



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CONTACT:**

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## **The School District of Lancaster Honors Joann Judge through Essence of Humanity Award Program**

**Lancaster, Pa. (September 2, 2009)** – The School District of Lancaster recently honored teacher Joann Judge through the Essence of Humanity Award Program. The award was presented to Ms. Judge at an All-Staff Meeting on September 1. Ms. Judge is an adapted physical education teacher and has been teaching students with disabilities at the secondary level for three years. She is also the varsity field hockey coach for McCaskey.

The Essence of Humanity Award is intended to recognize individuals who, beyond the requirements of their work, demonstrate remarkable human qualities including courage, love, strength, determination, and persistence when dealing with adversity. The award also honors those who demonstrate a spirit of caring and provide inspiration to such individuals on a daily basis.

### **About Joann Judge**

According to her colleagues, Ms. Judge is an inspiring, model educator whose “drive, commitment, energy, and passion shine when she is working with her students as well as when presenting to other educators about adapted physical education.” She is recognized for offering her students the opportunity for “personal success and the tools necessary to lead a healthy and active life that they otherwise would not receive.”

Because of Ms. Judge's compassion, dedication, and hard work, she has received numerous other awards including being named Lancaster-Lebanon Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year for 2009.

### **About Essence of Humanity**

There seems to be consensus that as a culture, we often can't identify enough role models. The intent of the Essence of Humanity Award is to elevate the stories of the inspirational role models that indeed do exist in our communities. The program began in 2001 when business and community leaders in South-Central Pennsylvania established the Essence of Humanity Award. The award is presented by participating organizations in collaboration with the Essence of Humanity program's steering committee, which evaluates the nominations. For more information, contact Robin Stauffer, Executive Director, at 717-293-4498, or visit the website at [www.essenceofhumanity.org](http://www.essenceofhumanity.org).

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