



Former DTAE Commissioner Kenneth Breeden (left) talks with new DTAE Commissioner Michael Vollmer at an evening reception and dinner.



Top photo: State Board Chair Harold Reynolds (left) presents Larry Comer with the first Charles Harris Award for Distinguished Service as a Member of the State Board. Bottom photo: DOL Commissioner Michael Thurmond (right), who was presented with the first Kenneth H. Breeden Award for Distinguished Leadership in Technical Education, with DTAE Commissioner Michael Vollmer.

Annual conference brings technical college team together

Each year, members of technical colleges' boards and foundations come together with college and political officials from around the state to take part in workshops and listening sessions to chart the course for the coming year.

This past November, the annual Leadership Conference was held in Savannah and was highlighted by the opening remarks from DTAE Commissioner Michael Vollmer, who had taken office only two months earlier. The commissioner's presentation gave the audience a first glimpse of his agenda for the agency, which includes a focus on quality and "telling our story."

The importance of the technical colleges "telling our story" was echoed by Georgia's Senate President Pro-Tem Eric Johnson of Savannah, who told the enthusiastic audience at the annual Legislative

Forum of the importance of "creat[ing] a vision that's understandable to the legislature." Johnson added, "Bring us along with where you are going... I think we can all work together for the future of Georgia if we've got a common vision."

The Leadership Conference is attended by the Technical College Foundation Association, which is made up of members of local college foundations, and the Technical College Directors Association, which is made up of more than 300 members of the local boards of directors of the technical colleges. The workshops are devoted to exploring ways to improve community relations and finding additional ways in which Georgia's Technical College System can better serve the people of Georgia. **R**



Johnny Isakson, a republican from Georgia, spoke at the conference just over a week after his victorious election as a U.S. Senator.



Georgia's legislators participating in the 2004 Legislative Forum were, from left, Sen. Bill Hamrick, Sen. Eric Johnson, Rep. Terry Coleman, Rep. Pat Gardner and Rep. Butch Parrish. Moderating the forum was WTOC-TV broadcaster Sonny Dixon (not pictured).