

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mary Ann Brouillette, [mbrouillette@franklinswcd.org](mailto:mbrouillette@franklinswcd.org), (614) 486-9613 (office), (614) 370-7683 (cell)

### **Environmental Educator of the Year Awarded to Donna Parker of Dublin Coffman High School**

**09/30/14 FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**—Dublin Coffman High School science teacher Donna Parker was awarded the 2014 Environmental Educator of the Year at the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD) Annual Meeting on September 18. Parker was recognized for her enthusiasm and commitment to increasing the environmental awareness of her students through hands-on projects and exposure to environmental professionals.

In her efforts to introduce her students to contemporary issues in and human impacts on the environment, Parker invites speakers into her classroom and connects students with outside opportunities, including the Envirothon competition and the Conservation Poster Contest. Working with students in her advanced placement environmental science class, Parker has fielded strong Envirothon teams, including teams that qualified for the state competition in both 2013 and 2014. The Envirothon is an international, outdoor team competition where students demonstrate their knowledge of environmental science and natural resource management by answering questions on soils, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife and current environmental issues.

FSWCD environmental education specialist Linda Pettit said that, "It is refreshing to see a teacher reach out and expose her students to resource professionals, which in turn introduces them to a variety of career opportunities." Pettit also commented on the rapport Parker has with her students, "I reached out to a student I knew was in her class for a comment, and ended up with so many accolades from current and former students that I couldn't share them all at the award presentation!"

Each year, FSWCD recognizes a teacher in a Franklin County school district who provides exemplary environmental experiences and or opportunities to his or her students. Elementary, secondary and non-formal educators are eligible.

-30-

The mission of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote land-use decisions for the conservation, protection and improvement of soil and water resources by providing information assistance through effective partnering, technical guidance and education.