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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Georgia Piedmont Technical College Student Wins Statewide GOAL Competition

(DeKalb County, April 29, 2015) - - **Stephanie Jackson**, a paralegal studies student at **Georgia Piedmont Technical College (GPTC)**, has been named the **Technical College System of Georgia's (TCSG) 2015 Student of the Year**. The award was announced during a recent TCSG statewide leadership conference. Jackson competed for the top student honor as part of the system's annual **Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL)** program, which recognizes the best students at each of the state's 23 technical colleges and one Board of Regents college with a technical division.

"Stephanie Jackson is so deserving of this award," said **Dr. Jabari Simama**, President, Georgia Piedmont Technical College. "She represents the pure potential of our students. Being named the TCSG "*Student of the Year*" is a phenomenal accomplishment," he continued. "I am certain she will be an excellent ambassador for technical education programs, and that she will represent our college well," concluded Dr. Simama.

Judging for the GOAL program starts at each college level, and is followed by a regional competition. At the state level, nine finalists are interviewed by a panel of judges representing business, industry and higher education in Georgia. During each step, the students are rated on their academic accomplishments, leadership qualities, involvement in the community and their future aspirations.

"I wouldn't be here if I only believed in what I thought was possible," **Jackson** said as she accepted her award. "We must take a shot at what seems impossible. Technical education makes us realize that what we thought we would never achieve is well within our grasp."

As the **2015 Student of the Year** and **State GOAL Winner**, Stephanie Jackson will serve as the **TCSG Student Ambassador** during a number of events throughout the year. She will also have an opportunity to speak before the **Georgia General Assembly** and will receive a personal commendation from **Governor Deal**. As the GOAL Winner, Jackson received the program's grand prize - a brand-new **2015 Chevrolet Cruze**. Chevrolet and local Chevrolet dealers are the statewide sponsors of the GOAL program.

About Georgia Piedmont Technical College

Established in 1961, Georgia Piedmont Technical College is one of the top technical colleges in Georgia. GPTC prepares individuals with the skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly changing, global economy. Georgia Piedmont has nine learning centers in DeKalb, Newton, Rockdale and Morgan counties. Academic and technical programs of study at GPTC lead to more than 140 degrees, diplomas and certificates. For additional information, please visit www.gptc.edu.

About the Technical College System of Georgia

The Technical College System of Georgia oversees 23 technical colleges throughout the state. Affordable access to quality technical education programs that lead to in-demand jobs is a big reason why enrollment at the TCSG colleges is up by almost a third over last two years.

more - **PHOTO BELOW** -

TCSG colleges offer small classes, hands-on experience and focused instructor attention in more than 600 programs, including healthcare, manufacturing technologies, aerospace, agribusiness, life sciences, and energy and the environment.

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

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Photo, L-R:

Dr. Jabari Simama, President, GPTC

Stephanie Jackson, GOAL 2015 State Winner / GPTC Student

Gretchen Corbin, Commissioner, TCSG



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