



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:

Rosemary Driscoll

NEF Board Member

3 Sassamon Road

Natick, MA 01760

508.653.0615

driscollresearch@comcast.net

NEF ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2010 SHINING LIGHT AWARDS

Award Ceremony Planned for Thursday, March 25, 7PM at TCAN

Natick, March 4, 2010 – The Natick Education Foundation, enhancing education in the town of Natick for 20 years, today announced the winners of the 2010 Shining Light Awards and detailed plans for an awards ceremony on March 25th at The Center for Arts in Natick (TCAN). Recipients of this year's Shining Light Awards will include Susan Wornick, WCVB-TV Channel 5 anchor, Kathi Brown, Chair of Science Department at Natick High School, and the Natick Community Organic Farm.

Harriet F. Siegel Shining Light Award – Susan Wornick has been an anchor of WCVB-TV's **Midday** newscast since February 1989. In January 2006, Wornick was named a member of *Team 5 Investigates*, WCVB's investigative unit. She also serves as *NewsCenter 5's* consumer reporter. Wornick joined the station in 1981. Wornick has won many awards while at WCVB. In 2005, the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences recognized her with the Silver Circle Award for twenty-five years of service to WCVB and the community. Over the years, Susan has won many awards while at WCVB including 3 regional Emmy Awards. Susan spends a tremendous amount of time volunteering in the community and serving as a celebrity auctioneer for many organizations including the Visiting Nurse Association of Natick, Mass Coalition for the Homeless, Mayyim Hayyim, as well as NEF. She helps to raise awareness and money for breast cancer research and supports Rodman Celebration for Kids as well as the Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly. Born and raised in Natick, Susan now resides in Needham. She is a graduate of Boston's Emerson College, where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree.

The Educator Shining Light Award – Kathleen KC Brown has taught science at Natick High for 28 years, the last 13 as chair of the Science Department. As department chair, Kathi Brown has overseen changes in the science offerings at the high school, such as the introduction of Advanced Placement

electives in physics, chemistry and biology, and changes to the science curriculum, including the introduction of freshman physics. Kathi has also worked closely with teachers in grades K-12 to align the Natick Public Schools science curriculum, and has written and been awarded numerous grants that have supported the NPS science curriculum. These include the Engineering is Elementary initiative in grades K-4, the infusion of biotechnology into the high school biology curriculum, the use of microscale techniques in chemistry classes, and the acquisition of probeware used in all levels and all science disciplines at the high school. In addition to her duties as department chair, Kathi has served as a class advisor as well as advisor to the student council, science club, and teams competing in the “Women in Science” competition and the science Olympiad. She has also served on numerous committees, such as the advisory committee for the community seminar program, and as a faculty representative to the school council and the PTSO.

The Community Business Award – Natick Community Organic Farm Founded in 1974, NCOF is a nonprofit, certified-organic farm providing open space, farm products, and hands-on education for all ages, year-round. Committed to farming methods that are ecologically healthy and sustainable, NCOF places special emphasis on service to youth through year-round classes, work-experience programs and volunteer opportunities for working the land. Thousands of Natick youth and their families have benefited from the Natick Community Farm over the years.

“Each of these recipients represent the important role that citizens, educators and community organizations, and businesses can all play in working to build a stronger community and support excellence in the Natick school system,” said Sherry Sandoval, NEF Board member and co-chair of the Shining Light Awards Committee. “We’re thrilled to be able to honor the contributions that Susan, Kathi, and the Natick Community Organic Farm have made enriching the educational experience of Natick children and the Town of Natick as a whole over the years.

Each recipient will receive a plaque and proclamations in their honor from state and local government. Award plaques will be on display at the Morse Institute Library. A one-year NEF grant to support an educational initiative in the schools is named after the recipient of the Community Business Shining Light Award, and the recipients of the Harriet F. Siegel and Educator Shining Light Awards are each given the opportunity to direct \$1,000 of NEF funds to an educational project or improvement in the Natick Public Schools of the recipient's choice.

NEF will honor the Shining Light Award recipients at a ceremony on Thursday, March 25th at TCAN. The event will begin at 7:00 PM and a champagne and dessert reception will follow. Members of the community are encouraged to attend this free event and join the celebration.

The Natick Education Foundation is a non-profit volunteer organization, founded in 1990 and is dedicated to enriching, enhancing and supporting public education in Natick. NEF stimulates excellence in the Natick Public Schools by awarding grants for projects and purchases that support the curriculum, by funding scholarships and professional development for educators, and by raising the profile of public education in Natick. Information about the NEF can be found, and donations can be made at

www.natickedfoundation.org.

#####