

**“New Kid on the Block”  
Interagency Transition Council Award  
2006**

**~Barrow County Interagency Transition Council~**

Nominated by: Amy Roark

Presented by: Georgia’s Statewide Transition Steering Committee

This Interagency Transition Council has only been around for a year, but its modus operandi has obviously been to plunge in and discover how to swim – together!

The theme of their inaugural year included three main goals:

- ✓ make connections;
- ✓ identify who they are; and
- ✓ identify what they do for people with disabilities in their community.

These goals have already resulted in collaboration among local business owners, the Chamber of Commerce, service providers and school system personnel. For example, the president of the Chamber of Commerce agreed to serve as a regular Council member. Based on what she has experienced in just one year of that involvement, she has asked a panel of Council members to attend the annual Chamber Breakfast in November 2006 and present information about the ITC and the benefits of hiring people with disabilities.

The planned presentation aims to educate Chamber members on everything from tax incentives to the abilities and strengths of these potential employees. Two students with disabilities who have already demonstrated their ability to succeed on the job will also attend the Chamber breakfast and share their stories.

In another example of collaboration, a local business owner attended the September ITC meeting and heard profiles of two students who were working through RVI to seek employment. After the meeting that business owner plugged into his network, and by the end of the day both students were employed!

Clearly this ITC has already made great strides in pulling together to educate businesses on the rewards and benefits of hiring students with disabilities, as well as how to think of a person’s abilities rather than their disabilities. For such demonstrated passion for transition, and for initiative shown in establishing partnerships and employment opportunities that facilitate the employment and successful transition of students with disabilities – even in just one year of operation – we present the “New Kid on the Block” Interagency Transition Council Award for 2006 to the Barrow County Interagency Transition Council.