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For Immediate Release

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**Dr. Denise Shockley Receives National Award for Educational Research and Writing**

Dr. Denise Shockley, Superintendent of the Gallia-Vinton Educational Service Center in Rio Grande, Ohio, has received the 2022 E. Robert Stephens Award for educational research and writing from the Association of Educational Service Agencies (AESAs). Shockley received the award during the AESAs's Annual Conference November 30-December 2 in Atlanta, Georgia.

The award is presented annually to acknowledge contributions that advance understanding of regional educational agencies through research, writing, and/or publications at the regional, state and national levels. Shockley was recognized for a series of articles in professional journals on a variety of topics published during the last decade. Her most recent work focused on the challenges faced by districts serving rural areas and specifically on ways educational service agencies can support rural schools and students.

Shockley has been Superintendent of the Gallia-Vinton Educational Service Center since August of 2002. During her tenure, the center has advanced the goals of Educational Service Agencies (ESAs) by promoting community engagement and support for students, according to David Stiffler, Jr., Board President of the Gallia-Vinton Educational Service Center, who nominated Shockley for the award. Her articles were key to that effort since the series "was grounded in the philosophies of educational service agencies to enrich teacher practice and encourage student achievement," Stiffler said. The accumulated body of research provided models for engagement for other ESAs working with rural and high poverty areas, he added

Randy Lucas, Superintendent of the East Central Ohio Educational Service Center, also nominated Shockley for the award. Lucas said Shockley's research and articles met the core criteria of the award through the scholarly nature of the work and have had a positive impact on rural schools and the ESAs that serve those schools.

Supporting Lucas' nomination were representatives of four other Ohio Educational Service Centers as well as Craig Burford, Executive Director of the Ohio ESC Association. In their letter of support, they note that her articles "highlight particular problems of practice and reveal how ESAs may partner with districts and other community-based partners to improve outcomes for students regardless of where they live and attend school."

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