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**For Immediate Release**

## **WISCONSIN CHARTER SCHOOL AWARDS HIGHLIGHT EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC EDUCATION ACROSS THE STATE**

**Madison, WI – October 18, 2010** – On Friday night, October 15<sup>th</sup> at Discovery World in Milwaukee, The Wisconsin Charter Schools Association (WCSA) announced the winners of annual awards in four categories, as well as two career achievement honorees:

### **Charter School Person of the Year:**

First Place: **Rob Rauh** (Principal) and the **staff of Milwaukee College Prep**

Second Place: **Tedd Hamm**, Coordinator of Educational Development, Director/Principal, Sheboygan Area School District

Third Place: **David Hase**, Governing Board Member, Seeds of Health, Inc., Milwaukee

### **Charter School Teacher of the Year:**

First Place: **Lyndee Belanger**, Milwaukee Academy of Science (Milwaukee)

Second Place: **Jim Johnson**, Elementary School for Arts and Academics (Sheboygan)

Third Place: **Sarah Brown**, Veritas High School (Milwaukee)

### **Charter School Innovator of the Year:**

First Place: **Marcia Spector**, Exec. Director, Seeds of Health (Milwaukee)

Second Place: **Tedd Hamm**, Coordinator of Educational Development, Director/Principal, Sheboygan Area School District

Third Place: **Parents of Highland Community School** (Milwaukee)

### **Charter Schools of the Year:**

First Place: Bruce Guadalupe (Milwaukee)

Second Place: Seeds of Health Elementary School (Milwaukee)

Third Place: Highlands Community School (Milwaukee)

### **The two Career Achievement Award went to:**

**Jeff Nania**, Executive Director of Wisconsin Waterfowl Association (Portage)

**Patricia Jones**, Founder and former Director of The Brompton School (Kenosha)

“The announcement of the charter school awards highlights the terrific accomplishments for the public charter schools and the people who make up the charter school community in our state,” said John Gee, Executive Director of the WCSA. “The judges had to make some very tough decisions, and the

winners of our annual awards are all truly outstanding individuals, teachers, organizations, and schools. I am very proud to serve in the role that I do and to be associated with Wisconsin's amazing charter school community, which works to benefit all students in our great state."

Winners from all categories were selected from the thirty nominations submitted for consideration via a peer-nomination process; an awards selection committee made the final selections.

More than 400 people attended the Wisconsin Charter Schools Association's Third Annual Charter Schools Award Gala, which recognized the state's outstanding public charter schools, teachers, and charter school supporters. Winners were selected from nominations made across the state.

### **About Wisconsin Public Charter Schools**

Charter schools are independent public schools that are free to be more innovative and are held accountable for improved student achievement. As of September 2010, there are more than 200 charter schools in operation in Wisconsin, serving approximately 35,000 public school students.

### **About The Wisconsin Charter Schools Association**

The Wisconsin Charter Schools Association (WCSA) is a statewide member-driven organization serving public charter schools and advocates of public charter schools in Wisconsin. WCSA's mission is to provide the students and parents of Wisconsin with options for quality public education, and to advocate on behalf of quality public charter schools to ensure autonomy, accountability and innovation. Wisconsin Charter Schools Association, P.O. Box 1704, Madison, WI 53701, [www.wicharterschools.org](http://www.wicharterschools.org); 608-261-1120.

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