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## PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Jennifer C. Jones, Director of Community & School Affairs, (478) 988-6390, [Jennifer.C.Jones@hcbe.net](mailto:Jennifer.C.Jones@hcbe.net)

### **Veterans High School Senior Selected to Present at Chemistry Conference**



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – This past summer, Veterans High School Senior, Alec Ortiz, was selected for a summer internship program with Georgia College and State University’s Young Scientists Academy. Alec was the only student from the Houston County School District to be accepted into the program. During the internship, Alec was given the opportunity to conduct cutting-edge chemical research alongside other students who were selected for the program. His research aimed at identifying new methodologies to detect chemicals that are explosive in nature. At the end of the six-week program, Alec presented his findings to university professors and administrators at the Young Scientist Academy’s Symposium

Alec was also invited to present his research at the American Chemical Society’s (ACS) 73<sup>rd</sup> Southeastern Regional Conference in Puerto Rico this month. The theme of the conference is Chemistry Transcending Boundaries for a Sustainable Future. The ACS is the world’s largest scientific association with a membership of more than 154,000 chemists, chemical engineers, and others in related professions.

“We are always thrilled to see our students thrive in their areas of interest,” said Dr. Amy Barbour, Principal at Veterans High School. “Alec has a passion for learning, and we are so proud of him for his selection into the Young Scientists Academy, as well as the opportunity to present at the regional conference. We know he represented our school and the District well.”

*PICTURED: Alec Ortiz, in the chemistry lab at Georgia College and State University.*

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478-988-6200



1100 Main Street | Perry, Georgia 31069



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