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CLAYTON'S ELITE SCHOLARS ACADEMY CAPTURES STATE ACADEMIC DECATHLON TITLE

ATLANTA – March 2, 2021 – Clayton County's **Elite Scholars Academy** captured its first PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon (GAD) State Championship. The competition was held virtually this year on Friday, Feb. 26 and Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021. The team scored the highest points overall in Division I and II, earning the Howard Stroud Championship Trophy.

Elite Scholars Academy is a Division II, or small-school (based on school population size) participant, and will be submitted as the Georgia representative to the annual United States Academic Decathlon® (USAD®) National Competition, April 29 - May 1, 2021. This year's National competition will be held virtually.

In addition, Gwinnett County's **Parkview High School** is invited to attend USAD's Virtual Nationals to represent Georgia in the National Division IV competition. To qualify, the team was the next highest scoring team in a division other than the state champion's division.

The U.S. Academic Decathlon also sponsors an Online National Competition for Small, Medium, and Large Schools, based on school enrollment, which will be held in conjunction with the national finals. The representatives from Georgia in this category are:

- Carroll County's **Villa Rica High School** (Large School Online Competition)
- Muscogee County's **Hardaway High School** (Medium School Online Competition)
- Richmond County's **AR Johnson Health, Science & Engineering Magnet School** (Small School Online Competition)

In overall scoring, Division I (large school) winners include:

- Champion — Gwinnett County's **Parkview High School**, coached by Melodie Carr, and Jeff Hall;
- First Runner-up — Muscogee County's **Hardaway High School**, coached by Lyndsey Chang and Brandon Sweeney;
- Second Runner-up — Muscogee County's **WH Shaw High School**, coached by Jordan Hatch.

In overall scoring, Division II (or small school) winners include:

- Champion — Clayton County's **Elite Scholars Academy**, coached by Jack Smith;
- First Runner-up — Catoosa County's **Lakeview-Fort Oglethorpe High School**, coached by Jessica Chandler and Lisa Beck;
- Second Runner-up — Richmond County's **AR Johnson Health, Science & Engineering Magnet School**, coached by Stephanie Campbell.

Independent school, **Holy Innocents' Episcopal School**, coached by George Bevington, captured Rookie of the Year honors, awarded to the highest-scoring team making its first appearance at state competition.

More than 150 high school students from across the state competed in the academic event. The program is unique because each nine-member team is made up of three honors students; three scholastic students; and three varsity students as determined by their USAD grade point averages. Each year the program features a different overall curriculum topic, and this year's curriculum is *The Cold War*. The 10 events that compose the decathlon are:

- Testing in seven content areas (economics, art, literature, mathematics, science, social science, and music).
- Three communication events (public speaking, personal interview, and written essay).
- Super Quiz is the final event comprised of questions from all seven of the testing areas.

Winners in the Super Quiz competition were:

- Champion — Gwinnett County's **Parkview High School**
- First Runner-up — Muscogee County's **Columbus High School**
- Second Runner-up — Clayton County's **Elite Scholars Academy**

For a complete listing of all awards and individual medal winners, please visit www.pageinc.org/gad/gadstatewinners/.

The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) honors outstanding students and educators and encourages academic excellence through student programs such as PAGE STAR (Student Teacher Achievement Recognition), the PAGE Academic Bowl for Middle Grades, and the PAGE Georgia Academic Decathlon.

The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) is the state's largest independent educator association – serving more than 95,000 teachers, administrators, and school personnel.

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