

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ACT Names National Exemplars for the  
2017 ACT College and Career Readiness Campaign**

IOWA CITY, Iowa—ACT today announced the four national winners of the 2017 ACT College and Career Readiness Campaign, which highlights the exceptional achievements of students, schools and employers championing college and career readiness in their communities.

This year's four National Exemplars—selected by a national committee of education and workforce leaders from across the U.S.—are:

- **Jayne Hanna**, *Nunivak Island, Alaska*—*National Student Readiness Exemplar* (High School Senior)
- **Immokalee High School**, *Immokalee, Florida*—*National College & Career Readiness Exemplar* (High School)
- **Butler Community College**, *Rose Hill, Kansas*—*National Career Preparedness Exemplar* (Postsecondary Institution)
- **Martco, LLC (RoyOMartin)**, *Alexandria, Louisiana*—*National Workplace Success Exemplar* (Employer)

Hanna received a \$4,000 scholarship for being named the National Student Readiness Exemplar. In addition, all competing student exemplars in each participating state received a \$500 scholarship, which increased to \$1,000 for the four student semifinalists.

The National Exemplars were chosen from [four semifinalists](#) in each campaign category: high school senior (Student Readiness Exemplar), high school (College and Career Readiness Exemplar), postsecondary institution (Career Preparedness Exemplar), and employer (Workplace Success Exemplar).

“We’re delighted to celebrate the remarkable achievements of all 130 of our state exemplars across all 50 states and the District of Columbia,” said Scott Montgomery, senior vice president of public affairs at ACT. “In particular, we congratulate our four National Exemplars for advancing college and career readiness for all, while embodying valuable principles of perseverance, ingenuity, problem-solving, and educational equity.”

The four National Exemplars will be recognized and awarded at ACT’s annual corporate meeting on October 19, 2017 in Iowa City, Iowa, which will wrap up this year’s campaign.

Learn more about the ACT College and Career Readiness Campaign on the ACT [website](#).

ACT is a mission-driven, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people achieve education and workplace success. Headquartered in Iowa City, Iowa, ACT is trusted as a national leader in college and career readiness, providing high-quality assessments grounded in nearly 60

years of research. ACT offers a uniquely integrated set of solutions designed to provide personalized insights that help individuals succeed from elementary school through career.

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**Following are quotes from and profiles on each National Exemplar**

## **High School Senior**

**Jayne Hanna** (*Mekoryuk Village on Nunivak Island, Alaska*)

*“Striving for academic success with diligent work ethic is only one variable contributing to college and career readiness. It’s vital to take advantage of every available opportunity—especially the ones that stretch your comfort zone! Taking on leadership roles and trying new things will strengthen your relational skills and help shape your future. Additionally, weaving together cultural heritage and personal values with modern-day education establishes confidence that prepares you well for success after high school.”*

Jayne Hanna is a master problem-solver and go-getter, particularly when it comes to keeping connected with her Robotics team, the Sunchasers. Jayne lives in the remote Alaska Native village of Mekoryuk on Nunivak Island—a long 150 miles away from her teammate in Bethel—which makes exchanging ideas, parts and fundraising goods extremely challenging. Jayne worked with community members and school sports teams to hand-deliver goods by bush plane from one community to the other, and used teleconferencing resources to update code and collaborate with her teammate. Despite having limited access to academic opportunities (Jayne is one of 11 high school students in her village) she has actively participated in team sports, speech and poetry competitions, and various student government roles and obtained college credits from dual enrollment since her sophomore year in high school. Jayne hopes to become an educator in rural Alaska to continue her love of learning and act as a role model for other Alaska Natives.

## **High School**

**Immokalee High School** (*Immokalee, Florida*)

*“Our mission at Immokalee High School is to prepare all students to prosper in a global society. We recognize that for some that means preparing for college. For others, it means preparing to be career ready after graduation through one of our career academies. Either way, we want our students to graduate equipped for success.”*

Immokalee High School offers a multitude of college and career readiness paths for students, including Advanced Placement (AP) courses, the Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) diploma, and career exploration opportunities through three National

Academy Foundation (NAF) academies. Immokalee High School partners with community organizations like The Immokalee Foundation and the Boys and Girls Club to offer mentorship and academic support to students. Immokalee is the only high school in the state of Florida with a Migrant Center dedicated to supporting migrant students' needs so they can be successful in school. Of the 1,723 students enrolled at Immokalee, 758 students are classified as migrant and 96 percent of enrolled students qualify for free and reduced lunch.

## **Postsecondary Institution**

### **Butler Community College** (*Rose Hill, Kansas*)

*"The goal of Butler's Early College Academies is to prepare students with an emphasis in both academics and employability in a four semester degree program that trains them and prepares them for their career. Students perform a complete job shadow, have internship opportunities and receive soft skills training in addition to their academic course work so they have their associate's degrees and are career ready when they graduate from high school."*

Butler Community College created Early College Academies, a collection of career-specific cohorts where high school students can earn their Associate's degrees in specific career and technical fields, earning dual credit and participating in job shadows and internships to prepare them for higher education and the workforce. Since inception of the program three years ago, 100 percent of Academy graduates have continued on to some form of educational placement the following fall. In 2015 and 2016, 82 percent of Academy students completed their Associate's degrees just prior to high school graduation. That number is expected to increase to 90 percent for this year's graduating class.

## **Employer**

### **Martco, LLC** (*Alexandria, Louisiana*)

*"RoyOMartin is one of the South's largest independent forestry and wood-products manufacturing companies. As a learning organization, we believe that education is key to workplace success. We support the personal and professional development of our current employees, as well as those seeking to enter the workforce. Through integrating WorkKeys in hiring practices and partnering with local educational institutions for training, RoyOMartin strives to create and enrich jobs that improve the quality of life of our communities' citizens."*

Martco, L.L.C. dba RoyOMartin, is a forest-products and wood-manufacturing company known for its philanthropy, sustainable forest practices, and human resource development. RoyOMartin is committed to closing the workforce gap in Central Louisiana and seeks to do so by offering employees a compensation system that promotes self-directed learning and advancement, an internal leadership-development program focused on hard and soft skills, and scholarships for employees and their dependents. RoyOMartin also partners with high schools, technical colleges, and universities to prepare students with the technical and manufacturing skills they need to succeed in the workforce and in life.