

NEWS RELEASE

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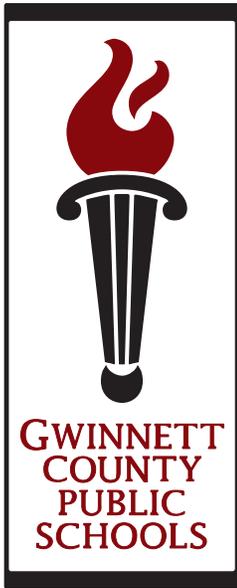
Riverside Elementary's Sebastian honored for decades of work

She first heard about it in 1980 while attending a conference. Thirty years later after numerous achievements and awards by her students for participating in it, **Riverside Elementary** teacher **Marion Sebastian** is honored by the Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI). The organization, which promotes creative problem solving events and activities for students, presented the **Gwinnett County Public Schools** (GCPS) veteran educator with its John Daughtrey Memorial Award.

Annually, Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSPI) holds global events in both a competitive and non-competitive nature, stimulating critical and creative thinking skills among students. It inspires students to be able to solve the real world problems of the future. Ms. Sebastian is honored for the many roles she has performed with the program and her commitment to her students.

"I have been enthusiastically involved ever since [1980] and have coached students to qualify for the state bowl every year," expresses Ms. Sebastian. "I also feel very humble that people from many different areas with whom I work were so considerate in nominating me and that I was selected from the many dedicated volunteers from around the world." Her principal, **Dr. Craig Barlow**, is among those who nominated her. He credits Ms. Sebastian for their students' high performance in FPSPI events. "She is a strong supporter of the program and demonstrates her commitment through her work at the local, state, and international level. Marion also has volunteered her time to work with our school's Future Problem Solvers Club. Since our school opened 10 years ago, she has been the driving force behind our school's efforts. Under her leadership, our students have won local, state, and international recognitions."

Marion Sebastian joined Gwinnett County Public Schools in 1977 as a 5th grade teacher at Peachtree Elementary. She holds a bachelor's degree in Education from Henderson State University in Arkansas, and both a master's degree and a specialist's degree in Elementary Education from Georgia State University. A former National Association for Gifted Children Educator of the Year, she teaches 2nd and 5th grade gifted classes at Riverside Elementary. Ms. Sebastian also has been recognized as the Gwinnett County Elementary Teacher of the Year and the Georgia Elementary Science Teacher of the Year.



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