

WINTER 2023-2024



HORRY-GEORGETOWN
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
**COMMUNITY
UPDATE**



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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORE

Dear Horry-Georgetown Technical College Community and Students,

I hope this message finds each of you well. It's with great excitement that I reach out to you through our community newsletter—a space where we can share updates, celebrate achievements, and reflect on the incredible journey we're on together.

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of you—our vibrant and diverse community—for your unwavering commitment to the mission of HGTC. Your passion, resilience, and hard work shape the future of your College to positively impact the lives of our students.

This past year has been nothing short of extraordinary. We adapted to new circumstances and emerged stronger than ever. Your strength and adaptability have been a true inspiration. We've seen incredible advancements in our academic programs, innovative teaching methods, and a deepened commitment to inclusivity across our campuses.

To our students, the heartbeat of our institution, your journey has been remarkable. The unwavering support of this community has empowered you to reach new heights, achieve your goals, and set out on paths toward success.

While we celebrate our successes, we also acknowledge that challenges bring opportunities, and we are committed to making education affordable and accessible. We'll explore new scholarship opportunities and financial aid options. Our academic and workforce development programs will expand to align with local industries, ensuring you are well-prepared for in-demand careers.

Looking ahead to 2024, I am genuinely excited about the possibilities. Together, we will enhance the educational experiences, foster a nurturing campus environment, and strengthen our ties with the communities we serve.

I encourage each of you to actively engage in the initiatives and opportunities unfolding in the coming months. Your input, ideas, and collaboration are invaluable as we shape the future together. We can navigate challenges and seize opportunities, making HGTC an even stronger institution.

Your contributions are not just appreciated but cherished. I eagerly anticipate another semester of growth, achievement, and collaboration as we build a brighter future for our students and our institution. Thank you for being an integral part of our HGTC family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "M. Murphy".

Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore
President, Horry-Georgetown Technical College



Back Row (left to right): Dr. Robert J. "Bob" Farrar; Mr. Jon D. "David" McMillan; Mr. Brent D. Groome; Mr. Robert P. Hucks, II, Vice Chair; Mr. Fedrick D. Cohens. Front Row (left to right): Mr. Y. Melvin Nobles (Retired June 2023); Ms. Orrie E. West, Secretary; Mr. Joe T. "Tommy" Branyon, Jr., Chair.

HGTC Area Commission

The Horry-Georgetown Technical College Area Commission, a nine-member body, is an outstanding group of dedicated, community-minded professionals, individually and collectively committed to advancing higher education at Horry-Georgetown Technical College. It is our goal, each day, to provide the policy guidelines and broad-based vision that promote and ensures the success of the College, under the direction of its President, Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, and accomplished by the efforts of our wonderfully able team of professional faculty, staff, and administrators.

Governor Henry McMaster appointed two new board members to serve on the HGTC Area Commission following the retirement of Mr. Melvin Nobles and the passing of Mr. Donald Helms. Mr. John Cassidy, Co-Founder and President of Duplicates INK - marketSMART, and Mr. Byron David, Attorney at The David Law Firm, were appointed in July 2023 and will serve three-year terms.



John Cassidy



Byron David



HGTC MISSION

The mission of Horry-Georgetown Technical College is to provide accessible, affordable, high-quality, comprehensive two-year collegiate education and workforce development through traditional and distance learning delivery methods; to provide a student-centered environment and inspire lifelong learning; to promote learning through teaching excellence; to promote community service and embrace diversity; to promote economic growth; and to embrace technological innovation in instruction and workplace applications.

COMMUNITY IMPACT



1966 | 12 PROGRAMS | 530 STUDENTS | 2023 | 70+ PROGRAMS | 9,350 STUDENTS

Financial Stewardship and Accountability to Taxpayers

HGTC invests in strategic initiatives to support the mission of the College and its commitment to student success while maintaining financial strength and economic stability.

The State of South Carolina approved the College's 5-year \$174.5 million strategic capital plan that reflected the input from employers, faculty, staff, and students. The plan was designed to sustain the growth in our area and to continuously support the needs of employers and students.

An essential component of that plan is HGTC ensures sound financial practices, transparency with stakeholders, and a fair allocation of resources.

As evidence of its fiscal stewardship, HGTC:

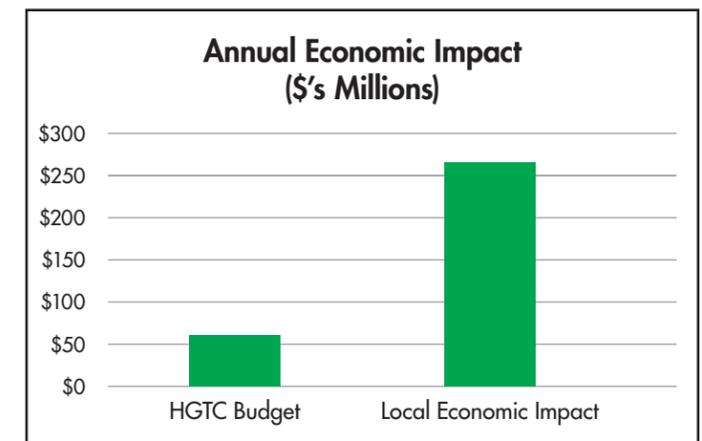
- Received excellent ratings from its independent auditors for over 15 years.
- Has no debt and imposes no capital/debt fees on students.
- Has the lowest tuition in South Carolina.
- Maintains an appropriate contingency fund.
- Consistently demonstrates growth in its net assets.
- Exceeds the State requirement for cash reserves.

HGTC benefits from 6.7% of the Horry County \$.01 (Penny) Educational Sales and Use Tax and uses these funds to support its capital budget in Horry County. In using those funds along with other resources, HGTC has increased its total square footage by more than 27% over the past decade.

In addition to maintaining sound financial practices, HGTC creates a \$265 million impact to the local economy each year.

An HGTC graduate will earn an estimated 33% more over their lifetime than an individual with only a high school diploma.

*Source: Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce.



As evidenced by the data below, HGTC has allocated its resources consistent with practices at other institutions across the State Technical College System and has wisely invested its capital funds as demonstrated by its dramatic increase in instructional space.

COLLEGE SUCCESS

\$60 MILLION OPERATING BUDGET
9,350 CURRICULUM STUDENTS ANNUALLY
2,200 CONTINUING EDUCATION STUDENTS ANNUALLY



4TH LARGEST Technical College in South Carolina



\$265 MILLION Our Local Economic Impact



\$2,186 PER SEMESTER One of the Most Affordable Colleges in South Carolina



600 Employees

STUDENT PROFILE

35% MALE **65% FEMALE**

AVERAGE AGE OF STUDENTS: 25



44% FULL TIME **56% PART TIME**



86% ARE SC RESIDENTS **88% RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID**

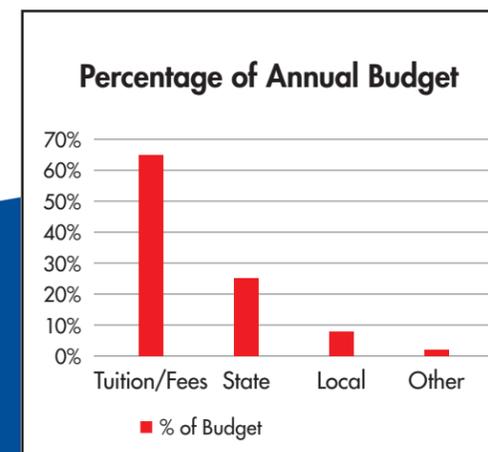
STUDENT SUCCESS



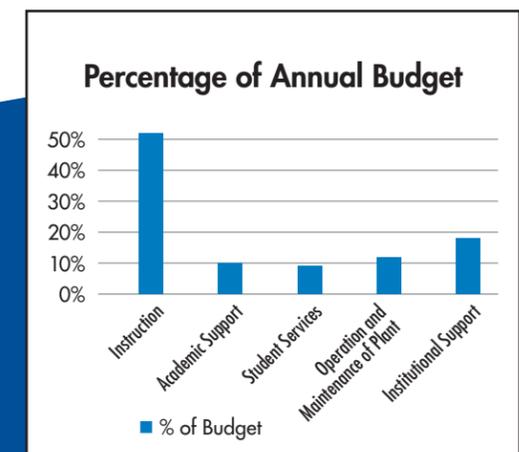
96% 96% of HGTC Graduates Live, Work, & Thrive in South Carolina

95% University/Job Placement Rate

SOURCES OF FUNDS



USES OF FUNDS**



** Allocations are consistent with those across the SC Technical College System.



HGTC President Named Woman of the Year by Conway Area Chamber

HGTC's esteemed President, Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, was recognized as the Woman of the Year for 2023 by the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce. This prestigious accolade celebrates Dr. Fore's unwavering commitment to education, her visionary leadership, and her profound contributions to both HGTC and the broader community.

Dr. Fore's dedicated leadership has transformed education in the region by enhancing accessibility and aligning HGTC with the evolving needs of local businesses and industries. Under her guidance, HGTC has simplified admissions requirements and streamlined the approval process for new academic programs, making higher education more attainable for countless individuals.

Among Dr. Fore's remarkable achievements is her instrumental role in pioneering digital classrooms, revolutionizing the learning experience for HGTC students. She has been a driving force behind the development of over 80 programs of study, addressing a wide range of educational and vocational needs within the community.

Beyond the college, Dr. Fore has generously shared her expertise by serving on more than 30 accreditation teams throughout the Southeast, contributing to the growth and excellence of educational institutions across the region. Her vision and leadership were instrumental in the creation of the nationally recognized Horry County Schools Early College High School.

Dr. Fore's academic achievements are equally noteworthy, as she holds an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree from Coastal Carolina University, along with an Education Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction, a Master of Arts in Economics, and a Master of Arts in Educational Administration all from the University of South Carolina, and a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from Fairmont State College in Fairmont, West Virginia.

Her educational background reflects her unwavering commitment to lifelong learning and her ability to inspire others to do the same.

Moreover, Dr. Fore's late husband, Dr. Fred Fore, was the first President of Florence-Darlington Technical College, highlighting her family's enduring legacy of educational leadership and service to the community.

HGTC is immensely proud of Dr. Fore's well-deserved recognition as the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year 2023. She embodies the spirit of leadership, service, and commitment to education that HGTC stands for and is a source of inspiration to us all, said Nicole Hyman, HGTC Public Relations Director.

Photo: Mayor Barbara Blain-Bellamy presents Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President, with the 2023 Woman of the Year Award at the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting.



Cassidy Holland, Digital Court Reporter for Bee Holland LLC, is a contractor working for various other companies who hold both state and federal contracts.

HGTC Celebrates Success of Digital Court Reporter Program

HGTC has achieved remarkable progress in its Digital Court Reporter Program since its inception in 2019. This program was developed with the primary objective of augmenting the state court system's workforce with cutting-edge digital technology. Not only has it effectively addressed the need for court reporters in both the private sector and the court system, but it has also significantly impacted the lives of its graduates.

One standout success story is Cassidy Holland, an HGTC Court Reporter graduate, whose passion for the justice system led her to embark on a career change amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

"In the fall of 2020, I was working as a customer service agent for various corporations online, but I was still longing for a career where I could be a trained specialist, more financially appreciated, and have a clear ladder of advancement," shared Cassidy Holland.

Her journey took an exciting turn when she and her husband, Jeremy, stumbled upon the Digital Court Reporting Certificate on the HGTC website while watching Court TV. They were pleased to discover the program was available at little to no cost to students.

"I immediately applied for the digital court reporting program and began taking classes within a few weeks," Cassidy continued.

Soon after receiving her certificate, Cassidy secured a position with a company specializing in remote depositions. This opportunity allowed her to gain valuable experience in completing mandatory paperwork, handling exhibits, and engaging in courtroom interactions.

"After gaining experience in the virtual courtroom setting, I began working for another company that operates in Federal Courts in the areas of labor and tax law. This job requires travel along the eastern coast to major cities. So far, I have traveled to North Carolina, Georgia, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico, among others," she explained.

HGTC offers two online programs in court reporting:

1) Digital Court Reporting without Legal Transcription: A self-paced, eight (8) week online class designed to provide participants with a thorough understanding of digital court reporting, covering all legal proceedings, including court work and depositions.

2) Digital Court Reporting with Legal Transcription: A self-paced, 24-week online class in which individuals learn about the court system, legal procedures, terminology, ethics, professionalism, and confidentiality. The trial courts in South Carolina will always require qualified professionals capable of preserving the record and maintaining an efficient workforce to keep the state's courtrooms operational.

"We recognized the increasing demand for court reporters in South Carolina years ago and have taken proactive steps to address this need. The fact that much of the existing workforce is approaching retirement age highlights the importance of training a new generation of court reporters to fill these crucial roles in the legal system," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.

South Carolina Senator Stephen Goldfinch played a pivotal role in launching the program in 2019, recognizing the pressing need for court reporters in the state.

"HGTC's commitment to helping individuals enter this profession not only serves the needs of the legal community but also offers career opportunities and job security for those who choose to pursue court reporting. It's a win-win situation that benefits both South Carolina's justice and legal systems and aspiring court reporters," said Jeffrey LeBlanc, SC Court Administration. "As this field continues to evolve with advancements in technology, it's crucial for educational institutions like HGTC to stay updated and equip students with the latest tools and techniques in digital court reporting. This will ensure graduates are well-prepared to meet the demands of the modern legal landscape."

"Being able to gain court reporter training from HGTC has been a life-changing experience. I now have a long-term career I can pursue with no strings attached. To be successful at court reporting, it takes a serious time commitment, willingness to work closely with others, and being open to travel throughout the country. Although the job is very challenging, being in a career that I love is invaluable. I could not have done this without HGTC," Cassidy exclaimed.

Interested students can obtain more information and enroll by calling 843-477-2020 or visiting HGTC's Court Reporting Program. Tuition is covered with the SC•WINS scholarship for all in-state residents.

"An online court reporting program provides accessibility and flexibility for individuals interested in pursuing a career in court reporting. Online programs can accommodate students who may have other commitments or geographical constraints, making it easier for them to acquire the necessary skills and qualifications," continued Dr. Fore.

Registration for classes is currently underway. For comprehensive details about applying, enrolling, and registering at HGTC, please call 843-477-2020 or visit HGTC's website.



Dr. Theresa Strong, HGTC Chair and Professor of Business Administration, assists Allison Tuttle, HGTC Alumna who graduated in 2021 with her Associate in Applied Science Degree in Business Administration as well as her Basic Business Certificate. She is currently working as a Teller at Wells Fargo Bank.

HGTC Business Administration Program Achieves Remarkable Milestone

HGTC's Business Administration degree program has achieved its highest enrollment for the second consecutive semester as the program continues to expand. HGTC's enrollment in the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Business Administration degree program has reached over 550 students.

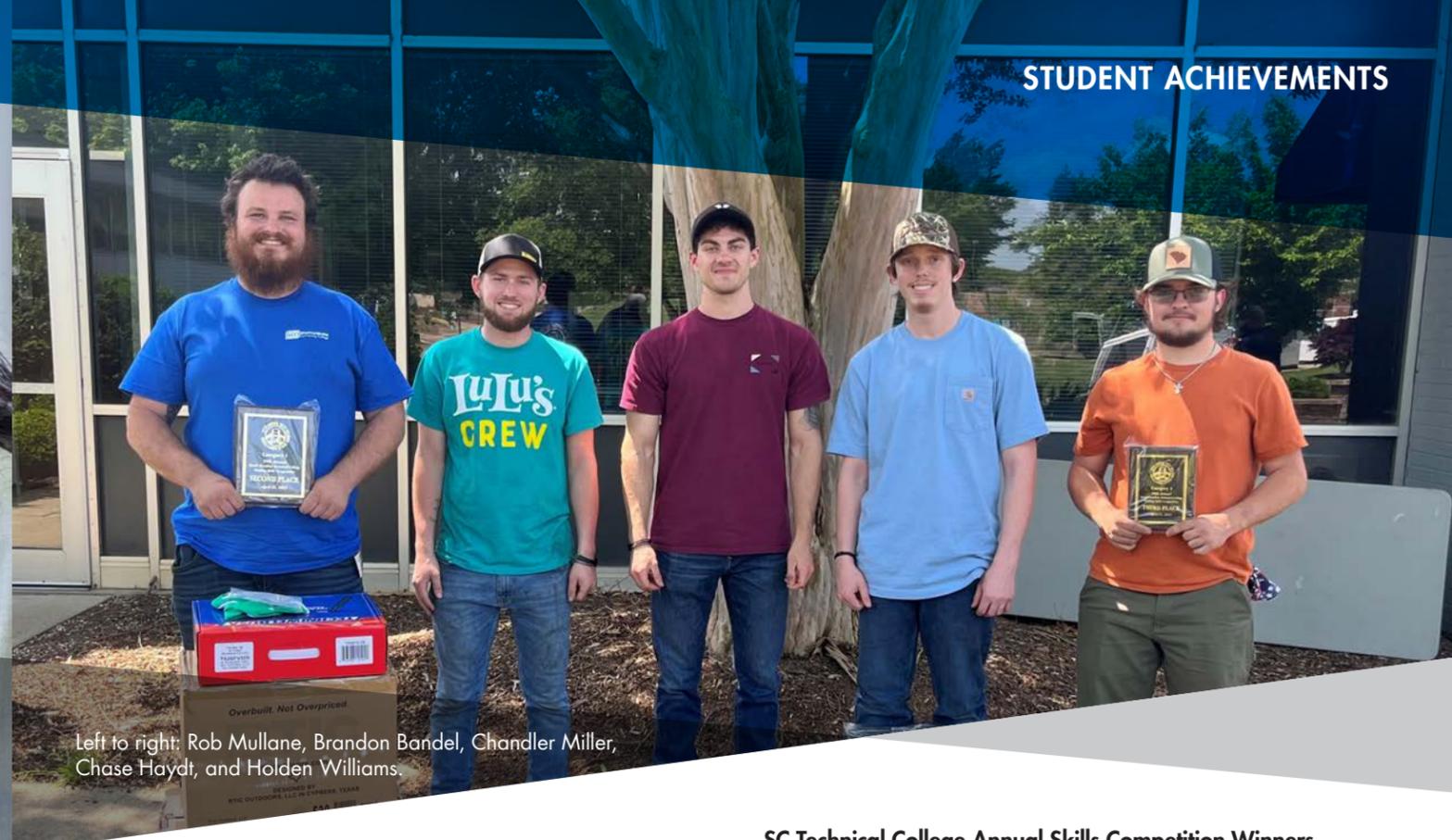
The implementation of a Human Resources pathway to the AAS Business Administration degree this Fall added to the continued growth and is a direct response to the critical shortage expressed by business and industry leaders. In its inaugural term, the Human Resources pathway has demonstrated extraordinary strength indicated by class size

and the number of sections offered, coupled with parallel Spring 2024 enrollment projections based on the continued interest expressed by perspective students.

"This exceptional accomplishment is a testament to HGTC's unwavering commitment to providing the highest quality instruction and educational experience to our current and future students. As we celebrate this achievement, we also reaffirm our dedication to nurturing and empowering the next generation of business leaders and professionals," said Dr. Theresa Strong, HGTC Chair and Professor of Business Administration.

The Spring 2023 enrollment figures for the AAS Business Administration degree program shows HGTC as a leader in this category. The dedicated efforts of HGTC's esteemed faculty have played a pivotal role in securing this extraordinary achievement.

"HGTC remains steadfast in its mission to deliver excellence in education and looks forward to continuing to set the standard for academic achievement. We express our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated faculty, supportive staff, and enthusiastic students who have made this achievement possible," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.



Left to right: Rob Mullane, Brandon Bandel, Chandler Miller, Chase Haydt, and Holden Williams.

HGTC Welding Students Place in Top at Annual Welding Competition

Welding Students Represent HGTC at South Carolina Technical College Welding Competition

HGTC welding students were successful at the 2023 South Carolina Technical College (SCTC) Welding Competition at Spartanburg Community College April 20 and 21. HGTC Department Chair, Jeff Ball, and Welding Instructors, Jacob Satterfield, Jay Owens, and Ivan Johnson accompanied five (5) top welding students, including Rob Mullane, Brandon Bandel, Chandler Miller, Chase Haydt and Holden Williams.

"As welding instructors, we could not be prouder of our students, especially since they were only in their 2nd semester of instruction at the time of the competition. Two of our students, Holden Williams and Chase Haydt, are Technical Scholars in local high schools. In addition, this was the first time an HGTC welding student competed in category 1, and Rob Mullane finished strong," said Jacob Satterfield, HGTC Welding Instructor.

HGTC students placed in the top three (3) in two (2) categories.

SC Technical College Annual Skills Competition Winners April 20 & 21, 2023

- Rob Mullane finished in 2nd place for Category 1.
- Brandon Bandel finished in 5th place for Category 2.
- Chandler Miller finished in 4th place for Category 3.
- Chase Haydt finished in 4th place for Category 4.
- Holden Williams finished in 3rd place for Category 5.

Welding plays a critical role in the strength and durability of everything from cars to heavy industrial machinery to bridges. HGTC's Advanced Welding Certificate provides students entry level training and practical skills in Oxy-Acetylene cutting and brazing, SMAW (Arc), GMAW (MIG), FCAW (Flux Core) and GTAW (TIG) in ferrous and non-ferrous metals, including purge welding of sanitary process pipe.

In addition to preparing students for American Welding Society (AWS) welder performance certifications, students will also learn shop and site safety practices, blueprint reading, principles of metallurgy, construction math, hand and power tool usage and basic layout techniques used in the fabrication industry. Because of high demand, good earning potential, and a shortage of workers, welding is an excellent choice for those with an interest in a hands-on career.

Employment opportunities can be found in the following fields:

- Welders, cutters, welder fitters
- Solderers and brazers
- Welding machine setters, operators, and tenders

Employers of HGTC Alumni Include:

- Ballard Iron
- Saferack Manufacturing
- Venters Welding
- EnviroSep

HGTC Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter's College Project Selected for Publication in Phi Theta Kappa's Change Makers Journal of Student Leadership

HGTC's Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter's College Project, titled "Chomp's Hangout: Creating Student Lounges," in honor of Chomp, HGTC's gator mascot, was selected for publication in the prestigious 2023 edition of Phi Theta Kappa's Change Makers Journal of Student Leadership.

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is renowned for recognizing and celebrating the exceptional achievements of community college students, and HGTC's Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter has demonstrated excellence in their College Project. Out of a total of 420 entries submitted, their project was chosen as one of only 17 articles to be featured in the upcoming edition of Change Makers.

"Chomp's Hangout: Creating Student Lounges" showcases the Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter's remarkable servant leadership and collaboration with the college administration to enhance the student experience. This recognition is a testament to their dedication to making a positive impact on the HGTC community.

Jennifer Stanford, Associate Vice President of Program Implementation for Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, expressed her enthusiasm, saying, "We are so proud of your students' outstanding servant leadership working alongside your college administration for this College Project. We cannot wait to share it through Change Makers with the community college world. Congratulations again to the entire Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter team! Your work inspires us and highlights the extraordinary work done by PTK members!"

The 2023 edition of the Change Makers Journal of Student Leadership is scheduled for publication in late fall 2023, with both print and online versions available. This publication is a testament to HGTC's commitment to fostering leadership and excellence among its students and showcases the impact of the College Project on the broader academic community.

HGTC Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter Honors in Action Team Earns Prestigious Civic Scholar Publication

HGTC's Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter's Honors in Action team has achieved a remarkable feat. Their project, titled "Play and Learning 4 Adults and Youth (PLAY)," has been selected as one of the 18 articles to be featured in the upcoming 2023 edition of Civic Scholar: Phi Theta Kappa Journal of Undergraduate Research.

Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is renowned for its commitment to recognizing and celebrating outstanding undergraduate research conducted by community college students. Out of 396 submissions, the HGTC Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter's project has been chosen to be a part of this prestigious publication, highlighting the exceptional caliber of work undertaken by HGTC's scholars.

"Play and Learning 4 Adults and Youth (PLAY)" represents the dedication and scholarly achievement of the HGTC Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter's Honors in Action team. The project showcases their innovative approach to play-based learning, which has the potential to make a significant impact on both adults and youth.

Dr. Susan Edwards, Associate Vice President of Honors Programming and Undergraduate Research at Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, expressed her admiration, stating, "Congratulations again to the entire HGTC Alpha Nu Sigma team! Your work inspires us and highlights the extraordinary work done by PTK members."

The 2023 edition of Civic Scholar: Phi Theta Kappa Journal of Undergraduate Research is currently in the printing process and will be available in hard copy this fall. Ten copies will be sent to HGTC, and additional copies can be requested if needed. In the meantime, an electronic PDF version of Civic Scholar will be accessible in October at Civic Scholar.

"HGTC is immensely proud of its own Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter's accomplishments and contributions to the field of undergraduate research. This recognition underscores the college's commitment to fostering excellence and academic achievement among its students," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC president.



HGTC Automotive Technology Students Attend Ford Youth Initiative

Students Embrace Unique Opportunity at Ford Youth Initiative during Mustang Week

HGTC Automotive Technology students were invited to participate in the Ford Youth Initiative at Mustang Week in September 2023. The Ford Youth Initiative, a nationwide program, aims to inspire young individuals to explore career opportunities within the automotive industry, particularly with organizations affiliated with Ford Motor Company.

"The Ford Youth Initiative has garnered immense popularity across the United States in recent years, and the event in Myrtle Beach proved to be no exception. Students from various backgrounds have found the program to be both educational and inspiring, opening doors to potential careers in the thriving automotive industry," said Jeff Ball, HGTC Chair for Academic and Workforce Development.

The select group of students from HGTC were among a fortunate few who embarked on an immersive journey into the world of automobiles, thanks to this remarkable opportunity. The event featured a range of engaging activities, including a private tour led by Mustang Week organizers and Ford representatives, a close-up examination of several brand-new Ford Mustangs, and a lively Q&A session with directors and managers from esteemed organizations such as Ford Motor Company, Shelby American, Mindshare, and Power Automedia. During the insightful Q&A session, students had the chance to interact directly with influential figures from the automotive industry.

Back Row (left to right): Ivan Korda, Senior Director of Business Development, Power Automedia; Patrick Zscherer, Director of Content at Mindshare; Sean Dugan, Automotive Instructor at Horry-Georgetown Technical College; Matt Porath, Associate Director, Content at Mindshare; Joe Bellino, Ford Mustang Marketing Director; Lloyd Hunt, Chief Revenue Officer, Power Automedia; Kash Singh, Sales and Marketing Manager, Shelby American.
Front Row: HGTC Automotive Technology Students.

As part of the program, Ford team members provided valuable insights into the automotive industry, offering guidance and expertise. This interactive session took place within the Myrtle Beach Mall, providing an ideal setting for students to engage with industry professionals. Throughout the event, students were encouraged to share their experiences and newfound knowledge on social media, enhancing their understanding of the automotive world and its exciting possibilities.

"HGTC remains committed to providing students with unique opportunities to explore their passions and interests, ensuring they are well-prepared for the future. This exceptional experience at the Ford Youth Initiative exemplifies HGTC's dedication to enriching students' educational journeys," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.



HGTC Students and Professors celebrate Turf Bowl Championship Win. HGTC Golf & Sports Turf Management Team (left to right): Charles Granger, Chair and Professor; Will Turpin, student; Dominick Matthews, student; Connor Romanosky, student; Brian Matthews, student; Jim Huntoon, Associate Professor.

HGTC Awarded Title of Turf Bowl Champions for Fourth Consecutive Year

HGTC Golf & Sports Turf Management (GSTM) students clinched the prestigious title of Turf Bowl Champions for the fourth consecutive year at the 2023 Carolinas Turf Bowl Championship. The championship, held during the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association (CGCSA) Conference and Show at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, showcased the exceptional skills and dedication of the HGTC team.

The victorious team, coached by Professor Charles Granger and Associate Professor Jim Huntoon, consisted of four (4) outstanding GSTM students: Brian Matthews, Dominick Matthews, Connor Romanosky, and Will Turpin. Their triumph is evidence of the rigorous training and commitment fostered by the faculty at HGTC.

Charles Granger, HGTC Chair and Professor of Golf and Sports Turf Management, expressed his pride in the team's achievements, stating, "I could not be prouder of a team that bonded and worked hard to achieve the win. Each student on the team is employed by a local golf course. The win speaks volumes for academics and the importance of students being employed and supported by the golf course superintendents and turf managers while they are in school."

In a historic first-time tie, HGTC shared the victory with Clemson University, a testament to the caliber of competition in the Turf Bowl. Notably, no other college has ever secured the championship more than two years in a row, making HGTC's four-year winning streak a remarkable achievement in the competition's history.

HGTC has consistently excelled in the Turf Bowl, capturing the prize nine (9) times in the last 11 years.

Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President, expressed her immense pride in the team's dedication and success, and emphasized the importance of this fourth consecutive win, stating, "This victory not only underscores the exceptional talent within our GSTM program but also highlights the commitment of our faculty, led by Professor Charles Granger, in nurturing a culture of excellence. The historic tie with Clemson University further demonstrates our significant standing among other esteemed institutions. I know it was tough competition, but we can proudly say no other college has ever secured the championship more than two years in a row, making HGTC's four-year winning streak a remarkable accomplishment."

Other participating colleges in the 2023 Turf Bowl included Clemson University, North Carolina State University, Central Piedmont Community College, Alexander Baldwin Agricultural College, and the United States Golf Association Greenkeeper Apprenticeship Program.

HGTC's win reveals the commitment the College has to providing quality education and fostering excellence in every field and the essence of pride and accomplishment that resonates throughout the HGTC community.

HGTC Students Benefit from Grant in Bucksport

HGTC is proud of the work being done in the Bucksport area with educational grant funding approved by Horry County Government in 2021 provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Now in the second year of the grant opportunity, the Bucksport, Toddsville, and Bucksville areas of Horry County have easier access to the job training programs offered by HGTC through the Bucksport community education program.

Shakerra Washington, a 33-year-old mother of two daughters, managed to complete her phlebotomy certification in May. She began the program in February and continued to work as a medical office assistant while taking classes.

"Hearing about the program itself, I was immediately interested. I have always wanted to learn phlebotomy, and I felt like this was an opportunity for me to have a refresher of what I had learned over 10 years ago in my previous medical training. It was a beautiful process overall. I cannot say that it was not stressful because I just had a baby a few months ago, and there was a lot going on in my life. I wanted to do something different and do something for my girls," said Washington, Phlebotomy graduate.

Vincent Myers, HGTC Workforce Development Manager, has been working on the fulfillment of grant funds since the program began in the spring of 2022.

"HGTC has been promoting this exciting news and hopes others will learn how the funding opportunities have benefited the communities in which they live. We are in the second year of this grant opportunity with funds still available. We want to continue our success of the program by helping those in the community overcome the barriers of attaining an education, which is necessary to not only survive but also thrive financially," said Myers.

HGTC is eager for the community to hear how HGTC educational offerings will propel residents toward career goals and beyond with one of the following programs:

- Certified Medical Assistant
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Commercial Driver's License (CDL)
- Computer Technology
- Culinary Arts
- Drone Training
- Emergency Medical Technology Basic (EMT)
- IV Therapy
- Phlebotomy
- And more!



Shakerra Washington, HGTC Phlebotomy graduate.

"We are very excited about the results we are seeing through the grant funding available from Horry County for those who live in the Bucksport community and surrounding areas. There are many tuition-free programs available for various career paths and life-changing opportunities for residents who will take advantage of classes as they prepare for a better future," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.

The community education program in the Bucksport area was granted \$1.9 million to bring certain job skills courses to community members, either via online courses or at the James R. Frazier Community Center. This opportunity also allows for supporting curriculum courses and programs offered at any of our three campus locations. The grant has been used to purchase classroom equipment at the community center and fund the training programs offered.

Shakerra Washington continues to work as a medical office assistant and received several job offers, including a PRN position with Ramp Health working as a phlebotomist for clinical and wellbeing services at outreach events.

"The instructor for the phlebotomy program was amazing. Seeing her passion for teaching encouraged me to want to learn more. She believed in me even when I did not believe in myself. The push and positive feedback were exactly what I needed to give me the reassurance to keep going in furthering my education," Washington continued.



HGTC Receives \$8 Million from the U.S. Department of Commerce to Support Workforce Development through a New Marine Technology Center

HGTC was awarded an \$8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce through the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the largest award in HGTC history. The grant is earmarked for the construction of a new cutting-edge training facility on the Georgetown Campus, aimed at bolstering workforce development in the only Outboard Marine Technology and Boat Building Technology programs in the state of South Carolina.

"The awarding of this grant is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our HGTC faculty, staff, and students, as well as the support of our community partners. It reflects our unwavering commitment to workforce development and the future of our students, our community, and the marine technology sector. We deeply appreciate the EDA's recognition of our vision and goals. Their support, combined with the local funds secured, will have a transformative impact, creating hundreds of jobs and fostering a substantial impact in our community," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.

This significant investment in HGTC's new Marine Technology Center is poised to reshape the educational landscape of the community. The \$8 million grant from the EDA will be complemented by an additional \$4.7 million in local funding, further demonstrating the community's commitment to advancing workforce development in the marine technology sector. The collective investment is expected to have a profound impact on the local economy, leading to the creation of over 470 jobs and fostering \$75 million in private investment.

Gina Raimondo, the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, emphasized the importance of this initiative within the broader context of the Biden Administration's "Investing in America" agenda. "We're empowering our communities by ensuring that workers have the skills and resources they need to secure good-paying jobs in the communities where they live," said Secretary Raimondo. "This EDA investment will increase training opportunities for the people of Conway and create pathways to professional growth for workers. Local investments like these are critical to helping meet regional industry workforce needs."

Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Alejandra Y. Castillo highlighted the role of the Economic Development Administration in supporting local workforce development programs. "The new workforce training facility will prepare students for quality, in-demand jobs and support the growth of the state's marine manufacturing sector," said Assistant Secretary Castillo.

This project was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments (WRCOG), which played a pivotal role in regional planning and development. The EDA provided funding to WRCOG to unite the public and private sectors, creating an economic development roadmap that strengthens the regional economy, promotes private capital investment, and generates employment opportunities.

This project is funded under the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, which allocated \$483 million in additional Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) Program funds for disaster relief and recovery.

HGTC Awarded Prestigious Title III Grant from U.S. Department of Education

HGTC was selected as a recipient of the prestigious Title III Grant under the Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) program from the U.S. Department of Education. This grant, amounting to \$411,964.00 for the first budget period, spanning from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, is a significant achievement for HGTC. The grant is anticipated to continue for five (5) years for a total of over \$2 million.

The Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) aims to assist eligible institutions of higher education in becoming self-sufficient while expanding their capacity to serve low-income students. It does so by providing essential funding to enhance and bolster academic quality, institutional management, and fiscal stability.

Under the banner of the Institutional Capacity for Achieving Resilience and Effectiveness (ICARE) initiative, HGTC submitted an application for the Strengthening Institutions Grant. As the sole public two-year college in northeastern coastal South Carolina, HGTC plays a pivotal role in providing access to higher education for underserved students, especially those at greater academic risk. This is particularly relevant in a region comprising socially vulnerable communities that have grappled with numerous FEMA disaster declarations, including hurricanes, tropical storms, winter storms, flooding, and the pandemic over the past nine years.

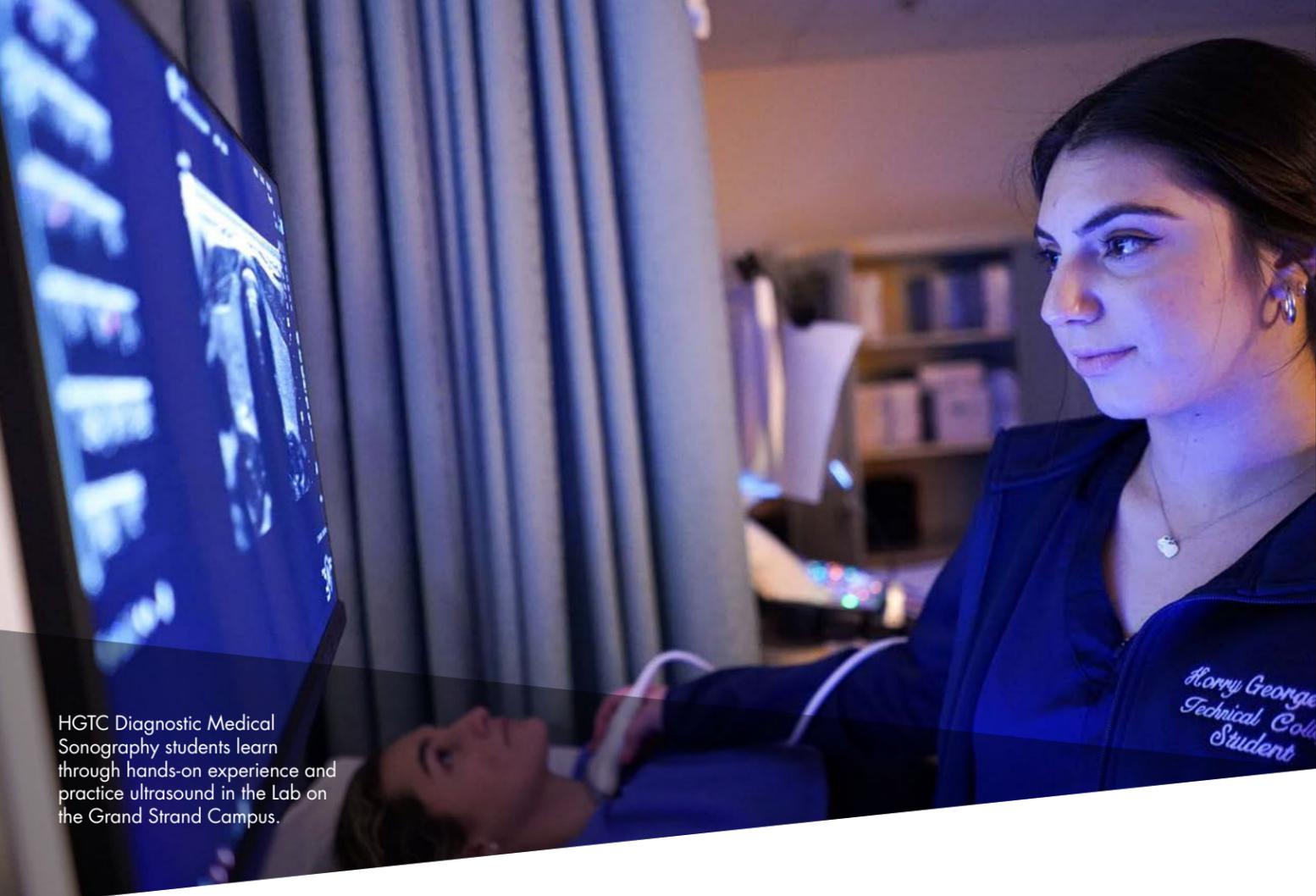
The ICARE project is built upon two primary activities with a central theme of enhancing institutional and student resiliency:

Activity one (1) includes building information capacity, competency, and continuity. This initiative will reinforce institutional resiliency by establishing an integrated, data-rich environment across the college community. It will support agile planning, decision-making, and resource allocation. This will involve the addition of a business analyst to oversee the creation of a comprehensive, accessible, and integrated data infrastructure. This activity will also strengthen student information systems and data access while providing training to staff and faculty in software use and data management platform capabilities. Access to timely and accurate data resources is expected to enhance the college's resiliency, agility, and responsiveness, not only in addressing student needs but also in responding to external events such as technological changes, leadership transitions, economic disruptions, natural disasters, and public health emergencies. By improving academic case management and data analytics, HGTC aims to provide more focused post-enrollment academic and career advising to improve student outcomes.

Activity two (2) includes leveraging data to improve student outcomes. Building upon the foundation laid in Activity one (1), this initiative seeks to enhance student resiliency and success through in-person, data-informed academic coaching, and career navigation. The goal is to identify and mitigate student issues and problems before they hinder academic progress. Two academic coaches/career navigators will harness timely and insightful data to identify students at risk of not making academic progress. By utilizing data, these coaches will work to decrease equity gaps in gateway course pass and completion rates and graduation rates.

HGTC's ICARE project aligns with institutional needs, experience, and evidence-based research. It underscores the importance of data-driven decision-making, in-person coaching, and early academic intervention efforts for community college students.

"This Title III grant from the U.S. Department of Education represents an exceptional opportunity for HGTC to further its mission of providing quality education and support to students, particularly those facing unique challenges in the face of various adversities. We are excited about the potential impact of the ICARE initiative and are grateful for the support of the Strengthening Institutions Program," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC president.



HGTC Diagnostic Medical Sonography students learn through hands-on experience and practice ultrasound in the Lab on the Grand Strand Campus.



HGTC Earns Continuing CAAHEP Accreditation for Surgical Technology and Diagnostic Medical Sonography

In July 2023, HGTC reported the completion of its 10-year Accreditation site visit and review for the Surgical Technology and Diagnostic Medical Sonography programs. During the site visits, HGTC data, student files, and methods were reviewed to determine the compliance status of accreditation standards.

The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) is the accreditation body which reviews years of program data and allows for suspending, denying, or continuing accreditation of more than 2500 programs in 31 health sciences professions. HGTC earned the continuing accreditation status of both programs with no recommendations from the site visit review board.

"The CAAHEP site visit was a huge success for HGTC. Another site visit will not be required for 10 more years," said Erin Ivey, HGTC Assistant Chair and Program Director of Surgical Technology.

"I am very proud of everyone's hard work with this process. To be awarded the 10-year interval from CAAHEP shows their confidence in our program and assures the students and community we have a high-quality program," said Caryn Atkins, HGTC Assistant Chair and Professor of Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

HGTC Welding Program Recognized as Accredited Test Facility

HGTC's Welding Program was officially recognized as an Accredited Test Facility. This prestigious accreditation emphasizes the program's commitment to excellence in welding education and its ability to provide high-quality training and welder testing services for students and welding industry professionals seeking welder qualification.

The recognition was granted by the American Welding Society, a renowned authority in the field of welding education and certification. This accreditation positions HGTC's Advanced Welding Technologies Program as a trusted and reliable facility for individuals seeking welder certification and training. The rigorous accreditation process involved a thorough evaluation of HGTC's Welding Program, including its curriculum, instructional methods, faculty qualifications, and facility resources. The program demonstrated exceptional adherence to industry standards, safety protocols, and quality assurance measures.

As an Accredited Test Facility, HGTC offers a comprehensive range of welding certification tests, including those for structural welding, pipe welding, and specialized welding

processes. These certifications are widely recognized and valued by employers in various industries, ensuring that graduates of HGTC's Welding Program are well-prepared to enter the workforce with the necessary skills and qualifications.

"We are immensely proud of our Welding Program for achieving accreditation as a Test Facility," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President. "This recognition reaffirms our commitment to delivering the highest standard of welding education and training. It also demonstrates our dedication to equipping our students with the skills and certifications required to excel in this competitive field."

With this accreditation, HGTC joins an elite group of educational institutions nationwide that have been recognized as Accredited Test Facilities. The designation further solidifies the institution's reputation as a leading provider of technical education and reinforces its position as a preferred choice for aspiring welders and industry professionals.

Prospective students interested in pursuing a career in welding can now have the confidence that HGTC's Welding Program meets the highest standards in the industry. Employers seeking skilled and certified welders can also rely on the program to produce qualified graduates who are ready to contribute to their workforce from day one.

For more information about HGTC's Advanced Welding Technologies Certificate Program or Welder Qualification for your company, please contact Jeff Ball, HGTC Chair for Academic and Workforce Development, at 843-349-7875 or jeffery.ball@hgtc.edu.

For additional information, please contact Workforce Development at 843-477-2020 or wdinfo@hgtc.edu.



HGTC Earns Gold Status Designation as a Military Friendly School

HGTC has been recognized with the prestigious Gold Status designation as a Military Friendly School for 2023. This acknowledgment highlights HGTC's exceptional commitment to providing outstanding educational opportunities and support for military service members, veterans, and their families.

The Military Friendly Schools designation is a testament to HGTC's unwavering dedication to those who have served. The Gold Status designation underscores the college's ongoing efforts to create a supportive and welcoming environment for military-affiliated students as they pursue their education and career goals.

"We are honored to achieve Gold Status as a Military Friendly School," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC president. "This recognition reflects our commitment to providing exceptional educational experiences for our military community, and we remain dedicated to supporting their success both academically and personally."

To achieve Gold Status, HGTC demonstrated excellence in various areas, including academic policies and compliance, admissions and orientation, retention and graduation rates, military student support and assistance, and campus culture. The Gold Status designation reflects the college's comprehensive approach to meeting the unique needs and challenges faced by military-connected students.

HGTC's commitment to its military community extends beyond the classroom, encompassing academic advising tailored to veterans' needs, flexible scheduling options, a dedicated veterans' resource center, and partnerships with local organizations that offer additional support services.

The Military Friendly Schools designation underscores HGTC's status as a higher education institution that actively fosters a culture of inclusion, respect, and appreciation for military service. The Gold Status recognition exemplifies the college's dedication to serving those who have selflessly served our country.

HGTC Online Programs Benefit Students

HGTC proudly offers a variety of online classes, with 18 programs completely online to benefit students.

"Online courses at HGTC are an affordable, high-quality opportunity for a college education that fits any schedule. We understand completing a college degree in a traditional classroom setting does not work for everyone. That is why we give students the flexibility to fit education into any lifestyle through online and hybrid program options," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.

Online programs are beneficial for students like Tanya Moser, a 47-year-old student in the HGTC Paralegal Program, because it offers the flexibility to go to school and work. She decided to take advantage of the online courses because of her full-time work schedule and location. After investigating various paralegal programs, certificate to undergrad, and with a little help from her childhood friend, she was directed to HGTC. As a bonus, the tuition fell within her company's tuition reimbursement program.

"The instructors for the Paralegal Program are amazing. I was not sure what to expect and had a learning curve with time management, but I am pleased with how easy it is for me to use the online portal and access the paralegal books," said Tanya Moser, HGTC Student in the Paralegal Program.

In addition to her online courses, Tanya Moser is an officer in the Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa at HGTC that just received the Most Distinguished Chapter award as the top chapter out of more than 1,250 chapters in the world.

When asked about recommendations for others who may be skeptical about online learning, Moser highly recommends the online option.

"In my opinion, online classes are better, especially with everything outlined digitally. You never miss an assignment deadline. Online classes also save students time because there is no commuting and more time to study. The professors do their best to initiate open discussions that mimic classroom interactions," continued Tanya Moser.

While Tanya prefers the online option for her schedule, HGTC's Paralegal program also offers synchronous courses. The synchronous courses allow students to choose in-person or online. However, with the new state-of-the-art technology implemented in the courtroom on the Grand Strand Campus, students have the feeling of being in the actual physical classroom regardless of the location.



Tanya Moser,
HGTC Paralegal Online Student

As Tanya looks to the future, she plans to continue working for her company and hopes the legal needs will no longer be outsourced. Receiving her degree will provide a personal growth opportunity for career enhancement. Either way, she will always have her degree to fall back on if she needs it.

HGTC is Enrolling Students Now for the Following Online and Hybrid* Programs:

- Accounting
- Associate in Arts
- Associate in Science
- Basic Business Certificate
- Business Administration
- Computerized Axial Tomography
- Computer Technology Programming - Hybrid*
- Criminal Justice Technology - Hybrid*
- Customer Service Specialist
- Cybersecurity
- Early Childhood Development Certificate
- Fire Science
- General Technology, Aviation Maintenance Career Path
- Human Resources Certificate
- Human Services
- Massage Therapy - Hybrid*
- Medical Administrative Assistant
- Medical Coding and Billing
- Network Systems Management - Hybrid*
- Paralegal
- Teacher Education
- University Studies

*combination of online and in-person classes

Programs offered in the online environment may require students to participate in activities, internships, or field experiences in their state of residence.

For more information about the Paralegal Program, contact Donna McQueen, HGTC Chair & Professor of Legal Studies, at donna.mcqueen@hgtc.edu or 843-477-2006.



Kari Royals (right), HGTC Administrative Assistant for Academic and Workforce Development, presents \$1,490 check to Selena Tisdale (left), Director for The Eli Foundation. Professor Rachel Fowler (center) and her son, Colt, join in the presentation. Left to right: Selena Tisdale, Eli Collins Foundation Director; Colt Fowler, son of Professor Fowler; Dr. Rachel Fowler, HGTC Professor of Biological Science; Kari Royals, HGTC Administrative Assistant, Academic and Workforce Development.

HGTC Employees Support Eli Collins Foundation

HGTC employees demonstrated support for the Eli Collins Foundation for Premature Babies. The HGTC Academic and Workforce Development Division hosts a “blue jeans week” fundraiser twice a year. The spring fundraiser raised money and collected many items for the Eli Collins Foundation and its efforts in providing support, encouragement, awareness, and resources for families of premature babies.

Dr. Rachel Fowler, HGTC Biological Science Professor knows firsthand the profound impact the Eli Collins Foundation can have on parents of a premature baby in this area. Her son, Colt, was born weighing only two (2) pounds eight (8) ounces and stayed in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) for 61 days. She recalls the difference made in her life during that time.

“While Colt was in the hospital, we had to drive back and forth to Florence every day. The entire NICU journey was a rollercoaster ride of emotions, mentally draining and physically isolating during the pandemic. An unexpected glimpse of hope and sense of normalcy came in the form of a Mother’s Day gift from the Eli Collins Foundation,” said Professor Fowler.

HGTC employees presented a \$1,490.00 check for the cause. Accepting the check on behalf of The Eli Collins Foundation was Selena Tisdale, Director.

“I am very proud of the efforts of HGTC employees donating in support of The Eli Collins Foundation. Our faculty and staff genuinely care about the community HGTC serves and always look forward to supporting local charities in the area during fundraisers like this,” said Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks, HGTC Executive Vice President for Academic and Workforce Development.

The Eli Collins Foundation for Premature Babies is an established 501(c)3 charitable non-profit entity in the State of South Carolina. Preterm births are the second leading cause (35.8%) of infant deaths and nearly 14,000 preterm births occur weekly in the United States. South Carolina has a two percent higher preterm birthrate than the national average (10.5%). The risk of preterm birth increases based on an individual’s age and ethnicity. Infants admitted to the NICU stay on average 14 days, with their stay varying based upon gestational age and illness’ severity. An average day in the NICU costs \$7,500.

“My family and many other South Carolina NICU families have been positively affected by the generosity of this wonderful foundation. The HGTC donation will directly impact a multitude of South Carolina premie families, just like mine,” continued Professor Fowler.



HGTC Donates to Backpack Buddies

Backpack Buddies Receives a Treat from HGTC on Halloween Day

In the spirit of Halloween and the season of giving, HGTC demonstrated its commitment to the local community by collecting non-perishable food items and essential supplies for Backpack Buddies. On Halloween Day, several HGTC employees personally delivered these much-needed donations to help feed children living in poverty in Horry County.

Backpack Buddies has been a lifeline for many underprivileged children in the region, ensuring they have access to nutritious meals despite challenging circumstances.

Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, President of HGTC, expressed her gratitude for the heartfelt efforts of the college’s employees and students, saying, “I am very proud of the efforts of our employees and students to help children in need right here in our local community. It is hard to imagine the number of underprivileged Horry County children who may go hungry because of a lack of food. I am grateful to those who helped restock the supplies that were completely exhausted.”

The HGTC Human Resources Team stocks the shelves for the Backpack Buddies Program on Halloween Day 2023. HGTC Human Resources Team Members include (left to right): Bren Salgado-Edwards, Benefits Manager; Charlotte Hearn, Classification & Compensation Manager; Bobbi Jo Oxendine, Assistant Director; Paula Shaw, Administrative Coordinator; Christine C. D’Amicantonio, Human Resources Generalist.

The collection for Backpack Buddies was initiated as part of the HGTC Human Resources wellness initiative for October. Employees and students were encouraged to contribute to this noble cause.

Barb Mains, Founder and Director of Help 4 Kids/Backpack Buddies, expressed her gratitude, saying, “The HGTC donation could not have been delivered at a better time for the Backpack Buddies program. We supply 2,600 bags to 40 schools for children each week, and, due to supply chain issues and shortages, we have had difficulties getting enough food. I am so thankful for what we received from HGTC employees and students. The donations will help us continue our mission of helping children in need.”

HGTC’s commitment to the local community and its support for Backpack Buddies reflects the institution’s dedication to creating a positive impact beyond the classroom.



HGTC Graduates Largest Paramedic Class

In May 2023, HGTC announced 32 Paramedic students successfully completed their yearlong program and are on their way to becoming certified Paramedics. These graduates are workforce ready and will be working for local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies in time for the busy summer season.

HGTC offers both Basic Emergency Medical Technology (EMT) and Paramedic classes. The Associate in Applied Science in EMT degree prepares students to provide emergency medical support to people who are injured or critically ill and to transport them to a medical facility, if necessary. When working in a first-responder situation, such as an ambulance service or fire department, Paramedics are dispatched to the scene of the emergency, which can be as varied as a car accident, a fire, a falling injury, a dog bite, a shooting or stabbing, a birth, or a person who's suddenly fallen ill. Once at the scene of the emergency, Paramedics assess the situation, determine if additional assistance is needed, and if necessary, request the additional help.

HGTC had 32 Paramedic students successfully complete their Paramedic Curriculum. Left to right: Front row – John Gifford, Robert Strickland, Chysuk Proctor, Tara Albohn, Jacqueline Brengel, Jonathan Johnson, Dawn Durante, Frank Brown. Center row – Erik Murwin, Steven Berrios, Joseph Griswold, Woodrow Tudor, Beth Petty, Dylan Bauer, Matt Heymann. Back row – Justin Loehr, Chasity Mocariski, Alexis Jordan, John Assip, Katelyn Walters, Breanna Ziegenhorn, Mackenzie Kipp, Corey Pearre, Keith Norton, Jacob Phipps, Shayne Owens, Robert Bays, Doug Fain, Jacob Smith, James Fahy, Chase Brill.

The flexibility of the EMT curriculum allows students to enter the profession at two levels - Basic EMT and Paramedic. This enables students to continue their education while working. In addition to receiving the technical education necessary for the profession, students can take general-education courses to complete degree requirements. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the National Registry Examination for EMT and Paramedic level.

The EMT program is a two-semester program with students taking the certification exam in May. There are many opportunities for employment both locally and throughout the state of South Carolina.

HGTC Launches Hospitality & Tourism–Hotel, Restaurant & Events Management

In July 2023, HGTC announced the launch of a new hospitality degree program on its Grand Strand Campus at the International Culinary Institute of Myrtle Beach. The new Hospitality & Tourism Management - Hotel, Restaurant & Events Management - Associate in Applied Science Degree caters to three different hospitality industry tracks; food service management, event planning management and hotel management. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment of food service managers is projected to grow 10 percent from 2021 to 2031, faster than the average for all occupations. Employment of lodging managers is projected to grow 18 percent from 2021 to 2031, much faster than the average for all occupations. The demand for graduates in hospitality management roles, such as lodging managers, event planners, and other career options is due to the transferable skills acquired in this field. Joe Bonaparte, HGTC Executive Director for the International Culinary Institute of Myrtle Beach, recognized the need for a full hospitality degree program for students and started working on development five years ago.

“Since 2017, HGTC has been conducting focus group studies to understand how hospitality industry managers and owners along the Grand Strand would feel about launching a full hospitality degree program focused on hotel, restaurant, and event management. Because hospitality and tourism is the number one industry in the Myrtle Beach area, everyone expressed support and agreed it was needed,” said Joe Bonaparte.

The program has three tracks, including food service management, event management and hotel management. This new curriculum will give students hands-on experience and exposure, especially as businesses continue returning to a sense of normalcy utilizing pre-pandemic protocols.

“All students begin with fundamental hospitality classes and then choose one of the three paths,” explained Bonaparte. Many local hospitality businesses support the program. It opens a pipeline for them because they can hire the students that participate in labs and internships,” he said.

“We are very excited about advancing the future of the hospitality industry with this new program. Students can find their love or their passion within the hospitality industry and then really focus on getting the job skills needed to enter the workforce in an entry-level management position prepared to progress quickly,” said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.

HGTC is accepting applications now for students interested in the program in spring 2024.



Left to right: Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President; Solicitor Jimmy Richardson, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office; Sheriff Phillip Thompson, Horry County Sheriff's Office; Sheriff Carter Weaver, Georgetown County Sheriff's Office; Dr. Dan Wysong, HGTC Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean for the School of Public Service; Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks, HGTC Executive Vice President for Academic and Workforce Development.

HGTC and the Horry and Georgetown County Sheriff's Offices Join Forces for Innovative Correctional Officer Program

Horry-Georgetown Technical College, in collaboration with the Horry County and Georgetown County Sheriff's Offices, unveiled a new initiative aimed at addressing the continuous demand for dedicated correctional officers at the J. Reuben Long Detention Center and the Georgetown County Detention Center. The Correctional Officer Program, designed as a comprehensive four-course certificate program, equips students with the knowledge and skills required to excel in the challenging world of correctional services.

"HGTC is delighted to partner with the Horry County and Georgetown County Sheriff's Offices in this endeavor. This is part of our ongoing commitment to providing top-tier education and professional training for our community. Together, we aim to fortify the ranks of correctional officers and enhance the safety and security of our region," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.

Dr. Dan Wysong, HGTC Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean for the School of Public Service, has been working closely with the Horry County Sheriff's Office and the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office to develop the program.

"The program combines classroom education at HGTC's Conway Campus with practical, hands-on experience within the correctional environment, supervised by seasoned correctional staff. Participants will gain valuable insights into professional and personal information handling, effective communication,

financial management, and stress and conflict management. What sets this program apart is the opportunity it offers to students once successfully completed," said Dr. Wysong.

Upon meeting the eligibility criteria, graduates may secure full-time employment as a correctional officer with one of the Sheriff's Offices, including a competitive full-time salary and an array of benefits after successfully finishing the Basic Correctional Officer Program at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia, South Carolina.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be 18 years of age or turn 18 upon completion of the Correctional Officer Program at HGTC.
- Successfully pass a drug screening.
- Clear a Criminal Background Check (CBC) and meet all pre-employment screening requirements set by the Sheriff's Offices.

Sheriff Phillip Thompson of Horry County shared his enthusiasm about this collaboration, stating, "This program provides a pathway for individuals interested in serving their community and working within our correctional facilities. It's a remarkable opportunity to develop a rewarding career in law enforcement."

Sheriff Carter Weaver of Georgetown County added, "We're proud to be part of this initiative that not only educates and prepares individuals for a vital role in our criminal justice system but also contributes to the betterment of our local communities."

"We are thrilled to announce that there is currently zero tuition cost for the Correctional Officer Program, making this an accessible and affordable opportunity for aspiring correctional officers," continued Dr. Fore.



A donation is presented from McLeod Health to the Horry-Georgetown Technical College Nursing Program. Left to right: Scott Montgomery, CEO McLeod Health Loris; Beth Hicks, McLeod Health Loris, Vice President for Patient Services; Sherrill Nielson, McLeod Health Seacoast Chief Nursing Officer; Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President; Monica Vehige, CEO of McLeod Loris Seacoast; Shannon Detzler, President & CEO of the HGTC Foundation; John Sawyer, Vice Chair of the HGTC Foundation.



Group Photo of HGTC and CCU Hosts and Honored Guests for the School Counselor Appreciation Luncheon Event.

McLeod Health Partners in Nursing Education Programs

Contributions to Horry-Georgetown Technical College will help ensure nurses for the region.

As a partner in nursing education for the region, McLeod Health has made a \$75,000 gift to Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) to support its nursing program. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment in healthcare professions to grow 16 percent from 2020 to 2030, much faster than the average for all occupations, adding about 2.6 million new jobs. Nationally and in South Carolina, healthcare occupations are projected to add more jobs than any of the other occupational groups, primarily due to an increase in the demand for healthcare services from an aging population as well as increased access to care.

"Healthcare continues to rely on excellent nurses to care for our patients. As the population continues to increase in Horry County, we will need more trained nurses than ever before" stated Sherrill Nielson, Chief Nursing Officer for McLeod Health Seacoast. "We are proud to support the work of Horry-Georgetown Technical College to educate the next generation of nurses."

According to Nielson, nurses serve an important role in the delivery of quality health care. "McLeod recognizes the value of the nurse's contribution in patient care," said Nielson.

"Providing patient advocacy, promotion of a safe environment, participation in shaping health policies and patient education are also key nursing roles. It is a tough job but with competent nurses as part of the medical team, McLeod is capable of carrying out its mission of providing quality health care for patients in the region."

Because nurses are essential to health care and the region's economy, this area is very fortunate to have a quality nursing education program at Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

"We are so grateful for our continued partnership with HGTC," said Monica Vehige, CEO of McLeod Health Loris Seacoast. "McLeod Health is committed to finding the best nurses to provide excellent care to our patients. HGTC does an outstanding job of training quality students that we hope will be part of the future of nursing at any of our three our McLeod campuses throughout Horry County."

HGTC offers an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing (ADN) degree and a Practical Nursing (PN) diploma for students.

"HGTC is so pleased to partner with McLeod Health to strengthen instructional opportunities for the nursing program," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President. "HGTC is developing a generation of well-trained and highly skilled nursing professionals prepared to meet the challenges of modern health care demands. We are fortunate to receive this generous gift and have the support of community partners like McLeod to provide the best and latest equipment for training our nursing students, so they are ready to respond to the ever changing healthcare needs."

HGTC and CCU Host Annual School Counselor Appreciation Luncheon

HGTC and Coastal Carolina University (CCU) celebrated their longstanding partnership by co-hosting the annual School Counselor Appreciation Luncheon, a prestigious event dedicated to acknowledging the invaluable role of local high school counselors in shaping the academic journeys of our area's students. The luncheon took place at the HGTC International Culinary Institute of Myrtle Beach on the Grand Strand Campus, providing an elegant backdrop for a day of appreciation and collaboration.

School counselors in Horry and Georgetown counties serve as key influencers, guiding students toward educational pathways that often lead to our local colleges. The annual School Counselor Appreciation Luncheon is a much-anticipated occasion where counselors are honored for their dedicated service and provided with essential updates on the exciting developments at HGTC and CCU.

This year, the event saw an impressive turnout of over 50 counselors from various high schools in Horry and Georgetown Counties. During the luncheon, counselors were treated to informative presentations and updates on a wide range of topics, including new programs, capital projects, tuition and admissions information, and college-wide initiatives. These updates help counselors stay well-informed about the opportunities available to their students and ensure they can provide the most up-to-date guidance and support.

Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, President of HGTC, expressed her gratitude for the counselors' unwavering commitment, saying, "Our high school counselors are truly our unsung heroes. They play a pivotal role in shaping the educational journeys of our future leaders, and we appreciate their dedication immensely."

The School Counselor Appreciation Luncheon holds a special place in the hearts of both HGTC and CCU leadership, as it underscores the strong partnership between the two institutions and their shared commitment to educational excellence.

"High school counselors are our instrumental allies in the process of recruiting and supporting students as they embark on their future in higher education," said Dr. Fore.



BJ Beaver, Workforce Development Manager for Partnership Grand Strand

HGTC Receives Scholarships from Partnership Grand Strand

HGTC received support from Partnership Grand Strand to offer scholarship assistance for students completing a one-day health care course this summer designed for youth ages 14-18.

The Step into Surgery Summer Camp course was held on Thursday, July 13, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the Grand Strand Campus at Market Common. Those interested in a career in the health care field could enroll in the class and receive a scholarship for half-off the cost with lunch generously donated by Partnership Grand Strand.

"In our mission to develop the local workforce, Partnership Grand Strand was pleased to offer 12 scholarships to support this exciting health care summer camp. It's programs like these that inspire our youth to pursue rewarding careers in health and wellness," said BJ Beaver, Workforce Development Manager for Partnership Grand Strand.

The purpose of the summer camp was to provide students with a preview of human anatomy and the world of healthcare.

"We are excited about building our relationship with the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber and Partnership Grand Strand. We have been working closely with BJ Beaver to find new ways to enhance our partnership that support the community. This generous donation assisted our future students with showing them the health care industry and answer any questions they may have about this growing career path," said Kristi Evans, HGTC Workforce Development Program Manager.

HGTC Receives Learning Instrument from Carolina Health Specialists

Medical Laboratory Technician Program Receives Chemistry System

HGTC received the donation of a Siemens Dimension EXL 200 Integrated Chemistry System (EXL) from Carolina Health Specialists for the Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) program.

Representatives with Carolina Health Specialists, including Kimberly Stephens, Laboratory Supervisor, and Carlos Perez-Leon, Laboratory Director, serve on the HGTC Advisory Board for the MLT program and knew the importance of students gaining hands-on experience.

"Carolina Health Specialists was purchasing a new chemistry system and decided to partner in the instructional process and donate the equipment as a learning instrument for HGTC students," said Erik Ott, Chief Financial Officer, Carolina Health Specialists. "We are happy to be a part of the progression of this new program and believe HGTC students and the program as a whole will benefit."

MLT students learn the manual methods of pipetting, diluting, and analyzing results, but computerized instrumentation is the modern technology used in most hospital lab settings. Sandra Wetter, HGTC Program Director and Associate Professor for the Medical Laboratory Technology Program, understands the need for this type of hands-on experience for her students.

"Our students are learning to troubleshoot and perform instrument maintenance prior to going to clinical rotations. Within a couple weeks of receiving the instrument, students were performing various maintenance procedures, such as changing fluids, glass syringes, and cuvette diaphragms," said Wetter. "This experience is giving them an advantage going into clinicals by working with the EXL. Instrument maintenance and troubleshooting are a large part of the MLT's responsibility. Most laboratory departments are using some type of computerized instrumentation and HGTC is preparing MLT students for the challenge."

Students in the program like Savannah Wilkerson are already commenting on the benefits of the donation. Wilkerson, the MLT class representative, said "We are so glad to have the instrument to work on in our courses. I think we are all feeling more confident about working on the hospital analyzers now and know the experience is going to help us as we enter the clinical rotations this fall."



Carolina Health Specialists presents a Siemens Dimension EXL 200 Integrated Chemistry System (EXL) to the Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) program. Left to right: Ann Daniels, HGTC Assistant Vice President, Academic Affairs & Dean, Nursing & Health Sciences; Sandra Wetter, HGTC Program Director & Associate Professor for the Medical Laboratory Technology Program; Kimberly Stephens, Laboratory Supervisor, Carolina Health Specialists; Dr. Samantha Martel, HGTC Chair Physical Therapist Assistant, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Surgical Technology and Medical Laboratory Technology; Carlos Perez-Leon, Laboratory Services Director, Carolina Health Specialists; Erik Ott, Chief Financial Officer, Carolina Health Specialists.



HGTC's MLT program is a limited access program, part of the Health Care Science division. Graduates are eligible to take the American Society for Clinical Pathology – Board of Certification (ASCP-BOC) exam. To be certified as a Medical Laboratory Technician, the graduate must pass the ASCP-BOC generalist certification examination. The cost of completing this examination is not included in the cost of tuition for the program. Becoming an MLT (ASCP) will help them procure employment in hospital and private laboratories (clinical or research) or physician office labs.

The program is in the process of becoming accredited by the National Accreditation Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences.

Sandra Wetter (left), HGTC Program Director & Associate Professor for the Medical Laboratory Technology Program, instructs Savannah Wilkerson (right), HGTC MLT Student, on how to use the new instrument.



HGTC Partnerships with Automotive Dealerships boost the new Automotive Technology program launched in 2023. Representatives met for a tour in the newly renovated Automotive Lab.

HGTC Partnerships Advance New Automotive Technology Program

HGTC hosted the first official Advisory Board Meeting of the new Automotive Technology program. Representatives from local dealerships were in attendance to show support and learn more about the curriculum and hiring opportunities for graduates.

HGTC's Jeff Ball, Chair for Academic and Workforce Development, has been working with industry leaders for quite some time to perform a needs assessment and develop the curriculum for the first cohort of students that began the program in February.

"Now is the time to take the first step toward a career as an automotive technician. Within the first semester, students learn about hydro-boost and vacuum power brakes as well as master cylinders and caliper rebuilding, the basic study of the diagnostic procedures used to locate and repair internal engine malfunctions. In addition, students learn the fundamentals of steering, suspension and alignment and includes inspection, diagnostics, maintenance and repair of systems, common welding and techniques/equipment used currently in trades and industry," said Ball.

Classes include:

- Automotive Braking System
- Automotive Engine Repair
- Auto Steering/Suspension/Align
- Welding (Automotive Technology)

"Automotive technician jobs are in high demand right now. HGTC aims to provide students with the highest quality of classroom and hands-on education while also emphasizing the importance of safety and professionalism which will prepare the students to enter the workforce," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.

Classes are subject to updates and changes due to industry/ employer needs.

Representatives from the automotive industry present at the meeting, include:

- Bell & Bell Buick GMC Trucks
- Bob Mills Mitsubishi
- Coastal Chevrolet Cadillac Nissan
- Conway Ford
- East Coast Honda Volkswagen
- Grand Strand Nissan
- Hadwin White Buick GMC Subaru
- Myrtle Beach Chrysler Jeep
- Myrtle Beach Kia
- Myrtle Beach Hyundai
- North Strand Nissan
- Palmetto Chevrolet
- Sparks Toyota



Dr. Mark McCoy of Dentistry at Carolina Forest presents HGTC with equipment for the Associate in Applied Science Degree in Dental Sciences. Dr. Mark McCoy, Dentistry Practitioner at Dentistry at Carolina Forest; Kaitlin Downey, Dental Assistant at Dentistry at Carolina Forest; Michelle Meeker, HGTC Chair and Professor of Dental Sciences.

HGTC Receives New Equipment for Dental Sciences Program from Local Dentist

HGTC received a significant contribution to its Dental Sciences Program, thanks to the generosity of Dr. Mark McCoy from Dentistry at Carolina Forest. Dr. McCoy donated a state-of-the-art Chairside Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramic (CEREC) Acquisition Center (AC) Omnicam Scanner valued at \$7,000, providing HGTC students with access to cutting-edge technology enhancing their educational experience.

The CEREC AC Omnicam Scanner, a revolutionary piece of equipment in the field of dentistry, enables students to gain hands-on scanning practice during lab sessions. This invaluable experience prepares them for off-site clinical rotations, where they will apply their skills in real-world scenarios. Dental assisting students will particularly benefit from the scanning technology, using it for restorative procedures, aligners, and removable appliances. Dental hygiene students will also leverage the equipment for patient education.

Guided scanning with the CEREC AC Omnicam allows dental practitioners to create digital impressions of the entire jaw quickly and precisely. This process incorporates advanced computer-assisted technologies such as 3D photography and Computer Aided Drafting (CAD)/Computer Aided Manufacturing (CAM), facilitating the fabrication of ceramic dental restorations. Unlike traditional techniques that required multiple visits, CEREC AC Omnicam enables teeth restoration in a single visit for the dental patient, reducing treatment time and improving overall patient experience.

Michelle Meeker, Chair and Professor of Dental Sciences at HGTC, expressed her excitement about the donation, stating, "The CEREC AC Omnicam equipment introduces our students to cutting-edge technology that continues to evolve in dentistry. The software associated with scanning technology is designed for easy learning, allowing impressions to be clearly delegated to a dental assistant. This donation is a game-changer for our dental program, providing students with another tool for success before entering the local workforce."

"The commitment of Dr. Mark McCoy to advancing dental education aligns perfectly with HGTC's mission to provide students with the best resources for a successful career in the industry. This generous donation not only enhances the learning experience for current students but also positions HGTC as a leader in dental education within the community," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.



HGTC Partners with SC Governor's School

HGTC partnered with the South Carolina Governor's School for Arts and Humanities through a workshop hosted on the HGTC Conway Campus in July. The Young Composers Workshop was held July 11, 13, 18, and 20 and geared toward music students in grades 7-9.

In the Young Composers Workshop, students had the opportunity to write their own musical composition while collaborating with other like-minded artists. Dr. Cedric Adderley is the Governor's School President and professional composer who led these workshops.

"We were excited to present our first summer program offered on the campus of Horry-Georgetown Technical College. Students learned the fundamentals of composing, arranging and orchestrating music and gain insight into opportunities and careers in composition music," said Dr. Adderley.

Any South Carolina student currently in 7th to 9th grade who can read music was eligible. Previous composition experience was not a requirement of participants. Students completed at least one original composition and have the knowledge to continue writing their own music.

"We were proud to be the host of the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities Young Composers Workshop on our campus. There is proof that music education is valuable for students of all educational levels. Those who study music not only develop musical talents and abilities, but also improve their academic performance," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.



HGTC & CCU Light Up The Night 5K

As October is Domestic/Relationship Violence Awareness month, the Marketing Department and Student Engagement teamed up with Coastal Carolina University Public Safety Department to raise awareness for domestic and interpersonal violence in relationships, mainly aimed at college-aged students. The Light Up the Night 5K was Friday, October 6, 2023, at 7 PM. The race commenced at Coastal Carolina University, winding through the Horry-Georgetown Technical College Campus. Following the race, an exciting after-party and awards ceremony occurred at CCU's Brooks Stadium. The run was open to participants of all ages and abilities. Proceeds from the event supported a Victim Assistance Fund to help student victims of relationship violence.

HGTC Hosts Give Kids a Smile Day on Grand Strand Campus

HGTC students in the Dental Hygiene program recently hosted a Give Kids a Smile Day for children and adolescent patients at no charge. Patients received cleanings, dental radiographs, fluoride treatments, and oral home care instructions. HGTC Faculty, including General and Pediatric Supervising Dentists supported students in the successful event.

In addition to the complimentary services, Crabtree Summer Campers also toured the dental simulation lab as part of the weeklong camp promoting career paths. Campers ages 7-13 were able to learn more about the dental field. HGTC Program Director and Chair of Dental Sciences, Michelle Meeker, organized the events to provide practice for Summer Campers in the simulation lab and answer questions.

"Early preventive dental visits for children aim to educate the patients and caregivers, with the goal of preventing future dental disease. Our students greatly benefit from treating this patient population and we are fortunate to serve the community in our outstanding facility. As an added benefit, children and adolescents who visit our clinic and labs are also exposed to the dental sciences as a future profession," said Meeker.

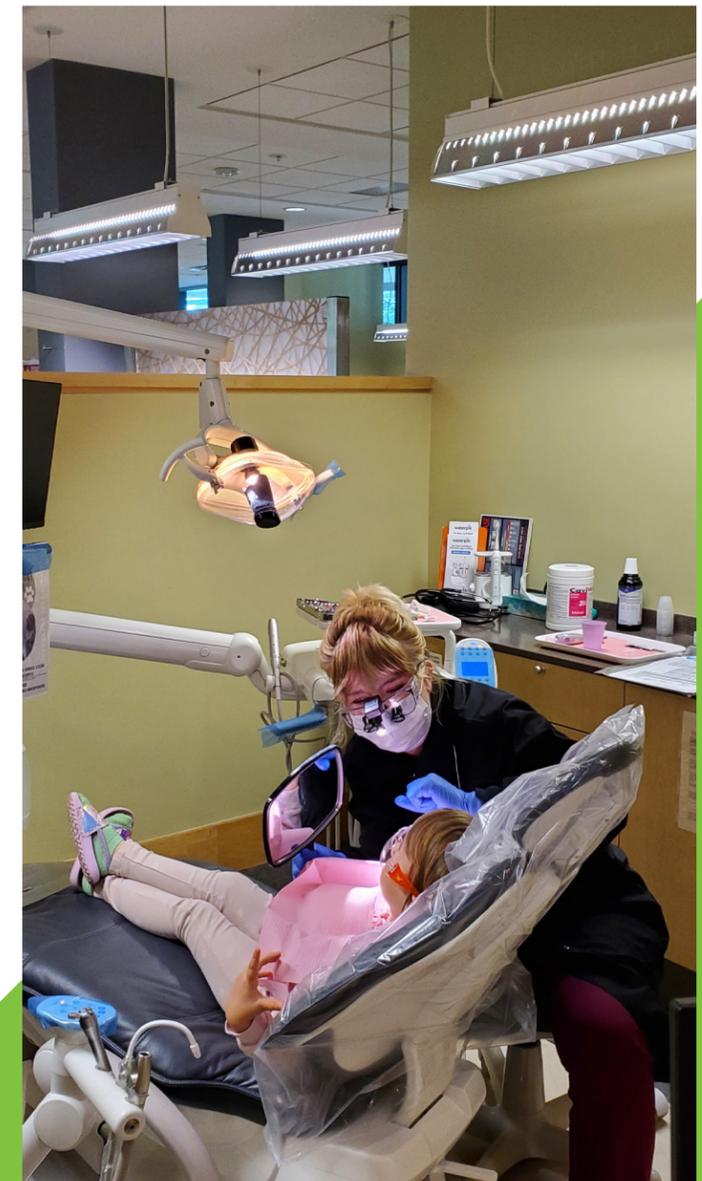
The Associate in Applied Science in Dental Hygiene degree prepares students to provide direct patient care in the detection and prevention of oral diseases under the supervision of a dentist, as required by law. The dental hygienist's major role is an educator and includes designing dental hygiene treatment and education for patients on an individual basis. Graduates of this program will be qualified to evaluate patient medical histories, take and record blood pressure, chart conditions of periodontal disease and decay for diagnosis by the dentist, conduct oral-cancer screening examinations, educate the patient on the latest techniques of oral home care, and perform a thorough cleaning of the patients' teeth. A dental hygienist is also qualified to apply sealants and fluoride for the prevention of decay, to expose and develop radiographs, and to provide nutritional counseling for dental patients.

Students in the Dental Hygiene program receive their education in a state-of-the-art Dental Clinic on the Grand Strand Campus, under the direct supervision of licensed dentists and hygienists. Graduates are eligible to take national and state board examinations. After successful completion of these examinations, graduates will be licensed and recognized as a Registered Dental Hygienist.



Crabtree Summer Campers enjoy Give Kids a Smile Day through the Dental Hygiene Program on the HGTC Grand Strand Campus.

Shayna French, HGTC Dental Hygiene student, provides complimentary services for Give Kids a Smile Day.



HGTC Employees Complete Leadership Programs with Local Chambers

Dr. Heather Hoppe, HGTC Registrar, graduated from Leadership Grand Strand, a program of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. Allissa Santmyer, HGTC Assistant Chair of Teacher Education, graduated from Leadership Conway, a program of the Conway Area Chamber of Commerce.

The goal of Leadership Grand Strand is to develop a corps of informed, committed, and qualified individuals capable of providing dynamic leadership for the Grand Strand. During the 10-month program, class members volunteer at least 75 hours with various local charities. Over the years, Leadership Grand Strand has created a cadre of leaders who guide the direction of change throughout the Grand Strand. For more information about the program, visit LeadershipGrandStrand.com.

Leadership Conway provides existing and emerging leaders with opportunities to enhance their civic knowledge and civic network. For over a quarter of a century, the program has helped participants better understand how our community works, build relationships with the area's current and future leaders, and become inspired to focus talents in a way that will best serve the community. Leadership Conway participants develop the leadership skills necessary to assume leadership roles and become exposed to the involvement opportunities in the community. For more information about the program, visit conwayscchamber.com. Both programs are accepting applications now online.

"HGTC is proud to sponsor and support employees in the participation of leadership programs with our area chambers of commerce," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President. "Leadership is not something we take lightly at the College. It is the basis for every decision we make; leading by example, inspiring passion, and motivating our team to accomplish the mission of our College."



Diana Greene (right), Executive Director for Leadership Grand Strand, presents Dr. Heather Hoppe (left), HGTC Registrar, with diploma.

Le Hendrick (left), Chair of Educational Programs for the Conway Chamber, and Becky Hubbard (right), President of the Conway Chamber, present Allissa Santmyer (center), HGTC Assistant Chair of Teacher Education, with diploma



HGTC English Professor Publishes Fourth Book – Book of Poetry

Dr. Michael Roberts, HGTC Professor of English, published his fourth book.

His latest work, titled *Scribbled Lines: Life in Pieces*, is a collection of poems that range from poignant to irreverent. The poems in the collection are drawn from his real-life experiences, as well as philosophical musings about life that do not happen in a linear or logical fashion.

"The term 'scribbled lines' refers to those moments in life that we write down to preserve or to return to. The term also refers to writing something down just to make sense of it," explained Dr. Michael Roberts, HGTC English Professor.

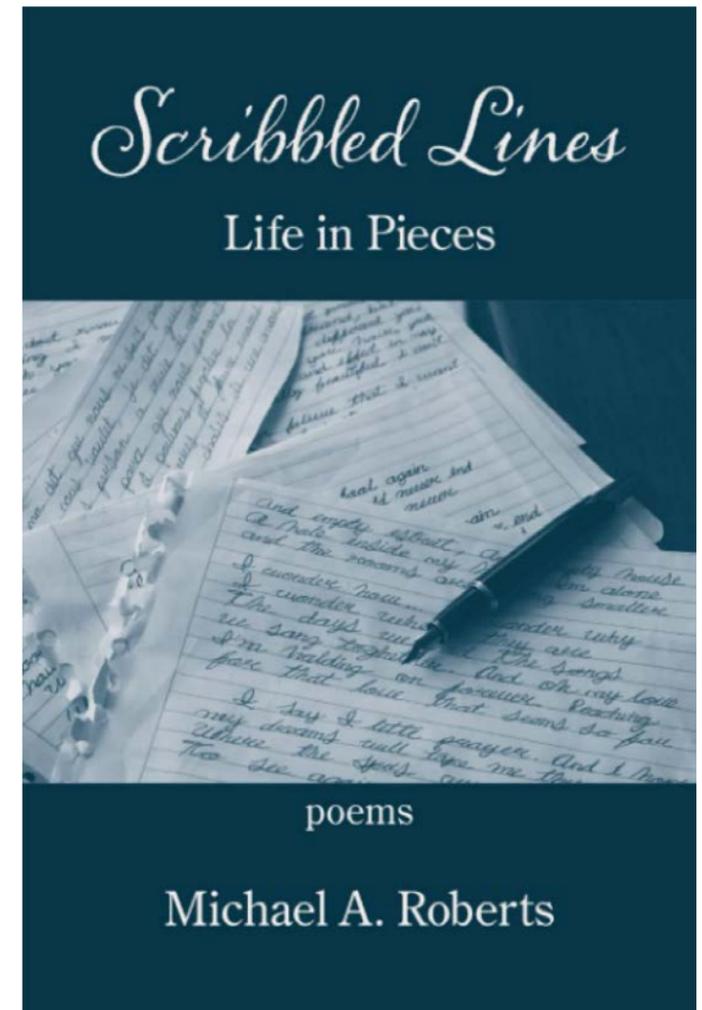
Dr. Roberts has taught at the college level for over 20 years. He joined HGTC in 2016 and has served as a Professor of English for the past seven (7) years. He earned his Doctoral Degree from NC State University, Master of Arts degree from UNC Pembroke, and Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Andrews University.

After years of teaching college and university literature courses, such as Introduction to Literature and Literary Criticism, Dr. Roberts began publishing original poetry in 2020. *Scribbled Lines: Life in Pieces* is his first full collection of poetry. He has published two chapbook collections entitled *Random Roadside Cemetery* and *Daughters, Soulmates, and the Spirit in the Urn*. He has also published research books and articles on education and curriculum development. His poetry style is often described as a complex blend of "bookmarking life" and social criticism. He states that his literary influences are E.E. Cummings and Modernist authors.

Dr. Roberts is the father of two daughters, Cayce and Kathryn, whom he cites as the original inspirations for his creative writing.

"What I want readers to do is read my poems twice - once for entertainment and once for the experience. I can find inspiration everywhere and hope readers find some inspiration within the pages and words of my poems," said Dr. Roberts.

"With the publication of his fourth book, Dr. Michael Roberts continues to educate and entertain others, both in and out of the classroom," said Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks, HGTC Executive Vice President for Academic and Workforce Development.





Left to right: Becky Hubbard, HGTC Chair and Professor of Teacher Education; Dr. Jamia Richmond, CCU Interim Dean and Professor of Special Education, Spadoni College of Education and Social Sciences; Dr. Cathy Scott, CCU Associate Dean, Spadoni College of Education and Social Sciences. Not pictured: Dr. Casey Woodling, CCU Director of Academic Outreach and Continuing Education, College of Graduate and Continuing Studies.



Left to right: Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Commissioner, SC Commission on Higher Education; Becky Hubbard, HGTC Chair and Professor of Teacher Education.



Allissa Santmyer

HGTC's Becky Hubbard Presents Education Partnership at South Carolina Commission on Higher Education Symposium

Becky Hubbard, HGTC Chair and Professor of Teacher Education, and representatives from Coastal Carolina University (CCU) made a presentation in July 2023 at the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE) - The Centers of Excellence Symposium in Greenville. The presentation highlighted the collaborative efforts between HGTC and CCU to foster student success and workforce development in Teacher Education. Approved in 2019, the agreement between HGTC and CCU created the first Associate Degree in Applied Science in Teacher Education and the first 2+2 program for education in the state. The innovative partnership is serving as a model for new articulation agreements, aiming to establish a seamless transition for students from HGTC to CCU, and ensuring a smooth educational pathway for enhanced career readiness.

Becky Hubbard is at the forefront of forging connections between the College and various stakeholders in the education community. Her expertise in building strategic partnerships and dedication to advancing educational opportunities make her an ideal representative for HGTC's Teacher Education program initiatives.

"I was grateful to have the opportunity to present our education partnership at the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education," said Becky Hubbard. "Through close collaboration with our partners at CCU, we are creating a cohesive and supportive educational ecosystem that equips students with the necessary skills and knowledge for success in the field of education."

"We are incredibly proud of Becky Hubbard and the work she is doing to foster education partnerships in our community," said Dr. Marilyn Fore, President of HGTC. "Her dedication to promoting educational pathways and strengthening connections between our college, K-12 schools, and other higher education institutions is instrumental in supporting student achievement and regional economic growth."

HGTC's partnership with CCU for Teacher Education established the standard for other institutions to address the teacher shortage in Horry and Georgetown counties. The program provides a smooth transition for students with substantial cost savings along the way. All credits earned at HGTC will transfer to CCU. Students who fulfill the other requirements for enrollment at CCU will be able to complete one of the following programs: early childhood education, elementary education, middle level education, special education (multicategorical) or physical education.

"There are many in our community who want to make a difference as a future educator. If your career goal is teaching in a K-12 setting, HGTC's Teacher Education degree is a great first step. You'll gain the tools needed to help students of all ages learn, grow, and succeed in school. After completing the program, you can either start working in the education sector as a paraprofessional or pursue a bachelor's degree," continued Hubbard.

For more information about the HGTC Teacher Education and Early Care & Education programs, contact Becky Hubbard at rebecca.hubbard@hgtc.edu or 843-349-7117.

HGTC's Allissa Santmyer Named Chair of Education Vision Council for United Way of Horry County

Allissa Santmyer, HGTC Assistant Chair and Professor of Teacher Education, was appointed as the Chair of the Education Vision Council for the United Way of Horry County (UWHC). In this role, Santmyer will lead the council's efforts to address education-related challenges and drive positive change in the community.

The council is part of the UWHC Community Game Plan, which establishes community goals in four priority areas of health, education, self-sufficiency, and basic needs. Each area is narrowed down to show the key issues of Horry County and how UWHC will work to address these main needs at the root cause.

As Chair of the Education Vision Council, Allissa Santmyer will play a vital role in shaping the organization's education initiatives. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position, having previously served on the council as a dedicated member. Santmyer's passion for education and commitment to community development make her an ideal candidate for this leadership role.

"I am deeply honored to be appointed as the Chair of the Education Vision Council for United Way of Horry County," said Allissa Santmyer. "Education is the cornerstone of our society, and I am committed to working collaboratively with our council members to create opportunities and support systems that empower individuals to reach their full potential."

Santmyer will work closely with the council members to identify and address the unique educational needs of the community. She will foster strategic partnerships with local schools, colleges, and universities, as well as businesses and community organizations, to develop innovative programs and initiatives that enhance educational outcomes for students of all ages.

"We are thrilled to have Allissa Santmyer as the Chair of our Education Vision Council," said Blakely Roof, President and CEO of United Way of Horry County. "Her leadership skills, expertise, and dedication to improving education will be invaluable in driving our mission forward. Together, we will work towards building a stronger and more equitable education system in Horry County."

"Allissa Santmyer is a highly respected member of our community, known for her work and commitment to HGTC and to serving others. Her appointment as Chair of the Education Vision Council reflects United Way's confidence in her ability to guide and inspire collaborative efforts to address educational challenges effectively," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.

For more information about United Way of Horry County and its programs, visit www.unitedwayhorry.org.

HGTC Diesel Technology Instructor Earns Master Technician Status



Kael Wolfley, HGTC Diesel Technology Instructor, earns Master Technician Status.

HGTC's Kael Wolfley, a dedicated Diesel Technology Instructor, has recently achieved the prestigious Master Automotive Technician Certification from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

The Master Automotive Technician Certification is a testament to Mr. Wolfley's expertise in the field of auto repair and his commitment to excellence. This certification recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional skills in inspecting and repairing equipment, overseeing and approving repairs performed by other mechanics, and mentoring new technicians. Master automotive technicians like Mr. Wolfley are highly experienced professionals who leverage the latest technology and tools to provide efficient and effective auto service.

Kael Wolfley has consistently exhibited unwavering dedication to advancing his automotive service knowledge, and his recent accomplishment is a testament to his hard work and commitment. This certification not only benefits him but also elevates the quality of education and training provided by HGTC's Diesel Engine Technology program.

HGTC President, Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, expressed her congratulations, stating, "Congratulations, Kael! I know you've been working tirelessly to obtain each of the Automotive Service Excellence Industry Certifications. Your commitment and dedication are truly commendable. You are a valued faculty member in our department, and we appreciate your contribution to our institution."

In addition to President Fore, the entire HGTC community is immensely proud of Kael Wolfley's achievement.

"His dedication and expertise enhance the Diesel Engine Technology program's value and contribute to the success of HGTC as a whole," said Brandon Haselden, HGTC Assistant Vice President for Academic and Workforce Development.

Kael Wolfley's journey to Master Technician status has culminated in this significant milestone, and his certification letter is a testament to his unwavering commitment to excellence in the automotive service industry.

HGTC Professor Dr. Renee Causey Honored by Myrtle Beach City Council



Dr. Renee Causey.

HGTC's Dr. Renee Causey, a dedicated professor in the field of Human Services, received recognition at the Myrtle Beach City Council Meeting for her outstanding contributions to a study assessing the state of the heroin and opioid epidemic in the local community. This recognition comes in commemoration of National Overdose Awareness Day, celebrated on August 31.

Dr. Causey has played a pivotal role and been at the forefront of addressing the pressing issues of addiction and recovery in the area. The invaluable study involved an in-depth examination of existing initiatives, identification of service gaps and redundancies, a review of local policies and resources, and the formulation of crucial recommendations. Key recommendations included advocating for a paradigm shift, securing state and local funding, enhancing public education, expanding peer education, supporting pathways to recovery, assisting viable programs, addressing service gaps, hiring an external coordinator, and establishing an Horry/Georgetown Continuum of Services.

This transformative study was made possible through generous funding from the City of Myrtle Beach, Horry County, City of Georgetown, Georgetown County, McLeod Health, Tidelands Health, Hospital Corporation of America, and Conway Medical Center.

Amy Prock, Chief of Police for the City of Myrtle Beach, expressed her gratitude by stating, "Dr. Causey continues to be a change maker in our community. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to continuing to make a difference for overdose awareness in our community and the lives of those who need support."

Since the completion of the study, the City of Myrtle Beach and service providers throughout the community have been diligently implementing the recommendations, which include:

- Launching an expanded local opioid initiative pilot program, coordinating services, offering scholarships, eliminating duplication, and increasing awareness and funding in Horry and Georgetown counties.
- Increasing public awareness through local schools and media outlets, while enhancing collaboration with service providers throughout Horry and Georgetown counties.
- Employing peer support specialists to reach out and provide assistance to individuals in need, meeting them where they are on their journey.

Notable board members of the Addiction Recovery Outreach Board include Trevor Greene, Chief Amy Prock, Mayor Brenda Bethune, Dr. Christina Lynn, Chief Judge Jennifer Wilson, Director Kathy Jenkins, Assistant City Manager Lisa Wallace, and Terri Nardslico.

Dr. Causey's study results, along with the collective efforts of service providers, community members, and government partners, are making a profound impact in the fight against heroin-related issues, saving lives, and strengthening communities.

Dr. Renee Causey is the 2017 HGTC Professor of the Year and serves as a faculty member in the Human Services program. She consistently looks for ways to serve her community through ACCESS FAVOR and other organizations focusing on social justice.

HGTC's Savannah Rabon Wins Gold Medallion Award for Graphic Design

Savannah Rabon, HGTC Marketing Coordinator and Graphic Designer, was honored with a prestigious Gold Level Medallion Award by the National Council of Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) at the District 2 Conference.

The recognition comes as a testament to Savannah's exceptional talents and achievements in graphic design. Her outstanding marketing piece secured the Gold Level Medallion Award in the competitive Booklet category. This accolade places her work in the spotlight, standing out among entries from other two-year community colleges within the expansive District 2 Conference. District 2 encompasses Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, and The Bahamas.

"I am immensely proud of Savannah Rabon's remarkable achievement in receiving the Gold Level Medallion Award for Graphic Design from the National Council of Marketing & Public Relations. This prestigious recognition not only underscores Savannah's exceptional talent and dedication but also reflects the high caliber of professionals we have at HGTC. Savannah's success is a testament to our commitment to excellence and innovation in all facets of education and communication. Congratulations to Savannah on this well-deserved honor and for exemplifying the excellence that defines HGTC," said Lari Roper, HGTC Director of Marketing.

The NCMPR Medallion Awards celebrate outstanding accomplishments in design and communication within community and technical colleges across NCMPR's seven districts. This regional competition is dedicated exclusively to recognizing the achievements of marketing and public relations professionals in two-year colleges.

The National Council for Marketing & Public Relations is the premier professional development association exclusively serving those working in communication at two-year community and technical colleges. It is the go-to organization for two-year college communicators, providing a platform for networking, learning, and recognition.



Savannah Rabon, HGTC Marketing Coordinator and Graphic Designer.

FOREIGN FILM NIGHT

Hosted by Professor Valerie J. Falbo and Dr. Maravillas Lencina



Who is Dayani Cristal?
This film retraces one man's incredible journey toward the deadly stretch of desert known as "the corridor of death" while shedding light on the story of migration.

The film will be in Spanish and English with English subtitles. A discussion about the film and important concepts will take place immediately following.

Migrants ride the train dubbed "La Bestia" towards the USA, February 2011.

Wednesday, November 15 • 3-5pm

Conway Campus Library – Building 1100, Room 218

All are welcome to attend. Admission: Please bring one item for the HGTC Pantry or a donation for the Backpack Buddies project.



HGTC Hosts Foreign Film Night: "Who is Dayani Cristal?"

HGTC Professors Valerie Falbo and Dr. Maravillas Lencina hosted a Foreign Film Night on the Conway Campus with the impactful film "Who is Dayani Cristal?" The film traces the remarkable journey of one man through the perilous desert corridor known as "the corridor of death," shedding light on the compelling story of migration.

"Who is Dayani Cristal?" was presented in Spanish and English with English subtitles to ensure accessibility to all viewers. There were thoughtful discussions about the film and its essential themes following the screening.

Valerie Falbo, HGTC Spanish Professor, shared her enthusiasm about the event, stating, "This film offered a profound exploration of one individual's incredible journey and the broader narrative of migration. It was an engaging and eye-opening experience."

The Foreign Film Night was open to all, offering a unique opportunity to experience international cinema and engage in meaningful dialogue. Admission was completely FREE, however everyone who attended was encouraged to bring one item to donate to the HGTC Food Pantry or the Backpack Buddies project.

For more information about the event or any inquiries, please feel free to contact Valerie Falbo, HGTC Spanish Professor, at valerie.falbo@hgtc.edu or Dr. Maravillas Lencina, HGTC Spanish Professor, at maravillas.lencina@hgtc.edu.

Message from the HGTC Foundation

The purpose of the HGTC Foundation is to raise funds to support the programs, services and activities of the Horry-Georgetown Technical College, its students, and employees, and to create and strengthen positive relations between the College and the community.

A recent endeavor of the HGTC Foundation has been to garner support for our Automotive Technician program that launched in January 2023. The program provides skilled automotive technicians to enter the workforce and assist local dealers with service needs. It is my honor to recognize the Automotive Century Club donors who have recently donated or committed \$20,000 to the program, including Bell and Bell GMC, Bob Mills Mitsubishi, Coastal Chevrolet Cadillac Nissan, Hadwin White Buick GMC Subaru, Myrtle Beach Chrysler Jeep, Myrtle Beach Kia, and Sparks Toyota. Additional monetary donors include Grand Strand & North Strand Nissan, Myrtle Beach Hyundai, and Palmetto Chevrolet. In-kind donations have come from East Coast Honda, Team Dodge Ram of Myrtle Beach, LKQ Auto Parts and Atlantic Coast Converters. This community support is essential to the success of our programs in their beginning. We truly appreciate each of our Century Club donors and their support.

The HGTC Foundation held its inaugural Flights and Bites event on October 12, 2023 at the International Culinary Institute on the Grand Strand Campus. The tasting event included nine (9) wine samples with 11 paired food tastings, as well as five dessert tastings. Sponsors for the event included CRG Companies, Anderson Brothers Bank, Burroughs & Chapin, DRG, First Citizens Bank and Dick & Brenda Rosen. The first-time event received rave reviews and raised over \$24,000 for Culinary School students. The HGTC Foundation looks forward to growing the event in 2024.



Personally, as I have completed my first year as President & CEO of HGTC Foundation, I am excited about our future and all that is happening in our community and on campus. With expansion on both the Grand Strand and Georgetown Campuses, it is a wonderful time to be a part of the HGTC family. I have been able to witness first-hand the difference your donations make to our students and programs.

I have been able to meet so many amazing individuals who care about our community and our workforce and make a difference in the lives of others through educational scholarships. If you are interested in how you can become involved, please call the HGTC Foundation and let us tell you more!

Shannon Detzler
President & CEO
HGTC Foundation

ACADEMIC CALENDARS

Spring 2024

	Full Spring	Fast Forward I	Flex Start	Fast Forward II
Registration Begins	Oct 23, 2023	Oct 23, 2023	Oct 23, 2023	Oct 23, 2023
Classes Begin	Jan 8	Jan 8	Jan 29	Feb 29
Last Day of Classes	April 17 Last Wednesday-Only Class April 18 Last Thursday-Only Class April 19 Last Friday-Only Class April 22 Last Mon/Wed and Monday-Only Class April 23 Last Tues/Thurs and Tuesday-Only Class	February 26	April 17 Last Wednesday-Only Class April 18 Last Thursday-Only Class April 19 Last Friday-Only Class April 22 Last Mon/Wed and Monday-Only Class April 23 Last Tues/Thurs and Tuesday-Only Class	April 25
Final Exam Period	April 24-30	Feb 27	April 24-30	April 29
Grades Due	May 3 at 12:00pm	Feb 28 at 12:00pm	May 3 at 12:00pm	May 3 at 12:00pm

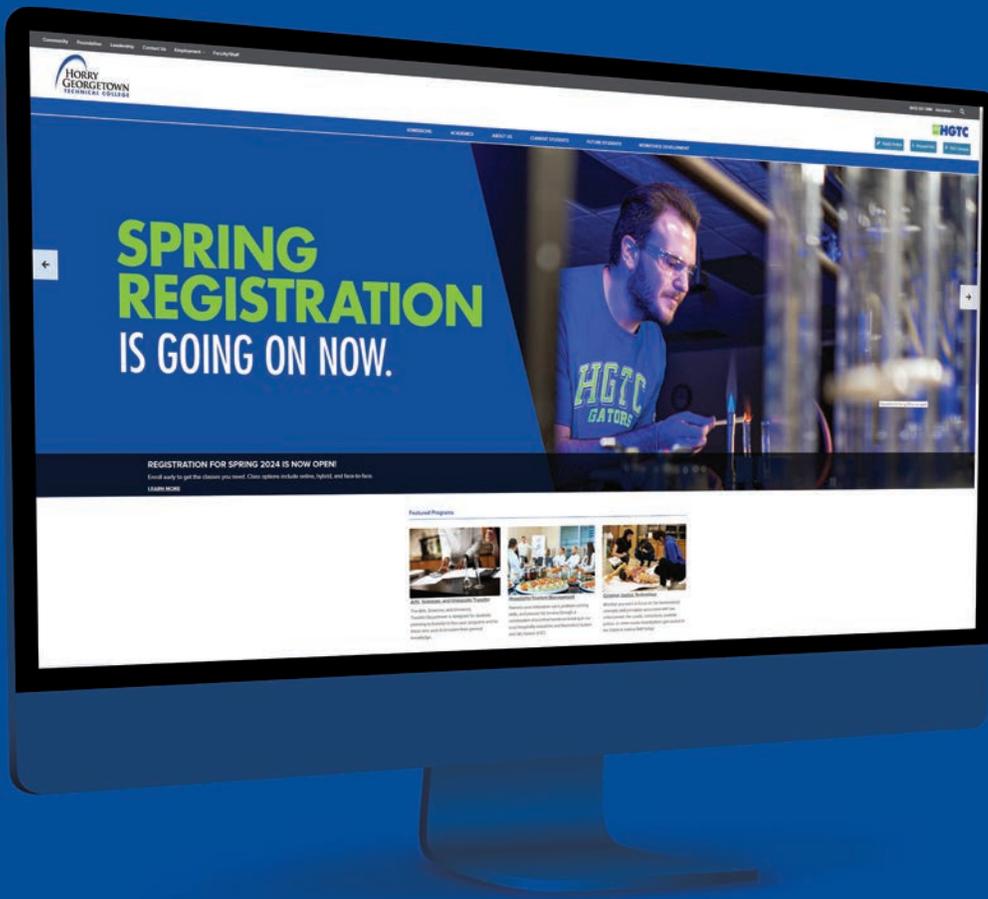
Summer 2024

	Maymester	Full Summer	Fast Forward I	Fast Forward II
Registration Begins	Dec 1, 2023	Feb 26, 2024	Feb 26, 2024	Feb 26, 2024
Classes Begin	May 6	May 13	May 13	June 17
Last Day of Classes	May 30	July 26	June 13	July 26
Final Exam Period	May 31 & June 1	July 29-Aug 1	June 14-15	July 29-Aug 1
Grades Due	June 4 at 5:00pm	Aug 2 at 5:00pm	June 16 at 12:00pm	Aug 2 at 5:00pm

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Jan 15, 2024 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – College Closed
 Mar 18-24, 2024 – Spring Break – No Classes
 Mar 29, 2024 – Good Friday – No Classes

May 27, 2024 – Memorial Day – College Closed
 July 1-7, 2024 – Independence Holidays – No Classes
 July 3-4, 2024 – Independence Holidays – College Closed



CONWAY CAMPUS

2050 Highway 501 East
Conway, SC 29526
843-347-3186

GRAND STRAND CAMPUS

743 Hemlock Avenue
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
843-477-2094

GEORGETOWN CAMPUS

4003 South Fraser Street
Georgetown, SC 29440
843-546-8406

