

TECHNICAL COLLEGES

- Albany Technical College • Albany, Georgia
- Altamaha Technical College • Jesup, Georgia
- Appalachian Technical College • Jasper, Georgia
- Athens Technical College • Athens, Georgia
- Atlanta Technical College • Atlanta, Georgia
- Augusta Technical College • Augusta, Georgia
- Central Georgia Technical College • Macon, Georgia
- Chattahoochee Technical College • Marietta, Georgia
- Columbus Technical College • Columbus, Georgia
- Coosa Valley Technical College • Rome, Georgia
- DeKalb Technical College • Clarkston, Georgia
- East Central Technical College • Fitzgerald, Georgia
- Flint River Technical College • Thomaston, Georgia
- Georgia Aviation Technical College • Eastman, Georgia
- Griffin Technical College • Griffin, Georgia
- Gwinnett Technical College • Lawrenceville, Georgia
- Heart of Georgia Technical College • Dublin, Georgia
- Lanier Technical College • Oakwood, Georgia
- Middle Georgia Technical College • Warner Robins, Georgia
- Moultrie Technical College • Moultrie, Georgia
- North Georgia Technical College • Clarkesville, Georgia
- North Metro Technical College • Acworth, Georgia
- Northwestern Technical College • Rock Spring, Georgia
- Ogeechee Technical College • Statesboro, Georgia
- Okefenokee Technical College • Waycross, Georgia
- Sandersville Technical College • Sandersville, Georgia
- Savannah Technical College • Savannah, Georgia

- South Georgia Technical College • Americus, Georgia
- Southeastern Technical College • Vidalia, Georgia
- Southwest Georgia Technical College • Thomasville, Georgia
- Swainsboro Technical College • Swainsboro, Georgia
- Valdosta Technical College • Valdosta, Georgia
- West Central Technical College • Carrollton, Georgia
- West Georgia Technical College • LaGrange, Georgia

TECHNICAL DIVISIONS

- Bainbridge College • Bainbridge, Georgia
- Clayton College and State University • Morrow, Georgia
- Coastal Georgia Community College • Brunswick, Georgia
- Dalton State College • Dalton, Georgia

Web-based courses of Georgia's technical colleges are accessed through Georgia Virtual Technical College (GVTC), <http://www.gvtc.org>.

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Kenneth H. Breeden, Commissioner

Editor:
Donna Maddock-Cowart
dm-c@mindspring.com

View *From the Commissioner* online at
<http://www.dtae.org/fromthecommissioner>

COMING NEXT ISSUE:

Our fall issue features our first in a series focusing on our business and industry partnerships throughout Georgia. Strong business and community support in the Columbus area is key to the growing economic strength of the area.

Columbus
Technical College
Library



FROM THE COMMISSIONER

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION FROM GEORGIA'S COMMISSIONER OF
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Last issue in this column, I addressed the important relationships our system has statewide and “community-deep” through our technical-college boards of directors and our state board. We focused on the leadership conference, where it was clear that Governor Barnes, Lieutenant Governor Taylor, and our legislative leaders are deeply involved in the success of our system. In this issue, through our interview with my friend Michael Thurmond, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Labor, we touch on another segment of partnerships, those with other state agencies. (This is our second Executive Profile, a part of this newsletter that gives all of you who are part of our system an opportunity to, in a way, listen in on an in-depth conversation with people who are important to us. Be sure to take a look at the complete interview, which is on the web version of this newsletter at www.dtae.org/fromthecommissioner.)

...It is important to me that you are aware of what is happening throughout Georgia as a result of our technical colleges and other programs and services.

As you may recall, in the first issue my focus was the outstanding quality of our faculty and staff throughout the technical college system. In our next issue, we will begin a focus on another extremely significant part of the way our system works: our partnerships with business and industry.

Summer, bringing as it does the beginning of our fiscal year, is an appropriate time to focus on a few specific recent events important to our agency and to enjoy looking ahead

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I N S I D E

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- 6 *Georgia Department of Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond*

Above: Governor Barnes and Commissioner Breeden unveil a portrait of Speaker Tom Murphy as part of the official opening of the Thomas B. Murphy Campus of West Central Technical College.

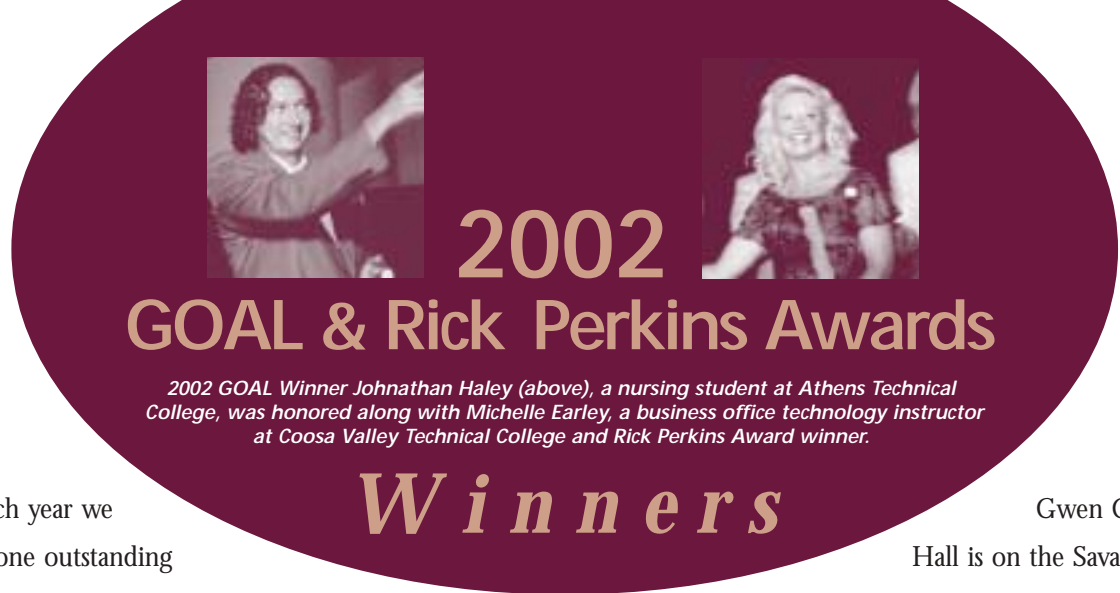
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to the near future. Speaking of fiscal year, I hope all of you have had a chance to see our agency's most recent annual report. While maintaining on the Internet the traditional version that we have relied on for the last four years, we also published a version that summarizes events and highlights and focuses on six "Profiles of Success" that serve as examples of what we help people accomplish. This report is posted on the web at www.dtae.org/annualreport.html. Please take a look, too, at our most recent *Results* magazine and our Quick Start newsletter, also posted on our web site. Our system is accomplishing good things all over Georgia, and it is important to me that you are aware of what is happening throughout Georgia as a result of our technical colleges and other programs and services.

"Around the State" (see pages four and five) features recent news from some of our technical colleges; here, I'd like to point out some state-level news. This year's GOAL – as you know, the Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership, the

way each year we honor one outstanding student from each school and then one statewide – and Rick Perkins Award (honoring our teachers) celebration again afforded us a chance to congratulate those who represent the best of the very fine students and teachers that make up our system. Top winners this year are Johnathan Haley (GOAL), a nursing student at Athens Technical College, and Michelle Earley, a business office technology instructor at Coosa Valley Technical College.

Another item of state-level news that I'd like to point out to you pertains to honors for two of our State Board members, Gwen Goodman and Edgar Rhodes.



Winners

Gwen Goodman Hall is on the Savannah Technical College campus. Renovated last year, the building houses the Allied Health programs, including classroom and laboratory space for Dental Assisting, Surgical Technology, Medical Assisting, and Practical Nursing; classroom/restaurant space and kitchen for Culinary Arts; classroom and laboratory space for Early Childhood Care & Education, including a day care center; classroom and laboratory for Cosmetology; and classroom and laboratory space for Drafting and Electronics/Computer Engineering Technology.

The Edgar Rhodes Center for Animal and Dairy Science on the University of Georgia campus honors

board member Rhodes, a 1938 UGA graduate. The Center, finished in 1998, houses offices for 4-H and extension-service programs, laboratories, a meat-science center, retail space and classrooms.

Edgar Rhodes started out as a vocational-agriculture teacher, later running a lumber business and working in Haralson County as a farmer and a banker. Gwen Goodman has had a distinguished career in government and education, including teaching and administration and service on the Board of Education in Savannah/Chatham County and as a county commissioner and a city alderman. These two board members contribute a great deal to our system through their service on our board; it is good to know that they have been honored in so significant a way, in so appropriate a form.



It was a pleasure to congratulate State Board member Edgar Rhodes at the ceremony honoring him at the Edgar Rhodes Center for Animal and Dairy Science on the University of Georgia campus in Athens.



The event celebrating Savannah Technical College's first named building, Gwen Goodman Hall, was a great occasion. State Board member Goodman's longstanding and continuing commitment and service to Savannah and all of Georgia make this honor a most fitting tribute.



BMW has selected **Atlanta Tech** for its Diversity Technician Training Project, a pilot program that BMW hopes to implement throughout the country. Six automotive-technology students from Atlanta Technical College have been chosen by BMW to participate. Candidates were selected based on academics, work ethics, and their performance in rigorous interview and testing sessions. These outstanding students will become BMW Certified Technicians through an intense eleven-week program. While in training, students will also be learning through paid apprenticeships at area BMW dealerships.



State Farm Insurance Company – the largest auto insurer in Georgia and the United States – has recently donated a 1999 Ford Taurus SE to **Central Georgia Technical College** and a 1997 Ford F150 truck to **Columbus Technical College**. The vehicles, given in recognition of the importance of quality automotive repair, will be used for training students in automotive body and mechanical repair at the colleges.



Gwinnett EMS Technologies, Inc. recently gave a four-year grant valued at \$100,000 to **Gwinnett Technical College** to support construction of the George Busbee International Center for Workforce Development. The multi-million dollar, three-building complex will focus on high-tech training and international business and will feature an 11,200-square-foot Scientific-Atlanta Auditorium, a 70,000-square-foot Advanced Technology Center and a 54,000-square-foot Global Learning Institute with high-tech classrooms and faculty offices.

AROUND The State



EMS, a leading manufacturer of wireless and space products and components, has a longstanding relationship with **Gwinnett Tech** as a key supplier of technical training to EMS line technicians and supervisors across EMS divisions. Gwinnett Tech also provides on-site instructors for EMS's English as a Second Language courses.

Delta Air Lines, Inc. recently donated a Rolls Royce Turbo-Fan Engine from a retired L-1011 aircraft to **Middle Georgia Technical College** to be used for training in the Aviation Maintenance Technology Program. The engine, when new, was worth \$10 million.



Sandersville Tech is proud to announce the receipt of \$465,000 worth of new computer parts from **Intel Corporation** to be used in the StRUT computer-recycling program, through which students learn computer repair and study to earn A+ Certification. Since the inception of the program in 2000, Georgia has recycled approximately 2,500 computers and successfully trained over 250 students. Sandersville Tech's partner colleges include **Altamaha Technical College, East Central Technical College, Georgia Aviation Technical College,**

Heart of Georgia Technical College, Moultrie Technical College, Ogeechee Technical College, Okefenokee Technical College, Swainsboro Technical College, and West Central Technical College.



Savannah Technical College has honored Gwendolyn P. Goodman by naming a classroom building for her; Gwen Goodman Hall thus becomes the first named building in Savannah Tech's history. Presenting resolutions and proclamations for the occasion were the State Board of Adult and Technical Education, on which Goodman has served since her appointment in 1993; the Chatham County Commissioners; the Savannah City Council, on which Goodman has served as a city alderman since 1992; and the Board of Education for the Savannah-Chatham Public Schools, where Goodman's career spanned more than 30 years as a teacher and administrator, ending with her retirement as associate superintendent in 1991. In addition, letters of commendation from President George W. Bush, Senators Max Cleland and Zell Miller, Congressman Jack Kingston, Governor Roy Barnes, and state legislators Tom Murphy and Ann Purcell were presented at the ceremony.



South Georgia Technical College has won Second Place in **Cooper Industries' Project Pace Education Awards**. South Georgia Tech won this

award by expanding its Certified Manufacturing Specialist (CMS) program to area high schools. South Georgia Tech was one of the 20 schools across the United States and Mexico that were awarded unrestricted grants for 2001-2002. The school used its grant to equip its CMS lab, a 4,000-square-foot facility that is now being utilized by juniors and seniors of Sumter County and Americus High Schools to enhance hands-on training and exposure to the manufacturing environment tailored to meet Cooper Lighting's entry-level employment skill needs. The program also has been expanded into Schley County High School, with other area high schools to follow.



South Georgia Tech has opened its Heavy Equipment Technology Center, and **Caterpillar** has designated South Georgia Tech as the Southeastern Caterpillar's College of Technology. South Georgia Tech will provide Caterpillar's training for a five-state area.



West Central Technical College officially gave the public its first look at the new Thomas B. Murphy Campus in Waco at an event hosted by the Haralson County Chamber of Commerce. Governor Roy Barnes was present at the event, which honored Speaker Murphy and his contributions to technical education. **FTC**

Building a World-Class Workforce for Georgia

AN INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL THURMOND

“From the Commissioner” met with Michael Thurmond, Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Labor, in his office in the Sussex Building in Atlanta, Georgia.

FTC: About the Georgia Department of Labor career centers, you have said, “We’re building a statewide system that will be designed around the needs of job seekers and employers.” Would you comment on “system building,” both from how you’ve been putting those career centers together and also on what you’ve observed as a friend of technical education as you’ve watched that system develop?

MT: Our mission is to build a seamless, statewide workforce-development system that will serve Georgia employers and job seekers now and in the future. And, of course, our key partner in this effort is the Department of Technical and Adult Education and Commissioner Breeden, who is a personal friend and mentor of mine, and it’s something that he and I have discussed throughout my career in state government. I believe that the partnership between DTAE and the Georgia Department of Labor is the cornerstone of Georgia’s statewide workforce-development system. Obviously, the technical college system is the premier provider of technical-vocational training and education in this state. When DTAE provides quality graduates, we’re provided with quality job seekers. This

partnership will serve the needs of employers, as Georgia continues to be a leader in the creation of new jobs and employment opportunities.

FTC: When did the career-center effort begin?

MT: In 1998, I campaigned on this issue. Clearly, the physical transformation is an important component of transforming the old unemployment offices into career centers, and it recognizes the major changes that have taken place in Georgia, in America, relative to our workforce. We do not want to be the forum of last resort, the place where you come when all else has failed. We want to be a more proactive part of the career-building process to help those who are looking for a job if they’re unemployed, and to help people who



“I believe that the partnership between DTAE and the Georgia Department of Labor is the cornerstone of Georgia’s statewide workforce-development system.”

want to improve their skills get access to information about training and educational resources, as well as financial aid and other support. We are an integral part of it; it’s a very integrated approach. It’s a system that I believe recognizes that only by working together can we provide Georgia’s taxpayers with services that they truly need and deserve.

FTC: The Career Opportunity Expos that your department has been hosting in response to the recession have been well received. What makes them unique?

MT: Of course, we’ve helped thousands of Georgians to find jobs during a very difficult time. But, beyond that, what makes the Expos unique from job fairs we have sponsored in the past is that we invite other public and private partners, technical colleges, Peach Care, Family and Children Services, and the HOPE Scholarship and Grant program to participate. They’re all on-site at the Expos. The other thing is, through technological innovation, we are now able to provide citizens with online job-search assistance. They can also file for unemployment insurance benefits online at our Expo sites. One of the other things that I’m very proud of, as we build this network, is that we partner with DTAE to help



establish satellite one-stop centers that are now available on every technical college campus, as well as satellite campuses around the state. Citizens don’t necessarily have to go to a career center to get our services. We want to be not only more effective, but more convenient for them.

FTC: That’s great.

MT: And, I want to add, that’s now possible because of an agreement we made with Commissioner Breeden through a federal one-stop career grant that we received in 1999. We basically agreed that we understand how important it is for the relationship to grow and prosper. So, we set up a contract where the money was transferred to DTAE, and these one-stop centers were set up all across the state of Georgia. No other state can boast of, or even claim to have, the kind of integrated-service approach that we have here in our state.

FTC: The workshops at the Expos seem like a great idea. Were they well received?

workshops deal with résumé writing, how to negotiate a salary, and how to conduct an interview. Those are things that many of us take for granted, but clearly when you’re in a soft job market and jobs are hard to find, upgrading your job-search skills can oftentimes be the difference between success and failure.

FTC: A representative from AFLAC said the Expo was, from her perspective, a “slam dunk.” What ideas do you have for future innovations?

MT: Well, obviously to continue to improve on customer service. That’s something you never perfect, but it’s a goal you always work toward. We really place a great emphasis on customer service — on treating other people the way we would like to be treated if, for some reason, we sought our services. Beyond that, I would like to see many more resources made available for training and helping the technical colleges to build capacity. That’s a concept Dr. Breeden and I follow. He taught me the whole notion of “building capacity.” And that’s simply this: we’re not in the

MT: Very. As a matter of fact, we’ve had to expand the number of workshops available at the Expos that we’ve had in Atlanta and Columbus. The

training business, so it was in our best interest to assist those who are. We’re not in the technical-education business, so that’s why we worked so hard to get resources to the technical colleges and schools, so that they can do a better job and that more people can get access to training. A better-trained workforce gives us a better product to market to employers across the state of Georgia. And beyond that, I just want to continue to build on my dream of building a world-class workforce for Georgia. That’s the model for the department. That’s my vision. I think that by building the workforce, we make Georgia much more attractive to industry, not only industry coming into our state, but also existing industry that needs to expand. In order for us to prosper in the 21st century, we really have to focus more on developing the workforce that we have.

FTC: You and Dr. Breeden have been friends for a long time.

MT: We developed a friendship while I was a state representative for Athens-Clarke County. And it has grown and developed over the years. As Director of the Department of Family and Children Services — the first week I was on the job — I called Dr. Breeden and told him I wanted to talk with him, and he said, ‘Well, Mike, come on out.’ I realized that, ultimately, in order to help people, welfare recipients or public-assistance recipients, we needed access to the technical colleges and universities. We talked about building capacity. We used TANF dollars to build capacity at the technical colleges. I said to Dr. Breeden, ‘Let us help build the capacity here.’ And that friendship has really blossomed over the years. And when I say he’s a mentor, I really mean it. When I have difficult issues — political, professional, or otherwise — he’s one of the first people I call.

FTC

To read about Michael Thurmond’s day-to-day life as commissioner, his thoughts on leadership, and his background, log on to www.dtae.org/Thurmond.html and view the complete interview.