



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Chad L. Aldis

Phone: 614-223-1555

Email: caldis@scohio.org

Elected Officials Honored at Special Needs Scholarship Celebration

COLUMBUS, Ohio (Nov. 2, 2011) – Families, elected officials, and school choice advocates gathered last night to celebrate the creation of Ohio’s new Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program at an event hosted by School Choice Ohio. Senator Kevin Bacon and Delaware County Treasurer Jon Peterson were honored by the organization with awards during the event.

“Thanks to the hard work of parents, advocates, and our elected officials, many students with special needs in the state of Ohio now have a brighter future,” said School Choice Ohio Executive Director Chad Aldis. “Students with special needs will now have access to some of the best public and private schools in the state, and furthermore, schools of every type will be competing to provide them with the services they need to thrive.”

School Choice Ohio presented awards to two elected officials who played important roles in the passage of the scholarship program. Senator Kevin Bacon received the organization’s Leadership Award in recognition of his commitment to advancing the principles of school choice in the state of Ohio. In addition, Delaware County Treasurer Jon Peterson, who in his former position as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives championed the Autism Scholarship Program, was presented with the organization’s Legacy Award in recognition of his unparalleled commitment to parental choice advocacy and diligent work to secure the freedom of choice in education in Ohio.

The Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program will provide scholarships to children with special needs who have an Individualized Education Program. Approximately 11,750 scholarships will be available for the 2012-2013 school year. Scholarship amounts will be based on the child’s special need category and will not exceed \$20,000. Students may use the scholarship to pay for tuition at a private school, additional services at a private provider, or at other public schools.

For more information about the Jon Peterson Special Needs Scholarship Program, visit www.scohio.org.

###