



GCREA Newsline

April 2020

Volume 7 Issue 4.5

GWINNETT COUNTY RETIRED EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION GCREA.org

**2020
NEXT
GCREA
MEETING**

TBA

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President-elect:
Penny Clavijo
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Fellowship
Support
Service

SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP EDITION

The scholarship committees are pleased to announce the 2020 recipients of GCREA scholarships.

Gwinnett County Teacher Recipients

Anna Herdliska

Jennifer Clark

Gwinnett County High School Recipients

Caroline Leonard

Madison Brown

Georgia Gwinnett College Recipients

Amber Hart

Sonja Jorgensen

Teacher Recipients

Jennifer Clark



Anna Hedliska



Jennifer Clark is at Duncan Creek Elementary School. She is the Math Specialist/Math Enrichment/STEM Teacher, K-5th grades. She has taught for 16 years and is currently working toward her Doctorate of Education at Brenau University. Her husband works at Osborne Middle School. They have four children ages 12-17.

Jennifer is a product of Gwinnett Schools having attended Bethesda Elementary, Sweetwater Middle, and Berkmar H. S.

She has acquired a Gifted Endorsement, Math Endorsement, and Teacher Support Specialist and certified as a Google Educator. Peers nominated her for Teacher of the Year and National Presidential Award for Math Teachers.

Her current interest in research involves teaching growth mindset to improve student achievement and decrease student anxiety in math.

For the past five years she has co-coached a FIRST Lego League Robotics Team. Her team has traveled to three separate world events. In November of 2019 she applied for and received a \$1200 Grant to purchase mini-Spheros (robotics) to use in her STEM class.

Upon being notified that she would receive one of the scholarships, Jennifer said she was SOOO overjoyed with the news. She would like to thank us SO much for considering her application and allowing her to be a recipient. Jennifer said that she greatly appreciates everything we do for teachers. She said, "Thank you, thank you."

[Anna Michelle Herdliska](#) teaches 8th grade Biology and 6th grade Science Enrichment at Twin Rivers Middle School. She has taught six years. She has been accepted into the graduate program at the University of Georgia and will be pursuing her Masters and EdD in Science Education.

One of her successes has been the implementation of hands on inquiry-based labs. This is her primary research interest. Included in her application was an article from the *Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education* of which she was one of the authors. The article was “Measuring and Advancing Experimental Design Ability in an Introductory Course without Altering Existing Lab Curriculum.”

Anna is glad to see science classrooms moving away from mostly lecture and cookbook style labs to a more inquiry-based learning which allows students to develop critical thinking skills and independence. She hopes to instill a love and passion for science for each of her students.

Anna has received two Bright Ideas Grants from Jackson EMC. One in 2018 for *Shaking Up Earth Science* and one in 2019 for *Visualizing DNA*. She has been a presenter at several conferences. For the past two years she has been the Twin Rivers Basketball Honoree Teacher. She is a member of the Principal’s Advisory Council at her school this year. In 2016 she was Outstanding International Teacher (Colegio Decoly Americano).

When notified that she was selected as a scholarship recipient Anna replied, “Thank you so much! I am very grateful to receive this scholarship! It will help me so much in the pursuit of my degree.

High School Recipients

Madison Brown

Grayson HS



Caroline Leonard

Mill Creek HS



Thank you so much for selecting me for the Gwinnett County Retired Educators scholarship. This scholarship will help me further my education at Georgia College. I am excited to start my college experience working towards becoming an educator. I have enjoyed my time working in the elementary schools and gaining valuable experience and insight on what it's like being an educator. I have a heart and passion for teaching and children. I've been fortunate to serve on mission teams with my church at orphanages in Brazil. Perhaps my education and passion will lead me into the mission field serving as a teacher. Again, I am so grateful for this scholarship you have chosen to award to me.

Madison Brown

As an early childhood educator, I hope to extend a nurturing hand to young students, recognizing my influence as children grow educationally, emotionally, and socially. I am excited about the opportunity to model curiosity and teach young minds to question, dig, and investigate. I want my students to leave the classroom hungry for knowledge, and I want to build relationships with my students through coaching and praise in a warm environment. I have a special opportunity to provide consistency and a safe place to learn, foster friendships, and share their voice. I believe education changes lives, and I have chosen a profession - a passion - where I may invest in and shape the future.

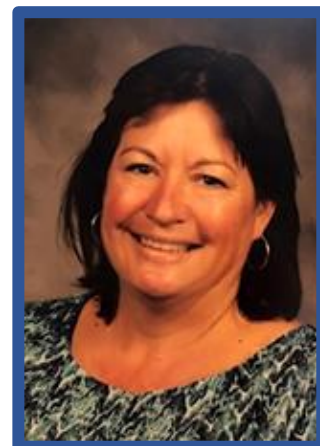
Caroline Leonard

GGC Recipients

Amber Hart



Sonja Jorgensen



I hold my family and friends close to my heart. I am recently married, October 16, 2019 and my free time is spent caring for my grandparents and building memories with my family. I am completing a Biology Teacher Certification Program. I can use this scholarship to purchase texts and tools to utilize during my internship and while student teaching. When I graduate, I hope to teach biological sciences in middle school. I love this age group because the students are at a difficult age in their life and they're going through so many changes. I also believe that this age level is when I could be of most influence in redirecting a student's educational path.

Amber Hart

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as a recipient of the \$1,500.00 scholarship this year. The awesome news of my receiving this scholarship has come at such a strange and troublesome time, with the CoVid19 pandemic...that is. It's not very often that I go to the mailbox and find anything more than bills, your gift will lift our spirits for a long time to come.

As I enter my final semesters at Georgia Gwinnett College, I am very thankful for receiving your thoughtful gift. Because of your scholarship, I will be able to pay off one of my student loans in full before I even graduate and that is a huge stress relief.

Thank you again for your thoughtful and generous gift.

Sonja Jorgensen

Congratulations to all of these worthy recipients!

THANK YOU TO OUR GCREA 2019/2020 SPONSERS AND SUPPORTERS

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Support to improve the Educational Future of all Students

Editor's Note:

The next edition of the Newsline will be published June 1, 2020

Deadline for articles is May 23, 2020

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#JoAnnTomlinson, GREAPresident