

# Public Service Commissioner Tim Echols visits UGA-Tifton Campus

### Special to The Gazette

TIFTON — Public Service Commissioner Tim Echols was in Tifton this past week to visit with UGA Tifton Campus Director Joe West, scientist Craig Kvien and EcoCool representative Jill Stuckey.

The commissioner discussed renewable energy opportunities on the campus and visited the energy efficient Future Farmstead building now under construction on UGAs Tifton Campus. Considered a conservative watchdog for Georgia families, Echols has worked to bring balance to Georgia's energy portfolio. Four years ago, he started an alternative Fueled Vehicle Roadshow that highlights the benefits of domestically-produced fuels like natural gas, propane, electricity and biofuels.

Last year, along with Commissioners McDonald and Everett, Echols voted to add 525 megawatts of solar power to the 210 megawatts approved for Georgia Power in 2012 as part of a 20-year energy

plan for the state.

Echols was elected to the Public Service Commission in 2010. He remains focused on consumer protection, clean energy and accountability. Echols travels the state speaking to students, civic groups and businesses about the importance of the PSC's responsibilities — especially providing accountability to those the agency regulates.

In addition to his commission duties, Echols founded Family Resource Network and TeenPact, a national teen citizenship experience that brings young people to their state's capitol to learn about the legislative and political process. TeenPact has trained more than 23,000 teens and children since its inception in 1994. Echols holds a bachelor's degree and two masters from the University of Georgia and is also the author of "Real Citizenship," a book that challenges young people to help build a compassionate society. Echols and his wife Windy have seven children ranging from 13- to



Submitted

Public Service Commissioner Tim Echols (right) visits with UGA-Tifton Campus researchers Craig Kvien (left) at the energy efficient model home now under construction on the Tifton campus

24-years-old. They have been married 27 years and live in Bogart, just outside Athens.

He holds a bachelor's degree and two masters from the University of Georgia.

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