

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACTE Announces Ohio Student Services Coordinator/Guidance and Career Counselor as  
National Award Finalist

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announces Louise Hacker Hayes, a student services coordinator/guidance and career counselor at Warren County Career Center in Lebanon, Ohio, as the winner of the 2015 ACTE Region I Career Guidance Award. The ACTE Career Guidance Award recognizes guidance counselors and career development professionals who have made significant contributions to advocate, educate and communicate the value of CTE as a viable career option to a variety of audiences in their communities.

Louise Hacker Hayes has been the guidance and career counselor for the Warren County Adult Career and Technical Center (WCCC) since 2011, and she brings to this position 25 years of expertise in the field. During her time at WCCC, Hayes developed a new and ongoing recruitment program in which she visits partner high schools and talks to classes of students about the benefits of CTE and the opportunities at WCCC. These grassroots recruitment efforts continue to increase awareness for the center with students, teachers and the community. Often, program coordinators from the technical center participate in the presentations. More awareness of the benefits of CTE has led to school counselors and career coaches organizing student and teacher group tours to the career center. In 2012, Hayes was actively involved in establishing and coordinating an authorized testing center for her school, one that has significantly increased awareness of CTE with various populations who visit the center for some high-stakes assessments. In 2014, WCCC earned a six-year adult education accreditation from the Council on Occupational Education, in part due to Hayes' efforts.

In 2005, Hayes was invited to become the program manager and advisor for Warren County's Ohio College Access Network grant program to assist first-generation and low-income students and parents. She initiated and implemented grant objectives by organizing and staffing four high school programs; advising participating high school juniors and seniors with post-high school career planning; and guiding the juniors and seniors and their parents through career-interest assessments, school searches, applications, scholarships and financial aid. Hayes branched out further with her involvement in Adult Basic Literacy Education, first as an ESOL instructor, then as an instructor and advisor in the BRIDGE program (six-week sessions during which she helped prepare adults for student success and career advancement). She has been awarded for her work locally and regionally several times over. Thomas L. Harris, director of adult and community education at WCCC, says, "Louise Hayes is an exceptional member of our organization and worthy of the highest level of recognition."

Hayes 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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