Celebrating Student Excellence in the Arts Across Gwinnett County

Gwinnett County continues to shine as a hub for student creativity and excellence, as demonstrated by the outstanding achievements of local high school artists in both regional and national competitions this year.

Grayson Technical High School students recently earned over 70 awards through the prestigious Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, with 11 students advancing as regional qualifiers and two students earning national recognition, an exceptional accomplishment that places them among the top young artists in the country. National award recipients Ryan Narain and Anthony Gibson will travel to Carnegie Hall in June to be honored on a national stage for their work.

Adding to this moment of pride, their instructor Christina Conners will also be recognized at Carnegie Hall as a recipient of a National Art Educator Award for Scholastics, highlighting not only student success but the strength of arts education within Gwinnett County.

Gwinnett students are also making their mark through career and technical excellence. Three students Lorenso Johnson, Anzlee Stone, and Bahto Kocan have advanced to compete at the national level in SkillsUSA, representing the county among the best in the nation.

Bahto Kocan has already distinguished himself this year, earning 2nd place overall in photography at the Atlanta High School Art Exhibition. His work was not only selected for display at the renowned Atlanta Dogwood Festival, but also successfully sold, an impressive milestone for a student artist. Additionally, Nico Ortiz earned 3rd place in the same exhibition, further demonstrating the depth of talent within Gwinnett's student community.

These achievements reflect more than individual talent, they represent the power of strong educational programs, dedicated instruction, and a community that values creativity, innovation, and student growth. Gwinnett County continues to lead by example in fostering opportunities where students can excel both artistically and professionally.

As these students prepare to take the national stage, they carry with them not only their personal accomplishments but the pride of an entire community.