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NEWS RELEASE

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Gifted Teachers of the Year Announced



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Two teachers were chosen as **Gifted Teachers of the Year** for the Houston County School System. The surprise announcement was made at the Houston County Association of Gifted Children meeting in May. **Kimessia Hughes, Warner Robins Middle School** gifted math teacher, and **Ike Thompson, Veterans High School** gifted English teacher, tied for the honor.

Hughes was awarded the title of Master Teacher in 2010. She has taught math for four years. On her application, Hughes wrote, “I have been given the opportunity to teach children from many economic and cultural levels. This has afforded me the gift to see beyond the nervous tap or the distant glare that may characterize a gifted student, to see a thirst for knowledge that cannot be quenched with busy work or a nod of simple acceptance.”

Her principal, Dr. Donald Warren, stated, “Ms. Hughes is a great teacher who is always prepared and ensures that her students are on task and learning the performance standards of the mathematics curriculum. She continually challenges her students at the highest levels of Bloom’s Taxonomy. Ms. Hughes has participated in numerous activities while at Warner Robins Middle School such as GPS Curriculum Task Writer, Better Seeking Team, 21st Century ASP teachers and the Spirit of SACS Committees.”

MORE

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About Thompson Veterans High Principal Lionel Brown wrote, “He is a tireless learner himself, continually seeking out new research and readings and attending conferences and trainings to better himself professionally and to improve the quality of learning for his students.”

Thompson has sought out continued professional development, completing a master’s degree in technical writing and attending the Georgia Council of Teachers of English conference for three years. This February, he was recognized for his work and dedication by being named the Georgia Council of Teachers of English 2010 High School Teacher of the Year. Thompson is training for Advanced Placement English Language this summer to further his reach in the teaching of high-ability students in Houston County. Additionally, he is seeking Teacher Support Specialist certification, further evidencing his desire to be a leader in our school. As a published writer, Thompson sees the importance of expanding reading to further build vocabulary acquisition and develop writing skills, and he continually looks for ways to hone his craft.”

Warner Robins Middle School is located at 425 Mary Lane in Warner Robins. Dr. Donald Warren serves as principal. Veterans High School is located at 340 Piney Grove Road in Kathleen. Lionel Brown serves as principal. For more information about the Gifted Teachers of the Year, please contact Jan Jacobsen, director of gifted, at Jan.Jacobsen@hcbe.net or 478-988-6200, ext. 10393.

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