



**For Immediate Release:**

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**Athens Technical College Receives USDA Grant**

Athens Technical College, in 2007, applied for a USDA Grant to be used for the purchase of a modular industrial building for the Commercial Truck Driving program on the Elbert County Campus. Due to the recent growth of this program, this kind of a facility is needed at the driving range to adequately accommodate the students. The new modular unit will be an ADA-approved (handicapped accessible) building which will contain a classroom, faculty office, and a restroom. As a result of having this facility, the Commercial Truck Driving program will be able to operate in a self-contained manner on location at the driving range, which is located in Elbert County. The estimated cost of the modular unit is \$56,000. The USDA Grant will provide \$36,000 toward the purchase of the unit. The remaining portion will be funded by Athens Technical College, which makes this project a true partnership between the USDA and Athens Technical College. In addition to providing a portion of the funding for the purchase of the modular unit, Athens Technical College will also provide funding for the installation of a well and a septic system in order to make the modular unit fully functional.

The USDA has awarded previous grants to Athens Technical College in support of the Commercial Truck Driving program. In 2006, the college received a \$74,703 grant to purchase a new Freightliner truck and in 2003, the college received an \$86,000 grant to purchase a truck driving simulator. As a result of the support of the USDA, the Commercial Truck Driving program has flourished in Elbert County. The program opened in 2003, and since then 184 students have graduated from the program. Elbert County is the only location where the Commercial Truck Driving program is offered by Athens Technical College.



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