



**SOUTHERN
CRESCENT**
TECHNICAL COLLEGE



TECH TRENDS

The Official Newsletter of Southern Crescent Technical College

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



SCTC: Making An Impact

I have said this many times before, but I feel that it is always worth repeating...GREAT things are happening at Southern Crescent Technical College! As the summer semester unfolds, I am filled with a deep sense of pride and gratitude for our remarkable faculty and staff and the achievements we make each day. Southern Crescent Technical College continues to make a difference in the lives of the students and communities we serve as we work diligently to make technical education accessible to all.

While we take immense pride in our summer accomplishments, we are also eagerly preparing for the upcoming academic year. So much of the enthusiasm and hard work of our campus community during the summer months as detailed in this issue of Tech Trends lay a strong foundation for a successful and dynamic year ahead. We are equally excited about where we have been as we are about the upcoming opportunities and initiatives that will continue to propel Southern Crescent Technical College forward. We are thrilled to have your encouragement on this exciting journey and look forward to your continued support.

- Dr. Irvin Clark, President

Educator Externship Showcases Real-World Technical Education

Recognizing the need to strengthen the region's workforce pipeline through innovative partnerships with our K-12 colleagues, Southern Crescent Technical College hosted an Educator Externship Program in partnership with Georgia Power called Connect - SCTC that provided an opportunity for educators to observe technical education in action while interacting with local companies and gaining real-world industry experience to bring back to their schools and students.

Southern Crescent Technical College partnered with local public school systems in Butts, Fayette, Henry, Jasper, Lamar, Pike, Spalding, and Upson counties to offer this unique program. Through Connect - SCTC, nineteen educators spent four days understanding the local economy and exploring career opportunities in our industrial and allied health sectors. While at industry sites and medical facilities in the area, educators met with key leaders to learn about the mission and vision of the company, participate in a tour, and shadow employees in key occupations.

SCTC President Dr. Irvin Clark commented, "What a fantastic week for technical education in our community! Through Connect - SCTC Educator Externship, we were able to showcase technical education to local educators and bring awareness to the importance of technical education through various workforce development opportunities. We are incredibly grateful to Georgia Power for sponsoring this event and also to our local community partners including our local public school superintendents, Development Authorities, Chambers of Commerce, and participating business, industry, and allied health partners who joined forces to make this unique program a resounding success."

The educators participating in the program were nominated by their school superintendents and received a stipend after completion that was made possible by a generous donation from Georgia Power. Participants were tasked with creating a portfolio that featured a summary of the companies visited; an overview of occupations found within the company; information regarding technical education and business



Connect - SCTC participants with representatives from Georgia Power and SCTC

and industry training programs at Southern Crescent Technical College; and ideas to reinforce the soft skills needed to succeed at the company. To wrap up the Educator Externship, all educators presented their portfolios to external stakeholders.

The Educator Externship Program provided a foundation for fostering future opportunities for our K-12 students in the region and strengthening the partnerships with education and industry to produce a better-equipped workforce. sctech.edu/EducatorExternship24

Amazon Donates to Support Tender Tech

One of the major barriers that students face in completing their education is the lack of access to safe and reliable childcare for their children. In order to remove this barrier and assist local families, Amazon has donated \$10,000 to Southern Crescent Technical College, designated to help defray the cost of tuition for parents of children at SCTC's Tender Tech Child Development Center, located on the Flint River Campus in Thomaston.

Teretta Rodgers, Amazon Head of Community Affairs for the Atlanta Region said, "Amazon is proud to support Southern Crescent Technical College and its students with this donation as we work to remove barriers that hinder academic success. We are so grateful to Southern Crescent Technical College for their continuous efforts to provide a quality education and for allowing Amazon to be a part of this impactful initiative. Amazon believes in the power of education to transform lives and this donation is part of our long-term commitment to support education. Our mission includes making education accessible to everyone, regardless of their circumstances. With our Southern Crescent Technical College partners,



we hope to make a significant difference in the lives of many students and build a brighter future for all."

SCTC President Dr. Irvin Clark stated, "Many of our students are parents who struggle to balance their academic responsibilities with their need to ensure their children are well cared for. We are so thankful to Amazon for this significant donation to provide tuition relief so parents can continue to work and attend classes and reach their personal and professional goals."

Tender Tech Child Development Center offers care for children ages 6 weeks through 12 years of age. sctech.edu/AmazonTenderTech

SCTC Faculty & Staff Raise Over \$40,000 for Student Needs



Southern Crescent Technical College Foundation recently wrapped up the FY25 Internal Tiger Fundraising Campaign where pledges were submitted with 75% of full-time faculty and staff participating, donating a grand total of \$40,377 for student support and scholarships. Of that 75%, 52 employees pledged one percent of their salaries to become a member of the President's One Percent Club.

Over the last five years, the SCTC faculty and staff have pledged a total of \$227,082.88 in the internal campaign allowing the SCTC Foundation to award over 485 scholarships to students from the contributions of this campaign.

Southern Crescent Technical College President, Dr. Irvin Clark said, "It is truly remarkable to see the investment our employees make to ensure the success of our students. I am so proud to work with individuals that believe in our mission and give their own resources to support others."

Some of the scholarships from the Tiger Campaign account for financial aid assistance for students who do not qualify or have capped their financial aid funding while others are established to purchase program-specific tools and textbooks. Without these scholarships, many recipients say that they would not be able to continue their studies and reach their educational goals. sctech.edu/TigerCampaign

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Summer Micromester 2 Begins - July 1, 2024
- Independence Day - July 4, 2024
> All Campuses CLOSED, no classes
- Fall Semester Begins August 12, 2024

SCTC's Accreditation Reaffirmed

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) has reaffirmed the accreditation of Southern Crescent Technical College for another 10 years. SACSCOC requires all institutions to have their accreditation reaffirmed every 10 years to remain in good standing. The accreditation process required a thorough self-review, an off-site, and an on-site review that included submission of reports that demonstrated the College's adherence to SACSCOC standards and guidelines. SACSCOC accreditation provides a seal of quality for students, and having SACSCOC accreditation allows Southern Crescent Technical College to maintain eligibility for state and federal funds, including student financial aid through the U. S. Department of Education.

"Achieving this significant milestone is a testament to Southern Crescent Technical College's dedication to continuous improvement and our unwavering commitment to delivering high quality education for our students and community," said SCTC President Dr. Irvin Clark.

Discovery Series Displays Exciting Careers

Southern Crescent Technical College (SCTC) is excited to announce plans to kick-off the 2024 Summer Discovery Series with Robotics and Automation Boot Camps utilizing the Industrial Systems Technology Mobile Training Lab. The first of these camps will be held June 25-27 at J.P. Moseley Park in Stockbridge each day. The Summer Discovery Series Boot Camps are offered free of charge for participants 15 and older.

SCTC's Summer Discovery Series Boot Camps are designed to introduce participants to the high-demand industry sector of Robotics, Automation, Industrial Systems and Advanced Manufacturing and assist them with an understanding of various career opportunities available in this field. Participants will be introduced to PLCs (Programmable Logic Controllers) and TMS (Sorting and Inventory Control Systems) used in the shipping and handling industry. Additionally, they will learn systems programming, troubleshooting, and lab safety.



Emphasis will be placed on educational opportunities available at Southern Crescent Technical College including courses offered at the SCTC Henry County Center located in McDonough.

Participants attending one session will receive a certificate of completion which allows them to have their application for admission to Southern Crescent Technical College waived.

The 2024 Summer Discovery Series is currently making plans to host additional Robotics and Automation Boot Camps in Butts, Spalding, and Upson counties in July. sctech.edu/SummerDiscovery

GET TO KNOW: SCTC Police Chief Lemuel Mercado



Lemuel Mercado
Chief of Police

"As Chief of Police at SCTC, I cherish the opportunity to serve and support our students, faculty, and staff. I am passionate about fostering a safe and welcoming campus environment where everyone can thrive. Engaging with the community daily allows me to build strong relationships and trust. I enjoy the unique challenges and dynamic nature of a college setting, which keeps my role both fulfilling and exciting. It's incredibly rewarding to contribute to the personal and professional growth of our students by ensuring their safety and well-being."

What is your favorite part of your job?
Seeing students that I have gotten to know finish their program, reach their goals and graduate.

What do you like to do when you are not working?

Spend time with my family and work outside in the yard

Where is your favorite place to relax?

Home

What is the best advice someone has given you?

Do the best with what you have, but always try to improve any situation you are involved in.

Where would you take a dream vacation?

A traveling tour of Ireland, Spain, and Puerto Rico

What is something people may not know about you?

I used to play a lot of beach volleyball

What is your favorite memory?

My wife and I had an outside wedding and while standing at the altar, a hummingbird hovered directly in front of my wife's face, gazing at her beauty.

What do you hope others learn from you?

The importance of displaying compassion to help others in their time of need.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SCTC Police

Southern Crescent Technical College operates a state-accredited independent law enforcement agency which offers the highest degree of safety and security for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The SCTC Police Department, led by the Chief of Police, provides basic patrol functions and has all powers which are afforded to law enforcement agencies of the state of Georgia. All officers that work for SCTC are P.O.S.T. certified with state granted powers of arrest and have authorized jurisdiction to enforce the laws of the State of Georgia. Officers are sworn to defend the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Georgia, and the laws and ordinances of the jurisdiction. sctech.edu/campuspolice

Have a question, comment, or story idea for Tech Trends? Email us at marketing@sctech.edu

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