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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 31, 2011

(Release #2011/12 - 52)

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

Houston County Schools Announce Systemwide Teacher of the Year *Honors Teachers of the Year and Employees of the Year*



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA –The Houston County School System honored its six Employees of the Year and 38 Teachers of the Year during the system's Opening Session held July 25, 2011. The systemwide Teacher of the Year (TOTY) and system finalists were announced for the first time. **Rebecca Oakley** (pictured), a seventh-grade science teacher at Warner Robins Middle School, is the **2011-2012 Houston County Teacher of the Year**.

The four **finalists for the systemwide TOTY** are:

- ★ Stephanie Melvin, Lake Joy Elementary School;
- ★ Monique Dawsey, Pearl Stephens Elementary School;
- ★ Steve Atkins, Veterans High School; and
- ★ Kenneth Hammond, Westside Elementary School.

Employees of the Year are:

- ★ Maintenance Employee of the Year – Greg Maddox;
- ★ Custodian of the Year – Buddy Leatherwood, Houston

County Career Academy;

- ★ Warehouse Employee of the Year – Avery McGhee;
- ★ School Nutrition Manager of the Year – Nutrina Whitehurst, Hilltop Elementary School;
- ★ Bus Driver of the Year – Daphne Carter; and
- ★ Bus Monitor of the Year – Ruby Jordan.

The event was held at the Agricenter's Miller-Murphy-Howard Building in Perry. Many thanks are expressed to the companies that provided event sponsorship:

- Premier Sponsors: Clear Concepts, H.E.A. Federal Credit Union and Parrish Construction;
- Gold Sponsor: Jostens;
- Silver Sponsors: VALIC and CB&T Bank of Middle Georgia;

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P.O. BOX 1850 • PERRY, GEORGIA 31069
(478) 988-6200 • FAX (478) 988-6259
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- Bronze Sponsor: Classworks/Curriculum Advantage; and
- Friends of BOE: Advanced Eyecare, Audio Visual Services, Cox Communications and Davis Oil Company.

Gifts and cash awards valued at approximately \$42,000 were presented to 44 honorees, courtesy of generous sponsors. The school system greatly appreciates the companies that provided gifts to help honor employees!

The six Employees of the Year each received gifts valued at about \$700, to include \$250 cash awards. Each of the 38 Teachers of the Year (TOTY) received gifts valued at about \$350. And each TOTY System Finalist received additional gifts valued at \$2,600 to include \$400 in cash awards.

As the Houston County Teacher of the Year, Oakley received gifts that day valued at close to \$13,000. As the system winner, additional gifts presented to her that day, to include a new Honda Accord for the year, were from:

Priester's Pecans	Easy Living Garden Center	C&C Photography
Books are Fun	Publix	Family Dental Associates
Steak-Out	Anderson Bakery	Belk Matthews
The Teacher's Nest	Veranda Spa & Salon	Middle GA RESA
Warner Robins Supply	Barnes Carpet Care	Houston Association of Educators
LongHorn	Impressions by Carlton	Professional Association of Georgia Educators
Steakhouse	Timeless Treasures Antiques & Collectibles	CB&T Bank
Initial Reaction	Yelverton Jewelers	H.E.A. Credit Union
Stone Mountain	Houston Lake Country Club	Robins Regional Chamber
Lowe's	The Lamb's Well	Sonny's BBQ
Georgia Theatre	Stevi' B's pizza	Sen. Ross Tolleson
Serenity Spa & Salon	Edge Fitness	Hughes Honda
Walmart		
The Bike Store		

The system greatly appreciates all of the sponsors. The following is an alphabetical list of the Teacher of the Year and Employee of the Year sponsors:

- Advanced Eyecare
- Anderson Bakery
- Barnes Carpet Care
- Belk Matthews
- The Bike Store
- Books Are Fun
- CB&T Bank of Middle Georgia
- C&C Photography
- Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Perry Chamber of Commerce
- Chick-fil-A of Perry
- Chick-fil-A of Warner Robins

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- Clear Concepts Consulting
- Easy Living Garden Center
- Edge Fitness
- Family Dental Associates
- Fatz Café
- Frito-Lay
- Galleria Mall
- Georgia Association of Educators
- Georgia National Fairgrounds
- Georgia Theatre Company
- HEA Federal Credit Union
- Houston Association of Educators
- Houston Lake Country Club
- Hughes Honda
- Impressions by Carlton
- The Lamb's Well
- LongHorn Steakhouse
- Lowe's
- Middle Georgia RESA
- National Bank Products
- Office Depot
- Outback Steakhouse
- Priester's Pecans
- Publix
- Red Lobster
- Robins Federal Credit Union
- Serenity Salon & Spa
- Sonny's Bar-B-Q
- Steak-Out
- Stevi B's Pizza
- Stone Mountain Park
- The Teacher's Nest
- The Swanson House
- Timeless Treasures Antiques & Collectibles
- Veranda Spa and Salon
- Walmart
- Warner Robins Supply
- Wild Adventures Theme Park
- Yelverton Jewelers.

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