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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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<u>NEWS</u> RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 27, 2007 Contact: Communication and Media Relations, 678-301-6020

Berkmar High earns fifth consecutive Academic Decathlon win

For the fifth consecutive year, **Berkmar High** walks away with the trophy earning the "2007 PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon State Champion" title. The two-day academic competition, sponsored by the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE,) is known as the premiere academic competition in the country for testing students' academic knowledge.

Berkmar High's team scored the highest points overall, and was presented the Howard Stroud Championship trophy by State School Superintendent Kathy Cox and the PAGE foundation president.

"It (the competition) provides our students with learning opportunities, excitement, bonding experiences and intellectual motivation for tremendous academic success and accomplishments --- all from a competition where students take tests for fun." says coach **IV Bray**.

The event took place February 23-24, 2007, at Berkmar High. More than 210 high school students from 24 Georgia high schools, representing 20 school systems, participated in the academic challenge. Each team of nine students, representing a different high school, were tested in their knowledge of seven subject areas; mathematics, economics, language and literature, social science, art, music, and Written Super Quiz. In addition, students earned points individually in three communication events: public speaking, a personal interview, and a written essay.

Berkmar High has participated in the Academic Decathlon for 12 years, since the 1995-96 school year when the program was first implemented. It has won the state title in the last five years.

Berkmar's nine-member team will now compete for the national title in April during the United States Academic Decathlon in Honolulu, Hawaii.

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