

**Newton County Teacher is Honored**  
**With the Georgia Association of Gifted Children (GAGC)**  
**Award of Excellence**

Kristina Collins, the ALANHS Program Coordinator and Newton HS Math teacher of Newton School System was recently selected as the 2011 recipient of the GAGC Mary Frazier Equity & Excellence Award. The award is presented to an organization or individual who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in practices that promote equitable identification procedures and/or provision of high-quality services to gifted students from underrepresented groups (economically disadvantaged, minority, or disabled, or those who are limited English proficient).



Mrs. Collins was nominated by her former professor, Dr. Tarek Grantham of University of Georgia where she studied to receive a certification in educational leadership and an Ed.S. degree in Educational Psychology, concentrating in gifted and creative education. She received high reviews and letters of support for her accomplishments in applied research in gifted education; her leadership impact and creative style of teaching; and her developmental work for the programs of the Academy of Liberal Arts @ Newton High School (ALANHS).

The Mary Frazier Award which also receives national recognition honors Mary Frasier, Ph.D., the late (1938-2005) past president of the National Association of Gifted Children, who led the way in identifying underserved gifted children. Dr. Frasier's pioneering work in Georgia increased by three-fold the number of African American and quadrupled the number of Hispanic children in gifted/talented programs. She later consulted across the U.S. and became legendary in the field of gifted on the topic of underserved children. Mrs. Collins is only the third recipient of the award; the first honoree (2008) was Collins' former graduate advisor and author, Dr. Thomas Hebert, of UGA.

When asked about this prestigious honor, she quickly commented, "I am really honored and humbled. While the honor is mine, the recognized work and efforts are definitely a collaboration amongst colleagues, administration, mentors, community partners, and parents!"

Visit [www.gagc.org](http://www.gagc.org) to learn more about the state vision and goals for gifted education in Georgia and [www.newtoncountyschools.org/newtonhigh](http://www.newtoncountyschools.org/newtonhigh) to learn more about ALANHS and its programs designed for gifted and highly talented students.