

FROM THE COMMISSIONER



In our contemporary society, it seems as though nothing has escaped the march of technology. The creative arts are no exception. Just in the past 20 years, for example, the fields of entertainment technology, photography and printing have been transformed by the development of new digital tools. Anybody who works in those areas has seen the ongoing need to change with the rapid evolution of new equipment and software. There is an obvious need for ongoing, specialized training if anyone wishes to learn or update the required skills.

It's the same story in 3-D animation, Web site design, even opticianry, where skilled specialists are required to help select, fit and produce eyeglasses. Just having creativity isn't enough — there is also the need for technical training on sophisticated equipment.

Our colleges are providing that training. Camera operators, photo technicians, opticians, metalworkers — our colleges have developed programs that help students combine their creative instincts with technical know-how. The market has a huge demand for these skills, and our certificate, degree and diploma programs allow students opportunities to master the equipment quickly and enter the job market thanks to programs that focus on real-world, hands-on training.

The marketplace has a demand for these skilled employees, and Georgia's Technical College System has responded to fill that need. In this issue of *Results*, we review a few of the innovative, interesting new opportunities available at our colleges where technology and creativity come together.

In 1984, Gov. Joe Frank Harris created the State Board of Postsecondary Vocational Education. That executive order led directly to the creation of the Department of Technical and Adult Education and the system of technical colleges, adult literacy and economic development programs that today are playing such a critical role in Georgia's workforce development.

During those ensuing years, I have had the privilege to serve as the commissioner of the DTAE, working with business, industry, community leaders, educational professionals and students around the state. Recently, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of what we know today as the DTAE.

Also, I recently announced my retirement from my position as commissioner and will be leaving at the end of June, so this will be the last issue of *Results* magazine for which I will write the commissioner's introduction. Through this magazine, we have explored the depth and breadth of our system, and portrayed the programs that are designed to provide Georgians with real skills for real jobs.

In coming years, I look forward to sharing your accomplishments and achievements, both personally and through the pages of future issues of *Results*. I know I will be proud of what I see.

Kenneth H. Breeden
Commissioner

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