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## **ESPITIA HONORED AS EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

**Whitfield County, GA** – On Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, the Whitfield County Board of Commissioners honored Keli Espitia as the 2023 Employee of the Year. Espitia has been a Victim Witness Advocate with the District Attorney’s Office since 2016.

She began her career in 2014 as an intern while finishing her Bachelor’s Degree at Dalton State College. As a Victim Witness Advocate, Espitia is dedicated to delivering optimal services to individuals affected by crime through offerings of comprehensive support, eliminating obstacles, empowering victims and their families, and facilitating a transition from being a victim to being a survivor.

“Unfortunately, I have a lot of family who have been victimized,” said Espitia. “I’m really proud of my job because I’m giving something to my community, that we in my family, did not receive.” Reflecting back on her time with the County, there were two cases that will always stay with her. “One of my first early on cases, were victims who were close to my age, and to me that was very impactful.” One of the victims suffered a crime, and the other lost their life. “I try to be there for them, and I try to stay in touch with them after the case is closed to check in.”

In addition to developing her career, Espitia is an active member in her community, and in her church. She is chair for a new program that allows the church to give bookbags during the summer, and during the Christmas season she organizes gifts to be given to families, and blankets to those in need.

“One of the noticeable qualities that Keli has is her kindness that shows on a daily basis,” said Danielle Kean, Director of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program. “We can all agree that she is a team player and is always there to help others.”

Whitfield County would like to extend a congratulations to Keli on her achievement! We’re proud to have you on the team.