

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 23, 2015

Contact: Sean Lynch

[slynch@acteonline.org](mailto:slynch@acteonline.org), 703-683-9312

## ACTE Announces Minnesota Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor as National Award Finalist

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announces Mary Hoffmann, an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Sleepy Eye Public School in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, as the winner of the 2015 ACTE Region III Carl Perkins Community Service Award. The Carl Perkins Community Service Award is presented to ACTE members who have used CTE to make a significant impact on a community/humanitarian cause through leadership in programs and activities that promote community involvement. This award was named in honor of the late Congressman Perkins, and is designed to recognize individuals who have demonstrated the same humanitarian concerns exemplified by Congressman Perkins.

For 10 years, Mary Hoffmann has been an agriculture instructor and FFA advisor at Sleepy Eye Public Schools, where more than 75 percent of students take at least one elective class in agriculture education. Community service is a key component of Hoffmann's agriculture program. Her students and FFA chapter implement a number of service projects, including the Adopt-a-Senior program at local assisted-living and nursing homes, as well as Wee Deliver PALS program, for which her FFA members become pen pals and mentors to local third graders. Her students engage in various safety programs during the school year and during the summer that are focused on farm safety chemical safety and basic emergency procedures. Each year, Hoffmann and her students conduct an Agriculture in the Classroom program in elementary schools, where they emphasize production agriculture, sources of food and the importance of agriculture in daily life. Hoffmann's student Harley Braun says, "the passion that Mrs. Hoffmann has to improve her community is inspiring to me and all her other students."

Hoffmann's record of fostering student success is impressive: over 100 have received state or American FFA degrees; her students' records of honors include 23 state FFA proficiency award winners, eight national proficiency finalists, 10 national Career Development Event teams, and eight top 10 national chapter awards. Hoffmann herself has been recognized with many honors in the community from the local chamber of commerce, local media, and state and regional organizations. Currently serving as the 2015–2016 Past President of Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators, she has led and served on several committees for Minnesota agricultural education. Hoffmann has also been the leader of the Sleepy Eye Wide Awakes 4-H Club for four years.

Hoffmann 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.

###