

**For Immediate Release:**

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**Mark Pulliam, a Criminal Justice Technology student, has been named the 2007 Athens Technical College Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL) winner. He was nominated by program director, Mike Sales and competed against students in various programs at the College to be selected the local winner.**

**The GOAL program was first launched in 1971 and this award focuses on excellence in technical education. During GOAL week, outstanding students attending Georgia's technical colleges and divisions are recognized for academic excellence and personal achievement. From this outstanding group of students, a panel of judges selects one student, the state GOAL winner, to serve as the statewide Student of the Year and ambassador of technical education in Georgia.**

**The state GOAL winner will make many public appearances throughout the year including addresses to the Georgia General Assembly, the Governor, the Legislative Breakfast, and the Department of Adult and Technical leadership conference. As the grand prize, a new automobile is awarded to the state GOAL winner.**

**Mark Pulliam is employed full-time as a detective with the Athens-Clarke County Police Department. He is married to Christy Pulliam and is the father of three children. He will graduate in June with an associate's degree in Criminal Justice Technology.**