



NEWS RELEASE

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA EDUCATORS

Contact:

Lynn Varner, Manager
PAGE Foundation Public Relations
800-334-6861 • pr@pagefoundation.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Autrey Mill Middle School Wins PAGE Academic Bowl for Middle Grades State Finals

Fulton County's Autrey Mill Middle School, coached by Judith Holloway and Claire Turner, captured top honors at the PAGE (Professional Association of Georgia Educators) Academic Bowl for Middle Grades State Finals, held on February 11, 2006, at the Georgia College & State University (GC&SU) Magnolia Room in Milledgeville, Georgia. The team emerged victorious in the final of four-single elimination rounds. Gwinnett County's Duluth Middle School, coached by Linda Koch and Sylvia Barteaux, received First Runner-up honors, with Cobb County's Simpson Middle School, coached by Debbie Shields and Kathy Corder, named as Second Runner-up, and The Westminster Schools, of Atlanta, coached by Paula Watson and Stan Tucker, named as Third Runner-up.

Coach Turner attributed the team's success to their camaraderie and industry. "They came from all social groups and formed a wonderful friendship," she said. Coach Holloway added, "Team chemistry was a big part and their willingness to work very, very hard.

This year's competition was sponsored by PAGE, the PAGE Foundation and Georgia College & State University, with the Collegiate Middle Level Association serving as the host organization. The Academic Bowl features teams of middle school students fielding questions on subjects ranging from Georgia history to mathematics, science, literature and the performing arts. The questions are developed using the Georgia Middle School Curriculum. Cheered on by coaches, parents and fellow students, team members answer toss-up and bonus questions to score points. The program inspires students to excel academically, boosts student self-confidence and self-esteem through high achievement and stimulates both a team and competitive spirit.

"Each year I am inspired by the intellectual agility, poise and determination shown by these Academic Bowl participants. Each member of each team and their coaches should be justifiably proud to have competed in the State Finals, and I know I am joined by their parents, friends and school administrators in offering my heartiest congratulations on their performance here today. I'd also like to add my thanks to GC&SU and the Collegiate Middle Level Association for allowing us the opportunity to have this year's State Finals in the Magnolia Room on this outstanding campus," said Tom Wommack, president of the PAGE Foundation.

Statewide, more than 2,000 students compete at the local, regional and state levels of the PAGE Academic Bowl for Middle Grades. Other academic competitions sponsored by the PAGE Foundation include PAGE STAR (Student Teacher Achievement Recognition) and the PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon (GAD) for high school students. Through its sponsorship of Future Educators Association of Georgia (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.

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.