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The Augusta Chronicle

(/)

Posted November 7, 2016 01:07 am - Updated November 7, 2016 01:33 am

By Doug Stutsman (/authors/doug-stutsman-0) Staff Writer

Glenn Hills teacher one of two Georgia teachers named to the Teacher Advisory Council

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Georgia state statistics show that Glenn Hills is one of three failing high schools in Richmond County.

However, Dr. Srinivasan Thiyagarajan – despite being a math teacher – isn't focused on numbers. He's more interested in what his eyes are witnessing.

“Our climate has completely changed at Glenn Hills,” said Thiyagarajan, known by his students as Dr. T. “I had multiple job offers last year, but none of that mattered. I want to finish what we've started at Glenn Hills.”

Thiyagarajan was one of two Georgia educators named recently to the Teacher Advisory Council for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He was selected from more than 400 applicants throughout the U.S., according to a foundation news release.

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Teachers commit to a two-year term, during which they come together on a regular basis to support the development of strategies, share insights on how to translate that vision into implementation and provide feedback and perspective.

Thiyagarajan's next meeting with the council is set for Nov. 30 in Seattle.

“It's such an honor to be included (with 50 other) great teachers from across our nation,” Thiyagarajan said. “I'm truly honored.”

Thiyagarajan – who specializes in algebra, pre-calculus and honors pre-calculus – was recognized for his achievement at Richmond County’s October board meeting. According to the Gates Foundation, TAC teachers provide guidance on future strategies and how to translate big-picture investments into successful implementation in classrooms, schools and districts.

Thiyagarajan was honored in 2016 as ‘Teacher of the Year’ for Glenn Hills High.

“I’m hoping to bring ideas to Glenn Hills,” Thiyagarajan said. “I know what the statistics say about our school, but there’s no doubt in my mind we’re heading in the right direction.”

When asked about specific improvements at Glenn Hills, Thiyagarajan pointed to the leadership of second-year Principal Bobby Williams.

“I’ve been here four years and our culture has changed so much,” Thiyagarajan said. “Before Dr. Williams, we had a lot of discipline problems among our student body – a lot of problems. But it’s totally different now.”

Williams stressed that the turn-around at Glenn Hills has been a team effort, while stating, “We wouldn’t be where we are without Dr. T.”

“Dr. T is truly an inspiration,” Williams said. “He comes to work early and leaves school late. I’ll be honest, I don’t know where Glenn Hills would be right now without him. Dr. T’s a tremendous teacher – but an even better person.”

On his teacher page, Williams states: “The ultimate goal at Glenn Hills High School is to graduate students as productive citizens while striving to promote excellence, impart knowledge and foster unity. We often say here on the Hill, ‘If it’s not BLUE, (good character, intelligence, and excellence) it won’t do.’”



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Devasena Thiagarajan

31 days ago

Congrats...Dr.T.....

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Litschua drew

30 days ago

Dr. T,

This is no surprise for you to be awarded The Teachers Advisory Board because your heartfelt concern and dedication for the students is evident. Congrats no one deserves it more!!! Keep striving for the TOP!!!!

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Rocky Miller

30 days ago

So proud that he once taught in a GEMS school, named OOEHSA...n al ain UAE

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