



November 5, 2003

Contact: Jennifer H. Stephens
Phone: 404-244-2368
E-mail: jstephen@gpc.edu

College pays off for Gwinnett resident

Lawrenceville resident Kathy Adams will graduate this December with an Associate of Science degree in nursing from Georgia Perimeter College (GPC) and immediately begin working as a pediatric RN at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. She is one of the Chances Scholars, an academic merit-based scholarship, and has committed to work for Children's Healthcare for 18 months after graduation. "I don't know in what area yet, but I know I will be making just under \$40,000 a year," says Adams.

Prior to her midlife career change from elementary education to nursing, Adams was making \$31,000 annually as the director of a private preschool and then as a sixth grade teacher in Gwinnett County Schools.

"I have always had a passion for medicine," confesses Adams, "and as birthdays kept rolling around, I had to decide if I was going to pursue it or not."

Not only will Adams be following her dream, but she will make \$9,000 more a year simply because she graduated from a University System of Georgia (USG) institution.

According to a study released today entitled, "The Value of University System of Georgia Education" funded by the USG Intellectual Capital Partnerships Program, the average GPC graduate makes \$8,538 more than a person with only a

-more-

-College pays off 2-

high school degree. Georgia Perimeter College's impact on the state of Georgia in 1998 was \$70,770, 481, primarily in DeKalb, Gwinnett and Rockdale counties — the counties where a GPC campus is located.

The study also reports that registered nursing is the top growing occupation in job openings in Georgia from 2000-2010. Nursing, business administration and teaching are the programs with the greatest total economic impact, thanks to the large number of students who graduate with these majors.

Adams attends Georgia Perimeter College's Lawrenceville Campus, convenient to her home, and says her experience at GPC "has been great."

Photo Cutline

Lawrenceville resident Kathy Adams will make just under \$40,000 a year after she graduates this December with an RN degree from Georgia Perimeter College.