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ACTE Announces Oklahoma Instructor, EMS/Fire Academy as National Award Finalist

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announces Nancy Howell, an instructor for emergency medical services/fire academy at Great Plains Technology Center in Lawton, Oklahoma, as the 2015 ACTE Region IV 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.

Nancy Howell is the first female emergency medical technician/firefighter (EMT/FF) training instructor in the Oklahoma CTE system. Her program at Great Plains Technology Center (GPTC) was the first in the state and one of the first 10 in the United States of its kind. Students enter the career major for one intense semester during which they complete the training and testing requirements for EMT-Basic and Firefighter I and II. The program adheres to the highest state, national and international training standards to ensure that graduating firefighters and EMTs are fully prepared to save lives and property. Howell's unique style of leadership has helped foster a partnership with the Lawton Fire Department that includes the shared use of facilities and equipment, and which eventually resulted in the Lawton Fire Department's relocation of its training division to GPTC.

During the course of her career, Howell has trained approximately a thousand firefighters and EMTs. Many of her students join Comanche County volunteer fire departments to gain experience tackling wild land fires in the drought seasons before applying to municipal services. Her students are highly sought after by local departments and, in the past year, 89 percent of them have been employed in the profession they were trained for. With hundreds of her graduates employed in law and public safety professions, there is almost no department in the state that Howell has not personally touched or visited. James Bishop, director of instruction at GPTC, says, "Ms. Howell is one of Great Plain Technology Center's very best instructors."

Howell 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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