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**SPRING-FORD AREA SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATOR NAMED 2013 PTS SPECIAL EDUCATION
TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT**

ROYERSFORD — Spring-Ford Area Senior High School learning support teacher Amanda Leslie has been named the 2013 Pediatric Therapeutic Services (PTS) Special Education Teacher of the Year for her work spearheading new initiatives that emphasize daily academic and functional life skills. Leslie was presented with the award during a surprise ceremony that was held in the high school cafeteria Wednesday, Jan. 23, where she was surrounded by colleagues, students and family members.

Conshohocken-based Pediatric Therapeutic Services Inc. created the PTS Special Education Teacher of the Year Award in 2011 to recognize outstanding achievement and creativity in developing programs that help children with special needs reach their full potential. The award gives Leslie's classroom a \$5,000 grant to be used to create additional learning opportunities, tools, materials and training to further enhance student programming.

Colleagues nominated Leslie for the PTS Special Education Teacher of the Year Award for her work creating and growing RAM Buddies, a network of social opportunities during and after school for students with special needs, which pairs them with students in general education. The program is designed to help children transition into adult life and become a part of the community. The award presentation occurred during the January RAM Buddies meeting to commemorate Leslie's work with the initiative.

Dr. Jeanmarie Mason, high school special education supervisor, said Leslie has been an essential part in creating the valuable program that provides students with another resource that helps enhance their everyday lives.

"Amanda is a highly effective special education teacher at the high school level," Mason said. "Her contributions to her program, her school and community are immeasurable."

"I'm incredibly thankful and honored to be presented with the Special Education Teacher of the Year award," Leslie said.

For more information on the award, visit www.pts-inc.net/community-relations/pts-special-education-teacher-of-the-year.

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