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**JCTA Recognizes Educators as Part of Teacher Appreciation Month**

*JCTA Thanks Award-Winning JCPS Teachers*

**Louisville, KY (October 14, 2010) –** TheJefferson County Teachers Association today honored seven JCPS teachers who distinguished themselves by implementing a creative approach to classroom learning over the last three years. During Teacher Appreciation Month, JCTA wants to recognize the tireless work of several teachers who have demonstrated innovative methods of learning through their leadership skills.

“JCTA is proud to support such outstanding teachers who go above and beyond their responsibilities in the classroom to further enhance the education of our students,” said JCTA President, Brent McKim. “These teachers have received state-wide recognition for their achievements, and today, we are honoring them for their commitment to making a difference in the lives of Jefferson County’s schoolchildren.”

On Thursday, JCTA honored seven educators at Olmsted Academy North, 4530 Bellevue Ave., Louisville. Team leader Ron Cheeks worked with the other teachers who contributed to the project: Jeff Phelps, Ryan Rodosky, Shannon Brutscher, Kathleen Jewel, Jennifer Hornback and Danielle Minis. This group of eighth-grade teachers was nominated by their colleagues for their success on an award-winning team project called “looping” that started in 2007. The teachers worked with the same group of students for three years, beginning in the sixth grade. They assisted the students in all subject areas including: math, science, social studies and language arts. The strategy focuses on helping all students succeed and preparing them for a smooth transition to high school.

These educators recently were honored by the Kentucky Middle School Association for being one of the “Teams That Make a Difference” for the Commonwealth. The team is now a contender for the National Middle School Association title.

As team leader, Cheeks received $500 to be used for classroom supplies, books, etc. The remaining teachers each will receive $100 for similar classroom expenses. The gifts are intended to recognize and reward these educators for their hard work, creativity and leadership.