



# NEWS RELEASE

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA EDUCATORS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GWINNETT COUNTY'S BERKMAR HIGH SCHOOL IS THE 2006 PAGE GEORGIA ACADEMIC DECATHLON STATE CHAMPION**

This year's PAGE (Professional Association of Georgia Educators) Georgia Academic Decathlon State Champion and Division I (large school) winner is **Gwinnett County's Berkmar High School, coached by IV Bray**. **Catoosa County's Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe High School, coached by Ian Beck and Lisa Beck**, is the Division II (small school) champion. The announcement came at the PAGE GAD Awards Banquet, the culminating event of the two-day academic competition held this weekend, Feb. 24 and 25, 2006, at Berkmar High School in Gwinnett County. Berkmar High School's team scored the highest points overall in Division I and II, and was awarded the Howard Stroud Championship trophy for the fourth consecutive year. The team will represent Georgia at the United States Academic Decathlon National Finals to be held in San Antonio, Texas, in April. The PAGE Foundation, The UPS Foundation, Apple Computer, Inc., the Georgia Power Foundation, the Georgia Department of Education and The Coca Cola Company sponsor the Decathlon. Kennesaw State University is serving as a partner with the PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon by providing and coordinating the more than 150 volunteers needed for the weekend event. The Gwinnett County Public School System serves as host.

Other winners include, in Division I (large school), **First Runner-up Forsyth County's Forsyth Central High School, coached by Jennifer Garner**, and **Second Runner-up Barrow County's Winder-Barrow High School, coached by Kevin McReynolds and Whitney Neufeldt**. In Division II (small school), **Muscogee County's Columbus High School, coached by Lina Yates and Jan Carter, was named First Runner-up** and **Carroll County's Villa Rica High School, coached by Cynthia Cox, Sarah Triplett, Janet Dulock and Martie Abney, was named as Second Runner-up**.

More than 230 high school students from 27 high schools, representing 23 school districts, competed in the academic event. During the competition, students were tested in seven content areas: economics, art, language and literature, mathematics, science, music and Written Super Quiz. In addition, students earned points individually in three communication events: public speaking, a personal interview and a written essay. The program is unique because each nine-member team is made up of three "A" students, three "B" students and three "C" students. Each year the program features a different overall curriculum topic. This year's topic is: "The European Renaissance."

On Saturday afternoon, students participated in the exciting Super Quiz Oral Relay, sponsored by Apple Computer, Inc. During the relay, team members competed in a quiz bowl format, keying in answers to questions regarding this year's topic, "The European Renaissance: Renewal and Reform." **Catoosa County's Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe High School, coached by Ian Beck and Lisa Beck, was named this year's Apple Computer Super Quiz Oral Relay Champion; Gwinnett County's Berkmar High School, coached by I. V. Bray, was First Runner-Up; and Habersham County's Habersham Central High School, coached by Wayne Bailey, was Second Runner-Up.**

(more)

## PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon/add one

This year, USAD initiated a Small School Online national competition, which will be held in conjunction with the finals competition in April. **Marion County's Tri-County High School, coached by Margie Hollomon and Olin Hollomon**, won the opportunity to represent Georgia in this competition.

The decathlon culminated with the PAGE GAD Awards Banquet held Saturday evening, during which the highest-scoring students were awarded both team and individual medals in the various categories and the state champion was announced. As a part of the evening's festivities Dr. Ruth Cowan, who recently announced her retirement as GAD State Director, was honored with a special award in commemoration of her 14 years of service to the program. In addition, a special award was presented to individuals who had served as coaches for five or more years. David Chandley, meteorologist for Atlanta's Channel 2, WSB-TV, served as Master of Ceremonies for the Awards Banquet.

The PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon is one of several programs of academic excellence sponsored by the PAGE Foundation. Other academic competitions include PAGE STAR (Student Teacher Achievement Recognition) and the PAGE Academic Bowl for Middle Grades. Through its sponsorship of Future Educators Association of Georgia (FEA of GA), Student Professional Association of Georgia Educators (SPAGE), PAGE Foundation Scholarships and National Board Certification, the PAGE Foundation strives to recruit, develop, recognize and retain highly-accomplished teachers for every Georgia student.

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**PAGE, the parent organization of the Foundation, is a nonunion, statewide professional association of more than 65,000 teachers, administrators and support personnel members with the purpose of promoting better education for the children of Georgia.**



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