



## News Release

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Athens, GA— Athens Technical College will hold its 2009 GED Graduation Ceremony at 4 p.m. on Friday, June 11, at the Classic Center in downtown Athens. The keynote speaker for this event is Mary E. “Lisa” Eason, assistant commissioner of administration for the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG).

Dr. Flora Tydings, president of Athens Technical College, states that 683 adults who successfully completed the Tests of General Education Development (GED) through Athens Technical College since July 1, 2009, are eligible to participate in this ceremony.

“The GED Graduation Ceremony is one of the highlights of the year,” Dr. Tydings said. “The graduates range in age from those in their late teens to great grandparents in their 80s. The energy in the Classic Center is tremendous because the families are so proud of the fact that their loved ones have accomplished this significant milestone.”

As speaker for the event, Ms. Eason can relate with the graduates. As a high school dropout, she began working in sewing factories at the age of 17 in her hometown of Knoxville, TN. Nine years later she decided to obtain a GED so that she could get a better job.

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Having accomplished this goal, Ms. Eason decided to pursue a college education. After moving to Georgia in 1988, she enrolled at the age of 28 in the University of West Georgia where she graduated seven years later with a bachelor's degree in accounting.

Ms. Eason began her professional career as an intern with the Georgia Department of Audits in January 1995 performing audits of non-emergency transportation companies. Upon graduation from the University of West Georgia in 1996, she obtained a permanent position as staff auditor with the Department of Audits. In 1997, she accepted a position as an accounting manager with the Georgia Insurance Commissioner's Office.

She joined TCSG in 1999 as accounting manager and was quickly promoted to director of accounting. In 2003, she was promoted to the position of executive director of administrative services. She was again promoted in 2008 to her current position as assistant commissioner for administration.

Ms. Eason works closely with the 26 technical colleges throughout the state by providing guidance and assistance on finance and business administration issues. She also works closely with other state agencies to ensure that the needs of the colleges are met when changes in state government occur. Some of Ms. Eason's major accomplishments include assisting the technical colleges during the implementation of the state's new accounting software, ensuring that the needs of the colleges were met during an accounting system upgrade in 2005, and working with the colleges to ensure that they were in compliance with the numerous financial reporting changes that have occurred over the past nine years.

Ms Eason is married to Jim Eason and has three grown children, one step-daughter, and ten grandchildren. She lives in Sharpsburg.

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