



News Release

Contact: **Daniel J. Smith**

706-355-5085

dsmith@athenstech.edu

Athens, GA— Cedric Smith of Athens received the Richard Fraser Scholarship during the 2009 GED Graduation Ceremony at Athens Technical College.

Mr. Smith states that he had dropped out of high school because of peer influence; his friends did not encourage him with his educational goals.

He credits the support of his family and his church family for giving him the courage and determination to earn his GED.

The Richard Fraser Scholarship is given each year to honor the memory of this former adult education instructor. When he passed away suddenly, former GED students collected money as a way to honor his memory. The Fraser scholarship assists GED recipients with the cost of earning a college degree. Mr. Smith plans to enter Athens Technical College.

Ten additional GED graduates received awards during the June 11 graduation ceremony held at the Classic Center in downtown Athens.

-- more --

Athens Technical College

News Release – Page 2

Nine of the students received the Athens Technical College Foundation Outstanding County GED Graduate Award in the amount of \$100. The county award recipients included Miracle Morrison, Clarke County; Chris Carros, Elbert County; Stephanie Ann Moncrief, Greene County; Christina N. Ballew, Madison County; Judy Whitaker, Oconee County; Sergio Nero Adamo, Oglethorpe County; Sydney Erin Lambie, Taliaferro County; Mike Tuck, Walton County; and Hilda McGeshick, Wilkes County. The Outstanding County GED Graduate Award is presented each year to one student from each county in the college's service area who makes the highest score on the GED of the all people from the county who took the exam during the year.

Joelyn Anita McMullan Davidson of Hart County received the Athens Technical College Foundation Outstanding GED Graduation Award. This award is presented each year to the adult education student who makes the highest scores on the GED exam from among students from the 10-county service area who took the exam during the year. Annual recipients receive a check for \$1,000.

Both the Outstanding County GED Graduate Award and the Outstanding GED Graduate Award are funded by an endowment from the Estate of Betty Williford. Mrs. Williford was a strong advocate for the adult education program at the college. She served on the Board of Trustees of the Athens Technical College Foundation and was a long-time educator in Elbert County. Nancy Stangle, the daughter of Mrs. Williford and a current member of the Athens Technical College Foundation presented the awards to each of the recipients during the GED Graduation Ceremony.

Over 560 people who successfully completed the Tests of General Educational Development (GED) through Athens Technical College since July 1, 2008, were eligible to participate in the ceremony.

Mary E. "Lisa" Eason, assistant commissioner of administration for the Technical College System of Georgia, herself a GED recipient, served as keynote speaker for the event.

-- end --