



**PITTSBURGH
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**
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For Immediate Release

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**Pittsburgh Public Schools to Participate in Teacher Excellence Center's
5th Annual Teacher Recognition Program**

PITTSBURGH, PA, November 7, 2007 – Pittsburgh Public Schools is participating in the Teacher Excellence Center's fifth annual *Teacher Recognition Program* for the 2007-2008 school year. The Teacher Excellence Center (TEC) is a professional development nonprofit organization for teachers in southwestern Pennsylvania. Pittsburgh Public Schools joins school districts from 10 southwestern Pennsylvania counties in a call for nominations to identify and recognize outstanding teachers.

Last year, 10 District teachers were among the top 100 nominated teachers. Albert Puskaric, pre-engineering teacher at Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, was named one of the year's "Teachers of Excellence." Mr. Puskaric presents his students with "real world" problems and open-ended challenges and then sets them free to come up with the best solution. "I prefer to be a 'guide at their side' rather than a 'sage on the stage,'" he says of his teaching philosophy.

Parents, students, community members and District employees are encouraged to nominate any full-time teacher, librarian or guidance counselor for recognition.

All nominated teachers will receive a Certificate of Recognition. The top 100 nominated teachers will be recognized at the annual *Celebration of Teaching* event at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland on April 24, 2008. That night, nominated teachers with the top seven scores will be deemed "Teachers of Excellence" and will each receive a \$2,500 grant for their schools. Two "Teachers of Excellence" will be chosen from each one of the following categories: pre-kindergarten through 4th grade, 5th through 8th grade, and 9th through 12th grade. Additionally, one new teacher from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, who has not yet received permanent certification, will be deemed a "Teacher of Excellence" and receive the "Rising Star Award."

Nomination forms are available at all District schools or by visiting www.pps.k12.pa.us. Nomination forms can also be completed online at www.teacherpa.com. The nomination period is open now through December 31, 2007.

TEC fosters exemplary teaching by providing professional development to teachers and recognition of the region's best K-12 educators, and encourages other teachers to strive for this same dedication to their students and contributions to their educational communities. TEC is a registered 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization. TEC recognizes the collaborative effort required by the school and community to educate students and improve the economic development of southwestern Pennsylvania. More information on TEC and the Recognition Program is available at www.teacherpa.com or by calling TEC at 412-440-0514.

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The Pittsburgh Public School District is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age or disability in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title II of ADA, Title VI, Title IX, and Section 504. It is the policy of the Pittsburgh School District to make all programs, services, activities and facilities available and to provide reasonable accommodations to persons with disabilities.

For information regarding accommodations, civil rights or grievance procedures, contact Mrs. Susan Dobie-Sinicki, Employee Relations Manager, Office of Employee Relations, Pittsburgh Public Schools, 341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3516; Phone (412) 622-3691 (Voice/TTY/TDD); Fax (412) 622-7968.