



## Groundbreakings, renovations and lions—oh my!



### Fellow GPTC Team Members,

It's hard to believe that in just over a week, we'll be welcoming back our students for the upcoming academic year! Speaking of which, our enrollment numbers are holding strong. A special shout-out to our enrollment services team for making it work, despite having to initiate the dreaded purge midway through the registration window and the fact that CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) funds are no longer an option for our students.

Our campus renovations are coming along and many in DeKalb are seeing new furniture. The lobby will soon be completely redone and the exterior work will be reconvening soon. For those in Newton, your furniture is scheduled to arrive the week of Aug. 23 with interior construction slated to get underway in January 2024. The new driving range there is set to be completed at the end of this month and, of course, we'll be hosting a groundbreaking ceremony for the future Regional Transportation Training Center (RTTC) in Stonecrest on Aug. 30. It'll be ready for students in Fall 2024.

Our college is in the process of soft-launching its new campaign—GPTC Connects. As part of the campaign, we'll be introducing our first-ever masco—the GPTC Lions. The yet-to-be-named lion mascot will make its first appearance at the annual Trunk or Treat event in Clarkston on Halloween evening. Be sure to join us!

And finally, mark your calendars for Friday, Nov. 17. This will be our annual Grateful Gathering event held at the Newton campus. Now, go forth and help our students find their way FORWARD!

- Dr. Tavarez Holston, President

## Looking back at Spring & Summer 2023



Whether it was graduations, student or faculty and staff activities, GPTC's calendar has been stacked in 2023. In April, the Adult Education department held its annual high school equivalency and English as a Second Language graduation with popular AJC political cartoonist, Mark Luckovich as the guest speaker.

After delivering his keynote speech, Luckovich drew a portrait of Vice President of Adult Education, Dr. Meghan McBride. On May 10, GPTC's first groundbreaking was held for the CDL program at the Newton Campus. Another groundbreaking for the brand new

Regional Transportation Training Center facility is slated for Aug. 30.

GPTC's first in-person and indoor commencement ceremony since the COVID-19 pandemic was held on May 20. News station 11Alive featured GPTC's graduating mother and daughter duo and can be watched [here](#).

In June, GPTC celebrated July 4th early with the Red, White & Blue BBQ, courtesy of Ginn Motor Company and a ice cream social hosted by student-led Campus Life. SkillsUSA student participants also won big in June! GPTC finished up the summer with

program graduations including practical nursing, the law enforcement academy, work-ready training for Newton inmate residents and manufacture ready. Earlier this month, GPTC helped raise \$541 for MiAsia Symone's Back 2 School Block Party, which provided over 150 GPTC swag bags filled with supplies for students in need. Fox 5 News covered the event and can be viewed [here](#).

And with the return of students just around the corner for Fall 2023, GPTC has so much more in store! Read more about these events on GPTC's [website](#).

## GPTC Foundation thanks donors supporting student success

Contributed by the GPTC Foundation

### DONOR APPRECIATION NIGHT

The Foundation was delighted to welcome our esteemed donors to a vibrant luau-themed event on Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

This evening celebrated the contributions of our donors, recognizing their pivotal role in empowering our students to achieve their academic dreams. Special recognitions were presented to Ginn Motor Co., Schnitzer Steel (DBA Radius Recycling), JTA Enterprises, Merancas Foundation, Georgia Power, Dr. Kristin Corkhill, Johnson Controls and United Way of Greater Atlanta.

### NAMING OPPORTUNITY 'SET IN STEEL'

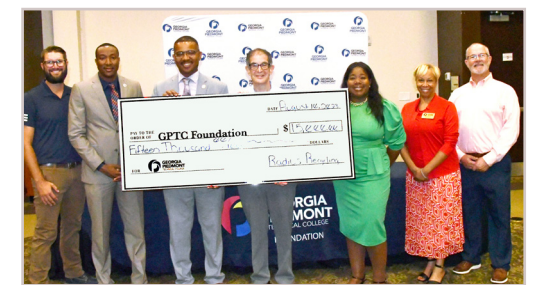
Schnitzer Steel (DBA Radius Recycling) was on campus Thursday, August 10 for a check-signing ceremony. The company is donating \$15,000 toward the Regional Transportation Training Center.

Schnitzer Steel will be remembered for



**BLAZING HOT** The GPTC Foundation is on fire with donations rolling in and putting on community events. their dedication to education, as they will have a classroom named after them at the RTTC.

Again, we extend our heartfelt gratitude



to our donors who make transformational education possible. Together, we are forging a brighter future for our students, our community, and beyond.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **WELCOME WEEK EVENTS / AUG. 22-30**  
> For more info email [sga@gptc.edu](mailto:sga@gptc.edu)
- **MEET YOUR GPTC ADVISOR / AUG. 24**  
> DeKalb Campus, Noon-1:30 PM
- **GPTC SCAVENGER HUNT / AUG. 24**  
> DeKalb Campus. 9 AM - 4 PM
- **CLUB FEST / AUG. 23 & 30**  
> DeKalb - 23rd, Newton - 30th
- **FITNESS SERIES KICKOFF / SEPT. 6-NOV. 6**  
> Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays

## Employee Spotlight: Dr. Chioma Michaelson, Director of Opticianry



Dr. Chioma Michaelson

### Going Above & Beyond

We are so proud of Dr. Chioma Michaelson's accomplishments and coverage in the Executive Suite OPHD magazine! Dr. Michaelson obtained her optometry degree in Nigeria and practiced in the UK. She obtained her OPHD associate degree at GPTC.

After working in the field of opticianry, she gained employment with the College in September 2021. Currently, Dr. Michaelson is the OPHD Program Director and enjoys working with her students and colleagues.

Theresa Snagg  
Dean of Allied Health

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

I enjoy getting to know my students. Each cohort brings new students and each comes with different personalities, strengths and weaknesses. I enjoy working out a plan for success for each of them.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU BEING NAMED A RISING STAR BY VISION MONDAY?

It means that I must be doing something right and I need to keep doing what I am doing.

### IF YOUR LIFE HAD A THEME SONG, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

I Am A Survivor. The path to GPTC was not an easy one. It was lined with total humility and a few tears. It does not matter now, because I found my passion.

### WHERE DO YOU FEEL MOST PEACEFUL AND WHY?

When I am out walking a trail. I love nature.

### TOP THREE THINGS YOU COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT ARE?

My kids, walking shoes and my phone.

### YOUR FAVORITE PLACES TO VISIT ARE?

I have been to quite a few places across several continents...My best place to date is Beijing. I love Asian architecture, food and I particularly love visiting their temples.

### SOMETHING PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU IS...?

I love mud runs. I have participated in several Savage, Spartan and Terrain Races.

