



HGTC  
**COLLEGE  
UPDATE**  
Spring 2024

# Letter From The President

Dear Colleagues,

I am thrilled to share some outstanding news with all of you regarding our spring semester enrollment numbers. We have experienced a remarkable surge in enrollment, with our figures up by nearly 6% compared to previous records. This achievement speaks volumes about the dedication and hard work of each and every one of you.

I am proud to highlight the College's performance surpasses the statewide trend within the South Carolina Technical College System, which has seen a 2.5% increase in enrollment. This remarkable accomplishment reflects not only our collective efforts but also our commitment to excellence and innovation in higher education.

Your unwavering commitment to promoting the College and encouraging prospective students to join our HGTC Gator community has truly made a difference. Whether it's through outreach efforts, providing excellent student services, or fostering a supportive learning environment, your contributions have played a pivotal role in attracting more students to our institution.

As we celebrate this achievement, it's essential to recognize that sustaining this positive momentum will require continued collaboration and teamwork across all divisions.

Looking ahead, we have exciting developments on the horizon, including the upcoming groundbreaking ceremony for the new Nursing and Health Sciences Institute. Scheduled for April 22, this event marks the beginning of a transformative journey as we embark on the renovation of Building 100 on the Grand Strand Campus. This project underscores our commitment to meeting the evolving needs by advancing excellence in healthcare education.

I need your continued advocacy for the College, engaging with our legislators and state leaders. Your support is instrumental in ensuring our institution receives the recognition and resources it deserves.

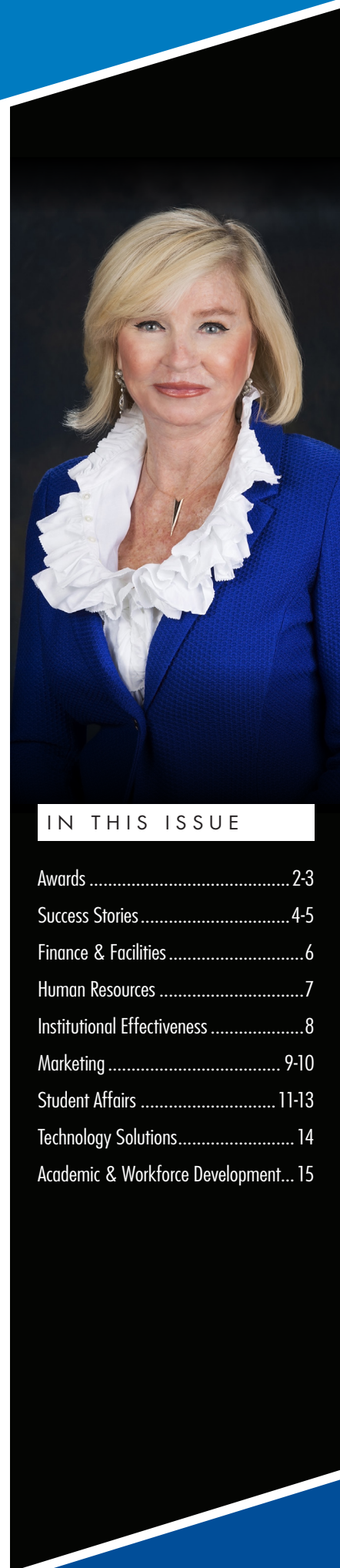
In closing, I want to express my sincere gratitude to each of you for your unwavering commitment to the College's success. We have achieved remarkable milestones, and I am confident with your continued support, we will build an even brighter future for our institution.

Thank you for your ongoing contributions. Let's continue to strive for excellence in all we do.

Sincerely,



**Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore**  
*President, Horry-Georgetown Technical College*



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## INSTRUCTOR SALLY GUERRY RECEIVES ADJUNCT FACULTY OF THE YEAR



Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks (left), Executive Vice President of Academic and Workforce Development, and Dr. Minda Chuska (right), HGTC Chair and Professor of English and Communications, present Sally Guerry (center) with 2023 Adjunct Faculty of the Year Award.

Instructor Sally Guerry Receives Adjunct Faculty of the Year  
HGTC proudly announced Sally Guerry, HGTC English Instructor, as the recipient of the prestigious 2023 Adjunct Faculty of the Year Award. This accolade recognizes Guerry's exceptional dedication, innovation, and unwavering commitment to student success.

Since joining HGTC in 2005, she has consistently demonstrated extraordinary dedication to her teaching responsibilities. Guerry has imparted knowledge across a wide spectrum of courses, adapting seamlessly to changing curricula, teaching methods, and educational technologies. Her fearless approach to learning has been an inspiration to both students and colleagues alike.

The challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic did not deter Guerry's enthusiasm for education. She expertly transitioned her classes to an online format, ensuring that her students continued to receive a high-quality education. Her resilience shone through as she overcame obstacles to support her students' learning journeys.

What sets Guerry apart is her unwavering commitment to her students. She goes above and beyond to provide personalized guidance and support. Her availability, even outside of regular class hours, exemplifies her dedication to her students' success. By fostering personal connections with her students, she creates a nurturing and empowering learning environment.

As a retired Georgetown County School District teacher, Guerry brings a unique perspective to her role at HGTC. Her deep understanding of student needs and her personal connection with them enable her to provide exceptional guidance and support, resulting in her students' success academically and personally.

Guerry's devotion extends beyond the classroom; she acts as an outstanding ambassador for HGTC. Her efforts in assisting former students through the application and registration process highlight her commitment to the college's mission. Her professionalism and loyalty have set a high standard of excellence for HGTC.

*"We are proud to name Instructor Sally Guerry as the 2023 Adjunct Faculty of the Year in recognition of her outstanding contributions to education and her service to Horry-Georgetown Technical College. Her exemplary commitment to student success, fearless embrace of change, and role as an ambassador for HGTC make her a true inspiration to all. We congratulate her on this well-deserved honor and appreciate her exceptional dedication to education," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.*

# Awards



Ann Daniels



Erin Ivey



Bobbi Jo Oxendine

## HGTC EMPLOYEES SELECTED AS THE SCTEA “EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR”

HGTC employees were recognized along with their colleagues from other South Carolina technical colleges at SCTEA’s annual conference February 15-17, 2024 where they received a certificate and a cash award.

The purpose of the association’s Educator of the Year Awards is to provide annual recognition for outstanding service and achievement in the categories of administrator/manager, faculty/teaching, and staff in the South Carolina Technical College System.

HGTC’s Educator of the Year Award Winners recognized at the SCTEA Conference include:

- Ann Daniels, Assistant Vice President, Academic Affairs and Dean, Nursing & Health Sciences, in the administrator/manager category,
- Erin Ivey, Assistant Chair and Professor – Surgical Technology, in the faculty/teaching category, and
- Bobbi Jo Oxendine, Assistant Director for Human Resources, in the staff category.

The award recipients were nominated by their peers for superior leadership in their departments, quality work ethic, and community involvement.

*“HGTC is proud of the outstanding service and achievements of these special individuals. Their dedication to our College is reflected in the unique vote of confidence of their peers,” said HGTC President Marilyn Murphy Fore. “We are extremely blessed to have employees whose professionalism is second to none in higher education. Our faculty and staff are working harder than ever to serve our students and this community.”*

# Success Stories



Lauren Beck

## LAUREN BECK, 2023 HGTC GRADUATE EMBARKING ON A PROMISING CAREER IN NURSING

HGTC proudly presents an inspiring success story in our alumni spotlight, featuring Lauren Beck, a 2023 graduate who has embarked on a promising career in nursing. Her story highlights the importance of finding the right educational path that aligns with one's goals and needs. Her journey from high school to becoming a Registered Nurse through HGTC showcases several valuable lessons.

Lauren Beck's journey began when she graduated from South Columbus High School in 2020 with not only her high school diploma but also a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certificate. This early exposure to the healthcare field helped her realize her passion for nursing, setting the stage for her future success.

Initially, Lauren enrolled at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNC-Charlotte) to pursue pre-nursing courses. However, the challenges posed by the pandemic with classes completely online and limited interaction with professors

left her isolated and less engaged. Her experience at UNC-Charlotte, while originally pursuing a four-year degree, taught her the importance of adaptability and self-reflection. When her educational experience didn't meet her expectations, she had the courage to reassess her choices.

Lauren's discovery of HGTC was through her mother's recommendation, an experienced nurse and professor at the College. She says her decision to enter the nursing field was heavily influenced by her mother's expertise and guidance.

Thanks to her prior coursework at South Columbus High School and UNC-Charlotte, Lauren had all the prerequisites required for entering the nursing program at HGTC in the Fall of 2021. She further enriched her experience by working as a Patient Care Technician at Grand Strand Medical Center before dedicating herself full-time to her studies.

Lauren officially began her nursing career in July 2023, joining Grand Strand Medical Center as a Registered Nurse in the New Graduate StaRN Nurse Residency Program. This intensive seven-week orientation course enables new graduates to gain acute care nursing experience, setting the stage for a successful career in healthcare.

*Reflecting on her educational journey, Lauren shared, "I felt pressure to attend a four-year university following my high school graduation. After spending time on campus, I realized that was not the best route for me. I needed closer relationships with my instructors, and HGTC provided that tight-knit atmosphere, not to mention the value and savings of a two-year degree. I had a wonderful experience at HGTC. My instructors helped prepare me with hands-on experiences and resources available as needed."*

In conclusion, Lauren Beck's success story exemplifies the value of choosing the right educational path and the profound impact of personalized instruction and practical experiences. Lauren Beck's story is a testament to the flexibility and opportunities for support offered by technical colleges like HGTC. Her message to aspiring students is a powerful one:

*"Try not to feel pressured to follow a traditional university path if it doesn't align with their goals especially when a technical college can offer the same degree and often a more personalized educational experience," she said.*

This advice encourages students to explore alternative educational routes that may better suit their needs and emphasizes the importance of finding the right fit for one's academic and career aspirations. It reminds us there is no one-size-fits-all approach to education, and success can be achieved through various pathways. Her dedication and determination are commendable, and her journey serves as an inspiration for others pursuing their educational and career ambitions.

# Success Stories



## HGTC STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM GRANT IN BUCKSPORT

HGTC is proud of the work being done in the Bucksport area with educational grant funding approved by Horry County Government in 2021 provided through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Now in the second year of the grant opportunity, the Bucksport, Toddsville, and Bucksville areas of Horry County have easier access to the job training programs offered by HGTC through the Bucksport community education program.

Shakerra Washington, a 33-year-old mother of two daughters, managed to complete her phlebotomy certification in May. She began the program in February and continued to work as a medical office assistant while taking classes.

*"Hearing about the program itself, I was immediately interested. I have always wanted to learn phlebotomy, and I felt like this was an opportunity for me to have a refresher of what I had learned over 10 years ago in my previous medical training. It was a beautiful process overall. I cannot say that it was not stressful because I just had a baby a few months ago, and there was a lot going on in my life. I wanted to do something different and do something for my girls," said Washington, Phlebotomy graduate.*

Vincent Myers, HGTC Workforce Development Manager, has been working on the fulfillment of grant funds since the program began in the spring of 2022.

*"HGTC has been promoting this exciting news and hopes others will learn how the funding opportunities have benefited the communities in which they live. We are in the second year of this grant opportunity with funds still available. We want to continue our success of the program by helping those in the community overcome the barriers of attaining an education, which is necessary to not only survive but also thrive financially," said Myers.*

HGTC is eager for the community to hear how HGTC educational offerings will propel residents toward career goals and beyond with one of the following programs:

- Certified Medical Assistant
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Commercial Driver's License (CDL)
- Computer Technology
- Culinary Arts
- Drone Training
- Emergency Medical Technology Basic (EMT)
- IV Therapy
- Phlebotomy
- And more!

*"We are very excited about the results we are seeing through the grant funding available from Horry County for those who live in the Bucksport community and surrounding areas. There are many tuition-free programs available for various career paths and life-changing opportunities for residents who will take advantage of classes as they prepare for a better future," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.*

The community education program in the Bucksport area was granted \$1.9 million to bring certain job skills courses to community members, either via online courses or at the James R. Frazier Community Center. This opportunity also allows for supporting curriculum courses and programs offered at any of our three campus locations. The grant has been used to purchase classroom equipment at the community center and fund the training programs offered.

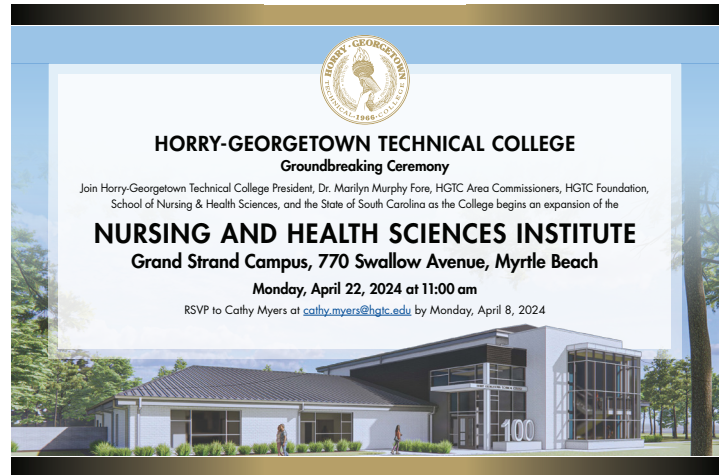
Shakerra Washington continues to work as a medical office assistant and received several job offers, including a PRN position with Ramp Health working as a phlebotomist for clinical and wellbeing services at outreach events.

*"The instructor for the phlebotomy program was amazing. Seeing her passion for teaching encouraged me to want to learn more. She believed in me even when I did not believe in myself. The push and positive feedback were exactly what I needed to give me the reassurance to keep going in furthering my education," Washington continued.*

For more information about the grant, please contact Katelyn Clay, HGTC Community Development Coordinator, at 843-349-7258, [katelyn.clay@hgtc.edu](mailto:katelyn.clay@hgtc.edu) or Vincent Myers, HGTC Workforce Development Manager, at 843-349-5387, [vincent.myers@hgtc.edu](mailto:vincent.myers@hgtc.edu).

# Finance & Facilities

President Fore is proud to announce the commencement of Building 100 (gymnasium) renovations for the new Nursing and Health Sciences Institute on the Grand Strand Campus. HGTC will host a Groundbreaking Ceremony on Monday, April 22 at 11:00am. Employees are invited to this special occasion as the community, the Honorable Lieutenant Governor, donors, Area Commission, legislators, and more come together for this memorable time in the history of the College.



## STIMULUS FUNDING AND TAX CREDIT

HGTC filed for a refund of approximately \$5.0 million from the Internal Revenue Service under the Employee Retention Credit Act. This refund is available to certain institutions of higher education that can demonstrate they were impacted by the recent COVID pandemic. HGTC was the first technical college in South Carolina to research, document, and file this claim and has served as a leader to several four-year institutions in pursuing the tax credit. HGTC has received approximately \$3.4 million of the \$5.0 million refund and awaits the balance.

## CAPITAL PROJECTS AND MAJOR RENOVATIONS

HGTC is continuing with its plans for building new and renovating its existing facilities and campus infrastructure. The College is currently managing 12 capital projects valued at more than \$41.1 million dollars. Some of the projects include:

### Cosmetology

- HGTC is renovating Building 500 and 600 on the Conway Campus with a budget of \$1,500,000 to expand the capacity of the Cosmetology Program.

### Constructing an Additional Parking Lot on the Grand Strand Campus

- HGTC is constructing a parking lot on the Grand Strand Campus with a budget of \$1,500,000 to support Building 100 and other campus-wide parking needs.

### Renovating the HVAC Systems on all three Campuses

- HGTC is in the process of replacing the HVAC Systems on 12 buildings with a budget of \$2.9 million. The HVAC replacements for Conway Building 1100 and Georgetown Building 100, valued at approximately \$3.4 million, were completed in early January, with the balance of the work to be completed throughout 2024.

### Renovating the Roofing Systems on all three Campuses

- HGTC is repairing or replacing roofing systems on 12 or more buildings and has a budget of approximately \$5.79 million. The roofing replacements will begin in May 2024 and completed by March 2025.

### Constructing a Marine Technology Center on the Georgetown Campus

- The project includes construction of a 25,000 square foot Marine Technology Center on the Georgetown Campus that will be dedicated to the Outboard Marine and Boat Building Programs. According to the architect's plan, construction on the new building is scheduled to begin in July 2025 and completed in October 2026, with faculty and staff moving in the building throughout November and December of 2026.

### Renovations to the Georgetown Campus

- Workforce Training Center – The building is being renovated to support expanding the existing Outboard Marine Technician Program to the Georgetown Campus and beginning a new Boat Building program in the fall. The project was completed in July 2023 for classes this past fall.
- Main Building Rooms 302, 303, and 304 – These spaces have been renovated to support transitioning the HVAC classes from the existing Workforce Training Center. The project was completed in July 2023.
- Additional exterior lighting has been installed.
- Center for Advanced Manufacturing (GCAM) – The project includes increasing the number of welding booths in the Center for Advanced Manufacturing from 20 to 30. The project is expected to be completed in April 2024.

# Human Resources

## NEW HIRES • November 2, 2023 – March 4, 2024

Tracy Countiss	Associate Professor, HVAC
Jennifer Cusack	Associate Professor, Early Care & Education
Gabriella Greco	Associate Professor, English
James Hutson	Associate Professor, EMT
Carrie Johnson	Advisor, Conway Campus
Lisa Moniz	Academic Coach/Career Navigator, Title III ICare Grant
Micheal Pearson	Associate Professor, Outboard Marine
Scoutlynn Rabon	Associate Professor, Human Resources
Evelyn Scott	Dual Enrollment Advisor
Robert Wirtz	Service Desk Support Technician
Bobbi Yurkin	Administrative Assistant, WDCE

## NOMINATIONS WELCOME FOR "PROUD TO BE HGTC" AND "THERE'S MORE" AWARDS

We recognize the outstanding effort, hard work, and dedication our HGTC employees bring to their jobs every day. We can celebrate the invaluable contributions of our coworkers through our "Proud To Be HGTC" and "There's More" awards programs.

### "Proud To Be HGTC" Award

Is there a faculty or staff member who did something that made a positive impact on you, another person, or the College? Recognize them with a "Proud To Be HGTC" award today! To send someone a "Proud To Be HGTC" award, please complete the [Proud To Be HGTC Award Form](#).

## NOMINEES • September 2023–November 2023

Jolita Bittan	Sherry James	Ken Richardson
Vanessa Cannon	Paulette Lavalley	Kristin Robinson
Malyk Carpenter	Tammy Lowe	Kari Royals
Tony Chowning	Joe Lucas	Bren Salgado
Stephanie Courtney	LeAnn Mason	Paula Shaw
Paul Crolley	Paula McNelis-Dutton	Elizabeth Smith
Christine Damicantonio	Donna McQueen	Jackie Snyder
Ann Daniels	David Medrano	Hannah Spencer
Josh Evans	Denise Morrison	Kristen Toben
Karen Focarazzo	Randy Moser	Kelsey Todd
Susan Gallant	Dave Moshinskie	Cristy Webb
Kris Gillespie	Roxy Neumann	Roy West
Jill Glasser	Samantha Oldroyd	Chris Williams
Charlotte Hearn	Bobbi Jo Oxendine	Debbie Woodson
Karen Herman	Stephanie Phelan	Kristin Yanaros
Gina Holodook	Terry Quaresimo	

## DRAWING WINNERS • \$25 Gift Card December 2023

Bren Salgado	Hannah Spencer
Bobbi Jo Oxendine	Jackie Snyder

## "There's More" Award

This program recognizes employees who have exhibited Motivation to lead, Outstanding performance, Readiness to help, and Exceptional service through his or her work. The "There's More" award is a formal recognition of employees who consistently perform above and beyond the expectations of their job. To nominate someone for the "There's More" award, please complete the following form:

[There's More Award Form](#).

## NOMINEES • September 2023–November 2023

Jonathan Barker	Stephanie Danesie	Antwon McGriff
Tonya Bellamy	Jaime Davis	Tausha Shaw
Lisa Bowman	Gloria Gerald	Shawn Wright
Misty Brown	Tracey Graham	Nick Yanaros
Scott Callahan	McCall Hilburn	Ramona Zup
Lisa Church	Kristen Jurga	
Anna Cox	Brett Lanza	

## DRAWING WINNERS • \$50 Gift Card December 2023

Antwon McGriff	Scott Callahan
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Bachata Dance Event



Macrame Crafting Event



# Institutional Effectiveness



## INTEGRATED POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION DATA SYSTEM (IPEDS\*)

59% Full-time, First-time  
Fall 2022 Cohort Retention  
63% Prior Year

## 28% GRADUATION RATE

Fall 2020 Cohort  
26% Prior Cohort 2019

## ENROLLMENT SPRING 2024 OPEN = 6933

Up 6% over Spring 2023

## IPEDS OUTCOMES MEASURES FOR ALL ENTERING STUDENTS

4-Year Award Rate = 28%  
6-Year Award Rate = 31%  
8-Year Award Rate = 32%

## HGTC ENROLLMENT DATA

2023 Enrollment headcount = 11135  
(Spring, Summer, and Fall 2023)

2023 Enrollment headcount workforce development = 1490  
(Spring, Summer, and Fall 2023)

95% of Graduates are SC residents

75% of students are residents of Horry and  
Georgetown Counties

95% of students placed in a job or transferred to a  
four-year institution

93% of graduates remain in SC

88% of graduates remain in Horry and Georgetown Counties

23% of students in healthcare related majors

\*IPEDS is the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. It is a system of interrelated surveys conducted annually by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). IPEDS gathers information from every college, university, and technical and vocational institution that participates in the federal student financial aid programs. The Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, requires that institutions that participate in federal student aid programs report data on enrollments, program completions, graduation rates, faculty and staff, finances, institutional prices, and student financial aid. These data are made available to students and parents through the College Navigator college search website and to researchers and others through the IPEDS Data Center.



## ATTENTION ALL FACULTY MEMBERS!

We want to showcase the vibrant learning environment at the College, so we're looking for information about your labs, hands-on lessons, and any other activities that would translate well into dynamic video and photography.

Please provide us with available days and times when we can visit. The College's unique branding hinges on your collaboration and assistance. Thank you for being so supportive! Contact Lari ([laura.roper@hgtc.edu](mailto:laura.roper@hgtc.edu)) or Savannah ([savannah.rabon@hgtc.edu](mailto:savannah.rabon@hgtc.edu)).



Morgan Elvis

## MEET MISS HORRY-GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Miss Morgan Elvis, a student of Criminal Justice, has been chosen to represent the College at the 2024 Miss South Carolina Competition on June 25th. This marks a significant moment as she becomes the first representative from HGTC at this esteemed event.

Notably, the Miss America Scholarship Organization is the leading scholarship provider for young women worldwide, offering delegates millions annually in scholarship aid. As part of our support, the College will cover the entry fee and has granted Miss Elvis a \$1,000 scholarship for the Spring semester. Furthermore, Miss Elvis has been actively engaged in various appearances representing HGTC, showcasing her dedication and commitment to our institution.



## JIRA TICKETING SYSTEM & MARKETING REQUEST

We're thrilled to announce a substantial update regarding how requests are made to the Marketing Department. We're adopting Jira, the same ticketing system the Technology Solutions Department utilizes. This transition will streamline our support services and significantly enhance the user experience. It represents a significant leap forward in boosting the efficiency and effectiveness of our support operations.

We understand that adapting to this new system may require some time. While we encourage you to utilize Jira for your requests, email your inquiries to either Lari Roper or Savannah Rabon until you're comfortable with the new process. However, by the beginning of the Fall semester, we will strongly encourage all requests to be submitted through Jira.

You can access the Jira ticketing system by visiting the HGTC Support/Marketing Department.



## DO YOU NEED A COLLEGE-APPROVED TABLECLOTH & WHITE RUNNER WITH YOUR DEPARTMENT, PROGRAM, OR CLUB'S NAME?

For just \$60, our affordable college-approved tablecloth and center white runner package can enhance the presentation and visibility of your department, program, or club. With this budget-friendly investment, you'll elevate the aesthetic appeal of your events and reinforce your identity and professionalism on and off campus. Whether you're hosting recruitment drives, information sessions, or networking events, a branded tablecloth and runner create a cohesive and memorable impression. Upgrade your table setup today and showcase your organization with style and confidence! Email your request with your organization and account code to Lari ([laura.roper@hgtc.edu](mailto:laura.roper@hgtc.edu)) or Savannah ([savannah.rabon@hgtc.edu](mailto:savannah.rabon@hgtc.edu)).

# Quick Response

## UNLOCKING CONVENIENCE: INTRODUCING QR CODES TO YOUR ACADEMIC PROGRAM, STUDENT CLUB, OR EVENT!

SCAN ME



Using a QR code on your printed materials is a game-changer for driving viewers to your webpage or event registration page. Here's why you should make the switch:

**Instant Access:** QR codes can be scanned using a smartphone camera to provide instant access to your website or registration page. There is no need to type in lengthy URLs or search for your event online—just point and click!

**Convenience:** Make it easy for your audience to engage with your content or sign up for your event. By placing a QR code on your printed materials, you remove barriers to entry and streamline the process, resulting in higher conversion rates.

**Space Saving:** Printed materials often have limited space, making including detailed information or URLs challenging. With a QR code, you can conserve space while providing access to additional resources or registration pages.

**Tech-Savvy Image:** Incorporating QR codes into your printed materials will demonstrate your organization's commitment to innovation and technology. It will show that you're forward-thinking and attuned to modern trends, enhancing your program's image among tech-savvy audiences.

In summary, QR codes on printed materials offer unparalleled convenience, accessibility, and tracking capabilities, making them a must-have tool for driving viewers to your webpage or event registration. Don't miss out on the opportunity to streamline your marketing efforts and maximize engagement—start using QR codes today by contacting the Marketing Department or The Print Shop.

# Student Affairs



## HGTC COUNSELING SERVICES

Events and experiences in our personal lives directly impact our abilities to succeed in our academic lives. Student Affairs would like to introduce Samantha McDonough, Licensed Master Social Worker. Samantha works on the Conway Campus on Monday and Tuesday and Grand Strand Campus Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30am to 5:00pm. She is available to meet with students on any of the three campuses, and virtually during the College's operating hours. For an appointment with Samantha, please contact [counseling@hgtc.edu](mailto:counseling@hgtc.edu).



## TELEHEALTH – BETTERTMYND

For students needing counseling services outside the normal operating hours, Student Affairs is pleased to announce that we offer free teletherapy services through BetterMynd. BetterMynd is an online platform where students have the opportunity to select the counselor that best matches their needs outside of the College's operating hours. To access BetterMynd counseling services, students need to reach out to [counseling@hgtc.edu](mailto:counseling@hgtc.edu).



## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

The Student Development team partnered with staff and faculty to host Spring 2024's Mental Health and Wellness Fair across all three campuses. The Mental Health and

Wellness Fair was from 10:30am to 12pm on Monday, April 15 at the Georgetown Campus, Tuesday, April 16 at the Grand Strand Campus, and Wednesday, April 17 at the Conway Campus. Organizations that serve our community were available to discuss mental health, wellness, and overall wellbeing resources.

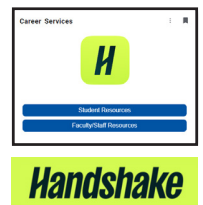
## CAREER FAIR

Career Services recently hired a Career Services Specialist, Lisa Kimpton, to assist the department. Lauren and Lisa have been busy planning Spring 2024's Career Fair with more than 40 employers represented over the two-day event. The Career Fair was held on Wednesday, March 27 and Thursday, March 28 on the Conway Campus.



## HANDSHAKE

Career Services is now partnering with Handshake, an online platform for employers to post jobs and search for students seeking employment. Students can also search for jobs, post resumes, and customize job search options. Students can access Handshake through their MyHGTC account in the "Career Services" card.



## PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, AND MOCK INTERVIEWS

Career Services offers workshops, classroom presentations, and mock interviews as a resource to our students and faculty to facilitate professional development. Lauren Skipper, HGTC Career Development Coordinator, customizes presentations to meet the needs of faculty, students, and employer partners. To schedule a classroom presentation, fill out the form located in the Faculty and Staff Resources on the Career Services webpage. Career Services hosted the Resume Refresh Workshop in March as part of the ongoing Career Development Series promoting students to have their resumes reviewed in preparation for the Spring Career Fair. We're thrilled to share that thanks to our strong connections with employers, Career Services has expanded its partnership network. Multiple employers are eager to collaborate with the office to conduct mock interviews for students across various industries such as Health Science, Education, Business, Hospitality, Public Service, and more! This is a fantastic opportunity for HGTC students to gain valuable experience and insights from professionals in their field of interest.

## TypeFocus™ 7 Best in class software

Student Development is pleased to announce that the TypeFocus™ is back. TypeFocus™ 7 is a career assessment that guides students in major and career exploration. Prospective, new, and current students can register to complete the student success factors, personality, interest, and values assessments and can have their results matched to HGTC's programs. To access the TypeFocus™ 7 link, click on Career Exploration for more details. To schedule an appointment to review the results, please email [career@hgtc.edu](mailto:career@hgtc.edu).



### STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The Office of Student Engagement has been very busy this spring semester hosting a variety of events on campus for HGTC students. Starting in January, Student Engagement hosted a Welcome Week Winter Adventure on all three campuses, complete with snow machines, hats, scarves, and hot chocolate. In February, HGTC hosted a Unity Feast on each campus as part of the College's Black History Month activities. The Unity Feast included a lunch buffet and music by Mr. Nigel and Friends that featured storytelling about African American History through music. Other student activities in February included the Random Acts of Kindness Week Social Media Challenge and the Heart Walk for American Heart Month. On Wednesday, March 27, HGTC hosted the first talent show in the history of the College, "Chomp's Got Talent." Student Engagement worked hard to make this event an unforgettable experience for students with amazing talent, celebrity judges, and cash prizes. The event was open to all currently enrolled students, faculty, and staff, and 16 signed up to showcase their talents. Events planned for April include a Solar Eclipse Viewing Party on April 8 complete with Moon Pies and Sun Chips, the annual Scholars' Garden Party honoring currently enrolled students with high academic achievement on Friday, April 26, and the HGTC Team of Chomp's Champions participating in the annual Ground Zero Dragon Boat Races on Saturday, April 27.



# Student Affairs

## RECRUITMENT

During the spring semester, the Recruitment Team welcomed over 1,330 guests to HGTC's three campuses through weekly tours and group tours. In addition, this team hosted large events on campus including an Engineering Showcase on the Conway Campus in January for 219 local high school students, and an Advanced Manufacturing Showcase on the Georgetown Campus in March for 180 local high school students. In April, the Recruitment Team hosted 400 8th grade students from Myrtle Beach Middle School for a "Day in the Life of an HGTC/CCU Student." These students participated in a collaborative post-secondary experience between HGTC and CCU to obtain a deeper understanding of the academic opportunities at both institutions.

## DUAL ENROLLMENT

Dual enrollment reached record registration with 1,450 dual enrollment students for the spring 2024 semester. The program continues to grow and expand through partnerships with the local school districts, private, charter, and home schools. Dual enrollment numbers increased by 17% from spring 2023 to spring 2024, partially due to the addition of the new partnership with Carvers Bay Early College and Career High School (CBEC) which expanded opportunities for students in Georgetown County. CBEC has already experienced a 22% increase in dual enrollment numbers from fall 2023 to spring 2024 and plans to keep the momentum going. In addition, HGTC officially partnered with the Atlantic Collegiate Academy (ACA) this spring and plans to offer dual enrollment courses as part of an Early College High School model in fall 2024.



## TRIO ELITE SCHOLARS

The TRIO SSS (Student Support Services) Grant provides services to currently enrolled HGTC students who meet eligibility criteria for the grant. Several college tours, visits, and cultural and enrichment activities are occurring this spring for students in the program including trips to the Charleston Tea Garden, International African American Museum, University of South Carolina, and the South Carolina State Museum.

## TRIO UPWARD BOUND

The TRIO Upward Bound Grant provides services to high school students from three participating local high schools who meet eligibility criteria for the grant. Several college tours, visits, and cultural enrichment activities are occurring this spring for students in the program including trips to South Carolina State University and Claflin University.

## TECH CENTRAL

TECH Central continues to evolve to support the needs of students. In the fall 2023 semester, the TECH Central staff merged with the front-line Financial Aid staff to provide complete services for students. The merger includes cross training all TECH Central staff to provide admissions, registration, financial aid, and technical support to all students who seek assistance in TECH Central. The TECH Central staff meet once a week to engage in learning all aspects of TECH Central services to better assist students.

## COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY 2024

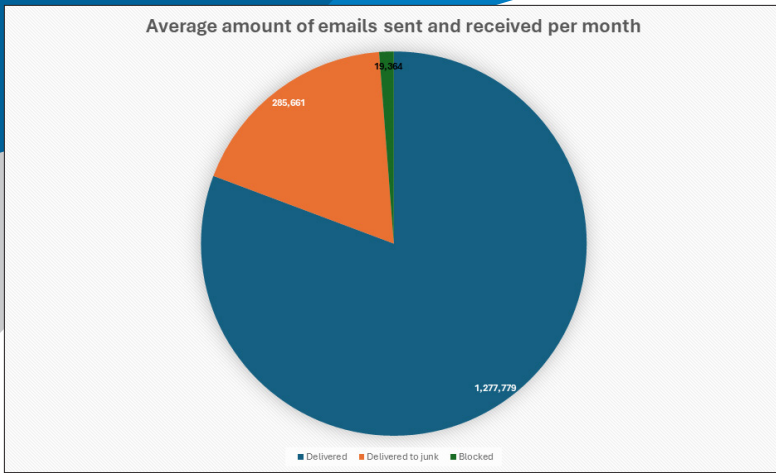
HGTC will be hosting the 2024 Commencement Ceremony at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. We anticipate over 700 Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Summer 2024 graduates to be in attendance. Due to the large number of graduates, HGTC will host two ceremonies at 11:00am and 3:00pm for students, based on the graduation major. Additional information can be found at [https://www.hgtc.edu/current\\_students/graduation.html](https://www.hgtc.edu/current_students/graduation.html).



## ACADEMIC ADVISING

The Staff Academic Advising Team is now fully staffed and engaged in ongoing training. They meet once a week for comprehensive training concerning student services and curriculum updates. They are actively collaborating with the Academic Departments they serve to provide current and accurate advising for students. This is a dynamic team dedicated to helping students, and we are so excited to continue the great work already begun.

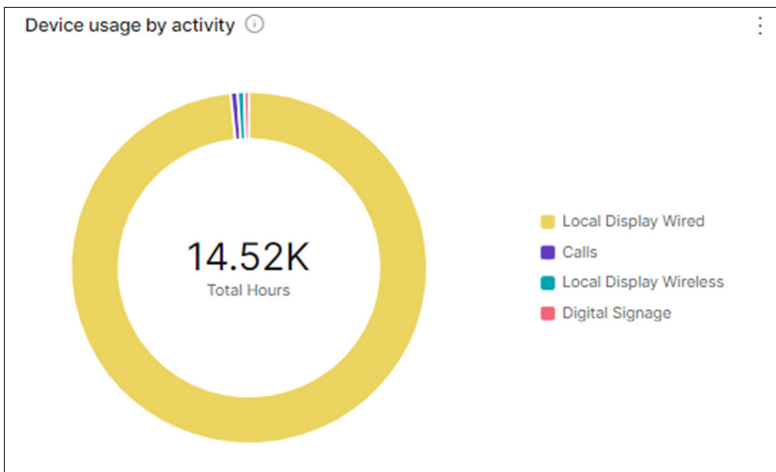
# Technology Solutions



Over the last year, Technology Solutions has implemented new modern technology and would like to share some interesting statistics on how the College is taking advantage of these new tools.

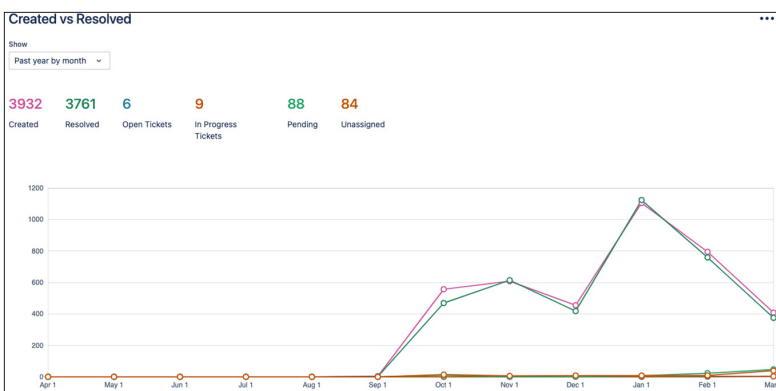
## EMAIL

On average, the College sends and receives 1.5 million emails. Approximately, 20% of these emails each month are blocked by the HGTC Technology Solutions cybersecurity defense systems and policies.



## CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY

Now that the College has new, upgraded technology in the classrooms, Technology Solutions has found the rooms are being used for 14,520 hours per month across all Campuses. That is approximately four (4) hours per classroom per day.



## SERVICE DESK TICKETS

Since the fall newsletter update, the Technology Solutions Department has received and resolved almost 4,000 service request tickets.



## NEW HIRES

- Robert Wirtz Service Desk Technician
- Eric Stearns Desktop Support Technician
- Lindsey Moore Administrative Coordinator

# Academic & Workforce Development

## SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

Click the front cover image at right →  
(or click or scan the QR code below)  
to view our latest issue.

Inside you'll find:

- Partnerships in Healthcare
- Nine Questions with Business faculty member, Tina Gaffey
- Warm Welcome to our New Faculty
- And many more Faculty Accolades, Program Updates and Student Success Stories

We are already collecting stories for our next issue. If you have accomplishments, teaching innovations, or student success stories, please send them to Kari Royals so we may include them in the next issue! [kari.royals@hgtc.edu](mailto:kari.royals@hgtc.edu)



Message from...

Jennifer Wilbanks, Executive V.P. for Academic and Workforce Development



It is an honor to serve alongside you. With an annual budget of \$60 million, your work and dedication has helped to support 9,350 students within academics and 3,000 students within workforce development on an annual basis and create a \$265 million economic impact. This newsletter is dedicated to you, as it showcases the achievements of our faculty and students.

Our college continues to grow with new programs, new spaces, and new opportunities. *Thank You* for never losing sight of our mission. Your ability to connect with students and industries to build strong relationships, is the best way to make a difference in *the lives of our students and our community*.

In your service,

### Partnerships in Healthcare

Healthcare is something we all have in common and is a need that continues to grow. South Carolina is set to have the fourth worst nursing shortage in the nation by 2030. Couple this with Myrtle Beach being one of the fastest growing areas in the state, and healthcare continues to have one of the strongest needs for skilled workers in the nursing and health science fields.

To help alleviate this issue, Conway Medical Center with Novant Health (CMC) and HGTC strengthened our partnerships. CMC is donating \$1,050,000 to the HGTC Foundation, supporting the expansion of the HGTC Nursing and Health Sciences Institute at the Grand Strand Campus. This expansion aims to renovate the 24,100 square foot facility by 2025.

The building will be dedicated to serving nursing, emergency medical technology, and allow for all healthcare programs to increase interpersonal collaboration. CMC's donation includes a \$150,000 endowed scholarship for Healthcare Sciences. This partnership is set to significantly impact healthcare education in the community.

Click the Photo to read more.



Horry Georgetown Technical College  
Grand Strand Building 100 Renovation

PHOTOGRAPHY  
QUACKENBUSH ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING