

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ACTE Announces Georgia Teacher as National Award Finalist

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announces Cindy Quinlan, a teacher and work-based learning coordinator at Brookwood High School in Snellville, Georgia, as the 2015 ACTE Region II Teacher of the Year. The ACTE Teacher of the Year award, sponsored by Express Employment Professionals, recognizes the finest CTE teachers at the middle and secondary school level who have demonstrated innovation in the classroom, commitment to their students and dedication to the improvement of CTE in their institutions and communities.

Cindy Quinlan is the work-based learning coordinator, marketing teacher and co-DECA advisor at Brookwood High School. Since Quinlan took over the marketing program in 2008, program enrollment and DECA membership doubled; the program was awarded industry certification; numerous students went on to win state DECA competitions; and the school's student run store, Bronco Stampede, quadrupled its sales. Former student Jasmine Morgan says, "Not only does Ms. Quinlan teach fundamental values, but she also changes lives each and every day, from year to year."

Quinlan pioneered a lean start-up approach in her entrepreneurship classroom where her students must develop a business that can be started within a week and with minimal costs. Twelve viable and profitable student businesses have been launched out of her classroom over the past two years. Through an entrepreneurship alliance with the city of Snellville, each of these student businesses is provided local entrepreneur mentorship, a specially issued business license and a chance to earn investment capital by pitching their business to a judging panel. The program has been replicated in eight schools in the county in alignment with Quinlan's course guide and lessons. In 2014, Quinlan was asked to help write an embedded entrepreneurship four-year curriculum layout; in a spin-off version she developed for Brookwood, ninth-grade Language Arts and an introduction to business and technology are embedded into her entrepreneurship course, allowing students to receive three course credits in two class periods. In 2015, Quinlan was selected to be one of the lead instructors for a week-long institute in Honduras to build local entrepreneurship education for secondary and postsecondary teachers in a developing country.

Quinlan 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 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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