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Beloit Choir Teacher Wins State Music Award

MADISON, WI (April 4, 2003) – Beloit Memorial High School choir teacher Cheryl Licary is the first recipient of the Wisconsin Award for Excellence in Music Teaching.

The honor will be presented to Licary April 22, at 7:00 pm, during the School District of Beloit Board Meeting in the Kolak Educational Center.

Established in 2002 to recognize Wisconsin's finest and most exemplary music educators, the award is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin School Music Association and Wisconsin Music Educators Association. It includes a \$500 grant and a plaque for permanent display at Beloit Memorial High School. A plaque will also be placed at the Wisconsin Center for Music Education, Waunakee, upon the Center's completion.

Several letters of support were written on Licary's behalf, as part of the nomination process.

"Cheryl Licary is a unique individual. She works hard for her department – and just as hard for the entire student body. She displays a genuine passion and concern for the betterment of the whole school culture," noted Beloit Memorial High School Associate Principal David F. Luebke.

"... Cheryl is the best of adult role models that our youth so much need for guidance, support, and caring."

One of her choral students noted that Licary "touches the lives of her students every day, without fail. ...there is not a more dedicated, persistent, and exceedingly talented choir director

in the state of Wisconsin. Ms. Licary is a loving mother, encouraging teacher and a great role model for anyone with an interest in music."

Licary was asked to submit a personal statement titled "Why I Teach." An excerpt from her statement read: "When I started teaching 30 years ago, it was about the music. But I've found it's similar to learning a challenging piece of music in that the harder you have to work at it, the more satisfaction comes from performing it."

Nomination applications for the 2004 Wisconsin Award for Excellence in Music Teaching will be available during the Wisconsin State Music Conference, Oct. 29 - Nov. 1, at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison.

For more information about WSMA and WMEA, log on to www.wsmamusic.org and www.wmea.com.

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*The **Wisconsin School Music Association** is a non-profit service organization composed of over 1,000 member public and private schools. Last year, more than 200,000 students took the initiative to be involved in WSMA activities, including District and State Music Festivals, the State Honors Project, Student Composition Project, State Marching Band Championships and more. WSMA believes music is basic, and all children have the right to experience all that music offers them.*

*The **Wisconsin Music Educators Association** consists of music educators, school administrators and others interested in seeing all youths in Wisconsin receive a well-rounded education that includes a comprehensive music program taught by certified music teachers. The Association works to improve the quality of music education in Wisconsin by representing the shared interests and needs of music educators and fostering their professional growth. WMEA is affiliated with MENC: The National Association for Music Education.*