



NEWS RELEASE

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North Gwinnett High art teacher saluted as a Georgia Arts in Education Leader

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) teacher **Debi West** has been named a 2008 honoree for the “Woodruff Salutes Georgia Arts in Education Leaders” honor. This program recognizes teachers, school and arts administrators, and community leaders and volunteers throughout Georgia, who have championed and demonstrated the ability of the arts to positively impact the lives and learning of young people in grades Pre-K through 12. Ms. West, a veteran Gwinnett educator who teaches art at **North Gwinnett High**, is one of four honorees from across Georgia.

The four honorees were selected by the Woodruff Arts Center Education Committee. In honor of the North Gwinnett High teacher, the Woodruff Arts Center will contribute \$2,500 to an arts-in-education program of her choice. The Woodruff Arts Center and its divisions – Alliance Theatre, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, High Museum of Art, and Young Audiences – also will host an after school celebration at North Gwinnett High in honor of her accomplishments. In addition, Ms. West will join the three other honorees at a special recognition on April 25 at the Woodruff Arts Center.

Ms. West is the lead visual arts teacher at North Gwinnett High. She joined GCPS 16 years ago as an art teacher at Sugar Hill Elementary. A highly honored teacher, she also taught at Rock Springs Elementary and Level Creek Elementary before moving to North Gwinnett High two years ago. She holds an Educational Specialist degree from the University of Georgia.

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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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