteonline.org, 703-683-9312

ACTE Announces New Jersey Agricultural Sciences Teacher as National Award Finalist

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announces Dale Cruzan III, an agricultural sciences teacher at Allentown High School in Allentown, New Jersey, as the 2015 ACTE Region I New Teacher of the Year. The ACTE New Teacher of the Year award recognizes CTE teachers with three to five years' experience (at the middle, secondary or postsecondary level) who have made significant contributions toward innovative and unique CTE programs and shown a professional commitment early in their careers.

Dale Cruzan III is an agricultural science teacher and FFA advisor at Allentown High School in Allentown, New Jersey, where he has worked for the past five years to transform the agricultural science curriculum to reflect the rigors of modern workforce needs. The program has expanded to include courses that employ an inquiry-based, student-driven methodology, and provides students with real-world agricultural experiences through Curriculum for Agricultural Science Education (CASE) courses. In 2013, Cruzan began serving as a lead teacher in Natural Resources and Ecology, which entails instructing 15–20 teachers from around the nation in the CASE curriculum methodology and content. The addition of the CASE courses at Allentown high school has enabled Cruzan to develop articulation agreements with several two-year colleges and four-year universities, allowing his students to earn free college credit in five of the courses offered.

Since Cruzan took over as advisor for the Allentown FFA chapter, the program has continued to be recognized in the top 1 percent of the nation for its dedication to student, school and community development. In 2014, the program was recognized as the top chapter in New Jersey. In 2011 and 2012, two chapter members were awarded supervised agricultural experience grants from the National FFA Organization. Cruzan's chapter members have earned over 10 Garden State FFA degrees and three American FFA degrees. "Mr. Cruzan is an educator with a bright future ahead of him," says Stuart T. Faunce, former student and state FFA officer. "He is going to inspire many more students, just as he has inspired me."

Cruzan III 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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