



EMBARGOED UNTIL
May 17, 2005, 8 PM

Contact:
Victoria Sackett
703.276-2772 ext.20

**Dallas Mayor Laura Miller
Named One of Nation's Most Innovative Education Leaders**

Laura Miller Receives 2005 Cable's Leaders in Learning Award

**Media Note: Awardees are in Washington, DC through May 18
To arrange interviews or receive digital photographs, call contact**

Washington, DC – For improving the lives of Dallas's children through her literacy and health and fitness programs, Mayor Laura Miller is being honored nationally for making a substantial contribution to learning in the Dallas community.

Comcast - Dallas and Cable in the Classroom, the cable industry's education foundation, announced today that Miller is a winner of the new *Cable's Leaders in Learning Award*, which recognizes the most inventive classroom educators, administrators, community leaders, and policymakers who are transforming education from Kindergarten through high school (K-12).

"To be selected as *Cable's Leaders in Learning Award* winners, these awardees demonstrated dedication to improving learning for all children," said Helen Soulé, Ph.D., executive director of Cable in the Classroom. "They did this by reaching beyond the familiar to support and encourage young people to achieve their best. Armed with a high quality education, young people will be prepared to meet the world that awaits them – and to improve and transform it for their own children."

Miller is being recognized in the Policymaker award category for creating the Mayor's Summer Reading Program; the city's first-ever get-fit summer run – "The Mayor's 5K Fun Run!"; and an annual Back-to-School Fair providing school supplies, free immunizations, check-ups, and health education to under-privileged youth--Mayor Miller has helped more than 250,000 young people to learn the joy of reading and staying fit. The Mayor has enlisted the business community and has donated countless hours of her own time to educate the city's youth about the importance of well-tuned minds and bodies. All activities have been free to participants, and each was successfully completed with no impact on the city's financial obligations.

-more-

Page 2 – Dallas Mayor Wins National Award

“When I was a little girl, nothing thrilled me more than bicycling to the neighborhood library and spending the afternoon lying on the floor in the stacks reading to my heart’s content,” said Miller. “I know firsthand the pleasures of keeping fit and reading all year long.”

Leaders in Learning Award winners receive a cash prize from Cable in the Classroom, in addition to a trip to Washington, D.C. this week to attend a gala awards ceremony, meet with Members of Congress and education leaders, and participate in a series of professional development events, which Mayor Miller was unable to attend. The Mayor is donating her prize money to the Foundation for African American Art.

The awards ceremony, hosted by Bill Kurtis, host of A&E’s *American Justice* and producer of *Investigative Reports* and *Cold Case Files*, will take place on May 17 at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian. CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer will interview award-winners during the awards presentations. Marc Summers, host of *Unwrapped* on the Food Network, John Anderson, an ESPN *Sportscenter* anchor, and Jeff Johnson, host of the BET documentary series *The Cousin Jeff Chronicles*, will present the awards. Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert will receive a tribute from the cable industry. Rising comedian Ted Alexandro will be performing a ten-minute routine.

“We hope that these awards, and the exceptional work on behalf of learning they honor, will move others to strive for similar excellence and stretch the boundaries of the kind of excellence that is possible in education,” said Soulé. “We at Cable in the Classroom will always have that – and these awardees – close to the heart of our mission.”

The awards fall into four categories:

- **General Excellence** – Awards given for general excellence in education.
- **Pushing the Envelope** – Awards given to those redefining the education frontier by using cable content or cable technology.
- **Policymaker** – Awards given to federal, state, or local policymakers who have contributed to the improvement of K-12 education in the broadest sense;
- **Media literacy** – An award given in partnership with the National PTA to recognize excellence in advancing media literacy skills.

For more information about *Cable’s Leaders in Learning Awards*, please visit www.ciconline.org or www.leadersinlearningawards.org.