



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State organization recognizes Hazelwood School District Communications Department

The Missouri School Public Relations Association (MOSPRA) honored the Hazelwood School District with 10 awards in the 2009 MOSPRA Communications Awards Program during a banquet held in late March.

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 Chris Tennill, president of MOSPRA and director of communications for the Clayton School District. "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 112 entries statewide, only nine entries earned the program's highest distinction, Award of Excellence. HSD earned an Award of Excellence for media release writing. HSD earned the second highest honor, an Award of Merit, for three different media releases. In addition, HSD earned an Award of Merit for "Hazelwood News", the district's external newsletter, and for "Staff Talk", which is the district's staff newsletter. Only 31 Awards of Merit were awarded state-wide.

HSD earned Awards of Commendation for a video produced about the A+ Schools Program, a district brochure, the HSD Web site and the Walker Elementary School Newsletter.

Communications/media relations department staff includes: Diana Gulotta, assistant superintendent for communications, Susan Buckman, administrative secretary; Charles Bolinger and Nez Savala, communications specialists; Hal Donovan, video communications specialist; and Aaron Hoffmann, webmaster/graphic designer. Dr. Eric Arbetter is the principal of Walker Elementary School and co-editor of the winning school newsletter.

About the photo: Diana Gulotta, assistant superintendent for communications for HSD, (left), and Nez Savala, communications specialist, receive MOSPRA awards from Chris Tennill, president of MOSPRA.

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.