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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Wood County Superintendent Honored For Statewide Work**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – A *Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities* administrator recently was honored at the *Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) of Developmental Disabilities* 26th annual CONVENTION at the *Easton Hilton* Dec. 2-4.

Superintendent Melanie Stretchbery was honored by the statewide agency for her work. In the four years the *OACB* has been presenting this award, this is the first time it has been awarded to a superintendent.

“This award is given to those people with work for *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* that go above and beyond the call of duty,” said Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director.

Mr. Ohler described Mrs. Stretchbery as “one of the least selfish people I know.”

“For Melanie, it is all about what’s best for people with developmental disabilities. She is always positive in her responses, and understands the importance of our system as a whole,” he said, noting that Mrs. Stretchbery “never says no and never hesitates to help.”

Mrs. Stretchbery was visibly surprised by the award.

“I have always felt fortunate to be a part of this field. I truly love working with people with developmental disabilities and the entire team at *Wood Lane*. They are my family,” she said.

Ohler presented Mrs. Stretchbery with one of the three *Partners In Excellence* awards given at the 26th annual CONVENTION. Mike Boaz, a business manager from the *Putnam and Van Wert County Boards of Developmental Disabilities*, and Willy Jones, a business manager from the *Belmont County Board of Developmental Disabilities* also were recognized.

Commissioned in 2006, this annual award is presented to a *County Board of Developmental Disabilities* staff member who demonstrates exemplary service in

offering their expertise to a workgroup or specific project that benefits the *County Board of Developmental Disabilities* system as a whole, not just their specific county. The award is presented to a deserving individual as determined by the *OACB*. That person is recognized either at the annual convention, or at a local Board meeting of the recipient.

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 individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in the Buckeye State.

**CUTLINE: Melanie Stretchbery, Superintendent of the *Wood County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, is pictured with John Martin, Director of the *Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities*, and Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director.**

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