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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2010 Highland Pride Award recipients announced

MEDINA, OHIO (6/1/10) – The Highland Local School District is pleased to announce the selection of the 2010 Highland Pride Award winners: Highland Middle School art teacher **Annette Cross** and community member/volunteer **Teresa Holland-Gresock**.



Annette Cross has been an art teacher in the District for over 33 years and retires in June. According to her nominators, she is a gifted teacher who has taught art skillfully and professionally. A Nationally Board Certified Teacher, she always comes up with art projects that every student can do – from those students with little artistic ability to those much more advanced. She is fabulously organized and her classroom runs as smooth as clockwork. Annette has the unique ability to foster student responsibility both in and outside of her class. She also initiated and continues to advise the Student Council, Ski Club, Bowling Club and Art Club over the years. She mentors students and promotes leadership and character. Annette works countless hours "off the clock" to benefit the students, individually or as a group. She was the organizer and developer of the Highland Celebration of Excellence. This event showcased special classroom projects from all our districts schools for the Highland community to view as a Saturday event. The intention was to recognize the Highland students for their personal excellence in the classroom. Students know that Mrs. Cross can be counted on to lend an ear, provide support and be their advocate. Many who know Annette try to emulate her enthusiasm and dedication. Annette always goes above and beyond and keeps up with the latest trends in the art world. Walking by Annette's art room, one may see her presenting a PowerPoint with embedded video to better teach a medium to her class or engaging students in a new art project. Whether it is running 3-on-3 basketball or volleyball matches during lunch recess when the weather is too cold (which she does even during her own lunch so one of the grades will not be short-changed), or volunteering to organize and run the end-of-year talent show, Annette has a part in giving the students active learning experiences at the middle school. She was the organizer of the Medina County Art Show for 15 years and also organizes a wonderful art show to display the student's work at the middle school. Annette is one

of those teachers who has been “called” to this profession and it is evident in the way she teaches, supports her peers and her students. The fact that Annette has continued to serve in these capacities throughout her entire career at Highland is testimony to her dedication to and love for her students. She is most deserving of the Highland Pride Award.



The 2010 Highland Pride Community Award winner is Teresa Holland-Gresock.

Teresa has worked in a wide variety of ways to benefit the students of Highland Local School District. According to her nominator, she has been an involved community member and parent for over a decade. As an elementary school parent, she was a frequent classroom volunteer and an active PTO parent at both Sharon and Granger Elementary schools. She was PTO President at Sharon Elementary, as well as co-chair or chairperson for many committees (Magazine Fundraiser, Staff Appreciation, Read-A-Thon, Basket Fundraiser, Holiday Shoppe and many more). She has been an active PTO member and volunteer at the middle school and high school as well, and at one time served as the high school PTO secretary. As a high school parent, Teresa serves on the After-Prom committee and has been a Band Booster for four years. She is a Band Booster Officer and has served in this role for several years. As a Band Booster, Teresa has attended almost all football games and band trips, working as a parent chaperone with the band. Additionally, as a Band Booster, she has helped out with contest events and fundraisers for the band. Outside from working and volunteering in the schools, Teresa was also a Girl Scout leader and Boy Scout leader for several years. She provided the members of her troops with many wonderful opportunities, as well as helping them learn how to be positive, productive members of the community. Teresa was a trustee for multiple terms and also served as Treasurer of the Highland Foundation. When involved with the Highland Foundation, she organized the annual Great Gifts Benefit Dinner Auction, which helps to raise money for special school projects. She also served as a member of the Grants Committee for several years. As a community member, Teresa was a member of the core strategic plan committee and worked on one of the individual strategic plan teams. She also worked to pass the levy to fund the new high school and volunteered her time on the most recent May 2010 levy campaign. It is evident that she truly cares about the students at Highland Local Schools and works hard for them. We are lucky to have her!

Both Annette and Teresa will be recognized at the regular Highland Board of Education meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 21 in the Highland High School Media Center. A reception will follow for family and friends.

The Highland Pride Award was established in 1984 to recognize individuals who have provided exemplary service to the Highland Local School District. Each year, two Pride Awards are given. One recognizes a Highland employee and the other honors a school volunteer. Each year, community members and employees are invited to nominate deserving individuals for the award. A committee of Highland teachers, support staff members and parents review

the applications and determine the winners. The winners are presented with a plaque and publicly recognized during a regular Board of Education meeting. They also receive lifetime passes to Highland activities and sporting events.

Photos Attached:

Annette Cross and Teresa Holland-Gresock

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