



# Muscogee County School District

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## For Immediate Release

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## MEDIA RELEASE

### MCSDD Names REACH Georgia Scholarship Recipients

**(Columbus, GA)**-Eight middle school students are named in the first cohort of Muscogee County School District's (MCSDD) Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen (REACH) Georgia Scholars Program. Each of the scholars receive a \$10,000 academic scholarship to attend eligible colleges and universities in Georgia as they complete the program.

#### **REACH Georgia Scholar**

Brinique Wright

Alexsandra Casanova

Johnny Moore, Jr.

Akeamma Thomas

Katherine Waters

Adam Cobis-Ribeiro

Dillon Jack

Brianna Owens

#### **School/Region**

Baker Middle School

Eddy Middle School

Eddy Middle School

Eddy Middle School

Eddy Middle School

Richards Middle School

Richards Middle School

Rothschild Leadership Academy

Governor Nathan Deal launched the REACH Georgia program in 2012 as a needs-based mentorship and scholarship program that begins in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The Governor's wife, First Lady Sandra Deal, addressed the scholars Tuesday, September 20, 2016, during the signing ceremony at the Muscogee County Public Education Center. She encouraged the students to complete their education with the highest standards in mind.

"The program requires students to maintain a 2-point-5 grade point average, but go for a 4-point-0," said First Lady Sandra Deal.

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Dr. David F. Lewis, the MCSD Superintendent, Board members, educators, city, local and state leaders also welcomed the newly selected MCSD 8<sup>th</sup> grade Scholars to the program at the Muscogee County Public Education Center. The scholars and their parents signed contracts pledging to uphold the REACH Georgia program requirements.

“This is an excellent partnership and commitment with our schools, parents, and community in support of the *whole* child,” said Melvin F. Blackwell, Chief Student Services Officer. “We are proud of all of our REACH Georgia recipients and our mentors who will continue the wonderful work that has already begun to ensure our students have continuous support for success during the remainder of middle school, throughout high school and on into college.”

Each REACH Scholar is paired with a mentor and an academic coach through middle and high school to provide the needed support to graduate from high school, apply to college, achieve post-secondary success and be prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. In addition, the students must maintain good grades (2.5 GPA), good behavior and good attendance through middle school and high school. Scholars who successfully complete the program and graduate from high school are awarded the \$10,000 scholarship (\$2,500/year) that can be used at any HOPE-eligible institution in Georgia. Eligible Georgia colleges and universities can match or double match the scholarship, which is in addition to any other grant or scholarship the student may receive.

For more information, contact [communications@muscogee.k12.ga.us](mailto:communications@muscogee.k12.ga.us), access our [MCSD Facebook](#) page, or <http://reachga.org>.

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