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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE FOUNDATION FOR EXCELLENCE PRESENTS THE EVE CARSON HUMANITARIAN SPIRIT AWARDS

Award Named for 2004 Clarke Central Honor Graduate Eve Carson

Athens, Georgia — Each spring, the Foundation for Excellence in Public Education (FFE) presents the *Eve Carson Humanitarian Spirit Award* to students who best exemplify the qualities of Ms. Eve Carson, a 2004 honor graduate of Clarke Central High School.

"In her brief life, Eve Carson exhibited a human spirit that one yearns to achieve in a lifetime, and we are pleased to reward students who showcase the same traits," states C. J. Amason, executive director of the Foundation for Excellence.



Eve Carson Humanitarian Spirit Awards

The *Eve Carson Humanitarian Spirit Award* was established in 2009 to honor the life of Eve Marie Carson, a 2004 honor graduate of Clarke Central High School and student body president at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Ms. Carson is still ever-present to students, especially at Clarke Central, where her words of wisdom are displayed in the media center:

"Learn from every single being, experience, and moment. What joy it is to search for lessons and goodness and enthusiasm in others." – Eve Carson

"Eve's unconditional positive regard for all people, which at a minimum included qualities of caring, encouragement, acceptance, open-mindedness, genuine love and random acts of kindness to all, are the qualities this award promotes," stated Ms. Amason.

Every school in the Clarke County School District selects a student in grades 5, 8, and 12 who best exemplifies the qualities exhibited by Ms. Carson. High school seniors receive \$500, eighth graders receive a \$100 gift card, and fifth graders receive a \$50 gift card.

Cedar Shoals High School / Angela Ghimire

Throughout high school, becoming involved in activities and sports teams was one of Angela Ghimire's priorities. She was especially grateful for the Freshman Academy Mentoring Program, where she served as captain her senior year. "I have mentored five freshmen academically and socially; it was amazing to be a part of so many lives and guide them through their first year of high school." Angela participated in the Student Government Association, National Honor Society, Beta Club, volleyball, and tennis.

Ms. Ghimire has received two prior FFE awards: *The Charlotte and Claude Williams American History Award* her junior year and the *Eve Carson Humanitarian Spirit Award* at Gaines Elementary in fifth grade. As a senior, she received the *Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award* and was named Cedar Shoals' *STAR Student*. She will further her education at the University of Georgia with a major in biology.

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Clarke Central High School / Nyah Carlson

Just like Eve, Ms. Nyah Carlson loves soccer, playing varsity all four years of high school at Clarke Central, and selected as captain as both a junior and senior. "I've been playing soccer for Central for four years, and Eve Carson Night was always very special to the team."

Nyah was very active in the drama department at CCHS and named a Presidential Scholar. She will attend Georgia State University to major in film and video. "The *Eve Carson Award* is the greatest honor I have ever received, and my mind is in shock. I have watched people receive it since fifth grade and have talked about her legacy every year since. I've read her quote on the library wall at CCHS more times than I can count and will carry her message with me."

Middle and Elementary School Winners

- Burney/Harris/Lyons Middle: Emmanuel Thompson
- Clarke Middle: Beck Wolf-Hardy
- W. R. Coile Middle: Jacqueline Medina
- Hilsman Middle: Jonathan Williams
- Alps Road Elementary: Mackenzie Moore
- Barnett Shoals Elementary: Caitlin Smith
- Barrow Elementary: Mary Wicker
- Chase Street Elementary: Liza Larson
- Cleveland Road Elementary: Keovoris Parrish
- Fowler Drive Elementary: Emely Ricardo
- Gaines Elementary: Leilani Brown
- J.J. Harris Elementary: Natalie Rodriguez Martinez
- Oglethorpe Avenue Elementary: Ana Ruiz-Bermudez
- H. B. Stroud Elementary: Joana Chinchilla-Carranza
- Timothy Road Elementary: Josue Sanabria
- Whit Davis Elementary: Karlos Ortega Martinez
- Whitehead Road Elementary: Sarah Htoo
- Winterville Elementary: Gabrielle Elise Sturdivan

About the Foundation for Excellence

The mission of the Foundation for Excellence in Public Education is to encourage, recognize, and reward excellence in the Clarke County School District. The Foundation for Excellence has an endowment of over \$1,000,000. The income from the endowment and funds raised each year provides approximately \$45,000 in awards and grants to teachers, administrators, and students annually. Since its establishment in 1983, the FFE has recognized and awarded grants/scholarships to hundreds of teachers and administrators.

"Our school communities are grateful for the support and recognition the FFE bestows on our teachers and students," states Dr. Xernona Thomas, interim superintendent. "This organization embodies the true spirit of service and dedication to educating the children of Athens-Clarke County."

For more information about the Foundation for Excellence in Clarke County, please visit athensffe.org.

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