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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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***Graciela Dean is Chosen as Augusta Technical College's 2019 EAGLE Winner***

Augusta, GA, March 6, 2019— Graciela Dean has been named the 2019 Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education (EAGLE) Winner for Augusta Technical College.

The announcement of Dean as the winner was made by President Terry D. Elam at the Faculty and Staff Meeting on Tuesday, December 11, 2018, at Augusta Technical College.

EAGLE is the first statewide program in the nation that recognizes and rewards excellence among students enrolled in adult education programs. This student recognition program is designed to create greater awareness of educational opportunities that are available in local communities across the state and to foster greater involvement in lifelong learning pursuits. The announcement of Mrs. Dean as the Augusta Technical College EAGLE winner, followed by her giving the college-winning speech, was met with resounding applause and a standing ovation from the audience.

"The adult education program has prepared me for college and career-readiness," stated Dean. "The experience has been challenging, but with assistance from the amazing instructors in the adult education program, I have learned how to speak, write, and understand the English language, which has strengthened my academic confidence. Because of this, I am currently attending Augusta Tech for a degree in Accounting. The Augusta Tech Adult Education program has helped me to communicate with others and get a job. This program can help anyone, from any background or starting point, be an educated and skilled member of their community and state."

Mrs. Dean has been chosen to represent Augusta Technical College at the EAGLE Leadership Institute on March 11-13, 2019. The Leadership Institute recognizes and honors those students who have demonstrated superior achievement in adult education classes and programs.

The Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG,) through its Office of Adult Education (OAE), sponsors the annual EAGLE Leadership Institute.

The state winner will carry the title of Technical College System of Georgia EAGLE Winner and will serve as the state's ambassador for adult education. The winner exemplifies excellence and a commitment to the mission of the Technical College System of Georgia's Office of Adult Education and makes many public appearances throughout the year, including the TCSG Leadership Conference and the TCSG Board Meeting, to name a few. The state winner will also receive a full two-year scholarship to the technical college of his or her choice.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Kimberly Holden Director of Community Engagement & Public Affairs.

