

**Transition Visionary Award 2006**  
**~ Nancy O'Hara ~**

**Nominated by: Acclamation**

**Presented by: Georgia's Statewide Transition Steering Committee**

Working in the field of Transition for over twenty-five years, this year's Visionary Award Winner has been an educator for over thirty years!!! She began her career as a teacher for students with moderate, severe and profound disabilities in Newton and Clayton Counties. Next, she worked as Assistant Project Director for Supported Employment and Transition Services; many of you remember the SETS Project (in the 1980's)!! She has always worked tirelessly, willing to do whatever it takes to train teachers, answer questions, work with administrators, and generally get the word out on what Transition is and how Transition done right can change lives!!!

After the SETS Project, she became the Assistant Project Director for Utilization of Best Practices in Transition for Students who are Deaf/Blind and the Project Consultant for the State Transition Collaborative. Then she came to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) in the Division of Exceptional Students (DES). At GaDOE she began as the Program Specialist for Intellectual Disabilities and Autism, then became the Program Coordinator for Compliance Review and Due Process. In 2005, she was named Associate Director of the Division of Exceptional Students.

She has made countless presentations and written countless articles about Transition and Student and Adult Services. She has also worked as a residential counselor, training counselors and assisting numerous students and adults with disabilities to live and work in communities.

If you have ever seen her discuss "her students and friends with disabilities" you know she has an incredible passion not just for transition but for better lives for all persons with disabilities. For most of you in the room, this person needs no introduction, and I know that you will agree with me, Nancy Elliot O'Hara is indeed the perfect choice for this year's TRANSITION VISIONARY AWARD WINNER!!!