

Contact Information:

**Tools for Life – Georgia’s Assistive Technology Act Program**

**Georgia Institute of Technology | AMAC Accessibility**

**Carolyn P. Phillips, Director:** [Carolyn.Phillips@gatfl.gatech.edu](mailto:Carolyn.Phillips@gatfl.gatech.edu)

**Liz Persaud, Training and Outreach Coordinator:** [Liz.Persaud@gatfl.gatech.edu](mailto:Liz.Persaud@gatfl.gatech.edu)

**Lauri Tuten wins the 2017 Tools for Life Naomi Walker “Catalyst for Positive Change” Award**  
at the Institute Designed for Educating All Students (IDEAS) Conference

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**St. Simon’s, Georgia | June 2017 – Lauri Tuten, Director of Transition Services with Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA),** was presented with the prestigious 2017 Tools for Life Naomi Walker “Catalyst for Positive Change” Award on June 5, 2017. Lauri won the hotly contested prize over other nominees throughout Georgia.

The **Tools for Life Assistive Technology Awards Ceremony** has been a tradition within Georgia for the last 21 years. **The Tools for Life Naomi Walker Award recognizes and honors an individual who has accomplished breaking down barriers by implementing policies, assistive technology acquisition, and overall systems change.** This award was created by Tools for Life, Georgia’s AT Act to promote creativity and encourage AT and universal design principles for equal access of all people.

**Lauri Tuten accepted the Tools for Life Naomi Walker “Catalyst for Positive Change” Award in person in front of 900 educators and assistive technology professionals from throughout Georgia at IDEAS.** Lauri rose above the other nominees for a variety of reasons; including her ability to advance understanding, access, and acquisition of assistive technology.

Ms. Tuten received a unique hand-crafted bowl created exclusively for the Tools for Life AT Award Winners by Georgia artisans, In the Woods Studio, LLC. These beautiful pieces serve as a reminder of the knowledge, skills and abilities that overflow from Ms. Tuten’s “bowl” as she assists students and other individuals with disabilities in achieving their educational and lifelong goals.

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

Find out more at [www.gatfl.gatech.edu](http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu).