



Forward Thinking

Partnerships pave the way forward



Greetings GPTC community!

I am excited to announce a new partnership between GPTC and Absolics, Inc, a leader in semiconductor technology, which will create a new and exciting pathway for employment to our region in high-demand careers in semiconductor and nanotechnology.

This partnership will enable us to provide our students with the skills and training necessary to enter the workforce in a rapidly growing field. Our efforts were memorialized in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the company's CTO, Dr. Sung Jin Kim and myself. We are honored to be working with Absolics and are confident that this partnership will yield significant benefits for our community.

Also at the MOU ceremony, I was pleased to unveil our future plans for the Center for Innovation and Emerging Technology, which will be housed on the Newton Campus.

This is our vision to provide our students, partner stakeholders, and community members with state-of-the-art facilities and cutting-edge resources to explore the latest innovations in technology. We are committed to preparing our students for success in the rapidly evolving world of technology and will continue to expand our programs and partnerships to meet this need.

This is an exciting time for GPTC and I know the efforts each of you make every day to move the college FORWARD are making this possible.

- Dr. Tarez Holston, President

LC23 hosts annual 'Institute Day' for College



BOOYAH! Left to right: Leader College 2023, not pictured: Linda Travers; GPTC staff and faculty show off their 90's-themed apparel; Dr. Alvie Coes is decked out in cool shades and 'Bel Air' attire; Group photo taken at Fireside Chat with the President; Emcee Shunteka Curtis reps Kriss Kross by donning her clothing backwards; Administrative Services wins the prestigious College belt; Antwania Massey and Sakita Fleet tie for 'best dressed.'

The March 24 Institute Day, Let Me Reintroduce Myself - 90's Style, is a wrap!

Full time (and many part time) GPTC team members got together, donning their favorite looks from the 1990s and enjoyed a day of food, fellowship, and a lot of fun.

The theme of reintroducing oneself

was primarily to get employees out of their possible silos and comfort zones so they could learn about other areas of the college. We had virtual reality headsets from Adult Ed, a scavenger hunt from Arts & Sciences, a video from Business, CIS, & New Media, and an interactive game

show from Health, Education, Public & Professional Services.

The 2023 Leader College class (a.k.a. LC23) was tasked with putting on the event and is now reviewing a GPTC-wide survey to learn how to make future Institute Days even better!

GPTC Foundation welcomes trustees while looking forward

Contributed by Dr. Sharmon Monagan

As we reach the midpoint of the semester, we want to take a moment to celebrate the generosity of our colleagues. We are excited to see so many new hires join the 1% club with their donations, like Steven Randolph at the RTTC. It's not too late to start donating or increase your donation to join the 1% club. Employee donations are not only a testament to your dedication to our mission, but they also show our external partners that we are committed to our cause.

We would like to take a moment to introduce two new Board of Trustee members: Leigh Truss Smith, who is a Healthcare Executive with Emory Healthcare and Jasmine Payne-Patterson, who is a Senior State Policy Coordinator with Economic Analysis and Research Network. We are thrilled to welcome them to our Board.

We have two ambitious projects underway. The first project is updating our alumni database. We recognize that



A NIGHT TO GIVE Guest speaker, Dr. Henry Carver gives keynote address at last year's Masquerade Ball.

our alumni are an essential part of our community, and we want to stay in touch with them, welcome them back into the GPTC fold, plan events specifically for them, and look to them as a donor base.

However, to do this effectively, we need to have accurate and up-to-date contact information for all of our alumni. Our second project is to create a database of companies the College currently has existing relationships with. By having this

information readily available, we can more effectively reach out to these companies about establishing scholarships, making donations, and sponsoring our events.

Lastly, mark your calendars for our masquerade ball fundraiser on Sunday, October 15, 2023, at the DeKalb Conference Center. The event promises to be a night of fun and excitement with good music and food for a great cause. More details to come over the next few months.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Scholarships Available / April 1**
> Application available until May 12
- **Spring Break / April 3-7**
> Campuses open. No classes
- **Spring Fling / April 11**
> 11:30 AM-1:30 PM. DeKalb Campus.
- **Dual Enrollment Session / April 15**
> 10 AM - Noon
- **Commencement / May 20**
> Campuses open. No classes

Employee Spotlight: Executive Director of Institutional Advancement



Dr. Sharmon Monagan

Going Above & Beyond

Dr. Sharmon Monagan is a well-rounded and accomplished individual who has served in both the United States Navy and Georgia Army National Guard with distinction. Dr. Monagan's expertise and dedication to education has made her an invaluable asset to her students and colleagues. As a college instructor, Dr. Monagan has demonstrated a deep commitment to helping students achieve their full potential.

She has also been a dedicated member of the Georgia Piedmont Technical College Board of Trustees since 2021, where she has been actively involved in supporting the college's mission and goals. Welcome, Sharmon!

Dr. Tarez Holston
GPTC President

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB HERE AT GPTC?

I have taught for nearly twenty years. Being the Executive Director of the Foundation gives me an opportunity to serve students in a different way. It is very fulfilling. And I love the culture here. Everyone has been very helpful and supportive. It also seems to be a very happy place to work.

WHAT IS YOUR MAIN GOAL TO ACCOMPLISH HERE?

My main goal in this position is to increase the unrestricted funds of the Foundation. People will hear me talk about this repeatedly but unrestricted funds are important because they help support the overall mission of the college. The example I like to give is that GPTC is a nice luxury car. The Foundation helps pay for the gas and maintenance for that luxury car. The Foundation has to keep up with all of the growth happening here. Another very important goal is to engage our alumni. I want them to know that they are part of this dynamic GPTC family.

WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY WATCHING/READING?

I just started watching Harlem and Yellowstone. I am reading "Less Than Human: Why We Demean, Enslave, and Exterminate Others."

WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT MAKES YOU LAUGH?

I love a good, comedy TV show and videos with dog voice-overs.

WHAT SONG DO YOU NEVER GET TIRED OF LISTENING TO?

I am a huge Stevie Wonder and Sting fan. I can listen to Do I Do by Stevie Wonder and Probably Me by Sting and never get tired of it.

