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NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Beth McLaughlin, Director of Community & School Affairs, 478- 988-6390 ext. 0, Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net

Shirley Hills Elementary Receives 2011 High Flying School Award

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – **Shirley Hills Elementary** School has been selected to receive an **Honorable Mention** at the 2011 **High-Flying Schools Award** ceremony to be held at the National Youth-At-Risk Conference, March 6 – 9, 2011, in Savannah. Shirley Hills Elementary is one of only 10 schools to receive this distinction.

“At Shirley Hills Elementary, we educate on the trust of one another and our students make great gains,” said Principal Dr. Traci Jackson. “Our students understand that they are accountable for their learning and that good work ethics and great expectations are the norm for our school.”

The nine other Honorable Mention winners are from Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and New York. The criteria for High-Flying Schools follow.

- **High Achievement** - ranks at the 75th percentile or higher in at least three academic subjects in at least two grade levels.
- **High Poverty** - student population has at least 50 percent of students living at or below poverty level as defined by the federal lunch program for public schools.
- **High Minority** - student population is 50 percent or more minority.
- **Community Collaboration** - demonstrates high levels of collaboration with the community in addressing youth-at-risk issues.
- **Citizenship Development** - provides opportunities for students to develop citizenship skills at school and in the community.
- **Democratic Education** - curriculum includes objectives and activities related to the growth of students as individuals who are successful members of a democratic society.

The Youth-at-Risk conference provides training to help adults create safe, healthy, caring, and intellectually empowering educational environments for children and adolescents. More than 100 presentations will be offered to over 1,200 conference participants from across the U. S.

For further information about the High Flying award, please visit the Web site <http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/yarHFschools.html>. Shirley Hills Elementary is located at 300 Mary Lane in Warner Robins. For more information, please contact Dr. Jackson at 478-929-7824 or Traci.Jackson@hcbe.net.

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P.O. BOX 1850 • PERRY, GEORGIA 31069
(478) 988-6200 • FAX (478) 988-6259
WWW.HCBE.NET