



**For Immediate Release**

May 7, 2007

Contacts: Karen Schultz, (202) 261-6484

Patricia Charles, (440) 506-9564

## **Nominations Sought for Outstanding Environmental Educators**

### ***First “Bartlett Award” Announced To Honor Leadership in Environmental Education***

Washington, D.C.– The National Environmental Education Foundation is now accepting nominations for the first Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award, which was created to recognize an outstanding educator who has successfully integrated environmental education into his or her daily teaching programs. Award details and nomination guidelines can be found at <http://www.neefusa.org/bartlett/index.htm>.

The award has been created in honor of Richard C. Bartlett who has been a prominent figure in environmental education for over forty years. He was the founder and first chairman of the Texas Environmental Education Advisory Council, and the former Chairman of the National Environmental Education Foundation, where he currently serves as an honorary board member.

“Richard Bartlett is a pioneer and leader in the development of environmental educational programs,” said Diane Wood, president of the National Environmental Education Foundation, “and this award allows us the opportunity to spotlight others who are following in his footsteps to inspire students to explore the world around them.” The interest in environmental education is continuing to attract more attention with increased participation in national events such as National Environmental Education Week ([www.EEWeek.org](http://www.EEWeek.org)), which quadrupled in size this year.

The deadline for nomination materials is **June 30, 2007**, and the winner will be notified in September 2007. Winners will receive a \$5,000 award sponsored by Toyota Motor Sales, Inc, and they will also be honored at the North American Association for Environmental Education conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia, Nov. 13-17, 2007.

To be eligible for the Richard Bartlett Award, the nominee must be a 5th-12th grade teacher in the United States at a public, private or home school with at least five years of teaching experience. A nomination can come from parents of students, administrators, fellow teachers, students, and self-nominations.

Nominated teachers must have incorporated an environmental program into their lessons that follows the goals of the Tbilisi Declaration, a universal set of principles that define environmental education at all levels. The Tbilisi Declaration principles were created at an intergovernmental conference on environmental education organized by the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in cooperation with the U.N. Environment Programme (UNEP), in Tbilisi, Georgia (USSR) in 1977.

The goals of environmental education as outlined by the Tbilisi Declaration are:

- Foster clear awareness of economic, social, political, and ecological interdependence;
- Provide opportunities to acquire the knowledge and values to protect and improve the environment; and,
- Create new patterns of societal behavior as a whole towards the environment.

**National Environmental Education Foundation**

4301 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 160 – Washington, DC 20008 – [www.neefusa.org](http://www.neefusa.org) – V: 202.833.2933 F: 202-261-6464

Anyone interested in nominating an educator should submit an online nomination form and two letters of support. The online nomination form and letters of support can be submitted at <http://www.neefusa.org/bartlett/nominate.htm> or the entire submission can be sent via postal mail (postmarked no later than June 30, 2007) to: National Environmental Education Foundation, Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award, 4301 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 160, Washington, DC 20008, by email to [bartlettaward@neefusa.org](mailto:bartlettaward@neefusa.org), or by fax to 202-261-6464. **For additional nomination details, visit <http://www.neefusa.org/bartlett/guidelines.htm>.**

*Chartered by Congress in 1990, the National Environmental Education Foundation, formally known as the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation, is a private non-profit organization offering objective environmental information to help Americans live better every day. By forging public-private partnerships and working with professionals in health, education, public lands and media, we connect the environment to everyday choices and actions so Americans can live well while protecting and enjoying nature. To learn more call (202) 833-2933 or visit [www.neefusa.org](http://www.neefusa.org)*