



TURKNETT
LEADERSHIP
GROUP

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Subject: Five Georgia leaders receive the Turknett Leadership Character Award at the eighth annual event held September 15 at the Georgia Aquarium.

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Winners Honored at 8th Annual Turknett Leadership Character Awards

Atlanta September 15, 2011. Today, Turknett Leadership Group announced the recipients of its eighth annual Leadership Character Awards at a luncheon held at the Georgia Aquarium in Atlanta.

FHLBank of Atlanta was the presenting sponsor for the awards this year, and GV Financial was the silver sponsor. Turknett Leadership Group presented the awards in partnership with Kennesaw State University. Out of fifty-six outstanding leaders nominated this year's award recipients were:

CEO/President/Managing Partner Category – Ralph de la Vega, AT&T Mobility and Consumer Markets
Executive/Manager Category – John C. Yates, Morris, Manning & Martin, LLC
Nonprofit Category – Dr. Yolanda Watson Spiva, Project GRAD Atlanta, Inc.
Education Category – Larry Teems, DeKalb Technical College
Inspirator Category – Ross Mason, HINRI

A four person advisory group consisting of **Oz Nelson**, retired chairman and CEO of UPS, **Conchita Robinson**, president and CEO of C. Robinson Associates, Inc., **Dr. Betty Siegel**, president-emeritus of Kennesaw State University and **W. Thomas Smith**, Founder and Managing Partner of Total Technology Ventures selected the winners from this year's 56 nominees. The four were also presenters for the awards at the Georgia Aquarium.

Jim Huling, previous award-winner and Managing Consultant, FranklinCovey's 4 Disciplines of Execution, gave an inspirational address entitled, "Breakthrough Standards." Huling spoke about the power of those who set the highest standards (as in the Leadership Character Model) to not only raise their own performance, but to have the far greater impact of inspiring generations of future leaders to go even further.

Turknett Leadership Character Awards recognize individuals who demonstrate character in the way they lead others: high levels of integrity; relating to employees, customers, suppliers and others with respect; and maintaining a culture in which everyone takes responsibility for achieving results while upholding the organization's core values. "The awards were instituted in 2002, at a low point in business, when there were stories day after day about dishonesty at companies like Enron and HealthSouth" said Lyn Turknett, co-founder of the awards with her husband and partner Dr. Robert Turknett. "We believe that most business people are decent and honest, and we wanted to find a way to recognize leaders of character."

Tamara O'Neill, President, Careers on Course and this year's award nominee remarked, "I had a wonderful time at your luncheon! It was impressive, impactful, warm and seamless, with all the right touches. It reflects your work style and integration with the business community."

Turknett Leadership Group is a management consulting firm based in Atlanta that has assessed and developed high level leaders and their organizations throughout the U.S. for more than 20 years. Using sophisticated assessment tools and leadership coaching, the Turknett professional staff combines extensive psychological expertise in the behavioral sciences with practical business sense and executive management experience. They serve small, mid-sized and large organizations such as AGL Resources, American Cancer Society, AT&T, Bennett International Group, CSM Bakery Products, DeKalb Medical, Emory University, Equifax, Georgia-Pacific Corp., and Kroger Company. For more information visit www.turknett.com.