

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACTE Announces Washington College, Career and Technical Education Director as National Award Finalist

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announces Susan Dixon, a college, career and technical education (CCTE) director at Evergreen School District in Vancouver, Washington, as the 2015 ACTE Region V Administrator of the Year. The ACTE Administrator of the Year award recognizes CTE administrators, program specialists/coordinators, and other CTE personnel who have made significant contributions toward innovative, unique and effective CTE programs.

As the college, career and technical education director for Evergreen School District, Susan Dixon is responsible for supporting 98 certified staff members in grades six through 12, as well as 25 classified staff members; developing and managing a \$10 million state budget; writing and managing federal, state and local grants; and planning and implementing changes in curriculum. She led the strategic planning process for the district's CCTE program in 2010, which entailed developing collaborative goals with staff, other stakeholders and more than 100 business partners to further align and integrate CCTE with general education programs. Empowering her staff to develop as leaders and take risks has resulted in the creation of several new cross-curricular offerings that enable students to fulfill academic requirements while taking CCTE courses. Examples include: an alternative fuels program pairing AP Chemistry with a Small Engines course; a geometry and construction course that also partners with Habitat for Humanity; a transition program for special education students focusing on careers in culinary fields and internship opportunities.

Coming from a background in health care, Dixon understood the shortage of qualified health-care professionals and worked hard over 12 years to establish a new medical magnet high school, the Henrietta Lacks Health and BioScience (HeLa) High School. Dixon has been contacted by several consortiums in Oregon to work with regional CTE coordinators and workforce development councils on a CTE advisory committee to provide insight and strategy on how to reintroduce CTE into their high schools. Samara Gilroy-Hicks, Manager of HeLa Planning and Secondary Counseling, puts it simply: "Susan is a visionary in her field."

Dixon 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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