



**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

As we welcome the warmer days of Spring, we are reminded of the renewal and hope that this season brings. Spring is a time of growth and new beginnings. Around campus, the flowers are in bloom and the trees are blossoming and we are constantly reminded of our purpose - to assist students as they seek opportunities for growth and renewal in their own lives.

With this new season, I see the same spirit of transformation throughout all areas of Southern Crescent Technical College. Over the last four semesters, the College has experienced steady enrollment growth with an increase of 25.5% since this time two years ago. As you can see in this issue of Tech Trends, throughout this time our students, staff, instructors, programs, and key supporters have continued to excel. It is such an exciting time to be involved in technical education. We take immense pride in providing our students with a comprehensive education that prepares them with the practical skills needed for success in today's workforce.

Southern Crescent Technical College continues to make a tremendous impact, both in the communities and the lives of the students that we serve. We are committed to continued success and filled with excitement and anticipation for the many new initiatives to come. I am so proud of the work that we do and look forward to continuing our efforts to make a lasting impact and meet the workforce development needs of our area.

- Dr. Irvin Clark, President

SCTC Students Named Best in State at SkillsUSA Competitions

Five outstanding students recently attended the 2024 SkillsUSA Georgia Postsecondary State Conference and Competition representing Southern Crescent Technical College. The conference, held February 22-24, 2024 in Atlanta, Georgia was attended by students and advisors from colleges around the state. Featuring the best of the best from across the state of Georgia, the State Leadership and Skills Conference gave students the opportunity to put their technical skills to the test in over 70 career competitions including leadership, health, trade and technical competitions.

While at the conference, SCTC Horticulture students took home top honors in two different competitions. Jennifer Vinkos, Ivan Arnold and Carter won gold in the Career Pathways competition (Agriculture/ Natural Resources/Food) and Horticulture student Sabrina Harris won gold in Job Skills Demonstration

with her presentation of "Grafting of Fruit Trees". Welding student Drake McCreight also competed but did not place.

As gold medal winners in the state competition, these students will return to Atlanta for the National SkillsUSA Conference June 24-28, 2024. There, they will compete against winners from all across the nation in the largest display of skills training in the country.

During the opening ceremony of the conference, the SCTC SkillsUSA Chapter was recognized for achieving the status of Level One Quality Chapter as well as Level 2: Chapter of Distinction for their commitment to the SkillsUSA values and to student success.

SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry representatives working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. They are a national



nonprofit organization serving teachers and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations, including health occupations. sctech.edu/Skills24

Culinary Arts Students Study Abroad

Three SCTC Culinary Arts students, accompanied by their instructor Chef Daniel Krinsky, have just returned from a three week study abroad trip to Kendal College in England. During their trip, Sybil Hill, Sherry McNeal-Ford, and Rebecca Talley applied their culinary skills and knowledge with confidence to foreign foods and techniques as they adjusted to new cooking situations and demands.

While abroad, they worked in various aspects of the on-site restaurant, participated in numerous cooking events, and studied under Chef Richard Axford and other Michelin-starred chefs, joining fellow apprentices to assist with the Cumbria Food Awards gala, a major hospitality dinner.

In its ninth year, the travel abroad trip was made possible from the fundraising efforts of the Culinary



Arts Advisory Committee and the SCTC Foundation. According to Chef Krinsky, "The study abroad program contributes greatly to the enrichment of a student's educational journey by not only exposing our

students to different cultures, flavors, and landscapes, but also by providing our students with the opportunity to develop and hone essential critical thinking skills. These same skills will become so important as they grow into their careers and access management level positions." sctech.edu/TravelAbroad

SCTC Foundation Trustee Walter Smith Recognized By Community



Congratulations to SCTC Foundation Trustee and longtime College supporter Walter Smith who, along with his company Smith and Sons Funeral Home, recently received the Jasper County Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award. With a staff of ten employees, Smith and Sons Funeral Home is the oldest African American owned business in Jasper County and a steadfast community supporter. They take great pride in serving local families with dignity and respect during their most difficult times.

SCTC President Dr. Irvin Clark stated, "Walter Smith has been a dedicated supporter of Southern Crescent Technical College and has made a significant impact on the College and the SCTC Foundation with his 10+ years of service. Through his support to the mission and vision of the College, the Foundation has continued to help students reach their personal and professional goals." sctech.edu/WalterSmith

Welding Instructor Receives Award

The American Welding Society (AWS) Atlanta Section representing Georgia recently selected Southern Crescent Technical College Welding instructor Christopher Patterson for the Section Educator Award in recognition of his quality of instruction and devotion to the growth of knowledge and skills of his students in the field of welding.

Robert Trudelle, American Welding Society Local Area Chairman stated, "In addition to his classroom and lab instruction, Chris goes above and beyond by serving as the advisor to the SCTC AWS Student Chapter. As the advisor, he promotes and encourages the student's growth in the welding industry through involvement in welding competitions, career day events with local industry, guest speakers, and continued involvement with industry leaders to

improve the effectiveness of the welding program at Southern Crescent Technical College. As the Chairman for the AWS - American Welding Society Atlanta Section, it is an honor to present Christopher Patterson with this award." sctech.edu/AWSaward



Flint Energies Makes Donation to Adult Ed



Marion McLemore, Vice President of Cooperative Communications for Flint Energies, recently presented a check for \$2,655.00 to SCTC President Dr. Irvin Clark from the Flint Energies Foundation for GED scholarships for students who reside in the Flint Energies service area.

Flint Energies is a not-for-profit member-owned electric cooperative that provides energy services to residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural members in parts of 17 central Georgia counties.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Spring Break - April 1-5, 2024
> No classes
- Spring Micromester 3 Begins - April 8, 2024
- Spring Advisory Committee Meeting - April 11, 2024

GRADUATION



SAVE THE DATE! MAY 10, 2024

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH - NORTH CAMPUS - FAYETTEVILLE, GA

GET TO KNOW: SCTC Director of Library Services Denise Barbour



Denise G. Barbour
Director of
Library Services

"As I continue working in my passion and purpose serving as Director of Library Services at SCTC, I know the library is the heartbeat of information access. I place equity at the forefront of my beliefs, and take pride in treating our students and community with dignity and respect. I believe in disseminating accurate and relevant resources while continuously supporting student achievement. Even with over twenty years of experience in library services, it brings me immense joy and satisfaction when students and colleagues express the positive impact the library had on their SCTC experience."

What is your favorite part of your job?

I know that I am serving my purpose in life by helping others.

What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?

Creating memories with my family and friends.

What are three things you can't live without?

Faith, family and friends and the sense of humility

Where is your favorite place to relax?

Crab Island in Destin, Florida

What is the best advice someone has given you?

My uncle once said, "No task is too hard to conquer; no goal is too high to achieve. To Be is to Believe"

Where would you take a dream vacation?

Maldives

What is something people may not know about you?

I have been collecting Barbie Dolls and Models cars since I was 14 years old. I have over 100 Barbie dolls, and over 100 Model Cars still in their original box.

What are you reading or watching?

Jeopardy is my favorite!

LEARN MORE ABOUT

Library Services

The principal purpose of the SCTC Library is to ensure that all students, faculty and staff have access to primary and secondary materials needed to support the college's mission, vision, core values and academic programming. Our goal is to expand knowledge and increase intellectual exploration while providing quality academic resources and services that support the curriculum needs of students enrolled in the College's adult education, dual enrollment, continuing education, and workforce training programs. The Library partners with outside organizations to offer regularly scheduled workshops to help to expand a student's knowledge and perspective through topics such as financial literacy, health education, horticulture, book club, monthly observances and other academic centered subjects. sctech.edu/Library

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

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