



Tift County Foundation for Educational  
Excellence  
**Accomplishments (1989 Inception)**

**- Over \$840,000 Invested in Grants, Projects, and Teacher Recognition -**

**- Excellence in Teaching -**

Since 1991, 249 teachers have been tapped to receive the 'Excellence in Teaching' Award.

Winners are honored at the Tifton Rotary Club Banquet in February. (\$120,000)

**- Academic Chairs -**

Thirteen academic chairs have been endowed to generate annual grants in specific academic disciplines.

- ◆ Virginia Short Lindskog (1993) - Language
- ◆ Syd Blackmarr (1995) - Arts
- ◆ Glenn Burton (2001) - Science
- ◆ George McCarty (2006) - School Counseling
- ◆ Virginia Tift Brumby (2008) - Music
- ◆ Sara Bowen Gibbs (2013) - Mathematics
- ◆ Special Hearts (2015) - Special Education
- ◆ Mikie Wolff (1994) - Humanities
- ◆ Homer Rankin (1996) - Journalism
- ◆ Cathy Kvien (2002) - Family Reading
- ◆ Bob Wight (2007) - Challenge
- ◆ Fred Tucker (2012) - Physical Fitness
- ◆ Julian Cannon (2014) - Writing Skills
- ◆ Skoot Dimon (2015) - Healing Arts

**- Reading Capital of the World -**

Tifton became the Reading Capital of the World 15 November 2000. 5,373,427 AR points earned by 1 October 2014. Local, state, national & world coverage has included TIME Magazine, NBC, CBS, CNN & Rotary International. (\$155,000)

**- Incentive Grants -**

Starting in 1990, teachers have been encouraged to apply for grants to put their best ideas into practice. 1,852 grant applications have been received, with 678 grants totaling \$460,215 being funded.

**- Book Nooks -**

The first 'Book Nook' graced Tifton's City Hall in September 2001. Currently, 30 locations offer encouragement and opportunity to read while you wait.

**- Pilot Programs -**

**Innovative Collaborations (\$105,000)**

- ◆ SALSA Spanish
- ◆ Parent Help Line
- ◆ After-hours Reading
- ◆ Pre-School Literacy
- ◆ Howard Center Academic Team Grants
- ◆ Buzzing with Books
- ◆ Computer Camp
- ◆ Kumon Math
- ◆ Science Center
- ◆ THA Summer Reading
- ◆ Zero Net Energy House
- ◆ School Counseling Workshops

**- The Patronage of over 1750 Individuals and Businesses -**