



LAWRENCEVILLE | ALPHARETTA-NORTH FULTON

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Gwinnett Technical College Hosts Fall GED Graduation Ceremony
Gwinnett Tech Helps Hundreds Earn Their High School Equivalency Diploma

GWINNETT – NORTH FULTON – On the heels of being named Georgia’s 2017 GED Testing Center of the Year, Gwinnett Technical College’s Adult Education department reached another milestone, graduating over 400 GED® students for the fall 2017 semester. Many have had to overcome great obstacles and hardships to get to this moment. Many have waited years to finally don the coveted cap and gown and walk across the commencement stage.

Stephanie Rooks, Gwinnett Tech’s dean of Adult Education says, “That’s an encouraging number! Our department is committed to our students. We don’t want them to just get their GED®. We’re committed to providing students with the skills, resources, training and guidance needed to advance into college or a career.” Rooks continues, “We meet our students where they are and help them push forward with their lives and chart a new course for success.”

Phil Klein, dean, Health Sciences, gave the keynote address. Klein shared words of encouragement to the graduates saying “There was likely a time in your life where a college education felt out of reach. Today, right now, that education is right in front of you. Grab that opportunity and embrace your future.”

Raquel Mohammed, the GED® graduate speaker and Technical College System of Georgia Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education finalist, told her story of walking on to campus for the first time with her son. “Sitting with my son and his enrollment advisor as he enrolled in college, I learned of the GED® program at Gwinnett Tech and for the first time in 30 years I became intrigued and excited.” Out of work and living on a single income, Raquel made the decision to enroll at Gwinnett Tech and earn her GED®. “The barriers and limitations we have faced have been removed. Education is a way out of poverty. Poverty of mind, body and well-being.”

According to Rooks, Gwinnett Tech’s dean of Adult Education, many of the GED®-earners have already accepted that challenge. Rooks reports, “Thirty-four students from this class have already enrolled at Gwinnett Tech to further their education. They’re just getting started.”

Gwinnett Tech’s Adult Education department offers one of the best GED® programs in Georgia. In 2017 the College had the most GED® graduates in the state and the program received recognition as the 2017 GED® Testing Center of the Year.

Gwinnett Tech’s Adult Education department serves approximately 2,300 GED® prep students each year. The College offers six adult education centers in Gwinnett (including partnerships with Gwinnett County Sheriff’s Department, Gwinnett County Public Schools and Gwinnett Juvenile Court) and three centers in North Fulton, as well as four GED® Testing Centers. Orientation, assessments and classes are offered to students for free. The cost to take the GED® test is just \$40 per subject area. Residents of Georgia who earn a GED® may also be eligible for a \$500 HOPE GED® grant, which can be used toward continuing postsecondary education in Georgia. To learn more about the GED® program at Gwinnett Tech, visit GwinnettTech.edu/ged or call 678-226-6702.

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About Gwinnett Tech

*Gwinnett Technical College, one of Georgia's largest technical colleges, is committed to delivering relevant knowledge to meet the workforce training needs of its community. The College offers more than 140 associate degree, diploma and certificate programs and hundreds of seminars, workshops and courses providing specialized training. Gwinnett Tech is Gwinnett County's largest provider of corporate training and also serves residents and businesses in north Fulton County. Gwinnett Technical College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the associate degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call [404-679-4500](tel:404-679-4500) for questions about the accreditation of Gwinnett Technical College. In addition, some college programs hold separate licensure or accreditation status with appropriate agencies. For more information, visit GwinnettTech.edu. **A unit of the Technical College System of Georgia.***