



# CENTRAL GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE REBOUND!

CGTC ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 2019

We create success stories.

## MEET CGTC'S 68-YEAR-OLD GOLDEN GED® GRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENT

Sixty-eight years old is better late than never to start telling the truth; that's why, Thomas Shepler, of Vienna, Ga., pursued his GED® and now represents Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC) as one of two 2018 Golden GED® Graduates of the Year for Georgia.

"I have been lying on job applications for 50 years and I finally wanted to be truthful on one of those things," Shepler said, to a roar of laughs by the audience after the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) named him the winner at the 2018 Adult Education Fall Conference and GED® Awards in September. TCSG hosts the awards annually as a part of its conference for adult education and testing leadership statewide.

"We are so excited for Mr. Shepler and his achievement and recognition as Golden GED® Graduate of the Year. Our team celebrates his award, commitment, and dedication to his goals," said Dorothy Ferguson, Director of Operations for the Division.

Shepler is one of the eldest of the 41,704 students enrolled in adult education programs in TCSG's 22 institutions for fiscal year 2017-2018, and the 10,613 GED® graduates. He said none of it would be possible without instructors like his own, Merissa Sands, who made math less of a mountain for him to climb. He also recognizes that at his age, 69 now, a GED® says more about self-honesty and personal betterment than career outlook.

For more on this story, please visit the *Campus News* section of the website at [www.centralgatech.edu/campus-news](http://www.centralgatech.edu/campus-news).

Pictured above (L to R): Matt Arthur, TCSG Commissioner, Thomas Shepler, Dorothy Ferguson, CGTC Adult Education Director of Operations, and Beverly Smith, former TCSG Assistant Commissioner of Adult Education.

## FY 2018 STATISTICS



**2,432**  
Adult Education  
Students  
Enrolled



**828**  
General  
Education  
Diploma (GED®)  
Graduates

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## INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR:

# JEREMIAH JOHNSON



When the Central Georgia Technical College Adult Education Division assigned Jeremiah Johnson duties as Accelerating Opportunity (AO) coordinator, it challenged him to oversee the progression of adult students from GED® to credit instruction quickly and effectively. Now, having been selected the 2019 Adult Education Instructor of the Year, he is proving, yet again, that he can persevere.

“Something that I always try to relate to my students is that the struggle they are going through is also my own,” he said. “As a GED® graduate myself, I can tell them with sincerity that perseverance pays off, and I will be with them until they realize they don’t need me in order to succeed.”

Johnson came to Middle Georgia Technical College (MGTC) as an adjunct English instructor in 2010, prior to its merger with CGTC in 2013. He graduated with a dual bachelor’s degree from the University of Georgia in 2008 and a Master’s of Science degree in Education from Georgia Southern in 2013.

His new role as AO coordinator presents one of the College’s unique challenges. Adult Education students largely arrive back into an academic setting after years removed. Accelerating Opportunity is designed to provide students with a fast-paced learning experience that combines GED® test preparation and courses to attain a Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) within one/two semesters. It is pace, which often presents the steepest hurdle for students.

“Developing and implementing the new AO program has taken the load and the pressure off of the students and made CGTC work to their strengths and needs rather than to set lofty and immediate expectations of the students,” Johnson said. “The expectations can be crippling to some individuals when their everyday lives and personal obstacles are not taken into account.”

Dorothy Ferguson, Director of Operations for the Division, said Johnson has dedicated many successful years to students.

“Jeremiah’s loyalty and passion for what he does on a daily basis radiate through the students’ success,” she said. “He is an exceptional instructor who changes the lives of the students he serves.”

Johnson is happily married to his wife, Brittany, and has two children, Julian and Athena. On a good afternoon, he can be spotted on the golf course, at home gardening, sharp shooting or songwriting.

## OUTSTANDING GED® TEST CENTER PERFORMER



During the 2018 Adult Education Fall Conference and GED® Awards, Dana Mackey was recognized as an outstanding GED® Test Center Performer within the Technical College System of Georgia.

Ms. Mackey administers testing services for the CGTC Adult Education Program (AEP), and she coordinates networking and testing services for the Georgia Department of Corrections, local youth development centers, and the Youth Challenge Academy. With Ms. Mackey’s assistance, the CGTC AEP was able to serve 828 GED® completers in FY18.

Pictured above (L to R): Matt Arthur, TCSG Commissioner, Dana Mackey, Dorothy Ferguson, CGTC Adult Education Director of Operations, and Beverly Smith, former TCSG Assistant Commissioner of Adult Education.

# 2019 EAGLE DELEGATE: VIRGINIA SCOTT

Virginia Scott never thought she would be anything more than a lost cause, unwed, unemployed, homeless, teen mom. Now at 32, honored and poised to represent Central Georgia Technical College as its 2019 Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education (EAGLE) delegate, there is still one thought that is difficult to process.

“It’s hard, you know? After what I put my children through, to come to this point where people are recognizing my accomplishments is overwhelming,” she said.

Just four years ago, Scott was incarcerated, without custody of her children, and deep in thoughts of only ever being one of those “negative statistics”.

Now part of a positive number of delegates from each of the Technical College System of Georgia’s (TCSG) Adult Education programs, Scott will go on to represent CGTC and its Adult Education Division (AED) at the EAGLE Leadership Institute in Atlanta in March 2018.

Recently, through the encouragement, donation, and support of her church, she has channeled her story into a new purpose. Scott is the recent founder, and president of her own non-profit, Living Tree Inc., which is in the process of opening a transitional home for women in Warner Robins.

Scott enrolled in a local college this year and is now taking business and communications courses.



## OUR CENTERS

For more information, contact the CGTC Adult Education center nearest to you.

<b>Baldwin County</b>	<b>(478) 445-5669</b>
<b>Bibb County</b>	<b>(478) 757-6669</b>
<b>Crawford County</b>	<b>(478) 836-6024</b>
<b>Dooly County</b>	<b>(229) 268-3904</b>
<b>Houston County</b>	<b>(478) 218-3769</b>
<b>Jones County</b>	<b>(478) 221-3119</b>
<b>Monroe County</b>	<b>(478) 992-2880</b>
<b>Peach County</b>	<b>(478) 218-3746</b>
<b>Pulaski County</b>	<b>(478) 783-3017</b>
<b>Putnam County</b>	<b>(706) 923-5016</b>
<b>Twiggs County</b>	<b>(478) 945-2206</b>

## CGTC CAMPUSES

### Warner Robins Campus

80 Cohen Walker Drive  
Warner Robins, GA 31088

### Macon Campus

3300 Macon Tech Drive  
Macon, GA 31206

### Milledgeville Campus

54 Highway 22 West  
Milledgeville, GA 31061

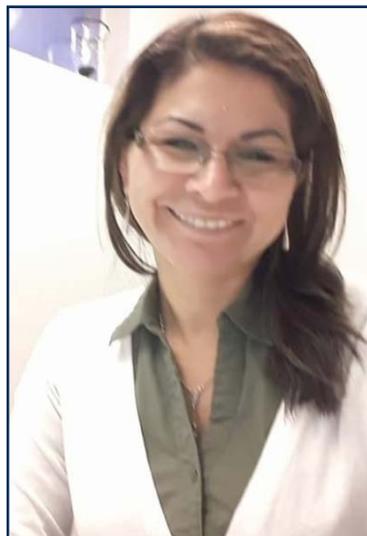
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## ESL SPOTLIGHT

by Rosa Lobato de Hubbard, ESL/CIVICS Instructor

Danny Loor Cobb, a 42 year old Ecuadorian student, enrolled in the English as a Second Literacy Program (ELP) student in March 2018. She has been recognized as the ‘Most Improved Student of the Quarter’ and has earned the ServSafe® Certificate of Achievement.

After taking classes in the ELP program for seven months, Ms. Cobb gained confidence in speaking, while also acquiring skills in the culinary and nutrition field. These skills set her apart from 90 other candidates to be chosen for a position as a Food Nutrition Assistant in the Houston County School System.



## FOLLOW US!

Connect with CGTC on its website and social media accounts for news, updates and happenings in the Division and around the College.



[www.centralgatech.edu/adult-education](http://www.centralgatech.edu/adult-education)



[www.twitter.com/CGTC](https://www.twitter.com/CGTC)



[www.instagram.com/centralgatech](https://www.instagram.com/centralgatech)



[www.facebook.com/centralgatech](https://www.facebook.com/centralgatech)



3300 Macon Tech Drive  
Macon, GA 31206

## SERVICES PROVIDED AT NO COST

The Adult Education Division of Central Georgia Technical College provides individualized educational support with basic skills at no cost to the student. We serve students 16-years of age and older, by improving his/her ability to read, write, compute, speak, listen and to development English literacy skills.

### Services include:

- Pre-GED®
- GED® Preparation
- College Preparation
- Career Readiness
- English Literacy/Civic Program
- Citizenship Prep Classes
- Accelerated Opportunity-Dual Enrollment
- ASVAB, ACCUPLACER, and Compass Preparation

## READY TO ENROLL?

Students can begin at any time at any Adult Education location within CGTC's 11-county service area.

### Steps to Success:

- Complete a CGTC Adult Education application
  - Bring a valid government issued ID
- Complete the CGTC-AEP Orientation
- Work with assigned staff to pre-assess your educational needs
- Attend daily classes (or when your schedule allows)
- Earn college credit at CGTC while working on your GED® through the Accelerating Opportunity Program
- Complete preparation for the GED® Test
  - Earn your GED® by scoring 145 or higher in each core area: Reading, Mathematics, Social Studies, & Science
- Graduate and attend Central Georgia Technical College!