



ATC Spotlight

Lastie to represent ATC as Rick Perkins Award nominee



A group of community leaders from the Northeast Georgia area have named Athens Technical College faculty member Rhonda Lastie as the school's nominee for the annual Rick Perkins Award for Excellence in Instruction.

Lastie will move on to compete on the regional level with Rick Perkins Award nominees from North Georgia Tech, Georgia Northwestern Tech, Lanier Tech, Gwinnett Tech, DeKalb Tech, Atlanta Tech, West Georgia Tech, and Chattahoochee Tech. That round, one of three regional competitions, will take place February 21 at Lanier Technical College's Forsyth Conference Center. Each region will select two instructors to vie for the state title.

The group of community leaders who selected Lastie as the ATC Rick Perkins Award nominee comprised members of the business community and the ATC board of directors. The group recently conducted personal interviews with Lastie, social work assistant program chair with ATC, as well as Stuart Rolf, machine tool technology program chair, before selecting Lastie as the ATC nominee.

Lastie and Rolf were finalists among six ATC faculty members who were nominated for their outstanding instruction at the college. The other nominees included Dr. Jeff Rapp, biotechnology program chair; Dr. Randall Fameree, life sciences; Dr. Tawana Mattox, learning support/general education; and Cresful (Corky) Reeves, adult education.

The Technical College System of Georgia established the Rick Perkins Award for Excellence in Technical Instruction in 1991 to recognize and honor technical college instructors who make significant contributions to technical education through innovation and leadership in their fields. The award recognizes the recipient as the Georgia Technical College System's Instructor of the Year. Formerly known as the Commissioner's Award of Excellence, the Rick Perkins Award was renamed in memory of Thomas "Rick" Perkins, a commercial truck driving instructor at West Central Technical College. Perkins received the Commissioner's Award of Excellence prior to his untimely death in 1997 at the age of 42.

The Rick Perkins Award winner serves as an ambassador for technical education in Georgia. He or she will make many public appearances throughout the year including addresses to the Georgia General Assembly, the governor, and the Georgia Technical College System Leadership Conference.

Photo caption: Rhonda Lastie, left, and Stuart Rolf were finalists in the competition to represent Athens Technical College on the regional level for the Rick Perkins Award for Excellence in Technical Instruction. A committee of ATC board members and other members from the business community selected Lastie as the ATC representative.

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