



**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 stand on the threshold of a new year, I am filled with a sense of optimism and excitement for the possibilities that lie ahead. The start of a new year is not just a change in the calendar; it is an opportunity for new beginnings, growth, and collective progress for our entire college community. As always, Southern Crescent Technical College is willing and able to embrace the challenges and opportunities in the year ahead as we work diligently to make an impact both in the communities and in the lives of the students that we serve.

Once again, I am proud to share the latest issue of Tech Trends where we showcase some of the recent highlights and accomplishments of our outstanding programs, faculty and students. Innovative initiatives and partnerships continue to have a direct impact on our enrollment growth with the latest numbers for Spring Semester expecting to soar to more than 6,000 credit students. The steadfast support from our business, industry, education partners and individuals are a testament to the importance of technical education. Each of these efforts highlight our steadfast dedication to achieving excellence and we are thrilled that so many support our efforts and see the value in what we do.

With a new year ahead, I challenge each of you to approach it with the same enthusiasm and determination that has fueled our past achievements. I am excited about the opportunities that await us, and I look forward to working hand-in-hand with each member of Tiger Nation to make Southern Crescent Technical College the very best that it can be.

- Dr. Irvin Clark, President

## Rivian Apprenticeship Agreement Signed by SCTC Students



Eight Southern Crescent Technical College students recently participated in a signing ceremony at the Georgia QuickStart Training Center in Social Circle as the inaugural cohort begins the Rivian Technical Trades program. These students join students from Georgia Piedmont Technical College and Athens Technical College who have been selected to participate in the EV company's apprentice program.

This signing ceremony marks the beginning of a USDOL Registered Apprenticeship for students, providing participants with a unique opportunity

to fast-track their careers in skilled trades with a dedicated focus on pursuing credentials in industrial maintenance or machine tool disciplines. Interested students participated in a lengthy interview process and those selected are now full-time employees of Rivian. This program is structured to provide comprehensive education and hands-on experience. Participants will begin by immersing themselves in the latest advancements in manufacturing technology with an initial period of academic study, followed by 12 months of practical training in Rivian's cutting-edge factory located in Normal, IL.

Southern Crescent Technical College's Rivian cohort will train at the Butts County Center and are now employed as full-time team members where they will receive a competitive pay rate and benefits package. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will earn maintenance certificates and journey worker certificates from the Department of Labor, equipping them to pursue diverse roles and work any shift within Rivian's operations.

Rivian, an up-and-coming electric vehicle company, is in the process of building a \$5 billion, 16-million square foot facility in Stanton Springs, Georgia. As one of the largest economic development projects in Georgia history, approximately 7,500 employees are expected to be hired as the construction is completed and manufacturing begins. These SCTC students participating in the Rivian Technical Trades cohort are among some of the first employees of the new facility.

SCTC President Dr. Irvin Clark stated, "The collaboration and partnership between Southern Crescent Technical College and Rivian not only creates unique job opportunities for our students in high-demand skilled trades careers, but also reinforces the economic impact on the local and state level through their involvement in the new \$5 billion Rivian facility. This partnership marks an exciting opportunity for our students and a significant step toward fulfilling our mission of economic development in the communities that we serve." [sctech.edu/Rivian](http://sctech.edu/Rivian)

## RN Bridge Program Receives Tremendous External Support

It was a day of celebration as Southern Crescent Technical College officially kicked off the highly anticipated LPN/Paramedic to RN Bridge program at the SCTC Griffin Campus and Fayette County Center with overwhelming support from key stakeholders, donors, community leaders, elected local and state officials, industry partners, and education affiliates. In both events, industry representatives from Wellstar Spalding Hospital and Piedmont Fayette Hospital showed their support and reinforced the great need for nurses to contribute to the betterment of healthcare in Georgia.

The new RN Bridge program began Spring Semester with the selection of fifty medical professionals participating in the inaugural cohort. This program offers a streamlined path for dedicated LPN and Paramedic healthcare practitioners to elevate their careers by becoming registered nurses. Program participants are required to attend one day of class each week for the duration of the program, enabling participants to complete their RN education in just one year.

The first celebration, held on the Griffin Campus, showcased the community and donor support of the bridge program as the Griffin-Spalding Hospital Authority and long-time supporter Mr. Sam Allen on behalf of his sister Connie Kendrick, each made a substantial donation to support nursing instruction for SCTC's RN program.

SCTC President Dr. Irvin Clark thanked both donors for their commitment to the College and community stating, "These generous donations to the LPN/Paramedic to RN Bridge program from the Griffin-

Spalding Hospital Authority and Mr. Sam Allen demonstrate a major dedication toward supporting healthcare education, addressing the nursing shortage, and helping cultivate the next generation of nurses in our community."

Later, at the Fayette County Center event, articulation agreements were signed between SCTC and Clayton State University (CSU) and also between SCTC and Gordon State College (GSC). The CSU agreement facilitates a smooth transition for SCTC nursing students into Clayton State's College of Health Bachelor of Science degree programs and the RN-BSN Completion Track. This agreement ensures that courses completed at SCTC will be recognized and transferable to Clayton State, minimizing credit loss and course duplication. Similarly, the agreement with Gordon State College establishes a pathway for SCTC Associate of Science in Nursing graduates with RN licensure to enroll in GSC's Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program with the transfer of relevant courses and credits, facilitating a smooth transition for students pursuing their BSN after completing their ASN and obtaining RN licensure.

The articulation agreements recently signed with both Gordon State College and Clayton State University are a landmark step, bridging educational pathways and amplifying opportunities for our nurse graduates to advance their careers and expertise in the healthcare field.

Student nurses enrolled in the RN Bridge program were on hand at each event to express their gratitude for the overwhelming support of the



SCTC Student Nurses and administrators are pictured with Sam Allen and members of the Griffin-Spalding Hospital Authority after the announcement of their donations to the RN program.



Gordon State College President Dr. Donald Green, SCTC President Dr. Irvin Clark and Clayton State University Dean of the College of Health Dewayne Hooks, sign articulation agreements

program. Dr. Clark commented, "I am so excited for what we have collectively been able to accomplish with the LPN/Paramedic to RN Bridge program. From identifying the need to the program's launch, we have received incredible support at every turn as we work to foster the growth and advancement of nursing professionals in our community."

[sctech.edu/RNBridge](http://sctech.edu/RNBridge) [sctech.edu/SamAllen](http://sctech.edu/SamAllen)  
[sctech.edu/GSHospitalAuthority](http://sctech.edu/GSHospitalAuthority)  
[sctech.edu/CSUarticulationBSN](http://sctech.edu/CSUarticulationBSN)  
[sctech.edu/GSCarticulationBSN](http://sctech.edu/GSCarticulationBSN)

## Top SCTC Adult Education Student and Instructor Named

SCTC recently announced that Laquanda Reynolds and Betsy Thoms have been chosen as the 2024 representatives for Southern Crescent Technical College's Adult Education Program.

After an extensive selection process, Reynolds was chosen as SCTC's EAGLE (Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education) delegate and will compete at the EAGLE Leadership Institute in Atlanta in March. The Leadership Institute annually recognizes and honors those students who have demonstrated superior achievement in adult education classes and programs.

Prior to being named the SCTC EAGLE delegate, Ms. Reynolds was nominated by her instructor to participate in the local EAGLE competition. SCTC Adult Education instructors were able to each nominate students for this competition. From these nominated students, one student is selected to represent Southern Crescent Technical College at the State Leadership Institute. At the Institute, local delegates from technical colleges throughout Georgia will participate in a comprehensive program of professional development sessions focusing on increased leadership, communication and life management skills. Ms. Reynolds was selected by a panel of judges and was judged on a speech and interview session. In addition to Reynolds, Nancy Persad-Cantrell and Hunter Horton were also



**Laquanda Reynolds**  
Adult Education Student  
2024 SCTC EAGLE Delegate



**Betsy Thoms**  
Adult Education Outstanding  
Instructor of the Year

recognized for their outstanding achievement as nominees in the EAGLE competition.

EAGLE is the first statewide program in the nation that recognizes and rewards excellence among students enrolled in adult education programs. This student recognition program is designed to create greater awareness of educational opportunities that are available in communities across the state and to foster greater involvement in lifelong learning pursuits.

Additionally, Fayette County English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor Betsy Thoms was also chosen to represent Southern Crescent Technical

College as the Adult Education Outstanding Teacher of the Year. Thoms began working as a part-time instructor with SCTC's Adult Education program in 2014 and later transitioned into a full-time position. Since then, she has been a shining example of a caring instructor that is willing to go the extra mile to ensure that her students have the greatest chance for success. Thoms worked diligently to become the area expert in BEST Plus and provides exceptional face-to-face and online training for our ESL students.

The Adult Education Outstanding Teacher of the Year program is designed to recognize and honor our most outstanding Adult Education teachers who make significant contributions to the field through instruction, innovation, and leadership. These outstanding teachers participate in school and community activities, they understand the importance of and are committed to the Adult Education profession, and they exemplify excellence.

Steve Hendrix, Southern Crescent Technical College Vice President for Adult Education stated, "I am thrilled that Ms. Reynolds and Mrs. Thoms have been chosen to represent the Adult Education program at SCTC. They are both driven and dedicated and stand out as shining examples of our College and program. I wish them great success as they move on to the next level of competition." [sctech.edu/EAGLE](http://sctech.edu/EAGLE)  
[sctech.edu/AETOTY](http://sctech.edu/AETOTY)

GRADUATION



SAVE THE DATE! MAY 10, 2024

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH - NORTH CAMPUS - FAYETTEVILLE, GA



Thank you to President Lynn Lowery (pictured middle-right) and the Spalding County Pickleball Association (SCPA) for their \$1,000 donation to the SCTC Foundation. These funds will be used to award two \$500 scholarships for the Practical Nursing program. Under the direction of SCTC Allied Health Dean Stephanie Rogers, each year SCTC student nurses have assisted with the SCPA Pickleball Association tournaments by volunteering in the first-aid tent. [sctech.edu/Pickleball](http://sctech.edu/Pickleball)

## GET TO KNOW: SCTC's 2024 Rick Perkins Award Winner Julie Gates



**Julie Gates**

Forensic Science Technology  
Program Coordinator

"Ms. Gates stands out as an exemplary educator whose innovative teaching methods and steadfast dedication to student success set a standard of excellence and inspiration for both the students and faculty at Southern Crescent Technical College. She is passionate about teaching and training her students and is truly dedicated to their success."

- Kimberly Register  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?

I love going camping with friends. There are about twenty of us that try to camp together at least once a month.

What are three things you can't live without?

My family, my faith and my dogs

What are you currently reading or watching?

I am currently reading a book about the kidnapping of Jacob Wetterling that occurred in 1989. I am also binge-watching Reacher.

What is your favorite memory?

When I was younger, every Christmas Eve, we would have fondue. My mom would fix all the sauces and my grandparents would be there. After we ate we would go down the street to our friends house where all of the kids would put on some sort of play for the grown-ups.

What is something people may not know about you?

I am an identical twin and I love sports.

Where is your favorite place to relax?

At home with my dogs Jazzy and Harlee

Where would you take a dream vacation?

Funny thing is, I feel like I have already taken my dream vacation. I was fortunate enough to visit Australia in 2017 where I snorkeled the Great Barrier Reef and saw a play in the Sydney Opera House

What is something that you hope others might learn from you?

To find your passion and to always strive to be the best that you can be

As Rick Perkins winner, Gates will represent Southern Crescent Technical College throughout the upcoming year as our local ambassador for technical education. Next, she will compete on the region and state level against other Rick Perkins Award winners from across Georgia's 22 technical colleges for the state title. The state Rick Perkins winner will be announced in late April. [sctech.edu/RPA24](http://sctech.edu/RPA24)

Have a question, comment, or story idea for Tech Trends? Email us at [marketing@sctech.edu](mailto:marketing@sctech.edu)

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