



ATC Spotlight

Marketing Management Student Barnett wins ATC GOAL



Jeffrey Barnett, a student in Athens Technical College's Marketing Management Program, on Tuesday earned the honor of representing the college for the Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL), according to Yancey Gulley coordinator for the college's GOAL program.

Barnett, class of 2013, was chosen from among four Athens Technical College students who were selected as the college's semi-finalists for GOAL. Barnett will now compete in the regional judging in February. The other ATC semi-finalists included Eleshea Borders, Physical Therapist Assistant Program; Cindy South, Physical Therapist Assistant Program; and Jessica Thompson-Moon, Social Work Assistant Program.

"These students represent some of the best efforts of Athens Technical College. They are proven leaders both in their academic endeavors and through their involvement on campus and in their community," said Athens Technical College President Flora Tydings. "We are honored to have such talented and dedicated individuals as members of the college community."

Mr. Barnett is involved in a variety of community outreach programs. A retired U.S. Navy lieutenant, Mr. Barnett enrolled at Athens Technical College after being laid off from two jobs due to the economic downturn and realizing he needed to improve his educational and career options.

"It became evident that I needed a credible educational foundation if I wanted to better my employment opportunities," Barnett said. "Athens Technical College is providing that foundation."

Outside of his academic pursuits, Barnett volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for the Athens-Oconee CASA program and speaks to fifth grade classes each week at Cleveland Road Elementary about developing strong character traits.

Dr. Sandy Weaver, Marketing Management Program director, praised Mr. Barnett's attributes.

"Mr. Barnett is an exemplary student and exhibits qualities that demonstrate his dedication to education and the development of his career goals," Dr. Weaver said.

A panel of community leaders met January 24, at the Athens Campus to interview the four ATC semifinalists and afterward selected Barnett as the winner of the GOAL for Athens Technical College. Barnett now will compete in the February regional judging level, which will include GOAL winners from the other 26 colleges of the Technical College System of Georgia as well as the two University System of Georgia colleges with technical education divisions.

GOAL, a statewide program of the Technical College System of Georgia, honors excellence in academics and leadership among the state's technical college students.

"The purpose of the GOAL program is to spotlight the outstanding achievement by students in Georgia's technical colleges and to emphasize the importance of technical education in today's global workforce," Mr. Gulley said.

In April, all college winners will gather in Atlanta where the nine semi-finalists ? three finalists from each of the three regions ? will be announced. Those nine students will compete at the state-level in May and one will be named as the statewide GOAL winner. The state GOAL winner becomes the student ambassador for the Technical College System of Georgia.

The GOAL program was first launched in 1971 to highlight student excellence in technical education. GOAL winners represent the "new image" of Georgia's technical colleges. Students must recognize technical education's critical impact on Georgia's overall economic health, demonstrate a strong work ethic, possess a dedicated sense of loyalty, and express a healthy enthusiasm for promoting technical education in Georgia.

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