NEWS RELEASE

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"Local Teacher Wins Award"

Sheila Carlson, a Biology Teacher at the Barnesville High School, won the Outstanding Program Award at the "Best of the Basin" Awards Banquet, hosted by the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) in conjunction with their 24th Annual Red River Basin Land and Water International Summit Conference held on January 23-25, 2007, at the Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo, ND. The Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) nominated Ms. Carlson for this award for her work with the River Watch Program.

BRRWD Chairman Roger Ellefson said, "Ms. Carlson has gone beyond her regular duties as a teacher to administer and work with the River Watch Program." Since, 2002, the Science Department at Barnesville High School has participated in this program to monitor 16 sites selected by the BRRWD. From April to October, four to five students collect monthly samples from local waterways. The data is then entered into a database and analyzed. The work also assists the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency regarding their impaired waters studies. Ms. Carlson has also developed class curriculum to study watersheds, using the field data from the River Watch sampling. The program has been expanded to include biological assessments. Her work has been influential in the development of several BRRWD Mediation Projects, including Whisky Creek Tributaries, Lawndale Trout Stream Restoration, and the Manston Slough Restoration. Ellefson felt the program was an excellent learning opportunity for our youth, which should continue to benefit them and the Basin well into the future.