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BIA Charter students named finalists in 'Games for Change' Challenge

*National competition encourages students to create digital games
about issues impacting their communities*

NORCROSS, Ga. (May 21, 2020) – BIA Charter School is proud to announce that eight of its upper school students have been named finalists The Games for Change (G4C) Student Challenge, a national game design program that invites students to create digital games about issues impacting their communities. The finalists are

- Ashton Leach & Jeremiah Thomas, *Butt out Butts* (8th grade)
- Isadri Hernandez-Sanchez & Ezelle Robinson, *Corgi Services* (7th grade)
- Tinsaye Henock & Sebastian Gorsuch, *Pet Connect* (7th grade)
- Reid Fisher & Noah Wayne, *The Flap* (6th grade)

The finalists and their work will be celebrated at G4C Student Challenge Awards Ceremony, taking place virtually this year on June 17. Both finalists and winners will receive prizes for their amazing work, and each member of the Grand Prize winning teams will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Finalists' games also will be featured in the G4C Student Arcade – an online arcade which will live on the Student Challenge website.

"I am so proud of all of our finalists," said Vicki Robertson, BIA's upper school coding teacher. "They've been working very hard since we started this project back on March 2. And while I'm disappointed that they won't be able to enjoy the and in person conference and meet game developers, it does not diminish their great accomplishments.

According to G4C, the goal of the program is to "expose and excite students to work-related opportunities in STEM and game design, engage students and teachers in civic issues impacting their cities and communities, build capacity for teachers to use game-based learning tools and approaches and students to learn game design as a method for storytelling and 21st century skill development."

"That these students were able to create their games amidst the COVID-19 remote learning setting speaks to the support and coaching of their wonderful teacher, Mrs. Robertson," said BIA Charter Head of School Julie Tolbert. "This tremendous honor highlights the high level of

instruction encompassing BIA's core tenants of personalized learning, project-based learning and coding, as well as the engagement by our students."

To learn more about G4C Challenge, visit gamesforchange.org. For more information about BIA, visit BIASchool.org or call 770.538.1550.

About BIA Charter School

BIA Charter School is a K-8 public state charter school that maximizes students' individual talents and prepares them for success in a technology and information driven 21st Century economy. Our curriculum emphasizes the following beginning in kindergarten: personalized learning, project-based learning and computer coding. Authorized by the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia, BIA is tuition-free for students within the State of Georgia. Admission is lottery-based. BIA is committed to providing our learners with an educational experience that is unique and presented in a warm and inviting environment. Originally founded as Brookhaven Innovation Academy in 2016, BIA Charter School operated on a temporary location in Peachtree Corners for three years before moving to its permanent campus at 186 Hunter Street near historic downtown Norcross in July 2019.

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