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**News Release**

**Two Honored with NYSTRS Excellence Awards**  
*Capital District Residents Noted for Contributions to Retirement System*

**ALBANY, N.Y. (March 11, 2011)** — Jacqueline Rymanowski and Ruth Cramer, both Capital District residents, were recently honored by the New York State Teachers' Retirement System with Excellence Awards.

Rymanowski, a resident of Melrose, was given the Significant Contribution of the Year Award for the instrumental role she played in the implementation of a new Employer Secure Area, a portal on the NYSTRS Web site allowing school districts and other employers to transact business over the Internet. Among her many contributions to the project were the acquisition of contact information, distribution of login data, and serving as a liaison between NYSTRS and its participating employers.

Cramer, a resident of East Greenbush, was given the Continual Contribution to Excellence Award for a career marked by her dedication to customer service and her positive influence on co-workers. Known as a team player and resourceful problem solver, she was lauded for always accepting new challenges, and inspiring trust and confidence through her enthusiasm and strong work ethic.

“Both these women embody the NYSTRS ideals, particularly our commitment to exceptional customer service,” said NYSTRS Board Member Paul Farfaglia, who presented the awards in his capacity as chairman of the System’s Compensation Committee. “Their enthusiasm and dedication to our membership, our employers and their fellow NYSTRS employees are evident to all. They model behaviors we all should emulate.”

The New York State Teachers' Retirement System, which has formally acknowledged employee excellence since 1971, provides retirement, disability and death benefits to eligible New York State public school teachers and administrators. NYSTRS is the second largest public retirement system in the state and one of the 10 largest systems in the nation, serving over 285,000 active members and more than 140,000 retirees and beneficiaries.

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