



*Penn State's Center on Rural Education and Communities  
and  
Pennsylvania Association for Rural and Small Schools*

*announce the 7th annual*

***Building Community through Rural Education Award***

Pennsylvania's rural schools are characterized by their closeness to community. People involved in rural education understand all too well that a strong relationship between rural communities and their schools is vital to ensuring both school effectiveness and community vitality. Schools, as key institutions in rural areas, have crucially important roles to play – not only in providing first rate education, but also in strengthening the social bonds that hold rural communities together and helping to make them viable, healthy and vibrant places to live. These roles have grown only more critical at a time when many rural schools and communities together face a series of challenges including changing labor markets, tightening school budgets and rural out-migration.

Because of this, the *Center on Rural Education and Communities* (CREC) based within the Pennsylvania State University's College of Education, and the *Pennsylvania Association for Rural and Small Schools* (PARSS) announce their 7<sup>th</sup> annual *Building Community through Rural Education Award*. CREC and PARSS will select one award-winner and two honorable mentions, recognizing rural schools or districts that have distinguished themselves through innovative practices that contribute to the educational experiences for the students they serves, while reaching out to the broader community in which they are located.

This recognition will be presented jointly by CREC and PARSS at the PARSS Annual Meeting in April in State College, Pennsylvania. The recipient school or district will receive a plaque, and will be the subject of a PARSS press release. In addition, the district will be featured on the websites of both CREC and PARSS to highlight the innovative, community-building practices of Pennsylvania's rural schools.

**The winning entrant will receive a \$500 award and an engraved plaque, and the two honorable mention finalists will each receive \$250 plus an engraved plaque recognizing their work. Each of the schools recognized by the award will be asked to make a brief presentation to the PARSS membership at the Annual Meeting on April 29, 2011.**



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**Nomination Form**

Qualifying schools or districts must be "rural" according to Center on Rural Pennsylvania criteria (less than 274 persons per square mile). Schools/districts are encouraged to self-nominate. Complete the following, and return it to Dr. Kai Schafft at Penn State's *Center on Rural Education and Communities* by post or fax. Nominations will be accepted until **March 26, 2011**. The award recipient will be announced two weeks before the PARRS Annual Meeting in late April.

1) Name of school or district: \_\_\_\_\_

2) Principal/superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_

3) Person making nomination: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Contact information (ph number/e-mail): \_\_\_\_\_

5) In an attached statement, please briefly describe innovative practices your school/district has engaged in that have both strengthened social and learning environments as well as the community in which your school/district is located. We are particularly interested in how these innovative practices have strengthened education and community in light of particular challenges facing your rural community and/or schools. Please feel free to include any additional supporting materials (e.g. brochures, curricula, multimedia, etc.) that provide additional information about these efforts.

***Return by mail/fax to:***

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