



2011 GACRAO Keynote Speaker

Ronald W. "Ron" Jackson
Commissioner
Technical College System of Georgia

Ron Jackson is the commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), the state agency that administers 26 state technical colleges that serve more than 190,000 students annually. He also oversees Quick Start, the workforce training program that is consistently rated as the best in the nation, and the state Office of Adult Education, which last year delivered adult learning and GED testing programs to almost 100,000 Georgians.

The State Board that oversees TCSG appointed Ron as the system's commissioner on February 6, 2008, after he had been serving as the interim commissioner since December 2006. Ron first came to TCSG in December 2004 as deputy commissioner.

During Ron's tenure as the TCSG commissioner, student enrollment at the 26 colleges has increased by 31%; and TCSG has successfully implemented the administrative mergers of 13 colleges into six which saved \$6.2 million annually. Commissioner Jackson is also guiding TCSG through the implementation of a system-wide quarter to semester conversion that will be completed with the start of the fall 2011 semester. The goal is to better serve the TCSG students by improving their opportunities for articulation and transfer to college credits.

Under Ron's leadership, TCSG's Quick Start workforce training program has served as a vital incentive for progressive economic development growth in Georgia by helping to attract new business and industry to the state, along with assisting with employee training for existing Georgia companies that are looking to expand. During Ron's time as commissioner, Quick Start's clients have included KIA Motors, NCR, Gulfstream, Dendreon, and many more state, national and global employers.

Before coming to TCSG, Ron was the deputy director of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) from 2002 to 2004. Prior to that, he was OPB's director of strategic planning, research and evaluation. While at OPB he served three governors and worked on many projects across state government, including strategic planning for the state and its government agencies. His management talents were put on loan to the 1996 Summer Olympic Games as the executive assistant to the commander of the State Olympic Law Enforcement Command.

Ron was the director of parole with the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles from 1991 until 1994, and was that agency's director of field operations from 1990 to 1991.

From 1982 to 1990, he served as a commissioner on the Texas Parole Board. Ron began his professional career with the Texas Department of Corrections after graduating from Sam Houston State University in 1971 with a bachelor of science in criminal justice.

He has published several articles in professional journals. In 1991, he co-authored the book *Current Parole Practices: US and Canada*, which was published by the American Correctional Association.

Commissioner Jackson is a current member of the Board of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the State Workforce Investment Board, and is an active member of a number of national professional associations. He also serves on the Alliance of Education Agency Heads for Georgia.