



## ATC Spotlight

### Career academy dedication draws big crowd



More than 200 people attended a Thursday, December 7 dedication ceremony for the new state-of-the-art Athens Community Career Academy and H.T. Edwards Complex off West Broad Street in Athens.

The career academy is a collaborative effort between the Clarke County School District, Athens Technical College, the University of Georgia, anti-poverty initiative OneAthens and the local business community. It opened in August and shares the H.T. Edwards complex grounds with Classic City High School, the Athens Boys & Girls Club, and an early child development center.

The career academy offers high school students a learning model that emphasizes how core courses like math and reading apply to the real world, and it teaches classes in health sciences, criminal justice, video production, and drafting to see if students want to pursue them as careers

Students also can work on their high school diploma and take courses that count toward college credits. Additionally, the school offers a dual enrollment program in conjunction with Athens Technical College.

The H.T. Edwards Building historically served as the home for Athens' African-American students, first as Athens High and Industrial School from 1955 to 1964 and then as Burney Harris High School until 1970.

Thursday's dedication included a performance from the Cedar Shoals High School Concert Choir and remarks from a dozen speakers. Among those who addressed the crowd were Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, Dr. Hannah T. Edwards, the granddaughter of the late educator H.T. Edwards Sr. for whom the complex is named; Charles Worthy, Clarke County School Board president; Burney Harris alumni Valdon Daniel, George Maxwell, Elizabeth S. Platt, Harry L. Sims and Charles W. Stroud; Athens-Clarke Mayor Nancy Denson; UGA Associate Vice President Tom Gausvik; ATC President Flora Tydings; and Clarke County School Superintendent Philip D. Lanoue.

Dr. Tydings said the Athens Community Career Academy represents a great example of the quality programs the educational community can build when people work together.

"The academy will be offering courses that will make it possible for students to obtain a college credential at the same time they receive their high school diploma," Tydings said, adding, "We are very grateful for the Lieutenant Governor's leadership in helping afford Clarke County high school students this opportunity."

Photo caption: Standing from left, Valdon Daniel, George Maxwell, Elizabeth S. Platt and Harry Simms, alumni of the former Burney Harris High School and members of the H.T. Edwards Building Heritage Committee, stand as the crowd acknowledges them during a dedication ceremony for the Athens Community Career Academy, December 7.

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