



NEWS RELEASE

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Lewis of Meadowcreek High School named Gwinnett Media Specialist of the Year

Meadowcreek High School Media Specialist Cicely Lewis is Gwinnett County Public Schools' **2019 Library Media Specialist of the Year**. The award honors a K-12 library media specialist whose services have resulted in exemplary library media programs.

Jennifer Clark, a Local School Technology Coordinator, nominated Lewis for the award. Clark says Lewis is an inspirational figure for students. She adds, "Ms. Lewis' dedication and passion has ensured that the Meadowcreek media center is an undeniable hub of learning, collaboration, and support."

Lewis collaborates regularly across all curricular areas. She offers professional development to teachers and forms positive relationships with her students and staff through a variety of events, including a chili cook-off, Prom Book Fashion Show, and Phenomenal Fridays. Lewis empowers her Library Science students by training them to be research ambassadors in order to expand the reach of her media program. Her *Read Woke* program enlightens students and staff to the power of diversity in literature and challenges them to read books that create personal meaning, varied perspectives, and reflective dialogue. Lewis has a strong following on social media and believes that "real leaders inspire others to lead." She has used this platform to "connect with librarians all over the world" which she says has expanded her personal learning network.

Dr. Tommy Welch, the principal at Meadowcreek High, says Lewis has made a lasting impact at the school. Welch continues, "Ms. Lewis has truly created a literature-enriched culture at our school. Through her tireless actions, she inspires both adults and teens to develop a love of books."



L-R: Mary Barbee, GCPS media services director; Media Specialist of the Year Cicely Lewis; Dr. Tommy Welch, Meadowcreek HS principal, and Julie Richardson and Jan Wilson of GCPS Media Services.

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This award caps off a year of local and national recognition for Lewis. She was named a “Top 10 Educator” by *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and is the recipient of the Young Adult Library Services Association’s (YALSA) Margaret A. Edwards Award for Best Literature Program.

As the GCPS Media Specialist of the Year, Lewis’ nomination will be submitted for consideration by the GLMA (Georgia Library Media Association) district committee for the regional award which will be announced in May.