

Contact Information:

**Tools for Life – Georgia’s Assistive Technology Act Program**

**Georgia Institute of Technology | AMAC Accessibility**

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**The AMAC Accessibility Captioning Unit wins the 2017 Tools for Life Excellence in Assistive Technology Team Award** at the Institute Designed for Educating All Students (IDEAS) Conference. **The recipients are Heather Johnson, Denise Winn, Sheryl Ballenger, Jesús Pulido and Chris Delano.**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**St. Simon’s, Georgia | June 2017 – The AMAC Accessibility Captioning Team** was presented with the prestigious **2017 Tools for Life Excellence in Assistive Technology Team Award** on **June 9, 2017** for outstanding **Assistive Technology (AT) Services**. The AMAC Team won the hotly contested prize over other nominees throughout Georgia.

The **Tools for Life Assistive Technology Awards Ceremony** has been a tradition within Georgia for the last **21** years. **The Excellence in AT Team Award** recognizes an Assistive Technology Team, at the local or statewide 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 person(s) served. This award honors excellence in the provision of effective AT services to Georgians.

**The Tools for Life Excellence in AT Team Award** was given to the AMAC Accessibility Captioning Team. Heather Johnson, Lead Captioning Coordinator, Denise Winn, Digital Media Accessibility Specialist-Captioning, Sheryl Ballenger, Manager, D/HH Services, Jesús Pulido, Accessible Multimedia Coordinator and Chris Delano, Deaf & Hard-of-Hearing Services Specialist who **accepted the Excellence in Assistive Technology Team Award at IDEAS in front of 900 participants.**

The AMAC Accessibility Captioning Team rose above the other nominees for a variety of reasons including their implementation of effective AT services to overcome obstacles and promote student educational progress. The AMAC Accessibility Captioning Team all received a unique hand-crafted bowl created exclusively for the Tools for Life AT Award Winners by Georgia artisans, In the Woods Studio, LLC. These beautiful pieces 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 assistive technology (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. Find out more at [www.gatfl.gatech.edu](http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu).

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