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**PENN STATE PUBLIC BROADCASTING INVITES STUDENT ENTRIES
FOR ANNUAL GREAT TEACHERS ESSAY CONTEST**

Deadline is December 9 for Students in Grades Three Through Twelve

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA (November 15, 2005) – Is there a special teacher who has made a difference in your life whom you would like to recognize? Penn State Public Broadcasting (PSPB), in partnership with the Penn State Educational Association (PSEA), presents the eighth annual "Great Teachers: Making a Difference" Essay Contest," sponsored by the Thomas Family of Dealerships.

Students are invited to write and submit an essay about a teacher who has made a positive impact on their lives. The contest is open to any student in grades three through 12 who lives within WPSU-TV's 29-county viewing area. The deadline for essay submission is Friday, December 9, 2005. In last year's contest, the winning essays were selected from a pool of more than 800 submissions.

"The annual Penn State Public Broadcasting Great Teachers Essay Contest both promotes academic excellence in writing and honors outstanding, master teachers among K-12 classroom educators," said PSPB Director of Education Babs Bengtson. "We are pleased to be able to partner with the Pennsylvania State Education Association for another year and urge schools to encourage their students to participate."

The essay topics for the contest are divided by grade and include: a 200-word essay on "My Teacher Helps Me Learn by -- " for students in grades three through five; a 350-word essay on "My Teacher Is My Role Model because" for students in grades six through eight; and a 500-word essay on "The Most Important Lesson My Teacher Taught Me" for students in grades nine through 12.

The top three essay winners from each age group, along with their teachers, will be invited to a special awards reception and will be taped to appear on WPSU-TV's "Pennsylvania Inside Out" in the spring of 2006. First-place winners and their schools will be awarded a \$250 prize. In

addition, a \$50 savings bond will be awarded to each of the two honorable mention student winners in each age group.

Essays sent by mail should be postmarked no later than December 9, 2005, and addressed to WPSU-TV Great Teachers, 120 Outreach Building, University Park, PA 16802. Essays can also be submitted by the above date through the Great Teachers website at <http://wpsu.org/greatteachers/submissions.html> online.

For more information about the essay contest, as well as a complete listing of rules and regulations, visit the contest's website at <http://wpsu.org/greatteachers> online. Contact is Valerie Moss, who can be reached at (814) 863-6236 or email vam4@psu.edu.

For a complete list of past winners, including texts of winning essays, visit <http://wpsu.org/greatteachers/lastyear.html> online.

PSEA, the largest labor organization in Pennsylvania, represents 158,000 education employees who work in public schools throughout the Commonwealth. Member-supported WPSU-TV broadcasts a 24-hour program schedule to 29 counties throughout central Pennsylvania and southern New York.

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