



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Three GCCISD students place in American Legion Speech contest

GCCISD, in conjunction with the local American Legion Post, sponsored the first local American Legion Speech contest Saturday, November 16. Three students from GCCISD competed on Saturday for a \$250.00 scholarship and the opportunity to move on to Regional competition in January. Matthew Broussard, a student at Impact Early College High School, won first place. Christian Gonzalez from Goose Creek Memorial won second place, and Autumn Anthony from Sterling High School won third place. The contestants were required to prepare an 8-to-10 minute speech on the Constitution, and in addition, they gave a 5-minute impromptu speech on either the 1st, 4th, 13th, or 21st amendment.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former presidential candidate Alan Keyes and CNN anchor Lou Dobbs.

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$138,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets an \$18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$16,000, and third wins \$14,000.



Winners of the recent American Legion Speech Contest are (l to r) Autumn Anthony from Ross S. Sterling High School, third place; Matthew Broussard from IMPACT Early College High School, first place and Christian Gonzalez from Goose Creek Memorial High School, second place.

Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$1,500 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

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