



NEWS RELEASE

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Trickum Middle's Whaley honored as outstanding student

While he spends the majority of his day teaching, a **Gwinnett County Public Schools** (GCPS) educator has been recognized by a national organization as an outstanding student. **Kenneth Whaley**, a mathematics teacher at **Trickum Middle**, has been selected as the 2011 recipient of the AILACTE (Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges for Teacher Education) Graduate Student Scholar Award, recognizing his commitment to lifelong learning. The organization will present Mr. Whaley with his award during its annual meeting and conference scheduled for February 24, in San Diego.

"I am very honored and excited to receive this scholarship award," expresses Mr. Whaley who is pursuing his doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Mercer University. As the recipient of this honor, Mr. Whaley will have the opportunity to share the findings of his dissertation. The mathematics teacher is researching student motivation toward learning mathematics, specifically how a teacher's instructional practices affect a student's motivation. "It is the responsibility of educators to help students realize their potential," he says. "The ability to identify specific predictors of intrinsic motivation is vitally important for those who have a direct hand in human development. As those involved in the cultivation of human potential, it is of great value for educators to understand the instructional practices and classroom milieu that either engender or undermine students' sense of self, purpose, identity, and desire to achieve."

An educator for nine years, Kenneth Whaley joined Gwinnett County Public Schools five years ago in 2006. He has dedicated his entire GCPS career to Parkview Cluster children teaching 7th grade gifted accelerated mathematics at Trickum Middle. In addition to the doctoral degree he is currently working on, Mr. Whaley holds a master's degree in Middle Grades Mathematics Education from Mercer University and a bachelor's degree in Speech Communication from the University of Georgia.

As part of the award, Mr. Whaley will receive a \$1,000 gift designed to enhance his professional development.

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