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**For Immediate Release:**

## **Lee and McLemore to be Inducted into the 2021 Griffin-Spalding Educator Hall of Fame**

**Griffin, GA** – Patricia B. Lee and Dr. Michael McLemore will represent the ninth class of Griffin-Spalding Educator Hall of Fame inductees. The 2021 class will be inducted at a pre-game ceremony at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 20, 2021 at the Griffin High School vs. Spalding High School football game at Memorial Stadium.

In April, the Griffin-Spalding County School System (GSCS) sought nominations of exemplary educators who made outstanding and significant contributions to students, staff, parents and the community during their employment at GSCS. All nominees must have been employed at GSCS for a minimum of 10 years and retired for at least five years. All of this year's nominees were chosen to represent the Class of 2021 Educator Hall of Fame inductees.

Pat Lee served GSCS for 29 years. She was the heart and soul of the Griffin High School Speech Department. Her passion and high standards guided hundreds of students to find their voice through speech and drama, creating lifelong impact. She was selected as a STAR Teacher three times and won numerous state awards in speech, drama and debate. Pat met her students where they were, from shy to boisterous, and challenged them to reach new heights gaining skills that would last a lifetime. She spent countless hours coaching, directing, mentoring, transporting and encouraging her students in plays, debates and broadcasting. She wrote and directed numerous plays, partnered with WKEU radio to create Radio Day and started local chapters of the national Forensic League and the Thespian Society. She shaped and molded young people who took her instruction into adulthood and credit her with their success in varied fields. Her students have excelled in all levels of education, business, entertainment, medicine, legal, government, ministry and any profession imaginable. Up to the end of her life, she was still encouraging her students through her social media comments. Pat Lee was a treasured mentor and educator.

"One of the best qualities of Mrs. Lee was her ability to make you feel like you could be successful and achieve just about anything. It was like having your own personal cheerleader. She continued this cheerleading for many of us years after we left her classroom. It is not an exaggeration to say that hundreds of former students claim her as their favorite teacher," wrote a supporter.

Pat Lee's children, Laura Lee Patillo and Michael Lee, will accept the award in her honor.



### **BOARD MEMBERS**

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Dr. Mike McLemore served GSCS for 22 years. During this time, he served as an elementary, middle and high school principal. His primary concern and interest were always for the education of the student. Dr. McLemore got parents, teachers and the entire community involved in the educational process of each child. He recruited and nurtured many talented educators during his career. He set high standards for his schools and constantly sought ways to improve the school and the curriculum. He was always willing to listen to others and could resolve any conflict or difficult decisions that may arise with remarkable patience and understanding. He has a terrific sense of humor and is a masterful teacher, administrator and gifted educator. His work with the Kiwanis Club and Habitat for Humanity demonstrated his involvement and love for the community. Without a doubt, Dr. Mike McLemore has always given back far more than he ever took and has consistently worked to make Griffin-Spalding a better place to live, work and play.

“Michael McLemore has touched the lives of many students, teachers, parents and administrators in a positive way. Our school system and indeed, our community, is fortunate to have his influence as part of our history,” stated a supporter.

GSCS Superintendent Keith L. Simmons stated, “Both of these inductees have made outstanding and significant contributions to the students, staff and parents of Griffin-Spalding. Their dedication and service to the students of this community has made a lasting impression. I am proud to honor these exceptional educators and induct them into the Griffin-Spalding Educator Hall of Fame.”

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