



## Resources

### Georgia Career Academy Websites:

- [Central Education Center](#)
- [Rockdale Career Academy](#)
- [Tech High School](#)
- [Walton Career Academy](#)
- [Whitfield Career Academy](#)

### Organizations:

- [National Career Academy Coalition](#)
- [Career Academy Support Network](#)
- [Georgia Charter Schools Association](#)

### Other Related Resources:

- [Technical College System of Georgia](#)
- [Georgia DOE - Charter School Office](#)
- [Georgia WorkReady](#)

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ACADEMIES

# GeorgiaCAN

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## Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle

With the implementation of funding for career academies in 2007, we addressed the needs of many children across our state that have an interest in pursuing an education that leads to a fulfilling career. Over a year later, we have witnessed an even larger increase in interest among school systems and are working through the application process to secure funding for Georgia's next phase of career academies. Success and growth breeds responsibility, and it is vital that communication remains constant between Georgia's Career Academies, interested schools, and our state's leaders. With the formation of the Georgia Career Academy Network, we intend to accomplish this mission.

## Georgia Career Academy Network

Career academies partner local school systems with schools within the state's technical college system or university system and local businesses, enabling the development of high school and college-level programs that prepare students for quality, in-demand jobs and success in higher education. Students find that the academies' challenging, hands-on programs provide greater relevancy and value that lead to higher graduation rates, immediate employment opportunities, and greater access to college. The specified training for students is attractive to area businesses, and communities prosper from the highly-trained and skilled local workforce. The Georgia Career Academy Network, or Georgia CAN, will provide the leadership at the state level to ensure success at the local level.



**Floyd County Schools College & Career Academy**  
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
August 12

"Career academies provide a challenging, rigorous, and relevant curriculum that prepares students for college, careers, and citizenship. In Georgia we believe so strongly in the power of career academies that we are supporting the construction of a number of modern facilities equipped to prepare students for lifelong success. Our academies feature partnerships between high schools and technical colleges who come together to teach kids through a powerful combination of academics and technical training. A student will graduate from a career academy with a certificate in hand that guarantees employment. In our career academies today, we have a 98% graduation rate and a 100% placement rate once they're finished. The reason kids drop out of school is because they don't see the relevance of what they are learning. Career academies connect the dots for kids."

- Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle



Commissioner  
Ron Jackson

The key to Georgia's future economic growth rests squarely on our ability to deliver a highly educated, skilled, and motivated work force. The Georgia Career Academies Project addresses that need by offering high school students exciting opportunities for a 21<sup>st</sup> century education through unique partnerships between local school systems, the state technical colleges and partners in business and industry. Career academies fast-track high school students on pathways to a lifetime of success in the "hot" career fields that keep companies a step ahead in this new age of business and industry. Academy curriculum encourages learning, improves high school graduation rates, and enables students to earn college credits that will jump start their postsecondary education. I encourage you to learn more about Georgia's career academies and see for yourself just how important this project is for the future of our children, our communities and our state.



## Schools Opening for Business

Following the successful path laid by the career academies that currently exist, seven more career academies look to open their doors and begin accepting students between 2008-2009.

The following Career Academies Projects were selected to be awarded funds through last year's grant application process and will be implemented either in the 2008 or 2009 school year.

1. Hapeville Charter Career Academy (Atlanta Technical College)
2. Golden Isles Career Academy (Coastal Georgia Comm. College)
3. Floyd Co Schools College & Career Academy (Coosa Valley Technical College)
4. Effingham Career Academy (Savannah Technical College)
5. PREP Academy (Southwest Georgia Tech College)
6. Tech High (Existing) (Atlanta Public Schools/Atlanta Tech)
7. Walton Career Academy (Existing) (Walton Public Schools/Athens Tech)



The remaining two career academies are supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Fund, and are particularly focused on students who have dropped out of school, giving them a second chance at earning their high school diplomas, college credits and marketable career/technical skills. They are scheduled to start in fall of 2008.

1. Savannah Gateway to College Academy
2. Effingham Gateway to College Academy

**"Educational reform will occur when students are given a chance to follow paths that excite and challenge them."**

## Funding for the Future

School systems that apply for the Georgia Career Academy Project Funding must go through an extensive application process which is reviewed by a team of readers coordinated by the Technical College System of Georgia before they can be awarded funding.

The deadline for submitting the application for the upcoming year was September 2 and twelve schools applied to receive funding; three of which are existing schools looking to expand or relocate. Grants will be awarded with a maximum award of \$3.2 million to each academy. However, the competition for the funding not only breeds competition for outstanding academies, but

for partnerships between schools, local businesses, and students, as a demand for skilled labor will only increase with time.

Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle emphasized, "Nearly 80% of our future workforce will need some sort of technical training, and a Career Academy is a wonderful environment for high school students to receive that training. We must give more students the tools to successfully seek employment in industries available to their local economies." As the application process progresses, we wish each school the best of luck in their endeavors.



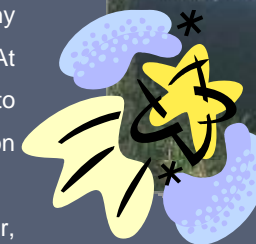
## September's Student Spotlight

### Brooke West || Walton Career Academy

At the age of 15, Brooke West took part in mission trips with her church across the country and around the world. From Mississippi and northern Georgia to Russia and Belize, Brooke took a devout interest in make a difference in others' lives and helping those in need. However, she encountered one problem. The work with her missions trips involved many tasks that she did not know how to do. At that point, she decided to take matters into her own hands and enroll at the Walton Career Academy in Monroe.

PJ Campanella, Brooke's instructor, says that she is a "star student". Since being in his class, she has been elected team member of the quarter, and the president of her school's career tech student organization. He commends Brooke on her awesome work ethic, and sees her strength in project management.

Campanella says that Brooke's being a female has not hindered her in any way. "She has done everything the guys can do...sometimes better; particularly when it comes to detail. And as an individual, she's second to none." "If you like building stuff, working with your hands,



and solving logical problems, then you should try this industry," said Brooke.

This fall, Brooke will begin her studies at Georgia Southern University. She plans on majoring in Construction Engineering/Management. Once she graduates from college and gets into the industry, she wants to branch off internationally. She'd like to take C.A. Murren, her current employer, across seas and head an office. In the end, she would be able to pursue her two passions in life simultaneously: foreign mission work and construction management.

## UGA Study Dual Enrollment

A study was conducted measuring the effect of dual enrollment by the University of Georgia over three years (03-06) involving the Georgia Department of Education and Technical College System of Georgia. The study found that dual-enrollment leads to multiple non-academic impacts such as preventing dropout, preparation for the workforce, serving as a stronger motivator for additional training and learning, leading students to a decision to attend college, and ultimately enhancing students' confidence and attitudes about their career goals. More importantly, dual enrollment has improved high school graduation rates and shortened the time to earn a college degree while simultaneously serving as a pipeline for technical colleges and universities.

## New Beginnings

Rockdale Career Academy, in partnership with DeKalb Tech and the Georgia Apartment Industry Education Fund has launched of a new program for students interested in careers in the Apartment Industry. The program targets two career tracks: apartment industry maintenance and apartment industry management. Dual Enrolled students may earn college credits applicable to either of these two tracks. The Georgia apartment industry provides a strong career path for qualified and capable students.