

NEWS from the Public Relations Office

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28 East Central Tech Students are Nominated for GOAL Award

Instructors at East Central Technical College have nominated 28 of their students for the Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL), according to Mona Paulk, coordinator for the college's GOAL program.

GOAL, a statewide program of the Technical College System of Georgia, honors excellence in academics and leadership among the state's technical college students. GOAL winners are selected at each of the state's 33 technical colleges as well as the four Board of Regents colleges with technical education divisions.

GOAL winners from each campus will compete in March and April in consortia preliminary judging and two finalists from each consortium will go on to compete for the state title in Atlanta in May.

Chosen for recognition by their instructors are Rhonda Anderson, a Cosmetology major from Coffee County, Robert Beard, an Air Conditioning Technology major from Irwin County, Jan Billingsley, a Computer Information Systems Technology major from Ben Hill County, Sarah Crews, a Practical Nursing major from Atkinson County, Traci Faison, a Practical Nursing major from Ben Hill County, Dedra Gillis, a Cosmetology major from Coffee County, Dorinda Grady, a Medical Assisting major from Coffee County, Savannah Hargrove, a Cosmetology major from Dodge County, Russell Hulett, an Industrial Systems Technology major from Coffee County, Natasha Jackson, a Practical Nursing major from Coffee County, Edd C. Jones, a Convergent Telecommunications Technology major from Ben Hill County, Jamie Kight, a Practical Nursing major from Coffee County, Kristen Lankford, a Practical Nursing major from Irwin County, Thomas Manus, a Computer Information Systems Technology major from Coffee County, Elizabeth Morgan, a Convergent Telecommunications Technology major from Irwin County, John Morrison, a Welding and Joining Technology major from Ware County, Shirley Musselwhite, a Computer Information Systems Technology major from Irwin County, Dorothy Peterson, an Early Childhood Care and Education major from Ben Hill County, Mario Xavier Peterson, a Business Administrative Technology major from Coffee County, Michael Renfroe, a Convergent Telecommunications Technology major from Ben Hill County, Maria Simmons, an Early Childhood Care and Education major from Ben Hill County, Jakima Simpson, a Business Office Technology major from Coffee County, Ashley Spell, an Industrial Systems Technology

major from Coffee County, Kevin Tasson, an Automotive Technology major from Ben Hill County, Anna Thomas, a Business Administrative Technology major from Ben Hill County, Dana White, a Practical Nursing major from Atkinson County, Daphne Williams, a Criminal Justice Technology major from Ben Hill County, Christy Zanders, a Criminal Justice Technology major from Coffee County.

"The purpose of the GOAL program is to spotlight the outstanding achievement by students in Georgia's technical colleges and to emphasize the importance of technical education in today's global workforce," said Paulk.

A screening committee at ECTC will review each of the instructors' nominations then conduct personal interviews with the students. Finalists will then be chosen to compete to be the ECTC GOAL winner for 2009.

The finalists will take part in another round of interviews and evaluations by representatives from local business and industry. That panel will consider the students' qualities like academic achievement, personal character, leadership abilities and enthusiasm for technical education.

The student judged most outstanding will be designated as the college's GOAL winner and move on to the consortia preliminary judging; then two from each consortium, which will make up the 12 finalists, will attend competition for the state GOAL award and selection as the Technical College System of Georgia's 2009 student of the year.

The title of state GOAL winner also earns the student the important responsibility of traveling the state as the ambassador for the entire technical college.

Photo: L-R Front Row: Jamie Kight, Dedra Gillis, Dorinda Grady, Anna Thomas, Mario Xavier Peterson, Kristen Lankford, Dana White; 2nd row: E. J. Harris, ECTC Interim President, Daphne Williams, Thomas Manus, John Morrison, Kevin Tasson, Jakima Simpson, Christy Zanders, Mona Paulk, ECTC GOAL Coordinator; 3rd row: Savannah Hargrove, Dorothy Peterson, Maria Simmons, Sara Crews, Natasha Jackson, Traci Faison, Shirley Musselwhite, Jan Billingsley, Russell Hulett; 4th row: Rhonda Anderson, Robert Beard, Elizabeth Morgan, Edd. C. Jones, Ashley Spell