



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 20, 2019

News Media Contact: Communication and Media Relations, 678-301-6020

Gwinnett student earns prestigious college scholarship

A Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology (GSMST) student's hard work in the classroom earned her a prestigious college scholarship. **Sandra Perez** has been named a **Horatio Alger National Scholarship** recipient. The scholarship is worth \$25,000. The GSMST senior says she is humbled by the award. "I was shocked but full of joy to discover that my potential and desire to further my education were recognized. Horatio Alger has opened up a door of possibilities for my family and I to have hope for the next four years. Hope for a continued support system and a way to reach my aspirations," Perez said.



Perez is one of only two Gwinnett County Public Schools students selected to receive the honor. **Hana Awad**, a **Meadowcreek High School** senior, also received the scholarship.

As one of the nation's largest college financial aid programs in the country, the Horatio Alger National Scholarship Program is one of the major scholarship programs nationally that specifically assists high school students who have faced and overcome great obstacles in their young lives. The scholarships are funded by Horatio Alger members who, like the scholars, have experienced challenges but ultimately overcame them to become successful business and civic leaders.

Mike Weiland, a GSMST Counselor, says Perez has a bright future ahead of her. He adds, "I have every confidence that Sandra will continue to be a leader in our communities through her enthusiasm and passion in helping others. I am excited for what the future holds for her and how she will continue to connect and unite others in addressing the most important issues facing our society as she prepares for her chosen profession," Weiland said.

-more-

GWINNETT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Dr. Mary Kay Murphy
2019 Chairman
District III

Louise Radloff
2019 Vice Chairman
District V

Carole C. Boyce
District I

Steven B. Knudsen
District II

Everton Blair, Jr.
District IV

J. Alvin Wilbanks
CEO/Superintendent

THE MISSION OF GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*is to pursue excellence
in academic knowledge,
skills, and behavior
for each student,
resulting in measured
improvement against
local, national, and
world-class standards.*

437 Old Peachtree Road, NW
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978
678-301-6000
www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us

It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools
not to discriminate on the basis of race, sex,
religion, national origin, age, or disability in any
employment practice, educational program,
or any other program, activity, or service.

2010 and 2014 Winner of



To be eligible to apply for the Horatio Alger National Scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be enrolled full-time as a high school senior in the United States; be progressing normally toward graduation in spring/summer of 2019 with plans to enter a college in the United States no later than the fall following graduation;
- Exhibit a strong commitment to pursue and complete a bachelor's degree at an accredited non-profit public or private institution in the United States (students may start their studies at a two-year institution and then transfer to a four-year institution);
- Demonstrate critical financial need (\$55,000 or lower adjusted gross family income is required);
- Be involved in co-curricular and community service activities;
- Display integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity;
- Maintain a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.0; and
- Be a United States citizen.