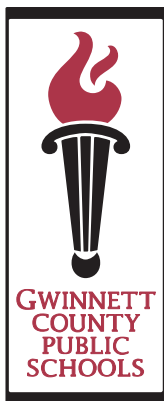


NEWS RELEASE



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THE MISSION OF GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*is to pursue excellence
in academic knowledge,
skills, and behavior
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resulting in measured
improvement against
local, national, and
world-class standards.*

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It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools
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religion, national origin, age, or disability in any
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 30, 2012

News Media Contact: Communication and Media Relations, 678-301-6020

Gwinnett schools take top honors in Georgia Future Problem Solving competition:

Simpson ES' Russo honored as "Coach of the Year"

A Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) teacher who is wrapping up her career in education after nearly four decades in the classroom was honored for the work she has done every year coaching gifted education students for an annual international competition. **Kathy Russo**, a Gifted Advanced Content Mathematics and Intervention Teacher at **Simpson Elementary**, was recognized this spring as the Georgia Future Problem Solving Program's Coach of the Year. Ms. Russo led the Simpson Elementary team to a first place finish in the state competition this year.

This will mark the last competition for Ms. Russo as she retires at the end of this school year after 38 years of teaching, 22 of those in Gwinnett. She joined Gwinnett County Public Schools in 1990 as a special needs and gifted education teacher at Berkeley Lake Elementary. In 1993, she became part of the inaugural staff at Simpson Elementary helping to open the school. Ms. Russo earned her bachelor's degree in Special Education from Jersey City State College, a master's degree in Special Education from William Paterson College, and a specialist's degree in Brain Research-Brain SMART Teaching from Nova Southeastern University. In addition, Ms. Russo is certified in the following gifted fields—mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies; and in the following special needs areas—learning disability, language arts, mathematics, science, and social science.

The Georgia Future Problem Solving Program engages students in critical thinking and creative problem solving. As part of the competition, students participate as part of a team or individually using their knowledge and skills guided by a six-step formula to solve future problems. The students can solve the problems through writing or activities, depending on the category. In addition to Ms. Russo's honor, several Gwinnett schools placed at the top in this year's Georgia State Bowl in Athens.

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2010 Winner of



**Georgia Future Problem Solving Program
2012 State Bowl Gwinnett Winners**

TEAM PROBLEM SOLVING CATEGORY

Junior Division

- First Place: **Simpson Elementary**
- Second Place: **Pinckneyville Middle**
- Third Place: **Riverside Elementary**
- Fourth Place: **Riverside Elementary**

Middle Division

- First Place: **Norcross High**
- Second Place: **Pinckneyville Middle**
- Third Place: **Pinckneyville Middle**

Senior Division

- First Place: **Norcross High**

INDIVIDUAL PROBLEM SOLVING CATEGORY

Junior Division

- Third Place: **Riverside Elementary**

Middle Division

- First Place: **Norcross High**
- Second Place: **Pinckneyville Middle**
- Third Place: **Pinckneyville Middle**

Senior Division

- First Place: **Norcross High**

TEAM ACTION PLAN CATEGORY

Junior Division

- First Place: **Simpson Elementary**
- Second Place: **Pinckneyville Middle**
- Third Place: **Simpson Elementary**

Middle Division

- First Place: **Pinckneyville Middle**
- Second Place: **Pinckneyville Middle**
- Third Place: **Norcross High**

Senior Division

- Second Place: **Norcross High**

TEAM PRESENTATION OF ACTION PLAN

Junior Division

- First Place: **Simpson Elementary**
- Second Place: **Simpson Elementary**
- Third Place: **Riverside Elementary**
- Fourth Place: **Pinckneyville Middle**

- First Place: **Pinckneyville Middle**
- Second Place: **Pinckneyville Middle**
- Third Place: **Pinckneyville Middle**
- Fourth Place: **Norcross High**

Middle Division

Pinckneyville Middle
Pinckneyville Middle
Pinckneyville Middle
Norcross High

Senior Division

- First Place: **Norcross High**

These Gwinnett teams now have the opportunity to participate in the Future Problem Solving Program International competition during the International Conference which this year takes place June 7-10 on the Campus of Indiana University. The Gwinnett representatives will compete with students from across the United States and countries such as Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Portugal, Russia, and Singapore.