

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ACTE Announces South Dakota Agriculture Instructor and FFA Advisor as National Award Finalist

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announces Kelly Keller, an agriculture instructor and FFA advisor at Arlington High School in Arlington, South Dakota, as the winner of the 2015 ACTE Region V 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.

Kelly Keller has been the agriculture instructor at Arlington High School for the past eight years, where she teaches a multitude of classes from Agricultural Business to Metal Fabrication, and is the FFA and freshman class advisor. Keller has served as a national FFA judge, served on the South Dakota FFA Foundation Board for seven years and is the past president of the South Dakota Association of Agricultural Educators.

Keller's teaching style is one of encouragement and variety; she is mindful of engaging her students' different learning styles and incorporates technology, labs, projects, reports, field trips, guest speakers and community service into her curriculum. Every year, her students engage in projects that serve the community, including landscaping local parks, as well as pulling weeds at Nordland island, a local tourist attraction; serving food at the annual Pro-Pheasant Hunting Banquet; selling lilies to help raise money for cancer research; and participating in annual community clean-up activities. In 2012, students from her Landscape Design class worked with the Arlington Community Museum Board to design, acquire grant funding and install a landscape around the museum building. The design incorporated native grasses and perennials to pay homage to the community and its history. Keller's FFA chapter has participated in humanitarian efforts as well, working through Paint South Dakota and enlisting the support of the community to paint a house for a handicapped veteran. Community member and vice president of CorTrust Bank, Douglas O'Neil, says, "Mrs. Keller has given much of her time and energy in the past eight years to make Arlington a better place to live."

Keller 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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