

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Additional Information, Contact:
Lindsay, TSBA Communications Director
Phone: 615/815-3907
E-mail: lcampbell@tsba.net

TSBA Announces First Winner of Annual School Volunteer Recognition Award

In 2011, the Tennessee School Boards Association (TSBA) began the School Volunteer Award Program to honor one school volunteer from each of the Association's nine developmental district who has distinguished themselves by demonstrating exceptional commitment to volunteerism in a local school district. District winners were announced at this year's Fall District Meetings held in September. As district winners, these school volunteers were eligible for the statewide award, which includes a \$1,000 grant for the public school of the winner's choice. In order to be considered for this award applicants must have made an outstanding contribution to a Tennessee school district through volunteer service. They also must have exhibited leadership, creativity, cooperation, and hard work in their service to a school, engaged in the creation, organization and or mobilization of volunteers, demonstrated sustained commitment to meeting the district's needs and helped with a special project or ongoing activities. The district winners and overall winner were decided by a panel of judges made up of TSBA members.

The inaugural winner of the TSBA School Volunteer Recognition Award is Mid-Cumberland District Winner David Smith of Clarksville-Montgomery County. David Smith has chosen to award Kenwood High School with the \$1,000 grant. Mr. Smith has fully supported and led the Clarksville-Montgomery County program, *100% Graduation is Clarksville's Business*. This campaign was created to unite the community in an effort to support and promote the graduation rate for the 29,500 students in the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System. David has been front and center in rallying the community for their support. He has traveled to numerous Tennessee districts to discuss this effort and its benefits. David Smith was there during the kick-off in June 2008, and remains true to this initiative to this day!

David has made many contributions to ensure the success of this campaign. Through presentations and community outreach, he has signed 16 new partners, hosted "Tour of Schools" for realtors and community leaders, held student workshops to develop peer to peer framework, developed a new video highlighting student success stories, and last but certainly not least, David has helped in raising the graduation rate to 91%.

The Tennessee School Boards Association, a statewide, nonprofit organization, is a federation of the state's local school boards. The mission of the Tennessee School Boards Association is to assist school boards in effectively governing school districts. Through the years, TSBA has helped school boards and their members reach their highest potential through association programs, meetings and services. TSBA also provides school board members a collective voice in matters of legislation and public education concerns. To learn more about TSBA, visit our website at www.tsba.net.