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PRESS RELEASE

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Gifted & Talented Education Teachers Honored by Shah Family

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Fifty-four teachers of gifted and talented students from across the Houston County School District were recently honored as recipients of the Houston County Education Assistance Fund on behalf of Dr. and Mrs. Manoj Shah. Each teacher was presented with a classroom grant between \$400 and \$500, as well as a certificate in recognition of their enthusiasm, devotion and effectiveness in gifted, honors and advanced placement programs.

The honorees from the high school level are listed below.

- ★ Houston County High School ~ Daryl Leslie, Stacy McLean, and Lauren Nguyen
- ★ Northside High School ~ Douglas Crosby, Christi Johnson, and Patrick Murphy
- ★ Perry High School ~ Susan Bray, Courtney Herbert, and Lindsey Gentry
- ★ Veterans High School ~ Stacy Brunelle, Renee Douglas, and Li Ma
- ★ Warner Robins High School ~ Amanda Bone, Scott Daniel, and Mark Stevens



The honorees from the middle school level are listed below.

- ★ Bonaire Middle School ~ Dianne James and Diana Young
- ★ Feagin Mill Middle School ~ Sarah Draper and Mandy Medalis
- ★ Huntington Middle School ~ Christopher Edwards and Leshan Ferguson
- ★ Mossy Creek Middle School ~ Jennifer Ham and Natalie Rainwater
- ★ Northside Middle School ~ Stephanie Hunczak and Shameka Watts
- ★ Perry Middle School ~ Samantha Arnold and Emily Nick
- ★ Thomson Middle School ~ Patricia Bolden and Curtis Martin
- ★ Warner Robins Middle School ~ Tony Floyd and Sara Terry

The honorees from the elementary school level are listed below.

- ★ Bonaire Elementary School ~ Francis Abbott
- ★ Bonaire Primary School ~ Marcella Fern
- ★ C.B. Watson Primary ~ Erin Flanders
- ★ Centerville Elementary School ~ Jennifer Pritchard

- ★ David Perdue Elementary School ~ Priscilla Woodard
- ★ David Perdue Primary School ~ Dawn Hardy
- ★ Eagle Springs Elementary School ~ Lynn Gunerman
- ★ Hilltop Elementary School ~ Christa Franz
- ★ Kings Chapel Elementary School ~ Tammy Hardy
- ★ Lake Joy Elementary School ~ Melanie Turcotte
- ★ Lake Joy Primary School ~ Christy Garland
- ★ Langston Road Elementary School ~ Stephanie Wilson
- ★ Matt Arthur Elementary School ~ Susie Hall
- ★ Miller Elementary School ~ Edquader Marble
- ★ Morningside Elementary School ~ Amy Hutchinson
- ★ Northside Elementary School ~ Stacy Brown
- ★ Parkwood Elementary School ~ Regina Trice
- ★ Pearl Stephens Elementary School ~ Tammy Chiappetta
- ★ Quail Run Elementary School ~ Melissa Martin
- ★ Russell Elementary School ~ Amber Bowling
- ★ Shirley Hills Elementary School ~ Jasmine Young
- ★ Tucker Elementary School ~ Whitney Grisham
- ★ Westside Elementary School ~ Michelle Feldmeier

After their children graduated from Warner Robins High School, Dr. and Mrs. Shah began the Houston County Education Assistance Fund because they were pleased with the education their children received while enrolled in Houston County. The family created the fund to support teachers who nurture and encourage innovation, creativity and student passion. The award began with Warner Robins High School and over time was extended to all five high schools. In 2017, the Shah family expanded their gift to include Houston County's eight middle schools, and this year, Dr. Shah increased his donation to include one gifted teacher from each elementary school in the county.

"We can't thank the Shah Family enough for their continued generosity and support for our Advanced Placement and Gifted Program," said Olethia Thomas, Director of Gifted Education, Advanced Placement, and Fine Arts. "Our teachers who receive this funding are instrumental in our student's success and growth. The use of these funds in the classroom will be beneficial to our students as our teachers continue to emphasize rigor, critical thinking, and problem-solving in their daily instruction."

The gifted and talented education program in Houston County offers motivated students unique opportunities to further their education. From the sciences to humanities, dedicated teachers have been paramount in the success of these advanced classes. For more information on the Gifted and Talented Education program, please visit www.hcbe.net/giftedandtalented.

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PICTURED: Dr. Mark Scott, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. and Mrs. Manoj Shah; and Olethia Thomas, Director of Gifted Education, Advanced Placement, and Fine Arts.

