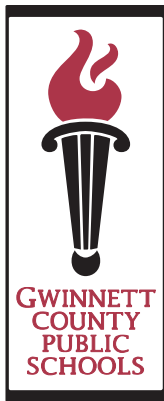


# NEWS RELEASE



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## **THE MISSION OF GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 20, 2012**

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

## **North Gwinnett High's West named nation's top "Art Honor Society Sponsor"**

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) teacher **Debi West** has been invited to attend the 2012 National Art Education Association (NAEA) National Convention in early March where she will be presented with a national title. The organization selected the **North Gwinnett High** art teacher as the recipient of the 2012 Outstanding National Art Honor Society Sponsor of the Year Award. Ms. West will be honored in New York City during the national gathering of art educators.

"There is no greater testament of your exemplary contributions to the field of visual arts education than being chosen for this prestigious award," expressed **Kathy Duse**, the organization's executive services and convention and programs manager. When notifying Ms. West of her recognition she wrote, "Your colleagues throughout the United States and abroad, join the NAEA Board of Directors in applauding your leadership, commitment, and service to the profession."

This is the second award Ms. West has received this school year for her role as North Gwinnett High's sponsor of the school's National Art Honor Society. In the fall, the Georgia Art Education Association presented Ms. West, along with North Gwinnett High art teacher Dr. Bruce Bowman, with the 2012 Outstanding National Art Honor Society Sponsor Award.

A veteran Gwinnett County Public Schools teacher, Debi West has dedicated two decades to teaching art to Gwinnett students. She began her GCPS career at Sugar Hill Elementary, making stops at Rock Springs Elementary and Level Creek Elementary before arriving at North Gwinnett High. It was in 2005 while she taught at Level Creek Elementary when she was named the 2005 Gwinnett County Teacher of the Year. Ms. West holds a bachelor's degree in studio art, a master's degree in education, and a specialist's degree in art education from the University of Georgia.

The 2012 NAEA National Convention takes place in New York City, March 1-4.

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2010 Winner of

