



RELEASE

WPSU'S "GREAT TEACHERS" CONTEST NOW ACCEPTING ESSAYS

Students can submit essays to nominate their "Great Teacher" in WPSU's annual competition.

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA (October 11, 2006) – Class, take out a sheet of paper and a pencil—it's time to start writing your essays. **WPSU's ninth annual "Great Teachers: Making A Difference Essay Contest" is sending out the call for entries on Oct. 16, and will accept entries through Dec. 1.** Students in grades three through 12 can nominate their teacher by submitting an essay on why their teacher is exceptional. The contest is co-sponsored by WPSU and the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA).

In its ninth year, the "Great Teachers: Making A Difference Essay Contest" attracts hundreds of entries from throughout WPSU-TV's 29-county coverage area. Entries are judged based on several criteria including grammar, inspirational message and compliance with the Pennsylvania State Academic Standards.

"I absolutely love the Great Teachers Essay Contest," said Babs Bengtson, director of educational services at WPSU. "It is informative to read what makes a teacher great in the eyes of a child or teen. Sometimes, a great teacher is someone who provides shaving cream to clean pencil marks off of a child's desk. Other times, a teacher steps in to help a student overcome a long-standing problem with reading. The children, teens, and teachers I have met through this contest have been truly remarkable. I am proud to be co-sponsoring this event again this year with PSEA."

Essays should be about K-12 teachers currently employed in a school district within the WPSU-TV coverage area. Teachers who have been honored in the past four years are not eligible for the contest (a list of past winners is available on the contest's Web site, which is listed below). For students in grades nine through 12, the word limit is 500, for students in grades six through eight, the word limit is 350, and for students in grades three through five, the word limit is 200.

Each entry should include: student's name, home address and phone number, student's current school name, address, phone number and the student's current grade level. Entry deadline is Friday, Dec. 1, 2006. Entries can be submitted at wpsu.org/greatteachers/submissions or mailed to:

WPSU-TV Great Teachers
120 Outreach Building
University Park, PA 16802

The contest divides entries into three grade brackets. For each bracket, a \$250 check is issued to each first place winner and to the school of each teacher honored in the winning essays. Two honorable mention essay writers are awarded a \$50 savings bond within each grade bracket. All of the winners will be honored at an awards ceremony at WPSU's studios and will be featured on WPSU-TV.

The Educational Services unit for WPSU serves as the connection to teachers, parents, teens and kids to extend the rich resources found in public television. For more information about the "Great Teachers: Making A Difference Essay Contest" and official guidelines, visit wpsu.org/greatteachers.

WPSU serves central Pennsylvania with programming, educational services and community outreach. The public media services produce, acquire and distribute programs that address local interests and reflect the diverse cultural, political, geographic and demographic characteristics of an audience within central Pennsylvania.

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