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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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20-Year Anniversary Of Area Businesspeople Honoring Teachers

SPRINGBORO, Ohio – This is a milestone year for an organization that has done a tremendous job honoring educators and making others aware of the professionalism that exists among Warren County teachers.

Since 1987 – 20 years ago – the Warren County Area Progress Council (APC) has made it their mission to seek out the best of the best at each of the eight public school districts, as well as the Warren County Career Center. Teachers truly are honored through this group of business people.

With the help of more than 135 donors, the Warren County APC has amassed more than \$1 million in an endowment fund for a single purpose – to recognize and honor teachers who are making a major difference in the lives of children. To date, more than \$300,000 has been awarded to 445 teachers.

I personally have attended several of the banquets, which are held the first Monday of May. Unlike similar events where a featured speaker is hired, the highlight of the evening is the teachers themselves. Each teacher is given three minutes to express their thoughts on teaching, children or anything else they deem appropriate.

Many times, these short speeches are given by humble educators that consider themselves only one of many in their school who could have – and should have – received such an honor. Other times, teachers leave the room in tears, some by emotional stories of helping others, but more often than not, because of the humorous things that happen in their classrooms.

At Springboro Community Schools, we have many, many teachers who deserve such recognition. While the APC has a strong working relationship with the superintendents in Warren County, they do not let us select which teachers will be honored. They leave that job up to you – our parents and community.

Nominating a teacher could not be easier. The APC has a form that is available through their website at www.ohioinfo.org. Springboro Community Schools also will keep the form on its website until March 2, the last day a nomination can be submitted. Visit www.springboro.org, click “Community” then “Flyers.”

When nominating a teacher, the most important thing to remember is the people judging the forms need specific information on how this teacher has made a difference in your child's life. Some of the characteristics the judges will be looking for include:

- Demonstrates consistency and high commitment.
- Puts research into practice through their own initiative, is a discretionary risk taker.
- Implements creative instructional strategies.
- Focuses on raising the bar for all students.
- Possesses a full understanding of the subject and has the ability to challenge students at all levels.
- Is seen by others as genuine, authentic and sincere.
- Is a caring, thoughtful person who extends him or herself to make a positive difference.
- Shows understanding of others -- parents, children, etc.
- Continues to improve personally and professionally.
- Demonstrates that he/she is committed to continuous improvement. (i.e. constantly looking for new ways to do what they do)
- Influences others to improve by modeling the way.

For those of us in education, we know the value of a good teacher. What is exciting, rewarding and humbling is that an organization like the Warren County Area Progress Council understands this value as well. Words cannot express our appreciation to this fine organization and its membership.

For information about the Warren County Area Progress Council or Project Excellence, please call (513) 932-8228.

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