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**MARYLAND AUTOMOBILE DEALERS ASSOCIATION HONORS 2012 MD TEACHER
OF THE YEAR WITH GIFT OF NEW CAR**

BALTIMORE, Md. (January 10, 2012) – The Maryland Automobile Dealers Association recently honored Joshua P. Parker, Maryland’s 2012 Teacher of the Year, with the gift of a new car. The car, a 2012 Honda Civic, is provided by MADA on behalf of all Maryland’s franchised new car and truck dealers. This marks the 11th year the Association has provided the gift of a new car to the winning teacher.

Mr. Parker, of Windsor Mill Middle School, was announced the winner of the prestigious competition from among 24 finalists selected from each county and the city of Baltimore. Mr. Parker will next represent Maryland in the National Teacher of the Year competition; the winner will be announced in April at the White House.

“We are fortunate to have so many great teachers here in Maryland, and especially want to congratulate Mr. Parker on this honor,” said Marisa Shockley, Chairperson of MADA and vice president of Shockley Honda in Frederick, MD. “It is our privilege to present this car in appreciation for his hard work and commitment to Maryland’s children.”

Joshua Parker is a graduate of the College of Notre Dame of Maryland – he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Communication, a minor in English from Towson University, and a Master of Arts degree in Leadership in Teaching. He is zealous when it comes to teaching to prepare world-class students, and he has proven his abilities while serving as English/Reading/World Language Department Chair at Windsor Mill Middle School, as well as an English Language Arts teacher at both New Town High and Dundalk Middle Schools.

The gift of a new car is especially fitting for Mr. Parker who noted that when he first began teaching that he did not have a private vehicle and had to take two different buses to get to work each day.

As a sponsor of the Maryland State Teacher of the Year competition, MADA annually presents the winning teacher with a free vehicle and an invitation to speak at the association’s annual meeting and legislative reception. Maryland’s Teacher of the Year Program is affiliated with the National Teacher of the Year Program, sponsored by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the ING Foundation.

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About the Maryland Automobile Dealers Association

Maryland Automobile Dealers Association (MADA) is a statewide association of new car and truck dealers managed by a Board of Directors, which consists of members representing districts throughout the State. MADA was founded in 1910 as a non-profit trade association for the purpose of: "facilitating the exchange of ideas among its members; to encourage sound business policies; to foster constructive motor vehicle legislation; to discourage destructive motor vehicle legislation, and to promote confidence, respect and good fellowship among all who are directly or indirectly engaged in the motor vehicle industry." For more information visit MADA online at www.mdauto.org.