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## **School Board members across the state earn honors, exchange ideas at 2011 TSBA Annual Convention**

School board members from across the state gathered in Nashville Nov. 12-14 for the 73rd Tennessee School Boards Association (TSBA) Annual Convention to share best practices, discuss changes in public education, and explore ways to improve Tennessee public schools. The Convention, focused on the theme “Expect More, Achieve More,” featured a Leadership Conference, Legal Workshop, Power Through Policy Workshop, and more than 20 clinic sessions designed to provide the latest data and information to those who oversee Tennessee’s public education system.

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam addressed the Convention during its Nov. 13 Opening General Session to discuss the future of public education in Tennessee. Haslam was followed on stage by David Zach, one of the few professionally trained futurists. The Opening General Session was also a time to recognize the Overall Award for Excellence in Education Program, School of the Year, Student Video, Student Recognition and School Volunteer Recognition Award winners.

Following the Opening General Session, TSBA kicked-off the Tennessee Healthier Schools Challenge with the help of the State Department of Education’s Office of Coordinated School Health. Convention attendees also had the opportunity to gain valuable data and insight on school health from the Second General Session speaker, Dr. Howell Wechsler, Director of Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) with the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Throughout the afternoon board members exchanged ideas and found out the latest educational trends by choosing to attend a variety 20 clinic sessions. These informational clinics were hosted by an array of educational experts and we thank them for sharing their programs and innovations.

In addition to honoring architectural firms, students and school volunteers, TSBA was proud to honor numerous board members and school boards for their achievements over the past year at the Annual Convention Awards Banquet on Nov. 14. During the program TSBA recognized Ambassadors for Education, Master School Board Members, Scholars Circle Members, Quarter Century Club Members, School Board Member of the Year/C. Hal Henard Distinguished Service, and the School Board of the Year winners. TSBA commends the winners of all of the awards given throughout the duration of the Convention for their dedication and commitment to improving Tennessee’s public education. Attendees also had the pleasure of hearing from with keynote speaker Sam Venable, humor columnist for the Knoxville News Sentinel.

The TSBA 2011 Annual Convention attendees also had the opportunity to visit over 60 exhibit booths, register for a Twitter account through the TSBA R\_U\_Social booth and much more! Bob Alvey, TSBA 2012 President, wrapped-up the Convention with the announcement of the 2012 TSBA Board of Directors. Barbara Dooley, educator, wife of Vince Dooley and promotional speaker, concluded the weekend by saying, “We must expect more, in order to achieve more!”