



# NEWS RELEASE

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA EDUCATORS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**ATTN: News Editors: Please embargo this release until 10:00 p.m. EDT**

April 26, 2006

## **GEORGIA'S 2006 STATE PAGE STAR STUDENT AND TEACHER ANNOUNCED BY PAGE FOUNDATION**

**Sameer Gupta**, a senior at Bibb County's Central High School, is the 2006 State PAGE (Professional Association of Georgia Educators) STAR (Student Teacher Achievement Recognition) Student. He named his IB History teacher, **Stanford Brown**, as his State PAGE STAR Teacher. **Adam Steiner**, a senior at Effingham County's South Effingham High School, was named First Runner-up State PAGE STAR Student and chose **Christa Martin**, his Honors Analysis teacher, as his STAR Teacher.

The announcement came on April 26 at the 2006 State PAGE STAR Banquet held at the Sheraton Buckhead Hotel in Atlanta. Fourteen STAR Student Region Winners were finalists in the culminating event of the STAR program, which began earlier this year with the naming of 448 STAR Students selected from participating public and independent schools from across the state. The STAR program is coordinated and sponsored by the PAGE Foundation. The Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Department of Education are co-sponsors. Now in its 48<sup>th</sup> year, the program has honored more than 20,000 students and their teachers for academic excellence. Three of this year's finalists scored 2400 on one administration of the new SAT test that now includes Critical Reading, Math and Writing.

Gupta plans to attend Princeton University, where he will study Biological Anthropology. As this year's State PAGE STAR Student, he was honored with a \$5,000 scholarship from BellSouth, presented by BellSouth Regional Manager of External Affairs Dennis Boyden. His chosen State PAGE STAR Teacher Stanford Brown received a \$2,500 cash award from the Frances Wood Wilson Foundation, presented by its Executive Vice President Blich Ann Bird. First Runner-up Adam Steiner plans to attend North Carolina State University in the fall, where he will study Nuclear Engineering. PAGE President Ken Russell presented the First Runner-up State PAGE STAR Student Adam Steiner with a crystal bowl and a \$1,000 scholarship from the PAGE Foundation. Bill Covington, key account manager for The Coca-Cola Company, also presented the First Runner-up with The Coca-Cola Scholarship of \$1,000. Mozelle Christian, the first director of the STAR program, presented the First Runner-up State PAGE STAR Teacher Christa Martin with the Mozelle Christian Award of \$500. PAGE, the PAGE Foundation and The Coca-Cola Company sponsored the State Banquet. The Coca-Cola Company also sponsored the evening's reception and presented each of the fourteen finalists with a \$100 award. PAGE Executive Director Dr. Allene Magill and PAGE Foundation President Tom Wommack presented these finalists and their teachers with a hand-blown glass star. At their region events, Regional Winners received a \$500 cash award from the Cecil B. Day Foundation. Sponsors of this year's event were represented by Georgia Chamber of Commerce President George M. Israel, III, and Georgia Department of Education Deputy Superintendent Dr. Jeanie Weathersby. Jack Keen, a Gifted Honors Calculus teacher at Jefferson High School in Jefferson, Georgia, received a special award commemorating his being honored as a STAR Teacher for the 28<sup>th</sup> time.

(more)

## 2006 State PAGE STAR/add one

STAR is one of several programs of academic excellence sponsored by the PAGE Foundation. Other academic competitions include the PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon (GAD) and the PAGE Academic Bowl for Middle Grades. Through its sponsorship of Future Educators Association (FEA of GA), Student Professional Association of Georgia Educators (SPAGE) and PAGE Foundation Scholarships, the PAGE Foundation works to recruit capable people to the teaching profession and provide career-long professional learning opportunities for educators.



Pictured left to right: 2006 State PAGE STAR Student Sameer Gupta and State PAGE STAR Teacher Stanford Brown. Gupta is a senior at Bibb County's Central High School, and Stanford Brown is his IB History teacher.

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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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