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For Immediate Release

To: Media Outlets

From: Gainesville City School System

RE: Gainesville High STAR Student and STAR Teacher

Date: February 12, 2016

Pramoda Karnati was named the 2016 STAR Student for Gainesville High School. She is the daughter of Chandra and Vijayalaxmi Karnati. Her dad, Chandra, is an educator at GHS. She selected Mrs. Pamela Michelsen as her STAR Teacher. To obtain the STAR (Student Teacher Achievement Recognition) nomination, Pramoda had to have the highest SAT score among her peers and rank in the top 10 percent of her graduating class.

"Honestly, it is truly an honor to be named the STAR Student for GHS, but I would not have gotten this far without the help of my amazing teachers and wonderful parents who supported and coached me throughout my life," stated Pramoda. "We have worked so hard, so this achievement is not only my own. This award is a sweet fruit of our labors, and I am more than happy and honored to represent the fantastic Gainesville High School."

Mrs. Michelsen shared, "Pramoda started one of her college essays with this sentence, "Writing binary code is like writing poetry." That pretty much sums Pramoda up. She is so talented, and her talents are so diverse. There is nothing that she cannot do and do well. From writing poetry to building robots, she is always at the top of her game."

When asked what impact her STAR teacher has had on her academic success, Pramoda stated, "Mrs. Michelsen has been such an integral part of my high school career. Not only has she been an amazing teacher, but, in addition to my parents, she has been one of my mentors and guides throughout these four years. I have had the honor of working with her through both Academic Bowl and Beta Club, and she has been such a positive influence in my life. She truly deserves the STAR teacher award."

After graduation, Pramoda plans to attend either Georgia Tech or MIT. She wants to major in Computer Science and minor in Business. "My dream is to eventually work my way up to earning a leadership position at Google and inspire other females to do the same since there is such a gender disparity in the STEM field," stated Pramoda.

Pramoda along with other STAR students within the city and county will be honored at a banquet sponsored by the Gainesville Kiwanis Club on February 23rd.