Notice

To: The Toccoa Record
    Radio Station WNEG

From: Sherrie Whiten, Superintendent

Date: February 20, 2013

Re: U.S. Green Building Council

The U.S. Green Building Council-Georgia Chapter announced its High Performance Health Schools Summit Awards yesterday in Atlanta. Stephens County School System was one of three finalists for Innovation in Sustainability and the winner in this category.

Stephens County School System has had a focused commitment to energy management and conservation since 1999. By employing an energy manager, installing upgrades, and working with students and staff, the school system decreased energy consumption, while increasing square footage. Stephens County School System is a consistently high performing school system, despite an increasing poverty rate. The reduction in operational expenses has allowed the school system to target more money toward innovative instructional practices, leading to increased student learning and achievement, with attendance rates consistently high at all levels.

Six of seven facilities are Energy Star buildings, rated in the top 12% nationwide. A green cleaning program also ensures that students are learning in a clean and safe environment. The newest facility, Stephens County High School, is a LEED certified building.

Stephens County School System is proud to be recognized as a leader in promoting energy and water efficiency, sustainable operations and maintenance and improved indoor air quality for the buildings of the school system.