

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACTE Announces Alabama Teacher as National Award Finalist

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announces Cindy McConnell, a health science instructor at Etowah High School in Atalla, Alabama, as the 2015 ACTE Region II Lifetime Achievement Award winner. The ACTE Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes the contributions and distinguished accomplishments of members who have been identified with the work and purposes of the Association for Career and Technical Education over an extended period of time.

During the course of her 23-year career as a teacher and 37-year career as a registered nurse, Cindy McConnell has worked hard to improve and champion CTE in her school, community and across Alabama. As a member of the professional leadership team at Etowah High School, she is at the forefront of school-wide reforms and encourages opportunities for integration between CTE and core academic subjects; recently, McConnell's students learned about infectious diseases as part of a history and math project about the Oregon Trail. McConnell sponsors CTE nights for parents, teachers, board members, administrators of feeder schools and local media to enlighten them about the benefits of CTE. During her time as president of the Nurse Leadership Council at Riverview Regional Medical Center (RRMC), McConnell promoted the importance of student participation in clinical rotations as part of their learning. She continues to lead in her supervisory role at RRMC, by mentoring and assisting new and old employees to grow and develop necessary skills for today's health care workforce.

During her tenure as president of Alabama ACTE, McConnell brought renewed energy and focus to CTE in the state, motivating her peers to develop relationships with parents, administrators, health-care professionals, business and community leaders, and legislators on the local, state and federal levels. Through her passion for CTE she helped secure a \$50 million bond issue for CTE in Alabama. She currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer for Alabama ACTE, where she continues her mission to promote the importance of CTE in students' lives. "Cindy McConnell is truly deserving of this award because of the countless students who have chosen a career in health care," says Heather Colvard, current RN and former student. "I certainly know that I wouldn't be where I am today if it weren't for her."

McConnell is one of three 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 Stratasy.

For more information about the ACTE Excellence Awards, visit our webpage (www.acteonline.org/awards).

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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