



DAVID CARPENTER, SUPERINTENDENT

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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 11, 2008**

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### HCHS Teacher Wins GA Teacher of the Year Award



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA– Houston County High School teacher **Nelda Clay** was named the **Georgia Family and Consumer Sciences Teacher of the Year** at the 2008 Georgia Association for Career and Technical Education (GACTE) conference held in July. The GACTE Awards Program recognizes career and technical educators who have made extraordinary contributions to the field.

Clay was nominated by fellow teacher Jane Cooper. Applicants were required to document: significant accomplishments in Career and Technical Education (CTE); professional memberships and activities; professional contributions; education and experience; civic and community involvement; philosophy of CTE; and critical issues in CTE.

Clay serves as Houston County High's Career Technical and Agriculture Department Chairman and is a mentor to first-year teachers. She has also serves as supervising teacher to numerous student teachers. In the nomination packet, Cooper commented, "Through these positions, she positively affects many educators with her enthusiasm, love of teaching and sense of fun. Her opinions are valued by new as well as experienced teachers, as she encourages, advises and provides feedback to other professional educators."

Clay has been honored with numerous adviser awards, including Master Adviser, Mentor Adviser and the 2001 Georgia Spirit of Advising Award. She has had 11 Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) State Officers, including the current Assistant Executive Director of FCCLA, Shannon Miles. Her history with the FCCLA organization and her talent for organization and management continue to make her a valuable resource for today's FCCLA members.



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Clay has played a vital role in Family and Consumer Sciences professional organizations during her career as an educator, serving in many leadership positions. Her Clay's philosophy of CTE is that this kind of curriculum is for all students. From the AP honors student to the special needs student, career and technical education has something for everyone. Through the project based, hands on career tech classes, students build on and apply academics skills they learn in other courses. CTE courses teach the student about the importance of planning, organizing, and completing projects in a different kind of atmosphere. Seeing projects come to life helps students connect all of the dots which will help them see the importance of math, science, social studies and language arts.

Clay believes that students who are enrolled in CTE should be proud that they are in these classes, learning skills that they will be able to take into the work force in the future. Not everyone will obtain a college degree, but most everyone will enter the workforce and earn a living. The more education a student gains in high school in CTE, the less time it will take him or her to achieve this goal.

Houston County High is located at 920 Highway 96 in Warner Robins. Sherri Freeman serves as principal. For more information, please contact Clay at (478) 988-6340 or [nelda.clay@hcbe.net](mailto:nelda.clay@hcbe.net).

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