

## **Augusta Technical College Student Honored As One Of Five Finalists For The TCSG 2009 Student Of The Year Award**

*Atlanta* - Zachary Smith, a student in the Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology at Augusta Technical College, was honored as one of the five finalists for the Technical College System of Georgia's 2009 student of the year award.

The recognition came during the 38<sup>th</sup> annual Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL) competition, which was held on Thursday, May 21, at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta.

Smith was considered for the award by a panel of judges from Georgia's government, business and industry sectors. The judges interviewed each finalist and considered their educational accomplishments, leadership qualities, community involvement and future aspirations. The winner was Michelle S. Lank from Swainsboro Technical College.

TCSG Commissioner Ron Jackson congratulated Smith on the finalist honor. "There are more than 146,000 students who attend Georgia's technical colleges, so being named one of the top five candidates for the system's student of the year award is a remarkable achievement," said Jackson. "To reach this level, Smith demonstrated exceptional knowledge, a strong enthusiasm for his college and a clear vision of his future that's certain to bring success in his chosen career. I commend Smith for his outstanding effort in this competition and for being such a great representative of Augusta Technical College."

"Zachary goes on record for being the youngest Augusta Tech student ever nominated to GOAL. It is quite an accomplishment for someone his age to have so much ambition. We look forward to watching him becoming an alumnus and continue to excel in life," said Terry Elam, president of Augusta Technical College.

The Technical College System of Georgia oversees 33 technical colleges throughout the state. Enrollment at Georgia's technical colleges is skyrocketing; two of the system's three highest quarterly enrollments were set in fall quarter 2008 and spring quarter 2009.

The TCSG also manages the state's adult education and GED programs as well as Quick Start, an economic development incentive for attracting new investment to the state and promoting job creation.

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