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### AGI Announces 2010 Edward C. Roy Award

Alexandria, VA—Jason Pittman, lead science resource teacher at Hollin Meadows Science and Math Focus School in Alexandria, VA, has been named the 2010 recipient of the Edward C. Roy, Jr. Award for Excellence in K-8 Earth Science Teaching.

Mr. Pittman started his career as a top designer in an internet development company and went on to become president of his own internet design studio. He developed a desire to give back and serve. This desire eventually inspired him to earn a Master of Arts degree in education in 2003 from James Madison University. From there he began his science teaching career at Hollin Meadows, where he has focused on engaging students with inquiry-based, hands-on learning in the earth sciences.

Jon Gates, principal of Hollin Meadows, says “what makes Mr. Pittman truly outstanding... is his ability to turn students on to science. His caring attitude and superior knowledge of the subject make him effective with students from kindergarten to sixth grades and at all levels of ability. He is especially diligent with students who historically have had major difficulties in science.”

Prior to taking on the role as Hollin Meadows’ lead science teacher, Mr. Pittman worked for four years as a self-contained classroom teacher for grades 4, 5, and 6. Outside of the classroom, Mr. Pittman served as the PTA Vice President from 2004-2006. Colleagues praise his work as an advocate for earth science education at the school board level, through science and technology conferences, and by presenting to other schools interested in employing Hollin Meadows’s science teaching model.

Given annually, the Edward C. Roy, Jr. Award recognizes one classroom teacher from kindergarten to eighth grade for his or her leadership and innovation in earth science education. This award is named in honor of Dr. Edward C. Roy, Jr., who was a strong and dedicated supporter of earth science education. Mr. Pittman will be presented with the Edward C. Roy, Jr. Award at the 2010 National Science Teachers Association National Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Other finalists for the 2010 award are Greer Lynn Harvell of Clifford C. Meigs Middle School in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, and John Schaefers of Ingomar Middle School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The American Geological Institute is a nonprofit federation of 46 geoscientific and professional associations that represents more than 120,000 geologists, geophysicists and other earth scientists. Founded in 1948, AGI provides information services to geoscientists, serves as a voice of shared interests in the profession, plays a major role in strengthening geoscience education, and strives to increase public awareness of the vital role the geosciences play in society's use of resources, resiliency to natural hazards, and interaction with the environment.

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