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## NEWS RELEASE

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### 13WMAZ Lorra Lynch-Jones Honored by HCBOE & GSBA



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – **Lorra Lynch-Jones**, 13WMAZ TV reporter and co-anchor of News at 5, was honored by the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) with a **2010 Beacon Award**. She was nominated unanimously by the Houston County Board of Education for her exceptional work in the field of education reporting and her dedication to provide citizens with thorough and accurate information about the school system. Jones received the award on Dec. 3, 2010, in Atlanta during the GSBA/Georgia School Superintendents Association Annual Conference. One of only four electronic media members honored from across the state, she was the only one who represented television.

The Beacon Award is given annually to media organizations or individual reporters who have shown a willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty to report educational issues to their communities. Fourteen of Jones' more recent stories were submitted to demonstrate her consistent quality reporting.

Jones commented, "I am very appreciative of Dr. Hines and the Houston County School Board for taking the time to nominate me for this award. I have always enjoyed working with the leadership, staff, teachers and students. On behalf of 13WMAZ, I look forward to a continued relationship in the future."

The nomination packet was signed by Chairman Tom Walmer and Superintendent Dr. Robin Hines. It stated "Mrs. Lynch-Jones has contributed to a better understanding of public education in central Georgia over time through clear, concise reporting on educational issues, ranging from federal legislation to local initiatives. She tackles the tough issues and also highlights accomplishments of students and employees, which encourages them to strive to do even better. Our system knows that we can count on Lorra and 13WMAZ to make Public Service Announcements about school calendars, vaccine clinics and other important information we need to share with the general public. Mrs. Lynch-Jones is a familiar face in our school system who stays abreast of important education issues. She often attends Board of Education meetings to ensure she has accurate, up-to-date facts. She has

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the ability to break down complex issues such as NCLB and AYP, and she does an excellent job of keeping the general public informed about public education.” In addition, “Mrs. Lynch-Jones is well-deserving of the GSBA Beacon Award. As evidenced by the samples submitted, she does an excellent job of covering school news and informing the general public of events, legislation, test scores, and noteworthy accomplishments of students and employees. For years she has covered topics in an unbiased, professional manner and works to ensure delivery of important and accurate news.”

A reporter with 13WMAZ since 2005, Lorra has covered education for five years. She is pictured below with: Ben Jones, her husband and co-worker; Jan Lynch, her mother, a retired educator; and Dr. Robin Hines, Superintendent of Schools. For more information about the Beacon Award or GSBA in general, visit the Web site: [www.gsba.com](http://www.gsba.com) or contact Laura D. Reilly, APR, director of communications, at 770-962-2985 or [lreilly@gsba.com](mailto:lreilly@gsba.com).



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