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NEWS RELEASE

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Houston County High STAR Student Wins Region



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Houston County High School senior Tien Tran was named the 2019 Region VI Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) Student from among students representing 19 school districts. The announcement was made March 18 during the STAR banquet held at Middle Georgia State College in Macon. Tran now competes for State STAR Student.

STAR Students select a teacher who has been most instrumental in his or her academic development. Tran selected Laura Byrd as his STAR Teacher. Pictured at the banquet are (from left): Houston County High Principal Dr. Doug Rizer, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mark Scott,



Byrd, Tran, his mother, Thuy Vy Ly Tran, Counselor Melissa Jones, Assistant Principal Alyson Keenom, and Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning,

Dr. Eric Payne.

Tran is also Houston County High's Valedictorian. He is a National Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar, earning 5s on eight AP Exams, as well as the highest average awards in Honors Advanced Algebra, Foundations of Engineering, Honors and AP Chemistry, AP Statistics and AP Computer Science Principles. Additionally, he has been awarded the University of Georgia Certificate of Merit and National Merit Commended Scholar as well as Houston County High and district STAR Student. Tien is a member of Beta Club, Interact Club, Math Team, Technology Student Association, Coding Club, FBLA and National Technical Honor Society, participating in activities such as volunteering at Lake Joy Elementary and creating a mobile app game for the Congressional App Challenge. Furthermore, Tien serves his community through a tutoring job at Kumon Math and Reading Center where he has worked since beginning 9th grade. While he has not decided on which college to attend, Tien plans to pursue a degree in Computer Science because of his passion in creating computer programs. Tien is the son of Vy Ly and Long Tran, and has three brothers: Tan, Van and Hieu.

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Laura Byrd, Tran's STAR Teacher, is an Advanced Placement and Honors chemistry teacher and also coaches the HCHS Swim team. She has been teaching in Houston County for 31 years. This is the tenth time she has been chosen as STAR Teacher and fifth time advancing to the state STAR competition.

The state winner will be announced April 29 in Atlanta. The state is divided into 12 regions for the STAR program. Region VI consists of the following 19 districts: Baldwin, Bibb, Bleckley, Crawford, Crisp, Dodge, Dooly, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Laurens, Macon, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Twiggs, Wilcox and Wilkinson.

Tran's and Byrd's banquet tickets were sponsored by the Perry Area and Robins Regional Chambers of Commerce. The STAR program was created to focus attention on Georgia's outstanding students and teachers. To obtain the nomination, high school seniors must have the highest score on a single test date on the SAT. Students must also be in the top 10 percent or top 10 students of their class based on grade point average. STAR students compete for system, region and state-level awards. The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Foundation, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Georgia Department of Education sponsor the STAR Program.

Houston County High School is located at 920 Highway 96 in Warner Robins. For more information about the STAR event, please call Darlene McLendon at the Perry Chamber of Commerce at 478-987-1234.

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