



NEWS RELEASE

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA EDUCATORS

Contact:

Lynn Varner, Manager
PAGE Foundation Public Relations
800-334-6861 • pr@pagefoundation.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 2, 2011

“A PAGE Turning Event” Honors Senator Johnny Isakson and Congressman John Lewis

A host of business, education and government leaders gathered at The Fox Theatre on Thursday, September 1, 2011, to join The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Foundation in honoring Georgia U. S. Senator Johnny Isakson and Georgia U. S. Representative John Lewis for their personal commitment to the improvement of public education and the lives of Georgia’s youth. AT&T Georgia President Sylvia E. Russell and Georgia EMC President/CEO A. Paul Wood, served as co-chairs of the Host Committee for this year’s gala, and WSB-TV News Anchor Monica Pearson was the Mistress of Ceremonies for the banquet.

A highlight of the night’s festivities was the presentation of awards by PAGE Executive Director Dr. Allene Magill. Speaking on behalf of the more than 81,000 members of PAGE and members of the PAGE Foundation Board of Trustees, Magill praised Isakson and Lewis for their commitment to public school improvement. She cited Lewis’ historic work to create educational opportunities for all young people through the civil rights movement, and she noted the significant contributions Isakson made to public education as chair of the Georgia Board of Education and as a national leader in efforts to draft and amend the “No Child Left Behind” law.

In accepting his award, Senator Johnny Isakson paraphrased a famous quotation saying children are the messages we send to a time we will never see and there is no greater investment than in their education. He praised the work of PAGE for its support of Georgia’s teachers and students and paid homage to Congressman Lewis as both a friend and a genuine American hero. Upon receiving his award, Congressman John Lewis cited education as the great equalizer and said we must give teachers all the tools they need, both financial and otherwise, to enable them to create the next generation of leaders.

This year’s sponsors of “A PAGE Turning Event” included, at the Valedictorian level: Georgia EMC and Georgia Power; at the Salutatorian level: Adams, Hemingway & Wilson, LLP, AT&T Georgia; General Electric Company, Genuine Parts Company, Georgia-Pacific, United Distributors, Inc., Wells Fargo Bank and The Woodruff Arts Center; at the Honors level: The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, Atlanta Housing Authority, Atlantic Capital Bank, Board of Regents, University System of Georgia, Cox Enterprises, Georgia’s Printer, Kennesaw State University, Metro Atlanta Chamber, Regions Bank, Tom Wommack and VALIC.

Previous honorees of “A PAGE Turning Event” include: Georgia-Pacific and Georgia-Pacific Foundation President Curley M. Dossman, Jr.; BellSouth and former BellSouth Georgia President Phil Jacobs; Southern Company and former Chairman, President and CEO David Ratcliffe; The Coca-Cola Company and The Coca-Cola Foundation Chair Ingrid Saunders Jones; General Electric Company and General Electric Company Vice Chairman John Rice and Stephanie and Arthur Blank and The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation.

#####

The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE), the parent organization of the Foundation, is statewide professional association of more than 81,000 teachers, administrators and support personnel members. PAGE provides professional learning for educators to enhance competence and confidence, build leadership and increase student achievement.



PAGE Executive Director Dr. Allene Magill and U. S. Senator Johnny Isakson



PAGE Executive Director Dr. Allene Magill and U. S. Representative John Lewis