



Award granted to Gary Wixom, Utah System of Higher Education

ALEXANDRIA, VA—The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) and Board of Directors announce the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Gary Wixom, assistant commissioner for the Utah System of Higher Learning. The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented annually to distinguished ACTE members who have been identified with the work and purposes of the association and whose contributions have made a significant impact on the field of CTE at state, regional, and national levels.

As the assistant commissioner for the Utah System of Higher Learning from 1999-2011, Gary Wixom has given leadership to the Utah Electronic College, the development of Utah's concurrent enrollment program and the engineering and computer science initiative, has co-chaired the Utah Education Network Steering Committee. Throughout his illustrious 43-year career as a CTE teacher and administrator, Wixom has enhanced the quality and availability of CTE offerings across Utah.

Beginning his career as a business faculty member, Wixom overhauled the administration curriculum at his institution and acquired funds to bring state-of-the-art business education equipment to his students. Wixom brought computer programming to the department when these opportunities were generally available only at larger institutions. As a dean, he also lobbied for CTE funding at the Utah State Legislature. He was instrumental in designing technical and life skill training for individuals classified as minority and economically disadvantaged, successfully bringing together resources from community agencies to ensure success of these students. During the 1970s, Wixom led an effort that resulted in the first life skills program geared toward teaching underemployed and unemployable students skills that made them self-sufficient offered in Utah.

Wixom has strived to make CTE available to students in rural areas, teaching and offering some of the first online learning courses at his institutions and establishing four outreach centers to deliver CTE courses to rural locations. He has served as a representative on NASDCTEc and the National Community College State Directors Council, and has participated in many initiatives to move educational programs forward at the national level.

This year, ACTE will award five Nominated Awards in the categories of Image, Lifetime Achievement, Merit, Carl Perkins Outstanding Service, and Business Leader. The Award winners will be celebrated alongside the national Member Awards finalists at the annual Awards Banquet-honoring institutions and individuals for their extraordinary contributions to the field -at CareerTech VISION 2013 in Las Vegas, Nevada on December 4, 2013, 7-9 p.m. CareerTech VISION is ACTE's signature event, with over 4,000 attendees, career and technical education (CTE) professionals from across the country, and over 200 workshops and sessions dedicated to improving the knowledge and capacity of CTE leaders.

About ACTE

The Association for Career and Technical Education is the nation's largest not-for-profit education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. Founded in 1926, ACTE has more than 25,000 members; career and technical educators, administrators, researchers, guidance counselors and others involved in planning and conducting career and technical education programs at the secondary, postsecondary and adult levels. ACTE provides

advocacy, public awareness and access to information on career and technical education, professional development and tools that enable members to be successful and effective leaders.