

AWARD PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Denise Quigley Wins Tools for Life Melinda Quinn “Squeaky Wheel” Award During Annual IDEAS Conference

St. Simons Island, Georgia | June 18, 2019 – Denise Quigley, a parent advocate and Director of Resource Advocacy with the Georgia Advocacy Office (GAO), was presented with the prestigious 2019 Tools for Life Melinda Quinn “Squeaky Wheel” Award on June 6, 2019. Quigley won the prize over other nominees throughout the state of Georgia.

The Tools for Life Assistive Technology Awards Ceremony has been a tradition within Georgia for over 20 years. The Tools for Life Melinda Quinn “Squeaky Wheel” 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 Act Program, to honor Melinda Quinn, who dedicated her life to serving the disability community. She is remembered for her advocacy work and by saying, “If you want people to take action on your requests, you must be the squeaky wheel on their cart.”

Quigley was presented the Tools for Life Melinda Quinn “Squeaky Wheel” Award by Bob Quinn and his son, Trey, during the Institute Designed for Educating All Students (IDEAS) Conference. This annual conference is attended by more than 1,000 educators and assistive technology professionals from across the state of Georgia.

Quigley rose above the other nominees for a variety of reasons, including her involvement in the disability community for many years and being a tireless advocate for parents of children with disabilities. Her patience and willingness to listen gives Quigley a platform to share her journey and own experiences. Quigley relates to other parents on a deep personal level leaving each one knowing that they have been heard and empowered to advocate on behalf of their children to live full, meaningful lives in their communities.

Quigley received a unique handcrafted bowl created exclusively for the Tools for Life Assistive Technology Award winners by Georgia artisans *In the Woods, LLC*. This beautiful piece serves as a reminder of the knowledge, skills and abilities that overflow from Quigley's "bowl" as she assists students and other individuals with disabilities in achieving their educational and lifelong goals.

About Tools for Life:

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

Visit www.gatfl.gatech.edu for more information.

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