



News Release

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Athens, GA— The U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution designating September 13-17, 2010, as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week.

“Our adult education instructors provide people with a tremendous opportunity to accomplish their long-delayed goal of earning their high school credential,” said Dr. Flora W. Tydings, president of Athens Technical College. “Nearly 3,000 people enrolled in the college’s adult education program during the 2009-2010 academic year. This number included 663 individuals who earned their GED.”

Athens Technical College provides adult education programs to people in a 10-county region of Northeast Georgia, including Clarke, Elbert, Greene, Hart, Madison, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, Walton, and Wilkes counties.

Residents can enroll in classes at the adult education centers in these counties to improve their basic literacy skills, prepare to take the GED, learn English as a second language, and complete specific assessments and learn self-improvement skills needed for jobs or additional training. All classes are available at no charge to county residents.

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Athens Technical College

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Dr. Tydings added that Congress' designation of the National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week emphasizes just how important adult learning is to changing lives and improving communities. It also sheds light on the issues that confront those million-plus Georgians who, for whatever reason, failed to achieve a secondary education credential:

- They'll earn an average of almost \$9,000 less annually than a person with a GED or high school diploma.
- Their chances of going to prison are higher.
- They are more likely to experience poor health, higher infant mortality rates, have trouble communicating with health-care providers, and have trouble navigating the health care and insurance systems.
- They'll have problems understanding and managing basic finances and have problems with supporting their families, including providing for their children who will miss out on basic health care and educational services.

"Earning a GED opens many doors for people, including the opportunity to continue their education at the college level," Dr. Tydings said. "Last year, over 175 people who earned their GED through Athens Technical College took the next step in their educational careers by enrolling in the associate degree, diploma, and technical certificate programs we offer at our four campus locations."

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