



NEWS RELEASE

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GCPS selects Media Clerk of the Year and winner of School Library Advocate Award

GCPS 2018 Media Clerk of the Year

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) named **Keely Lambert** from **Simonton Elementary School** as its **2018 Media Clerk of the Year**. The Media Clerk of the Year



award was developed to honor a media clerk, who through individual leadership and sustained effort, has made worthy contributions to the operations of effective school library programs.

Ms. Lambert was nominated for this honor by Kyle Flemish, the media specialist at Simonton ES. He credits her with having a “team player mindset, enthusiastic embrace of change, and an unwavering commitment to exceeding daily expectations.” Ms. Lambert helps every patron with an outstanding level of service and demonstrates an expectation of excellence in every task she completes. As the GCPS Media Clerk of the Year, she will be nominated for consideration for the **Library Journal’s Paralibrarian of the Year**. The award, sponsored by **DEMCO**, recognizes the essential role of paralibrarians in both school and public libraries.

2018 GCPS School Library Advocate Award

Paul Willis, principal at **Fort Daniel Elementary School** is the recipient of the **2018 GCPS School Library Advocate Award**. Sponsored by the district’s Department of Media Services & Technology Training, this award honors administrators outside the library profession who have made worthy contributions to the operations of effective library services in their school



L-R-- Mary Barbee (Director, Media Services & Technology Training), Beth Martinez (Media Services), Paul Willis (Principal, Fort Daniel ES), Stacey Willis (Mr. Willis’ wife), and Julie Richardson (Media Services)

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2010 and 2014 Winner of



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and to advancing the role of the school library in the educational program. Mr. Willis has supported many special events and celebrations related to encouraging reading for students. Some of these events include leading discussion groups for the Readers Rally team, motivating and encouraging participation in the summer Bookapalooza program, and awarding students who reach their reading goals on the morning news show.

He also has allocated funds to purchase mobile and flexible media center furniture to allow for innovative teaching and learning. The new furniture has helped transform the library into a collaborative learning space for students and staff. These purchases really show how a thriving media center contributes to his overall vision of an outstanding school.

As a recipient of the GCPS School Library Advocate Award, Mr. Willis will be nominated by the district for the **Distinguished School Administrators Award** sponsored by the **American Association of School Librarians (AASL)**.