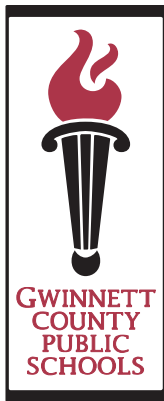


NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 25, 2012

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Duncan Creek ES and North Gwinnett HS: Gwinnett art educators receive top honors

The Gwinnett County Board of Education recently honored and thanked three veteran teachers for their service to Gwinnett County students after their work was highlighted by the state's professional art education organization. Earlier this school year, **Duncan Creek Elementary** Art Teacher **Jackie Ellett** was named the 2012 Georgia Art Education Association Art Educator of the year, while **Dr. Bruce Bowman** and **Debi West**, both art educators at **North Gwinnett High**, were selected as the National Art Honor Society Outstanding Sponsors of the Year.

The Georgia Art Education Association selected Duncan Creek Elementary's Jackie Ellett as the 2012 Georgia Art Association Art Educator of the Year honoring her service and contributions to art education. Ms. Ellett helped open her current school in 2004 but has dedicated more than two decades of service to Gwinnett children since joining the school district in 1986 at Rockbridge Elementary. She holds three degrees – undergraduate, master's, and specialist's – all in Art Education from the University of Georgia.

The Georgia Art Education Association also announced that the 2012 Outstanding National Art Honor Society Sponsor Award was presented to Dr. Bruce Bowman and Debi West of North Gwinnett High. The organization presents this award to recognize outstanding achievement, contributions, and service to the field of art education to sponsors of a highly successful National Art Honor Society Chapter. North Gwinnett High's National Art Honor Society completes 20 to 25 service projects each year and raises thousands of dollars for charities. Dr. Bruce Bowman came to Gwinnett in 2006. He holds an Associate's degree in Applied Science and Architectural Technology from Perdue University, a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Indiana University, and a master's degree also in Fine Arts from the University of Illinois. He earned his doctoral degree from the University of Georgia in Philosophy. Ms. West joined GCPS close to two decades ago as an art teacher at Sugar Hill Elementary. Selected as the 2005 Gwinnett County Teacher of the Year, she also taught at Rock Springs Elementary and Level Creek Elementary before moving to North Gwinnett High. Ms. West holds a bachelor's degree in studio art, a master's degree in education, and a specialist's degree in art education from the University of Georgia.

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The three art teachers were presented their awards at the 2011 GAEA Fall Professional Learning Conference.