



AIKEN
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Community Benefit Report

2023



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.

OUR CORE VALUES

INNOVATION

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

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

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.

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT



Pictured on the cover is Megan Sayer, a Class of 2023 nursing graduate from Aiken Technical College. She is also the 2023 Buck Grant Award recipient. Read her story online at <https://bit.ly/48f2z7X>

The Community Benefit Report is published annually by the Office of Marketing and Communications.

Please visit atc.edu/about/annual-reports to view previous editions.

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DATA

**Provided by the Office of the Controller,
Office of Institutional Effectiveness, and
Aiken Technical College Foundation**

Dear Friends,

We are honored to present the 2023 Community Benefit Report of Aiken Technical College. In the following pages, you will read the many achievements accomplished through the collective efforts of faculty, staff, students, alumni, supporters, and volunteer leadership. Thank you for helping to advance the College's vision to be our region's first choice for higher education.

The past year was filled with growth, challenges, and opportunities at Aiken Tech. We proudly report that our beloved institution has thrived and continues to evolve.

Among the 2023 highlights was the announcement of the new 100,000 square foot Aiken County Career and Technology Center to be built on the campus, investments in capital improvements and renovations to the Library, Learning Commons area, the 700 Building, and an upgraded state-of-the-art marquee. To make room for newer facilities, two of the oldest buildings on the campus were razed, a first in the College's history. In support of academic excellence, the College launched a new LPN to RN evening cohort to address the nationwide nursing shortage while meeting students' interest in nursing education. We also secured competitive grants from the U.S. Department of Labor and the band Metallica's foundation, All Within My Hands. Our highly regarded apprenticeship program partnership with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, Savannah River Mission Completion, and Savannah River National Laboratory received the top Innovation Team of the Year award from the SC Technical College System. Collaboration and community engagement are at the heart of our mission at Aiken Tech. Without stakeholders who made these and many other achievements possible through a shared goal, they would not be possible.

Together, we've built an organization and college with a future brighter than its present. As we move forward, we remain committed to continuously improving and expanding our credit and non-credit offerings to better serve the evolving needs of students, employers, and the community. The College and Foundation's strategic planning efforts are in full swing, and we look forward to the future with optimism and excitement.

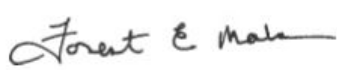
We invite you to explore this annual report in more detail, where you will find a comprehensive overview of our collective accomplishments and future aspirations. Join us as we build upon a more than 50-year legacy of excellence in higher education at Aiken Technical College.

With Warmest Regards,



Joe E. Lewis

CHAIR
Aiken County Commission
for Technical and
Comprehensive Education



Forest E. Mahan, Ph.D

PRESIDENT
Aiken Technical College



Mallory Holley

CHAIR
Aiken Technical
College Foundation

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Demolition Project Clears Path for New Career Center

Aiken Technical College has razed two of its oldest buildings to make way for Aiken County Public School District's new Aiken County Career and Technology Center.



Leaders from Aiken Technical College and the Aiken County Public School District pose for a photo. Behind them is the empty lot that once held Buildings 400 and 500/600 and will become the new home for the Aiken County Career and Technology Center.

Pictured (from left): Joe E. Lewis, Chair of the Aiken County Commission for Technical and Comprehensive Education; King Laurence, Superintendent of Aiken County Public School District; Forest E. Mahan, Ph.D., President of Aiken Technical College; and Cameron Nuessle, ACPSD Board Chair.

Demolition of Buildings 400 and 500/600 occurred during the spring of 2023, marking the first time in the College's history for such a project.

The buildings were built in the 1970s and housed several programs such as automotive, machine tool technology, industrial maintenance technology, radiation protection technology, electronics engineering, and criminal justice. The buildings were last used during the 2018-2019 academic year.

"In 2022, the College celebrated its 50th anniversary. It was an important milestone that allowed us to reflect on our accomplishments while imagining what the future of the College would look like," said Aiken Tech President Forest E. Mahan, Ph.D. "Removing the buildings that have served their purpose and are no longer in use opens the door for us to explore ways the space can be repurposed to help the College meet our community's needs for another 50 years."

In June 2023, Aiken Tech and ACPSD took a significant step toward the future by signing a Memorandum of Understanding agreement, solidifying plans to build the district's career and technology center on Aiken Tech's campus.

The new facility will replace the current ACPSD career and technology built in the 1960s, located just a few blocks from Aiken Tech. According to the school district, the new center will be approximately 90-100,000 square feet in size. Construction will begin in 2024.

While the district will own the facility, its location on Aiken Tech's campus opens the door to increased synergies and partnerships between the two entities, said Joe E. Lewis, Chair of the Aiken County Commission for Technical and Comprehensive Education.

"We are honored to be a part of this historic partnership with the school district," said Lewis. "Academic excellence and community service are shared goals of Aiken Tech and the Aiken County Public School District. We look forward to seeing the physical reminder of this goal manifested when the career and technology center is added to the campus."

As for Aiken Tech, additional buildings will be razed in the coming years as the campus is transformed to meet the region's evolving educational and workforce development needs.

Aiken Technical College upgraded its marquee in summer 2023. As a landmark feature of the College, the new marquee has a higher resolution display to share College information with the community.



NURSING EDUCATION CENTER

Planning has begun for the new Nursing Education Center, which will include auditorium seating, advanced technology, skills and simulation lab spaces, and additional faculty office space.

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

The building's construction is projected to be completed during the 2025-2026 academic year.

College Begins Capital Projects to Enhance Campus Environment

Aiken Technical College has begun several capital projects that will result in innovative learning spaces, easier campus navigation, and reimagined utilization of campus spaces.

◀ CAMPUS MARQUEE AND SIGNAGE

The campus marquee was upgraded to a larger display with high resolution graphics to display announcements about enrollment, events, and opportunities. The new size is larger and has an updated design to reflect the College's new brand identity. Aiken Tech is also working to update its wayfinding, directional, and building signage. This update will allow all students, employees, and guests to better identify and navigate buildings and campus. Placement of the new signage is expected to begin in early 2024.

BUILDING 700 RENOVATIONS

The first phase of the Building 700 renovations project will move both the IT control room and staff suite to Building 700, allowing all administration services to reside in one location. The phase is projected to be completed by spring 2024.

This second phase will be more comprehensive with the redesign of existing spaces to become the new Administrative Building for the campus. Once completed, the building will house office suites for the Office of Human Resources, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Marketing and Communications, Aiken Technical College Foundation as well as individual offices for other faculty and staff. This project will also move the Enrollment Services Center to the building. The building is projected to be completed by late 2024.

▼ NEW LEARNING COMMONS

Renovations began in fall 2023 to transform the College's library into a new Learning Commons space. The project will create an one-stop learning support center that will combine the library, STEAM Room, Student Success Center, and Testing Center services. The Learning Commons will provide academic and social spaces that promote educational, cultural, technological, and lifelong learning opportunities.



The College plans to open the Learning Commons by the end of the Spring 2024 semester.



Multi-million Grant Aims to Address Workforce Needs for the Region's Top Sectors

The U.S. Department of Labor granted the consortium comprised of Aiken Technical College, Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, and Piedmont Technical College a four-year, \$4.9 million Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grant.

Through the grant's support, the colleges are striving to address workforce needs in advanced manufacturing and nursing. Some of the expected outcomes of the grant include creating accelerated, articulated pathways with stackable credentials and additional entry points; using technology and mobile labs to increase the flexibility of curriculum delivery; and creating a Workforce Innovation Center for collaboration and continuous improvement.

The colleges also focus on increasing equity by engaging underserved and marginalized residents, those who may be unemployed, underemployed, or new to the workforce, and reside in rural areas..

"This collaboration further demonstrates our colleges' commitment to the South Carolina Technical College System's tenets of providing education that is affordable, accessible, and relevant," said Aiken Tech President Forest Mahan, Ph.D. "This initiative will help open doors for residents in our communities and help to meet the growing workforce demand for two of the top sectors in our region."

Within the first nine months of the grant, Aiken Tech has launched a new evening cohort of its Licensed Practical Nursing to Registered Nursing transition program, begun implementing an enhanced advising and retention model, and hired a nursing instructor and a retention counselor.

The consortium has also made great strides. It has hired the SCCT grant director, developed a database for grant submissions and participant tracking, begun articulating existing advanced manufacturing and nursing pathways, and started planning for the advanced manufacturing mobile labs.



Aiken Technical College has hired Breante' Flournoy as the Retention Counselor at Aiken Technical College. It is one of the positions funded by the Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grant.



Aiken Technical College has hired Denise Fowler as a nursing instructor for the new evening Licensed Practical Nursing to Registered Nursing transition program. The evening program is one of the pathways created under the grant.



New Accelerated Nursing Pathway Increases Opportunities for Students

Aiken Technical College offers a Licensed Practical Nursing to Registered Nursing evening cohort, which started in Spring 2023, giving students the opportunity to become an RN while still working.

This program provides an accelerated pathway that allows them to transition from an LPN to an RN within a year while actively working as a nurse and providing for their families. This differs from the normal daytime LPN to RN program because students often have to decide if they will work or go to school. This conflict oftentimes decreases their work hours to attend class.

"Currently, we have 14 students who are actively enrolled with the anticipation of 15 new students starting in the spring," School of Nursing Dean Hannah Williams, DNP, said.

The key difference between the LPN to RN evening cohort in comparison to the other transition programs offered is the time and ability to work while attending school. There aren't many evening nursing programs or nursing courses available. Qualified graduating practical nursing students have the ability to continue through this program immediately after completing the LPN program.

"We did this to meet the needs of both the surrounding nursing shortage in the community and the needs of our students. Many of them held the dream of becoming registered nurses but often had to place this dream on hold because they could not afford to stop working for two years," Williams said.

Jakobe Bush, a current student in the cohort, said the program thus far has been a rewarding experience. He described the program as a "game-changer" for him.

"I am currently working in long-term care as needed, so I am able to create my own schedule and work after classes," Bush said. "Aiken Tech is helping me reach my goal by providing practical clinical experiences, mentorship, and career guidance. The program provides a challenging curriculum that has equipped me with the skills needed to excel in this field."

Williams added that the goal of this program is to see the program grow in enrollment to meet the needs of the local workforce.

Aiken Tech has increased the LPN intake numbers from 16 each semester (or 32 annually) to 24 each semester (or 48 annually).

"We are starting to see an increase in interest from the community. More and more non-ATC practical nursing graduates are applying to this program. Therefore, we are anticipating a significant amount of growth within the next year or two," Williams said.



2022 NCLEX® Pass Rates*

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSING (LPN)

Aiken Technical College: 94.12%

South Carolina: 87.9%

National: 79.9%

REGISTERED NURSING (RN)

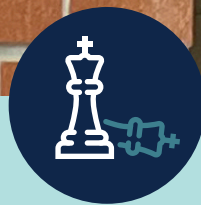
Aiken Technical College: 98%

South Carolina: 87.13%

National: 79.9%

**First-time exam takers*

The new LPN to RN evening cohort offers working students an accelerated pathway to become registered nurses.



Education Decision Opens Doors for International Nursing Student

Making a bold move during an uncertain time has paid off for nursing student Ismat Hasan.

A Canadian citizen, Hasan worked as a licensed practical nurse in Ontario for several years when she became interested in working in a hospital setting.

“In Canada, you need to be an RN to get into hospitals. So, I just thought it was time to upgrade,” said Hasan.

As she continued to work, she began applying to nursing schools. She and her family had previously spent time in north Georgia for her husband’s work. Having enjoyed their previous stay in the south, Hasan also applied to schools in the southern parts of the U.S., including Aiken Technical College.

Then came the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instead of postponing her educational goals, she became more motivated to increase her skill set to help others as a nurse. She was excited when she was accepted to Aiken Tech to begin the prerequisite courses for the Associate in Applied Science: Nursing (RN) program.

Since enrolling at Aiken Tech, Hasan has taken an active role in and outside the classroom. She was inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, an international honor society for two-year colleges, and has held officer positions.

She is a 2022 New Century Workforce Scholar, a program sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. New Century Workforce Scholars are selected based on their academic accomplishments, leadership, activities, and how they extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom. Only one New Century Workforce Scholar is selected per state each year.



Reflecting on the decision to move her family from Canada to Aiken to pursue a nursing degree, Hasan said it has “positively impacted everything.”

Hasan is among a select group of students from Aiken Tech chosen to participate in the nursing externship program with Aiken Regional Medical Centers for the 2023-2024 academic year. She is also a 2023 Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Hurst Review NCLEX® Scholarship recipient. As one of only 12 in the country selected, she received Hurst Review study materials to help prepare for the NCLEX® and a scholarship to cover her NCLEX®

exam fees. The NCLEX® is the licensure exam for nursing graduates in the U.S. and Canada.

Even with the various honors and opportunities, the most memorable experience has been the Aiken Tech community’s level of support and connection, said Hasan.

“They’re very supportive, from my professors to faculty advisors to fellow club members and students alike,” she said. “I’ve gotten nothing but support and encouragement from everyone since I’ve been here. So, it makes the journey that much easier.”

Reflecting on the decision to move her family from Canada to Aiken to pursue a nursing degree, she said it has “positively impacted everything.”

“I’m glad that I put my fears behind me and just took that jump in a different country to pursue my goals,” she said.

Hasan looks forward to completing her nursing degree in the spring of 2024 and starting the next chapter of her career by serving the community as a registered nurse.

New Campus Food Pantry Planned

- TO -

Reduce Food Insecurity

Aiken Technical College will establish a new student-centered food pantry thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation for the CSRA.

The ATC Foundation has received \$13,500 to transform the College's unused cafeteria space into the food pantry, add appropriate appliances and storage, and stock various items in addition to food received from Golden Harvest Food Bank, which is partnering with Aiken Tech for the food pantry.

The campus food pantry is projected to open in August 2024.

"The ATC Foundation is grateful for the Community Foundation's support as it shows a commitment to meeting students' basic needs so that they can be successful in the classroom and successfully enter the regional workforce," said ATC Foundation Director Beth LaClair, Ph.D.

The College has had a Blessing Box on its campus since 2019 and has seen increased usage, particularly in recent years. The addition of the food pantry will extend access to nutritious, essential food items, said Aiken Tech Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Melinda Rodgers.

"With an estimated one in three students experiencing food insecurity nationwide, according to the National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments, the Aiken Tech food pantry will serve as a crucial resource to ensure that no student goes hungry while pursuing their education," said Rodgers. "It is another way that ATC can help students, especially those who are low-income, complete their program of study and thus rise out of situational and/or generational poverty, which is central to our mission of educational and workforce development."



53% of Aiken Technical College's student population is considered low-income, meaning they are eligible for the Federal Pell Grant. The new food pantry will help address food insecurity for students in need.



The Aiken Technical College Foundation has received a \$13,500 grant from the Community Foundation for the CSRA to establish a new campus food pantry. Pictured (from left) Aiken Tech Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Melinda Rodgers, ATC Foundation Director Beth LaClair, Ph.D., Golden Harvest Food Bank President and CEO Amy Breitmann, Golden Harvest grant writer Nathan Krupa, and Golden Harvest Vice President of Development Nathan Folks.

POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

Growing Apprenticeship Connections with the Nuclear Industry

Aiken Technical College celebrated graduating more than 100 apprentices from the Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship Program in August 2023 in the first joint cohort between three Savannah River Site contractors.

The Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship Program is a collaborative partnership between Aiken Tech, Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, Savannah River Mission Completion, and Savannah River National Laboratory to build the workforce pipeline for much-needed nuclear operators at SRS.

Over an eight-month period, students selected for the program earn a Nuclear Fundamentals Certificate from Aiken Tech while simultaneously gaining on-the-job experience with their host apprenticeship employer. Two days a week are spent on the Aiken Tech campus, completing the necessary academic work, and two days a week are spent at SRS working with industry experts and trainers.



The Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship began in the spring of 2020 and has seen significant growth, with this cohort being the largest one to date.

Those who successfully completed the program and the requirements of their host apprenticeship employer were hired.

"The apprenticeship program is a great model showing the impact of linking education and industry," said Aiken Tech President Forest E. Mahan, Ph.D. "Participants can earn a college credential, receive on-the-job training, network, and be mentored throughout the program. It is a formula that prepares our students for success and continued career advancement for years to come."

Students receive scholarship support to use toward their academic costs through the Workforce Opportunities in Regional Careers grant, supported by the U.S. Department of

Energy Environmental Management and the National Nuclear Security Administration. Select students also receive funding through the Lower Savannah Council of Governments' Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act initiative.



Apprenticeship Program Receives Top Statewide Recognition



Aiken Technical College's Nuclear Fundamentals Apprenticeship Team received the prestigious A. Wade Martin Innovation Team of the Year Award from the South Carolina Technical College System.

The apprenticeship team, pictured (to the left), is comprised of representation from Aiken Tech and the Savannah River Site. Pictured are: (from left to right): Dorian Newton, D. Eng., SRS Apprenticeship Steering Committee and SRNS Program Manager for the Apprenticeship School and Pipeline Training; Dean Crystal Ratliff, Ed.D., Aiken Tech Office of Student Success and Retention; David Jackson, SRNS Apprenticeship School Lead; Department Chair Aherial Polite, Aiken Tech Chemistry, Physics, and Nuclear Technology Department; BooBoo Roberts, SRNS Technical College Loaned Executive and Deputy Program Manager for Apprenticeship and Pipeline Training; and Dean Steven Simmons, Ed.D., Aiken Tech School of Technical and Continuing Education.

"Savannah River Nuclear Solutions has grown to appreciate the vision and contribution of ATC and the fruitful partnerships we have established in numerous areas," said Dr. Newton. "Their efforts in support of nuclear fundamentals and workforce development are worthy of recognition because of the impact they have on national, state, and regional interests. Combining a focus on national defense and the development of a viable workforce, we applaud the exceptional work accomplished by ATC."

Metallica's Foundation Helping Students Rock I.T.



The Metallica Scholars Initiative now directly supports 42 community colleges across 33 states, and by the end of the 2023-2024 year, it will have helped over 6,000 students pursuing careers in the trades.

To date, Metallica and AWMH have invested over \$6 million in the American workforce.

Since 2019, Metallica's foundation, All Within My Hands (AWMH), has partnered with the American Association of Community Colleges to create a major workforce education initiative called "Metallica Scholars."

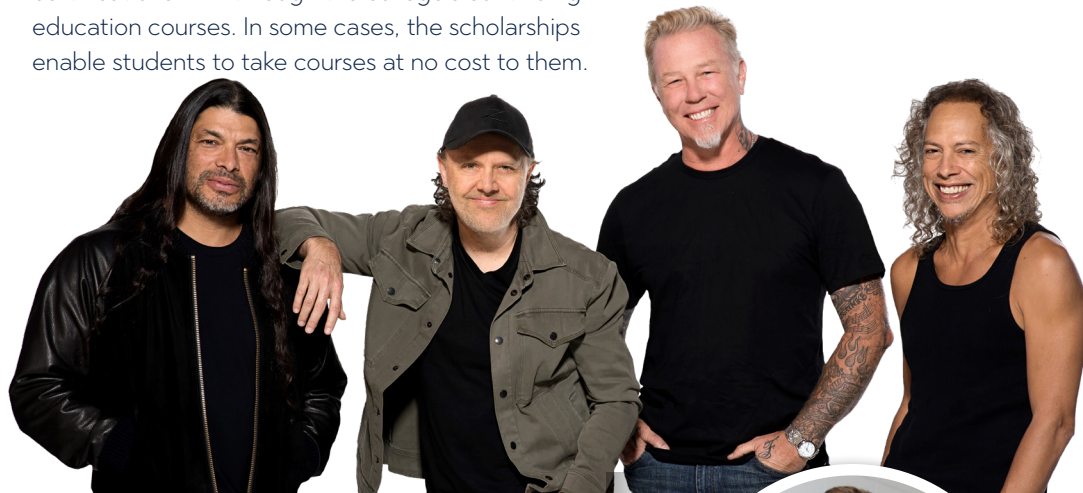
The Metallica Scholars Initiative (MSI) provides direct support to community colleges to enhance their career and technical education programs. These programs provide skills and services to students looking to enter a traditional trade or other applied learning program.

Aiken Technical College was among 11 colleges newly selected from a competitive pool of applicants to join MSI for the 2023-2024 academic year and receive \$100,000. There are now 42 community colleges participating in the initiative.

Aiken Tech is also the first South Carolina college selected to participate in MSI.

"It is an honor to be among the 11 colleges selected this year to join this prestigious initiative. The goals of the Metallica Scholars Initiative align perfectly with our mission to provide educational and workforce development opportunities," said Aiken Tech President Forest E. Mahan, Ph.D. "Through MSI, our college has chosen to focus on building the workforce pipeline for our cyber and computer technology industries in the region by supporting students through scholarships and development opportunities and increasing overall awareness about the growing need for highly-skilled IT personnel."

With assistance from MSI, Aiken Tech is providing scholarships and support to dual enrollment students in the cybersecurity networking pathway, students enrolled in academic computer technology programs, and those pursuing specialized CompTIA certifications in IT through the college's continuing education courses. In some cases, the scholarships enable students to take courses at no cost to them.



WHY ARE INITIATIVES SUCH AS METALLICA SCHOLARS IMPORTANT?

"It helps people in the community grow," said Kenier Falcon, adding that the no-cost courses can open doors for a successful career. "It can help you get a high-paying job and help you get a better life."

Members of the CompTIA A+ course were all designated as Metallica Scholars and received "Power Up and Rock I.T." themed shirts. Students enrolled in CompTIA certification courses are among those eligible to receive MSI scholarships.



Kenier Falcon, of Batesburg, SC, is a Metallica Scholar who completed the CompTIA A+ course at Aiken Tech. He was drawn to the course out of his interest in learning more about cybersecurity and progressing in such a career.



FAMILY ESTABLISHES ENDOWMENT - TO - Support Future Machinists

Donald C. Cheeks built his career in the machine tool industry, from being a machinist to operations manager to owning and leading the Southeastern Tool Company.

Now, through a donation from The Gifting Tree Foundation, his family has established the **Donald C. Cheeks Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund** with the Aiken Technical College Foundation to help future generations create their own career paths as machinists.

The endowment will provide scholarships for students enrolled in computerized numerical control or machine tool technology programs in six or more credit hours with at least a 2.5 grade point average.

"We are thankful to the Cheeks family and The Gifting Tree Foundation for their generosity. By establishing an endowment, the scholarships will help reduce the financial barriers to education for current and future generations of Aiken Tech students," said ATC Foundation Director Beth LaClair, Ph.D.



"Don lived his life always helping others. Even though he's no longer with us, this scholarship will still allow his memory to live on for years to come.

I would love the impact of this to be a pay-it-forward effect. Hopefully, the recipient will realize the importance of establishing scholarships and how it impacted them and that one day they will be able to do the same for someone else."

ANNIE CHEEKS





Alumnus Aims to Help Others

- WITH -

New Scholarship

Johnny Hill is a May 2023 graduate from Aiken Technical College who has established a scholarship to benefit computer technology students from Aiken and Edgefield counties with preference given to African American students.

Johnny Hill knew what his future career would be in middle school when he was introduced to careers in computer technology.

"The school had brought in different people to talk to us about their careers," said Hill. "They brought this guy from Dell to speak and I knew then that I wanted to work with computers."

Fast forward to 2023. As Hill prepared to graduate with an Associate in Applied Science degree in Computer Technology: Networking, he knew there was one more thing he wanted to do—pay it forward.

Hill established the Johnny Hill Computer Technology Scholarship for computer technology students from Aiken and Edgefield counties, with preference given to African American students.

He was able to meet the first recipient of the scholarship during Aiken Tech's annual Awards Night in April 2023.

"My mom always used to talk to me about giving back whenever you got a chance. She inspired me a lot to want to give back and that's kind of how the scholarship came about," said Hill. "I want to do more. And when I get it into a better position, I will do more."

The scholarship is believed to be the first to be established by a student before graduation, said ATC Foundation Beth LaClair, Ph.D.

"This is significant as it truly demonstrates giving back and supporting those that will follow in your footsteps," said LaClair. "Johnny was an adult student and understands the demands of being a working student and wants to ease that burden for future students."

Hill said he hopes others will be encouraged to give back, just as his mother inspired him: "And if you can give, give from the heart."



The Associate in Applied Science Major in Computer Technology: Networking and Programming is one of the top academic programs at Aiken Tech.



The first recipient of the Johnny Hill Computer Technology Scholarship, Jonathan Jackson, was recognized during the 2023 Awards Night. Johnny Hill (pictured right) was able to meet and congratulate Jackson (left) during the event. The scholarship is awarded to a computer technology student from Aiken or Edgefield county with preference given to African American students.



Dual Enrollment Graduate's Drive Leads Her to the Ivy League

Daisy Gonzalez, an Aiken Technical College dual enrollment graduate at the Spring 2023 graduation. Gonzalez is currently attending Harvard University majoring in sociology.

Aiken Technical College graduate Daisy Gonzalez, now a freshman at Harvard University, earned a college degree before receiving her high school diploma.

Gonzalez was dually enrolled as a student at Midland Valley High School and an Associate in Arts and Associate in Science student at Aiken Tech. She started the program during the COVID-19 pandemic in May 2020 and was among the cohort to graduate in May 2023.

"Aiken Technical College offers a great learning environment. I have thoroughly enjoyed my last few years here, contributing to my personal and academic development," Gonzalez said.

Although some may have told her she was wasting her time earning a college degree while in high school while bragging about their free schedules, she is happy about the decision she made.

"Never let other's opinions damage your dreams," Gonzalez said.

"And while at times it hurt to be left out from some of my close friends, I knew what I wanted from life. I knew in order to do so, I would have to sacrifice social events among other things."

Gonzalez explained through patience and a good schedule, she was still able to make time for important and fun activities.

A major event Gonzalez was recognized in was Aiken Tech's annual Awards Night, where she was awarded the Outstanding Student of the Year Award for Associate in Arts. She was shocked, and as the award was being presented, she felt like she was in a montage. Gonzalez said her parents were so happy that night and she will never forget their smiles.

"My determination to do my very best drove me here. My parents were so proud. Never in their life did they expect to have a

daughter so academically driven. Sometimes, they got annoyed because of how much homework I had, but at that moment, they understood where my efforts took me," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez said her parents kept her motivated during her journey at the college. She said she is grateful for their sacrifices in leaving their home country, families, and lives behind for her and her siblings. Gonzalez added her parents listened to her and encouraged her whenever her classes were challenging.



The Outstanding Student of the Year Award for Associate in Arts was awarded to Daisy Gonzalez. She is pictured with Stacey Nichols, Department Chair of Communications.

"That's all they wanted was my best, nothing more. But I have always felt a sort of debt to them for what they gave me. Therefore, I strive for perfection because they deserve nothing less," Gonzalez said.

Currently, she is a student at Harvard University majoring in sociology. She hopes to learn more about our society and, more specifically, the flow of immigrants.

Gonzalez's parents greatly influenced her career goals because they immigrated to the United States. She watched them struggle in an unfamiliar country from a young age, and their story inspired her.

"My parents had to give up their education and work to help support their families to ensure their children wouldn't have to do the same; they immigrated to this country.

I believe this is a right every person should have. Therefore, I have chosen to become an immigration lawyer," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez hopes to ease the process of anyone who finds themselves in the same situation her parents went through. She understands the burden of making a vast decision such as that one.

"The classes (were) challenging, but nothing I couldn't accomplish once I put my mind to it," Gonzalez said. "Some of the best teachers I have had are from Aiken Tech. I am prepared for the next four years of college because of Aiken Tech."

Unleashing Horsepower

- THROUGH -

New Continuing Education Offerings

Aiken Technical College's Office of Continuing Education launched two new courses in fall 2023 to address unique workforce needs in the region.

SADDLING SUCCESS THROUGH EQUINE TECHNICIAN COURSE ▶

The Aiken Horse Park Foundation and Aiken Charity Horse Shows partnered with Aiken Technical College to develop and launch a new equine technician course.

"This innovative program will offer aspiring equine enthusiasts a unique opportunity to gain comprehensive knowledge and hands-on skills, fostering a new generation of skilled professionals in the equestrian industry," said School of Technical and Continuing Education Dean Steven Simmons, Ed.D.

It is an effort the Aiken Horse Park Foundation and Aiken Charity Horse Shows are excited to support, said Kate Boggan, Director of Marketing and Communications.

"The growing equestrian industry in Aiken is a large part of its economy. It makes perfect sense to have a program like the equine technician course that will continue to provide skilled laborers to support such an important part of the community's foundation," she said.



The Aiken Horse Park Foundation donated \$10,000 to Aiken Tech to help with course development and also assisted with instruction.

DRIVING CAREERS THROUGH CDL CLASS A CERTIFICATIONS ▶

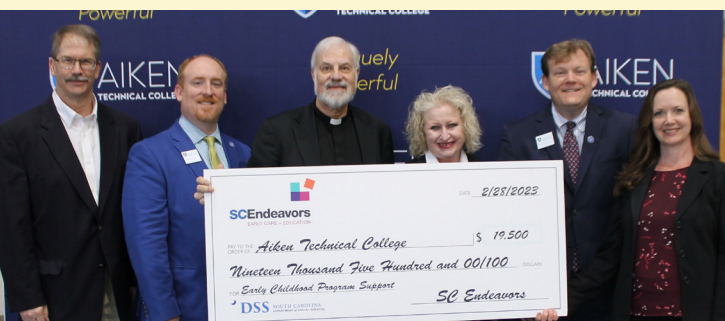
As the trucking industry continues to see a demand for commercial truck drivers, Aiken Technical College partnered with Ancora Training to meet this workforce need by offering a new CDL Class A tractor-trailer course.

"Trucks are the backbone of America's economy. Every year, trucks move nearly \$800 billion in total freight revenue, which represents more than 80.4 percent of the nation's freight. The most recent estimates from the American Trucking Association show a shortage of more than 78,000 drivers. The CDL-A ATC training will prepare the workforce to meet those demands," said Athena Freeman, director of the Office of Continuing Education at Aiken Tech.

During the course, Ancora instructors provide students with practical, hands-on experiences driving tractor-trailers and teach them critical skills such as equipment inspection and maintenance, road and safety laws, defensive driving, and trip planning.



Students in the CDL course learned about tractor-trailer maintenance as well as driving.



SC Endeavors State Director Melissa Starker (far right) presents an oversized check for \$19,500 to Aiken Technical College. Also pictured are (from left) Jack Borders, Department Chair of History, Social Science, and Public Service; Chad Crumbaker, JD, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs; Fr. Gregory Rogers, Dean of School of General Education and University Transfer; Lynda Altman, lead early childhood education instructor; and Aiken Technical College President Forest Mahan, Ph.D.

▶ SC Endeavors Donation Benefits Early Childhood Education Program

SC Endeavors presented Aiken Technical College's early childhood education program with \$19,500 in funding to support program needs and professional development opportunities. SC Endeavors is a professional development program in the South Carolina Department of Social Services Division of Early Care and Education.

The funding supported purchasing materials for students to use in lab activities and their field placements, adjunct instructors to share their knowledge and experiences with students, and enabling faculty to attend the National Association for the Education of Young Children National Conference and accreditation seminars to ensure continued program compliance with national standards.

Awards + Recognitions

President Wins CEO of the Year Award

Aiken Technical College President Forest E. Mahan, Ph.D., was been named the **2023 Chief Executive Officer of the Year** for the Southern Region by the Association of Community College Trustees.

Dr. Mahan has also been selected for the Chief Executive Officer state award by the SC Association of Technical College Commissioners.

"I am elated to be nominated and selected for the ACCT CEO Award for the state of South Carolina and the Southern Region! Our team at Aiken Tech exemplifies what it means to be committed, innovative, and collaborative, consistently making excellence the standard," said Dr. Mahan. "It is an honor to lead this team and guide our college as we aim to be the first choice for higher education in the region."

The award recognizes the contributions and impact community and technical college leaders have made at their colleges and in the communities they serve.

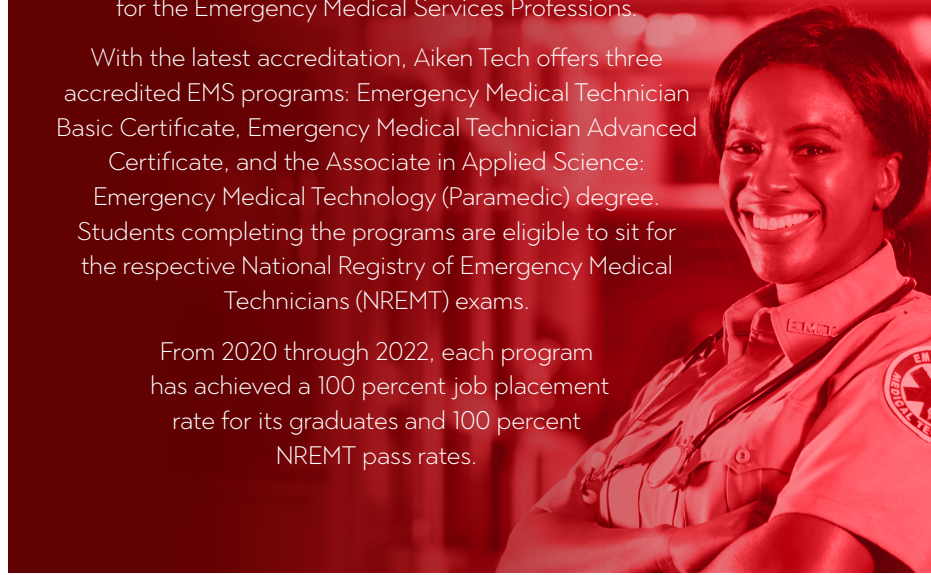


Paramedic Program Receives Accreditation

Aiken Technical College's paramedic program has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs upon the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions.

With the latest accreditation, Aiken Tech offers three accredited EMS programs: Emergency Medical Technician Basic Certificate, Emergency Medical Technician Advanced Certificate, and the Associate in Applied Science: Emergency Medical Technology (Paramedic) degree. Students completing the programs are eligible to sit for the respective National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) exams.

From 2020 through 2022, each program has achieved a 100 percent job placement rate for its graduates and 100 percent NREMT pass rates.



Alumna Encourages Class of 2023

Rysheeka Bush, a 2001 graduate of Aiken Technical College, served as the May 2023 Commencement Speaker. Bush is currently the Clinical Program manager for Helping Hands, a residential facility for children in foster care.

During her speech, she shared her personal story and journey through college and her career and encouraged graduates to not be afraid to pivot and to always think big.



CyberPatriot Camp

The Fort Gordon Cyber District – Alliance for Cyber Education team hosted an **Air Force Association CyberPatriot Summer Camp** at the Aiken Technical College campus. Students ages 10 to 16 participated in the camp. The program was beneficial to students interested in cybersecurity as a career.

Students ages 10 to 16 participated in an Air Force Association CyberPatriot Summer Camp at the Aiken Technical College campus over the summer. The camp was hosted by the Fort Gordon Cyber District – Alliance for Cyber Education team.



New Commissioners Named to Governing Board

Aiken Technical College welcomed three new members to its governing board,

Aiken County Commission for Technical and Comprehensive Education:



Jennifer Curtis
RETIRED, SAVANNAH RIVER
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS



Paul Hanna
AIKEN REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTERS



Dorian Newton, D. Eng.
SAVANNAH RIVER
NUCLEAR SOLUTIONS

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 achievements and service.

The 2023-2024 recipients will be recognized in February 2024 during the annual SCTEA conference.

ADMINISTRATOR: Bruce McCord
*Director of Institutional Effectiveness,
Teaching, and Technology*

FACULTY: Crystal Driesen
*Program Director of Medical Assisting
and Medical Coding programs*

STAFF: Crystal Edwards
Student Wellness and Accessibility Manager



Bursar Office Receives ACE Award

Aiken Technical College was awarded the Achieving Campus Efficiency (ACE) Award by BankMobile Disbursements powered by BMTX, Inc. To be considered, higher education institutions must have disbursed at least 90 percent of their refunds electronically during the calendar year and have at least 40 percent of their enrolled students complete the refund selection process.

2022-2023 FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS OF THE YEAR



**FACULTY MEMBER
OF THE YEAR**
Patricia Williamson

Nursing Instructor Patricia Williamson received the Faculty Member of the Year Award. She has more than 25 years of experience in the nursing field and has been an instructor in the College's School of Nursing for four years.



STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR
Erynn Black

Lead Advisor Erynn Black received the Staff Member of the Year Award. She has worked in higher education for 25 years and at Aiken Technical College for about 13 years off and on as an English instructor. She has served in the Lead Advisor position for the past five years.



College Selected as a Partner in Region's Workforce Hub

First Lady Dr. Jill Biden visited Augusta in July 2023 to kick off the Investing in America Workforce Hub in Augusta and held a follow-up visit in November 2023.

The Biden-Harris Administration identified the Augusta, GA area as one of five Workforce Hubs in the nation. Through the initiative, local partners are working together to enhance or create pathways into high-demand, high-wage careers that do not require a four-year degree, such as advanced manufacturing and nuclear science. Local partners for the initiative include Aiken Technical College, Augusta Technical College, Augusta-Richmond County Government, Richmond County Board of Education, and several area businesses and industries.

Representatives from Aiken Technical College were among those present for each visit.



COLLEGE RECOGNIZED FOR SUPPORT OF MILITARY FAMILIES AND VETERANS

Aiken Technical College received the **2023-2024 Military Friendly® School award with gold distinction** and the **2023-2024 Military Friendly Spouse School award**, both from the Victory Military Friendly® brand. The College was also named to the Best for Vets: Colleges rankings by *Military Times*.

Special Thanks

**TO OUR FISCAL YEAR
2023 DONORS**

JULY 1, 2022

JUNE 30, 2023

AB Beverage Company
Aiken County Public School District
Aiken Electric Cooperative
Aiken Masonic Lodge 156 A.F.M.
Aiken Newcomers Club
Aiken Performing Arts Group
Aiken Regional Medical Centers
Aiken Sertoma Club
Jessica Alexander
AmazonSmile Foundation
Elizabeth Ashley
BAE Systems
Tamell Bailey
Bank of America
Newkirk Barnes
Brandon Beaubeouf
Nelle Belk
Benevity
Miriam S. Berendsen
Beta Delta Chapter,
Delta Kappa Gamma
Jeff Boehl
Dr. Keith Brammell
Bridgestone Americas
Paul Michael Brunson

Peter Buckley
Builders Community Fund
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Sylvia Byrd
Kendall Carter
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Central States Manufacturing
CNTA (Citizens for Nuclear
Technology Awareness)
Community Foundation for the CSRA
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Covelli Enterprises
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Brittany Davis
Nikasha N. Dicks
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Dominion Energy -
Corporate Philanthropy
Mark Dristy
David G. Ebenhack
Crystal Edwards
Mechelle English
Dr. Robert F. "Sonny" Epps III

ETEBA (Energy, Technology
and Environmental Business
Association)
Floyd & Green Fine Jewelers
Gene Haas Foundation
Lou Grant-Hartnett
Dale and Teresa Haas
Michelle Hall-Moore
Buffy Halter
Sandy Haskell
William Kevin Herndon
Johnny Hill
Home Builders Association
of Aiken County
Hospital Auxiliary of
Aiken County, Inc.
Robert Hottensen
Dr. Tara Johnson
Wayne Johnson
Roshelle Jones
Junior Student Club
Karen and David Keck
Kevin Kingery
Dr. Beth LaClair
Jack and Catherine Leshar
Dr. Paul J. Leslie

ATION DONORS

ATC Foundation Scholarships 2022-23 Academic Year

278
Scholarships

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED
\$172,324

32

Number of emergency support
funding requests that were
granted/awarded to students

\$34,000

Amount raised from the 2023 Scholarship
Reception and Fundraiser event

Joe Lewis
Lions Club of Aiken
LPR Charitable Trust
Judge Sheridan Lynn
Kelly Greene Lynn
Dr. Forest E. Mahan
Vicki Major
Angelica C. Maples
MAU Workforce Solutions
McDonald's of Aiken
McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture
Mended Hearts - Aiken Chapter 294
Shirley Milhouse
Thomas L. Moore
Jennifer Morris
Craig and Mary Musick
Network for Good
Stacey Nichols
Angela Odom
Kate O'Hara-Goergen
Teresa Parchen
Holly Park
Harry and Joanece Pasterchick
PayPal Giving Fund
Piedmont Augusta

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Benjamin and Geneva Rhoden
Lynn Rickabaugh
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Rolls-Royce Solutions America
Sharon K. Ross
Roy G. Post Foundation
Greg and Betty Ryberg
S.C. Commission on
Higher Education
Sand River Woman's Club
Savannah River Mission Completion
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
Russ and Jean Schwalbert
Tracy Scott
Security Federal Bank
Tim and Monte Simmons
Darrien Smith
Allan and Phyllis Sorensen

South Carolina State Credit Union
SRP Federal Credit Union
SRSCRO
State Farm Insurance - Collette Ball
Sue Stutman-King
Subway of Graniteville
The Fluor Foundation
Town and Country Club of Aiken
Nelle Tyler
Mike Uhle
Jill Uhler
USC Aiken
Vampire Penguin North Augusta -
Poole Family Foundation
Haley Waltz
Paul and Terry Weinle
Wells Fargo Government Banking
Patricia Whitfield
Dr. Hannah Williams
Will and Ellen Williams
Patricia Williamson
Women of Woodside
Tom and Heather Young
Evon Zuppa



AIKEN
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

— 2022-2023 —

College Data

Number of ATC employees

(as of October 31, 2023)

Full-time staff: 80

Part-time staff: 24

Full-time faculty: 58

Adjuncts: 131

TOTAL STUDENTS

2923

2022-2023

AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE PLACEMENT RATE

93.2%

*(As of Fall 2023 for
2021-2022 Graduates)*

TOP 4 ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

(non-transfer majors)

1

**Associate in Applied Science Major
in General Technology: Healthcare
Prep and Clinical Studies**

2

**Pre-Allied Health Certificate:
Emphasis Radiological Technology**

3

**Associate in Applied Science
Major in Nursing**

4

**Associate in Applied Science Major
in Computer Technology:
Networking and Programming**



1058

TOTAL CREDENTIALS
AWARDED

CREDENTIALS AWARDED DURING 2022-2023*

Award Type	Count
Associate	286
Diploma	24
Certificate	748
Grand Total	1058

TOTAL STUDENTS AWARDED FINANCIAL AID*

Award	Count
LIFE	125
Need-Based	345
Pell Grant	1238
SC Lottery Tuition Assistance ..	850

STUDENTS BY RESIDENCE

Aiken County	71.8%
In South Carolina, Outside of Aiken County ..	15.4%
Richmond and Columbia Counties (GA)	9.5%
Out of State	3.3%
<i>(Outside of Richmond and Columbia Counties)</i>	

STUDENTS SERVED DURING THE 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

Gender	Count	%
Female	1910	65.3%
Male	1013	34.7%
Grand Total	2923	100.0%

ETHNICITY

Race/Ethnicity	%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0.6%
Asian	1.5%
Black or African American	36.4%
Hispanic/Latino	9.2%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.2%
Non-Resident	0.9%
Two or more Races	0.7%
White	50.5%
Grand Total	100%



71.8%

OF STUDENTS ARE
FROM AIKEN COUNTY

AVERAGE
STUDENT AGE
27

MEDIAN
STUDENT AGE
23

PERCENTAGE OF STUDENT AGES

Age Band	%
Under 18	4.0%
18-19	16.9%
20-21	18.2%
22-24	15.4%
25-29	13.3%
30-34	11.4%
35-39	8.6%
40-49	9.1%
50-64	2.8%
65 and Over	0.2%

For fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE FINANCIALS

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$25,087,725
TOTAL REVENUE	\$42,526,638
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND DEFERRED INFLOWS	\$42,360,929
TOTAL ASSETS AND DEFERRED OUTFLOWS	\$78,127,090

AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION FINANCIALS

TOTAL EXPENDITURES AND DEDUCTION	\$448,714
TOTAL REVENUE, SUPPORT, AND RECLASSIFICATIONS	\$907,676
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$7,401,327
TOTAL ASSETS	\$7,409,284



In Memory

AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
REMEMBERS AND HONORS
THE LIVES LOST IN 2023.

Christopher Burton

INSTRUCTOR

Christopher Burton was the machine tool technology program instructor at the time of his death, a role he had held since August 2018. Before becoming a full-time employee at Aiken Tech, he was also an adjunct instructor for two years.

Joshua A. Campagnari

STUDENT

Joshua A. Campagnari was in the third semester of the Associate in Applied Science: General Technology: Welding program at the time of his death.

LEADERSHIP

AIKEN COUNTY COMMISSION FOR TECHNICAL AND COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION

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

Bill Windley, *Retired, Vice Chair*

Keyatta D. Priester,
Aiken Electric Cooperative, Secretary

Jennifer Curtis, *Retired*

Paul Hanna, *Aiken Regional Medical Centers*

Charles Hartz, *Business Owner*

Dorian Newton, *D.Eng.,
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions*

Alvin B. 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*

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Sean Alford, *Savannah River Nuclear Solutions*

Christopher Austin, *Austin & Pethick Law Firm*

Terra Carroll, *North Augusta Chamber of Commerce*

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

Chrissa Matthews, *DayBreak Adult Care Services*

Dr. Salvatore Minolfo,
Aiken County Public School District

Dr. Paul D. Newsom, *USC Aiken,
VentureSouth-Aiken*

Joshua A. Raines,
Raines Physical Therapy and Performance

Lindsey Reeves,
Superior Nursing Solutions, ATC Alumna

EX-OFFICIO

Will Williams, Jr.,
Western SC Economic Development Partnership

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

Ron Felder

Sandy Haskell

P.K. Hightower

Mike Kellems

Kelley Mobley

Phil Napier

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



AIKEN
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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

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.

For more information, visit **atc.edu/Foundation/Give**.



Aiken Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its admissions policies, programs, activities, or employment practices. Aiken Technical College will take steps to ensure that the lack of English language skills will not be a barrier to admission and participation in vocational educational programs. The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the college's non-discrimination policies: Chad Crumbaker, Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs, Aiken Technical College, P.O. Drawer 696, Aiken, SC 29802, phone number (803) 508-7244, office location: Suite 1014-A. Or, contact: Director, Office of Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, DC 20201. For more information: www.atc.edu/Notices/Nondiscrimination.