

HGTC College Update Spring 2021

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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORE

Dear Colleagues,

As another semester comes to an end and we approach our 2021 Commencement Ceremony, we truly have so much to celebrate this year. Even as COVID-19 and fatigue have continued to plague our area, we have overcome so many challenges. Although it was hard to envision our future, we have witnessed better days ahead for our students, our employees, and our College. We have proven to our community that a pandemic cannot and will not change our capacity to dream, to plan, and to achieve. HGTC keeps moving forward, carries out its mission, never gives up on that mission, and always provides hope for a better tomorrow through higher education.

As we head into the summer and fall semesters with optimism, there is a glimpse of light as we anxiously anticipate reaching the other side of this dark COVID-19 tunnel. I can feel it! Can you? I have missed having students on our grounds as their presence brings life to our College Campuses. Students are at the heart of everything we do, and it has been heartbreaking not having the interactions and connections as we once did. Going forward, plans for summer and fall schedules will include more in-person experiences and on-campus activities for students.

There is no crystal ball on my desk to show what the future holds. There is, however, an hourglass that measures the passage of time. Rest assured that during my time, as your President, I will do everything in my power to protect our HGTC family no matter what we must face.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

My dearest Colleagues, we have what it takes within us. We have what it takes within the heart of every HGTC employee to prevail. We are stronger than ever – always stronger Together!

With much gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Murphy".

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




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ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

For the latest news on Academic Affairs, please [CLICK HERE](#) or on the picture at right to read the Spring 2021 issue of our Academic Affairs Update Newsletter, which includes:

- Faculty Profiles, awards, and accolades
- Recent Faculty Portfolio Presentations
- Published Faculty – new books and studies
- Faculty and staff volunteer Outreach at our Food Pantry
- Professor King's successful 2021 "virtual" Addiction and Recovery Series
- Best practices in engaging students, the Open Educational Resources (OER) initiative and development of online course videos
- Updates on impactful EPIC classes and EPIC labs
- Share our history with the HGTC yearbook collection from the Library and new Library resources.
- Community partnerships and industry support for our Academic programs
- And...inspiring student success stories




Academic Affairs Update

Spring 2021

There's More.

Message from...
Jennifer Wilbanks, Executive Vice President for Academics




As we continue to navigate the challenges of the past year and grow accustomed to the utilization of new technologies, there is a renewed optimism for future opportunities and growth. This year, we have grounded ourselves in teaching and learning and placed an increased emphasis on engagement and student success. I am so proud of faculty and students, as we continue to make progress in these areas. In the midst of a unique year, your hard work and dedication to maintain high quality in the classroom and remain student-focused has been successful.

We hope you take a few minutes to read through this newsletter, as it is a true testament to the faculty, staff, students, and constituents in our local community. While we have been here from the beginning and provided flexibility for our students, we are excited to prepare for a greater in-person presence for Fall 2022. In the chart to the right, the numbers indicate we continue to make progress with student success. The information also indicates there is no substitute for being face-to-face and focusing on student engagement. I challenge all of us to continue to strive for strong communication and active engagement with our students.

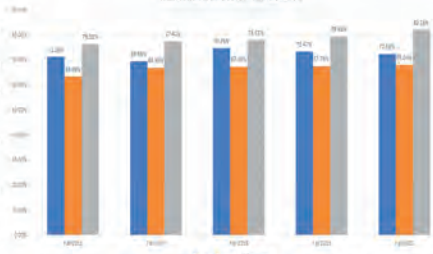
Students and businesses continue to be in need of the educational services we provide and I appreciate your connection with these groups more than ever. Likewise, if there is anything you may need, please know I am available and all of the Academic Leadership we here to support you.

Jennifer Wilbanks

Please take a moment to watch this video (which premiered at this year's SCTEA conference) of Leah Andrews' powerful "I Dey" poem testifying to the power and impact of a South Carolina Technical College education.



*Student Success (Grades A, B, C) with honors are shown in the calculator



Category	Fall 2019	Spring 2020
A	1,289	1,084
B	2,881	2,743
C	9,888	9,875
D	7,571	7,386
F	11,655	11,446



STOP THE SPREAD, EARN SOME BREAD

Wear Your Mask For Your Chance To Win A \$25 Walmart Gift Card

March 8-19 with the drawing on March 19 at noon.
 March 29-April 9 with the drawing on April 9 at noon.

Students wearing their mask properly and without being asked will be given a raffle ticket by faculty and staff on the Georgetown Campus.

- Winners will receive a \$25 Walmart gift card. There will be five gift cards given for each drawing.
- Students should drop off their raffle ticket before 11am on the drawing date or the first date of selling 100 on the Georgetown Campus.
- Winners do not need to be present to win. Winners will be notified by phone using the number written on the back of the raffle ticket.



There's More.

STOP THE SPREAD, GEORGETOWN STYLE

Our Georgetown Campus found a unique way to encourage their campus to follow HGTC's COVID protocols with the message of "Stop the Spread, Earn Some Bread." Spearheaded by Professor Amy McGrath [Forestry], this awareness campaign allowed faculty and staff to reward students wearing their masks appropriately (and without being asked!) with raffle tickets. Two drawings were held in March and April from those tickets, with five students per drawing receiving Walmart gift cards. What a great way to reinforce our safety measures for the health and well-being of our HGTC community.

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CREATING A SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT THROUGH CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The College continues its commitment to improve and develop our campuses with state-of-the-art technology, facilities, and resources. These strategic improvements currently in planning and/or progress will continue building a supportive learning environment for our students, as well as a comfortable atmosphere and productive work site for our faculty and staff.

CONWAY

- Diesel Expansion – Design work has begun on a 7,500-foot expansion of the Diesel Engine Training facility on the Conway campus (Building 1400) in response to growing enrollment in the Diesel Engine Technician program. Construction is expected to be complete in December 2022.



Rendering of Diesel Engine Facility expansion | Conway Campus

GRAND STRAND

- Grand Strand Renovation Project – Our major initiative to upgrade Buildings 100, 200 and 300 (with accompanying infrastructure) is actively progressing with an expected completion by July 2021. A landscaping project will be launched in the Spring to further enhance the Campus.
- Building 600/Conference Center – This Campus resource has undergone an extensive interior renovation (including refinished doors, new flooring, and interior painting). A new roof will be installed this Spring.
- Building 1000/Speir Building – Designs are in process for renovations and equipment acquisitions to meet accreditation standards for the Surgical Technology program and to accommodate the new Occupational Therapist Assistant program.



Rendering of exterior renovations of Building 200 | Grand Strand Campus

GEORGETOWN

- Exterior Renovation of Campus – Phase 1 of this beautification initiative, slated for mid-Spring completion, includes painting the roof and building exteriors, installing new windows and doors in the student lounge, and underpinning the canopy. Completion of Phase 1 is scheduled for the end of April. Phase 2 will involve installing pavers in the courtyard, constructing a bench wall, and installing new landscaping for an August 1st finish date.



Rendering of exterior renovations of Building 300 | Grand Strand Campus



Rendering of renovated courtyard | Georgetown Campus

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HGTC RETURNS TO NORMAL OPERATIONS FOR SUMMER AND FALL 2021

Face-to-Face Classes, On-Campus Activities, and No Tuition Increase



We announced publicly in March our comprehensive return plans for students and the resumption of normal campus operations including on-campus activities and events. In addition to face-to-face courses, HGTC will continue to offer a variety of formats including hybrid, synchronous, and online to accommodate the individual preferences and learning styles of our students to best ensure their success.

There will be no tuition increase for Fall 2021. President Fore reiterated the importance of this tuition decision: "No increase makes clear our message and commitment to affordability and accessibility for our students and their families. Many of our students are struggling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. We believe that freezing tuition for the upcoming semester is something we can do to ease their stress and their financial obligations."

Health and safety factors remain a priority as the College returns to additional in-person experiences. Many of the current COVID-19 protocols will continue to be enforced in Fall 2021 such as face coverings, social distancing, and disinfecting, to provide the safest learning environment possible.



"A Grand Celebration"

HGTC's 2021 Commencement Ceremony Set for May 12



HGTC is excited to return to tradition with its scheduled Commencement Ceremony on Wednesday, May 12 at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. This year, HGTC will present Patron Emeritus Awards to three outstanding gentlemen. Two college presidents who have worked closely with HGTC through unique partnerships will be recognized including Dr. David A. DeCenzo, President Emeritus, Coastal Carolina University; and Dr. Luther F. (Fred) Carter, President, Francis Marion University. South Carolina Governor, the Honorable Henry McMaster, is scheduled to be with us to receive an award. This is the first time a Governor has attended an HGTC graduation. President Fore states, "We are looking forward to a grand celebration for our graduates this May."

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HUMAN RESOURCES

Our Proud to Be HGTC Recipients

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](#).

All "Proud to Be HGTC" recipients are entered into a quarterly drawing for a \$25.00 gift card.

Congratulations to these employees who were recognized at our March 2021 drawing.



- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Lorraine Aldrich | Chair/Professor of Nursing |
| Lexci Duff | Recruitment/Administrative Specialist |
| Saleem Selph | Administrative Specialist, Financial Aid |
| Narcy Shelley | Custodian |
| Susan Thompson | Director of Financial Aid & Veterans Affairs |
| Savannah Todd | Marketing Coordinator/Graphic Designer |

HGTC Wellness

The HGTC Wellness Ambassadors want you to stay healthy in body and mind. We offer great "lifestyle" programs to benefit HGTC employees ranging from coffee talks, wellness walks, guided meditations, financial planning and yes, our infamous "deskercise" to keep you fit at work. Each month, we also focus college awareness on key issues like Men's Health, Women's Health, and Mental Illness. So please join us at one of our upcoming events. Get healthy, get happy and get well.

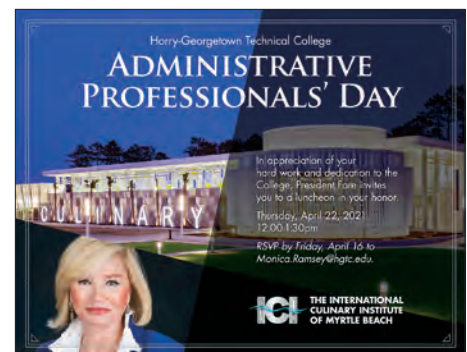
Upcoming from HGTC Wellness: Lunch and Deskercise

The return of this popular program includes a complimentary boxed lunch from Panera Bread with a great "deskercise" workout followed by a guided meditation. Attendance is limited so, please reserve your spot with monica.ramsey@hgtc.edu. Held from 12:00–1:00pm on all campuses:

- April 19 Grand Strand Campus
- April 20 Georgetown Campus
- April 21 Conway Campus

Save the Date:

- April 22 Administrative Professionals' Day Luncheon**
12:00–1:30pm at ICI, Grand Strand Campus
In celebration of Administrative Professionals week, our administrative staff members will share in a luncheon of Thai cuisine prepared by our Culinary Arts students and faculty.
- May 5 HGTC Employee Appreciation Day Barbecue**
12:00–2:00pm at ICI, Grand Strand Campus
In honor of Governor McMaster's Public Servant Recognition Week, President Fore and Cabinet are hosting an Employee Appreciation Barbecue. President Fore will address employees in attendance at 1:00pm. Outdoor seating will be provided to encourage social distancing.



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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Workforce Development & Continuing Education (WDCE) division provides diverse job training options for local companies, industries, and individuals in addition to offering opportunities to learn new skills, enhance career skills or personal enrichment. These recent program highlights are examples of how WDCE responds to and meets our community's education and training needs:



- Continuing education computer classes have been scheduled for the Georgetown campus to begin this summer including Savvy Senior, Basic Computer 1, and eBay Selling.
- Three-day FAA Part 107 Drone class for 22 forestry students was held on the Georgetown campus. These students will become certified drone pilots, which is a very advantageous stackable credential in their field.
- Culinary team building class was held for the Coastal Carolinas Association of Realtors at the International Culinary Institute.
- Multiple Excel classes were held for HTC employees.
- Expanded Ed2Go online course offerings, including pharmacy technician's course, activity director certification course, and certified patient coder.
- New course offerings on campus including Constable SC Basic Training and Home Health Aide Certification.
- HGTC will be purchasing a new tractor trailer and hiring another instructor to meet demand for the CDL program. We will be offering third party testing on campus within the next month.
- Currently developing OSHA 10 class for Palmetto Motor Charter High School.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & CONTINUING EDUCATION continued

Recognizing Grant Support

HGTC was recently awarded \$362,500.00 under the State Apprenticeship Expansion 2020 Grant to provide training and supportive services to 121 registered apprentices and training to 40 pre-apprentices. HGTC will be able to arrange additional apprenticeships in conjunction with Apprenticeship Carolina in the following areas: healthcare, manufacturing, tourism & hospitality, and information technology to help offset the cost of job-related education, tools, and/or textbooks for these apprentices.

Ultimately, the grant support will allow the College to increase the diversity of apprenticeship participants, expand apprenticeship opportunities in new industries, and increase the development and oversight of apprenticeship programs statewide.



Apprenticeship in Action The bFIVE40 apprenticeship in Little River currently has nine apprentices. HGTC provides ongoing Workforce Development & Continuing Education classes on location that train apprentices on the JUKI industrial sewing machines.



Julie Golden

According to Julie Golden, Training & Development Director, Assistant Provost of the Georgetown Campus Workforce Development and Continuing Education, "Apprenticeships have proven success, proven methods, higher wages, growth potential, and valuable skills credential. Each apprenticeship contains job-related education, supervised on-the-job learning, and a scalable wage determined by the employer."

HGTC actively encourages companies to become involved in the Apprenticeship Carolina program. The benefits of sponsoring apprenticeships include a higher skills level through structured and consistent training, decreased turnover, a reliable plan, and a possible state tax credit per apprentice for up to four years.

For referrals of individuals interested in apprenticeship opportunities or more information for employers to employ apprentices, please contact Julie Golden at 843-520-1476 or julie.golden@hgtc.edu.



Na'Dae Beaty



Travis King

Apprenticeship Carolina has added two employees that work solely in promoting apprenticeships in Horry and Georgetown counties. Their offices are located at the Grand Strand Campus in the 600 building. Na'Dae Beaty is the Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator, and Travis King is the Apprenticeship Consultant. Please drop by the office for a visit anytime.



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HGTC GOLF & SPORTS TURF STUDENTS RETURN TO THE LINKS

There was a return to tournament golf (and a sense of normalcy) for the HGTC Golf & Sports Turf Management (GSTM) program when 11 students participated in behind-the-scenes work at the March 9-14 PLAYERS PGA Tour event held at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Verde Beach, Florida. The students were involved with the TPC Sawgrass Agronomy team and worked to prepare and maintain the golf course for play. The students were busy mowing and providing bunker and detail preparation for the tournament conditions. In addition, students received insight in the tournament preparations and operations through a special tour of the Agronomic Operations Center. Students were able to network with prominent industry partners and leaders.



Charles Granger

"This is the 13th year that HGTC students have participated as volunteers and observers at the tournament," said Chair and Professor of Golf & Sports Turf Management, Charles Granger. "What our students experience while working professional tour events cannot be duplicated in a classroom setting. As much as we try, we just cannot replicate the unbelievable quality and world-class course with tournament conditions. It also

gives our students the ability to network and start working on soft skills. This is as much of an interview week as it is a work week."

Juanita Vargas, a current GSTM student who also works full-time at Blackmoor Golf Club in Murrells Inlet, reflected on those early mornings getting to the TPC Sawgrass course at 4:30am ready to work, "Being able to work at a major tournament was the experience of a lifetime for me. I was in awe of the golf course operations and the approachability of the management team. I kept a journal of ideas at the end of each day to bring back to our golf course. I was able to learn

different avenues to resolve turf issues. It's the little things that matter in the golf course world," said Vargas.



Ashley Wilkinson

The week prior to the TPC Sawgrass trip, Professor Ashley Wilkinson and students participated in the Arnold Palmer Invitational located at the Bay Hill Club and Lodge in Orlando, Florida. HGTC is the only college in the state of SC to offer an Associate in Applied Science degree in Golf & Sports Turf Management.



The HGTC Golf & Sports Turf students at TPC Sawgrass take a break in front of their beautiful course work.



HGTC Turf Care and Demonstration Center

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PTK ALPHA NU SIGMA IS MOST DISTINGUISHED CHAPTER 2021

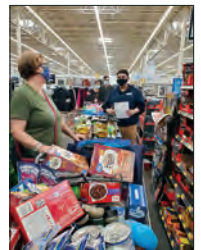
HGTC's PTK Alpha Nu Sigma was honored with numerous awards at the recent Carolinas Regional Conference including the prestigious Most Distinguished Chapter Award for 2021 placing first out of 83 chapters in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Bermuda.

Alpha Nu Sigma was recognized with numerous Chapter and individual awards at the Conference including:

- Most Distinguished Chapter
- Beta Tau Continued Excellence Award
- Best Chapter Website
- Distinguished Community Service Project
- Distinguished Chapter Officer Team
- Distinguished Chapter Officer – Matthew Defreitas
- Distinguished Chapter Officer – Ola Watson
- Distinguished College Project
- Distinguished Honors in Action Project
- Distinguished Honors in Action Theme Award
- Continued Excellence Award for Advisors – Professor Beth Carraway
- Horizon Award – Professor Leila Rogers
- Carolinas Region Superstars Award
- Carolinas Region Service Project Award
- Carolinas Region Honors in Action Award
- Carolinas Region Hall of Honor – Matthew Defreitas and Ola Watson



Members of Alpha Nu Sigma distributing Thanksgiving holiday meals ("Gobble Bags") to fellow students in need as part of their award-winning Community Service project to address food insecurity.



The awards were based on Chapter service projects and contributions during 2020. Most significantly, our Chapter members were able to accomplish these projects without meeting in person (due to COVID restrictions) and by completing all projects in a virtual environment. Chapter 2020 projects included an initiative to raise awareness and access to mental health resources and a collaboration with the HGTC Food Pantry to address student food insecurity challenges.

Congratulations to all of our Alpha Nu Sigma members on their accomplishments and this regional recognition with appreciation to their Chapter Advisors Professor Beth Carraway, Professor Leila Rogers, Heather Jones, and Professor Amy LeFevre for their exemplary mentorship of these students.



PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

HGTC College Update Spring 2021

STOPPING IN AT OUR ONE-STOP

We all love the convenience of one-stop shopping and getting what we need in one place efficiently, saving us precious time. Take that same concept and apply it to student services – one place where students can go to get all their questions answered, access all types of resources at once, and get all the help they need to succeed at HGTC. Well, we have made this possible at TECH Central on the Conway Campus.



TO DO LIST

- Students can explore programs of study, apply, be admitted, complete FAFSA, and enroll in classes all in one visit.
- Staff members from Financial Aid, Admissions, and Student Accounts are available to counsel students on site at TECH Central.
- Microsoft Teams videoconferencing and chat as well as phone calls with Student Development Coordinators (staff advisors) are available on demand.
- Designated faculty advisors are available on demand through Teams during peak registration weeks.
- Services from our counselor for disabilities services and our career counselor are available.
- TECH Central staff members are also readily available to assist students through email, videoconferencing, phone call, and live chat.
- TECH Central staff members can assist students with other needs, including setting up tutoring, navigating D2L and WaveNet, resetting passwords, setting up Testing Center appointments, and accessing other college services.

FINDING A BETTER WAY

A Student Success Story

Jonathan "Jon" Pendergrass knew there had to be a better way. There he was working in a Call Center and frustrated that all the systems seemed inefficient and out of date. Admittedly, he did not know a lot or really anything about computer science, but he recognized that those systems he was using could stand to be improved. So, he enrolled at HGTC initially thinking he wanted to pursue Computer Programming. But after taking a Networking class with (now retired) Professor Luse, he admittedly "fell in love instantly with the things that he went over in that class."

When he finished the Networking degree, he was not quite done figuring out how to make things better. In the last semester of Networking, Professors Stan Greenawalt and Matt Servedio introduced him to opportunities in the HGTC Cybersecurity program. So, Jon decided to enroll in that program, and in 2021, will be one of HGTC's first students to graduate with our new AAS Cybersecurity degree.

His Cybersecurity studies have led him to what he calls his most significant HGTC experience – participating on the College's team for the South Eastern Collegiate Cyber

Defense Competition (SECCDS), where teams are competitively tasked with managing and securing a network while defending against an opposing team of hackers. Jon calls the SECCDS experience "fun, fast paced, and crazy exciting." He also praises the Cybersecurity program's new Security Operations Center (SOC) lab in the 1000 Building given that, "It really makes you feel like you are in a real live SOC environment, and the new equipment gives us a chance to experiment with so many different technologies."

Even though he is not quite finished with the AAS Cybersecurity (Summer 2021), Jon is already in his chosen technology field balancing work with his degree completion. He presently works for Radixbay, a Managed Service Provider, in North Carolina where he supports a variety of clients as a Jr. Database Administrator and performs Tier 1 Helpdesk support. But he has another career interest that is still in his mind. "I am going to continue working with Radixbay for the next few years and make use of my degree and certifications that I have earned during my time here to move up in the company while also pursuing my bachelor's degree on my path to becoming a Computer Technology teacher." The inspiration for teaching comes right back to HGTC – "the reason why I chose teaching is because of Professor Brian Tessianear – one of the best teachers that I had. Even though I do not have him in my current classes, he is still around encouraging me. He made the class and learning in general a real treat and, as a teacher, I want to be able to do that for someone one day."

And it all started because he was looking for a better way.

