



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL

For Immediate Release

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### Local Educator Vicki Vaughn Among Nation's Best K–8 Principals

Fort Worth, TX—July 26, 2010—Vicki L. Vaughn, principal of Bethesda Christian School in Fort Worth, was selected as a 2010 National Distinguished Principal. The 2010 celebration marks the 27th year that the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) has presented this prestigious award.

Vaughn was nominated and selected by a special selection committee established by the Association of Christian Schools International, said ACSI Senior Vice President Taylor Smith.

Vaughn is a graduate of the University of Texas - Arlington, and the Texas Christian University of Fort Worth, Texas, where she earned a Masters Degree in Education. She previously held the position of teacher and vice principal at the same school she now leads, and has served as principal of Bethesda Christian School since 1988.

“At the helm of every successful school is a successful principal,” said Gail Connelly, NAESP’s Executive Director. “Our National Distinguished Principals program provides us with an opportunity to recognize the outstanding leadership of these principals and their commitment to creating successful learning communities. Because of them, students thrive academically, teachers grow professionally, and communities are strengthened.”

In October, Vaughn will travel to Washington, D.C., for two days of activities planned to honor and bring well-deserved recognition to the elementary and middle-level educators chosen by the states, the District of Columbia, plus private and overseas schools.

Criteria for selection of the principals require that the honorees are active principals of schools where programs are designed to meet academic and social needs of the students, and where there are firmly established community ties with parents and local business organizations, Smith said.

Mrs. Vaughn is the founder and CEO of Honorable Character Inc., a non-profit corporation which provides classroom management systems for use in schools. After becoming Bethesda’s principal, one of Vaughn’s first initiatives was to revise the school’s classroom management policy, which she felt focused exclusively on addressing and correcting negative student behavior. She and a team of Bethesda teachers developed what eventually became the Honorable Character system. The program, which has been used by the school for over 20 years,

fosters a positive learning environment that enables students to excel. Vaughn later adapted the system into a home version. The original private school system and the home version are now used in 40 states and in 5 countries. In 2008, Honorable Character introduced a public school version of the classroom management system. Proceeds from Honorable Character sales will eventually be used for a teacher endowment fund.

In addition to her work with Honorable Character, Mrs. Vaughn also created *Discover Your Child*, a program which helps parents understand their child's strengths and challenges, enabling teachers and parents to partner more effectively in the training of children.

Vaughn and her husband, Rick, reside in Fort Worth and have two adult children and six grandchildren..

Established in 1973, the Association of Christian Schools International serves over 70,000 teachers and administrators, 5400 schools and 1.4 million students worldwide. ACSI maintains close ties with the metropolitan Washington, D.C.-based National Association of Elementary School Principals and its 25,000 members worldwide.

The National Distinguished Principals program is made possible through the corporate sponsorship of VALIC, an active supporter of NAESP for nearly two decades. For more than half a century, VALIC has served as a leading plan provider for K-12 schools, higher education and healthcare institutions. It manages plans for nearly 25,000 groups, serving nearly two million plan participants.