

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 23, 2015

Contact: Sean Lynch

slynch@acteonline.org, 703-683-9312

ACTE Announces Mississippi Career and Technical Education Counselor as National Award Finalist

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announces Jennifer Koon, a career and technical education counselor at Alcorn Career and Technology Center in Corinth, Mississippi, as the winner of the 2015 ACTE Region IV 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.

Currently the CTE counselor at Alcorn Career and Technology Center (ACTC), Jennifer Koon has been a CTE educator in Mississippi for the past 23 years and is well-known in the state as an advocate for CTE. For the past 15 years she has developed and edited a CTE e-newsletter that is distributed to parents, school board members, school district personnel, business and industry partners, state senators and representatives, and Mississippi Department of Education representatives to keep these stakeholders abreast of developments in CTE. Each year she undertakes a number of large projects, including hosting her district's college and career fair, facilitating school-wide team building and leadership training days, serving on the North Mississippi Workforce Investment Network Job Fair planning committee and conducting recruitment for CTE programs. She also serves as a National Technical Honor Society sponsor, and she recognizes CTE students for their accomplishments through an awards program. She has written several grant proposals that have secured funding to purchase software and resources for students, finance student trips and conferences, and host career fairs for students.

Richard Turner, former director of ACTC, prizes Koon's innovation in fostering collaboration, and says: "Ms. Koon has been an excellent career guidance counselor and a great asset to our center." Koon was selected by the Mississippi Department of Education to serve on various committees and task forces, and she has helped develop the Mississippi CTE Counselor's Program of Work, as well as the module used to certify new CTE counselors in Mississippi. Her value as a resource to the state has been affirmed through consistent praise, accolades and offers for her to serve in leadership capacities.

Koon 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.

###