

AWARD PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Amy Jones Wins Tools for Life Innovation Award During Annual IDEAS Conference

St. Simons Island, Georgia | June 18, 2019 – Amy Jones, an occupational therapist with the Cherokee County School District, was awarded with the prestigious 2019 Tools for Life Innovation Award on June 6, 2019. Jones won the prize over other nominees throughout the state of Georgia.

The Tools for Life Assistive Technology Awards Ceremony has been a tradition within Georgia for over 20 years. The Tools for Life Innovation Award recognizes the outstanding design of a program, project, product, building, space and/or inclusive classroom. This award was created by Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Program, to recognize creativity and encourage assistive technology and universal design principles for equal access for all people.

Jones was awarded the Tools for Life Innovation Award during the Institute Designed for Educating All Students (IDEAS) Conference. This annual conference is attended by more than 1,000 educators and assistive technology professionals from across the state of Georgia.

Jones rose above the other nominees for a variety of reasons, including her creation of a unique accessible switch environment, the Accessibility Station, at Hasty Elementary School in Canton, GA. Her ideas, time spent writing grants, project development skills and hard work have benefited the students she serves.

The Accessibility Station is a unique learning laboratory and incorporates specialized tools and assistive technology into the delivery of academic lessons and activities, therapeutic sessions, and leisure time. By using switches and by learning through fun activities, students develop skills that will increase independence in their academic, home and community settings.

Jones will receive a unique handcrafted bowl created exclusively for the Tools for Life Assistive Technology Award winners by Georgia artisans *In the Woods, LLC*. This beautiful piece serves as a reminder of the knowledge, skills and abilities that overflow from Jones's "bowl" as she assists students and other individuals with disabilities in achieving their educational and lifelong goals.

About Tools for Life:

Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they may be able to live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.

Visit www.gatfl.gatech.edu for more information.

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