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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Dr. Kelli Martin, Deputy Superintendent for Greenbrier School District, Named AACTEA Administrator of the Year**

GREENBRIER, AR – Dr. Kelli Martin, Deputy Superintendent for the Greenbrier School District, has been named the 2026 Arkansas Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators (AACTEA) Administrator of the Year. Dr. Megan Duncan, AAEA Executive Director, and Mike Mertens, AAEA Consultant, presented Dr. Martin with the award at her district on May 12, 2026.

This award is given each year to an Arkansas career and technical education administrator who has succeeded in promoting and enhancing career and technical education in their organization and has been recognized as exhibiting exceptional leadership skills in their community.

Dr. Martin has served as Deputy Superintendent since 2023 and has worked to enhance Career and Technical Education at the local, regional/state, and national/global levels through research-based leadership, systems innovation, and meaningful community partnerships. She has endeavored to ensure that CTE is innovative, scalable, and aligned to workforce needs at every level. Her efforts have expanded programs of study, strengthened Work-Based Learning systems, embedded employability skills into measurable practices, assisted in filling gaps in CTE research, and built a culture of community-connected professional learning.

Dr. Martin is dedicated to the education of Arkansas students and very deserving of this award as evidenced in the following comments:

"Dr. Martin is a monumental component of the success within Greenbrier School District. In my tenure at Greenbrier High School, she has been nothing short of exceptional in catalyzing the growth and development of CTE Programs and the numbers to reflect this don't lie. Under her direction, these programs have not only nearly doubled in number but have excelled in performance with multiple CTSO's having a plethora of District, State, and National-Qualifying teams and individuals." Troy Weatherley, Greenbrier FFA Advisor

"Dr. Martin embodies exactly what an exceptional Career and Technical Education administrator looks like. She supports program funding, advocates for students, and builds programs that genuinely change the trajectory of young peoples' lives. Her work has made Greenbrier Public Schools a stronger district and has given countless students, including myself, a better future." Presley Roberts, Graduate, Greenbrier High School

"During my time at Greenbrier, Dr. Martin was a steadfast advocate for all CTE pathways. One of her most impactful initiatives was the revival of the district's work-based learning program. Through her vision and leadership, students were given the opportunity to earn high school credit for meaningful workplace experiences. She emphasized not only participation in internships but also the development of career practicums—positions intentionally aligned with students' completed CTE coursework and career goals. This intentional alignment elevated the program from a general work experience model to a truly career-connected learning system." Micah Edwards, CTE Instructional Facilitator, Arch Ford ESC