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Bowling Green Science Teacher Rebecca Painter Named One of Nation's Most Innovative Education Leaders

Warren Regional Juvenile Detention Center Educator Receives 2005 Cable's Leaders in Learning Award

Media Note: Awardees are in Washington, DC through May 18 To arrange interviews or receive digital photographs, call contact

Washington, DC – For transforming education for at-risk juvenile detainees by using cable to provide them the opportunity to take virtual trips outdoors, put on plays, and explore careers in climatology and meteorology, Rebecca Painter is being honored nationally for her substantial contributions to learning in Bowling Green.

Insight Communications and Cable in the Classroom, the cable industry's education foundation, announced today that Painter is a winner of the new *Cable's Leaders in Learning Award*, which recognizes the most inventive classroom educators, administrators, community leaders, and policymakers who are transforming education from Kindergarten through high school (K-12).

"To be selected as *Cable's Leaders in Learning Award* winners, these awardees demonstrated dedication to improving learning for all children," said Helen Soulé, Ph.D., executive director of Cable in the Classroom. "They did this by reaching beyond the familiar to support and encourage young people to achieve their best. Armed with a high quality education, young people will be prepared to meet the world that awaits them – and to improve and transform it for their own children."

Painter is being honored in the Pushing the Envelope award category for creating the "Cable in the Classroom at Warren Regional Juvenile Detention Center." Residents of the youth detention facility have benefited enormously from Painter's efforts, including a hurricane unit that relies upon the Weather Channel and real-life examples viewed on cable. She has convinced the language arts instructor to weave in the hurricane materials with "Isaac's Storm" by Erik Larson, providing historical perspective through an investigation of a devastating Galveston storm. Students use the programming to explore careers in climatology and meteorology, while addressing Kentucky Learning Goals and Academic Expectations. Because residents are not allowed field trips or vocational experiences such as technical school, Painter opted for a facility-wide implementation of Cable in the Classroom, with everyone responsible for taping programs. During the winter, students exit the facility only when they go to court, so exposure to nature through television programming offers a welcome foray into the virtual outdoors.

Page 2 – Bowling Green Teacher Wins National Award

“We are attempting to educate and remediate a forgotten population,” said Painter. “Things that are normally taken for granted are privileges in detention, and limited exposure to nature can be supplemented through television.”

Painter and the other *Leaders in Learning Award* winners are in Washington, D.C. this week to attend a gala awards ceremony, to meet with Members of Congress and education leaders, and to participate in a series of professional development events. Awardees receive a cash prize from Cable in the Classroom, in addition to the trip to Washington.

The awards ceremony, hosted by Bill Kurtis, host of A&E’s *American Justice* and producer of *Investigative Reports* and *Cold Case Files*, will take place on May 17 at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian. CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer will interview award-winners during the awards presentations. Marc Summers, host of *Unwrapped* on the Food Network, John Anderson, an ESPN *Sportscenter* anchor, and Jeff Johnson, host of the BET documentary series *The Cousin Jeff Chronicles*, will present the awards. Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert will receive a tribute from the cable industry. Rising comedian Ted Alexandro will be performing a ten-minute routine.

“We hope that these awards, and the exceptional work on behalf of learning they honor, will move others to strive for similar excellence and stretch the boundaries of the kind of excellence that is possible in education,” said Soulé. “We at Cable in the Classroom will always have that – and these awardees – close to the heart of our mission.”

The awards fall into four categories:

- **General Excellence** – Awards given for general excellence in education.
- **Pushing the Envelope** – Awards given to those redefining the education frontier by using cable content or cable technology.
- **Policymaker** – Awards given to federal, state, or local policymakers who have contributed to the improvement of K-12 education in the broadest sense;
- **Media literacy** – An award given in partnership with the National PTA to recognize excellence in advancing media literacy skills.

For more information about *Cable’s Leaders in Learning Awards*, please visit www.ciconline.org or www.leadersinlearningawards.org.