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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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‘Visionary’ Superintendent Honored At The 26th Annual OACB Convention

COLUMBUS, Ohio – A superintendent who serves Belmont, Harrison and Noble counties recently was honored at the *Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) of Developmental Disabilities (OACB)* 26th ANNUAL CONVENTION at the *Easton Hilton* Dec. 2-4.

Superintendent Monty Kerr was honored with the Kenneth Legats Award for “visionary leadership in administration.” This award is presented annually to an executive who has been nominated by the *OACB Board of Trustees* and who over a career of more than 20 years has shown high ideals, vision, and moral leadership in the administration of programs for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Mr. Kerr was introduced to the more than 600 people attending the conference by Cheryl Phipps, last year’s Kenneth Legats Award winner and Superintendent of the *Hamilton County Board of Developmental Disabilities*.

“He embraces change and is the ultimate professional,” Ms. Phipps said.

Recently profiled by the *OACB* in its bi-monthly newsletter, Mr. Kerr is the only superintendent in Ohio who serves as the CEO for three *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*. He encourages other superintendents and Board members to think of new and better ways for *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* to collaborate to save money, and so that better services and support can be given to the 80,000 people in Ohio who have developmental disabilities.

“Monty always says we need to stop growing programs and start growing people’s lives. He is a visionary who mentors his staff to be strong leaders,” Phipps said.

Ken Legats was a well known and respected superintendent for the *Muskingum County Board of Developmental Disabilities*. His niece and a current Board member for the *Muskingum County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, Carabeth Legats, attended the ceremony Dec. 4.

“I worked with Ken for years. He provided us with a high standard for leadership, so to receive this award in his name is just tremendous,” Mr. Kerr said.

“I thank God every day for the opportunity I have and for the staffs I get to work with. Plus I get to work with tremendous Boards. I truly am blessed,” he said.

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

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

CUTLINE: Monty Kerr, who was selected as this year’s Kenneth Legats Award winner, is pictured with his staff. They include (seated) Pam McCort, Mr. Kerr, Jamie Bauman, (standing) Willy Jones, Rick Helms, Steve Williams, Darlene Pempek, Holly Weatherson, and Lisa Butler.

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