

# Dropout Becomes State NTHS President

Being a high school dropout enrolling in Heart of Georgia Technical College, I recall during orientation thinking that I must have lost my mind! I felt there was no way I could keep up with these young kids of today, yet I realized that without more education I was stuck in a mundane job for life! I almost called it quits!

I pushed myself beyond my limits in all of my courses and exceeded my own goals. I began tutoring others in the same classes and eventually became involved in school organizations.

Being nominated for membership into the National Technical Honor Society was a big deal for me! A very shy person, this opportunity pulled me out of my shell!

Accepting membership with great pride, I ran for and served as president of our local NTHS chapter. At the National Fall Leadership Conference in Savannah, Georgia, I was asked to consider running for state office. Without hesitation, I ran for the president's seat! After debates, elections and a runoff, I was elected as the first Georgia State President to represent the Honor Society – I was elated!!

What a thrill it was for me deliver the opening ceremony statements as well as the closing notes. What an unbelievable blessing NTHS has been for me!

I have worked as Personal Executive Assistant to a multimillionaire, entertained artists of the decade, had lunch with former President Jimmy Carter, met movie stars and world-renowned musicians, and coordinated events for government officials.

More importantly, I have learned to talk with the homeless, volunteer at shelters, and embrace each moment with the less fortunate with such compassion.

Today, I am wearing my NTHS T-shirt and sweatshirt I purchased when I was still in school and Skip Sullivan was still at HGTI. It is too big for me and very worn, but my heart warms, I smile each time I wear it, and I think of all that being involved in NTHS has done for me. – Sharon May



Sharon May ▲

## CTE: Learning That Works for Students, America, You

In the past, students went to high school and then chose between two paths: work or college. Students who moved on to college focused on academics and earned a degree related to the career field that they hoped to enter. Those who took the job route, given they gained technical training in trades such as automotive or information technology, had an opportunity to earn a decent living. However, society and the economy have since changed.

Choosing between two paths no longer works for students who want to succeed in the global economy. Students must prepare for both college and career to compete for high-demand jobs. Fortunately, that forward-thinking approach to education is being implemented in many Career Technical Education (CTE) programs. CTE is not something new, but it is transforming to become a rigorous program that prepares students for some of the fastest-growing jobs in the world.



Kimberly Green, Executive Director  
of the National Association of  
State Directors of Career Technical  
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