



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Local Fredericksburg Teacher Wins Statewide Award**

**(Fredericksburg, VA)** – Employment Resources Incorporated and the Gladys H. Oberle School are extremely honored to announce that Ms. Christine Bounds, science teacher at the Gladys H. Oberle School in Fredericksburg, has been selected as the recipient of the 2013 Margaret Shepherd Teaching Award by the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities (VAISEF).

The Margaret Shepherd Teaching Award annually recognizes a teacher in Virginia who works with special needs students and is employed by a member school of the Virginia Association of Independent Specialized Education Facilities (VAISEF). Teachers are nominated by administrators from VAISEF schools and are judged in a “blind process” by an independent panel who do not know the teacher’s name or the affiliated

school.

Margaret Shepherd was a teacher who dedicated her life to education and focused her efforts to teaching children with special needs. Shepherd always took what others described as “the hopeless cases” and taught them basic academic skills while remaining centered on the belief that her students also needed to know about life in general.

“It is such an honor to be awarded The 2013 The Margaret Shepherd Teaching Award,” said Christine Bounds. “Margaret Shepherd was a remarkable woman whose love of learning led her to working with students who needed to be given a sense of hope,” Bounds added. “Mrs. Shepherd was able to give each student this hope by actually taking time to get to know her students individually and not just teaching them their lessons.”

“Professionally, an administrator could not ask for a better employee,” said Pamela K. Simms, Vice President of Education at Employment Resources Incorporated and Program Director of The Gladys H. Oberle School. “Christine is extremely self-motivated, confident, reliable, and knowledgeable of effective instructional strategies and current curriculum trends,” Simms added. “I feel a teacher must be exceptional for consideration of The Margaret Shepherd Teaching Award and Christine is indeed deserving of this prestigious statewide recognition.”

Ms. Bounds will receive this extraordinary teaching award at the VAISEF Annual Conference on April 25-26, 2013 at the Homestead Resort in Hot Springs, Virginia.

Employment Resources Incorporated (ERI) is a private not-for-profit organization with offices located in Fredericksburg and Tappahannock, Virginia that serves the city of Fredericksburg and multiple cities and counties in the region. ERI operates the Gladys H. Oberle School in Fredericksburg, an accredited, alternative private special education day school for middle and high school-aged children which includes The Wilson Center for Vocational Studies programs. Its mission is to provide youth and young adults with the

education and skills they need to become successfully employed, self-sufficient and contributing members of their community. ERI also provides employment training programs and services to the adult workforce and employers in their service region.

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**PHOTO OF CHRISTINE BOUNDS – 2013**

