



# Community Benefit Report

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2022



## Vision

Aiken Technical College seeks to be the first choice for higher education in the region.

## Mission

Aiken Technical College is a public, open-door, two-year comprehensive institution of higher education established to provide citizens of greater Aiken County opportunities for educational and workforce development.

## Values

ATC's core values define the College and provide the environment for all decisions and actions.

### These core values are:

#### COLLABORATION

Exemplified in community-centered relationships and partnerships

#### COMMITMENT

Exemplified in students, businesses, and community

#### DIVERSITY

Exemplified in inclusiveness, respect, and compassion

#### EXCELLENCE

Exemplified in teaching, learning, engagement, and development

#### INNOVATION

Exemplified in new approaches, risk-taking, flexibility, change, and leadership

#### INTEGRITY

Exemplified by honesty, accountability, and transparency



### ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

Aiken Technical College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Aiken Technical College.



Dear Friends,

**With you, we are proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Aiken Technical College in 2022.**

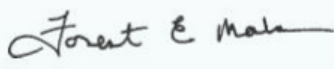
For a half-century, the College has been a community resource to provide workforce development, leading to economic mobility for thousands. Thank you for the privilege, and we promise another 50 years of educational excellence for Aiken County and beyond.

Over the years, the College has relied on key relationships to advance our mission of providing citizens of greater Aiken County opportunities for educational and workforce development. Partnerships with the County, the City of Aiken, legislative and congressional delegations, the Aiken County Public School District, business and industry, and the Aiken Technical College Foundation are examples of the amazing alliances we cultivated over the years with mutual outcomes that only serve to uplift our beloved community.

Such partnerships will be key as we expand our welding lab and build a new Nursing Education Center, thanks to funding allocated by the South Carolina State Legislature from the Savannah River Site Litigation Settlement Fund. Approximately \$13 million total was granted for the two projects.

We hope you will enjoy the 2022 Community Benefit Report. On behalf of our alumni, faculty, staff, and students, thank you for your continued friendship and support of Aiken Technical College.

Together we can,



**Forest E. Mahan, Ph.D**

PRESIDENT

*Aiken Technical College*



**Joe Lewis**

CHAIR

*Aiken County Commission  
for Technical and  
Comprehensive Education*



**Mallory Holley**

CHAIR

*Aiken Technical  
College Foundation*



**INSIDE**

**50 Years of Impact**  
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# AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF Educating Minds, Changing Lives, and Enriching Communities

**50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
GROUP PHOTO:**  
A group photo of Aiken  
Technical College  
employees was among  
the items included in  
the time capsule.

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY Celebration








Aiken Technical College held several events in 2022 to celebrate the College's impact and to reconnect with friends, alumni, and supporters of Aiken Tech.



View footage from the  
time capsule ceremony

### Capturing a Moment in Time

Aiken Technical College celebrated its 50th birthday on September 1, 2022, with a time capsule burial ceremony. The College's anniversary committee collected more than 30 items representing the College, including:

-  A letter from President Forest Mahan, Ph.D.
-  Draft copy of the preliminary report on the need for the Aiken County Technical Education Center dated May 1969 (Note: The college was founded as the Aiken Technical Education Center, and the name was changed in March 1978 to Aiken Technical College.)
-  Copy of the first academic catalog for years 1972-1974
-  Copy of the membership admission letter from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to Aiken Technical Education Center dated December 15, 1975
-  Copy of the Aiken Tech basketball program history from 1991-2013
-  Printed copy of the employee group photo taken at the start of the time capsule ceremony
-  Original copy of the 1973 Reflections yearbook

### TIME CAPSULE ITEMS

More than 30 items were collected by the 50th anniversary committee for inclusion in the time capsule.





# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF IMPACT

Aiken Technical College alumni, employees, retirees, students, and community supporters gathered on September 29, 2022 for the 50th anniversary celebration to culminate the year-long observance of the College's golden year.

## 50<sup>TH</sup> COMMISSIONED ARTWORK

Artist Cara Leverette was commissioned to create a commemorative 50th anniversary artwork that was displayed during the event.

## ANNIVERSARY RESOLUTION PRESENTATIONS

Members of the Aiken County Legislative Delegation presented President Forest Mahan, Ph.D. (third from left), with resolutions from the South Carolina House and Senate in recognition of the anniversary. Aiken County Council Chair Gary Bunker also presented a proclamation to the College on behalf of Aiken County government.



## INAUGURAL DAY OF GIVING \$32,622

The Aiken Technical College Foundation raised \$32,622 for student scholarships during its inaugural Day of Giving on September 1, 2022.

To honor the College's founding date of September 1, 1972, the Day of Giving lasted 19 hours and 72 minutes.

Alumni, friends, and community partners were invited to participate by giving to the Foundation to support the Student Scholarship Fund.



## Honoring the College's First Graduates

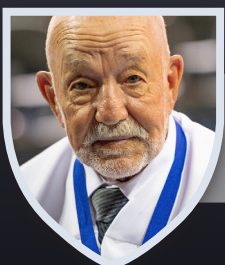
Aiken Technical College invited members of its first graduating classes, 1973-1975, to participate in the 2022 Commencement Ceremony on May 3, 2022.

Participants wore white gowns and a special commemorative medallion as part of the event. Words of wisdom provided by the alumni were shared during the event's ceremony.

### Participating alumni included (name, class year, and major):

William J. Bryan, 1974,  
Textile Management  
Larry S. Harper, 1975, Industrial Drafting  
William D. Mackley, 1975, Welding  
John Ansley Morrison, 1974,  
Industrial Drafting  
Ralph W. Moseley, 1974, Machine Tool  
Teresa Brock Parchen, 1973,  
Technical Secretary

Brent D. Phillips, 1975, Welding  
Josephine Pope, 1973, Technical Secretary  
Robert J. Reed, 1974, Nuclear Technology  
Douglas D. Todd, 1975, Industrial Electricity  
Cy Trest, 1975,  
Electro-Mechanical Engineering  
Elizabeth "Ann" Ashley Wendt,  
1975 (Certificate) and 1976 (Associate),  
Technical Secretary



Edgefield, SC resident William Bryan, '74, was the College's first associate degree graduate. He graciously has donated his diploma to the College for its historical archives.



# New Nursing Education Center Planned to Meet Workforce Demand

Aiken Technical College is working toward meeting the growing demand for nursing professionals. With a new Nursing Education Center on the horizon, the College will soon be able to make even more of an impact.

The South Carolina state legislature has allocated \$11.5 million to Aiken Tech from the Savannah River Site Litigation Settlement Fund for the Nursing Education Center capital project. The legislative body also previously designated \$3 million for the facility.

The Nursing Education Center will include auditorium-type seating for increased classroom capacity, advanced technology, state-of-the-art skills and simulation lab spaces, and additional faculty office space to support program growth.

"With a dedicated building, we will have proper classroom space to accommodate larger classes and incorporate simulations and high-fidelity mannequins within the lectures," said School of Nursing Dean Hannah Williams, D.N.P. "This will enhance student learning by allowing them to see disease processes in action with simulated patient responses and feedback."

The College expects the Nursing Education Center capital project to be completed in approximately 2.5 years.

## Each semester, the School of Nursing accepts the following:

**40**

students in its  
associate degree  
nursing program

**16**

students in its  
diploma practical  
nursing program

**8**

students in its LPN  
to registered nurse  
transition program

*The Nursing Education Center will provide the space needed to increase the number of students admitted to the College's nursing programs by a projected 69.6% and help the College address the growing nursing shortage.*

The Nursing Education Center will become the new home for the School of Nursing and help the College meet the growing workforce demand for nursing professionals.



School of Nursing Dean Hannah Williams, D.N.P. provides instruction during a nursing skills lab. The Nursing Education Center will provide opportunities to enhance learning experiences and interactions.





# New Concurrent Enrollment Partnership Offers Unique Pathway to BSN Degree



Aiken Technical College President Forest E. Mahan, Ph.D. (left) and Grand Canyon University's University Development Manager Jason Tantrum, MSL sign the agreement for the concurrent enrollment pathway program for Aiken Tech nursing students during an event held on September 28, 2022

**Aiken Technical College has partnered with Grand Canyon University (GCU) to offer students enrolled in Aiken Tech's Associate in Applied Science Nursing (ADN; RN) degree program a unique pathway to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) in a shorter period.**

"This is our first signing in South Carolina for the Concurrent Enrollment Program," said GCU University Development Manager Jason Tantrum, MSL, adding that Aiken Tech was eligible for this opportunity due to its nursing graduates' success on the National Council Licensure Examination. "The significance is that not everyone qualifies...you guys are one of three to qualify here in South Carolina, and you were the first to sign this Concurrent Enrollment Program. So we're excited about that."

The RN-BSN concurrent enrollment pathway allows students to begin earning credits toward a bachelor's degree in nursing following their first semester of the ADN program. Participants then continue to take GCU courses during their summer and winter breaks through graduating from Aiken Tech with their Associate in Applied Science Nursing degree.

Participants continue coursework with GCU to complete their bachelor's degree program within nine months after graduating from Aiken Tech.

*"We firmly believe in providing our students with a strong foundation, a strong skill set, and a knowledge base that will allow them to transition into the surrounding workforce seamlessly... We're extremely excited about it as it will set Aiken Technical College apart from others, as well as give our students the opportunity to go out and obtain their dreams and their goals and help meet the needs of our surrounding communities."*

**HANNAH WILLIAMS, D.N.P.  
School of Nursing Dean**





Lillian Brock writes a response to the question "what's powering you?" on the inspiration board in the Student Activities Center.



**AIKEN**  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

*new*  
**"Uniquely Powerful"  
Brand Identity  
Launched**



Destin Freeman showcases one of several shirts now donning the new logo and brand.

**Aiken Technical College  
revealed its new brand  
identity in August 2022  
during its annual academic  
year kickoff event.**



**LOGO REVEAL  
PRESENTATION**

World Design Marketing founder and senior partner Wayne Johnson talks about the College's new logo, slogan, and color palette during the annual academic year kickoff event for Aiken Technical College employees. The college worked with World Design Marketing to develop its new brand.

"It is an exciting time for the college. Over the past 50 years, the college has made a significant impact by educating minds, changing lives, and enriching communities," said President Forest E. Mahan, Ph.D. "We look to the future of the college and making a difference in our community for another 50 years and beyond. I want to thank the Office of Marketing and Communications team for their leadership on this initiative."

Aiken Tech contracted with World Design Marketing, a marketing firm based in Hilton Head, SC, to develop its new brand and visual identity, including a new logo, slogan, and color palette. The process took about eight months, including research, focus group meetings, and interviews with various stakeholders.

The College's new logo was inspired by an aerial view of the campus to form a shield shape. Inside the shield are two leaning graphical elements that create an upward arrow representing students learning from and leaning on faculty and staff. The background within the shield represents the college and community supporting the efforts of students, faculty, and staff.

Aiken Tech's new slogan, "Uniquely Powerful," represents the strength of the College's educational and workforce training opportunities and how they prepare students for success.



**The new color palette builds on the familiarity of the College's powerful blue color, extending the palette to include colors represented on the College's campus and environment.**

# Uniquely Powerful



# New Executives Focused on Student Success

**In fall 2022, Aiken Technical College gained a new Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs and a new Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, focused on supporting student success.**

The Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs Chad Crumbaker, J.D., said his goal is to ensure that Aiken Technical College is student-ready and supports students throughout their college journey.

"We want to continue building a culture at ATC that is welcoming and inclusive for all and that creates a strong sense of belonging for every student. We'll use our resources to focus attention on developing strong, individualized relationships with students to support the attainment of their college and career goals by creating efficiencies within our processes and systems so that our team can best use its time to connect with and guide our students," Crumbaker said.

Melinda Rodgers, the Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, is focused on the student experience, promoting the value of an Aiken Technical College education from a cost-saving perspective, and helping students gain skills that lead to a career. The goal is to increase enrollment by 5 percent every fall semester over the next five years.

"To achieve this goal, my team will work to identify new recruitment strategies, launch a new Customer Relationship Management software and communication plan, improve the student onboarding process, implement a new advisement model, expand student engagement opportunities and increase knowledge of wrap-around services, such as tutoring, coaching, career, wellness for students," Rodgers said.

The expected results from these efforts include increased persistence, retention, completion, and graduation rates that will lead to sustainable enrollment while having fun in the process, Crumbaker added. The College is up 13.3 percent in enrollment in fall 2022 compared to fall 2021. Crumbaker said this is the first enrollment increase the College has experienced in the past several years.



*Chad Crumbaker, J.D. joined Aiken Technical College in September 2022 as the new Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs.*



*Melinda Rodgers joined Aiken Technical College in August 2022 as the new Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs.*

**13.3%** Aiken Technical College experienced a 13.3 percent increase in enrollment for fall 2022 compared to fall 2021.



# Learning Opportunities Enhanced with New Mock Pharmacy Lab

**Aiken Technical College's new mock retail pharmacy lab gives students the opportunity to learn in a realistic setting to better prepare them for their future.**

Pharmacy Technician Program Coordinator Lisa Jones said the lab is a valuable learning opportunity for students to apply concepts in a "real-world" pharmacy operation setting.

"Because the roles in this profession are constantly changing, the mock retail lab allows students to be knowledgeable by completing practical labs in order to make the critical mistakes to be learned within an academic environment prior to working in the field. This, in turn, can help students prepare for long-term success in this profession," Jones said.

Some of the key components of the lab include PioneerRx pharmacy software application, an intake area, a pharmacy pick-up and cash-register counter, a stock area, and equipment such as an automated dispensing system, refrigerator, incubator, medication cart, and more.

Jones said she hopes the lab experience will help students understand the knowledge and skills needed to assist the pharmacist, including preparing prescriptions, giving customer support, administrative tasks such as insurance processing, and inventory management, as it relates to federal and state laws.

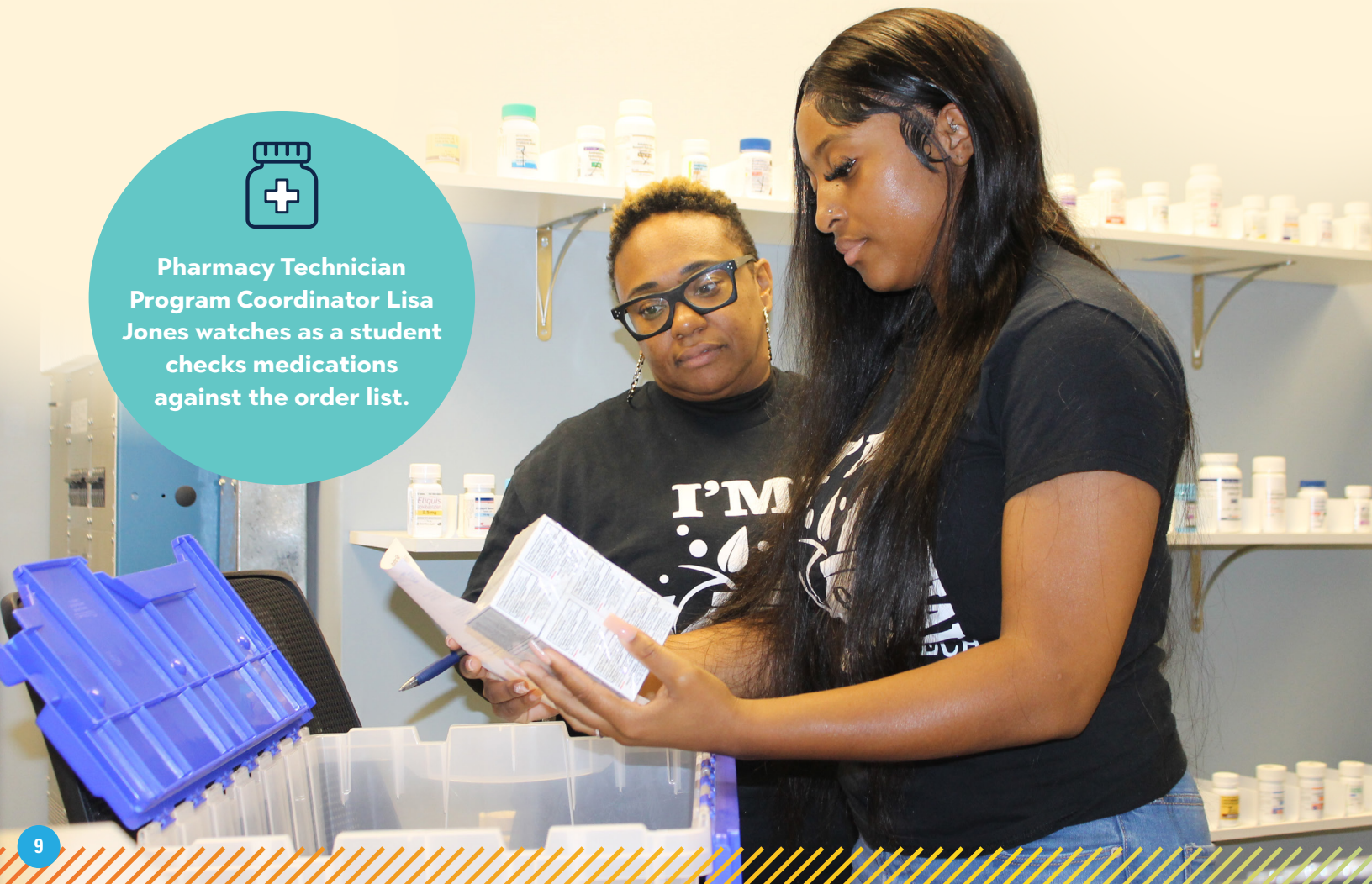
The lab allows students the opportunity to manage effective communication skills in addition to handling critical thinking, conflict resolution, problem-solving, time and organizational management, active listening, and customer service, all while using teamwork.

"My goal for the mock simulation lab is to be aligned with the programmatic accreditation standards for students as accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists in collaboration with the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ASHP/ACPE)," Jones said.

**The College's pharmacy technician program was established in 2006 and is accredited by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists in collaboration with the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education.**



**Pharmacy Technician Program Coordinator Lisa Jones watches as a student checks medications against the order list.**





Sgt. John E. McCord was employed with the Aiken County Sheriff's Office and was assigned to Aiken Tech as its on-campus deputy for more than a decade.



## College Dedicates and Renames Campus Building in Memory of Campus Officer

**Aiken Technical College held a private dedication ceremony in March 30, 2022 to formally rename its security building the John E. McCord Campus Security Building.**



[View video of the ceremony](#)

Sgt. McCord was employed by the Aiken County Sheriff's Office (ACSO) and was assigned to Aiken Tech as its on-campus deputy for more than 10 years until his death in July 2020. The building is the central campus office for the College's security operations and is a substation for the ACSO.

"Sgt. McCord was beloved by the Aiken Technical College family as much as he was by his blood relatives and law enforcement colleagues," said Dr. Forest E. Mahan, President of Aiken Technical College. "He protected the campus and the many people who gained knowledge, earned a living, and visited our campus for 10 years. It is only fitting that we dedicate the building in his memory as a physical reminder of the emotional connection he shared with others through his constant smile, caring and magnetic personality, influential presence, humility, and kindness."

Sgt. McCord's family members and ACSO Sheriff Michael Hunt also shared remarks with attendees, including relatives and friends of Sgt. McCord, Aiken Tech students and employees, and ACSO deputies and officials.



A dedication plaque was placed inside of the building, stating:

**"The John E. McCord Campus Security Building is dedicated in memory of exemplary service, commitment, and devotion to Aiken Technical College. Dedicated March 30, 2022"**





## Apprenticeship Partnership Prepares Students for Careers in Nuclear Industry

Aiken Technical College offers students the opportunity to prepare for careers at three major companies under the Savannah River Site (SRS)— Savannah River Mission Completion (SRMC), Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), and Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS).

The nuclear operator apprenticeship program provides Aiken Tech students with a unique learning opportunity by allowing them to simultaneously receive on-the-job training while completing their required classroom work. During the program, students receive both academic instruction in nuclear fundamentals from Aiken Tech and on-the-job training at SRS.

"One of our goals is to partner with local businesses to

develop a high-quality workforce to fill their job opportunities," said Aiken Tech President Forest Mahan, Ph.D. "Nuclear fundamentals training opens the door for students to pursue a successful career in a growing industry."



**Since its start in 2020, more than 80 students have participated in the apprenticeship program.**

Steven Simmons, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Technical and Continuing Education, said working for SRS is a prestigious position.

Due to the program's success, the apprenticeship program is expected to expand to serving over 100 students in 2023. Simmons's goals are to expand apprenticeships over the next five to 10 years to assist SRS contractors with their workforce development needs. He also hopes to expand apprenticeships to include industrial maintenance, lab technician, and machine tool technology positions.




*"We are extremely pleased to have this partnership with Aiken Technical College, which helps us strengthen our team while providing important job opportunities for the local workforce."*

**DAVE OLSON**  
SRMC President and  
Program Manager







The driving simulator is one of the several state-of-the-art simulations used to help provide students with realistic experiences.

## Unique Approach Helps Emergency Medical Technology Students Achieve Success

**For the past three years, 100 percent of graduates from Aiken Technical College's emergency medical technology programs have been successfully placed into jobs in the emergency medical services field.**

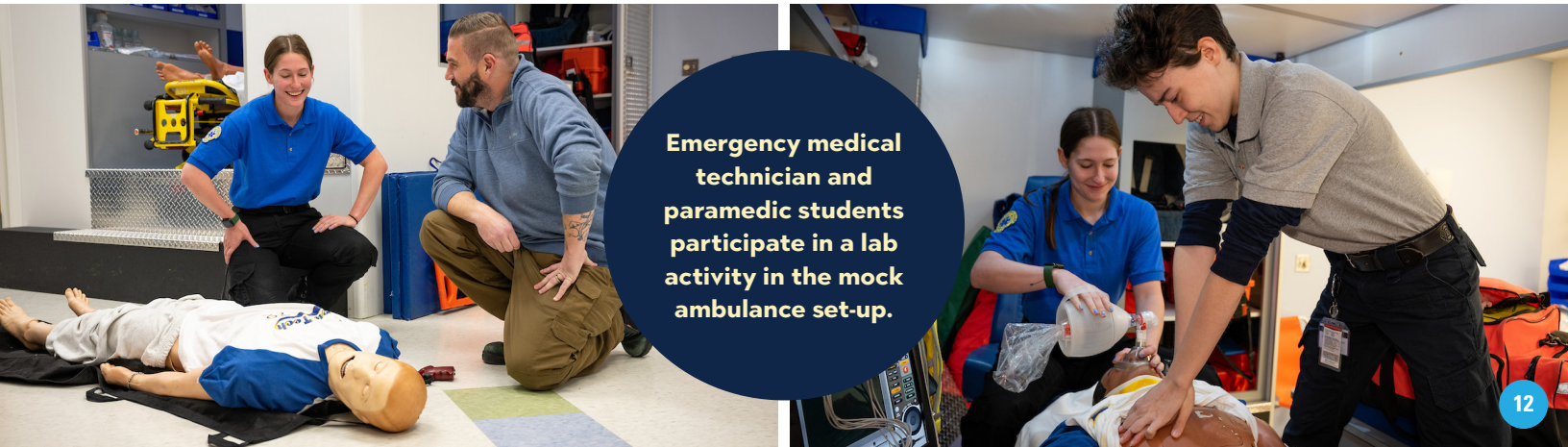
Program Director Jonathan Jones credits the program's flipped classroom format and use of state-of-the-art simulation experiences to the program's success.

Students enrolled in the emergency medical technician and paramedic programs complete lectures online and lab activities related to the lectures are conducted in person using high-fidelity, interactive simulations.

Some of the high-fidelity simulation equipment students use as part of their lab experiences include a SimMan 3g that instructors can program to simulate a variety of realistic patient scenarios and a driving simulation that teaches driving safety in emergency situations.

The format provides students an opportunity to be engaged and play an integral part in their learning experience rather than just the recipient of it, said Jones.

"When you teach yourself how to do something, it turns into muscle memory," he said. "You may have seen it. You may have heard people telling you about it. But, when you physically do it, it turns into long-term memory, and you're able to recall it later. It's where the saying, 'it's like riding a bike,' comes from. You don't necessarily forget how to ride a bike; may be a little rusty if you haven't done it in a while, but it comes right back to you. That's the whole premise of what we do in this program."



Emergency medical technician and paramedic students participate in a lab activity in the mock ambulance set-up.

# Awards + Recognitions



## Annual Report Recognized as One of Best in Region

The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations recognized Aiken Technical College for its 2021 Community Benefit Report. The annual publication received the bronze Medallion Award in the NCMPR's District 2 annual report category for its engaging content and design.

Produced annually by the Office of Marketing and Communications, the publication highlights the College's successes, impact, and initiatives from the calendar year.

◀ NCMPR is an organization for marketing, public relations, and communications professionals working at two-year community and technical colleges. The NCMPR District 2 is comprised of 11 southeastern states plus Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, and the Bahamas.



## Student Receives Prestigious New Century Workforce Scholar Award

The American Association of Community Colleges recognized Aiken Technical College student **Ismat Hasan** as a 2022 New Century Workforce Scholar. Hasan is working toward an Associate in Applied Science: Nursing degree at Aiken Tech.

New Century Workforce Scholars are selected based on their academic accomplishments, leadership, activities, and how they extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom. Over 2,200 students were nominated from more than 1,200 college campuses across the country. Only one New Century Workforce Scholar was selected from each state.

Each scholar also received a \$1,250 scholarship. This scholarship is the first of its kind to support students at associate degree-granting institutions on a national scale as they plan to enter the workforce upon the completion of a degree or certificate. The program is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

## SCTEA EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

The South Carolina Technical Education Association recognizes Educators of the Year from each SC technical college and the SC Technical College System office for their achievement and service. Awards are given in the categories of administrator, faculty, and staff.

Recipients will be recognized in February 2023 during the annual SCTEA conference.



ATC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR—ADMINISTRATOR

**Brian Logan, D.C.,**  
Dean of the School of Health Sciences



ATC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR—FACULTY

**Deanna Brandenberger**  
History and Anthropology Instructor



ATC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR—STAFF

**Katherine O'Hara-Goergen**  
Media Resource Consultant/  
Instructional Development





## Wellness Program Receives Top State Award

Aiken Technical College has received the overall 2022 PEBA Partners Award from the South Carolina Public Employee Benefit Authority (SC PEBA). It is the second consecutive year the College has received the top award for its wellness program. The College's wellness program is developed based on employees' input and interests gathered through surveys and follow-up event assessments.

Workshops have included Mental Health First Aid and Substance Abuse Awareness training sessions and live webinars on managing stress, mental fitness, and investing in your future. Activities also included Teams of Two challenges and distributing wellness tips paired with relevant items such as stress relief kits, jump ropes, meal portion plates, and more.



*The Office of Human Resources leads the College's wellness program. Pictured: (front row from left) Katherine Redd, Talent and Organizational Development Manager; Aimee Schwartz, Human Resources Specialist; Haley Waltz, Administrative Specialist; (back row from left) Sylvia Byrd, Vice President of Human Resources; and Mary Cordes, Payroll Clerk.*



## College Receives Recognition for Military Support

Aiken Technical College earned the 2022-2023 Military Friendly® School designation from Viqtor's Military Friendly® brand for the 11th consecutive year.

The College also received the Military Friendly® School silver level award for exceeding standards.

Aiken Tech was also named to the 2022 Military Times Best for Vets: Colleges list, recognizing the College's support for student success for military members, veterans, and their dependents.

## 2021-2022 EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR

*Aiken Technical College recognizes its Employees of the Year during the annual Commencement Ceremony held in May. Honorees are nominated by their peers for the awards.*

### FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR



**Aherial Polite**

### STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR



**Crystal Ratliff**

### Faculty Member of the Year: Aherial Polite

*Department Chair, Chemistry, Physics, and Nuclear Science*

Aherial Polite, Department Chair for Chemistry, Physics and Nuclear Science, enjoys helping students embrace math and science and this is what has driven her passion in education. Polite, who has been employed at Aiken Technical College since 2018, was recognized as the Faculty Member of the Year for her commitment to her students.

"The first time I saw a student's face glow because they finally mastered a difficult subject, my heart was full for them. I knew I wanted to keep helping students find that joy in chemistry, initially, and now in other parts of higher education and post-graduation employment," said Polite.

Polite felt honored to receive the award. "Being recognized as Faculty Member of the Year means that my passion and hard work isn't going unnoticed," she said. "Faculty and staff that I don't physically encounter often on campus are hearing, seeing, and feeling the impacts of my dedication to my students. It means that what I do here is valued and purposeful."

### Staff Member of the Year: Crystal Ratliff

*Dean of Student Success and Retention*

Crystal Ratliff, Ph.D., Dean of Student Success and Retention, is passionate about helping students succeed. Her work in student success initiatives earned her the Staff Member of the Year award.

"The driving force for me is to see how people's lives can be transformed because of education; be it the completion of a certificate, an associate degree, or transfer to a university, education is a key that helps individuals, their families, and our communities change for the better," said Ratliff. "It is wonderful to see students become so much more than they thought they could be because they sought to further their education."

Ratliff, who has been employed with Aiken Technical College since 2013, expressed thanks for the recognition. "I am grateful to know that my colleagues find value in the work that myself and my team do each day to promote student success," she said. "I am humbled and honored to receive this recognition."

# Early College Graduate Recognized for High Achievement

**Aiken Technical College graduate Emma Troup graduated college before walking across the stage for her high school diploma.**



*"Becoming an Aiken Tech graduate, to me, gives me a great sense of accomplishment. I am proud of myself and my classmates for how we have persevered through tough classes, strenuous curriculums, and even the COVID-19 pandemic and are able to graduate together in person."*

EMMA TROUP

Troup graduated in May 2022 from Aiken Tech with an Associate in Arts. She then graduated in June 2022 from Midland Valley High School, earning a 4.0 grade point average and a high school diploma.

Troup enrolled in the College's Early College program at Midland Valley High during her sophomore year to get a head start on her college education.

Aiken Tech taught Troup skills like time-management, organization, and self-discipline, all while balancing high school and college at the same. She described her experience as challenging but rewarding.

Her efforts didn't go unnoticed.

In April 2022, Troup became the first dual enrollment student to receive the Buck Grant Award from Aiken Tech. The Buck Grant Award is the highest academic award and is presented to an academically accomplished graduating student (with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0) who has the potential to enhance the image of the College upon entry into the work field, or upon continuing their education. The student eligible must have contributed to the College, the community, and be nominated by their department chair or academic coordinator.

"I have been blessed with great professors, and each of my interactions with ATC staff has been pleasant. As a student, the people at Aiken Tech have truly made me feel as though my future is within reach," Troup said.

Troup went on to enroll during the fall 2022 semester at the University of South Carolina- Beaufort with a nursing honors major.

"Thanks to Early College, I will be following an accelerated curriculum and have already been given a spot in the January 2023 Nursing Cohort and will be graduating a year early in 2025. I am so excited to live on the coast and continue my education," Troup said.





# New Commissioners Join Governing Board

**The Aiken County Commission for Technical and Comprehensive Education welcomed two new Commissioners in 2022. The Commission is the local governing body for Aiken Technical College, and members are appointed to the board by the State of South Carolina Governor's Office.**



COMMISSIONER  
**BRIDGET DENZIK,**  
D.N.P., RN, NEA-BC

Bridget Denzik, D.N.P., is the Chief Nursing Officer at Aiken Regional Medical Centers and has held several roles during her 32-year career in healthcare. She also serves on the nursing advisory boards for Aiken Tech and the University of South Carolina Aiken.

Dr. Denzik earned her master's degree in nursing systems management from the Medical University of South Carolina and a doctorate in nursing practice from Walden University.



COMMISSIONER  
**CHARLES HARTZ**

Charles Hartz is a local entrepreneur and business leader who owns several local Dunkin' locations and The Village Café. The first 30 years of his career were spent building and managing country clubs in the United States and abroad. He has served on several boards, including the Aiken Technical College Foundation, Aiken Chamber of Commerce, Aiken Corporation, Coastal Carolina National Bank Advisory Board, and the United Way. Hartz earned a bachelor's degree in management from Alfred University.

## COLLEGE RECOGNIZES ITS 2022 RETIREES

**Three longtime employees retired from Aiken Technical College in 2022. The College thanks them for their dedication and contributions to providing educational and workforce development opportunities in our local region.**

### **S. Vinson Burdette, Ph.D.**

Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs – 27 years of state service, 11 of those years at Aiken Technical College

### **Lynne Weldon**

Computer Technology Instructor - 22 years of state service, all at Aiken Technical College

### **Richard Weldon**

Director of Counseling - 32 years of state service, all at Aiken Technical College





# Foundation Donors

**ATC Foundation Scholarships  
2021-22 Academic Year**

**223  
Scholarships**

**TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED  
\$185,367**

*Special Thanks*

**TO OUR FISCAL YEAR 2022 DONORS**

JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

AB Beverage Company  
Aiken Electric Cooperative  
Aiken Regional Medical Centers  
Aiken Standard  
All Star Tents and Events  
Steven Amatangelo  
AmazonSmile Foundation  
Angela Magnuson, White Claw  
Distributor  
BAE Systems  
Bank of America  
Courtney Newkirk Barnes  
Don Bartelmay  
Nelle Belk  
Miriam S. Berendsen  
Beta Delta Chapter, Delta Kappa  
Gamma  
Erynn Black

Jeff Boehl  
Dr. Keith Brammell  
Deanna Brandenberger  
Bridgestone Americas  
Paul Michael Brunson  
Peter Buckley  
Gary and Michele Bunker  
Dr. Vinson Burdette  
Dawn Butts  
Sylvia Byrd  
Laurie Carmichael  
Centerra-Savannah River Site  
Jim and Hannah Clifford  
CNTA (Citizens for Nuclear  
Technology Awareness)  
Mary K. Commons  
Jennifer Tolson Curtis  
Keith Cusey

Jack and Francine Davis  
DayBreak Adult Care Services  
Nikasha N. Dicks  
Standly Dicks  
G. Christopher Dickson  
Noble Diller  
Dominion Energy - Corporate  
Philanthropy  
LeVar Dotts  
Angela Duffie  
Crystal Edwards  
Emerson-ASCO LP  
Mechelle English  
Dr. Robert F. "Sonny" Epps III  
Estate of Angela Crosby Wicker  
Patsy Fields  
ForcesUnited  
Camille Furguele



Gene Haas Foundation

Generac

Dara V. Glass

Dale and Teresa Haas

Sharon Hagan

Joe Halford

Michelle Hall-Moore

Buffy Halter

Charles and Lyddie Hansen

Charlie Hartz

Hass & Hilderbrand, Inc.

Willar H. Hightower

Mallory Holley

Hospital Auxiliary of Aiken County,  
Inc.

James Hottensen

Robert Hottensen

Thomasina Hughey

Louie Hydrick

Armeter Ivory

Evelyn Jones Johnson

Tara Johnson

Jonathan Jones

Joshua Jones

Roshelle Jones

Michael Kalogeropoulos

Karen Poteat

Dr. Beth LaClair

Jack and Catherine Leshner

Dr. Paul J. Leslie

Lions Club of Aiken

Kathleen Lowe

LPR Charitable Trust

Kelly Greene Lynn

Dr. Forest E. Mahan

Vicki Major

Dr. James Marra

Chad and Chrissa Matthews

MAU Workforce Solutions

Bruce McCord

McDonald's of Aiken

McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture

Mamie McRavin

Robert and Bernice Miller

Robert and Ellen Miller

Dr. Salvatore Minolfo

Dr. William Molnar

Mark Moody

Jennifer Morris

Robert Mosher

Craig and Mary Musick

Stacey Nichols

John and Patty Oakland

Kate O'Hara-Goergen

Harry and Joanece Pasterchick

Pedego Electric Bikes Aiken

Aherial Polite

Malcolm Polly

Kimberly Prince

PVD Internal Medicine Associates,  
LLC - Dr. Alyssa Degnan

Dr. Crystal Ratliff

Katherine Redd

Mila Reed

Benjamin and Geneva Rhoden

Lynn Rickabaugh

Sherry Robbins

Greg Robertson

Dora R. Robson

Sharon L. Rodgers

Dennis and Pam Rogers

Father Gregory Rogers

Rolls-Royce Solutions America

Ed and Sylvia Romero

Russell Dale Phelon Irrevocable Trust

Greg and Betty Ryberg

S.C. Commission on Higher  
Education

Sand River Woman's Club

Russ and Jean Schwalbert

SCU State Credit Union

Security Federal Bank

Javed Shah

Tim and Monte Simmons

Darrien Smith

Virginia Smith

Allan and Phyllis Sorensen

Cynthia South

SRP Federal Credit Union

State Farm Companies Foundation

State Farm Insurance - Collette Ball

Stewart and Associates, Inc.

Dr. Robert S. Stutman

Sue Stutman-King

Subway of Graniteville

Dr. Richard Sykes

The Fluor Foundation

The Village Café

Town and Country Club of Aiken

Don True

Nelle Tyler

W.R. Grace and Co.

Haley Waltz

Warriors4Wireless

Paul and Terry Weinle

Rich Weldon

Wells Fargo Government Banking

Thurmond Whatley

Whiskey Alley

Patricia Whitfield

Michael Widener

Dr. Hannah Williams

Will and Ellen Williams

Patricia Williamson

Bill Windley

Dr. Susan A. Winsor

Women of Woodside

Zeus Industrial Products





**AIKEN**  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

2021-2022

## College Data

AIKEN TECHNICAL  
COLLEGE  
PLACEMENT RATE

**91.8%**

*(Data source: Desktop Audit  
Report, Rev. 2022, 2020-2021  
Graduates)*

### TOP 4 ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

*(non-transfer majors):*

1

**Nursing**

2

**Computer  
Technology:  
Networking and  
Programming**

3

**Welding**

4

**Management**



**757**

TOTAL  
CREDENTIALS  
AWARDED

### CREDENTIALS AWARDED DURING THE 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

Award Type	Count
Associate .....	229
Diploma .....	46
Certificate .....	482
Grand Total .....	757

### TOTAL STUDENTS AWARDED FINANCIAL AID

Award	Count
LIFE .....	129
Need-Based .....	299
Pell Grant .....	1,097
SC Lottery Tuition Assistance .....	671



**71.7%**  
OF STUDENTS ARE  
FROM AIKEN  
COUNTY

### STUDENTS BY RESIDENCE

**Aiken County**  
71.7%

**In South Carolina,  
Outside of Aiken County**  
14.4%

**Richmond and  
Columbia Counties (GA)**  
11.5%

**Out of State**  
2.4%  
*(Outside of Richmond  
and Columbia Counties)*



## AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE FINANCIALS

For fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)

TOTAL EXPENSES

**\$30,088,310**

TOTAL REVENUE

**\$31,165,521**

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND  
DEFERRED INFLOWS

**\$43,673,305**

TOTAL ASSETS AND  
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS

**\$61,999,871**

## AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION FINANCIALS

For fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)

TOTAL EXPENDITURES  
AND DEDUCTION

**\$1,320,521**

TOTAL REVENUE, SUPPORT,  
AND RECLASSIFICATIONS

**\$737,727**

TOTAL NET ASSETS

**\$6,942,365**

TOTAL ASSETS

**\$6,942,365**

AVERAGE  
STUDENT AGE

**26**

MEDIAN  
STUDENT AGE

**23**

2021-2022  
TOTAL STUDENTS

**2606**

**Number of  
ATC employees**

(as of October 31, 2022)

Full-time staff: 80

Part-time staff: 31

Full-time faculty: 54

Adjuncts: 109

### PERCENTAGE OF STUDENT AGES

Age Band	%
Under 18	7.6%
18-19	18.8%
20-21	17.3%
22-24	13.9%
25-29	15.0%
30-34	11.4%
35-39	6.8%
40-49	6.7%
50-64	2.3%
65 and Over	0.3%

### STUDENTS SERVED DURING THE 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR

Gender	Count	%
Female	1694	65.0%
Male	912	35.0%
Grand Total	2606	100.0%

### ETHNICITY

Race/Ethnicity	%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.8%
Asian	1.7%
Black or African American	34.7%
Hispanic/Latino	8.4%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.4%
Non-Resident	1.0%
Two or more Races	0.3%
White	52.7%
Grand Total	100%

# *In Memory*

**Aiken Technical College remembers  
and honors the lives lost in 2022.**

## **Thomas Burrus**

### **ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR**

Thomas Burrus was a philosophy adjunct instructor at the time of his death. He had been employed by Aiken Technical College for four years.

## **Sarah Grace Maddox**

### **STUDENT**

Sarah Grace Maddox was enrolled in the Associate in Applied Science: Nursing program until shortly before her death. She was recognized posthumously during the Spring 2022 School of Nursing Pinning Ceremony.

## **John Menger**

### **ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR**

John Menger was an English adjunct instructor at the time of his death. He had been employed by Aiken Technical College for 14 years as a full-time English instructor and for two years as an adjunct English instructor.

## **Yazmaine Rabon**

### **STUDENT**

Yazmaine Rabon was enrolled in the Associate in Applied Science: Major in General Technology-Emphasis in Welding Technology program at the time of her death.

## **Sara Weaver**

### **STUDENT**

Sara Weaver was enrolled in the Associate in Applied Science: Emergency Medical Technology program at the time of her death.

## **Michael Widener**

### **ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR**

Michael Widener was a technical education adjunct instructor at the time of his death. He had been employed by Aiken Technical College for eight years.





# Leadership

## AIKEN COUNTY COMMISSION FOR TECHNICAL AND COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION

**Joe Lewis**, *Security Federal Bank, Chair*

**Bill Windley**, *Retired, Vice Chair*

**Keyatta Priester**, *Aiken Electric Cooperative, Secretary*

**Bridget Denzik, D.N.P.**, *Aiken Regional Medical Centers*

**Charles Hartz**, *The Village Cafe and Dunkin'*

**Daniel Lloyd, Jr.**, *Retired*

**Stuart MacVean**, *Savannah River Nuclear Solutions*

**Alvin Padgett**, *Retired*

**Mike Uhle**, *Bridgestone Americas*

**Teresa Haas**, *Retired, Ex-officio*

**King Laurence**, *Aiken County Public School District,  
Ex-officio*

## AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION OFFICERS

**Mallory Holley**, *Security Federal Bank, Chair*

**Dara V. Glass**, *Savannah River Mission Completion,  
Vice Chair/Chair-Elect*

**Bob Hottensen**, *VentureSouth-Aiken,  
Treasurer/Finance & Investment Committee Chair*

**Peter Buckley**, *VentureSouth-Aiken, Secretary*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Sean Alford, Ph.D.**, *Savannah River Nuclear Solutions*

**Lee Bodie**, *Aiken-Barnwell Mental Health Center*

**Terra Carroll**, *North Augusta Chamber of Commerce*

**Carl H. Henson**, *MAU Workforce Solutions*

**Chrissa Matthews**, *DayBreak Adult Care Services*

**Salvatore Minolfo, Ph.D.**,  
*Aiken County Public School District*

**Joshua A. Raines**,  
*Raines Physical Therapy and Performance*

**Lindsey Reeves**, *Superior Nursing Solutions, ATC Alumna*

**Allan Sorensen**, *Retired*

## EX-OFFICIO

**Will Williams, Jr.**, *Western SC*

## DIRECTORS EMERITUS

**Pat Cunning**, *Woodside Aiken Realty*

**Clifford M. (Jack) Hammond**, *Retired*

**Barbara Harrison Smoak**,  
*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions*

**Jeff Spears**, *First Community Bank*

## AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

**Forest E. Mahan, Ph.D.**, *President*

**Sylvia Byrd**, *Vice President of Human Resources*

**Chad Crumbaker, J.D.**,  
*Vice President of Academic & Student Affairs*

**Mechelle English**, *Vice President of Advancement*

**Andy Jordan**, *Vice President of Administrative Services*

## AIKEN COUNTY COUNCIL

**Gary Bunker**, *Chair*

**Danny Feagin**

**Camille Furguele**

**Sandy Haskell**

**Willar H. Hightower, Jr.**

**Kelley Mobley**

**Phil Napier**

**Kathy Rawls**

**L. Andrew Siders**

## AIKEN COUNTY STATE LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

**Sen. A. Shane Massey**

**Sen. Nikki Setzler**

**Sen. Thomas R. Young, Jr.**

**Rep. Bart T. Blackwell**

**Rep. William Clyburn**

**Rep. William M. Hixon**

**Rep. Melissa L. Oremus**

**Rep. Bill Taylor**

**AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

P.O. DRAWER 696

AIKEN, SC 29802



**If you want to help Aiken Technical College,  
consider helping our students.**

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Your charitable gift will allow the College to continue to deliver a high-quality academic experience, provide scholarships to reduce students' burden of loan debt, enhance student support initiatives, improve the facilities where students learn, and support our faculty in their research and teaching endeavors.

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