



WELCOME!

2017 IS UPON US, BRINGING ABOUT A NEW YEAR WITH NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR GROWTH AND CHANGE!

As a part of our growth, I am delighted to introduce the very first edition of the GPTC Alumni Newsletter! Our aim is to make this communication valuable to you, our students and alumni, by including helpful tips on education, job searches and events here on GPTC campuses.

We hope that you will find each edition of the GPTC Alumni Newsletter meaningful and inspirational, while it forms you as you move forward in your day-to-day environments. The inspirational information will serve to guide you in reaching your own personal goals and enjoying the exciting happenings at your alma mater.

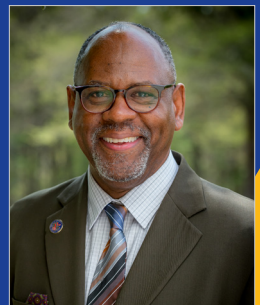
We encourage you to share your success stories with us! Hearing feedback from students and alumni helps motivate our faculty and staff, as well as current students and members of the community. Let us share your story to empower and inspire others to thrive. We welcome your feedback on the GPTC Alumni Newsletter. Feel free to contact the Foundation any time to let us know how we may better serve you.

Welcome to the GPTC Alumni Newsletter!



ISSUE 1

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Dr. Jabari Simama

President

Georgia Piedmont Technical College

TRANSITIONING into a NEW JOB

Congratulations! You have landed a new job! You made it through the grueling application and interview processes and were given a job offer. This is a new, exciting opportunity for you to begin anew. The future ahead of you is bright.

First things first...celebrate! Take some time with friends or family to applaud this win. For ideal physical and mental health, experts recommend taking some time between jobs to get a massage, go on a short vacation or spend time with loved ones.

Now, it's time to get to work. You are about to walk into the doors of a work space where you more than likely do not know your co-workers or new bosses. That's fine. Let's talk about your making a great first impression.



HELPFUL TIPS *for transitioning into your new job!*



Positive Attitude.

No one wants to hear about the co-worker with smelly feet in the cubicle next to you at your last job. They also don't want to see you turn up your nose at this new opportunity. Fresh start, fresh mindset. Smile and give it your best shot.



Test Run.

Being late on the first day makes a very bad impression with your co-workers and managers. A few days before you begin, map out the best route to take and time yourself. This will help eliminate first day jitters caused by worrying if you are going to be late.



Increase Participation.

Yes, learning a new job may seem daunting. But extending a hand, where you are able will help you meet others. It will also show that you are resourceful, something that may come in handy down the road.



Dress The Part.

Make sure you are fully aware of the expected dress code once you accept the new position. If you have any questions about what to wear, those questions should be addressed prior to showing up on the first day.



Take Notes.

Your trainer will be throwing a lot at you on the first day. Make sure you are equipped with a small note pad and pen to write down information that may be a challenge to remember.



Save Your Criticism.

"At my last job, we..." Your new cohorts are not interested in the flow of work where you were. You are at a new job now. Save your tips on productivity for after you have a good working idea of the flow at your new place.



Don't Give Up.

It may be challenging, but you were built for it! Keep trucking and get the job done!

AM I ON THE RIGHT PATH?

Going to work every day should be more than just something to pay the bills. It should be rewarding and fulfilling. Honestly, after spending upwards of 12 hours per day punching the clock, you deserve to do something that you enjoy.

A Gallup poll released in 2012 tallied twice as many “actively disengaged” workers as there were people who were in love with their jobs. At GPTC, we want to do our part to ensure you are one of the lucky ones. Career Services has extensive resources and information to help you find a course of study and career path that is right for you.

In Career Services, there are counselors to walk you through effectively assessing where you are, as well as exploring your options. On April 18th, we will be hosting our Annual Spring Career Fair at the DeKalb Conference Center from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Arrive early, prepared in professional attire with updated resumes and bright smiles.

Can't wait until spring? Our Job Board is virtual, accessible at your fingertips from any mobile device. Don't begin your week with the Monday Morning Blues! Let GPTC help you find the best career for you!

Visit www.gptc.edu today!

FAST FACTS

GPTC's graduation rate is **more than 74%**

74%

98.7%

1937

62%

The number of graduates has increased from **1202** in **2013** to **1937** in **2016**.

98.7% of GPTC graduates **were placed in a job** that was in or related to their field of study, or went on to continue their education.

62% of students received the **Pell Grant**

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Ramona Pollard, who currently serves as Program Director of Banking, Accounting, & Finance, has been a member of the GPTC Family for almost a decade. Teaching is her passion, she has used her knack for educating others informally in some form or fashion long before coming on board. Living her dream to be an educator, Pollard hopes that passion translates to her students. She was inspired to teach by an accounting instructor she encountered during her undergraduate studies at Fisk University, who was able to transform book knowledge into applicable life skills. Pollard's excitement for helping to steer students down the right path was recently recognized when she received the Rick Perkins Award. This prestigious, honor is given to outstanding instructors of Technical College System of Georgia. Join us in congratulating Ramona Pollard!

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Sonya Bingham took home the Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL) for Georgia Piedmont Technical College. GOAL is a statewide competition that focuses on excellence in technical education in which students are nominated by their instructors. Out of a student body of more than 4,000 students, Bingham and three other students were selected as top four finalists out of 29 nominees. Bingham was selected as the student 2017-2018 Student of the Year.

Dr. Tomeika Williams noticed the drive and dedication displayed by Bingham and nominated her for the GOAL award. There were two rounds of interviews where students answered questions and recited a speech centered on topics of leadership, technical skills, and the current state of technical education. Each Technical College has a GOAL winner who will then compete on the regional and state levels to determine the new state ambassador for the Technical College System of Georgia. As an ambassador for Georgia Piedmont Technical College, Bingham feels like it is her duty to educate others on the benefits of technical education. “Immediately upon entering a technical college, you begin to gain skills that may take years to acquire in a traditional college. Skills that you can instantly put to work for you!” For financial reasons, after initially entering college in 2001, Bingham made the decision to enter the workforce. She decided in 2014 to return back to college to gain a competitive advantage, better pay and greater opportunities for advancement.



2016 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Upon receiving the call that she'd won the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award, **LaCoshia Williams'** eyes instantly filled with joy. It's no wonder Ms. Williams was chosen. In the midst of working for a national technology protection company where she manages, oversees and drives growth for a national program with various client channels, she managed to author four books. Balancing a career with a demanding travel schedule where she currently travels about 60% of the time and has traveled through 41 different states while simultaneously realizing ambitions to be an author, has not been an easy task. All four of her books, which can be found on her website, were inspired by a very personal journey with moments of stress and discouragement. She realized there was a "thirst for quick read empowerment books" with useful resources for self, education and career growth that most people can relate to. This experience has confirmed to Ms. Williams that she is, "doing something right", while arming her with additional motivation to keep up the good work! When not busy traveling for work or penning books, she enjoys golf, horseback riding, cooking and scrapbooking.

www.yourbreakthrough.org

CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

GPTC and Clark Atlanta University (CAU) have implemented a new partnership program between the two schools. "Access 4 Achievement" aims to strengthen academic rigor and promote student success. It calls for dual admissions and joint enrollment for qualified students at both institutions, program-specific transfer agreements, along with joint faculty and teaching opportunities for graduate students and faculty at both institutions.

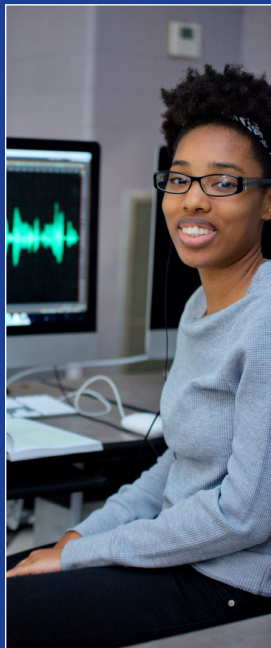
For more information, please contact **Zaundra Brown** at **404-297-9522**



PATHWAYS PROGRAM PARTNERSHIP WITH VSU

Last year, GPTC and Valdosta State University (VSU) signed The Pathways Program Agreement which simplifies student transition between the two schools. This monumental move definitely works in favor of hard-working students. Now, GPTC students who earn an Associate of Applied Science will receive maximized transfer credits toward a Bachelor's degree. To see which articulated programs are benefited, read more here.

www.valdosta.edu



GEORGIA PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION

The Georgia Piedmont Technical College Foundation works to provide the extra financial boost students need – whether that is helping them stay in school or exposing them to different programming. We raise money both internally and externally to provide scholarships for our hardworking students and to support the ongoing growth of our college campus. Partnering with the United Way to offer to students experiencing financial hardships assistance, the foundation has awarded 46 scholarships since Fall 2016 for a total of \$30,526.25. Learn more about how the United Way Financial Empowerment Services (FES) Cash Assistance Program helps to offer support for tuition, books, fees and transportation. Complete the hardship application at the link above or contact the Foundation at 404-297-9522.

Alternately, if you are able to make a tax-deductible gift to support other students and your place of purpose, Georgia Piedmont Technical College, please visit www.gptc.edu/give today!

