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## NEWS RELEASE

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### HCHS Student Named 2010 System STAR Student



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Chris Stagg, a senior at Houston County High School, is the 2010 System Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) student for the Houston County School System. STAR students select a teacher who has been most instrumental in his academic development. Chris selected Laura Byrd as his STAR teacher.

The winners were announced during a program hosted by the Perry Area and Warner Robins Area Chambers of Commerce at the Houston County Board of Education central office. Each STAR student and teacher received a \$500 savings bond, and the system winners took home an additional \$500 bond, for a total of \$1,000 each. Altogether the Chambers presented \$6,000 in savings bonds as awards.

Chris will next compete at the region level. The Region VII STAR banquet will be March 15, 2010, at Macon State College in Macon, at 6:00 p.m. The Region winner from this event will attend the state banquet held later in the year in Atlanta.

Other 2010 STAR students and their teachers from the Houston County School System are:

- Northside High: Evan Manning and teacher Patricia Ogletree; Subject – Mathematics;
- Perry High: Halston Kirkpatrick and teacher Joseph Sendek; Subject – Drama; and
- Warner Robins High: Bryan Jones and teacher Randi Collier; Subject - AP Chemistry.

Chris is in the top five percent for grade point average at his school. He has already earned several college credits by taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes and then scoring high enough on AP exams. In addition, he lettered in wrestling.

MORE

Chris has received numerous academic honors to include:

- Academic Achievement in Honors Program Award;
- Honor Roll;
- AP Scholar Awards;
- SAT Perfect Score Math;
- University of Georgia Certificate of Merit.

He is a member of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, the National Honor Society and Houston County High's Chess Club. He is also a PADI Scuba Diver, and he volunteers for his church, the Rainbow House, Perry animal shelter and Red Cross. His mother is Diana Humble from Kathleen.

Byrd is a chemistry teacher at Houston County High. She has taught for 23 years since graduating from the University of Georgia with a bachelor's degree in science education. She has also earned a master's of education in leadership and a specialist in leadership from Columbus State College. This is the sixth time she has been selected as a STAR teacher. She is an active member of the Region, State and International Science Fairs. In addition, Byrd co-sponsors the Houston County High National Honor Society and is a staff member of the Black and Silver Brigade Marching and Competition Band. In her spare time, she fosters dogs for the Perry Animal Shelter.

The STAR program was created to focus attention on Georgia's outstanding students and teachers. To obtain the STAR nomination, students must have the highest score in one sitting on the SAT taken through the November test date of their senior year. Students must also be in the top 10 percent or top 10 students of their class. The Professional Association of Georgia Educators Foundation, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and the Georgia Department of Education sponsor the STAR Program.

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NOTE: Chris is pictured with his STAR Teacher Laura Byrd (left) and Houston County High Principal Sherri Freeman.