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For immediate release

MEEF Announces MCSD TOTY Three

The Muscogee Educational Excellence Foundation (MEEF) has narrowed the field and announced the Top Three Finalists for the Muscogee County School District Teacher of the Year. Finalists were culled from the Top Ten announced last week after an interview process with each teacher. The Top Three finalists are (in no particular order):

Susan Wilson
Lisa Bell
Vincent Sneed

Blackmon Road Middle, 6th grade – Math
Downtown Elementary, 3rd grade
Hardaway High, 9th-12th grade – Band, Music

Janet Davis, Selection Committee member and President of TIC Federal Credit Union, said, “We were so impressed with the caliber of all the Top Ten honorees. The top three finalists are as diverse as you can imagine - an elementary teacher who often acts as a second mother to her students; a middle school technology guru who engages and entices her students to think, using all the tools available; and a high school band teacher who inspires students with a love of music and acts as a role model extraordinaire.”

Vincent Sneed heroically announced during his interview, “Music is my hero. Music is my muse. Music is *my* teacher. And it is that which music has taught me that I so desire to teach to my own students as well.”

The commonality of the teachers was their exemplary dedication to teaching and learning. They all hold their students to high standards, and work with them diligently to ensure they are successful.

The MEEF Board of Directors recognizes teachers who have dedicated themselves to excellence in the classroom. The MEEF Selection Committee will visit each of the Top Three finalists in their respective classrooms and the 2012 MCSD Teacher of the Year will be announced at the Gala on Thursday, May 3rd at the Trade Center.

Tickets to the Gala can be purchased at the RiverCenter Box Office April 16-27 for \$35 each.

MEEF is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering educational excellence by focusing on individual teachers who are innovative and exceptionally effective in their profession. The Foundation has awarded over \$1,250,000 to innovative teachers through financial incentives in the TOTY program, the MEEF Grant program and the MEEF Endowment Fund.

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Interviews can be made available via phone with the Top Three honorees and/or representatives from MEEF Selection committee.

Top Three Honorees

Susan Wilson (706-366-4268; Wilson.Susan.N@muscogee.k12.ga.us)

Lisa Bell (706-577-1874; bell.lisa.n@muscogee.k12.ga.us)

Vincent Sneed (229-942-0205; sneed.vincent.a@muscogee.k12.ga.us)

Selection committee members – Janet Davis: 706-527-3088 (c); 706-320-8515 (w)

Judy Thomas: 706-587-8322 (c)

Joel Ames: 706-681-5070 (c); 706-576-2906 (w)