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[Management Tools](#)

ATC Spotlight



Walton County chamber honors Hamby with citizenship award

The Walton County Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 26 honored Ms. Nelma Hamby, Athens Technical College's Walton County Adult Education Program director, with the J.L. McGarity Citizenship Award for 2011.

The annual award recognizes a chamber member who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, initiative, determination and citizenship within the community. Mike McGarity, grandson of the man for whom the award is named, presented Ms. Hamby with the award.

In his presentation speech, McGarity described Ms. Hamby as a "miracle worker" and "one of Walton County's true angels," for her work in helping Walton County residents complete their

high school equivalency diplomas.

Ms. Hamby is a “driving force to get individuals to better themselves by obtaining their GED,” McGarity said.

Besides instructing students in the GED coursework, Hamby also guides them in finding resources to help them overcome financial and other life obstacles in order to complete their GEDs. She also assists them in finding jobs and spends time reaching out to the Walton County business community to raise funding for the adult education programs.

Ms. Hamby’s adult education program serves the largest number of adult education students in the regional and her GED graduation numbers are among the largest in Athens Technical College’s 10-county service area, McGarity told the attendees at the annual chamber banquet.

Ms Nancy Kinsey, Executive Director of the Development Authority of Walton County, nominated Ms. Hamby for the award, and the honoree was selected by the Annual Citizenship Award Committee.

Photo caption: Left to right, Dominic Malcom, Jane Reynolds, Dr. Flora Tydings, Dr Janie Rodgers, Nelma Hamby, Beverly Hafenbrack, Jimmy Hogg

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