

*NEWS from the Public Relations Office*

## **East Central Tech**

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### **Dr. Bonnie Kelly Receives Award From USDA**

Dr. Bonnie Kelly will be the first to tell you that writing grants is a team effort that takes persistence, patience, and prayers. Over her 24 year career she has spearheaded efforts that have secured over five million dollars for local needs.

Dr. Kelly, who is Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness at East Central Technical College, has made many opportunities possible for the college. She has developed a wonderful relationship with USDA which has funded over one million dollars in projects for the college. State Director of USDA Rural Development, Stone Workman, was on hand Monday at the college to present Dr. Kelly with a special award. According to Mr. Workman, "Dr. Kelly has helped the college receive funding on several occasions over the last eight years. In 2002, a Community Facilities Grant for \$149,000 was provided to buy equipment for the new Childcare Facility built to serve students. A \$498,252 Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant was awarded to establish an interactive distance learning system that would link all service area counties. Dr. Kelly was always working for a way that I could say yes. She was the catalyst for most of the funding received at ECTC."

When asked about her passion for grant writing, Dr. Kelly said, "I enjoy working on problems, helping to find the solutions and then seeking out funding sources to arrive at the solution." Dr. Kelly also stated, "It has been a true pleasure working with Stone Workman. He understands rural Georgia—it's needs and potential."

In addition to working with USDA, Dr. Kelly has also secured grants and equipment from CCAMPIS (a childcare funding source), the Rural Health Association, Bright from the Start, Ford Motor Company, and Toyota Forklifts.

Upon receiving her recognition from USDA, which was the “Golden Peanut Award,” Mr. Workman also noted that Dr. Kelly had been very helpful in sharing her knowledge with other technical colleges around the state who were also successful in receiving funding for some of their projects. Her relationship with USDA also put her in the spotlight for being their guest speaker at their state meeting explaining how partnerships can be developed.

In her spare time, Bonnie enjoys cross stitch, crocheting for charity, cooking and sewing. She serves as a director on the Foundation Board of Irwin EMC. She is a member of the Fitzgerald Central United Methodist Church. She and her husband Mike have one daughter, Kathryn, who is pursuing a Ph.D. at Texas A&M.

Senator Saxby Chambliss and Representative Johnny Isakson also sent letters of congratulations to Dr. Kelly.