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CLAYTON COUNTY'S ELITE SCHOLARS ACADEMY CAPTURES UNITED STATES ACADEMIC DECATHLON ROOKIE OF THE YEAR HONORS

ATLANTA – May 12, 2021 – At this year's United States Academic Decathlon® (USAD) Nationals, Clayton County's **Elite Scholars Academy** captured both the Division III (small school division) Rookie of the Year honors as well as a fourth-place finish in its classification. Elite Scholars Academy represented Georgia after earning state champion honors at this year's Georgia Academic Decathlon (GAD), sponsored by the Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE).

Elite Scholars Academy would have represented Georgia at the face-to-face national competition in Des Moines, Iowa, but the event was held virtually due to COVID-19.

Members of the Elite Scholars Academy team also brought home 11 individual medals from USAD:

- Oluwatooni Alade – Social Science (bronze)
- Victoria Popoola – Social Science (bronze)
- Amy Pham – Science (gold) and Highest Team Scorer
- Angela Akintokun – Social Science (bronze)
- Monique Gaye – Mathematics (bronze) and Speech (gold)
- Brian Barnett – Science (gold) and Mathematics (silver)
- Ameenah Morris – Music (gold) and Mathematics (gold)
- Natalie Jenkins – Interview (silver)

As the second-highest scoring team at the GAD state championship, Gwinnett County's **Parkview High School** also competed at the (virtual) USAD face-to-face competition. Parkview's individual medal winners were:

- Jalen Pettus – Music (bronze) and Interview (gold)
- Mitchel Chang – Highest Team Scorer

In conjunction with face-to-face Nationals, USAD also holds annual Large, Medium, and Small Online competitions, which are based on school enrollment. The highest-scoring teams in those divisions from the GAD state championship participate. This year's representatives at the online competition from Georgia were:

- Large – Carroll County's **Villa Rica High School**
- Medium – Muscogee County's **Hardaway High School**

- Small – Richmond County’s **AR Johnson Health Science and Engineering Magnet High School**

Individual medal winners at USAD Online Nationals from these schools were:

- Reagan Clay (Villa Rica High School) – Social Science (silver)
- Brady Hampel (Hardaway High School) – Mathematics (silver)
- Kyra Cooper (Hardaway High School) – Mathematics (bronze)

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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