

June 6, 2018

2018 Tools for Life Melinda Quinn “Squeaky Wheel” Award

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**Kim Gibson** wins the **2018 Tools for Life Melinda Quinn “Squeaky” Award** at the Institute Designed for Educating All Students (IDEAS) Conference

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**St. Simon’s Island, Georgia | June 2018** – Kim Gibson, Special Education Parent Mentor with the Ware County School District, was presented with the prestigious 2018 Tools for Life Melinda Quinn “Squeaky Wheel” Award on June 6, 2018. Gibson won the contested prize over other nominees throughout Georgia.

The Tools for Life Assistive Technology Awards Ceremony has been a tradition within Georgia for the last 22 years. The Tools for Life Melinda Quin Award recognizes and honors an individual who has worked at the community level to develop local grassroots efforts through advocacy. This award was created by Tools for Life, Georgia’s Assistive Technology (AT) Act Program, to promote creativity and encourage AT and universal design principles for equal access for all people.

Gibson accepted the Tools for Life Naomi Walker “Catalyst for Positive Change” Award in person in front of over 900 educators and AT professionals from across Georgia at the annual Institute Designed for Educating All Students (IDEAS) Conference. Gibson rose above the other nominees for a variety of reasons, including starting the Autism Parent Group, helping create Autism Awareness Day and working on Find Your Path, an initiative encouraging students with disabilities to take college placement tests and participate in Dual Enrollment or attend college.

Gibson received a unique handcrafted bowl created exclusively for the Tools for Life AT Award Winners by Georgia artisans *In the Woods, LLC*. These beautiful pieces serve as a reminder of the knowledge, skills and abilities that overflow from Gibson’s “bowl” as she assists students and individuals with disabilities in achieving their educational and lifelong goals.

Tools for Life, Georgia’s Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of AT devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.

Visit [www.gatfl.gatech.edu](http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu) for more information.

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