



## **Georgia Industries for the Blind Executive Director/CEO Hughes Announces Retirement**

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March 25, 2013- Dr. Jim “Coach” Hughes will be retiring as the Director of the Georgia Industries for the Blind (GIB). Dr. Hughes served as the Director of Georgia Industries for the Blind (GIB) for the past 13 years. During his tenure, he did a remarkable job in transforming GIB into an outstanding program providing employment opportunities throughout Georgia.

“Jim is truly one of the most assertive and passionate individuals I have ever known, and he has been a breath of fresh air to state government,” stated GVRA Executive Director Greg Schmiege. “I know that all of us will miss his dedication to persons with disabilities, his humor at the most opportune times, and his character.”

After a tremendous teaching and coaching career, Rehabilitation Services was fortunate to get Jim to apply his skills at GIB. The Cordele native coached at Columbus, Manchester and Thomasville before taking over as head football coach in Thomasville and guiding the Bulldogs to two state titles and one national championship in the mid-1970s. He moved to Moultrie in 1983 and led the Colquitt County to a 140-68-2 record and the 1994 Class AAAA State Championship. He was inducted into the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2009. His career record of 247-102-4 made him the third-winningest active coach in the state at the time of his initial retirement.

Georgia Industries for the Blind (GIB) has been providing employment opportunities to individuals who are blind since 1949. Georgia Industries for the Blind is headquartered in Bainbridge with operations in Albany, Bainbridge, Griffin, Pendergrass and Robins Air Force Base. GIB has approximately 190 employees, with 110 being blind or low vision.

GVRA congratulates Dr. Jim “Coach” Hughes for a job very well done, and certainly for all the best wishes to him and his family for the future.