March is Social Work Month!

March is more than the month for celebrating St. Patrick’s Day; it is also the nationally recognized Social Work Month! Mahatma Gandhi is quoted saying, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others”. This totally embodies what a social worker strives for in the service of others. To celebrate this wonderful month and to recognize all that social workers do, the ASWA and the Social Work Assistant Program are hosting an information table in the H Building on Mondays in March: March 17th and 24th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.. We invite you to enjoy a free snack to help curb your appetite as you go through your day. Please stop by our table and find information about Social Work, the Social Work Assistant Program at Athens Technical College and the student Association of Social Work Assistants. ASWA, and how you can join our team to help serve others and the community.

ASWA Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **March**: Social Work Month!
  - March 17th & March 24th: Social Work Month booth in the H Building; stop by, show your social work spirit and enjoy a snack.
  - March 18: General Member Meeting, 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., Room B-1115.
- **April**: Spring Fling from 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m. We will have a booth during Spring Fling.
- **April**: General Member Meeting, 12:00 p.m., B-1156

Announcing the ASWA General Membership Meeting Schedule!

The ASWA officers are excited to present the ASWA General Membership Spring 2014 Meeting Schedule. General Member Meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Location (rooms) may vary. Please see ASWA flyers for locations.

**March 18, 2014**
1 pm to 2 pm, Room B 1115

**April 15, 2014**
12:00 to 1:00 p.m., Room B 1156

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Director’s Corner

“Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can”.

– John Wesley
Hi my name is Shuntekia Haynes I will be graduating from the Social Work Assistant program in May 2014. I have two boys ages 17 and 10. In my spare time I like to cook, hang out with family and friends, and go on road trips. Throughout my lifetime I always known that I want to help people but didn’t know how to. I enrolled in Athens Technical College and found myself jumping from cosmetology, to insurance sales, to customer service, and to healthcare. I finally found my passion in Social Work. When I was in the healthcare program, Mrs. Patty Melnick was my advisor. During advisement she said “Shuntekia what do you really want to do?” The conversation we had that day put a spark back in me and I am still going strong.

That day I changed my program to Social Work Assistant. Coming into the program Mrs. Lastie, Mrs. Watts, and Mrs. Lloyd made it feel like you were at home. Having classmates who are loving, caring, and understanding, motivates you. It feels like one big family. Since being in the program I have been able to maintain a 3.4 GPA, and have been on the Dean’s List twice, and the President’s List once.

My career goal after graduation is to help teenage parents. Some teens don’t have the necessary support to stay motivated after becoming a parent. Some are already a “statistic” by being teenage parents. Some become high school dropouts, and another “statistic” that is steadily rising. Studies have shown that if a parent doesn’t complete high school their child or children with follow their footsteps. I would like to help these young girls by helping to provide resources such as childcare, transportation, housing, food, education. I believe this will help take away some of the daily parental stressors and provide a real chance for these young girls to succeed. Addressing this issue and helping these young girls will make a positive impact on our future kids of America.

Once again I would like to thank all of those that thought that I was worthy of being Student of the Month for March 2014.

Did you know ...?

“... teens with children are at high risk of living in poverty along with their child/children. Second, school interruption, persistent poverty, limited vocational opportunities, divorce, physical and sexual abuse, and repeat pregnancies are all major consequences associated with unintended teenage pregnancies. It is estimated that the annual cost of teen births to Athens-Clarke County taxpayers, including the delivery of preterm babies as well as the general cost of raising and educating a child, totals $8.5 million each year”.


Clarke County teen birth rate is higher than the rate in the United States.

Georgia has one of the highest teen birth rates in the United States.

ASWA Celebrates Social Work Month!
March 2014
The purpose of ASWA is:

To bring students together in the Social Work Assistant Program

To provide service opportunities on campus and in the community for students who desire to improve social conditions.

To increase visibility of the social work profession and the Social Work Assistant Program at Athens Technical College.

To serve as a networking and social outlet for and to provide opportunities among Social Work Assistant Program student.

Membership applications available from any ASWA officer or faculty advisor.

Membership: Choose to be a member today!

To be a member of the ASWA the following criteria must be met:

⇒ Current enrollment in the Assistant Social Work program.
⇒ Attend at least two ASWA meetings per semester.
⇒ Participate in at least one ASWA project or activity each semester.
⇒ Alumni members are invited to all meetings, programs, and activities, but may not vote.
⇒ The ASWA does NOT discriminate based on race, age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion, or class.
⇒ Active members must meet all eligibility criteria in order to

ASWA Leadership: Will you serve in a leadership position? If so, talk with an ASWA Officer or one of the Faculty Advisors. Students enrolled in full or part-time status are eligible to hold elected office provided the student is not on academic review with ATC at the time of election or during the term of office.

Ways to get involved:

1. General Member Meeting Set Up

2. Serving on a planning committee: ATC Spring Fling; 2nd Annual Alumni Celebration; Social Work Month Celebration; Brown Bag Series; 2nd Annual Gobbler Walk/Run

3. Social Work Month Celebration Booth

4. Advisement Hospitality Room Host

5. Community Service


This month we would like to give a shout out to Jeff Cunningham (ASWA Member-at-Large) whose birthday is on March 22, and Abbey Luke (ASWA President) whose birthday is on March 24. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!! ASWA wishes you the best birthday ever!
ASWA Leaders Needed:
If you are interested in serving in one of the ASWA leadership positions, please contact Mrs. Watts (Faculty Advisor) before March 28th, 2014. (706-355-5143 OR bwatts@athenstech.edu)

Social Work Month Celebration
Support your profession and your student association:
Visit the ASWA & SWA Program table in the H-Building (Student Center) on March 17th and 24th, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”