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Colquitt County High School Student a Governor’s Honors State Finalist

MOULTRIE, GEORGIA -- July 23, 2020 - Rising Colquitt County High School senior Eddie Hamilton was selected to attend the 2020 Governor’s Honors Program (GHP), placing Hamilton among the top 0.3-percent of students in the state.

Colquitt County High School science teacher and GHP coordinator Vance Hurst called Hamilton one of the brightest and most diligent students he has ever taught. "His dedication to his scientific research is unparalleled by any of his peers at CCHS," said Hurst, who has also served as a GHP instructor and department chair. "When it came time for GHP nominations, I was certain he would be one of our strongest candidates."

The process for selection is a long one. Georgia has more than a quarter of a million high school sophomores and juniors, and around one-percent of students are nominated each year from Georgia’s public schools, private schools and homeschool population for their excellence in a wide range of disciplines, including agricultural science, communicative arts, dance, engineering, mathematics, music, physics, social studies, theatre, visual arts, world languages and chemistry, which was Hamilton's area.

Nominees completed an extensive application requiring class transcripts, test scores, letters of recommendations, and several short-answer and essay questions. The Governor’s Office of Student Achievement (GOSA) then evaluated the applications and made cuts to create a pool of semifinalists, who interviewed in February for a finalist spot. Hamilton is one of 659 young scholars selected.

Unfortunately for Hamilton and his fellow GHP finalists, the program was cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the first interruption since its inception more than a half-century ago. Georgia Governor Brian Kemp said he hoped the cancellation would not overshadow the tremendous honor of being selected for GHP. “These finalists are our future leaders, and we celebrate and encourage their continued educational growth," said Kemp in a press release from GOSA, which runs the program. "While we are disappointed that these finalists are unable to participate as planned, we look forward to continuing to honor and recognize their accomplishments.”

Allen Edwards, director of K-12 gifted education and 3-12 ELA curriculum for Colquitt County Schools, called GHP a unique educational experience. “It is usually the first opportunity our school's best students have to spend time with their intellectual peers who match both their abilities and passion,” said Edwards. “I'm incredibly disappointed our state's best students didn't have this life-changing opportunity.”

A GOSA press release said plans are underway to honor the 2020 GHP finalists on a statewide level.

For more information on the Governor’s Honors Program, visit http://gosa.georgia.gov/governors-honors-program

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