

June 6, 2018

2018 Tools for Life Excellence in AT Integration Team Award

**Contact Information:**

Tools for Life – Georgia’s Assistive Technology Act Program

Georgia Institute of Technology | AMAC Accessibility

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**The Colquitt County Assistive Technology Team** wins the **2018 Tools for Life Excellence in AT Integration Team Award** at the Institute Designed for Educating All Students (IDEAS) Conference

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**St. Simon’s Island, Georgia | June 2018** – The Colquitt County Assistive Technology Team was presented with the prestigious 2018 Tools for Life Excellence in AT Integration Team Award on June 6, 2018 for outstanding assistive technology (AT) services. The team 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 Excellence in AT Integration Team Award recognizes and honors an assistive technology team at the local or state level that involves two or more professionals or entities that promote or facilitate the development of effective AT integration in a classroom, school, school system, workplace and/or community. Factors considered include coordination of services, networking and collaboration, innovation in development and implementation and lasting impact of the service provided on the person(s) served. This award honors excellence in the provision of effective AT services to Georgians.

The Tools for Life Excellence in AT Integration Team Award was given to the Colquitt County Assistive Technology Team: Nina Price, Assistive Technology Coordinator and Specialist of Physical Disabilities; Angela McLaughlin, Specialist of Visual Disabilities; Amanda Horne, Assistant Special Education Director; Tiffany Martin, Occupational Therapist; Wendy Horne, Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant; Beth Sayers, Physical Therapist; Nicole Kusek, Specialist of Hearing Disabilities; Bessie Caquelard, Speech Language Pathologist; Kathy McCall, Speech Language Pathologist; Melissa Brannen, Speech Language Pathologist; Hannah Wilder, Specialist Education Department Leader; Virginia Icard, Special Education Department Leader; Suzanne Leroux, Special Education teacher; Ashley Taylor, Special Education teacher; and Brandon Medley, Special Education teacher.

The award was accepted 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. The team rose above other nominees for a variety of reasons, including releasing the Assistive Technology and Resource tool to all special education teachers in August 2017 and placing several low-tech communication devices in the hands of students during the 2017-2018 school year.

The Colquitt County Assistive Technology Team 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

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serve as a reminder of the knowledge, skills and abilities that overflow from their “bowl” as they assist students with disabilities in achieving their educational 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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