



# NEWS RELEASE

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA EDUCATORS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 28, 2010

## **2010 STATE PAGE STAR STUDENT AND STATE PAGE STAR TEACHER ANNOUNCED**

**Michael Eric Lomax**, a senior at Dougherty County's Westover High School, is the 2010 State PAGE STAR Student. He named **Carole Wiles**, his eighth-grade language arts teacher at Merry Acres Middle School, as his State PAGE STAR Teacher. **Abhijeeth (Abhi) Ramesh**, a senior at Cobb County's George Walton Comprehensive High School, is the Runner-up State PAGE STAR Student and chose **Kelly Bryan**, his AP language teacher, as his STAR Teacher.

The announcement came at the State PAGE (Professional Association of Georgia Educators) STAR Banquet, which was held on Wednesday, April 28, 2010, at the Hilton Atlanta Hotel. Fifteen STAR Student Region Winners were finalists in the culminating event of the STAR (Student Teacher Achievement Recognition) program, which began earlier this year with the naming of 510 STAR Students selected at each of the participating public and independent schools across the state. Six of this year's finalists scored 2400 on one administration of the SAT and all are in the top ten percent or top ten of their class.

PAGE Foundation President Tom Wommack noted this is the 16th year the PAGE Foundation has been a sponsor and statewide coordinator of the STAR program, "In 1994, the Georgia Chamber asked the PAGE Foundation to take the lead role for STAR, and we have been honored to serve in that capacity," Wommack said. "The Education Committee of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce initiated the program 52 years ago as a means to recognize and honor Georgia high school students who excelled academically. Although there are many programs that recognize and award academic excellence among students, what makes the STAR program unique is it offers those STAR Students the opportunity to publicly recognize that teacher who they felt had the most influence on their academic development," he added.

Both the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Department of Education continue to sponsor the program. Donors to the event include AT&T Georgia, Frances Wood Wilson Foundation, Inc., Mozelle Christian Endowment, the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE), PAGE Foundation and The Coca-Cola Company. Since its inception, the program has honored more than 22,000 students and their teachers for academic excellence.

Lomax, of Albany, plans to attend Yale University. As this year's State PAGE STAR Student, he was honored with a \$5,000 scholarship from AT&T Georgia, presented by AT&T Georgia Vice-President of Regulatory & Legislative Affairs Pete Martin. Lomax also received a crystal bowl from the PAGE Foundation presented to him by PAGE Foundation Board of Trustees Chair Charles Richardson. State PAGE STAR Teacher Carole Wiles received a \$2,500 cash award from the Frances Wood Wilson Foundation, Inc., presented by its President Blich Ann Bird, and a crystal bowl from the PAGE Foundation, presented by PAGE Executive Director Dr. Allene Magill. Runner-up State PAGE STAR Student Abhijeeth Ramesh, of Marietta, was presented a crystal vase and a \$1,000 scholarship from the PAGE Foundation by PAGE President Sheryl Holmes. He also received The Coca-Cola Scholarship of \$1,000. PAGE Executive Director Dr. Allene Magill presented the Runner-up State PAGE STAR Teacher Kelly Bryan with the Mozelle Christian Award of \$500 and a crystal vase from the PAGE Foundation.

(more)

## 2010 State PAGE STAR/add one

The PAGE Foundation, PAGE and The Coca-Cola Company sponsored the State Banquet. The Coca-Cola Company also sponsored the evening reception and presented each of the 15 finalists with a \$100 award. PAGE Executive Director Dr. Allene Magill and PAGE Foundation Chair Charles Richardson presented these finalists and their teachers with a hand-blown glass star from Lillie Glassblowers. At their region events, Region STAR Students received a \$500 cash award and Region STAR Teachers received a \$200 award respectively from the PAGE Foundation.

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 of Georgia (FEA Georgia), Student Professional Association of Georgia Educators (SPAGE), PAGE Foundation Scholarships and professional learning, the PAGE Foundation works to recruit capable people to the teaching profession and provide career-long professional learning opportunities for educators.

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Caption: (left to right) 2010 State PAGE STAR Teacher Carole Wiles and State PAGE STAR Student Michael Eric Lomax.

**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.**