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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Houston County STAR Students and Teachers Honored *Three-way Tie for County Honors*



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Perry Area Chamber of Commerce and the Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce hosted the annual Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) ceremony on Thursday, February 13. The ceremony recognized STAR Students and Teachers from each high school, and the county winners were announced for the first time.

The 2025 STAR Students and Teachers from the Houston County School District are:

- Houston County High (tie): Ruxanda Malcoci and teacher Donna Purvis
- Houston County High (tie): Youngjun Park and teacher Deborah Jaimes
- Northside High: Sarah Ellis and teacher Henry Jones (Westside Elementary)
- Perry High: Cecilia O'Neill and teacher Dr. Lindsey Gentry
- Veterans High: Rebecca Winters and teacher Matthew Boone
- Warner Robins High: Robert Salyers and teacher Louis Leskosky

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In a three-way tie, Ruxanda Malcoci and Youngjun Park from Houston County High School, along with Rebecca Winters from Veterans High School, earned the highest honor and will each be recognized at the Regional STAR event next month.

The Chamber of Commerce presented each STAR Student with a certificate and \$100. Their STAR Teacher also received a plaque. As the county STAR Students, Malcoci, Park, and Winters received an additional \$400, and their respective STAR Teacher received \$100.

“It’s exciting to congratulate the winning STAR student each year, but it’s a unique honor to be able to recognize three students this year,” said Dr. Mark Scott, Superintendent of Schools for the Houston County School District. “Earning the designation of STAR Student is quite an accomplishment, and we are so proud of these students and teachers for their hard work and dedication.”

The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Foundation sponsors, administers and promotes the STAR Program, which began in 1958 to focus attention on Georgia's outstanding students and teachers. To obtain the nomination, high school seniors must have the highest score on a single test date on the SAT. Students must also be in the top 10 percent or top 10 students of their class based on grade point average. Each STAR student selects a STAR teacher who has been the most influential to their academic success.

For more information on the STAR Student and Teacher program, contact your local Chamber of Commerce.

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