

SCCPSS Names Savannah Arts Academy Teacher as the District's 2010 Teacher of the Year



(Savannah, GA)—Daniel Peter Snope, a math teacher at Savannah Arts Academy, was named Savannah-Chatham County Public School Systems' 2010 Teacher of the Year at the annual *Teacher of the Year Gala* held at the Westin Savannah Harbor Hotel.

Snope has been a teacher at Savannah Arts since July 2004. He began his teaching career in 2001 in Savannah at Mercer Middle School as a new teacher entering the profession as a second career. As a helicopter pilot with the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) at Hunter Army Airfield considering retirement from the military, he was encouraged by a Troops-to-Teachers administrator to consider the education profession. Having earned his Bachelor of Science in Professional Aeronautics from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, he continued his education to meet his goal of becoming a teacher and was awarded a Master of Middle Grades Education in Math and Science from Armstrong

Atlantic State University.

In his GA Teacher of the Year application, Snope states that he believes that one of the things that make him “an outstanding teacher” is his 22 years in the military. His own experiences from fixing and crewing helicopters on search and rescue missions, as well as flying medevac and special operations missions, have provided the foundation for how he teaches his students.

Snope believes that “a teacher’s duty is to give back to his/her profession and to share knowledge and best practices.” He demonstrates his commitment to be professionally involved with his colleagues by providing in-service workshops to colleagues and by presenting at regional NCTM conferences, the Georgia Mathematics Conference, and at Regional Teachers Teaching with Technology conferences, and as a participating member of the Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics (PRISM) and the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Education Institute. He has been instrumental in developing a District AP Calculus Learning Community which meets on a monthly basis after school to share best practices and improve the quality of instruction among all of the AP Calculus teachers in the District. His involvement with his students outside of the classroom is demonstrated in his

serving as an Odyssey of the Mind coach and math coach at Savannah Arts, as well as an Assistant Quiz Bowl Team Coach while at Mercer Middle School.

In addition to teaching at Savannah Arts Academy, Snope supports community initiatives such as Boy Scouts, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, the Inner City Night Shelter, and Invisible Children, a non-profit organization. He confirms that his participation in service-based community activities enhances his teaching skills in the classroom because of his belief in leadership by example.

Snope lives what he states in his Georgia Teacher of the Year application. “We owe it to all our students to give 100% to the job and treat the education of every child as if it’s in a life-or-death situation...We have a chance to affect both positive and negative change in any given student’s life, and who’s to tell what the future repercussions might be?”

As the district Teacher of the Year, Snope will serve as an educational ambassador for the school system and act as a representative for all SCCPSS teachers. In addition to the prestigious honor, Snope will also conduct staff development activities, serve on district-wide committees and participate in various conferences and lead the Superintendent’s Professional Senate.

The Georgia Department of Education will select the State Teacher of the Year from all public school districts in Georgia. The ten state finalists will be announced later this month. The Georgia Teacher of the Year will be recognized at the state banquet in May.