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ACTE ANNOUNCES CLIFF WEISS ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

ALEXANDRIA, VA- The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) today announced Cindy Bai, of Plano, Texas, won the secondary category, and Aaron Locker, of Casper, Wyoming, won the postsecondary category for the 2009 Cliff Weiss Essay Contest. The winners wrote essays on the topic "What would you tell President Obama about your CTE experience?" ACTE received 158 entries, and each of the winners will receive an award of \$250 and the essays will be published in the May issue of *Techniques*.

Bai is a student at Liberty High School, located in Frisco, Texas. Her essay described how her experience in taking an advertising design class inspired her to pursue a career in advertising. Through her career and technical education (CTE) class, she worked on a variety of projects including a high school dropout prevention campaign and a pamphlet for a local hospital, which provided her an opportunity to learn from her mistakes, enhance her skills and explore her career interest.

Locker is a student at the University of Wyoming and Casper College Center. In his essay, he explains how his CTE experience in learning hands-on applications and opportunities to be creative and innovative will impact how he teaches his students about automotive technology. The key to providing the students with the necessary knowledge and skills is preparation and motivating them to succeed.

Cliff Weiss Essay contest is in the memory of former ACTE Senior Director of Communications Cliff Weiss (1951-2004), and it provides an opportunity to recognize CTE students that share the same passion and talent for writing as Cliff Weiss. Next year's Cliff Weiss Essay topic will be announced in January 2010 with entries due February 12, 2010. For more information and photos of the winners, please contact Sabrina Kidwai at skidwai@acteonline.org.

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) is the nation's largest not-for-profit education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. It provides advocacy, public awareness and access to information, professional development and tools that enable members to be successful and effective leaders. Founded in 1926, ACTE has more than 29,000 members including teachers, counselors and administrators at the middle school, high school and postsecondary levels.

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