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PRESS RELEASE

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Houston County School District Welcomed Back Teachers on July 27

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Houston County School District held a district-wide Opening Session on July 27, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. at Southside Baptist Church. This annual kickoff event took place on the teachers' first day of pre-planning for the new school year. This year's theme is, "My Home, My Houston."

During this event, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mark Scott thanked teachers for their dedication and commitment to serving our students and the community, and shared his vision for the new school year. The school district also honored the Teachers of the Year from each of the 39 schools as well as the 6 Employees of the Year. The four finalists were also announced as follows:

- Bryan Carrier, Warner Robins High School
- Stephanie Sanders, Lake Joy Elementary School
- Monica Troullier, Westside Elementary School
- Debbie Garza, Pearl Stephens Elementary School

Mrs. Jessica Miranda of Veterans High School was named the 2021-2022 Houston County Teacher of the Year and received over \$15,000 in cash and prizes from businesses throughout Houston County.

Mrs. Miranda said "I am so blessed to work with this group of educators, and when I found out the theme this year is 'My Home, My Houston,' I really thought about what home means to me. Growing up an army brat, when somebody asked me where I was from, I always said 'no where' or 'a little bit of everywhere.' It wasn't until we moved to Warner Robins and I started working in Houston County that I realized that Houston County is my home."

The program also featured Warner Robins High School Class of 2010 graduate, Mr. Jeff Whitaker, who discussed how his time as a student in Houston County became his home and changed the course of his life.

Sponsors provided gifts and cash awards for the Teachers and Employees of the Year, as well as cover the full cost of district events. Sponsor funds pay for event expenses, years of service pins, plaques, framed certificates, professional photographs, a retirement banquet and more to support the service of our educators, administrators and staff. Premier Sponsors for this year's Opening Session include: Flint Energies, HEA Federal Credit Union, Houston Healthcare, Parrish Construction Group Totem Solutions, and Yancey Bus Sales & Service. Gold Sponsors include: Central Georgia Technical College, Cox Communications, and Synovus. Silver Sponsors are: Georgia Military College and AF Realty Group. Advanced Eyecare Center is a Bronze Sponsor. Cash awards were presented from HEA Federal Credit Union, Robins Regional Chamber, Sonny's BBQ, and Synovus. Hughes Honda also presented Mrs. Miranda with a free 12-month lease on a new car. The Houston County School District is also very appreciative of Southside Baptist Church for the use of their facility.

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