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**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JUNE 15, 2010**

(Release #2010 - 243)

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**Congratulations to Houston County’s Teachers of the Year**

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – At the end of the school year, Houston County’s 37 schools announced their 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year. The honorees will be recognized at the system’s Opening Session on August 4, 2010, at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter’s Miller–Murphy-Howard Building in Perry. The 2010-2011 Houston County Teacher of the Year and four finalists will be announced for the first time at Opening Session.

Each school has its own selection process. To select the systemwide winners, an educator from outside of the system evaluated the school-level nominees' written applications. After this preliminary judging, 10 semi-finalists were selected for one-on-one interviews with a panel of out-of-system judges consisting of personnel with experience in the educational field. After an intensive and lengthy review of written applications and face-to-face interviews, the judges selected four finalists and the systemwide Teacher of the Year who will remain a surprise until announced on August 4.

Congratulations Teachers of the Year! The 10 semi-finalists for the systemwide Teacher of the Year are marked with an asterisk.

**2010 - 2011 Houston County Teachers of the Year**

- Matt Arthur Elementary..... Andy Payne
- \*Bonaire Elementary ..... Larissa Beecher \*
- Bonaire Middle ..... Dianne James
- Centerville Elementary..... Mary Smith
- Eagle Springs Elementary ..... Susan Hardin
- \*Feagin Mill Middle..... Demetria Thomas \*
- \*Hilltop Elementary ..... Laura Sanders \*
- Houston County Career Academy..... Sharon Alday
- Houston County Crossroads Center..... Luther Lucas
- \* Houston County High..... Wally Shaw \*
- Huntington Middle..... Susan Payne
- Kings Chapel Elementary..... Donna Brown

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Lake Joy Elementary .....	Jessie Anderson
*Lake Joy Primary .....	Monica Padgett *
Lindsey Elementary .....	Barbara Smith
Linwood Elementary .....	Sylvia Mitchell
Miller Elementary.....	Karen Pogue-Blackshear
Morningside Elementary.....	Kay Miller
Mossy Creek Middle .....	Tammy Strickland
*Northside Elementary .....	Beth Sciarro *
Northside High .....	Monica Gantt
Northside Middle .....	Elizabeth Baughman
Parkwood Elementary .....	Angela Rodgers
David Perdue Elementary .....	Natalia Saratsiotis
*David Perdue Primary .....	Angela Goodwin *
*Perry High.....	Sherry Johnson *
Perry Middle .....	Chris Wallace
Perry Primary .....	Kathy Robinson
*Quail Run Elementary .....	Laura Lamberth *
Russell Elementary.....	Wanda McKinley
Shirley Hills Elementary .....	Robert Morris
*Pearl Stephens Elementary .....	Julie Wiley *
Thomson Middle .....	Katherine Jones
Tucker Elementary .....	Tammy Pierce
Warner Robins High .....	Randi Collier
Warner Robins Middle .....	Lakeitha Weston
Westside Elementary.....	Lynn Franzkowiak

The 2009-2010 Houston County Teacher of the Year was **Melissa Moulton** from Perry Middle School. The 2009-2010 top systemwide finalists (in no particular order) were:

- ★ Lynn Wood, Lake Joy Elementary School;
- ★ Ginger Watkins, David Perdue Primary School;
- ★ Jessica Cadwell, Morningside Elementary School; and
- ★ John McClellan, Warner Robins High School.

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