

**PENN STATE PUBLIC BROADCASTING BOARD MEMBER HONORED WITH  
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

*Julie Cleland of McKean County Receives PPTN "Mr. Rogers Award" and is  
Presented with Pennsylvania State Senate Citation*

**HARRISBURG, PA. (March 17, 2006)** -- In a ceremony at the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg the evening of March 15, a member of the Penn State Public Broadcasting (PSPB) Board of Representatives was honored with the Mr. Rogers Award for community service in the inaugural PPTN Neighborhood Awards, given by the Pennsylvania Public Broadcasting Network (PPTN), and was presented with a Pennsylvania Senate citation.

The award, which was inspired by the life and work of Fred Rogers, host of "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood" on PBS, was presented to Julie Cleland of Kane, Pa, by Rogers, widow, Joanne, in recognition of Cleland's thirty-years of contributions to education, rural communities and public television. Cleland has served on the PSPB Board since 1995, the past three years as chair.

After receiving the award, Cleland was presented with a Pennsylvania Senate citation for community service by Pennsylvania State Senator Joseph B. Scarnati, III from district 25, which includes her home county of McKean.

"This remarkable woman has stood out as an advocate for education and the power of public television to inspire, enlighten, teach and connect us," said Joanne Rogers. "Julie Cleland is a persuasive and committed person who has always found ways to convince others to support community and educational efforts that are truly worthwhile."

The Mister Rogers Award, PPTN's highest honor, recognizes an outstanding Pennsylvanian, a leader whose contributions reflect one or more of the core values of public broadcasting as demonstrated in the life and work of Fred Rogers.

The awards were presented during PPTN Public Broadcasting Day on Capitol Hill. Making visits to lawmakers during the day on behalf of PSPB were General Manager Ted Krichels and Board members Carol Sides of Lycoming County, Derek Walker of Clearfield County, Chad Herzog of Huntingdon County and Cleland. Board chair Robert Beaury joined the group for the awards presentation.

"For nearly four decades, PPTN and its eight public television stations have been committed to the notion that beyond our broadcast programming, we have a broad responsibility to educational outreach and public service," said PPTN Commission Chairman Tony May. "As a network that reaches 98 percent of the households in Pennsylvania and is 100 percent owned by the public, we have never forgotten that it is our first obligation to serve our local communities with the airwaves and resources entrusted to us."

Cleland, of McKean County, has worked to help children receive a good start in their educational experience. She was the first woman elected as a school director (Board of Education member) of the Kane Area School District where she served for ten years from 1975 to 1985, including two years as board president. In 1995 she was appointed to the PSPB Board where she helped guide PSPB during its conversion to digital broadcasting and building of a new facility in the Outreach Building at Penn State. She served as a member of the Board of Directors of Kane Community Hospital, as a member of the Board of Directors of Beacon Light Behavioral Health Systems and as director of the Kane Community Preschool. She has served as an elder and deacon of the Kane Presbyterian Church. She has served on numerous community committees and as a member of then State Senator John Peterson's Rural Education Advisory Committee.

Other PPTN awards were the Speedy Delivery Award honoring an innovative program or new technology that had a significant impact on Pennsylvanians, and the Best Neighbor Award, recognizing a community partnership. Both were won by WQLN in Erie, PA.

The awards presentation was sponsored by Highmark Blue Shield, PPTN and Family Communications, Inc. of Pittsburgh. The PPTN Commission provides leadership and accountability in guiding, supporting and advocating public telecommunications to educate, enlighten, inspire and connect citizens of the Commonwealth. For more information about PPTN, visit its website at [www.pptn.state.pa.us](http://www.pptn.state.pa.us) online.

PSPB, which operates WPSU TV/FM, serves 29-counties in central Pennsylvania with broadcast programming, local productions, educational services and community outreach. The PSPB stations are licensed to Penn State.

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