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Veterans High Dr. Gibbs Named Gifted Teacher of the Year



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Veterans High School teacher Dave Gibbs was awarded **Gifted Teacher of the Year** for the Houston County School System. The surprise announcement was made at the Houston County Association of Gifted Children (HCAGC) meeting in December. Gibbs was congratulated by his Principal Chris Brown, co-workers and students when the announcement was made.

Dr. Gibbs serves as a math teacher and Math Department Chair at Veterans High. The 2016-2017 Veterans High School Teacher of the Year, he was a top five finalist for the Houston County's system-wide Teacher of the Year. Dr. Gibbs served as the math coordinator for the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) for the Houston County School District and traveled across Georgia as a NMSI instructor for Advanced Placement Statistics.

Dr. Gibbs began teaching in 2004, entering the profession as a TAPP candidate. In 2005, he earned his gifted endorsement from the University of Georgia. He earned his specialist degree in 2010 and doctorate degree in 2013 from Valdosta State University. In 2011, he received AP Statistics training and has now taught gifted students for 11 years. Having taught Honors Geometry, Honors Math 1, and AP Statistics, he continually endeavors to challenge students to reach their full potential and move beyond their perceived limitations in mathematics. To further strengthen his dedication to teaching and learning, he has tiered his teaching lessons and expertise by teaching a range of

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academic abilities: from gifted students to collaborative special education students throughout his career.

Veterans High Principal Chris Brown commented, "Over the past several years I have served as Dr. Gibbs' primary Teacher Keys Evaluation System observer and have witnessed firsthand his keen ability to breakdown complex concepts within the Advance Placement Statics curriculum so that all students understand and achieve success. This past school year Dr. Gibbs had a 94% pass rate in AP Statics while the global average was 61%."

Executive Director of Secondary Operations and former Veterans principal, Dr. Lionel Brown, stated, "Dr. Gibbs always has high expectations for his students and requires their very best. His dynamic teaching style, content mastery, and awesome personality led many students past the brink of mediocrity and uncertainty into a world full of possibilities. He was able to do this because of his most outstanding quality, which is genuine unconditional love for all students. Race, gender, or status never hindered Dr. Gibbs from forging positive, lasting relationships. He approached every day purposed to confidently and masterfully show his students a bright future regardless of their past or present."

Veterans High Assistant Principal Amy Barbour, wrote the following about Gibbs: "He constantly seeks to improve his instruction for the betterment of all students. He has served as a member of the Georgia Department of Education End of Course Test (EOC) precision review team for two years, served on the data review team for two years, and served as content area team leader for five years; he has also served as department chair for three years. His willingness to serve in such capacities allows him to continually evaluate standardized assessments, regular classroom assessments, and instructional activities and strategies for students: the desire to continually improve student learning is always in the forefront, as a result, Dr. Gibbs has consistently yielded student results significantly above the local and state averages on EOCs. His mastery of instructional methods and constant self-evaluation are patent in his continued success, as he regularly analyzes student results, content results and instruction pacing."

Criteria for Gifted Teacher of the Year include, but are not limited to, the following:

- membership in HCAGC and GAGC;
- gifted program teacher for at least two years;
- commitment to teaching gifted students;
- advocacy for gifted education; and
- evidence of leadership within the school and the district.

Dr. Gibbs is pictured (center back) with Principal Brown, Barbour, Director of Gifted Jan Jacobsen and students who were present to surprise him. Veterans High School is located at 340 Piney Grove Road in Kathleen. For more information about the Gifted Teacher of the Year, please contact Jacobsen at 478-988-6200, ext. 10393, or Jan.Jacobsen@hcbe.net.

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