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Veterans High STAR Student Wins District, Advances to Region



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Veterans High School senior Andrew Scott Babbitt is the 2018 System Student Teacher Achievement Recognition (STAR) Student for Houston County. Andrew is one of approximately 1,900 seniors in the school system. His STAR Teacher is Jennifer Douglass.

Andrew was presented \$500 in cash awards during a program hosted by the Perry Area and Robins Regional Chambers of Commerce on Feb. 21. The recognition program was followed by a reception held at the Board of Education central office.

Andrew and Douglass (pictured) will attend the Region STAR banquet on Mar. 19 at 6:00 p.m. in Macon at Middle Georgia State College. The region winner will advance to the state event, held in Atlanta on April 23. The Professional Association of Georgia Educators (PAGE) Foundation sponsors, administers and promotes the STAR Program.

During the program, each STAR Student and Teacher was recognized. The STAR Students were presented \$100 and a certificate and their teachers were given an acrylic award and certificate.

Other 2018 STAR honorees from the Houston County School System are:

- Houston County High: Devin Hajjari and teacher Shirl Williams;
- Northside High: Harry A Patel and teacher Patricia Ogletree;
- Perry High: Ryan James Faulkner and teacher Thomas Dunbar;
- Veterans High: Andrew Scott Babbitt, and teacher Jennifer Douglass; and
- Warner Robins High: Laurence Alexander Leon and Mark Stevens.

Andrew is also the Veterans High Salutatorian. He is an Eagle Scout, National Merit semi-finalist, Advanced Placement Scholar with Distinction and University of Georgia Certificate of Merit recipient. A letterman in Cross Country, Andrew also played soccer. He is active in Beta Club, National Spanish Honor Society, Rho Kappa, Math Team, Debate Team and Academic Bowl. He earned highest average awards in Algebra, Honors Civics & US World Affairs, Spanish 1, Spanish 2, Spanish 3, Honors Chemistry, AP World History, Accelerated Geometry-Advanced Algebra, Accelerated Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, AP US History and AP Chemistry. Andrew is an accomplished musician on trumpet, having made District Honor Band for four years and Region Honor Band for two years. The 2018 Veterans High STAR Student, he has volunteered as a math tutor and soccer referee. He is considering Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Stanford, the Georgia Institute of Technology or the University of Georgia to continue his education by studying Economics or Politics. Andrew is the son of Scott and Heidi Babbitt.

Each STAR student selects a STAR teacher who has been the most influential in his or her academic success. Andrew's STAR Teacher, Jennifer Douglass, teaches Honors Chemistry and AP Chemistry at Veterans High. She has more than 15 year of classroom experience and strives to create an engaging and challenging learning environment for her students. She was on the 2017 American Association of Chemistry Teachers (AACT) AP Content Writing Team and recently had an article published in AACT's *Chemistry Solutions* on the use of modeling to increase student comprehension. She is the Veterans High Academic Team coach and a Beta Club Sponsor. Douglass has a Master of Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In June, she will receive her Specialist in Education from Piedmont University.

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.

Christopher Brown serves as the principal for Veterans High School. For more information about the STAR event, please call the Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce at 478-922-8585.



Pictured (from left) are: Robins Regional Chamber President & CEO April Bragg, Devin Hajjari and Shirl Williams; Harry Patel and Patricia Ogletree; Ryan Faulkner and Thomas Dunbar; Andrew Babbitt and Jennifer Douglass; Laurence Leon and Mark Stevens; The Westfield School's Madelaine Kinnebrew and Judy McLure; and Perry Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Darlene McLendon.

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