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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Houston County Career Academy Student Named Georgia Student of the Year**



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Two Houston County Career Academy (HCCA) students won state awards at the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Business and Education Summit held Dec. 9 in Gainesville. Ja'Nyia Maloy, a senior at Warner Robins High School, was named Georgia's Student of the Year. Levi Johnson, a senior at Northside High School, won third place for Student of the Year.

Pictured (from left) are: Mike Dudgen, Office of Lt. Governor Duncan, Policy Director; Mike Engel, CGTC Dean; Johnson; Maloy; Sabrina Phelps, HCCA principal and CEO; and David McDermott, Houston County School District, Director of Career, Technical

and Agricultural Education.

Maloy is in the criminal justice dual enrollment program with HCCA and Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC). In May she will graduate with her high school diploma and an associate's degree in criminal justice from CGTC.

"If it were not for the Career Academy and dual enrollment program, I would not have had the will and determination to succeed beyond expectations," said Maloy. "The experiences that I have gained at the HCCA are priceless!"

Principal Phelps said, "Ja'Nyia is the poster child for our school's mission: to ensure a viable 21<sup>st</sup> Century workforce for Houston County. Through her technical, workplace, and personal skills for preparations, Ja'Nyia is truly college and career ready."

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Johnson is enrolled in the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) program at HCCA. He will graduate in May with an Environmental Protection Agency credential (Universal 608), which allows him to be able to work with multiple systems and refrigerants in the HVAC industry.

Johnson commented, "My goal is to extend my education in the field of heating and air by completing my technical training at CGTC and to become a HVAC service technician."

Phelps stated, "Levi is a true leader, as demonstrated by his participation in SkillsUSA and the Youth Apprenticeship Program."

During the summit, Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan celebrated College and Career Academies across Georgia. He acknowledged the significant impact the academies have throughout Georgia and recognized the award winners for their accomplishments.

"Workforce development is a huge part of what has made Georgia the best place to live and work," Duncan said. "College and Career Academies play a huge role in attracting new businesses to Georgia, and it is an honor to celebrate the hard work and achievements of those associated with this great program. My office looks forward to working alongside the educators and business leaders who have devoted their time, resources and expertise to put Georgia second to none in workforce development."

The Houston County Career Academy is located at 1311 Corder Road in Warner Robins. Phelps may be reached at [Sabrina.Phelps@hcbe.net](mailto:Sabrina.Phelps@hcbe.net).

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