



Forward Thinking

Partnerships and projects keep us all moving forward



Just over four years ago, I was appointed GPTC's College President. I said at the time, and I still believe that this college is what we make it. I am here to tell you that there has never been a better time to be part of the GPTC Family! From our double-digit fall enrollment hike, to campus beautification and renovation projects—to the buzz of activity on our campuses, exciting things are happening.

I am also proud to report that GPTC is a member of the GA-AIM coalition, a project led by Georgia Tech in partnership with TCSG and industry leaders to advance artificial intelligence (AI) across the state. In September, GA-AIM was awarded a \$65 million grant through the Build Back Better Regional Challenge—with GPTC receiving nearly \$1.5 million in new equipment, personnel, and curriculum development.

GPTC is also in partnership with Penn State University's Center for Nanotechnology Education and we are set to receive \$250,000 in grant funding to provide training for retiring service members, veterans, and their families. These grants will allow us to do what we do best—provide an unforgettable learning experience and prepare our workforce for in-demand careers.

Keep moving FORWARD!

— Dr. Tavaraz Holston, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Masquerade Ball / Oct. 30**
> Visit gptc.edu for details
- **One-Stop Enrollment Event / Nov. 4**
> 9 AM – 2 PM, DeKalb Campus
- **Fall 2022 Career Fair / Nov. 9**
> 10 AM – 2 PM, Newton D Campus
- **Veterans Day Ceremony / Nov. 10**
> DeKalb Conference Center
- **Apprentice Week / Nov. 14-18**

GPTC 'maps the way forward' to success



ON-THE-GO Click the image to watch the fun animated video laying out Georgia Piedmont Technical College's five-year quality enhancement plan with three stops along the way!

Georgia Piedmont Technical College is up for reaffirmation with SACSCOC and the first week of October marked the culmination of months of prep work.

A team of visitors from various colleges in the Southeast were on all GPTC campuses to check out our services, processes, resources and the like to ensure we are in compliance. Soon, our Institutional Effectiveness department will have a full report on how awesome we are and what areas, if any, we need to improve on.

The committee repeatedly highlighted the GPTC spirit of collaboration evident in the presentation and interviews. Special thanks to Student Activities and GPTC's incredible SGA for assisting the QEP team in establishing important student, staff, and faculty outreach efforts.

Campus life is all abuzz here at GPTC



FUN ALL AROUND Fall 2022 has been filled to the brim with all sorts of activities for GPTC students, faculty and staff alike. Whether it was grabbing a tasty ice cream during welcome week, having donuts with the deans or dancing during the Hispanic heritage month celebration, fun and food were not in short supply here at GPTC. Now that the spooky season is upon us, GPTC students and staff can look forward to a **Halloween movie night on October 28** and a **trunk-or-treat costume extravaganza on October 31**.

College to host career fair, recognize apprenticeship week

Contributed by Dr. Alvie Coes

Alongside partners Newton County Industrial Development Authority and the Conyers-Rockdale Economic Development Council, GPTC will host a career fair on Nov. 9, 2022. The fair will be held at the Newton Campus, bldg. D from 10 AM–2 PM.

The fair was designed to link prospective job applicants with employers in various competitive career fields such as advanced manufacturing, healthcare, transportation, logistics, distribution, and construction trades.

Admissions representatives will also be on hand to answer questions about our 99+ academic programs. Prospective students will be able to apply on site.

Additionally, GPTC will recognize and celebrate its apprenticeship initiatives during National Apprenticeship Week, November 14–20. During this week, GPTC plans to highlight its student apprentices along with the companies that employ them in the various, high-demand manufacturing careers.

For more information about the College's upcoming career fair or apprenticeships with GPTC, please email economicdevelopment@gptc.edu.

GPTC Foundation honors special group of employee donors

Contributed by Cory Thompson

As we quickly approach the Thanksgiving season and with Fall term in our rear-view mirror, the Georgia Piedmont Technical College Foundation extends a gesture of appreciation to the College employees who are making the personal sacrifice to support our students at a higher level.

Employees who donate one percent of their net monthly salary are honored to be among this growing and exclusive membership in the President's Club.

In recent weeks, this group of nearly three dozen employees was treated to an off-campus lunch with the President as a token of appreciation from the Foundation.

Every dollar donated to the GPTC Foundation by employees is very much appreciated, but the *one percenters* go beyond the call of duty. We are proud to announce that this group has grown by 50 percent in the first three months of FY23. Every employee donor to the Foundation



ALL TOGETHER Faculty and staff who donate one percent of their take-home salary to the Foundation are treated to special 'thank you' lunches with President Holston.

is recognized on the "Gratitude List" that is posted on the wall outside the President's office. New donors, those that have increased their donation and the one percent donors have additional recognition on this list.

The funds generated by these donations and other contributions to the Foundation go to support scholarships, purge relief and other initiatives within the College and in

the community.

If you'd like to pledge funds to the GPTC Foundation through payroll deduction, just use the **QR code** to fill out and submit your pledge.

You also have an opportunity to support the Foundation by joining us for a **Masquerade Ball on October 30**. The inaugural theme is "Unmasking your Potential." Purchase tickets at gptc.edu.

Employee Spotlight: Candice Buckley & Dr. Ramona Pollard, associate vice presidents

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Ramona Pollard and Candice Buckley! Both have recently been promoted to Associate Vice President in their respective division. Read more about them here!

While she has been here for a few months, we'd be remiss if we didn't extend a warm and hearty welcome to Kimberly Mathews, Georgia Piedmont Tech's new dual enrollment coordinator. She brings a wealth of knowledge from her time as a retention and career services coordinator with Southern Crescent Technical College.



CANDICE BUCKLEY

Associate Vice President of Student Affairs

I am excited to use this role to even further dig deeper into the ensuring that we look at student feedback and data to make informed decisions. I always try to look through the lens of the student with departmental decisions and processes. Now, even more I am motivated to take Student Affairs to new heights and to continue to advocate for our students and staff.

FAVORITE PASTIME?

I have a set of toddler twins, so much of my free time is devoted to navigating the highs and challenges with their developmental journey (and tantrums). However, when I do have free time, I binge on classic horror movies. My favorite collection of horror movies is from the 1980's - which are arguably more scarier and gratifying!

THE MOST MEMORABLE ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED?

The most memorable piece of advice that has resonated with me on my professional journey is the quote: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts." I consider myself as a very restorative professional with a very eager spirit to improve processes. If the strategy doesn't work the first time, I have now learned on my journey to not give up, but evaluate, learn from the challenges, and try again.



DR. RAMONA POLLARD

Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs

It is an honor and privilege to serve others...Education remains the mechanism of change. Being part of the process that impacts the trajectory of students' lives is an amazing feeling. As GPTC continues to move forward, we will continue to do so in a manner reflective of assessment, compassion, and innovation.

SOMETHING PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Most people would not know that I am a country music fan. In the 6th grade, I penned a country music song that was put to music at the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum in Nashville, TN.

THE MOST MEMORABLE ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED?

I often like to just get things done quickly and can become agitated when things take too long. In attempt to help me with anxiety while working on my dissertation, one of my best friends told me to stop and "embrace the journey". Sometimes we can become so caught up with the final destination that we forget to enjoy the moments that get us there.

