

47TH ANNUAL

United Way of Central Georgia



Tuesday, May 7th, 2024

The Grand Opera House

Macon, Georgia

presented by





UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL GEORGIA

# 2024 Golden Eagle Awards

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



The Golden Eagle Awards, conceived by The Telegraph in 1978 to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Central Georgia's high school seniors, entered a new era of stewardship in 2019 when the ownership transitioned to United Way of Central Georgia. As we gather for the 5th ceremony under our care, marking the 47th year of this esteemed program, we are deeply honored to uphold its legacy and significance in our community.

Our heartfelt appreciation extends to several key individuals and groups whose unwavering support has been pivotal in ensuring the success of the Golden Eagle Awards.

Firstly, to our esteemed panel of judges, we extend our gratitude for your meticulous review of each submission and the invaluable feedback provided to our nominees. Your expertise has been instrumental in identifying and honoring the best and brightest among our youth.

To the coordinators for each high school, we offer our sincere thanks for your diligent efforts in facilitating the nomination process. Your meticulous attention to detail and adeptness in managing multiple tasks have been indispensable in ensuring a seamless experience for all involved.

We are immensely grateful to MetroPower, our Presenting Sponsor, whose generous support has not only empowered us to recognize deserving students but has also enhanced the value of the scholarships awarded tonight.

A special acknowledgment goes to President Bill Underwood and Mercer University for graciously hosting our ceremony at The Grand Opera House, providing a splendid venue that adds to the grandeur of this occasion. We also extend our appreciation to The Telegraph for their continued partnership as our Supporting Sponsor and to Beverly Knight Olson for sponsoring the Scholarship Cords & Tassels. Our gratitude further extends to our returning Category Sponsors: Cadence Bank, Robins Financial Credit Union, Macon Black Pages, Macon Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Jeff Smith Automotive, and American Legion Post 76. Joining our Category Sponsors this year are the Community Foundation of Central Georgia, Parrish Construction Group, and Premier Staffing Unlimited. And our new Live Event Performance Sponsor, Middle Georgia State University.

To the dedicated staff of United Way of Central Georgia, I offer my heartfelt thanks for your tireless dedication and hard work behind the scenes, ensuring the seamless execution of the Golden Eagle Awards.

In closing, I extend my deepest gratitude to all who have contributed to making the Golden Eagle Awards a resounding success. Your unwavering support and commitment have made this event truly memorable, and we eagerly anticipate your continued partnership in the years to come.

**George McCanless**  
President and CEO  
United Way of Central Georgia



# ORDER OF EVENTS

## Overture

**Jazz Ensemble,  
First Presbyterian Day School**

Jonathan Baker, Director

## Opening Remarks

**George McCanless**

President and CEO, United Way of Central Georgia

## Host Sponsor Remarks

**William Underwood**

President, Mercer University

## Presenting Sponsor Remarks

**Danny Gibson**

MetroPower

## Presentation of Sylvia W. McGee Excellence in Education Award

**Sylvia McGee**

Education Program Advisor & Strategy, United Way of  
Central Georgia

## Presentation of Golden Eagle Awards Category Sponsors

## Closing Remarks





***A huge thank you to the  
2024 School Coordinators!***

Academy for Classical Education  
**Carra Floyd**

Baldwin High School  
**Jessica Thompson**

Bleckley County High School  
**Angie Knighton**

Central High School  
**Katie Beck**

First Presbyterian Day School  
**Brad Thompson**

Houston County High School  
**Donna Green**

Howard High School  
**Wakaitha Mosley**

Jones County High School  
**Kimberly Pittman**

Mary Persons High School  
**Teresa Roller**

Mount de Sales Academy  
**Kari Alderman**

Northeast High School  
**Cathy Denson and Cathy Dothard**

Northside High School  
**Adrina Corey**

Peach County High School  
**Lara Norris and Jamie Jenkins**

Perry High School  
**Kayren Cannon**

Rutland High School  
**Alysia Bluford**

Southwest High School  
**Don Andrews**

Stratford Academy  
**Jackie Guy**

Tattnall Square Academy  
**Laura Clara Thompson**

The Westfield School  
**Cynthia Morton**

Veterans High School  
**Megan Jones**

Warner Robins High School  
**Karen Strong**

Westside High School  
**Ana Hernandez**



# *Golden Eagle*

## Scholarship Cords & Tassels

United Way of Central Georgia is pleased to present a commemorative 2024 Golden Eagle Scholarship Cord to each of our outstanding nominees this year.

Throughout history, cords and tassels have been a marker of honor and distinction with royalty, military, and even architecture.

The ornamental cord is an item made up of silk yarns braided together and ending with a tassel that ties the yarns of the cord's loose ends together. Cords with tassels have been in use dating back to the 14th century to represent levels of learning and are similar to the type of Academic Regalia that is still in use in modern times.

Today, one of the most common uses of the braided cord & tassel is in a commencement ceremony and saved as a commemorative keepsake. This distinction of honor has become one of the most desired pieces of graduation attire. An honor cord & tassel most often represents membership of a smaller group within a class to differentiate the accomplished graduate in other areas of academic life known as honor societies in various areas of study and group affiliations. Different clubs, scholarships, and organizations use cords to distinguish their members.

Honor cords also vary in color and meaning.  
The Golden Eagle colors are gold and navy blue.  
The color gold represents achievement, quality, honor, and knowledge and the color navy blue stands for success, confidence, purpose, and integrity.  
*Congratulations to all of our 2024 Golden Eagle nominees!*

Golden Eagle Scholarship Cords & Tassels  
sponsored by

*Beverly Knight Olson*





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**Congratulations to all  
of the  
2024 Golden Eagle  
Nominees & Winners**



**Congratulations to the  
Sylvia W. McGee  
Excellence in Education Award Recipient  
and the Golden Eagle Nominees!**



**Sylvia McGee | CFCG Board Member**





# Sylvia W. McGee Excellence in Education Award

In 2021, The Teacher Excellence Award was expanded to include both teachers and student support services staff (counselors, social workers, and psychologists). It is now recognized as the Sylvia W. McGee Excellence in Education Award.

## Presenter

**Sylvia W. McGee**

*Retired Deputy Superintendent, Bibb County School District*

*Retired Program Director, AARP Experience Corps Central Georgia (2016-2020)*

*Education Program Advisor & Strategy (2021-current)*

*United Way of Central Georgia*

## Nominees

**Megan Jones**

*Veterans High School*

**Robin Leonard**

*The Westfield School*

**Dr. Kayla Morales**

*Stratford Academy*

**Carolyn Stuart**

*Tattnall Square Academy*

**Heather Van Atta**

*Central High School*

## Judges

**Dr. Mack Bullard**

*Superintendent*

*Twiggs County School District*

**Dr. Loleta D. Sartin**

*Associate Dean for Academic Affairs*

*and Strategic Engagemnet, Tift*

*College of Education, Mercer*

*University*

**Dr. Erin M. Weaver**

*Retired Principal*

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Community Foundation of Central GA**

# Citizenship- Dr. Chris Allers Memorial

## Presenter

**Dee Dee Côté**

*Senior VP & Chief Administrative Officer  
Robins Financial Credit Union*

## Nominees

**Camryn Bass**

*Rutland High School*

**Ella Dowd**

*Perry High School*

**Sarah Fyke**

*Tattnall Square Academy*

**Lillian Harper**

*Howard High School*

**Alexa Hernandez**

*Northside High School*

**Zachariah Hickey**

*Veterans High School*

**Marli Jones**

*Bleckley County High School*

**Maya Jones**

*Central High School*

**Taryn Long**

*Warner Robins High School*

**Isabella Marshall**

*First Presbyterian Day School*

**Aspen Mitchell**

*Houston County High School*

**Barrett Moody**

*Academy for Classical Education*

**Shahi Patel**

*The Westfield School*

**Emma Phelan**

*Mary Persons High School*

**Silas Risper**

*Westside High School*

**Giovanna Sanchez**

*Peach County School*

**William Woodford**

*Mount de Sales Academy*

**Sara Yarahmadi**

*Stratford Academy*

## Judges

**Shionna Drummer**

*Personalized Learning Director  
Twiggs County Public Schools*

**Marie Becham**

*Regional Administrator  
Better Business Bureau*

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Robins Financial Credit Union**



# Congratulations to the 2024 Golden Eagle Winners!



The MyMoney MyWay® product line, geared specifically for young adults ages 16-26, are designed to help young people develop good financial habits. We offer both checking and savings account options in addition to first-time loan options to help you establish credit.

Visit our website, or make an appointment to visit one of our branch locations to open your account with Robins Financial Credit Union.

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- MyMoney MyWay® Visa® Credit Card\*
- Zogo Financial Education Tools



Federally insured by NCUA. MyMoney MyWay® accounts are for those ages 16-26. \*Must be 18 years old to apply for credit card and first time auto loan. Subject to credit approval. Terms and conditions apply.



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# Mathematics

## Presenter

**Bruce Leicht**

*Middle Georgia Regional President  
Cadence Bank*

## Nominees

**James Cairney**

*Bleckley County High School*

**Ja'Miya Chappell**

*Central High School*

**Elyas Childes**

*Peach County High School*

**Sean Fisher**

*The Westfield School*

**Gabriel Howard**

*Mount de Sales Academy*

**Clayton Johnson**

*Academy for Classical Education*

**Faith Layton**

*First Presbyterian Day School*

**Noah McCallum**

*Tattnall Square Academy*

**Zoriyah Menefee**

*Veterans High School*

**Abigail Milby**

*Perry High School*

**Sahaj Patel**

*Northside High School*

**Seeya Patel**

*Westside High School*

**Shiva Soundappan**

*Houston County High School*

**Vangel Tane**

*Mary Persons High School*

**Suhani Viradia**

*Stratford Academy*

**Tykeria West**

*Rutland High School*

## Judges

**Chunxian Chen, Ph.D.**

*Research Horticulturist  
USDA, ARS, Southeastern Fruit and  
Tree Nut Research Laboratory*

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Cadence Bank**

# Journalism, Marketing, and Communications

## Presenter

**Mary Kryk**

*Premiere Staffing Unlimited*

## Nominees

**Richie Chen**

*Howard High School*

**Ansley Clark**

*Perry High School*

**Ava Hollis**

*Houston County High School*

**Ella Magda**

*Mary Persons High School*

**Jenna Nelson**

*Veterans High School*

**Abigail Perkel**

*Stratford Academy*

**Maxwell Redmond**

*Tattnall Square Academy*

**Nyah Jae Sardoma**

*Tattnall Square Academy*

**Josie Taylor**

*Jones County High School*

**Jackson Tyler**

*Warner Robins High School*

**Victoria Ubelhor**

*Mount de Sales Academy*

**Emily Wilson**

*Rutland High School*

**Neveah Wilson**

*Peach County High School*

**Jocelyn Young**

*Central High School*

## Judges

**Josephine Bennett**

*Director of News and Partnerships*

*GPB Media*

**Micah Johnson**

*Sports Editor*

*Georgia Trust for Local News*

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# Congratulations to the 2024 Golden Eagle Nominees and Winners



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# Science

## Presenter

**Sara Murph**

*Chief Financial Officer  
Parrish Constrution Group*

## Nominees

**Kennedi Blash**

*Central High School*

**Jaabili Gosukonda**

*Houston County High School*

**Jayme Heath**

*Northeast High School*

**India Hughes**

*Northside High School*

**Fraser Knapek**

*Perry High School*

**Dakota McElhaney**

*Tattnall Square Academy*

**Christian Narsing**

*Warner Robins High School*

**Savannah Osborne**

*Rutland High School*

**Weston Rankine**

*The Westfield School*

**Hope Spohn**

*Academy for Classical Education*

**Patrick Thompson**

*First Presbyterian Day School*

**Jon Van Nostrand**

*Veterans High School*

**Sarah Wood**

*Mount de Sales Academy*

## Judge

**Garland Crawford, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor of Chemistry  
Mercer University*

**Jimmie H. Smith, Jr, MD, MPH**

*Administrator, Macon-Bibb County  
Health Department*

**Sponsored by  
Parrish Construction Group**

# English Literature

## Presenter

**Dr. Tom Scott**

*Mercer University*

## Nominees

**Ranya Ajjan**

*Stratford Academy*

**MaKayla Andrews**

*Central High School*

**Alexander Bakken**

*Baldwin High School*

**Jena Branch**

*Northside High School*

**Lily Cunningham**

*Peach County High School*

**Natalie Ewig**

*Warner Robins High School*

**Noah Fitzgerald**

*Houston County High School*

**Anna Gardner**

*First Presbyterian Day School*

**Cadence Harden**

*Tattnall Square Academy*

**Brian Howell**

*Veterans High School*

**Noel Laster**

*Rutland High School*

**Rachel Martin**

*Academy for Classical Education*

**Eric McCarthy**

*Perry High School*

**Madaline McCoy**

*Mary Persons High School*

**Danielle McIntyre**

*Mount de Sales Academy*

**Aubrey Walton**

*The Westfield School*

## Judges

**Berlethia J. Pitts, Ph.D.**

*Professor of English, Advisor, Liberal  
Studies Major,  
Fort Valley State University*

**Chip Rogers, Ph.D**

*Professor, English Department  
Middle Georgia State University*

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A close-up of a hand holding a black graduation cap (mortarboard) with a tassel hanging from it. The hand is wearing a white shirt cuff and a dark suit sleeve.

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# Technology

## Presenter

**Shane Robello**

*MetroPower*

## Nominees

**Charles Golden**

*Perry High School*

**Andrea Leavengood**

*Houston County High School*

**Khristian McComb**

*Peach County High School*

**Aubrey Milford**

*Veterans High School*

**Sean Rodgers**

*Mary Persons High School*

**Cooper Rohrbeck**

*First Presbyterian Day School*

**Lawson Sappe**

*Tattnall Square Academy*

**Thomas Schwartz**

*Mount de Sales Academy*

**Journee Sturup**

*Central High School*

**Kaleb West**

*Rutland High School*

## Judges

**Sherri Ireson**

*Learning and Development Specialist,  
Field Operations, PPC Partners, Inc.*

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MetroPower**

# World Languages

## Presenter

**Jeremy Chisenhall**

*The Telegraph*

## Nominees

**Landon Diaz**

*Howard High School*

**Willeysi Feliz**

*Perry High School*

**Palmira Garay-Moreno**

*Warner Robins High School*

**Pranya Kadiyala**

*Stratford Academy*

**Makenna Kitchens**

*Tattnall Square Academy*

**Marissa Lee**

*Peach County High School*

**Elizabeth Nava**

*Central High School*

**Bhakti Patel**

*Rutland High School*

**Maysalee Saulsberry**

*Baldwin High School*

**Yasemin Sims**

*Houston County High School*

**Fernando Torres**

*Northside High School*

**Clara Trice**

*The Westfield School*

## Judges

**Maritza Bell-Corrales, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Spanish*

*Middle Georgia State University*

**Alain-Richard Sappi, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor of Modern*

*Languages (Spanish/French)*

*Wesleyan College*

**Yunsuk Chae, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Spanish*

*Middle Georgia State University*

**Sabrina Wengier, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor of French &*

*Coordinator of Modern Languages*

*Middle Georgia State University*

**Mayvet Ranson**

*French and Spanish Teacher*

**Sponsored by  
The Telegraph**





***Congratulations***  
to all of our Golden Eagle  
nominees, runners-up  
and winners



United Way of Central Georgia



Real Magic

*Congrats  
to the  
Golden Eagle  
Nominees*

# Art

## Presenter

**Eddie Cummins**

*Macon Coca-Cola Bottling Company*

## Nominees

**Lee Alleyne**

*Veterans High School*

**McKenzie Bass-Gainey**

*Mary Persons High School*

**Jared Callis**

*Northside High School*

**Kaelah Clark**

*Westside High School*

**Jada Fennell**

*Warner Robins High School*

**Erica Graham**

*The Westfield School*

**Irene Lee**

*Houston County High School*

**Henry McClure**

*First Presbyterian Day School*

**Miriam Mixon**

*Tattnall Square Academy*

**Joanna Penaloza**

*Rutland High School*

**Felicia Pergande**

*Perry High School*

**Ella Reaves**

*Stratford Academy*

**Rashell Reyes**

*Central High School*

**Jaquavion Watkins**

*Peach County High School*

## Judges

**Bethany Buck**

Research Quality Technical  
Analyst

**Beth Smith**

Fine Artist/ Founder and  
Classical Art Instructor at  
Bsmithbrushworks Studios

Sponsored by  
**Macon Coca-Cola Bottling Company**



# Career, Technical, & Agricultural (CTAE)

## Presenter

**Philistia Glenn**

*MetroPower*

## Nominees

**Ethan Bertram**

*Mary Persons High School*

**Ciara Bond**

*Northeast High School*

**Sanniy Clowers**

*Southwest High School*

**Zakayla Greene**

*Baldwin High School*

**Alexandra Hardy**

*The Westfield School*

**Michael Horton**

*Westside High School*

**Deborah Jacklin**

*Houston County High School*

**Evan McGalliard**

*Jones County High School*

**James McNeal**

*Perry High School*

**Riley Mitchell**

*Northside High School*

**Jaden Nathan**

*Howard High School*

**Ethan Parks**

*Bleckley County High School*

**Imanol Pizana-Hernandez**

*Rutland High School*

**Rachel Schoonover**

*Veterans High School*

**Hannah Shields**

*Peach County High School*

## Judges

**Gregory Glover**

*Macon Bibb County Family  
Connection Community Partnership  
Board of Directors*

**Tatrabian Jackson, D.B.A.**

*Director of Milledgeville Campus &  
Monroe Center, Satellite Operations  
Division, Central Georgia Technical  
College*

**Don Layne, Col.  
(USAF, Retired)**

*Chief Operating Officer,  
Georgia VECTR Center*

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# Music

## Presenter

**Dr. Gary Gerber**

*Dean of Townsend School of Music  
Mercer University*

## Nominees

**Ka’Von Anderson**

*Warner Robins High School*

**Jacob Bennett**

*Baldwin High School*

**Kalisa Bluford**

*Rutland High School*

**Jonah Bridgeman**

*Tattnall Square Academy*

**Cameron Cleveland**

*Westside High School*

**Sydney Hice**

*First Presbyterian Day School*

**Xavier Higginbotham**

*Northside High School*

**Madelyne Land**

*Bleckley County High School*

**William Little**

*Mary Persons High School*

**Walter Moody**

*Academy for Classical Education*

**Chris Moore, III**

*Mount de Sales Academy*

**Samuel Neary**

*Veterans High School*

**Braulio Ortiz**

*Peach County High School*

**Owen Pope**

*Perry High School*

**Ella Smith**

*Central High School*

## Judges

**Andrew J. Allen, DMA**

*Associate Professor of Music,  
Coordinator of the BA in Music,  
Coordinator of Winds & Percussion,  
Georgia College & State University*

**Susan Mincey**

*Musician, Singer, and Teacher  
Mincey's Musicians*

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Mercer University**

# Drama

## Presenter

**Frank Wood**

*Executive Director  
The Grand Opera House*

## Nominees

**Gianna Castro**

*Houston High School*

**Daylen Clowers**

*Northside High School*

**Lauren Coley**

*Bleckley County High School*

**Jayden Conger**

*Warner Robins High School*

**Hollis Correa**

*First Presbyterian Day School*

**Isabella De La Sierra**

*Academy for Classical Education*

**Elena Ferrer**

*Mount de Sales Academy*

**Kayleigh House**

*Peach County High School*

**Trevor Hudson**

*Central High School*

**Jana Reynolds**

*Rutland High School*

**Katelyn Spires**

*Jones County High School*

**Lore Thomas**

*Veterans High School*

**Britten Wood**

*Perry High School*

**Zoe Yarber**

*Mary Persons High School*

**Robinson York**

*Baldwin High School*

## Judges

**Suzanne Doonan**

*Teacher, Actor, Writer*

**JP Haynie**

*Producing Director and Theatre  
Manager, Macon Little Theatre*

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**The Grand Opera House**



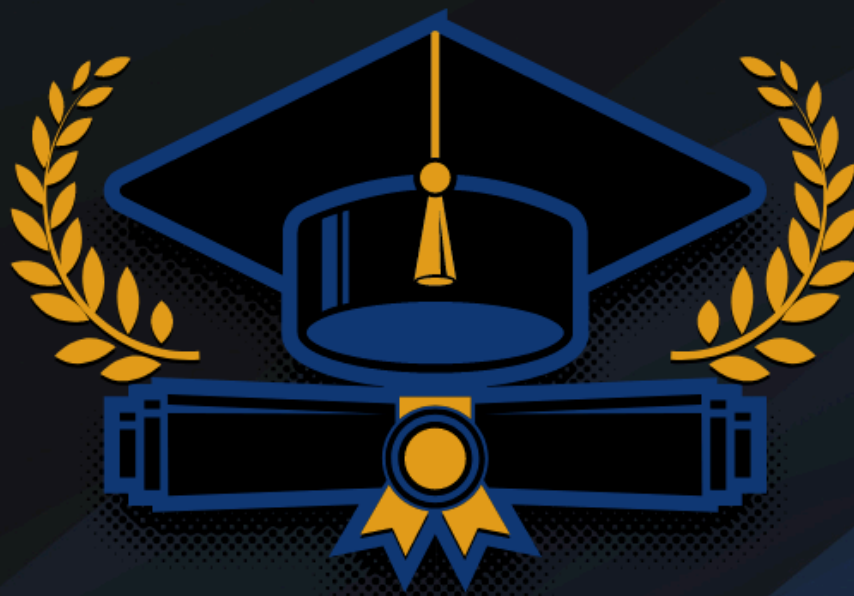


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## Congratulations to the **Class of 2024**



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# Social Science

## Presenter

**Dr. Joshua William Murfree**

*Macon- Middle Georgia Black Pages*

## Nominees

**Carter Atkinson**

*Howard High School*

**Gordon Bock**

*Perry High School*

**Elizabeth Branchfield**

*Peach County High School*

**Calvin Clark**

*Northside High School*

**Hudson French**

*First Presbyterian Day School*

**Fisher Hopkins**

*Rutland High School*

**Matty Hulbert**

*The Westfield School*

**Amelia Jones**

*Academy for Classical Education*

**Griffin Moore**

*Stratford Academy*

**Nicholas Myrell**

*Warner Robins High School*

**Grayson Peters**

*Houston County High School*

**Brynn Scott**

*Tattnall Square Academy*

**Ananya Shah**

*Veterans High School*

## Judges

**Charlotte Miller, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor of History*

*Middle Georgia State University*

**Chanel Rhodes**

*RTI International Data Collection*

*Analyst, U.S. Department of Health and  
Human Services*

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**Macon-Middle Georgia Black Pages**



# Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)

## Presenter

**Robert Griggers**

*American Legion Post 76  
Fort Valley, GA*

## Nominees

**Kaylee Anderson**

*Houston County High School*

**Tristyn Casey**

*Warner Robins High School*

**Isaiah Denis**

*Jones County High School*

**Tomi Emerson**

*Northside High School*

**Marco Gomez-Baquedano**

*Perry High School*

**Jose Guzman Marin**

*Westside High School*

**JaMyiah Harris**

*Central High School*

**Deja Lewis**

*Rutland High School*

**Kadmiel Mensah**

*Northeast High School*

**William Powell**

*Mary Persons High School*

**Mackenzie Riordan**

*Veterans High School*

**William Wimberly**

*Southwest High School*

**Mitchell Zhang**

*Howard High School*

## Judges

**Luis Barragan, MSgt**

*MSgt, GA ANG of the 116th Force  
Health Management, 116th  
MDG/DET1-4N*

**Cheryl McNeil-Jordan**

*Program Coordinator  
Military Science Department  
Fort Valley State University*

**Elliott Wilkins, MSgt**

*MSgt, GA ANG of the 116th Medical  
Group, Bioenvironmental  
Engineering, Public Health,  
Robins Air Force Base, Georgia*

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# AMERICAN LEGION

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***Congratulations Golden Eagle  
Nominees and Winners***



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**AUTOMOTIVE**



***Congratulations  
to all of the  
GEA Nominees  
of  
2024!***



# Athletics

## Presenter

**Carl Tims**

*Chief Operating Officer  
United Way of Central Georgia*

## Nominees

**Ian Boutwell**

*Peach County High School*

**Trontavious Brown**

*Perry High School*

**James Davidson**

*Tattnall Square Academy*

**Tayelor Davis**

*Central High School*

**Grayson Dehem**

*The Westfield School*

**Karlie Dell**

*Mary Persons High School*

**Ally Fleming**

*Houston County High School*

**Maurissa Fudge**

*Westside High School*

**Jason Maxwell**

*Veterans High School*

**Bricen Smith**

*Mount de Sales Academy*

**James Smith**

*Stratford Academy*

**Sanaaya Thompson**

*Rutland High School*

**Faith Wasden**

*First Presbyterian Day School*

## Judges

**Carrie Ingoldsby**

*Vice President and Dean of  
Students, Wesleyan College*

**Bobby Walker**

*County Tennis Manager  
Macon-Bibb County*

**Sponsored by  
Jeff Smith Automotive**





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to watching  
you soar!**



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