MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORE

Dear Colleagues,

It is hard to believe that another semester is ending soon, and we are approaching our 2022 Commencement Ceremony in May. I think we all are looking forward to an in-person, full capacity, mask optional event after two years with numerous restrictions and guidelines.

I would like for you to take a deep breath and reflect on the year. It is also important to take a moment to look back on the last two years. Amid all the changes and challenges that have been forced upon us, our HGTC Gator family demonstrated extraordinary strength in caring for one another and will undoubtedly continue to do the same regardless of a pandemic. I realize how much we have accomplished and how far we have come in a very short period.

As we plan for the summer and fall semesters, I know that our employees are busier than ever with the FREE tuition message spreading throughout our community. I am proud of the way we have pulled together to support our students. You have consistently demonstrated your ability to adjust and adapt our strategies effectively to reach current and potential students.

So, as we look ahead and strive to meet the challenges we are faced with, please know how grateful and appreciative I am for all your efforts and for how you have all pulled together to continue to provide our students with excellence. The positive spirit of our HGTC Gator community has never shined brighter! We will continue to deal with circumstances as they arise and make whatever adjustments we need to continue our high-quality programs and services. If the last two years have taught us anything, it is that we have it in us to rise above the challenges and be successful. I look forward to celebrating our successes with you throughout the months ahead.

With much gratitude,

Dr. Marilynn Murphy Fore
President, Horry-Georgetown Technical College
HGTC ENROLLMENT DATA

- 4th Largest Technical College in the State following Trident Tech, Greenville Tech & Midlands Tech
- 8,000+ Headcount in Annual Enrollment
- 2,000+ Headcount in Annual Enrollment in Workforce Development Training
- 96% of Graduates are SC Residents
- 80% of Students are Residents of Horry & Georgetown Counties
- 91% of Students Placed in a Job or Transferred to a Four-Year Institution
- 96% of Graduates Remain in SC
- 90% of Graduates Remain in Horry & Georgetown Counties
- 30% of Students in Healthcare Majors

HGTC ECONOMIC IMPACT

- Lowest Tuition in the SC Technical College System – $2,186 per Semester (In-County)
- Less than 1/3 (31-34%) the cost of the senior research institutions
- 85% of Students Receive Financial Aid, Pell Grants, Lottery, Stimulus Funds
- $50 Million Annual Operating Budget
- $207 Million Annual Local Economic Impact
- 682 Faculty & Staff – One of the Top 10 Largest Local Employers

HGTC LOCATIONS & FACILITIES

- Three Campuses: Conway, Grand Strand, Georgetown
- 28 Buildings with 722,633 Square Feet; 165 Acres
- 12 Capital Projects or Major Renovations at $10.9 Million

HGTC NEW PROGRAMS 2019-2023

**New Programs**

- Commercial Driver’s License (CDL)
- Computerized Axial Tomography
- Crane Operator
- Cybersecurity
- Diesel Engine Technology – Doubled
- Digital Court Reporter
- Drone
- Electrical Lineman – Doubled
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Masonry
- Mechatronics
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Occupational Therapy Assistant

**Largest Programs**

- Healthcare & Nursing
- PACE
- Business
- Teacher Education
- Welding
- Criminal Justice

**Outboard Marine Technology**

- Police Pre-Academy Training
- Surgical Technology – Doubled
HUMAN RESOURCES

First Quarter Recognition Winners

PROUD TO BE HGTC

Lucy Pope – Custodian GT
Kristen Toben – Accountant
Kristin Robinson – Professor, A & P
Michael Hedges – Professor, English

THERE’S MORE AWARD

Beth Havens – Director of Student Development
Hope Wofford – Dual Enrollment Director

STUDENT AFFAIRS

ENROLLMENT TRENDS

Thank you to all employees in all divisions of the College for the work you have done in supporting students. When compared with Spring 2021, 134 more students are enrolled with us.

The upcoming academic year is on the horizon. We have much work ahead of us as we support and enroll the students in our communities who need us. We continue to need the help of all employees to support the enrollment efforts of the College.

COMMENCEMENT 2022

Commencement plans are underway! The ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, May 12 at 3:00 pm at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. We are excited to be able to return to a “traditional” ceremony. Students can be directed to the Graduation page on the HGTC website for more information.

HONORS GARDEN PARTY

One of our most special events honoring our students will return this year, after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. The Garden Party is scheduled for Friday, May 6 from 10:30 am until 12:30 pm on the Conway campus. There will be live music, brief remarks, and a light reception. Students who have earned a 3.75 GPA, faculty members, and College leaders will be invited to this event to celebrate the academic accomplishments of these deserving students.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

HGTC continues to serve high school students through our Dual Enrollment opportunities, including the Program for Accelerated College Enrollment (PACE), Technical Scholars, and the Horry County Early College High School (ECHS). These dual enrollment programs have demonstrated steady growth over time, meeting the needs of our communities. For the current semester, there are 12% more dual enrolled students taking classes at HGTC when compared to Spring 2021. When compared to the Technical College System, HGTC ranks fourth out of 16 colleges in the number of dual enrollment students.
HGTC Electrical Lineman Technician Program and HTC Partnership

In This “Line” of Work

HGTC Electrical Lineman Students Transition to Employment Opportunities with HTC

Ryan Embry was driving through the HGTC Conway Campus when he noticed numerous linemen climbing high on electrical poles. While his first reaction was that there had to be a serious electrical outage in the area, he soon learned those on the poles were all training for the College’s Electrical Lineman Technician program. That, as he says, “sparked his interest” in finding out more about the program. The next thing Ryan knew, “I was out there climbing poles myself,” he said.

For Cody Bullard, the path to that same Electrical Lineman Technician program was inspired by family ties, as he wanted to follow the lead of his uncle who was a lineman with Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc. Cody enrolled soon after his Aynor High School graduation. Ryan began the Electrical Lineman Technician program in his 30’s following careers in the military, law enforcement field, and satellite television industry. While both Ryan and Cody arrived at the Electrical Lineman Technician program from different directions, ultimately those pathways led to the same place – a valuable employment opportunity with Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (HTC).

Ryan cites the invaluable experience the faculty bring to this program.

“Professors Shoemaker and Vermeland had a level of compassion but were also able to reinforce that ‘if you do that, you will hurt yourself.’ Safety was the highest priority for them. They were able to give real-world examples of certain situations that would not be safe for lineman whether it be in working with telecommunications or electric companies,” said Embry.

Ryan Embry
Fall 2021

HOLLAND JONES
Fall 2019

HGTC has been offering the Electrical Lineman Technician program since 2015. This concentrated one-semester, certificate program offers students classroom and field training in math, electrical circuit analysis, power systems, and transformer theory, as well as safety and climbing techniques.

Since inception, the Electrical Lineman Technician program has maintained capacity enrollment each term and boasts a high job placement rate, thanks to partnerships with community employers like HTC. The program has evolved into the largest, most expansive lineman training yard in the state now encompassing all necessary lineman disciplines (overhead distribution, underground distribution, and transmission overhead).

Both Ryan and Cody credit the HGTC Electrical Lineman Technician faculty in their training success. Professor Scott Shoemaker has been with the program since it was initiated after a 37-year career with Santee Cooper, 20 years of which were specifically focused on lineman training. Professor Robert Vermeland joined the Electrical Lineman Technician program in 2019 following 32 years as a Certified Lineman with Duke Energy.
Ryan and Cody are just two of the many Electrical Lineman Technician program alumni who have applied their HGTC skills to real-world employment at HTC. The relationship between HGTC and HTC has been invaluable to our students’ successes.

Professor Scott Shoemaker applauds the partnership with HTC. “HTC, the largest communications cooperative in the nation, has been an industry partner since the Electrical Lineman Technician program started in January 2015. Their relationship with the Electrical Lineman Technician program professors and students not only strengthens the program but also provides the most technically and physically capable candidates. HTC is in regular communication with the Electrical Lineman Technician program faculty and students to enhance future careers in their company,” said Shoemaker.

Craig Johnson, Director of Construction Services at HTC, also sees the benefit of the partnership. “HTC is proud to partner with HGTC and this certificate program that prepares graduates to enter the utility industry. The program provides a broad understanding of the skills, knowledge, safe work practices and physical ability required to perform line work,” said Johnson.

Based on his own journey from HGTC to HTC, Cody offered encouragement for anyone considering enrollment in the Electric Lineman Technician program. “If you like working with your hands, it would be an excellent trade to pursue. It’s an outstanding program where you learn a lot of real-world situations. HGTC prepares you really well,” said Bullard.

Cody reinforces the impact of training with those who have been in the field.

“It’s better to learn from someone who actually has been there hands-on and dealt with that type of work. They can give you information on that situation and what they have experienced. If you are confronted with a problem, they have been there,” said Bullard.

The move from student life in the Electrical Lineman Technician program to working life at HTC was a natural shift for both Ryan and Cody. Ryan was recruited by HTC upon completing the Electrical Lineman Technician program in August 2021. After initially joining HTC as a Technology Intern in the Construction Department, he now acts as a Construction Worker involved in the installation and splicing of fiber optic lines.

According to Embry, “It was a smooth transition from the classroom to the workforce because so much of the machinery we were learning to operate on the job was used in our training in the Electrical Lineman Technician program. The safety procedures between the Electrical Lineman Technician program and HTC also go hand in hand.”

Cody also started at HTC as a Technology Intern immediately after receiving his certificate from the Electrical Lineman Technician program in the Fall of 2020. He has since progressed at HTC from working in a Construction Worker position to a Plant Technician position in the Installation and Repair Department. Cody also draws parallels between the Electrical Lineman Technician program training he received and his work at HTC.

“When I was in the construction training at HGTC, using the bucket truck was critical because I was actually in the bucket and installing lines. Today I am using the same equipment and tools that I learned to use in the Electrical Lineman Technician program. Already having that experience really made the transition to HTC easier,” explained Bullard.
HGTC Hosts Successful Community Open House

HGTC hosted a successful Community Open House event at the James R. Frazier Community Center on Tuesday, February 22. The community was invited to attend and learn more about the educational grant funding approved by Horry County Government provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The Bucksport, Toddsville, and Bucksville areas of Horry County now have easier access to the job training programs offered by HGTC through the Bucksport community education program.

“We are very excited about 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 will use around $1.9 million to bring certain job skill courses to community members, either via online courses or at the James R. Frazier Community Center. The first portion of spending will be used to complete a survey of community members to determine what courses the program should offer and who might be interested in taking the courses. The second portion of spending will pay for class equipment at the community center and will pay for community members to complete the training programs offered. Some of the programs available through HGTC funding include:

- Basic Computer
- Commercial Driver’s License (CDL)
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Certified Crane Operator
- Culinary & Baking
- Drone Training
- Emergency Medical Technology Basic (EMT)
- Heavy Equipment Operator

The James R. Frazier Community Center is located at 1370 Bucksport Road, Conway, SC 29527. For more information, please contact Vince Myers, HGTC Workforce Development Manager, at 843-349-5387 or vincent.myers@hgtc.edu.
HGTC Gators Welcome CCU Chanticleers on Conway Campus

Thanks to a new partnership initiative with CCU, “Teal Tuesdays” started at HGTC in February 2022. HGTC now has a dedicated CCU Transfer Counselor located on the Conway Campus in Office 133A, Building 1100. Every “Teal Tuesday” a CCU Transfer Counselor is available to meet with students on topics such as the Bridge Program, Coastal Bound, University Transfer to CCU, and anything related to Coastal Carolina University. The office is decorated with HGTC and CCU décor so that students know where they can find information about CCU partnership programs. HGTC has a strong relationship with CCU, and the College is fortunate that CCU has agreed to send one of their employees to the HGTC campus on a weekly basis. HGTC is proud to extend a warm Gator welcome to these CCU representatives.

EVERY TUESDAY
8:30AM-5:00PM
HGTC Conway Campus
Building 1100, Room 133A
843-349-3633
FINANCE

STIMULUS FUNDING AND FREE TUITION

- In February 2022, the College filed for and received an extension for using its Higher Education Emergency Relief (HEERF) Stimulus funding. As a result, these funds have been dedicated to providing tuition assistance to students throughout the spring, summer, and fall 2022 semesters. During these semesters, students who have completed their FAFSA and are enrolled in three or more credit hours will not incur any tuition costs. Since 2020 students have been provided approximately $14.0 million in COVID-related assistance and support through HEERF.
- In March, the College disbursed approximately $5,137,000 in payments directly to students as part of the HEERF legislation. For the Spring semester, students that were Pell eligible received $1,150 and non-Pell eligible students received $650.

CAPITAL PROJECTS AND MAJOR RENOVATIONS

HGTC is continuing with its plans for building new and renovating existing facilities and campus infrastructures. The College has:
- Completed the exterior renovations and landscaping/infrastructure improvements on the Grand Strand Campus. These improvements totaled approximately $9.3 million. A ceremony to re-dedicate the Grand Strand Campus is scheduled for April 22nd.
- Developed plans for replacing the HVAC systems on all three campuses including new units in Conway Building 1100 and Georgetown Building 100.
- Established plans for resurfacing the roads and parking lots in Conway and Georgetown over the coming summer months.
- Begun renovating its new Diesel Engine Technician training facility located in the Atlantic Center across from the Conway campus. The renovations are projected to be $2,400,000 and will establish a state-of-the-art training facility and will enable the program’s enrollment to more than double.
- Begun work renovating and expanding the Surgical Technology area in the Speir Building on the Grand Strand Campus.
MARKETING

FREE TUITION FOR SPRING, SUMMER & FALL 2022
The Marketing Department has been busy getting the word out to the community about free tuition costs for the Spring, Summer, & Fall 2022 semesters. The team has changed its entire messaging to focus on free tuition costs. The campaign includes outdoor digital boards, signage, social media, website banner rotations, new web pages, and print materials. Marketing is in the process of producing an April & May mailer that will be sent to Horry & Georgetown County households with 16-year-olds to 55-year-olds. In addition, all three Chambers of Commerce have sent email blasts to their membership and business lists. Marketing is also working closely with the Admissions Department to send current and prospective students email messages and a postcard mailing. Because of a combined effort across the College, from the Finance Office to Recruitment, the free tuition message is being well received by the public.

TIKTOK VIDEO – “DROP CHALLENGE”
The Georgetown Campus recently created a TikTok video and challenged the Conway Campus with the “drop challenge.” Check it out on the College’s Facebook page. Thanks to all the students on both campuses for participating. A special thanks to Jaime Davis & Savannah Epps for starting the challenge! Grand Strand Campus, you’re next!

SPOTLIGHT YOUR BEST STUDENTS AND GRADUATES
The HGTC Marketing Department needs your ongoing help identifying HGTC students and graduates who positively represent the College in the HGT学生的 Student Spotlight campaign. The Student Spotlight profiles current and former students with inspiring personal stories of dedication, perseverance, and academic and career achievements. Please provide the student’s or graduate’s name and H-number and some details about the student’s journey. Once vetted, reviewed, and cleared, they will be notified by faculty or the Marketing Department and asked if they would be willing to participate and tell their story.
Academic & Workforce Development Update
Spring 2022

Message from...
Jennifer Wilbanks, Executive Vice President for Academic and Workforce Development

Spring Break is officially upon us. During the next week, we hope you are planning some time with a mixture of fun and relaxation, as well as some well-deserved time with family and friends. Once we return, we will be in the final weeks of spring and in theogie phase of summer break!

In an effort to support students and the local community, HGTC was thrilled to announce “Free until 23!” A faculty and staff favorite of mine was the opportunity to proudly promote this to our students and the local community. We are excited to offer this special opportunity for students to enroll in courses at no cost and make those plans for the fall.

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Thank you to all of our students and the local community who participated in our first enrollment round for these free tuition opportunities. We look forward to continue offering this program in future enrollment rounds.

Did You Know?

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HGTC has the 5th largest student enrollment population in the state.

And... over the last three years the number of students participating in our Dual Enrollment program has increased by over 50%.

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HGTC Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter Receives Awards

Carolinas Regional Convention Honors HGTC Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter with Regional Awards

HGTC Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter Members and Advisors received numerous awards at the Carolinas Regional Convention March 4-6, 2022 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The HGTC Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter received 3rd Runner Up in the Most Distinguished Chapter Award 2022 category placing fourth out of 83 chapters in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Bermuda.

Here is a full list of awards received:

- Most Distinguished Chapter, 3rd Runner Up
- Beta Tau Continued Excellence Award
- Best Chapter Website
- Yearbook Award
- Distinguished Chapter Officer – Dana Consiglio, student
- Distinguished College Project
- Distinguished Honors in Action Theme Award
- Horizon Award – Professor Leila Rogers
- Carolinas Region Superstars Award
- Carolinas Region Service Project Award
- Carolinas Region Honors in Action Award
- Carolinas Region Hall of Honor – Dana Consiglio, student

HGTC also celebrated two students who were elected to serve as Carolinas Region Officers for 2022-2023. They are Nicholas Papotto, South Carolina Vice President, and Trella Holmes, Public Relations Vice President.

All awards were received based on projects and contributions in 2021. Chapter members were able to accomplish all projects without meeting in person, by starting and completing all projects in a virtual environment, dealing with personal issues, and losing several key officers last year.

“HGTC continues to celebrate the successes of the Alpha Nu Sigma Chapter year after year. We are in awe of the ongoing commitment of our advisors and students even amid a pandemic. I am so proud that the work being done to build character, leadership, and public service is receiving worthy recognition,” said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.

“Congratulations to Professor Rogers on her individual award, as well as all the students. These important initiatives focused on Alzheimer’s Disease and memorial benches on each campus, addressing critical issues in the last year. We are proud and appreciative to this group for making a difference to those at the College and in our local community,” said Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks, HGTC Executive Vice President for Academic and Workforce Development.
HGTC Names SCTEA Educator of the Year Award Winners

Employees Honored at SC Technical Education Association’s Annual Conference

HGTC recognized three exceptional employees at the South Carolina Technical Education Association’s (SCTEA) Annual Conference in February. HGTC’s Educator of the Year Award Winners recognized at the SCTEA Conference include:

BRANDON HASELDEN
AVP Academic Affairs/Dean
Administrator Category

JAMES “RON” WATKINS
Professor of HVAC
Faculty Category

KATHY MOORE
Administrative Assistant for Student Affairs
Staff Category

The award recipients were nominated by their peers for superior leadership in their departments, quality work ethic, and community involvement.

“HGTC is proud of the outstanding service and achievements of these special individuals. Their dedication to our college is reflected in the unique vote of confidence of their peers,” said HGTC President Marilyn Murphy Fore. “We are extremely blessed to have employees whose professionalism is second to none in higher education. Our faculty and staff are working harder than ever to serve our students and this community.”
HGTC’s Harold Hawley Appointed to Serve on Advisory Committee to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Harold Hawley, HGTC Vice President for Finance and Administration, was recently appointed to serve on the Advisory Committee to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education (CHE).

Hawley has agreed to serve a two-year term and will be a voting member on the Advisory Committee representing the South Carolina Technical College System along with one other voting member. The Deputy Director and General Counsel at SC Commission on Higher Education, Georges Tippens, who leads the committee asked Hawley to serve. The committee focuses on matters related to fiscal, financial, and facilities affecting public South Carolina Institutions of Higher Learning. Hawley will serve along with representatives from the senior research and four-year comprehensive colleges. This is the third term serving on a statewide CHE committee on topics of finance, facilities, and policy.

“It is an honor to be asked to serve on the Advisory Committee alongside other two-year and four-year colleges across the state,” said Harold Hawley, HGTC Vice President of Finance & Administration.

Meetings will be held at minimum on a quarterly basis at the four-year campuses and at CHE offices in Columbia.

HGTC’s Hope Wofford Awarded GSYP Ambassador of the Year

HGTC Dual Enrollment Director recognized by Grand Strand Young Professionals Group.

Hope Wofford, HGTC Dual Enrollment Director, was recognized as the Ambassador of the Year by the Grand Strand Young Professionals (GSYP) Group at the Young Professional of the Year Celebration held on January 13. The annual event honors the accomplishments of its membership over the last year.

GSYP ambassadors volunteer their time to promote awareness about GSYP benefits and services while encouraging members to become more involved in the organization and the community.

Wofford joined GSYP in 2012 and has been working for HGTC since July 2017. She is an Horry County native and graduate of Francis Marion University. Wofford currently serves as the province president for Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity. Wofford is a graduate of Leadership Grand Strand and Leadership Conway. She has also served on the Leadership Grand Strand Board of Regents and regularly volunteers for the United Way of Horry County and Junior Achievement of SC.

“We are very proud of Hope Wofford and her accomplishments with the Grand Strand Young Professionals group. HGTC is very blessed to have young professionals like Hope who do an outstanding job for the College and volunteer their time in the community. She is very deserving of the award, and we are honored to have her as a part of the HGTC Gator family,” said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.

“I am honored to be recognized, but more importantly, I love being a member of GSYP and the opportunities it provides to local young professionals for networking, community service, and personal development,” said Hope Wofford, HGTC Dual Enrollment Director and GSYP Ambassador of the Year.