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**State organization presents numerous awards to
Hazelwood School District Communications Department**

The Missouri School Public Relations Association (MOSPRA) honored the Hazelwood School District with 13 awards in the 2010 MOSPRA Communications Awards Program during a banquet held earlier this week. In addition, Diana Gulotta, assistant superintendent for communications for HSD, was named president-elect of the statewide organization.

The MOSPRA Communications Award Program is designed to give recognition for creative and effective work in school public relations, as well as valuable feedback from public relations professionals. This year's entries were judged by the St. Louis Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

"MOSPRA's publication contest recognizes outstanding work in the area of school public relations and communications," said Michelle Baumstark, president of MOSPRA and community relations coordinator for Columbia Public Schools. "School districts whose publications are recognized in this annual competition are clearly on the cutting edge of their field and can be held up as some of the best school communications programs in the state of Missouri."

Of the 128 entries statewide, only 31 entries statewide earned the program's highest distinction, the Award of Excellence. HSD earned a total of six Awards of Excellence. HSD was recognized for five media releases and for a video produced to highlight the District's flu-prevention efforts.

In addition, HSD earned three Awards of Merit, which is the second highest honor. The District was given this award for two media releases and for the District's Web site. Only 32 Awards of Merit were awarded statewide.

HSD also earned four Awards of Commendation for a video produced about the pre-kindergarten program, a video produced about Hazelwood 1st, HSD-TV's Kaleidoscope Show and a program printed for the Old Coldwater Schoolhouse 150th birthday celebration. Fifty-one Awards of Commendation were presented statewide.

Communications/media relations department staff includes: Gulotta; Susan Buckman, administrative secretary; Charles Bolinger and Nez Savala, communications specialists; Hal Donovan, video communications specialist; and Aaron Hoffmann, webmaster/graphic designer.

About the photo: Diana Gulotta, assistant superintendent for communications for HSD, (right), receives MOSPRA awards from Jill Filer, chairwoman of the communications contest.

The Hazelwood School District serves nearly 19,000 students and is the second largest district in St. Louis County. Communities in the district include Hazelwood, Black Jack, Spanish Lake, a large section of Florissant, portions of Bridgeton, Bellefontaine Neighbors and Ferguson, and several square miles of unincorporated St. Louis County. The mission of the Hazelwood School District is to launch learners on a quest for high standards, fairness and distinguished achievement.