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2019 Conference Details
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*Gifted Buzz* is looking for contributing authors. Share your resources, passions, and expertise. Email submissions to alabamagifted@gmail.com. Put *Gifted Buzz* in the subject line. If a submission is received after the deadline, it may be considered for the next issue.

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<tr>
<th>Issues are published</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall -</td>
<td>August 1</td>
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<td>Spring-</td>
<td>March 20</td>
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*Created using Canva* 

**Editor:**
Shirley J. Farrell, Ph.D.

**Assistant Editor:**
Jason Mayfield

Contact us at alabamagifted@gmail.com

www.alabamagifted.org/
A Message
from the President:

So far, 2019 has been a very busy year for AAGC! January was Gifted Education Month during which we kicked off our annual campaign to raise awareness for gifted children and youth in Alabama. The response was tremendous with so many of you participating by having your students write letters to your state legislators and hosting parent events to increase collaboration and communication. In March, after many months of discussion with several key legislators, we were able to present our request for additional funding directly to the State Legislative Ways and Means Education Appropriations Committee. Teachers and their students commanded attention from the committee which sent a strong message that gifted children matter. The 2020 Education Trust Fund budget was approved by the Governor in May. District allocations are higher this year due to the increase in funding for gifted education, and $750,000 was again allocated for grants to schools and districts for innovative programs supporting gifted education. The guidelines for applying for the grant will be made available from the Alabama State Department of Education in the coming weeks. Please encourage your system to apply for these funds that have been set aside for grants. AAGC congratulates those of you who received grants in the first round. Please share with others any tips you might have for writing a successful grant application.

In May, AAGC hosted the 2nd Leadership and Advocacy Academy with special guest speaker Bill Knudsen, NAGC’s Director of Government and Affiliate Relations. We strategized a plan to build advocacy for gifted children for the upcoming year.

Over the past several months, the 2019 Conference Committee has been preparing for an exciting fall conference. The dates are Oct 15-17 at the Birmingham Marriott at Grandview. Tuesday Oct 15 will be a day for workshops. On Wednesday and Thursday, we have two familiar keynote speakers: Dr. Brian Housand and Dr. Carolyn Coil. On Tuesday night, we will have a special event, “Creativity + STEAM = Bridge to the Future.” Also, we will once again sponsor a Parent Night at AAGC. There is a link on the website for parents to register for this free event. Please encourage the parents of your students to attend and learn more about advocating for gifted education. Visit our website for more details about the conference. You must register online by Sept 23 to get the reduced fee, lunch for two days, and a special conference t-shirt.

I want to thank those of you who answered the call this past year to become part of AAGC’s work on behalf of gifted children. Without your efforts as volunteers, the organization cannot be the strong effective voice that is desperately needed to continue our progress in bridging the gap to reach and each ALL gifted learners. If you are interested in being part of AAGC’s work, please send me an email at pfwood4gt@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Here’s to a wonderful school. I look forward to seeing all of you at our annual conference in October!

Patti
Online registration closes on September 24, 2019.
You must also register for individual workshops on Wednesday. After the deadline, you must register on site which does NOT include lunch or a T-shirt. All workshops have participant limits based on room size. Please note the seating limits. Seats are filled based on the order of registration. Therefore, register early for the conference to make sure you have a seat in the workshop(s) of your choice.

A hot buffet will be served on Tuesday, and a sandwich box lunch on Wednesday, and is included in the cost of preregistration. Lunch on Thursday is "on your own". The app has maps of restaurants near the Marriott.

All Conference Registration Fees include one year of AAGC membership and a conference t-shirt.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Registration Type</th>
<th>Online Registration up to 9/24/19</th>
<th>Onsite Registration after 9/24/19</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>One Day Registration</strong></td>
<td>$150.00</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
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<td>(Tuesday, Wednesday OR Thursday, includes lunch on Tues./Wed.)</td>
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<td>no lunch or t-shirt included</td>
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<td><strong>Two Day Registration</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>(Tuesday &amp; Wednesday, OR Wednesday &amp; Thursday, OR Tuesday &amp; Thursday, includes lunch Tues./Wed.)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Three Day Registration</strong></td>
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<td>$375.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Tuesday-Thursday, includes lunch Tues/Wed.)</td>
<td></td>
<td>no lunch or t-shirt included</td>
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If using a Purchase Order, full payment MUST be received no later than the first day of conference attendance.

Cancellation: $25 fee if cancellation is received via email before 10/08/19 via email, remainder will be refunded after conference.

No refunds/cancellations after 10/08/19, however substitutions are allowed without any fee.
Join AAGC at the conference site south of Birmingham. We will meet at the Birmingham Marriott 3590 Grandview Parkway Birmingham, AL 35243. Additional hotel room have been added but they are booking fast. Call today to reserve your room at (205) 968-3775. Additional hotels in the area are listed below.

**North of the conference location:**
Hampton Inn Birmingham-Colonnade 280  
3400 Colonnade Pkwy, Birmingham, AL 35243  
(205) 967-0002

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Birmingham Colonnade  
3930 Colonnade Pkwy, Birmingham, AL 35243  
(205) 969-7630

Home2 Suites Birmingham Colonnade  
3920 Colonnade Pkwy, Birmingham, AL 35243  
(205) 969-7631

SpringHill Suites by Marriott Birmingham Colonnade  
3950 Colonnade Pkwy, Birmingham, AL 35243  
(205) 969-8099

Courtyard by Marriott Birmingham Colonnade/Grandview  
4300 Colonnade Pkwy, Birmingham, AL 35243  
(205) 967-4466

Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, Birmingham-Hoover,  
4400 Colonnade Pkwy, Birmingham, AL 35243  
(205) 968-3700

Extended Stay America Hotel Birmingham - Perimeter Park South  
12 Perimeter Park S, Birmingham, AL 35243  
(205) 967-3800

Drury Inn & Suites Birmingham Southeast  
3510 Grandview Pkwy, Birmingham, AL 35243  
(205) 967-2450

**South of the conference location:**
La Quinta Inn Birmingham /Cahaba Park South  
513 Cahaba Park Cir, Birmingham, AL 35242  
(205) 995-9990

Extended Stay America Hotel Birmingham - Inverness  
101 Cahaba Park Cir, Birmingham, AL 35242  
(205) 408-0107

Days Inn by Wyndham Birmingham/Summit Mall  
4627 US-280, Birmingham, AL 35242  
(205) 991-9977

Quality Inn & Suites Birmingham - Highway 280  
707 Key Dr, Birmingham, AL 35242  
(205) 991-1055

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Birmingham - Inverness 280  
156 Resource Center Pkwy, Birmingham, AL 35242  
(205) 776-6370

Hyatt Place Birmingham/Inverness  
4686 US-280, Birmingham, AL 35242  
(205) 995-9242

Homewood Suites by Hilton Birmingham-South/Inverness  
215 Inverness Center Dr, Birmingham, AL 35242  
(205) 995-9823
2019 Conference Keynotes

Carolyn Coil

AAGC welcomes back Carolyn Coil as our keynote speaker on Wednesday, October 16, 2019. Former teacher, Adjunct Professor, and Resource Specialist, Carolyn is an internationally known speaker, author, trainer, consultant and educator.

Carolyn offers single and multiple-day staff development for RtI monitoring strategies, implementing differentiation in the classroom, practical strategies for raising student achievement, implementing a variety of assessment strategies, and dealing with the problems and challenges associated with preparing ourselves and our children for living and working in the 21st Century.

Her keynote presentation is "Overexcitabilities: What Are They and How Can We Deal With Them"

Dr. Brian Housand

AAGC is proud to welcome back Dr. Brian Housand on Thursday, October 17, 2019. Brian proudly claims to be a GEEK. Today, this once derogatory term often serves as a badge of honor for Brian and for many of our gifted kids. When Dr. Housand grew up in gifted programs during the 1970s and 1980s, he was provided with opportunities to develop his creativity, interests, and talents. As an adolescent in the 1980s terms like geek or nerd were hardly a symbol to be celebrated, but it was growing up in gifted programs that helped him to find solace, understanding, and ultimately empowerment. As a result of these experiences, he have devoted his life to advocating for gifted education.

His keynote his "Dare Mighty Things!"
Adapted from https://www.brianhousand.com/about-me.html
7:30-8:30 Registration

8:30-8:45 Welcome: Dr. Patti Wood, AAGC President

9:00-3:00 Full-Day Workshops

**Workshop A: Torrance Test of Creative Thinking (TTCT): Administration and Scoring**
This full-day workshop, taught by Dr. Patti Wood, will provide attendees with the training on the administration and scoring of the TTCT. (Limited seating)

**Workshop B: First Year Gifted Specialist-Support From the Trenches**
In this full-day workshop, Dr. Erinn Floyd and Traci Inglewright, will provide guidance to first-year gifted specialists as they begin their journey in “giftedland.” They will cover many topics that will help teachers new to the field become oriented and feel more confident in developing high level, challenging learning opportunities for their students.

**Workshop C: Shift for Brains**
Spend the day exploring current theories and findings in Cognitive Science. Sherri Spears will help you turn teaching from an art to a science through the examination of varied topics including the adolescent brain, executive function, trauma, ADHD/anxiety and shifting states. Understanding their thinking/behavior is the foundation to a productive relationship.

**Workshop D: Building a Culture of Thinkers to Meet the Needs of Every Learner**
Kelly Lomax, will focus on the four elements of building a thinking culture and include hands-on activities aimed at gifted curriculum. Collaborative conversations about learning strategies to identify underserved populations and make connections to standards will equip participants with research-based practice such as Talents Unlimited activities.

9:00-11:15 Morning Half-Day Workshops

**Workshop E: Climbing Into the Virtual World: Teaching Students to Create Augmented and Virtual Reality Spaces and Places**
The Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) World is fun, but the real learning happens when students begin to create their own worlds rather than having them just participate. In this workshop with Mandy Fox, you will learn several tools to help students create their own AR/VR places and take their learning to another level.

**Workshop F: Creating High Quality Culminating Performance Tasks Using Critical and Creative Thinking**
Culminating Performance Tasks (CPT) should have students thinking and working like professionals to solve a real world problem for an authentic audience. These complex, multiple step projects require students to justify what they are doing and demonstrate understanding of those essential understandings. Join Dr. Shirley Farrell in this session to increase the complexity and authenticity of your final projects and turn them in to Culminating Performance Tasks. We will explore various critical and creative thinking activities, authentic assessments, develop a “template” to create CPTs, and then create rubrics to assess them.
**Workshop G: Gifted in the Middle : Effective Programming for Adolescent Gifted Learners in the Middle School Environment**

In this half day workshop, Melanie Thomas and Amy Hill will focus on addressing the needs of Middle Level adolescent learners across the state of Alabama. Topics will include a look at different programming options, the unique needs of the adolescent gifted learner, differentiation in the regular classroom, coaching and collaboration and examining how gifted education aligns with honors and pre-ap programs. Participants will leave with practical tips that they can then use to implement new ideas in their current school and/or district.

**Workshop H: Consultative Services (K-2): Partnering with our littlest and brightest learners and their teachers!**

Natalie Tucker will provide strategies and take-aways to grow, extend, and enrich our K-2 learners. You will leave with a variety of ways to immediately apply your new knowledge at school and also a network of new friends and resources to learn from and with after our session.

**Workshop I: Beginner Zentangle**

Zentangle was intended to make the act of drawing pleasurable, meditative and accessible to all. Join Debbie Dumais in this introductory half-day session to experience Zentangle success. **Participants will need to bring their favorite plain light color cardstock.**

**Workshop J: Graduate from Blocks**

Are your students ready to graduate from block-based programming? Are you intimidated by text-based languages, or overwhelmed by the options out there? Through the use of the Micro:bit, I/O, and Python, learn problem-solving and express creativity through CS concepts. Whether you’re brand new to the world of code or a seasoned pro, you’re sure to learn a lot from Geri and David Ewing in this session! Experience how physical computing can level-up the engagement for your students.

11:15-12:45  Lunch Buffet / Network with colleagues / Visit vendors

12:45-3:00    Afternoon Half-Day Workshops

**Workshop K: Fun for Your Classroom: Practical Ideas to Help Create Fun and Learning in Your Gifted Classroom**

Come let Mandy Fox engage you in all kinds of ideas that help students have fun with a purpose in your gifted classroom. You will leave with ideas you can begin using immediately!

**Workshop L: Upcycle Makerspaces**

Dr. Shirley Farrell will provide hands-on fun and learning for participants to experience how easy it is to upcycle trash into valuable, useful products. We will look at the materials to understand how to deconstruct and then reconstruct them into functional items. Participants will have choices to create strong, reusable bags, decorative bowls, honeybee feeding stations, plastic cordage, and art. Then we will release your inner creative juices to create many, varied, and unusual items from the trash we have.

**Workshop M: Advocacy: Reaching all Stakeholders of Intermediate and Middle School Gifted Students**

Amy Waine will share a wide variety of tried and true strategies for helping different gifted education stakeholders understand and support gifted middle and intermediate school students. Amy will share tips and tricks for impactful consulting with general education teachers and being heard by policy makers.
Tuesday, October 15, 2019

**Workshop N: Stock Market Game**
Wanda McAbee will introduce you to a free differentiated curriculum for an exciting ten week, online investment of hypothetical $100,000. STEM and Project Based Learning for gifted, social studies, math, and technology. Correlated to national standards. Grades 4-12.

**Workshop O: Advanced Zentangle: Botanicals**
Expand your Zentangle skills and perspectives by learning the newest Zentangle patterns as we create a Botanical theme. Debbie Dumais provides new tips and tricks in this half-day workshop exploring Zentangle in nature. **Participants will need to bring a set of colored pencils.**

**Workshop P: Robot-driven Coding**
Get hands on Python programming experience with CodeBot, a new robot that’s fully integrated with CodeSpace. This session will explore the new “Python with Robots” curriculum. Whether you’re already using CodeSpace or you’ve never written code before, you’ll have your ‘Bot dancing and singing with your first few lines of code. Join Geri and David Ewing and see how easy it is to bring real-world code and physical computing to your students.

7:00 – 9:00    Creativity + STEM = Bridge to the Future See page 11 for more information.

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

7:30 - 8:30    Registration
8:30 - 8:45    Welcome: Dr. Patti Wood, AAGC President
9:00 - 10:15   Keynote: Overexcitabilities: What Are They and How Can We Deal With Them    Carolyn Coil
In this keynote, Carolyn discusses the five major types of overexcitabilities, including the psychomotor, sensual, emotional, intellectual, and imaginational. Many gifted students have characteristics reflected in one or more of these. We will look at the traits of each, examples of some specific students, and how they interact with others and their environment. We will talk about how having overexcitabilities means that in one or more of these areas, a student reacts more strongly than normal for a longer period of time than normal to a stimulus that may be very small. We will celebrate the joys and positive aspects of having students with one or more of these overexcitabilities as well as consider some of the challenges we might face when dealing with them.

10:30-11:15 Breakout Sessions
11:30-12:30 Lunch Provided/Visit vendors/Network with colleagues
12:30-12:45 AAGC Business Meeting
1:00 – 1:45 Breakout Sessions
2:00-2:45 Breakout Sessions
3:00-3:15 Wrap Up/Door prizes
6:00-8:00 Parenting Gifted Children with Carolyn Coil
For more information and to access the registration link, see page 12.
2019 AAGC Conference Program
Thursday, October 17, 2019

7:30-8:30  Registration
8:30-8:45  Welcome: Patti Wood, AAGC President
9:00-10:15  Keynote: Dare Mighty Things  Brian Housand
The youth of today will likely have the opportunity to travel far past the reaches of Earth's gravity to the Moon, Mars, and beyond, but getting there will not be easy. Instead, it will take individuals with a pioneer spirit fueled by imagination, the ability to collaborate with others, and the willingness to stay focused on solving seemingly impossible tasks over long periods of time. “Dare Mighty Things” takes you behind the scenes at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for the landing of InSight on the surface of Mars to learn from NASA scientists and engineers the behaviors and characteristics that made it possible and ways that we can develop these skills within ourselves and our gifted children. The future is now!

10:30-11:15  Breakout Sessions
11:15 -1:00  Lunch on your own/Network with colleagues/Visit vendors App contains maps of restaurant locations near the Marriott.
1:00 -1:45  Breakout Sessions
2:00-3:00  AAGC Awards and Door Prizes

AAGC Conference App
The app will be live by September 15. However, download the app shell now to access previous AAGC Conferences. Navigate the conference like a pro with the 2019 AAGC Conference mobile app, powered by coreapps.com. With the 2019 AAGC Conference mobile app, you can:
• Stay organized with up-to-the-minute Exhibitor, Speaker, and Event information
• Receive important real-time communications from AAGC
• Build a personalized schedule and bookmark exhibitors
• Download event handouts and presentations and take notes on them
• Check the locations of sessions and restaurants under the maps icon
• Stay in-the-know and join in on social media
• Find attendees and connect with your colleagues through Friends
• And much, much more!

Downloading the App is Easy!
SEARCH: The App Store or Google Play for “AAGC”
Free Posters Celebrating Women Role Models in Science, Technology, and Math

https://www.amightygirl.com/blog?p=23086

A new poster collection aims to bring more of these women’s stories to light — and inspire today’s Mighty Girls with the knowledge that she can be whatever she aspires to be! The free downloadable posters, created by Nevertheless, feature eight trailblazing women who have made an impact in STEM fields. Each poster is also uniquely designed by a different female artist from around the world. Nevertheless (https://medium.com/nevertheless-podcast), a podcast which celebrates women transforming teaching and learning through technology, hopes that you will download the posters and print them out for your school, home, or workplace. At the site, you'll find links to download each poster, as well as a description of the scientist featured and recommended reading for both kids and adults to help you explore her story in more depth.
Please join us for the

AAGC Parent Night

Carolyn Coil will present information specifically designed to support families with gifted children. Information about parent advocacy for gifted students will also be shared.

Birmingham Marriott Hotel
3590 Grandview Parkway,
Birmingham, AL 35243

6:00-7:45 PM
Wednesday, October 16

We hope you can attend! Please sign up for this free event through the link below so we can prepare everything for you.


This is a special evening just for parents of gifted children. Childcare will not be available.
News from the Middle

By Jason Mayfield

"The Incredible Teenage Brain" by Hohnen reminds us that when it comes to forming identities, students will always look to their peers for approval, over any teachers, even cool ones who run the Boston Marathon.

One way we can capitalize on that part of adolescent development is by forming clubs or groups that get our students involved.

This year, I have a Girls Who Code club. The national site makes it fairly easy to register, and honestly, they send so many e-mails you won't have any excuse not to continue the work.

Coding is a wonderful activity to involve our young adults in because there are a world of possibilities open to graduating seniors with those skills. Currently, our school system does a great job getting students into early coding activities; however, those activities often disappear when students get to middle school.

I was fortunate enough to earn a competitive grant for a class set of Ozobots. They are a wonderful way for my students to "play" their way into learning coding basics while working their way to independently creating programs.

If you'd like to sponsor your own coding club for girls in grades 6-12, please contact Hailey Ridgeway with GEMS at hridgeway@alsde.edu.
2019 AAGC Educator Grant Application

For details and forms, please download the full application packet at http://www.alabamagifted.org/

DEADLINE:
The deadline for the grant applications is **Sunday, September 1, 2019, at 11:59 PM.**

Do you have a great idea to implement for your gifted classroom? So did the 2018 grant winners. The difference is, they applied for the grant to be able to implement their ideas. Will you apply? If so, check out this information on how to apply for an AAGC Educator Grant for Alabama gifted classrooms.

**Purpose:**
The purpose of the educator grant is to support and encourage Alabama educators of gifted students in the development of innovative ideas and quality programs to enrich the education of gifted students. The grant provides educators with the funds to acquire materials to support appropriate curriculum and instructional experiences for gifted children. The grant also creates awareness and the importance of exemplary gifted programs. Grant recipients are expected to write and submit a final report on the outcomes of their grant project at the end of the school year with the grant evaluation form. Grant recipients are also expected to either present their project at the following year's AAGC Conference or to submit an article for the AAGC newsletter.

**Eligibility:**
Alabama educators who are AAGC members in good standing with the organization and teach Alabama gifted students may apply for a grant. Grants up to $500 may be submitted, but an exemplary well-written grant for up to $1000 may possibly be awarded.

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**Book Review**

Not all scientists wear white lab coats. From space to the ocean, scientists' work – and even their lives – can depend on what they wear. Whether it's a spacesuit, polar parka, waterproof waders, hard hat, lab gloves, swim fins or camouflage. This book zooms in on why scientists wear such different clothing to perform a spacewalk or swim with whale sharks, to test snow and ice on a frozen glacier or collect hot lava from a burning volcano, to rescue a wild Bald Eagle or operate on a human brain. Through stunning and engaging "you are there" photos paired with fun-fact filled text, young readers meet real scientists and discover the challenges of what these scientists do, how they do it and why it matters.

This book will be released in September 2019.
Do you have a creative student or class of students who would like to have their video featured at the 2019 AAGC Conference and on AAGC social media? If so, then check out the information below to help them enter it into the contest!

**Purpose:**
The purpose of the contest is to create an individual or class video for the 2019 AAGC Conference. The video will be used at the AACG conference and possibly in AAGC social media. The video this year should represent, “Public Service Announcement: The Gifted Minute.”

**Definitions:**
“Entry” means a logo design created by the entrant for the contest.
“Entrant” means the individual student that submits the entry under the terms of this contest.

**Eligibility:**
The contest is open to individual gifted students in Alabama public schools.

**Video Design Requirements:**
- Submit the video Youtube URL in email format.
- The entire video must be about 60 seconds long. The minimum time is 45 seconds and the maximum time is 75 seconds. Entries will not be sent to the judges that are not within these time requirements.
- The video must be of quality and fit the appropriateness of the video theme, “Public Service Announcement: The Gifted Minute.”
- Be sure to have someone test your video from another computer before submitting your URL for your video. You must make the video not private so it can be seen.
- All videos will be judged using the AAGC Video Rubric.
- Only videos submitted from a gifted teacher will be accepted. (If a student is homeschooled, and the parent is a member of AAGC, they may submit for their child.)
- Submissions must meet minimum criteria to win an award.

For information on how to enter the contest, click this link or copy and paste into the web browser window: http://www.alabamagifted.org/aagc_docs/2019AAGCGiftedStudentVideoContest_applicationrubric.docx

Questions may be sent to Awards/Contests Chairperson, Kim Stephenson, at AAGCawardsandgrants@gmail.com.
Do you know someone who has made a significant difference in gifted education in the state of Alabama? The Alabama Association for Gifted Children is pleased to announce the Awards of Excellence to honor individuals who have made a difference in the life of a gifted student and/or in gifted education in the school or community. These awards will be presented during the 2019 AAGC Conference in October 2019.

The categories are:
- Outstanding Gifted Specialist Award
- Outstanding Administrator Award
- Outstanding Gifted Coordinator Award
- Outstanding General Education Teacher Award
- Award for Lifetime Achievement in Gifted Education
- Outstanding Community Member Award
- Outstanding Gifted Student Award
- Outstanding Gifted Parent Advocate

Submission Guidelines:
1. The completed nomination form with letters of support must be submitted together as ONE email and must not exceed 8 pages. Multiple emails with separate letters of support for the same nominee will not be accepted.
2. Nomination forms and letters of support must be typed.
3. Submit completed forms to Awards/Contests Chairperson, Kim Stephenson, at AAGCawardsandgrants@gmail.com with “AAGC Awards” in the subject line of the email by 11:59 PM on Sunday, September 1, 2019.

Judging and Selection of Winners:
1. We will acknowledge all applications within one week of receipt or deadline via email; however, we cannot be responsible for applications or responses lost in email. The winning recipients will be selected by judges appointed for the purpose and by the AAGC using a rubric based upon the “Criteria for Support for Nomination” and “Category Requirements.”
2. The judges are experts in the field of education, community and business leaders and are not AAGC members or board members. Their decision will be final. NO further correspondence shall be necessary.
3. The winning recipients will be recognized with an award presented at the AAGC Conference in October 2019.
4. **PLEASE NOTE:** Individuals who are nominating a winner will be notified and should arrange for the nominee to be in attendance at the awards ceremony at the Conference.

For details and forms, please download the full application packet at http://www.alabamagifted.org/
Cyberbullying & Gifted Children

While the online world can provide a wealth of resources and creative outlets for gifted students, it also can be ripe for a form of bullying called cyberbullying.

Social media and virtual communication allow students to easily take part anonymously in negative behaviors through whatever technology is at their fingertips. Cyberbullying includes the use of text messages, blogs, social media, images, or other forms of technology with the goal to intimidate another person.

A 2019 report from the Cyberbullying Research Center indicates that 24% of middle and high school students have been cyberbullied—and the negative outcomes from cyberbullying are far reaching.

Cyberbullying may be linked with low self-esteem, family problems, academic difficulties, school violence, and numerous delinquent behaviors. Targets of cyberbullying may feel depressed, sad, angry, frustrated, afraid, and embarrassed to go to school.

TYPES OF CYBERBULLYING
According to the Educator’s Guide to Cyberbullying and Cyberthreats by Nancy E. Willard, there are eight types of cyberbullying:

Flaming. Using electronic messages to engage in online fighting. This can include insults, threats, and vulgar language.

Harassment. Continually engaging in electronic communication that is malicious, insulting, and degrading.

Denigration. Using an online platform to put down another individual or group. This can include lies, rumors, or gossip that will tarnish an individual’s reputation or character.

Impersonation. Posing as someone else and posting inappropriate or hurtful messages that could cause problems for whomever he or she is impersonating.

Outing. Divulging information about someone that is secretive or not supposed to be public knowledge.

Trickery. Luring another into disclosing information that is private or disconcerting and then making it public online.

Exclusion. Intentionally and maliciously blocking an individual from being a member of a group.

Cyberstalking. Any of the above behaviors repeatedly taking place and intensifying to a point where an individual feels overtly threatened and fearful.
Cyberbullying & Gifted Children

TIPS FOR PARENTS

*Know what technology/social media your child is using.* Long gone are the days of merely using Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Kik are popular apps. Your first step as a parent is to know what social media options your child is participating in and what kinds of material can be shared virtually with those tools. Check out parent guides to cyberbullying and social media tools at [https://www.connectsafely.org/](https://www.connectsafely.org/).

*Talk with your child about appropriate and inappropriate uses of technology and social media.* How your child portrays herself in the online world is just as important as the person she is in the real world. Be open and honest about correct and incorrect online behaviors. Model how careful everyone must be about what they post, share, and upload online. Teach them that what’s posted online never truly is erased.

*If you notice signs of cyberbullying—such as your child avoiding school, becoming anxious or upset when using devices, becoming withdrawn, or losing sleep—talk with your child calmly and openly.*

- Listen to your child and respond carefully and rationally.
- Avoid making the situation worse by immediately reacting or calling the school.
- Get as much information as possible and from multiple perspectives.
- Make sure your child feels safe and listened to. Validate feelings and help build resilience with your children by teaching them how to deflect or ignore hurtful things posted online.
- Focus on your child’s strengths and positive self-talk.
- Consider using bibliotherapy to engage your gifted child’s ability to empathize with book characters who have been isolated or bullied and discuss problem-solving strategies.
- Provide support, listen to your child’s concerns, and help empower your child to strengthen their resiliency.

*Include your child in deciding the best way to handle the situation.* Bullying often involves a sense of powerlessness. Gifted learners with perfectionism may avoid asking for help. Help your child regain dignity and control. Provide a safe environment to openly talk about what they are going through and let them know they are not alone.

FOR MORE INFO

Search:
National Crime Prevention Council, [www.ncpc.org/resources/cyberbullying](http://www.ncpc.org/resources/cyberbullying)

Stop Bullying, [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov)


Read:


Various books on cyberbullying and cyberthreats by Nancy E. Willard.

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