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For:
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Purpose:
MAUMEE HIGH SCHOOL CHOSEN TO REPRESENT THE TOLEDO REGION AT THE NATIONAL JEFFERSON AWARDS CEREMONIES IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Toledo, OH - - Leadership Toledo (LT) Executive Director David Schlaudecker announced at the Jefferson Awards Breakfast on March 13, 2014 that **Maumee High School's Youth Jefferson Awards/Students In Action** initiative was selected by an esteemed panel of judges to represent the Toledo Region at the national Jefferson Awards ceremonies this June in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Schlaudecker explained that because of its well-respected youth programming, LT was selected in late 2008 by the national Jefferson Awards for Public Service to facilitate the local *Youth Jefferson Awards/Students In Action* (SIA) program. The greater Toledo community encompasses one of 14 national regions for SIA, which is designed to pass the tradition of service and volunteerism to the next generation of young Americans. Participants in the Toledo Region now total **35 area high schools throughout the Toledo Region** including the following high schools: Anthony Wayne, Bowsher, Cardinal Stritch, Central Catholic, Clay, Glass City Academy, Horizon Science Academy, Lake, Life Skills Center, Lima Central Catholic, Horizon Science Academy, Maumee, Maumee Valley Country Day, Northwood, Notre Dame Academy, Ottawa Hills, Perrysburg, Rogers, Rossford, St. Francis de Sales, St. John's Jesuit, St. Ursula Academy, Scott, Springfield, Start, Sylvania's Northview and Southview, Swanton, Toledo Christian, Toledo Early College, Toledo School for the Arts - all offering students this prestigious national youth recognition and reward program.

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The judging panel included Lucas County Commissioner Tina Skeldon Wozniak; Chip Carstensen of Block Communications; John Fedderke of The Blade; Dr. Judy Jackson May of Bowling Green State University; and Leadership Toledo Trustee Lori Powe. Each of the 35 schools were invited to demonstrate within a five-seven minute video presentation how their year-long efforts had redefined the culture of their campus to one of service and how they met each of the Youth Jefferson Awards/Students In Action **7 Goals** including:

Goal #1 Engage the School Community

Goal #2 Establish an Effective Leadership Team

Goal #3: Expand Volunteer Capacity

Goal #4: Expand Financial Capacity

Goal #6: Growth and Expansion of (the mission of) Students In Action

Goal #5: Tell Stories of Service

Goal #7: Innovate

“The decision,” stated Mr. Schlaudecker, “was extremely difficult yet unanimous for our judges. The students attending Maumee High School demonstrated the many ways they delight in serving every day – accomplished not as a requirement or obligation but as a joy! We congratulate students at every high school, those at Maumee and runners-up St. Ursula Academy, Lake, and Anthony Wayne, for redefining the culture of their school campus into places that thrive with enthusiasm for charity, community service, and teamwork. Leadership Toledo is proud to support them as they lead others to address needs in their neighborhoods, schools, and the region.”

Data indicate that individual and group efforts to increase awareness and participation in service are attaining success – the more than 22,000 students attending 32 schools currently involved in the Toledo Region’s SIA are on target to reach or exceed **250,000** hours of service this year! Schlaudecker concluded, “This is evidence that our young servant leaders of TODAY are already helping change the alarming trend of passive reliance of youth on someone else to create solutions for the problems that challenge our communities!” # # #