



NEWS RELEASE

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

Gage Annual Awards:

Gwinnett community celebrates gifted education

As graduation ceremonies get underway throughout Gwinnett County this week, the list of scholarships graduates have earned continues to grow. Five **Gwinnett County Public Schools** (GCPS) graduating seniors enrolled in the school district's gifted education program were recently honored by the Gwinnett Alliance for Gifted Education (GAGE,) a non-profit association in support of the program. The organization honored the seniors and other Gwinnett students, along with their teachers and administrators for their contributions to gifted education in Gwinnett County.

The five graduating seniors were awarded the Ruth Cowan Scholarship, based on their essay entitled, "My Vision for My Future." The recipients of the \$500 scholarship were:

- **Pretty Jose** – Dacula High
- **Meng Lee** – Duluth High
- **Yoon Mun** – Brookwood High
- **Daryan Rahimzadeh** – Grayson High
- **Maylene Xie** – Parkview High

(*The Ruth Cowan Award is named after the school system's gifted coordinator at the time when GAGE first formed in 1978.)

In addition, five elementary and middle school students received scholarships for the GAGE/Georgia State University Summer Institute for Scholars and Leaders. These students each received a \$175 scholarship based on teacher recommendation, and their answers to the essay question "What I Have Discovered About Myself in the Gifted Program." The recipients were:

- **Bria Bowen** – Beaver Ridge Elementary
- **Michelle Fisher** – Simpson Elementary
- **Sidney Miller** – McKendree Elementary
- **Emmett Rutledge** – R.D. Head Elementary
- **Andrew Udell** – Dacula Middle

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437 Old Peachtree Road, NW
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978
678-301-6000
www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us

It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any employment practice, educational program, or any other program, activity, or service.

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A group of educators also were honored with the following awards:

- *Gifted Program Teacher of the Year*
Donna McGinley – Level Creek Elementary
- *Classroom Teacher of the Year*
Sheryl Johnston – Rock Springs Elementary
- *Administrator of the Year*
Principal Dr. Jim Curtiss – Margaret Winn Holt Elementary
- *The Hughes Award*
Diane Armillei – Simpson Elementary
(*The Hughes award is named after Greg Hughes, who is a parent, former president, and business partner of GAGE.)

One gifted student per elementary, middle, and high school also was selected as Outstanding Gifted Student of the Year. The students received a certificate for their excellent accomplishments throughout the school year.

The Gwinnett Alliance for Gifted Education started in 1978 under the name Gwinnett County Supporters for the Gifted (GCSG). It adopted its current name two decades later. The organization currently has around 700 members. Every year, GAGE recognizes outstanding gifted education students.