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**Contact: Matt Fontana
615-390-6481**

**MIDDLE TENNESSEE STUDENTS EXCEL IN
NATIONAL FOREIGN LANGUAGE EXAM COMPETITIONS**

NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 11, 2016 – Six students at [Learning Lab's Gateway Academy](#) have earned national recognition in national foreign language exams administered during the spring semester this year. Two students ranked exceptionally high in the French exam and four students accomplished the same feat in the Spanish exam.

The French exam is administered by the American Association of Teachers of French (AATF) and the Spanish exam by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP). Both are intended to identify achievement of the learning of both languages in the United States, as well as to promote proficiency, greater national standards and stimulate further interest in the language. Both organizations are composed of teachers from all parts of the country and all educational levels (K-12).

Carson Jones ranked 13th in the state of Tennessee and 23rd nationally and scored in the 70th percentile of all French test takers. Amelia Young ranked 17th in Tennessee and 27th nationally with a score that was in the 60th percentile of all test takers. Nearly 86,000 students from across the country participated in the [French exam, known as "Le Grand Concours – The National French Contest."](#)

"I am very proud of my French 4 students this year," said Alyson Graham, who teaches French at Gateway Academy. "With virtually no formal preparation and just one practice test they did incredibly well on the National French Contest. They are reading and discussing literature fluently in French and I'm so pleased with everything they have accomplished this year."

Of the more than 37,000 students nationally who took [the Spanish exam](#), 1,558 were from 43 Tennessee schools. The four Gateway Academy students – Lexi Janbakhsh (90th percentile), Zach Rees (80th percentile), Graham Igleheart (80th percentile) and Ben Stokes (70th percentile) -- all earned Honorable Mention status for distinguished participation in the National Spanish exam.

"These four students have really worked hard to excel in Spanish this year," said Vickie Eatherly, their Spanish teacher at Gateway Academy. "I am so proud of each of them for their dedication and for this well-earned accolade."

“We believe that the achievements by these students in their chosen foreign language supports our belief that learning is best achieved in a one-on-one environment,” said Vanessa Adams, Director of the Gateway Academy in Brentwood.

Gateway Academy at the Learning Lab is an accredited private school that features a one-on-one learning environment to help all types of students learn accelerated or remedial subjects at their pace or on a specialized schedule. The school also works with students requiring flexible schedules due to talents in either sports or the arts, homeschool students, students with learning differences and those simply needing a break in schedule. In addition to core subjects delivered at the honors or AP level, the school offers speech and language therapy, pragmatics instruction and Feuerstein brain-tested cognition training.

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