



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lithia Springs High School Achieves AdvancED STEM Certification

Lithia Springs, GA—February 23, 2017—AdvancED, the parent organization of regional school accreditation agencies, congratulates Lithia Springs High School STEM Academy on receiving AdvancED STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Certification. This achievement is a mark of STEM distinction and excellence only offered to highly effective institutions that prioritize STEM education as a path to success.

AdvancED STEM Certification is the first internationally recognized mark of quality for STEM schools and programs, signaling the growing emphasis placed on STEM education by educators, politicians and business leaders around the world. In earning this certification, Lithia Springs High School has demonstrated its commitment to preparing its students for their educational and career opportunities of the future by ensuring its students will have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in their postsecondary pursuits and as workforce contributors in the 21st-century economy.

In order to earn STEM Certification, Lithia Springs High School had to demonstrate adherence to the AdvancED STEM Standard as reflected by the school's performance across 11 rigorous STEM Indicators. The certification process provides a rigorous evaluation and continuous improvement process, supported by research-based tools and resources. Achieving high scores across the indicators certify that students have been equipped and trained to be innovative, creative and systematic problem-solvers across disciplines.

"We are proud to not only be the only state and AdvancED STEM Certified High School in the state of Georgia, but to also be one of the most diverse. These certifications reflect the dedication and commitment of our teachers, parents, and partners to preparing the students of Douglas County with the relevant skills, and meaningful and deep learning experiences that will dominate the work-force of tomorrow. Furthermore, a quality STEM education can help to bridge the ethnic and gender gaps of today's math and science fields. STEM is the future, and our STEM Academy graduates enter their post-secondary endeavors as confident, innovative thinkers and problem solvers who will lead their generation," said Payton Millinor, STEM Coordinator. "STEM certification will continue to uphold our school to high standards while providing a clear roadmap for us to continuously improve our STEM disciplines and program."

AdvancED's STEM Certification Reviewers examined Lithia Springs High School's evidence of quality STEM education that the school provided to the review team beforehand, and conducted classroom observations focused on identifying student engagement and collaboration in the learning process using the Effective Learning Environment Observation Tool™ (eleot™). Reviewers also interviewed key stakeholders such as school administrators, STEM faculty and staff, parents, students, and external partners in order to verify the school's commitment to connecting students' STEM experiences in the classroom to the local community and the world at large.

To learn more about AdvancED STEM Certification, contact AdvancED at STEMCertification@advanc-ed.org. For more background on AdvancED's products and services that support institutions in their continuous improvement efforts visit www.advanc-ed.org.

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About the Lithia Springs High School STEM Academy

The STEM Program at Lithia Springs High School was established in 2011 to provide the students of Douglas County the opportunity to pursue a specialized education in biomedical science, computer science, and engineering. With a problem-based approach to cross-disciplinary learning, an environment of advanced studies and high expectations is ensured by quality teachers, effective instruction, cross-curricular planning, competitive courses of study, and technology-driven, academically-based extra-curricular activities. The rigor is accompanied by service learning projects, continual student support, and quality internships. Lithia Springs STEM Academy strives to improve the world via science and service. For more information about the LSHS STEM Academy visit www.lshsstem.com.

About AdvancED

AdvancED is a non-profit, non-partisan organization serving the largest community of education professionals in the world. Founded on more than 100 years of work in continuous improvement, AdvancED combines the knowledge and expertise of a research institute, the skills of a management consulting firm and the passion of a grassroots movement for educational change to empower PreK-12 schools and school systems to ensure that all learners realize their full potential.

AdvancED operates three regional accrediting agencies and serves as a trusted partner to 32,000 schools and school systems—employing more than four million educators and enrolling more than 20 million students—across the United States and 70 countries.

