



Forward Thinking

New year brings new milestones



Hello, GPTC Family! I pray that 2022 brings you and your family much health and happiness.

This is shaping up to be an amazing year for our College. I can feel the excitement and enthusiasm of our students as they return to in-person learning. Your welcoming smiles and service truly make a difference. Thanks for making their learning experiences “unforgettable.”

Did you know that through your contributions to the GPTC Foundation that over \$36,000 in scholarship funds were awarded to students for Spring Semester? Your gifts produce the greatest return on investment, a 100% job placement rate. Thank you! Please consider giving to the Foundation if you haven't already done so.

Other highlights include a \$170,000 training grant award to our Campus Police Department in support of a virtual simulation room. Our Student Affairs Team—as part of a statewide initiative—has launched a new customer relations management system, Target X. The new system will streamline the student application process and strengthen our engagement with prospective students.

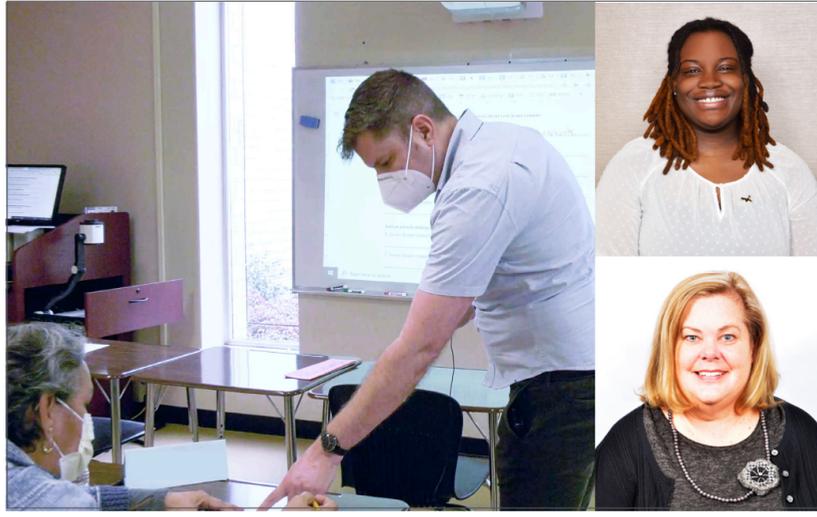
Our momentum continues to build, but our work is not done. Let's push hard towards our BHAG (Big Hairy Audacious Goal) to touch the lives of at least 7,000 adult education students and 7,000 credit students per term by 2027 (7,000 by 2027). Our way forward is through living our values...daily. Learn. Serve. Lead.

— Dr. Tarez Holston, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Summer Registration Opens Monday, March 14, 2022
- St. Patrick's Day / Thursday, March 17, 2022
- Institutional Day / Friday, April 1, 2022
> Campus closed, no classes
- Graduation / Saturday, May 15, 2022

College celebrates student and faculty winners



WINNING L to R: English as a Second Language Instructor Sean Denmark assists a student with a grammar lesson. Headshots of Student and Teacher of the Year, Natasha Henry and Sherry Lowery respectively.

Congratulations to Georgia Piedmont's GOAL (Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership) and RPA (Rick Perkins Award) winners, HVAC student Natasha Henry and Early Childhood Care & Education instructor Sherry Lowery. Both will compete regionally in March and, if named regional winners, will continue their journey at the state level in April. All the best to Natasha and Sherry! For more information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3JUVYmL>.

Speaking of big winners, the college's adult education instructor of the year, Sean Denmark, has been named one of four finalists for the state title of TCSG's adult ed instructor of the year. Following some virtual interviews in late February, Sean will go on to the final competition in mid-March. For more information, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3hg9JQK>.

Signing ceremony win-win for College



When area industries partner with GPTC in apprenticeship efforts, it's a win-win for all involved.

On February 10, college officials held a special signing ceremony with ten apprentices representing the five companies that are supporting them.

Special thanks to Beaver Manufacturing, Bostick Inc., Golden State Foods, Hormel, and SRG Global. To read more about this story, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3heHcuX>.

Student awarded with inaugural scholarship



GIVING BACK L to R: Cory Thompson, Executive Director of the GPTC Foundation, Dr. Wendy Wilmoth, and Dr. Tarez Holston, President of the College, present the inaugural scholarship award.

Contributed by Cory Thompson

Dr. David Paul Bunnell had a passion for technical education students. He knew that a computer was an essential tool for student learning and success.

“Technical colleges were close to his heart,” Dr. Wendy Wilmoth, Director of Library Services at Georgia Piedmont Technical College, said, “especially non-traditional students.”

“He was a computer guy, having been IT director for Urbana University in his early career,” she added.

Dr. Bunnell passed away in April 2021 after a lengthy illness. A month later, Dr. Wilmoth, his widow, approached the GPTC Foundation about setting up a scholarship in his honor.

It was her way of carrying on his legacy and promoting the cause her late husband held so dear. Wilmoth established the Dr. David Paul Bunnell

Memorial Computer Scholarship.

A computer is awarded to a student in need, who applies for the scholarship through the GPTC Foundation.

“I would really like to provide a computer for a deserving student,” Wilmoth said. “I know a lot of students really need their own computer.”

In Fall 2021, the inaugural scholarship was offered. Seven students applied. Latifu Brooks, a Recording Arts and Technology student was awarded the scholarship. In his thank you letter to Wilmoth, Brooks said:

By awarding me the [scholarship,] you have lightened my financial burden, which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school—learning.

Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Alumni spotlight: Alumna overcomes obstacles, achieves success

Contributed by Deborah White

Some in my family would tell me, you can't do it, no college would ever accept you; you have too many obstacles; you'll never make it—was the unrelenting message GPTC Alumna Princess Bellamy carried with her. “But despite the obstacles and what was said—I did it!” Bellamy exclaimed.

“There have been a lot of challenges in my life,” she continued.

Bellamy was put out of her mother's house at 17, dropped out of school and became a single mother of three children. Even through all the tough times, she held strong to the words of her grandmothers. *You're going to be the trail blazer of the family, trust and have faith in God.* Those words kept her moving forward and to go on and achieve her goal.

Bellamy enrolled in the GED program at GPTC and graduated in 2016. She credited the GED staff for helping and encouraging her along the way. Afterward, Bellamy enrolled in the medical assistant diploma program at GPTC and graduated in 2020. She then took and passed the registered medical assistant test, and is now working as a registered medical assistant. “I'm able to take care of my children and I love what I do”, Bellamy said.

“The staff and faculty at GPTC really help their students succeed and when hardships hit,” she went on, “my program director, Ms. Janice Pressley and the Foundation staff were there for me!”

“I really appreciate their support and encouragement,” she said.

The proud alumna plans to continue her education by returning to GPTC next



PRINCESS BELLAMY

year in the LPN program. She plans to go to medical school and become a pediatrician.

“I did it,” she said, “and I encourage other single parents that they can do it too! Believe in yourself and have faith.”

Employee Spotlight with: Registrar Assistant Reynard Bufkin



REYNARD BUFKIN

Going Above & Beyond

Sometimes, the Registrar's Office interfaces with students that may have academic challenges or may not be ready to graduate but need additional credits - and Reynard would have to be the bearer of the not so positive news.

I have witnessed Reynard maneuver these challenging situations and conversations with students with grace. He connects with our students on their level. He is empathetic, and he positions himself as a student advocate. This is so important in our work that we make sure our students feel valued.

— Candice Buckley, Dean, Student Affairs

Favorite part of your job?

I honestly enjoy being able to help out with graduation and see all of our students celebrate their accomplishments at the ceremony. It's a ceremony honoring not only their hard work but the work we all do as a college to get them across that stage and into their ideal fields.

Favorite pastime?

My favorite pastime is split between playing my Saxophone or relaxing and de-stressing by playing my PlayStation 4.

Favorite meal and why?

My favorite meal is lasagna because it was the first meal me and my father ever created together. He managed to give me some sage advice that I always keep with me.

Favorite destination?

My favorite destination is San Diego because I was born there and unashamedly claim it as the best city in the U.S.

What are you watching or reading?

I'm watching “The Woman in the House across the Street from the Girl in the Window” on Netflix. It's pretty thrilling. The latest book I've read is “A Promised Land” by Barack Obama - great read so far.

Best advice someone told you?

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.

Something people may not know about you?

I majored in Applied Mathematics at Georgia Tech and have an interesting love/hate relationship with math.

Favorite memory of yours?

My favorite memory would have to be when I truly mastered swimming as a kid and beat my father in a race in the pool. Thinking back he may have let me win but the memory still remains as a great one to this day.

