FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2015

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STATE NOMINEES ANNOUNCED FOR THE
2015 ACT COLLEGE- AND CAREER-READINESS CAMPAIGN

Montgomery, Ala. – The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is pleased to
announce the state nominees for the national ACT College- and Career-Ready Campaign
celebrating achievement and creating awareness around the goal of college- and career-readiness
for all. For the third year, ACT has partnered with Alabama and selected states for the College and
Career Readiness Campaign to nominate students, schools, community colleges and employers.

The campaign showcases the knowledge, skills, and preparation that public schools offer to
students and that are included in the ALSDE’s strategic plan for education, Plan 2020: Every Child

On April 8, 2015, resolutions celebrating the nominees will be presented at the Alabama State
Board of Education meeting. The state nominees will have the opportunity to be chosen by ACT as
the national winner. The national winner will be honored at the National Gala of College and
Career Readiness in Washington, D.C., later this spring.

Alabama has seen state nominees become national winners for two years in a row. Sheree
Gremillion of Rogers High School, Lauderdale County Schools, was honored with the Student
Readiness Award in 2013, and Shelton State Community College was honored with the Career
Preparedness Award in 2014.

The nominees selected by school and ALSDE staff for the ACT College and Career Readiness
Campaign are:

- **Student Readiness Award** – Joshua Abreo, James Clemens High School, Madison
  City Schools
  Abreo earned a 36 on his ACT and serves in leadership positions such as President of the
  Science National Honor Society and President of the Chemistry Club. Abreo has
  volunteered for Crestwood Hospital, Manna House, and at a local food bank.

- **College and Career Transition Award** – New Century Technology High School,
  Huntsville City Schools

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New Century Technology High School is the Huntsville City School System’s only magnet high school with an emphasis in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) education. Based on a rigorous STEAM curriculum, New Century offers students the opportunity to develop their talents in team building, critical thinking, and communicating. In addition to 21st century skills, the school leads students on paths that promote excellence in academic achievement, leadership, service, and citizenship. Students are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education as well as high-tech careers of today and tomorrow.

- Career Preparedness Award - *Calhoun Community College*, Decatur, Alabama
  Calhoun Community College has shown an accessibility of career readiness assessments and career preparation programs such as an ACT WorkKeys Service Center and has improved efforts to develop relationships with local employers including Daikin America. The college has success in student indicators including second-year retention, graduation, and four-year-college transfer rates, including for students from underrepresented racial/ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.

- Workplace Success Award – East Alabama Healthcare Authority (East Alabama Medical Center-Opelika, AL, and East Alabama Medical Center-Lanier, AL)
  The Earn and Learn Program at East Alabama Healthcare Authority is for local high school Health Occupations (HOSA) students. East Alabama Healthcare Authority selects 10 HOSA students each year to hire during their senior year who are given the opportunity to work 20 hours a week in their field of interest for one semester. This allows these students to gain work experience, build confidence, and affirm their career choice. Many of these students have gone on to be awarded scholarships and continued employment. East Alabama Healthcare Authority offers a variety of free educational and developmental opportunities and programs, driven by a strategic direction, allowing employees to gain, maintain, and improve knowledge and skills. For example, the School at Work (SAW) Program is an eight-month program where participants improve their reading, math, and work readiness skills. This program is in its tenth year with graduates who have advanced their careers through promotions and continued education. All SAW students graduate with an ACT Work Keys certificate.

Award Requirements:
Student Readiness Award-Student nominee must have the following criteria:
(1) Performance in relation to ACT’s College Readiness Benchmarks in English, mathematics, reading, and science
(2) Demonstrated progress toward college and career readiness between Grade 8 and Grade 12
(3) Demonstrated success in high school coursework as signified by high school grade point average
(4) Success beyond the classroom, including extracurricular activities, leadership positions, community service, and work experience
(5) Unique qualities such as personal traits, future plans, or success in the face of adversity or other extraordinary circumstances

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College and Career Transition Award – High school nominee must have the following criteria:
(1) Demonstrated student growth toward meeting ACT’s College Readiness Benchmarks between Grade 8 and Grade 12
(2) Aggregate ACT scores and percentage of students meeting ACT’s College Readiness Benchmarks
(3) Demonstrated success at serving students from underrepresented racial/ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds
(4) Demonstrated dedication to ensuring that students gain the knowledge and skills needed to prepare them for success after high school
(5) Demonstrated commitment to providing leadership opportunities for students outside the classroom

Career Preparedness Award- Community college nominee must have the following criteria:
(1) Accessibility of career readiness assessments and career preparation programs
(2) Strength of relationships with local employers
(3) Student success indicators including second-year retention, graduation, and four-year-college transfer rates, including for students from underrepresented racial/ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds
(4) Demonstrated dedication to career planning and to providing a support structure for students
(5) Demonstrated commitment to providing leadership opportunities for students outside the classroom

Workplace Success Award - Employer nominee must have the following criteria:
(1) Strength of relationships with local colleges and high schools
(2) Use of career readiness assessments for recruitment and advancement within the company
(3) Dedication to providing employees with opportunities to acquire new knowledge and skills
(4) Demonstrated effort to create and maintain diversity in its workforce
(5) Demonstrated efforts of employer and employees to give back to the local community

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