

NEWS RELEASE

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Gwinnett students earn top honors in national PTA competition

Three **Gwinnett County Public Schools** students have been recognized by the National PTA for their artistic talents. **Elisha L. Castillo** of **Duncan Creek Elementary School**, **Kameron Owens** of **North Gwinnett Middle School** and **Julian Bass** of **Brookwood High School** competed against students from around the country in the **2018 National PTA Reflections Contest**. Owens and Bass earned Awards of Excellence at the middle school and high school divisions, respectively, while Castillo earned a Merit Award in the Primary Division.

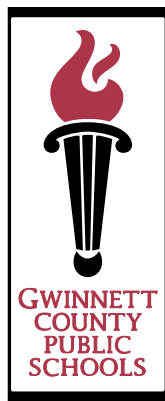
Contestants were asked to create an original work—in one of six categories: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts—using the theme “**Heroes Around Me.**” Judges looked for personal interpretations of the program theme that best exemplified creativity and technical skill.

Name	School	Category	Project
Elisha L. Castillo	Duncan Creek ES	Dance Choreography	<i>Your Dreams Are Within Reach If You Work Hard!</i>
Kameron Owens	North Gwinnett MS	Film Production Awards	<i>Hope Is Within Reach</i>
Julian Bass	Brookwood HS	Film Production Awards	<i>Take It</i>

As a Merit Award winner, Castillo received a Bronze Medal; a Certificate of Merit; and her work will be featured in a traveling exhibition. Both Owens and Bass received a \$200 Young Artist Scholarship as Award of Excellence winners. They also received a Silver Medal, a Certificate of Excellence; and their work will be featured in a traveling exhibition.

This is the second time that Bass has received a national honor through the Reflections Program. He received the Award of Excellence for his Film Production titled “Believe! You Can Get There!” as an eighth grade student at Five Forks Middle School.

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