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## NEWS RELEASE

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## Houston County High Student Wins State Communication Contest



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA - Houston County High School senior Dhruvesh Patel won first place at the state Gateway Optimist International Club for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Communication Contest. As the first-place winner, Patel was awarded the "Signer" plaque and Gateway Optimist International Scholarship for \$2,500. He was also presented a certificate of participation and Gateway Optimist trophy by Ellen Strait the District Chairperson, as were the other competitors. Six school districts were represented.

The contest was held on April 28, 2018, in Rome, Ga. The topic was "Where are my Roots of Optimism?" Last year Patel competed with 19 other students and won second place for the state.

Brenda Curtis, deaf and hard of hearing itinerant teacher, said, "I am so proud of Dhruvesh! As expected, he did a great job representing our school and district." Dhruvesh is an enthusiastic and motivated speaker! He exhibits a positive outlook on education and has a great love for learning. He plans to attend NTID/RIT in the fall with a career pathway in computer engineering."

Patel is pictured with his teacher. Houston County High School is located at 920 Highway 96 in Warner Robins. Dr. Doug Rizer serves as principal. For more information, please call Curtis at 478-988-6340.

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