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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MARCH 6, 2019**

(Release #2018/19 – 170)

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### **Perry High Student Wins 1<sup>st</sup> at State in Monologue Competition**



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA - Perry High School senior Trajan Clayton won first place in the state at the August Wilson Monologue Competition held March 1 in Atlanta. In addition to a cash award, Trajan will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to New York City and a master class with Broadway director Kenny Leon. He now advances to the national finals and will represent Georgia in the spring in New York.

Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company hosted the event. Clayton was one of 16 high school students who competed as a region finalist. Each student performed a one to three-minute monologue of his or her choosing from one of the 10 plays in playwright August Wilson's Century Cycle. Contestants were judged by Atlanta theatre professionals on the basis of preparedness, understanding of the text, emotional connection to the material, and commitment to the performance.

Clayton participated in the school district's [13 Reasons Why Not](#) video series, a campaign about hope and resiliency. Learn more about his story by watching his video, "[My Past Does Not Define Me.](#)"

Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre Company hosted the event, which chronicled the African American experience through the 20th century. Each play was set in a different decade. The purpose of the competition is to inspire students in grades 10, 11 or 12 to use theatre to express themselves. The event includes workshops for students to hone their acting and storytelling skills with theatre professionals offering feedback. The [August Wilson Monologue Competition](#) was founded in 2007 and is in 12 cities nationwide, to include Atlanta.

Perry High is located at 1307 North Avenue in Perry. Wesley "Del" Martin serves as principal. For more information, contact Joe Sendek, Clayton's drama teacher, at [Joseph.Sendek@hcbe.net](mailto:Joseph.Sendek@hcbe.net).

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