

HOMEWOOD-FLOSSMOOR HIGH SCHOOL

For Immediate Release

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H-F Represented at National Rachel's Challenge Summit

June 29, 2011 (Flossmoor, Ill.) — Three Homewood-Flossmoor High School students represented the community at the 2nd Annual Rachel's Challenge Educators' Summit, held June 22-24 in Plano, Texas. Larrissa Trask-Thomas, Kevin Noe and Elyse Webb — Homewood-Flossmoor's Friends of Rachel Club leaders — participated in a student panel during the summit in order to give student perspectives to the 500-plus educators who attended the conference from the U.S. and Canada. Homewood-Flossmoor teachers Cathy Frederickson and Bob Comstock attended the summit with the students.

According to Frederickson, Thomas, Noe and Webb shared information on how to engage teens in community service, how to create a positive influence within a school and how they were personally influenced by Rachel Scott's story. Rachel Scott was the first student killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999, in Littleton, Colo. Rachel's Challenge is the organization created by her family that strives to inspire, equip and empower people to create a permanent culture change in schools, businesses and communities by starting a chain reaction of kindness and compassion, according to the organization's website.

"Our students were exceptionally well received, as they were approached by many audience members to answer personal questions and to give them compliments on their presentation," said Frederickson. "The kids had a blast!"

This is the first year that multiple students attended the national event; in 2010, Homewood-Flossmoor had a sole student representative, Austin Cooke, at the inaugural summit, where Homewood-Flossmoor's Friends of Rachel Club was named the Rachel's Challenge School of the Year. Frederickson said that H-F's Friends of Rachel Club will consider returning in 2012 to not just be on the student panel, but also to produce a breakout session on how to start and sustain a successful Friends of Rachel Club.

Homewood-Flossmoor's Friends of Rachel Club meets weekly during the school year and produces several events and activities at the school and throughout the Homewood-Flossmoor community. The club was formed in 2006 by H-F teacher Bob Comstock and H-F's Student Assistance Coordinator John Schwaller.

Homewood-Flossmoor High School is a three-time National Blue Ribbon award-winning school, located at 999 Kedzie Avenue in Flossmoor, Ill. For more information on the school, call 708-799-3000 or visit hfhighschool.org.

Homewood-Flossmoor High School is a comprehensive community high school located in the South Suburbs of Chicago. The district serves the villages of Homewood and Flossmoor, and portions of Chicago Heights, Glenwood, Hazel Crest and Olympia Fields.

A tradition of excellence is the cornerstone of H-F – the result of commitment on the part of district residents to the idea of a community high school with high standards for students and staff, and a solid goal of excellence in education.