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ECU College of Health and Human Performance alumna named 2009 Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year

GREENVILLE, N.C. (Nov. 18, 2009) - Ann Hughes, a two time graduate of the College of Health and Human Performance at East Carolina University, was recently honored as the 2009 Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Physical Education Association (PEA) of the North Carolina Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NCAAHPERD).

Hughes received the award at the 62nd Annual NCAAHPERD Convention, at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem. This award is reflective of Hughes' outstanding qualities as a professional physical educator and her creativity in finding ways to adapt physical activities and encourage inclusive opportunities for students with special needs.

In her role as an adapted physical education specialist with New Hanover County Schools for the past three years, Hughes developed an integrated system, which allows students, regardless of their disability, to access the North Carolina Healthful Living Curriculum. She has worked collaboratively to develop an online resource for teachers to learn about adapted physical education. Hughes provides service to her profession through leadership and trainings and is a positive role model for other professionals in physical education.

Hughes received her undergraduate degree in physical education in 1985 and a master's degree in adapted physical education in 1993.

During her 20-year teaching career, Hughes has received multiple honors. In 1987 she was honored as "Teacher of the Year" at Brinson Memorial Elementary School in New Bern and again in 2005 at the Metro School in Charlotte. In 1994 she received the Julian Stein Spirit Award from the "A Total Commitment Conference" in Greensboro and in 1997 she was named "Professional of the Year" by the Association of Retarded Citizens of Guilford County.

Hughes is a nationally certified adapted aquatics instructor who has served as a clinician in Alaska, North Carolina, New York, and Vermont.

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