

ACTE Announces 2020 Region III Excellence Award Winners, National Award Finalists

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2020 Region III Excellence Awards:

- ACTE Region III Teacher of the Year—**Kandy Smitha** – Indianapolis, IN
- ACTE Region III Career Guidance Award—**Laura Cook** – Park Ridge, IL
- ACTE Region III Administrator of the Year—**Jean Rakun** – Plymouth, MN
- ACTE Region III Postsecondary Teacher of the Year—**Krystle Gremaud**– Warrensburg, MO
- ACTE Region III New Teacher of the Year—**Lisa Orren**– Redwood Falls, MN
- ACTE Region III Carl Perkins Community Service Award—**Lorin Curtis**– Joplin, MO
- ACTE Region III Lifetime Achievement Award—**Martha Eldredge Stark**– Park Ridge, IL
- ACTE Region III Teacher Educator of the Year – **Sally Arnett-Hartwick**– Normal, IL

The Region winners were announced virtually in June 2020.

The ACTE Excellence Awards promote merit in career and technical education (CTE) by recognizing individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to CTE, programs that exemplify the highest standards and organizations that have conducted activities to promote and expand CTE programs. Award winners serve as inspirational leaders to ACTE: they embody the core values of serving students and being committed to CTE. Find more information about the ACTE Excellence Awards [here](#).

The Region III winners will progress as national finalists in their categories. The national winners will be announced at the ACTE Awards Gala, a dinner and award presentation recognizing the best CTE educators in the country, which will take place on December 2, 2020 during ACTE’s CareerTech VISION 2020 conference in Nashville, TN.

ACTE continues to monitor the rapidly changing situation related to the spread of COVID-19. We understand the concerns for health and safety. Absent federal travel restrictions and/or local, state, or regional decisions to close venues, ACTE is proceeding with an in person event at this time. If there are any changes, we will provide information as soon as possible.

[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, school counselors, guidance and career development professionals 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.