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### **Sara Smith Elementary School Principal Receives 2010 Great Books Lifetime Achievement Award**

March 2010 Chicago—Dr. Sidney Baker, principal of Sara Smith Elementary School in Atlanta, Georgia, is one of 4 educators to receive a 2010 Great Books Lifetime Achievement Award, according to Mary Kent Sweeton, a vice president of the Chicago-based nonprofit Great Books Foundation.

The award acknowledges Sidney's tireless support of Great Books programs and his commitment to creating a community of teacher and student learners in his school. Sidney will join his fellow lifetime achievement award recipients, and 12 teachers receiving a 2010 Great Books Great Teachers award, in Chicago on April 30, 2010 to attend a dinner in their honor. During their weekend visit to Chicago, the honorees will also be the Foundation's special guests at Great Books Chicago 2010, an annual event for Great Books enthusiasts that includes attending a variety of cultural activities.

"The Great Books Foundation is thrilled to recognize these star educators who are lifelong learners and who are so committed to innovative teaching strategies that raise student achievement," said Mary Kent Sweeton. "All of this year's Lifetime Achievement Award recipients relentlessly expose their students to quality literature and encourage them to become stronger readers and learners. By shining the spotlight on these outstanding role models, we hope to make it easier for educators around the country to learn from their best practices."

Since 2000, the Great Books Foundation has been honoring outstanding teachers who are successfully increasing their students' achievements by putting Great Books programs and the Shared Inquiry™ discussion model into practice. This year's winners represent a diverse group of learning environments including elementary schools, high schools, inner-city schools, private schools as well as special needs and gifted programs.

Great Books programs are used by more than one million students in all 50 states and in countries around the world. Great Books is proven to help students develop the essential skills of reading carefully, thinking critically, listening intently, and speaking and writing persuasively. By combining age-appropriate literature with the Shared Inquiry method of discussion, Great Books brings literature to life and helps students discover a joy of reading that they will carry into adulthood.

The 2010 Great Books Lifetime Achievement Award honorees and Great Books Great Teachers were nominated by their colleagues and come from districts in Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, and Washington D.C.

*The Great Books Foundation is an independent nonprofit educational organization established in 1947 to promote liberal education for the general public. In 1962, the Foundation extended its mission to children with the introduction of Junior Great Books. Since its inception, the Foundation has helped thousands of people throughout the United States and in other countries begin their own discussion groups in schools, libraries, and community centers. Today, Foundation instructors conduct hundreds of workshops each year, in which educators and parents learn to lead shared inquiry discussion.*