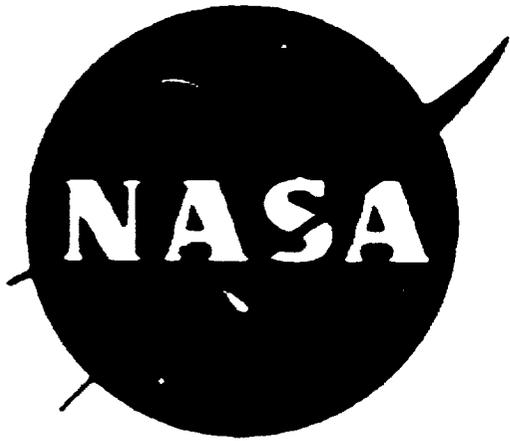


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It's not just about  
space exploration, it's  
about...



**Us!**  
**Georgia High School/High Tech**  
*Savannah Region*

A project of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities  
Administered by the Georgia Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities

# **PROJECT GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL/HIGH TECH**

A collaborative effort of

Savannah State University

and the

Georgia Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities

*The Savannah Area Project Report*

*of the*

*Georgia Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities*

*1999-2000 Fiscal Year*

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# Overview

Georgia High School/High Tech is now in its fourth year of existence, originating with a pilot project in Columbus in 1997. The Georgia Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities administers the program, developing funding sources, promoting recruitment of businesses to the program, offering training, guidance, leadership, program planning, liaison with partners, and general assistance to programs throughout Georgia.

The "Georgia Model," nationally adopted by the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, is an interactive community-based partnership of existing resources, including secondary and post-secondary educators and institutions, rehabilitation professionals, business leaders, chambers of commerce, local, state and national government agencies, and parents, individuals and organizations interested in disability issues. This coalition describes, organizes and provides possible career paths in high tech occupations to promote career education and other enrichment opportunities for students with disabilities enabling them to make appropriate career choices. The program model is flexible so that it can be designed to meet local community needs.

Georgia continues to lead the nation in the total number of programs reported to the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. During this past year, six new programs – Baldwin, Wheeler, Bleckley, Dodge, Telfair and Tift Counties - were added to the already existing projects served by the Savannah Area. These are in rural areas and provide an otherwise unrealized opportunity for students to progress into high tech education and employment opportunities.

The framework established in 1997 remains in existence, emphasizing community ownership, partnership and collaborative support at the local, state and national level.

In addition to the financial and educational support received from NASA, Georgia High School/High Tech benefits from ongoing partnerships with the Georgia Department of Education, Georgia Department of Labor, Georgia Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and the Georgia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). DRS also assists High School/High Tech through the assignment of 12 Regional Initiative Coordinators who help in establishing, enhancing and working with High School/High Tech programs within their region.

Additionally, the United States Department of Labor, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, is a partner with the Georgia Committee through a Memo of Understanding to support programs of the President's and Georgia Committees on Employment of People with Disabilities. These organizations represent the state members of our team.

Support for Georgia High School/High Tech also comes from other initiatives of the President's Committee administered by the Georgia Committee:

Youth Leadership Forum. Initiated this year, the First Annual Carl Anthony Cunningham Youth Leadership Forum 2000 provided a rigorous four-day conference for youth with disabilities. Held at the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation, the Forum provided training in leadership and advocacy skills to delegates selected to reflect geographic, ethnic, gender and disability diversities. A full report of the organization, implementation and outcomes of the Forum is attached in a separate document.

Georgia Business Leadership Network. This employer-led coalition of large, mid-size and small businesses focuses on increasing the number of employers who offer job opportunities to persons with disabilities. Chaired by Darold Sawyer (IBM) and co-chaired by Jerry Kirby (Lockheed Martin), the Network relies on employer-to-employer communication to help business leaders understand the benefits of hiring and promoting persons with disabilities, and to encourage them to share their successful employment experiences with others. The Georgia Business Leadership Network was a major sponsor of the Youth Leadership Forum.

Project Employ. Implemented this year through a partnership with the Cobb-Douglas Community Service Board, HomeBanc and the Society for Human Resource Management, Project Employ promotes high quality employment for people with cognitive disabilities.

# *The Savannah Area HS/HT Team*

The NASA Savannah Area grant serves thirteen counties: Bibb, Bulloch, Chatham, Columbia, Emanuel, Lowndes, Richmond, Baldwin, Tift, Bleckley, Dodge, Telfair and Wheeler Counties. Of these, six new programs were added this year.

High School/High Tech benefits from a collaborative partnership with many entities from the counties within the region, including:

Allen Beall, Regional Director, DRS Region 12  
Bleckley County School System  
Beverly Blue, Vocational Program, Savannah/Chatham Schools  
June Bradford, Heart of Georgia RESA  
Jackie Brown, The Citizens Bank of Cochran  
Jane Bruno, Curriculum Develop. Committee  
Ron Bryant, Georgia Youth Science and Technology  
Paige Case, Vocational Program, Savannah/Chatham Schools  
Debbie Davis, Dodge Heating and Air  
Dodge County School System  
Betty Ellington, Special Ed. Depart., Savannah/Chatham Schools  
Jim Edens, City of Tifton  
Christi Evans, Georgia Department of Labor  
Lori Folsom, Tift General Hospital  
Amy Ford, Middle Georgia Easter Seals  
Jennifer Gillam, Valdosta Hub, DRS Region 11  
Julie Hardeman, Curriculum Development Committee  
John Harrington, Regional Initiatives Coordinator, DRS Region 11  
Kay Hiers, Valdosta High School  
Gwen Hentz, DRS  
Dr. Helen Hill, Georgia College at Milledgeville  
Ken Holcavag, Coastal Plains Experiment Station  
Lauren Howard, Regional Initiatives Coordinator, DRS Region 8  
Dr. Patsy Hinely, Savannah/Chatham School District, Special Education  
Virginia Husen, High School/High Tech Facilitator, Richmond/Columbia Counties  
Inez Kent, Wheeler County DFCS  
Joanne Kirkley, Georgia Department of Labor  
Jody Lane, Employment Manager, DRS Region 12  
Marlyn Locke, Heart of Georgia RESA  
Lee Miller, Chair, Georgia Committee on People with Disabilities  
Toni Mobley, Target Distribution Center, Tifton  
Herman Moore, State Farm  
Jay Mullis, Georgia Aviation Technical College  
Majeda Nabham, Savannah State University  
Linda Peacock, Heart of Georgia RESA  
Mike Pruett, Regional Director, DRS Region 9

## *The Savannah Area HS/HT Team* (continued)

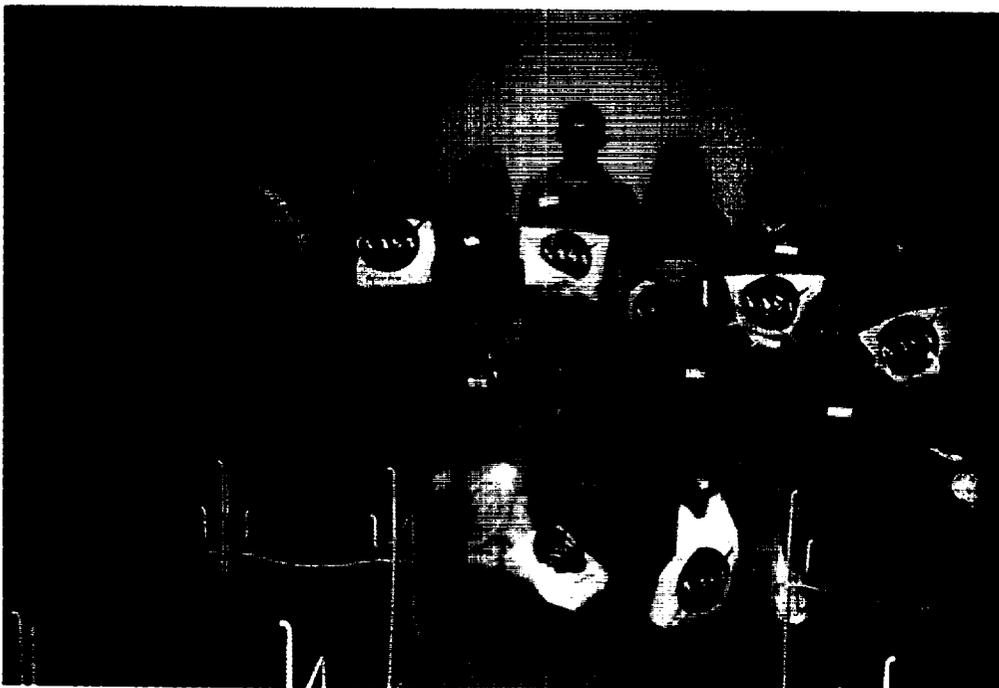
Dr. Kenneth Sajwan, Grant Administrator, Savannah State University  
Dr. Joseph Silver, Vice President, Academic Affairs, Savannah State University  
Melodie Smith, DRS  
Eleanor Surrency, Project Director, DRS  
Kim Simmons, School Vocational Counselor, DRS Region 8  
Telfair County School System  
Marquita Timmons, Regional Initiatives Coordinator, DRS Region 9  
Carla Wade, Tift/Tifton Chamber of Commerce  
Wheeler County School System  
Dr. George Williams, Savannah State University  
Katherine Williams, Moultrie/Tifton Area Technical College  
Tim Wise, ABAC  
Amanda Woodard, Reynolds Metals Company  
Larry Yaughn, Employment Manager, DRS Region 12

### *Our Students*

Savannah Area High School/High Tech students are referred to the program from high schools within the region. Each school has the opportunity to nominate students for inclusion in the High School/High Tech program.

After evaluation and assessment, students are referred to the DRS to enable access to DRS' Vocational Rehabilitation services. It is recommended that DRS Individualized Work Plans (IWP) for these students include High School/High Tech. We also suggest that High School/High Tech activities are written into the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Diversity of disabilities, ethnicity and gender is an important component of High School/High Tech.



# *Activities*

High School/High Tech students within the Savannah region were empowered to pursue high technology opportunities through a variety of experiences and training, including site visits, field trips, mentoring, job shadowing, seminars and workshops. An example of these activities follows:

Students, teachers and chaperones participated in NASA's Kennedy Space Center Space Congress, met with the astronauts, toured the Space Center, visited corporate exhibits and participated in educational programs.

Savannah State University opened its NASA High School/High Tech Lab, which provides computer training for students from the Savannah/Chatham County School District. Meetings were held with representatives of DRS, Savannah State University, Georgia Department of Labor and the Savannah/Chatham County School District to chart continued activities for students and plan for the ensuing school year.

The First Annual Carl Anthony Cunningham Youth Leadership Forum, named in memory of a former chair of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities (an African-American lawyer who was blind), was conducted at Warm Springs, Georgia. This four-day intensive leadership and citizenship forum enabled high school students with disabilities to meet with and learn from local, state and national leaders with disabilities. (A full report including Delegate's and Facilitator's Guides is attached.)

Students attended a Mentor's Luncheon sponsored by the Georgia Business Leadership Network, where representatives of Lockheed Martin, IBM, President's Committee and Department of Labor addressed them. Business leaders in attendance shared experiences and opportunities with students. Keynote speaker was a paralympic gold medallist.

Seed money from a grant from the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities was used to purchase computer equipment, including special assistive technology to serve Bibb County High School/High Tech students from the Georgia Academy for the Blind, one of our participating High School/High Tech schools.

One of the major new initiatives is development of a High School/High Tech curriculum for inclusion as Carnegie Credit for our students.

Selected students were invited to the White House for Mentoring Day, beginning with a briefing from senior White House aides, followed by mentoring assignments to Federal Agencies, including the Department of Defense, Department of Justice, Office of Personnel Management, Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities and the Department of Education. The day ended with a reception at the Office of Personnel Management where the Director announced the Executive Order of President Clinton requiring Federal Agencies to hire qualified people with disabilities. The Washington trip also included a visit with their Congressman, and a fortuitous glimpse of Presidents Clinton, Carter and Ford, as they left the Capitol in a motorcade.

Students benefited from paid summer internships at sites including Scana, Knology, DRS, among others.

New high school/high tech programs were established in Baldwin, Tift, Wheeler, Bleckley, Dodge and Telfair Counties.

In the Valdosta (Lowndes County) program, High School/High Tech students receive a Carnegie unit credit for attending a High School/High Tech course conducted in the classroom. In their junior year all students in the program take the entrance exam to Valdosta Technical College to assure that they have the necessary skills to enter a post-secondary program by the time they graduate from high school. All seniors are on track to enter technical college when they receive their diploma, and some are currently participating in the post-secondary options program, in which they attend high school in the morning and technical college in the afternoon.

Ongoing computer and web site classes are provided for High School/High Tech students.

National Mentoring Day was observed in Georgia, with students receiving mentoring at the Department of Labor, two sites of the Bank of America, Fort Gordon, and various businesses.

# *Curriculum Development*

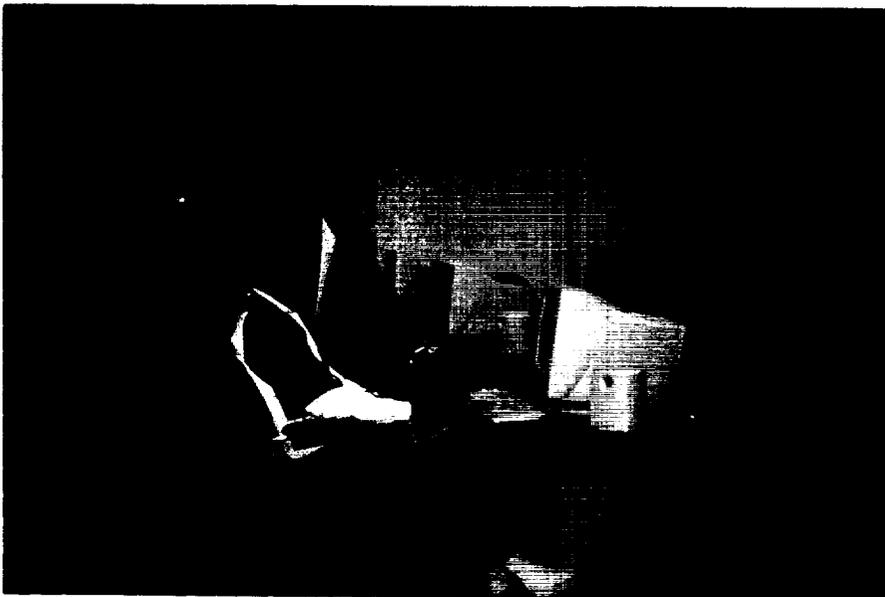
Georgia High School/High Tech has been developing a suggested curriculum for use in its programs. The purpose of this instructional material is to provide a basic curriculum format for teachers of High School/High Tech students. The curriculum is designed to implement QCC classroom instruction that encourages career development in technological fields through post-secondary education, paid summer internships and exposure to experiences in high technology.

Curriculum areas include:

- Skill training in the areas of self-awareness, resume writing, job interview preparation, career exploration, and pre-employment skills.
- Emphasis on career professions in science, math, engineering and technology related fields.
- Development of a transition plan format and survey to evaluate participant's strengths, weaknesses, interests and preferences in order to assist the participant in planning for post-secondary education and career options.
- Development of program calendar: field trips to NASA facilities, high tech industries, post-secondary institutions, others; monthly vocational seminar topics, speakers and other activities.

Students with disabilities are often excluded from high tech training because they are pre-judged as unable to perform the required tasks in a generalized training curriculum. Our experience in Georgia High School/High Tech proves this assumption to be unfounded. This written curriculum, which will be made available to all Georgia High School/High Tech sites, plus the collaborative, broad-based community support High School/High Tech engenders, will lay the groundwork for educational and experiential opportunities to develop meaningful and lasting quality career employment.

The initial efforts of this curriculum development, e.g., competency areas, core curriculum, lesson plan format, assessment, etc. are attached as Appendix A.



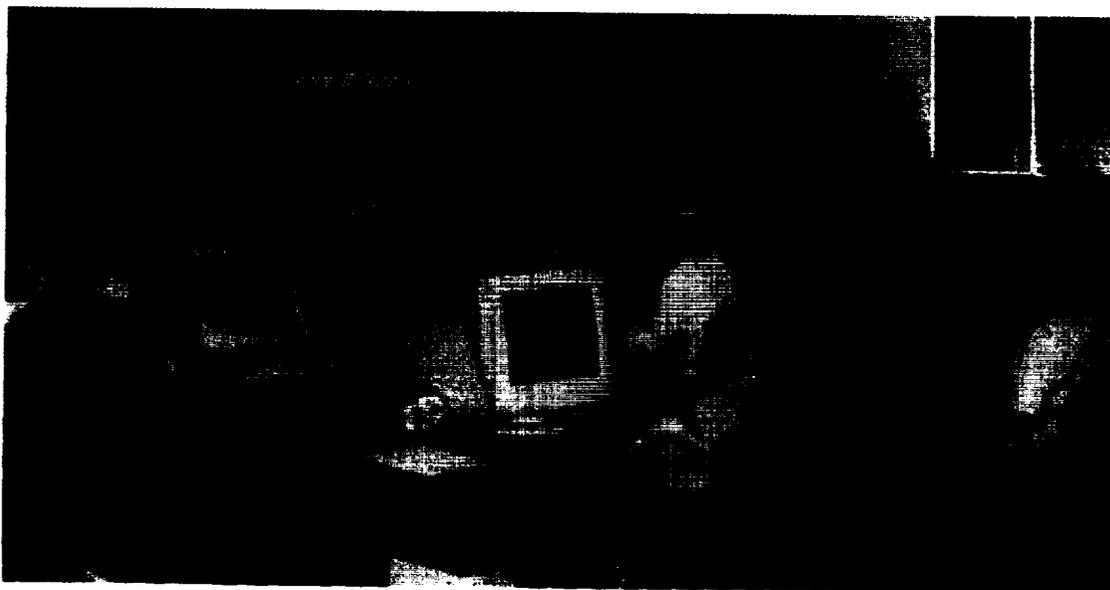
# *Database Project*

The Georgia High School/High Tech Database Project is designed to track the progress of program participants. The database will identify all participants of the program, past and present, from all regions of the state.

The process is ongoing. The database to date was accomplished by conducting phone inquiries and sending out a direct mail piece to the participants as to the whereabouts of the students that took part in the project. The results of the survey will be used to evaluate the program and assist in future planning.

To accomplish these goals, the following steps were taken:

- A tracking survey instrument was developed
- Program site directors were contacted to secure a list of participants
- Survey instrument was designed and submitted to the Institutional Review Board at Savannah State University for approval before its distribution
- A consent form was also developed for those participants under the age of 18 to be signed by their parents or guardians before they could respond to the survey.
- Participants for whom phone numbers were secured were contacted and their information was entered into the database
- A copy of the survey instrument was mailed to participants to be completed and returned with a return, postage-paid envelope provided for convenience and to insure a better response rate
- 500 copies of the instrument with a return envelope/postage paid were mailed to Mr. Grady Evans, DRS Liaison Officer, for distribution to all of the participants whose addresses could not be secured by the Survey Research Center because of confidentiality guidelines by the state.
- Follow-up phone calls were made to participants who did not return a completed survey and whose phone numbers were known
- Upon completion of the database, an analysis of the findings using a statistical software package, SPSS will be conducted and a written report of the findings will be presented



November 18, 1999

Dear Parent or Guardian of NASA High School/High Tech. Participant:

The Survey Research Center (SRC) at Savannah State University is working jointly with the Division of Rehabilitation Services to develop an information database on all current and former Georgia High School/High Tech. (HS/HT) program participants. The project is funded by NASA. A telephone or mail survey will be conducted in an attempt to assess the Program. The opinions of all those who participated or are currently participating in the program is needed and will help ensure the success of future HS/HT participants.

The results of this survey will help us to evaluate and assist in future planning of the program. Please print your son's or daughter's name on the form below and sign your name. Your signature will allow the Survey Research Center to retrieve information about the participant.

Please complete the consent form and biographical form and return in the postage paid envelope provided as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me at (912) 356-2244. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Majeda Nabhan,  
Director  
Survey Research Center

I give my son/daughter, (name) \_\_\_\_\_, permission to be interviewed by the Survey Research Center and allow information to be released by DHR concerning their participation in the NASA High School/High Tech. Program. The responses will remain confidential and be used only for statistical purposes for evaluation of the program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Student (age 18 or over)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

---

**NASA HIGH SCHOOL / HIGH TECH  
TRACKING SURVEY – 1999**

Savannah State University  
Survey Research Center  
P.O. Box 20243  
Savannah, GA. 31404

*Please complete this survey in its entirety. All replies will be treated confidentially.*

<b>BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION</b>			
Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Age
S.S.N.	BirthDate	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
City	State Georgia	County	Zip Code
Day Phone Number		Evening Phone Number	
Ethnicity a. American Indian or Alaskan Native    b. Asian or Pacific Islander c. Black, not of Hispanic origin        d. Hispanic                    e. White, not of Hispanic Origin f. Other			
<b>PROGRAM PARTICIPATION</b>			
What year or years did you participate in the High School High Tech Program? a. 1997 b. 1998 c. 1999 d. 1997 & 1998 e. 1998 & 1999 f. Participated since 1997 (all three years)			
What was your age when you participated in the program? a. 15 b. 16 c. 17 d. 18 e. 19			

**HIGH SCHOOL**

Have you completed high school since you participated in the High School/High Tech Program?

- a. Yes                      b. No

If you did not complete high school, please give reason why?

- a. Did not do well in school              b. Did not like school              c. Need to work  
d. Medical reasons                      e. Other, \_\_\_\_\_

If still enrolled, when do you graduate?

- a. 2000  
b. 2001  
c. 2002

Name of School, College/University, Technical School or Other currently attending:

If graduated from high school, what year?

- a. 1997  
b. 1998  
c. 1999

**COLLEGE**

Are you currently enrolled in college?

- a. Yes                      b. No

If yes, what kind of institution do you attend?

- a. Four Year College or University in Georgia  
b. Four Year College or University outside of Georgia  
c. Two Year College  
d. Technical School  
e. Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

If no, reason not enrolled in college or other institution?

- a. Financial problems                      f. Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_  
b. Chose not to attend  
c. Haven't decided where to apply  
d. Have yet to be accepted  
e. Taking time off

**EMPLOYMENT**

Are you currently employed?

- a. Yes                      b. No

If you are currently employed, what kind of work do you do?



Disability Identification Name of Category												
A	Mental Retardation											
B	Hard of Hearing											
C	Deaf											
D	Speech or Language Impairments											
E	Visual Impairments											
F	Serious Emotional Disturbance											
G	Orthopedic Impairments											
H	Specific Learning Impairments											
I	Specific Learning Disabilities											
J	Multiple Disabilities											
K	Deaf-Blindness											
L	Traumatic Brain Injury											
M	Autism											



# ***Youth Leadership Forum***

The First Annual Carl Anthony Cunningham Youth Leadership Forum provided an intensive four-day leadership training program taught by successful professionals with disabilities. The Forum was designed to equip students to add to their potential for meaningful social participation and community leadership. It provided a concentrated educational and motivational experience for students, selected through a statewide process, identifying students who have leadership qualities and who, as a group, are representative of Georgia in terms of geographic region, gender, ethnic background and types of disabilities. (See Attached Youth Leadership Forum Report and Guides.)

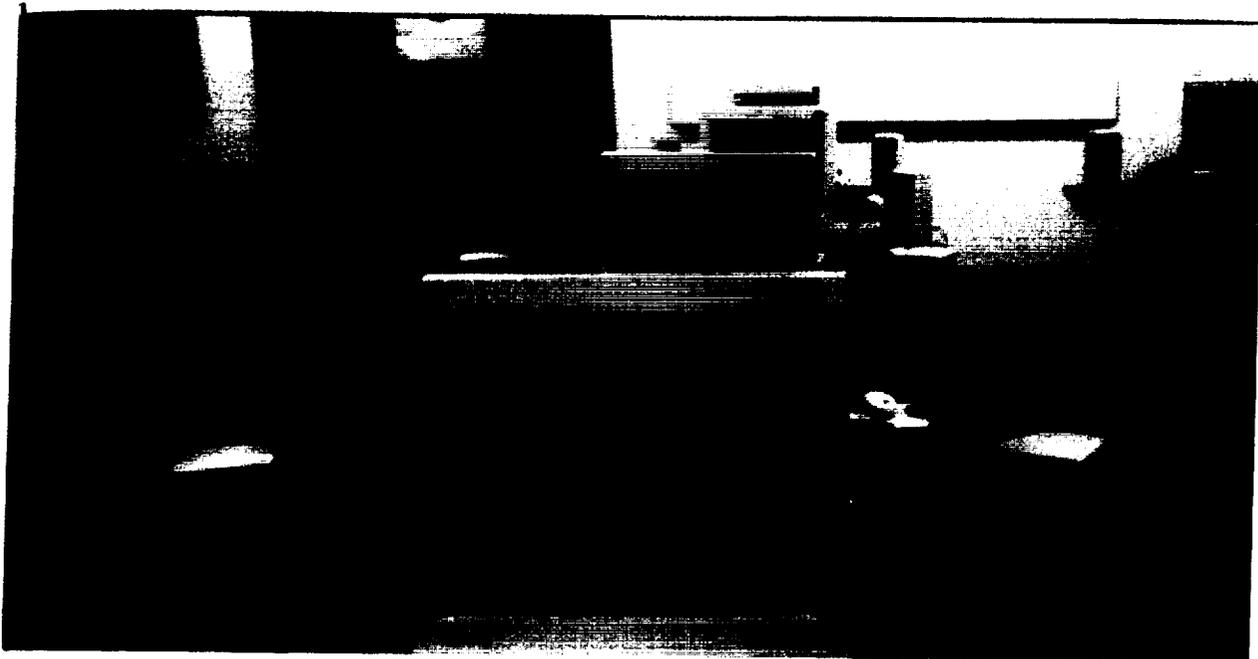


***Warm Springs, Georgia  
August 13 - August 17, 2000***

# *Goals and Outcomes*

High School/High Tech has successfully:

- Encouraged the expansion of the Georgia High School/High Tech program. (Four new programs are underway through facilitation agreements with Goodwill Industries of the Chattahoochee Valley.)
- Provided networking services aimed at encouraging the vertical expansion of high tech employment opportunities available to high school students with disabilities.
- Associated rising high school juniors and seniors with disabilities with successful mentors.
- Encouraged high school students with disabilities to participate in appropriate post-secondary programs of education in high tech fields.
- Initiated and implemented programs of community education within the region.
- Maintained and updated brochures, handbooks and presentations to promote High School/High Tech.
- Promoted development of high tech skills among students with disabilities.
- Maintained and updated a plan of action to identify steps to promote the expansion, upgrading and/or provision of high tech instructional facilities to be used by and promote the educational welfare of minority and other student population of persons with disabilities.
- Implemented specific activities and incorporated a mix of learning experiences to broaden the educational horizons of the targeted population.
- Initiated the First Annual Carl Anthony Cunningham Youth Leadership Forum 2000.
- Developed a step-by-step Youth Leadership Forum manual and Guides for Facilitators and Delegates.
- Developed and maintained a database of students.



# Outreach

During the year, supportive activities of the Georgia Committee on Employment of people with Disabilities included strategic meetings with:

- Senators Coverdell and Cleland to discuss support of High School/high Tech programs
- Jonathan Young, White House Counsel, Liaison to the Disability Community
- Nellie Wild, National High School/high Tech Program Manager, President's Committee
- Linda Schrenko, Georgia Superintendent of Schools, who agreed to provide inclusion of high School/high Tech students in regular education programs
- Michael Thurmond, Georgia Commissioner of Labor, who committed resources to provide training of students and employers to assist in locating summer internships
- Darold Sawyer, IBM, Chair of the Georgia Business Leadership Network, to develop partnerships with businesses
- Jerry Kirby and Linda McCollum, Lockheed Martin, to encourage summer internships

Additionally, the Georgia Committee participated in various meetings, seminars, workshops and events relating to educational opportunities and employment of people with disabilities, including:

- President's Committee Membership Meeting, where the Georgia Committee received a national award from Chairman Tony Coelho for its outstanding High School/High Tech program.
- Superintendent of Schools Linda Schrenko, Janet Hill, Employment and Training Consultant, Georgia Department of Labor, and the Georgia Committee Chair were featured in a High School/High Tech "how-to" panel.
- Workforce Investment Act Regional Briefing, Georgia Department of Labor, to learn about possibilities of funding for our students.
- Partners in Education, Kennedy Space Center, FL; Networking, development of new grants and collaboratives
- Smithsonian Air and Space Museum recognition of Albany High School/High Tech program for Butterfly Experiment
- United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons at the World Bank, where three Georgia High School/High Tech students received awards
- OSERS/RSA National Think Tank, developing strategies for TWWIIA and WIA funds and opportunities as they relate to High School/High Tech
- National Transition Summit, Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities, representing Georgia in informational seminars and small workshops on effect and implementation of new laws affecting our students and others with disabilities
- Workforce Investment Board, exploring opportunities of High School/High Tech youth authorized by the Workforce Investment Act and the Ticket to Work-Work Incentives Improvement Act.
- Representatives of the Georgia Committee and local project directors of Georgia High School/High Tech presented information on the program at the President's Committee's Training Academy in Washington.



## *Other Activities*

The Georgia Committee engaged in active outreach to collaboratives and potential partners. Highlights of other activities and programs participated in during the 1999-2000 fiscal year include:

1999

*October*

- Speaker, Bartow County Mayor's Committee Awards Luncheon, Cartersville
- Crisp County High School/High Tech development meeting, Cordele
- Georgia Business Leadership Network Luncheon, Atlanta; Guest Speaker, Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond; networking, increased number of Business Leadership Network participants; developed summer internships

*November*

- President's Committee Executive Board Meeting, Washington.
- Meetings with YLF, High School/High Tech, Business Leadership Network national directors to explore funding opportunities for Georgia programs, Washington
- Meeting with White House Counsel on Disabilities, opportunities for funding, Washington
- Meeting with Rehabilitation Service Administration and United States Department of Education leadership to explore opportunities for grants to support Georgia Committee programs, Washington
- Department of Community Health Traumatic Brain Injury Conference, Atlanta; networking; working on funding partnerships
- Department of Labor/Department of Human Resources Public Forum, Atlanta
- Meeting with Columbus State University Grant personnel, to discuss distribution and application of President's Committee seed money grants
- Georgia State Rehabilitation Council meeting, Dawsonville



*December*

Meeting with EEO Officer, National Institute of Health to explore summer internship for Georgia High School/High Tech student, other collaboratives, Washington

Meeting with American Academy for the Advancement of Science executive to explore collaborative, summer internships, Washington

Meeting with EEO Officer, NASA Goddard Space Center, Maryland

HRSA Traumatic Brain Injury Conference, Panelist, Bethesda, Maryland

Teleconference with President's Committee Project Employ Chair, Julie Koob, Executive Director, Georgia Arc Network for funding for Project Employ, expanding opportunities for employment of people with cognitive disabilities

Meeting with Regional Initiative Coordinators, Liaison Officer, DRS, to discuss High School/High Tech, Atlanta

Meeting with Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities rep

Georgia Workforce Conference, Department of Labor, Atlanta

Meeting with Special Education Director, Georgia Department of Education, exploring collaborative, funding, at state level for High School/High Tech, Atlanta

Budget meeting with DRS, Atlanta

Attended President's signing of Ticket to Work, WIIA, Washington



2000

*January*

Regional Initiatives Coordinators' Meeting, Macon, to discuss Grant Money available for programs, 2000 Calendar; receive regional progress reports from RICs

Macon Business Leadership Network Kickoff hosted by Boeing. Attended by Darold Sawyer, Georgia Business Leadership Network Chair, numerous local corporations

Dedication of NASA High School/High Tech Computer Lab, Savannah State University.

Meeting with Grady Evans, Dr. Sajwan, Dr. Patsy Hinely, Director of Special Education, Savannah/Chatham County School System, Betty Ellington, Boo Padgett, Chatham High School/High Tech, Savannah

Georgia Business Leadership Network Teleconference

Meeting with Commissioner of Labor Michael Thurmond, discussing Georgia Committee programs and receiving support from Department of Labor, Atlanta

Marriott Business Advisory Committee Meeting, Atlanta

Strategic Planning Meeting, develop DRS State Plan, Columbus

Meeting with Superintendent of Schools, Linda Schrenko, Department of Education staff members, Atlanta

Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Authority, Atlanta

YLF Planning Meeting, Columbus State University

Meeting with Special Education Director Brenda Dozier, Muscogee County School System, Tina Cross, Carver High School, planning session for Columbus High School/High Tech, Columbus

Meeting with Chattahoochee Valley Goodwill, re: regional support of High School/High Tech, Columbus

Meeting with attorney to begin application for Georgia Committee 501(c)(3)



## *February*

Meeting with Jane Nichols, Executive Director of Goodwill Industries of the Chattahoochee Valley, and Don Faulkner, DRS Regional Director, to discuss promotion of four new High School/High Tech projects in region

Arc of the United States National Board Meeting, Los Angeles

High School/High Tech seminar for President's Committee, Hawaii (Hawaii High School/High Tech initiated)

Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Authority meeting, Atlanta

Georgia Business Leadership Network Teleconference

Department of Education Meeting with Directors, Special and Regular Education, Technology Director, Atlanta

Department of Community Health, TBI Grant Strategic Planning Committee, Atlanta

Georgia Arc Network Legislative Conference, Atlanta

Teleconference with National Association of Governors' Councils

## *March*

YLF Teleconference

Brain Injury Association of Georgia Annual Conference, Atlanta

Social Security Administration Public Forum on new work legislation, Durham, NC

Savannah State University strategic planning meeting, Savannah

Site Visit for Columbus High School/High Tech students at Synovus, Mentoring

Georgia State Rehabilitation Council Meeting, Decatur

Marriott Foundation-Bridges Business Advisory Council, Atlanta Meeting with Kroger HR rep

Luncheon with Georgia Business Leadership Network Team; YLF Advisory Board Meeting, Atlanta

Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Authority Meeting, Atlanta



## *April*

Workforce Investment Act Regional Briefing, Georgia Department of Labor, Atlanta

Southwest Georgia Employers' Group, Bainbridge; Developed Bainbridge/Decatur County Business Leadership Network; High School/High Tech support

The Arc of the United States National Board Meeting, Washington

Governmental Affairs, Washington; Meetings with Offices of Senators Coverdell and Cleland, Congressmen Collins

Meetings with Congressman Johnny Isakson; Jim Dickson, Executive Director, National Council on Disabilities, Voter Registration/Turnout Project, Washington

Meetings at President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities with Nellie Wild, Program Mgr., High School/High Tech; John Watson, Job Fair; Carol Dunlap, Business Leadership Network; Betsy Kravitz, YLF; Randee Chafkin, Project Employ; Dale Brown, National Program Director, National Youth Leadership Forum, Washington

National Association of Governors' Committees, Report on Programs of Georgia Committee; Network with National Governors' Association, Washington

PCEPD Membership Meeting; Presentation of Georgia High School/High Tech by Superintendent of Schools, Linda Schrenko, Georgia Department of Labor Employment and Training Consultant, Janet Hill, Chair, Georgia Committee. Butterflies in Space Project presented. Meetings with Darold Sawyer, Georgia Business Leadership Network Chair; Wray Callahan, Chair, PCEPD Employers' Subcommittee; Jerry Kirby, Lockheed-Martin, Washington

## *May*

Travel with Albany High School/High Tech to Washington, DC for presentation at Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum – Butterfly Project; Superintendent of Schools Linda Schrenko; Linda McCollum, Lockheed Martin; Representatives of White House, PCEPD

High School/High Tech students to John F. Kennedy Space Center for Space Congress; meet with astronauts; visit corporate exhibits; tour Center; educational seminars, Cape Canaveral

YLF meeting with Pat Corning at CSU, preparation of materials for Forum, Columbus

TWIA and WIA Coalition Meeting, Atlanta

YLF Advisory Board meeting, Atlanta

Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Authority meeting, Atlanta



Goodwill of the Chattahoochee Valley Open House, Columbus; discussed partnership; opened discussions on Goodwill providing facilitation services for four new High School/High Tech county programs, Columbus.

*June*

TWIA, WIA, Coalition meeting, Atlanta; Work on grant applications for Georgia

YLF Advisory Board site visit, Warm Springs; Preparation for YLF

OSERS/RSA Think Tank, Washington, DC; Develop national and state strategies for implementation of Work Force Investment and Ticket to Work Acts

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators, Nashville

National Transition Summit, Presidential Task Force on Employment of Adults with Disabilities, represent Georgia, participate in informational seminars on effect and implementation of new laws, Washington

Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Authority Retreat, Warm Springs

Teleconference, DOL Grant application



*July*

YLF Advisory Board Meeting, Atlanta

SSIC, Southeast Regional Work Incentive Work Groups, Develop southeast regional coalition for implementation of work incentives, United States DOL, Atlanta

Orientation for torch relay, ADA Birthday Celebration, Warm Springs

The Arc of the United States Board meeting, St. Louis

ADA Torch Relay, Warm Springs, with Janet Reno

Project Employ, Georgia Kickoff, Meeting with HomeBanc, Cobb-Douglas CSB, Randee Chafkin, National Program Manager, President's Committee, Doug Crandell, Georgia Project Manager, Atlanta

Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Authority meeting, Atlanta

ADA Reception, Home of Vice President and Mrs. Gore, Washington, Washington

Goodwill of the Chattahoochee Valley Awards Luncheon with Georgia Labor Commissioner Michael Thurmond; meeting with Conway Tucker, Goodwill to discuss facilitation of High School/High Tech in new counties, Columbus

YLF Advisory Board, disAbility Link, Decatur

*August*

Meetings to finalize YLF Guides; Review budget

Teleconference, SSI Coalition, Discuss progress of coalition on WIA and TWWIIA legislation

Meetings on YLF budget, final preparations.

Meeting with Columbus High School/High Tech: David Stola, Special Education Director, Muscogee County School System, Andy Weaver, Wayne Means. Review program for 2000-2001 school year; develop activities; define direction.

Meeting with Dr. Claude Perkins, Albany State University, Albany; Review existing programs, develop plans for 2000-2001 grant; discussed possible High School/High Tech/ASU collaborative scholarship for High School/High Tech student

Implement Tift County High School/High Tech, Tifton; organizational meeting with John Harrington, DRS RIC, Dru Fentem, Rehabilitation Counselor, representatives from Tift County HS, Mayor, industry, businesses, Chamber, Tift County Hospital, others. Plans for October kick-off

Carl Anthony Cunningham Youth Leadership Forum 2000, Warm Springs



Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Authority, Atlanta

Meeting with Jane Nichols, Goodwill Industries of Chattahoochee Valley; discuss current High School/High Tech activities

Georgia State Rehabilitation Council, Savannah; report on last quarter activities of Georgia Committee

Georgia Rehabilitation Association, Savannah

Meeting with Ken Sajwan, Savannah State University, Joe Lambrizo to develop website for High School/High Tech, Savannah

Meeting with Savannah High School/High Tech Team; discuss previous, current and planned activities; Betty Ellington, Chatham County School District; Jody Lane, Allen Beall, Larry Yaughn, DRS; Julie Hardeman, curriculum development

Meeting with Savannah State University financial office; fiscal year end statements

Meeting with Dr. Joseph Silver, Vice President Academic Affairs, Savannah State University; discuss High School/High Tech activities, possibility of offering scholarship to Savannah State University for High School/High Tech student

*September*

Meeting with High School/High Tech Curriculum Development Committee, Ken Sajwan, Julie Hardeman, Jane Barnes, Savannah

Meeting at Savannah State University NASA Computer Lab with Pamela Biegert, NASA, and Ken Sajwan; review past activities; establish plan for 2000-2001

Prepare report for Regional Initiatives Coordinators, 2000-2001 calendar, activities, and expectations

Teleconference with SSIC; WIA and TWIA legislative update

National Rehabilitation Association Conference, Cleveland, Ohio. Co-present Georgia High School/High Tech Model to national meeting with Nellie Wild, National Program Manager, President's Committee

National Association of Governor's Councils Teleconference. Discuss programs, High School/High Tech, Project Employ, Business Leadership Network, YLF

Chair Department of Community Health Traumatic Brain Injury Demonstration Grant meeting, Atlanta

State Rehabilitation Council meeting with DRS team, Macon; develop plans for 2000-2001

Douglas Cobb Disability Council, Douglasville; Initial meeting for Douglas County High School/High Tech

Millennium Conference on Transition – Present Georgia High School/High Tech model to statewide meeting; encourage new programs, Savannah



Meeting with Deputy Superintendent of Schools, Dottie Overstreet and Dr. Patsy Hinely, Special Education Director, Chatham County School System; Beverly Blue, Paige Case, update on High School/High Tech activities, Savannah

Meeting with Savannah State University officials re High School/High Tech tracking survey

YLF Appreciation and Awards Luncheon, Atlanta; keynote speaker Paul Hippolitus, Director of Projects, President's Committee

Tour Lockheed Martin with Paul Hippolitus, Marietta

Meeting with Cobb County High School/High Tech Team, Marietta

Visit CRT, SE DBTAC, Atlanta

Brain and Spinal Injury Trust Fund Authority, Atlanta

Meeting with Regional Initiatives Coordinators, Grady Evans, others, Macon

High School/High Tech presentation to Tools for Life; Discussed participation, partnership with “Touch the Future” Expo, Macon

Job Fair, co-sponsored by Georgia Committee, President’s Committee, Georgia Business Leadership Network, Atlanta

*October*

National Mentoring Day Teleconferences with White House

President’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, Washington

Discussions with World Committee on Disabilities, Washington

Workforce Investment Board, Columbus

Marriott Business Advisory Council Awards, Atlanta

Savannah High School/High Tech Kickoff, Savannah State University NASA Computer Lab

Georgia Department of Labor Employer Committee Conference, Savannah

Presentation of President’s and Georgia Committees’ Awards to Department of Labor Employer Committee leadership, Savannah

Meetings with Dr. George Williams and with Curriculum Committee, Julie Hardeman, Jane Bruno, Dr. Ken Sajwan, Savannah

Project Employ Conference, Atlanta; 100 business leaders, agency representatives attended meeting initiating Project Employ, promoting high quality employment for people with cognitive disabilities. Mike Losey, National Chairman, Society for Human Resource Managers, Paul Meyer and Randee Chafkin, of the President’s Committee addressed the group. Twenty-nine corporations signed up at the meeting, committing to hire people with disabilities.



### *Media Coverage*

High School/High Tech and its students were featured in numerous newspaper articles, newsletters and television programs. The reception of the program by the media was gratifying.

### *Recognition*

At its National Membership Meeting, the President's Committee presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Georgia Committee for "distinguished contributions toward the full employment of people with disabilities."

The Georgia Committee also received an award for its nomination by the United States Department of Labor, Office of Contract Compliance Programs, Region IV for the United States Department of Labor EPIC Award.

### *Acknowledgements*

The Georgia Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities extends its profound thanks to NASA and the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, Georgia DRS, Department of Human Resources, Georgia Department of Labor, Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities for providing the support to make a positive difference in the lives of our students.



## **Appendix A: Curriculum**

The initial phases of this High School-High Tech curriculum guide includes eight instructional core competency and skill areas.

### **Basic Skills**

Purpose: To develop basic skills necessary to succeed in everyday life, school, community, and on the job.

Basic academic skill training to include verbal communication, written communication, language use, mathematical calculations and technology training. Remediation may be needed to secure basic skill level.

- Demonstrate an understanding of verbal communication
- Demonstrate an understanding of written communication
- Demonstrate proficiency in reading
- Demonstrate proficiency in writing
- Demonstrate use of appropriate language
- Perform mathematical calculations

### **Career Exploration**

Purpose: to develop student awareness of individual aptitudes, interests, life goals and desired life styles.

This curriculum includes information about educational and occupational opportunities and career paths. It is recognized that young people's perceptions of themselves and of the world of work are often vague and unrealistic. It is also true that their ambitions and goals change frequently. The more knowledge young people have of themselves and of the world of work, the more accurate and realistic their occupational decisions will be.

- Identify occupational interests, aptitudes and abilities
- Relate interests, aptitudes and abilities to appropriate occupations/educational paths
- Identify desired life style and relate to selected careers
- Develop a career path for a selected occupation
- Ascertain goals

## **Career Attainment**

Purpose: To enhance skills and knowledge involved in successfully obtaining a job.

The many requirements for a successful job search are not frequently offered in a high school special education curriculum. This training may be the student's first and only exposure to effective job skill acquisition.

- Construct a resume
- Conduct a job search
- Develop a letter of application
- Identify appropriate references
- Use the telephone to arrange an interview
- Use the newspaper for information
- Complete application forms
- Complete a job interview

## **Career Survival**

Purpose: To identify and develop realistic survival skills for successful employment and advancement.

This area addresses the importance of securing the necessary skills to obtain and maintain employment, and to recognize growth and promotion opportunities in that employment.

- Demonstrate appropriate dress and physical appearance
- Identify what employers expect of employees (management styles)
- Identify problems of new employees
- Demonstrate effective time management skills
- Demonstrate appropriate social skill orientation
- Understand how to appropriately resign a job

## **Technology Training**

Purpose: To prepare students with the necessary technical skills to function in the work place.

Familiarity with varied technologies enhance work opportunities for growth and career development and will provide competitive strengths and assets previously not in place.

- Demonstrate familiarity with variety of technologies
- Demonstrate basic computer operation skills
- Demonstrate an ability to send, receive, and organize e-mail messages
- Demonstrate an ability to search for information on the Internet

## **Self-Advocacy And Leadership**

Purpose: To encourage the student to become resilient, self-promoting and self-advocating when representing personal and professional strengths and weaknesses.

This competency works to develop personal skills in the area of problem solving, anger management, social skills, autonomy, self-esteem, sense of positive relationships, empathy, high and realistic expectations, and cognitive awareness. The ability for self-advocacy is stressed, e.g., to represent oneself in area of legal rights and standards for individuals with disabilities.

- Know legal aspects of ADA in education and employment setting
- Ability to present disability/deficits to school/employer
- Ability to present disability/deficits to fellow students/workers
- Demonstrate team membership/inclusion
- Interact successfully with peers
- Demonstrate commitment to an organization

## **Personal And Decision-Making**

Purpose: To assist the student in examining his/her current values, and work to identify appropriate goals and expectations for post-secondary education and employment.

Emphasis, here, is placed on decision-making skills, issues of assuming responsibility and accountability, emphasizing the ability to recognize appropriate and natural consequences and outcomes for choices and behavior, while focusing on the overall development of a healthy self in the home, school, community and work place.

- Demonstrate an understanding of mature behavior
- Demonstrate an understanding for personal goals and objectives
- Ability to apply decision-making skills in a personal and professional setting
- Demonstrate an ability to assume responsibility/accountability for actions and decisions

## **Transition**

Purpose: To help the student choose an appropriate living situation, to ensure that the student graduates with community living skills in place, and can access post-secondary education or high tech training/employment opportunities.

This competency area will work to develop a sense of partnership involving students with disabilities, their families, post-secondary facilities, post-school service personnel, local community representatives, employers and neighbors.

- Explore post-secondary educational opportunities
- Participate in skills training
- Develop an understanding of integrated employment
- Develop an understanding of continuing and adult education
- Explore independent living options
- Knowledge and awareness of community participation

## **LESSON PLAN FORMAT**

### **All Competency Areas to Include:**

- Criteria (goals/outcomes)
- Activities/field trips/site visits
- Resource materials for instruction
- Computer lab instruction (SSU technical training)
- Guest speakers (connected activities)
- Student journal
- Pre-test/Post-test

### **Assessment Process:**

- Pre-test
- Post-test
- Cooperation/participation (behavior)
- Student produced course work
- Teacher observation
- Individual student summary

### **Consideration Given To:**

- Disability area
- Modifications/accommodations
- Small group instruction
- Scope and sequence
- Recognition of written and verbal expression
- Secondary and post secondary transition needs

## **Assessment**

Georgia High School-High Tech delivers a comprehensive approach to high tech employment awareness, using such tools as classroom instruction, field trips, site visits, mentoring and job shadowing, paid internships, workshops, technical computer training, and community-based work experience. A student's potential work skills and traits should be analyzed across this spectrum allowing for the most accurate test of vocational/educational skills and aptitudes.

A major component of transition planning for students with special need is assessment. Key points to consider:

- Identification of student's current level of understanding
- Identification of student's functional needs
- Ongoing assessment of student progress throughout the curriculum
- Utilization of this information to make appropriate developmental programming and vocational/educational placement decisions

Where necessary, the instructor will need to provide modifications and accommodation for the individual student, being sensitive to reaction time, nature of responses, verbalizations, adaptability and attitude. A baseline vocational assessment tool should be used to guide the current level of understanding and ability. In assessing student's skill base, areas to consider include:

- Mechanical reasoning
- Spatial relations
- Verbal reasoning
- Numerical ability
- Work knowledge
- Perceptual speed and accuracy
- Manual speed and dexterity

In each competency area a pre-test and post-test can be administered to provide specific information on any particular concept. Remediation may be necessary and or an alternative teaching strategy to secure student understanding. Information processing issues must be considered when working with students with special needs.

Final assessment results not only help direct the student's career development, but also, when interpreted in relation to an actual work setting, can provide details on the pros and cons of a particular career opportunity and the student's suitability to pursue that opportunity.

**Appendix B**  
**Annual Report**  
**NASA High School/High Tech**  
**Savannah State University**  
**Savannah, GA 31404**

First Quarter October-December, 1999

Laboratory equipment Gateway 2000 computers (12), Global Adjustable tables (12), chairs (12), and a network printer were ordered for the NASA High Tech Lab in the Hubert A Technical Science Building at Savannah State University. During this period Software was added to the computers. Dr. Kenneth S. Sajwan, Project Director, and Ms. Lee Miller, Georgia Committee Chair, attended a Partnership in Education Workshop at the Kennedy Space Center during November.

Counselors and administrators from the Department of Human Resources, DRS and Savannah/Chatham County Department of Special Education were consulted for student identification, participation and training at the NASA High School/High Tech Lab.

Second Quarter, January-March 2000

Dr. Sajwan and Ms. Miller organized a spring kickoff for the FY 1999-2000 NASA High School/High Tech Project at Savannah State University campus. Division of Rehabilitation representatives attended the meeting from various counties, school superintendents, teachers, educators, business, and Goodwill. Dr. Sajwan and Dr. Joseph H. Silver, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Savannah State University, addressed the group. Ms. Miller presented the High School/High Tech training materials to the audience.

In January, Dr. Sajwan and Ms. Miller discussed student visits to the Kennedy Center to attend the Space Congress and the possibility of viewing a shuttle launch. Arrangements for student travel were finalized.

Twenty-five students were identified for computer training at Savannah State University. Computer classes began the first week in March. Mr. Danny Martin, a computer scientist at Savannah State University Teaching and Learning Center, voluntarily agreed to teach and train students in computers.

Third Quarter, April-June 2000

During late April, students from the Savannah Region traveled to the Kennedy Space Center Space Congress with special education counselors under NASA High School High program.

Fourth Quarter, July-September 2000

Ms. Majeda Nabhan, Director Survey Research Center, structured the student database for NASA High School/High Tech with the help of representatives from Georgia Department of Human Resources, DRS. The laboratory has been functioning since November. Ms. Nabhan initiated the survey questionnaire.

In August, Ms. Nabhan left Savannah State University for family reasons. NASA accepted No Cost Extension up to December for FY 1999-2000. During September, Ms. Pamela Biegert from NASA visited the NASA High School/High Tech Lab at Savannah State University and met with Dr. Sajwan and Ms. Miller.

# Friends who help make Georgia High School High Tech happen...



Mentoring Day in Washington D.C.,

Celebrating our Diversity

and

meeting with

our

Congressmen.



Contact: Jennifer Kaplan  
202-376-6200



PRESIDENT'S  
COMMITTEE  
ON EMPLOYMENT  
OF PEOPLE  
WITH DISABILITIES

FOR RELEASE ON APRIL 28, 2000

### **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES SCHEDULED TO GIVE "BUTTERFLIES IN SPACE" PROJECT TO THE SMITHSONIAN ON SPACE DAY**

(Washington, DC – April 28, 2000) A group of high school students from the President's Committee's High School/High Tech project in Albany, GA, will give their recent butterfly experiment to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum during the opening ceremony of Space Day on Thursday, May 4, between 10:00 and 10:45 a.m. Space Day is an annual celebration of the achievements, opportunities and benefits of space exploration.

The High School/High Tech group represents the first American high school team to have an experiment on a NASA space flight. The students tracked the development of larvae into butterflies over the course of two years, during which the project flew aboard NASA's July 1999 STS-93 Columbia Space Shuttle mission. The purpose of the experiment was to assess the effects of weightlessness on the transformation of the larvae. Dr. Valerie Neal, curator of Post-Apollo Human Space Flight at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, will accept the artifacts for display.

Also from the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, the High School/High Tech students will be guests on Cyber Space Day, a live, interactive Webcast targeted to young people and adults around the world. The high school students are scheduled to take part during *Hour Two: Challenges in Space* (1:00 to 2:00 p.m. EDT), to be hosted by Carole Simpson of ABC News. Anyone may participate via the Internet by submitting questions at <[www.spaceday.com](http://www.spaceday.com)>.

The national High School/High Tech program, with more than 60 established project sites around the nation, offers opportunities for high school students with disabilities to explore careers in science, mathematics and technology. Hands-on experiences including site visits, mentoring, shadowing and internships help students to develop post-secondary education and training goals in these fields. The success of this program is based upon partnerships with federal and state agencies, school districts, corporations and other community stakeholders.

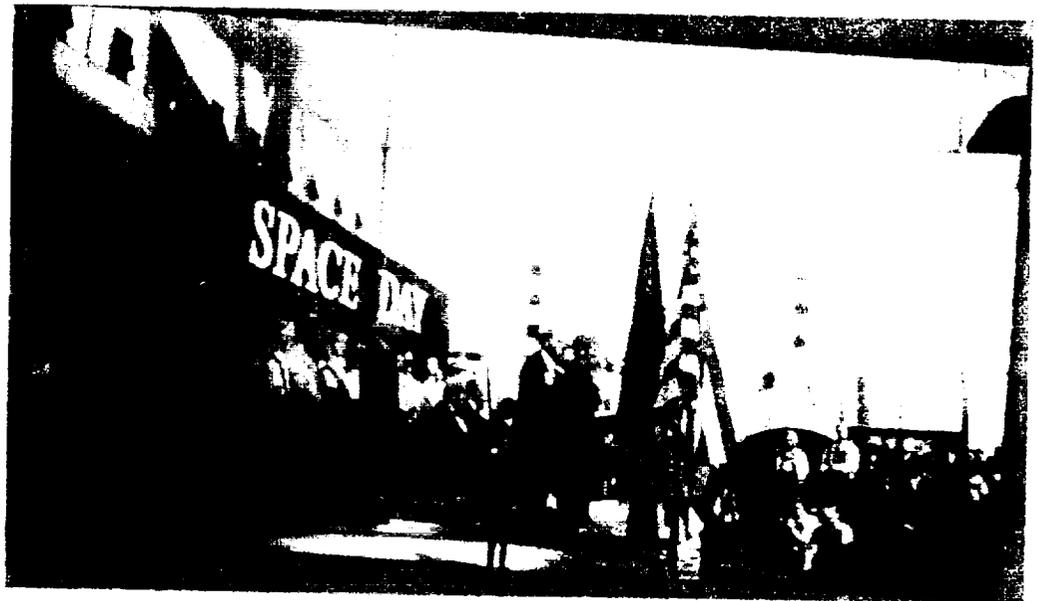
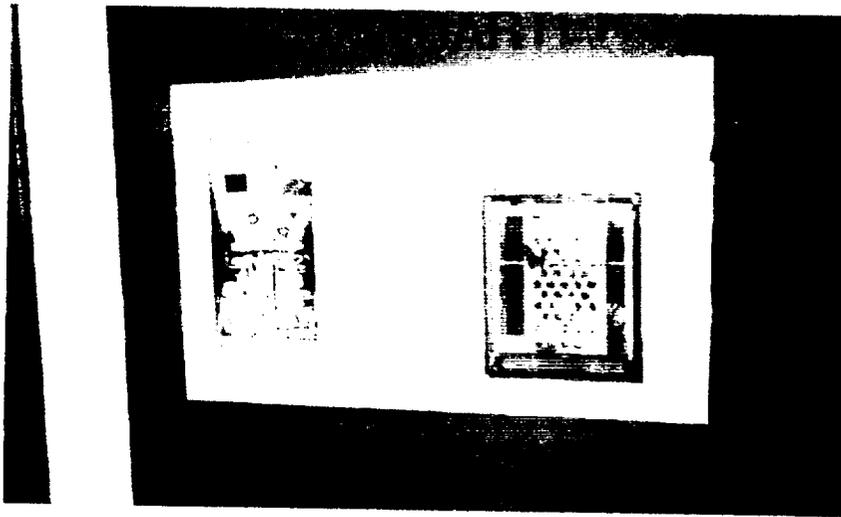
The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities is a small federal agency based in Washington, DC. The Committee's mission is to communicate, coordinate and promote public and private efforts to enhance the employment of people with disabilities. The Committee provides information, training and technical assistance to America's business leaders, organized labor, rehabilitation and service providers, advocacy organizations, families and individuals with disabilities. It also operates the Job Accommodation Network (JAN), a toll-free information service on workplace accommodations and the employment provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Additional information about the President's Committee is available on the Internet at <[www.pcep.gov](http://www.pcep.gov)>

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1331 F Street, N.W. 202-376-6200 (Voice)  
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N E W S R E L E A S E

# Butterflies in Space and Space Day



## President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities



ly. "We give people the guidelines of the program and let them build their own house, because they know best and can serve their own needs. Each program is a unique grassroots partnership of existing community resources — secondary and post-secondary educators and institutions, businesses, government agencies and rehabilitation professionals," said Miller. NASA has been a major supporter and funding source for Georgia.

Georgia's way of organizing and implementing HS/HT programs has become the model for the country. "What I see in Georgia is passion, leadership and caring. With good teamwork, caring communities are really investing in their young people," said Dick Sheppard, chair of the federal PCEPD.

In January, Savannah State University used NASA funding to build and equip Georgia's first high-tech computer lab designed for people with special needs. The 24-station lab has desks that accommodate wheel chairs and computers with special software for students with mental and physical disabilities. Savannah State teaches classes and workshops to about 16-24 High School/High

HS/HT students from the Albany program are being honored at the Smithsonian Institution this spring for their "Butterfly Project," done in conjunction with NASA's space shuttle program. The students tested the effects of zero gravity on metamorphosis by studying the hatching of butterfly larvae in space. The results are on display at the National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington. "I'm so proud that our kids are one of only two groups in the world to do a project like this," said Miller.

Last year, students also attended the first HS/HT conference held at Georgia Tech in Atlanta and Miller accompanied six students to the White House Mentoring Day, where they received disability-issue briefings from senior White House aides and mentored with officials in the Justice Department, Pentagon, Department of Education and other organizations.

"We are currently serving about 300 high school juniors and seniors in Georgia and we know the program works," said Miller. Graduates

*More on page 14*

### HS/HT

*From page 12*

of the program are working at Cessna Aircraft, Cello-foil, WALB-TV in Albany, Fox-31 TV, AFLAC and elsewhere. Others are in post-secondary programs heading towards careers.

"Employers are a critical part of the program because they are giving our students a chance to work in meaningful jobs," said Miller.

Julie Blackburn, 18, interned at Albany's Phoebe Putnam Medical Center and learned the technology to monitor heart rhythms. "It gives me a good feeling to do something even though I'm in a wheelchair. The wheelchair doesn't stop me," she said.

Before HS/HT, Robert Ray Brown didn't have plans for his future. An internship at Cessna Aircraft led to employment and several promotions. Now he's pursuing training in industrial maintenance and underwater welding.

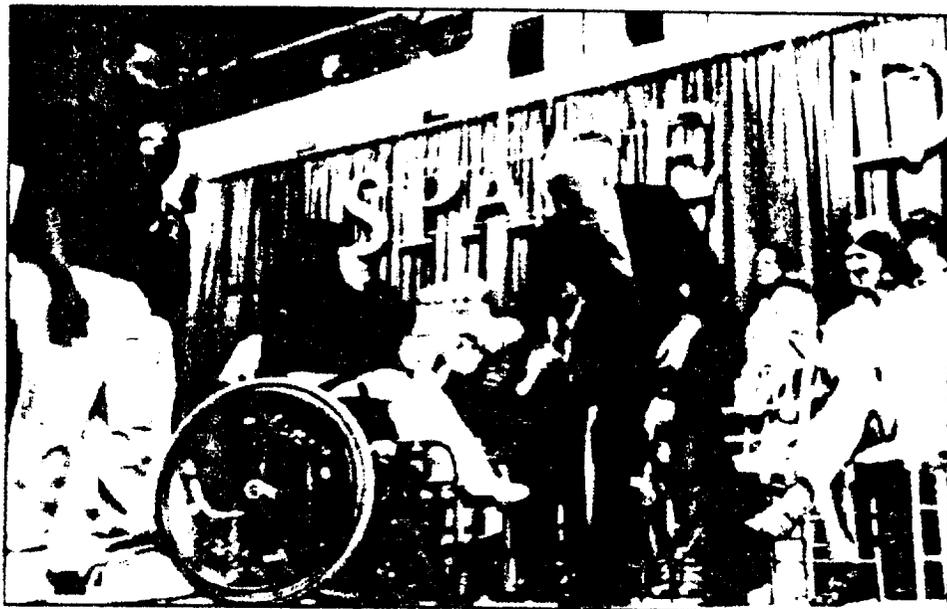
"High School/High Tech would benefit any student with disabilities, whether learning, cognitive or physical. We give students an open door through which to use their abilities and they are marching through that door successfully," said Miller.

To find out more about High School/High Tech programs, call the Georgia Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities at 706-324-4549.

# HS/HT BUTTERFLY EXPERIMENT DONATED TO SMITHSONIAN

Twenty students from the  
Dougherty County School  
System High School/High

**Continued on page 2**



Julie Blackburn shakes hands with Sen. John Glenn as Norman Batten and Leon Douglas await their turn to meet astronauts Glenn and Dr. Sally Ride.



While in Washington, High School/High Tech students toured the White House

While in Washington, D.C. these students toured the Capitol and met their legislators. They also visited the White House and the National Monuments.

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Test) Program traveled to Washington, D.C. May 3 to participate in the Air & Space Museum's 4th Annual Space Day event. The goal of Space Day is to advance science, math and technology education and inspire youngsters to realize the vision of our space pioneers.

These HS/HT students designed an experiment that investigated the effects of weightlessness on the life cycle of butterflies. Through SpaceHab's S\*T\*A\*R\*S\* (Space Technology and Research) Students) Program, their experiment was flown on board NASA's Columbia Space Shuttle STS-93 Mission in July, 1999 with Col. Eileen Collins, first female commander.

The successful results of their space exploration led to the Air & Space Museum's request for a permanent exhibit featuring the 1st butterflies that emerged in zero gravity. The donation of the

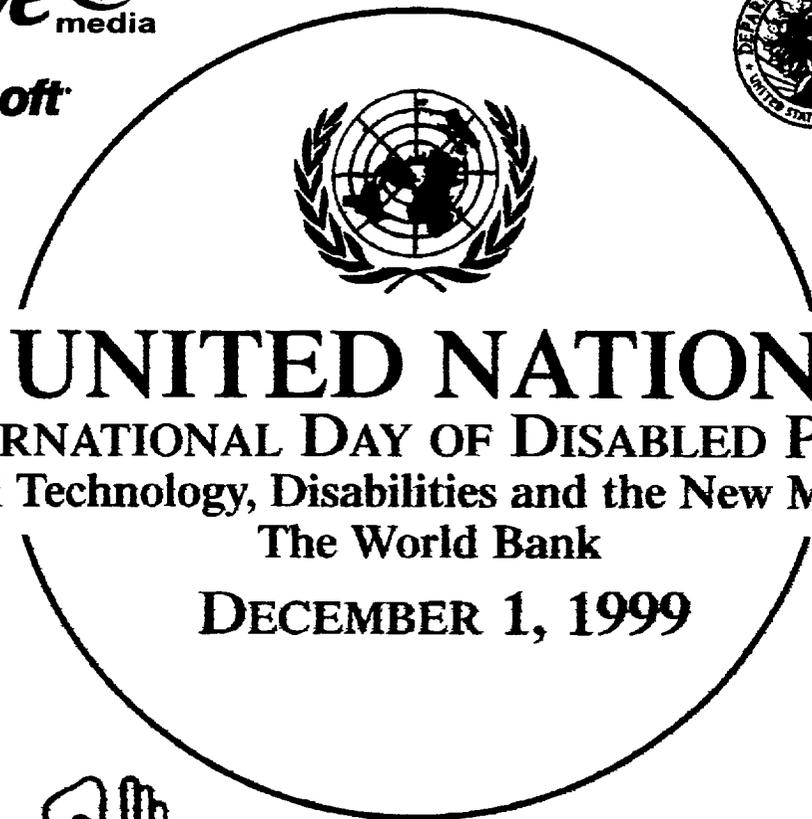
habitat used in the experiment and designed by BioServe Technology of the University of Colorado plus the Painted Lady Butterflies from the HS/HT experiment took place during the opening ceremony at the Space Day event on May 4.

The DCSS HS/HT students were recognized at this event for their successful Space Exploration of the life cycle of the butterfly in zero gravity. Three of the HS/HT students, Julie Blackburn, Norman Batten, Leon Douglas, participated in the live webcast that day. These three students received the United Nations Outstanding Youth Award for their contributions to this space exploration project. They were also interviewed by Carol Simpson of ABC News.

Lockheed Martin of Marietta, GA provided sponsorship for the HS/HT student's airfare to attend this exciting event. They were accompanied by their high

school teachers, experiment instructors, and representatives from the Albany collaborative supporting their efforts.

- Albany ARC
  - Albany State University
  - Albany Technical Institute
  - Darton College
  - Rehabilitation Services
  - Dougherty County School System
  - Business Leadership Network
-



**Microsoft**



*Outstanding Achievements by a  
Young Person*  
**Julie Blackburn,**  
Norm Batten, Leon Douglas  
Presented by Elizabeth Scott,  
Vice Chair, People-to-People Committee on  
Disabilities



## **President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities**



### **UNITED NATIONS DAY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO FOCUS ON GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY AND THE NEW MILLENNIUM**

(Washington, DC -- December 1, 1999) On the occasion of the United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons, the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities today joins other federal agencies and private sector partners to present "Global Technology, Disabilities and the New Millennium," 2:00 to 7:30 p.m., at the World Bank, Washington, DC.

"At the dawning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is clear that assistive technology is the greatest empowering force in leveling the playing field for people with disabilities. In the workplace and in every other area of mainstream life, those of us with disabilities can compete," said President's Committee Chairman Tony Coelho.

Among other individuals, an awards ceremony will honor three Albany, GA, teens with disabilities for their outstanding achievements in the President's Committee's national High School/High Tech program. Earlier this year, these youth worked on the Columbia Space Shuttle Butterfly Experiment, tracking the development of larvae into butterflies before and after the mission.

The awards presentation will be followed by a screening of Microsoft's documentary *ENABLE: People with Disabilities & Computers*, a reception and a town hall meeting addressing technology in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

America's Athletes with Disabilities, the People-to-People Committee on Disabilities, the U.S. Council for International Rehabilitation and Microsoft Corporation are hosting this event in partnership with the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities, the U.S. Department of Education and the Federal Communications Commission. More than 300 disability rights leaders and representatives of federal agencies, corporations and non-profit entities are expected to attend.

The President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities is a small federal agency based in Washington, DC. The Committee's mission is to communicate, coordinate and promote public and private efforts to enhance the employment of people with disabilities. The Committee provides information, training and technical assistance to America's business leaders, organized labor, rehabilitation and service providers, advocacy organizations, families and individuals with disabilities. It also

operates the Job Accommodation Network (JAN), a toll-free information service on workplace accommodations and the employment provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Additional information about the President's Committee is available on the Internet at [www.pcepd.gov](http://www.pcepd.gov).

## High School-High Tech Kickoff 2000

*By Ron Frazier (AR)*

To kick off the Muscogee County High School-High Tech program for the year 2000, a special tour and training was held. In conjunction with the Georgia Division of Rehabilitation Services, Muscogee County School District, and Synovus Employment Services the students for the school year 1999-2000 were treated to a tour of the new TSYS University campus.

Introducing the program was Pam Tofinski of Synovus. Audrey Hollingsworth, also of Synovus, and DRS Account Representative, Ron Frazier, commented on the growth of the High School-High Tech program in 4 years. Lee Miller, Chairperson of the Georgia High School-High Tech program, discussed the future of the program. Georgia and Muscogee County are being used as models throughout the nation to

initiate similar programs. Following the presentations, Brenda Reed directed a tour of the TSYS University campus. Brenda works with TSYS employment services. Travis Chambers, Vice President of Human Resources; Danni Harris, Synovus Services Employment Manager; and seven recruiters from Synovus also greeted the Muscogee County students and teachers. Previous High School-High Tech kickoffs were held at the Coca-Cola Space Science Center in conjunction with the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce. This year's kickoff was also very successful! Thanks to Synovus for offering to be our business partner. Overall, it was an excellent program that allowed the students to interact with an employer in Columbus that supplies jobs for the future. Two students from the program have been previously interviewed by TSYS. Angela Vasquez

and Lawrence Ryan Stanford are DRS clients and also share the same counselor, Carolyn Freeman.

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