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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Madison County Superintendent Honored For Leadership

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The *Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities'* superintendent recently was honored at the 26TH annual *Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) of Developmental Disabilities' CONVENTION (OACB)* at the *Easton Hilton* Dec. 2-4.

Superintendent Jim Canney was honored with the Betty Macintosh Award, which was established in 2001 and presented annually to a professional in the developmental disabilities service delivery system who exhibits extraordinary accomplishments in professional leadership and advocacy for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Mr. Canney was lauded by last year's recipient, Superintendent Rick Marriott of the *Ross County Board of Developmental Disabilities*. "We all looked up to Betty and the way she advocated for people with developmental disabilities," Mr. Marriott said.

Ms. Macintosh worked for the *Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities* for many years, and held many administrative roles. She was known for her work to promote the abilities of people with developmental disabilities, especially children.

In describing Mr. Canney's contribution, Mr. Marriott noted that he has worked 33 years in the field and 21 years as superintendent. "(Jim Canney's) dedication has created a deep respect in his community and across the state for people with developmental disabilities," Mr. Marriott said.

In an emotional acceptance of the award, Mr. Canney simply acknowledged his appreciation. "I'm pretty thrilled right now. Thank you," he said.

Blaine Brockman, vice president of the *Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities* and an *OACB* trustee, said Mr. Canney stands out among state leaders because of his involvement with the people he serves and his community.

“Jim is an integral part of not only the *Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, but throughout our community. People know him and trust him,” Mr. Brockman said.

While Mr. Canney has spent all 33 years of his career with the *Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, he wasn’t the first in his family to get involved. His father was a longtime Board member for the *Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities*.

“Jim has very personal relationships with the consumers in Madison County. They know him, and he is just one of their friends,” Mr. Brockman said.

Active in his community, Mr. Canney is President of the *London City Council*, a deacon in his church, and active in *Rotary*. He’s a past president of the local *Chamber of Commerce*.

“What Jim does for the community goes far beyond running a program effectively,” Mr. Brockman said.

Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director, agreed with Mr. Brockman’s assessment. “Of course Jim Canney is a professional and a great person who does an outstanding job as a superintendent. But more than anything, Jim Canney is a friend who wants everyone to succeed,” Mr. Ohler said.

The *OACB* is celebrating its 26th-year of existence. Its mission is to “support *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* in providing services and supports to individuals with disabilities.”

All 88 *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* in Ohio are members of this organization whose purpose is to educate and advocate for the 80,000 people with developmental disabilities who reside in the Buckeye State.

CUTLINE: Jim Canney is pictured with *OACB* President Bob Milliken, *Madison County Board of Developmental Disabilities* Board member and *OACB* Trustee Blaine Brockman, Mr. Canney, and Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director.

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