



NEWS RELEASE

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA EDUCATORS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CATOOSA COUNTY'S LAKEVIEW FORT OGLETHORPE HIGH SCHOOL IS THE 2009 PAGE
GEORGIA ACADEMIC DECATHLON STATE CHAMPION**

This year's PAGE (Professional Association of Georgia Educators) Georgia Academic Decathlon State Champion and Division II (small school) winner is Catoosa County's Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe High School, coached by Ian Beck and Lisa Beck. Gwinnett County's Berkmar High School, coached by Chris Pae and Brian Bernhardt, is the Division I (large school) Champion. The announcement came at the PAGE GAD Awards Banquet, the culminating event of the two-day academic competition held this weekend, Feb. 27 and 28, 2009, at Berkmar High School in Gwinnett County. Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe's team scored the highest points overall in Division I and II, and was presented the Howard Stroud Championship trophy by PAGE Foundation Board of Trustees Chair Charles Richardson and PAGE Foundation President Tom Wommack.

The Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe Decathlon Team will now represent Georgia at the United States Academic Decathlon National Finals to be held in Memphis, Tennessee, in April. The PAGE Foundation, Apple, Inc., the Georgia Department of Education and The Coca-Cola Company sponsor the Decathlon. Kennesaw State University serves as a partner with the PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon by hosting and providing expert speakers for the GAD Fall Workshop and providing and coordinating the more than 200 volunteers needed during the state championship competition. The Gwinnett County Public School System serves as host. David Chandley, meteorologist for Atlanta's Channel 2, WSB-TV, served as Master of Ceremonies for the Awards Banquet, during which the highest-scoring students were awarded both team and individual medals in various competition categories.

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 Gwinnett County's Parkview High School, coached by Melodie Carr**. In Division II (small school), **Cook County's Cook High School, coached by Pat James, Becky Futch and Josh Bryan, was named First Runner-up** and **Chattahoochee County High School, coached by Sarita Denny, was named as Second Runner-up**. The United States Academic Decathlon sponsors a Small School and Medium School Online national competition, based on student school population size, which will be held in conjunction with the national finals competition in April. **Chattahoochee County High School, coached by Sarita Denny**, won the opportunity to represent Georgia in the small school on-line competition and **Cook High School, coached by Pat James, Becky Futch and Josh Bryan**, will represent Georgia in the on-line medium school division.

More than 175 high school students from 20 high schools, representing 16 school districts, competed in the academic event. During the competition, students were tested in seven content areas: economics, art, language and literature, mathematics, social 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 was "An Introduction to Latin America."

On Saturday afternoon, students participated in the exciting Super Quiz Oral Relay. During the relay, team members competed in a quiz bowl format, keying in answers to questions regarding this year's topic, "An Introduction to Evolutionary Biology."

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PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon/add one

Catoosa County's Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe High School, coached by Ian Beck and Lisa Beck, was named this year's Super Quiz Oral Relay Champion. Gwinnett County's Berkmar High School, coached by Chris Pae and Brian Bernhardt; Gwinnett County's Parkview High School, coached by Melodie Carr; Cook High School, coached by Becky Futch, Pat James and Josh Bryan; and Forsyth County's Forsyth Central High School, coached by Jennifer Garner, had a four-way tie for First Runner-up honors. Barrow County's Winder-Barrow High School, coached by Dan Lundy, and Catoosa County's Ringgold High School, coached by Ruth Jackson, tied for Second Runner-Up honors.

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 Georgia), Student Professional Association of Georgia Educators (SPAGE), PAGE Foundation Scholarships and professional learning, the PAGE Foundation strives to recruit, develop, recognize and retain highly-accomplished teachers for every Georgia student.



Caption: Catoosa County's Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe High School is the 2009 PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon State Champion and will represent Georgia in the United States Academic Decathlon National Finals. Team members are shown here following the GAD Awards Banquet. They are (back row, left to right) Coach Ian Beck, Donel Hollis, Steven Harris, Caitlin Russell, Casey Crook, Mary Beth Richardson; and (front row, left to right) Coach Lisa Beck, Cody Dunn, Eola Park, Daniel Goins and Destin Sisemore.

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The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE), the parent organization of the Foundation, is a nonunion, statewide professional association of more than 75,000 teachers, administrators and support personnel members. PAGE provides professional learning for educators to enhance competence and confidence, build leadership and increase student achievement.