



NEWS RELEASE

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA EDUCATORS

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**CATOOSA COUNTY'S LAKEVIEW FORT OGLETHORPE HIGH SCHOOL IS THE 2010 PAGE
GEORGIA ACADEMIC DECATHLON STATE CHAMPION**

For the second consecutive year, the **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 Christopher Pae and Brian Bernhardt**, is the Division I (large school) winner. The announcement came at the PAGE GAD Awards Banquet, the culminating event of the two-day academic competition held this weekend, Feb. 26 and 27, 2010, 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 Competition to be held in Omaha, Nebraska, in April. Other winners include, in Division I (large school), **First Runner-up Gwinnett County's Mill Creek High School, coached by Lori Bowen, and Second Runner-up Forsyth County's Forsyth Central High School, coached by Jennifer Garner**. In Division II (small school), **Muscogee County's Columbus High School, coached by Betsey Zachry and Jan Carter, was named First Runner-up and Chattahoochee County High School, coached by Sarita Hollomon, was named Second Runner-up**. The United States Academic Decathlon sponsors a Small School, Medium School and Large 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 Hollomon**, won the opportunity to represent Georgia in the USA Small School Online Competition and **Columbus High School, coached by Betsey Zachry and Jan Carter**, will represent Georgia in the USA Medium School Online Competition. **Berkmar High School, coached by Christopher Pae and Brian Bernhardt**, will represent Georgia in the USA Large School Online Competition.

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 WSB-TV-Channel 2, 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.

More than 200 high school students from 23 high schools, representing 17 school districts, competed in the academic event. This year Team U.S. Virgin Islands participated as a guest of the PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon. This opportunity allowed the team to participate in a statewide competition before taking part in the USA Nationals. The team was scored separately, and its scores had no bearing on the final scores for the PAGE GAD State Finals.

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 was "The French Revolution."

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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, "The French Revolution." News Reporter Tom Jones, of Atlanta's WSB-TV-Channel 2, served as the moderator. **Gwinnett County's Berkmar High School, coached by Christopher Pae and Brian Bernhardt**, was named this year's **Super Quiz Oral Relay Champion**. **Muscogee County's Hardaway High School, coached by Carmen Kimsey Morris**, won First Runner-up honors, with **Catoosa County's Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe High School, coached by Ian Beck and Lisa Beck**, named as Second Runner-up.

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.



Presenters PAGE Foundation President Tom Wommack (far left) and PAGE Foundation Chair Charles Richardson (far right) join the 2010 PAGE GAD State Champions from Lakeview Fort Oglethorpe High School following their awards presentation. Team members include: (beginning second from left to right) Mary Beth Richardson, Donel Hollis, Caitlin Russell, Joey Bowen, Casey Crook, Steven Harris, Perry Elrod, Destin Sisemore, Coach Lisa Beck and Coach Ian Beck.

The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE), the parent organization of the Foundation, is a statewide professional association of more than 78,000 teachers, administrators and support personnel members. PAGE provides professional learning for educators to enhance competence and confidence, build leadership and increase student achievement.