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Contact: Beth McLaughlin, Director of Community & School Affairs, 478-988-6390, Beth.McLaughlin@hcbe.net

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Houston County High Students Win App Challenge Award



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Houston County High School students won first place in the 2020 Congressional App Challenge for the Eighth Congressional District. The students were honored by Congressman Austin Scott for their original app, “HCHS PBIS.” Somto Nwagbata, Bayabya Joshi, Daniel Grigsby, and Cheluchi Nwagbata were recognized on Feb. 8, 2021. Houston County High’s team is one of only three teams from Georgia to win this award.

Pictured (from left) are: Daniel Grigsby, Bayabya Joshi, Congressman Scott, Somto Nwagbata and Cheluchi Nwagbata. This is the second time that three of the team members have won this award. Somto Nwagbata, Cheluchi Nwagbata and Bayabya Joshi also won first place in 2019 for “HCBE Alerts,” a school safety app they created. Houston County High students have now won this challenge for three consecutive years.

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P.O. Box 1850 • PERRY, GEORGIA 31069
(478) 988-6200 • FAX (478) 988-6259
WWW.HCBE.NET

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This year's app tracks Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) points called "Bear Bucks" at Houston County High. The app allows teachers to reward points to students and the students can also see the rewards available for the points they have earned. Learn about their winning app at this link: <https://youtu.be/hTo-WHLQJqA>. The team's advisor is Jenny Jackson, CTAE Business Computer Science Teacher and FBLA Lead Adviser.

As the Eighth District's top winner, their app will be displayed at the U.S. Capitol and on the official U.S. House of Representatives website in the spring. The four students are also invited to a virtual #HouseofCode event in Washington, D.C. this spring. Since the students will not be travelling to D.C. this year, each has received a \$75 Southwest Airlines voucher. They also were awarded a \$100 Amazon Web Services credit.

The Congressional App Challenge is a competition for secondary students where they create original apps. The goal of the competition is to inspire and engage secondary students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), coding and computer science.

Houston County High School is located at 920 Highway 96 in Warner Robins. Dr. Doug Rizer serves as principal. For more information about this contest, please visit this website: <https://www.congressionalappchallenge.us/about/>. You may contact Alice Johnson, District Director for Congressman Scott, at Alice.Johnson@mail.house.gov.

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