FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 19, 2007
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Berkmar High educator honored as Georgia Association of the Deaf Teacher of the Year

A Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) teacher has been selected as the Georgia Association of the Deaf Teacher of the Year. Berkmar High Special Needs Teacher Greg Owen recently was honored during the organization’s conference. Mr. Owen’s honor is the result of a nomination by a community member. He was voted as the winner out of the top three finalists.

“Greg is an asset to the D/HH (Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing) Program in Gwinnett” says GCPS Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Coordinator Eva Parks. “He is a true role model for the D/HH students in our program. We are so proud of him. He truly deserves the recognition for all of his hard work.”

Mr. Owen is credited for Berkmar High’s first appearance at the National Deaf Academic Bowl during the 2006-07 school year, after placing second during the regional competition. Under Mr. Owen’s leadership, Berkmar High was selected as the first public school to host the regional event, which included schools from LA, TN, NC, SC, FL, and MS.

Mr. Owen is part of a staff at Berkmar High that has a long history of providing outstanding service to its deaf and hard-of-hearing students. In fact, one of these students, 2007 graduate Shelby Caldwell, is the recipient of the Georgia Excellence Award for students with disabilities.

Gwinnett County Public Schools first established the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Program in 1978. It currently serves over 200 students at more than 60 Gwinnett schools. The Gwinnett D/HH (Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing) staff constantly challenge students to overcome their disability to become life-long learners and to have access to all educational information and social interactions.

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