


## Spotlight - Edit Item

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**ATC Spotlight**



The logo for the Rick Perkins Award features the name "RICK PERKINS" in a large, bold, sans-serif font, arched across the top. Below it, the word "AWARD" is also in a bold, sans-serif font, arched across the bottom. In the center, there is a stylized graphic of a sailboat's mast and sail, pointing upwards towards a large, five-pointed star. Two smaller, identical stars are positioned on either side of the central graphic, one above and one below the sailboat's mast.

**Three finalists vying for Perkins instructor of the year award**

A committee of Athens Technical College faculty has narrowed the nominees to three finalists for the Rick Perkins Award for Excellence in Technical Instruction. The screening committee, comprising ATC faculty who previously won the Perkins Award, selected Rhonda Lastie, social work assistant program chair; Dr. Jeff Rapp, biotechnology program chair; and Stuart Rolf, machine tool technology program chair, from a field of six outstanding nominations that included Dr. Randall Fameree, life sciences; Dr. Tawana Mattox, learning support/general education); and Cresful (Corky) Reeves, adult education. Lastie, Rapp and Rolf now will move on to the next award competition stage – an interview with a committee made up of community leaders from the Northeast Georgia area. The winner of this next round at ATC will move on to one of three regional competitions with winners from other technical colleges. Two instructors from those six regional levels will then vie for the state title.

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.

[Don Nelson](#)

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