

SPRING/SUMMER 2024



HORRY-GEORGETOWN
TECHNICAL COLLEGE
**COMMUNITY
UPDATE**



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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Horry-Georgetown Technical College,

I hope this message finds you well and enjoying the beautiful summer days. As we reflect on the recent accomplishments and look forward to the future, I am delighted to share some exciting updates and reflections with you. Our College continues to shine brightly, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our exceptional students, faculty, and staff.

First and foremost, I am thrilled to report that our summer enrollment numbers have exceeded our expectations, and our fall projections continue to trend upward, a testament to the growing reputation of HGTC as a beacon of quality education and career preparation in our community. Our ability to attract and retain students speaks volumes about the dedication of our faculty and staff and the trust the community places in our institution.

Our students and employees continue to achieve remarkable milestones. From winning prestigious awards and conducting innovative research to engaging in impactful community service, their successes are a source of pride and inspiration. These accomplishments underscore HGTC's role in transforming lives and strengthening our community through education and workforce development. These achievements highlight the transformative impact HGTC is having on our community, preparing individuals not only for successful careers but also meaningful contributions to society.

As we gear up for the fall semester, we are focused on continuing to grow and serve our community. One of our most exciting initiatives is the SCWINS (South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarship), providing zero tuition for over 65 programs through the 2024-2025 academic year. This incredible opportunity ensures that more individuals can access the education and training they need to succeed in today's workforce, without the financial burden.

I encourage all community members, donors, and supporters to continue spreading the word about the exceptional opportunities available at HGTC. Your advocacy and support are crucial in helping us reach more potential students and in furthering our mission to provide high-quality education and training.

We are also looking forward to our All-College Meeting in August where we will provide a year in review presentation and reveal our new Strategic Planning Campaign. This event will be an excellent opportunity for our faculty and staff to come together, share updates, and set the tone for a successful academic year. We are committed to fostering a collaborative and supportive environment for everyone.

In closing, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our community members, donors, and supporters. Your unwavering support and belief in our mission enable us to make a significant impact. Together, we are shaping the future and building a stronger, more vibrant community.

Thank you for being a vital part of the HGTC family.

Sincerely,



Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore
HGTC President



MISSION

Horry-Georgetown Technical College is dedicated to enriching the lives of students and empowering communities through accessible and affordable education. We are committed to fostering economic development and innovation by providing a premiere, comprehensive two-year collegiate and workforce education experience that will leave a lasting positive impact on our students and the regions we serve.

VISION

Horry-Georgetown Technical College will be recognized as a leader in workforce development, intellectual growth, and life improvement.

VALUES

To fulfill its mission, Horry-Georgetown Technical College is committed to the following values:

- Accountability** We create an environment that promotes responsible stewardship of the resources entrusted upon us.
- Collaboration** We develop and nurture partnerships among student, faculty, staff, and community to promote open and effective communication, decision-making, and implementation of ideas and processes.
- Excellence** We set high and challenging standards for teaching and professional performance, advocate continuous improvement of programs and services, and expect a results-oriented organization.
- Inclusion** We recognize individual differences and choices and support a college environment in which all members can grow in their personal and professional lives.

The Horry-Georgetown Technical College Area Commission, a nine-member body, is an outstanding group of dedicated, community-minded professionals, individually and collectively committed to advancing higher education at Horry-Georgetown Technical College. It is our goal, each day, to provide the policy guidelines and broad-based vision that promote and ensure the success of the College, under the direction of its President, Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, and accomplished by the efforts of our wonderfully able team of professional faculty, staff, and administrators.

HGTC Area Commission



Tommy Branyon – *Chairman*



John Cassidy



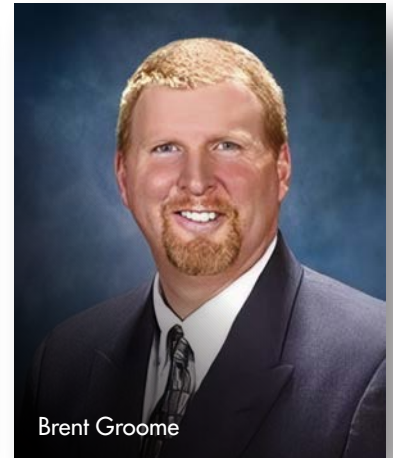
Fedrick Cohens



Byron David



Robert Farrar



Brent Groomé



Robert Hucks – *Vice Chairman*



David McMillan



Orrie West – *Secretary*

New Programs



HGTC Introduces Two New Healthcare Programs in Summer 2024 to Meet Growing Industry Demands

HGTC launched two new healthcare programs to meet the ever-growing industry demands. The Clinical Medical Assistant Certificate program and the Electrocardiography Technician (EKG) Certificate program were first available in the Summer 2024 semester. Dr. Fore remarked, *“As we navigate the dynamic landscape of healthcare, it is essential for educational institutions to respond proactively to the demands of the industry. The Clinical Medical Assistant and Electrocardiography Technician programs are a testament to our dedication to providing students with relevant, high-quality education that*

aligns with the needs of our community and healthcare partners. These programs not only empower our students to excel in their careers but also contribute to addressing critical gaps in the healthcare workforce. I am confident that these initiatives will have a positive and lasting impact, and I am grateful for the ongoing support of the Area Commission in advancing our mission of educational excellence.”

For more information about the new Clinical Medical Assistant or EKG Technician programs, please contact Dr. Sheila Locklair, HGTC Chair and Professor of Nursing, at sheila.locklair@hgtc.edu.

HORRY-GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE



Left to right: Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President; Dr. Sean Grainger, Associate Director for Public Safety Consulting at AT&T and HGTC Adjunct Faculty for Business; Dr. Theresa Strong, HGTC Assistant Vice President & Dean.

HGTC Launches New IT Project Management Advanced Certificate for Fall 2024

HGTC launched a new Information Technology (IT) Project Management Advanced Certificate, commencing in the Fall 2024 semester. The program will provide students with comprehensive exposure to information technology and its critical role in the modern business environment. Eligible students will receive South Carolina Workforce Industry Needs Scholarship (SC-WINS) funding to cover tuition.

"As a director of project management services in the industry, I confidently endorse the new Advanced Certificate in IT Project Management. This unique program, available at the associate degree level, bridges a significant gap in our educational landscape. As someone who regularly faces the challenge of finding qualified resources for effective IT project management, I appreciate how this certificate program meets that critical demand. The curriculum strikes a perfect balance between theoretical knowledge and hands-on experience, ensuring that graduates are not only academically prepared but also industry ready. By emphasizing real-world application, students gain invaluable insights and practical skills that directly translate to

their careers. In a rapidly evolving industry, programs like this are essential for staying ahead," said Dr. Sean Grainger, Associate Director for Public Safety Consulting at AT&T and Adjunct Faculty member at HGTC.

The program's goals include developing students' competencies in financial and managerial functions, project management related to the IT industry, computer and information technology concepts and security, effective communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. Additionally, the program promotes professional behaviors and lifelong learning, while effectively meeting the community's needs for entry-level positions requiring project management functions.

To learn more about HGTC's IT Project Management Advanced Certificate and earn the certificate with Zero Tuition, visit the program webpage or contact Dr. Theresa Strong, HGTC Assistant Vice President & Dean, at 843-349-7559 or theresa.strong@hgtc.edu.

President's News

HGTC President Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore Recognized as One of the Grand Strand's 50 Most Influential

Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, the esteemed President of the College, has been honored as "One of the Grand Strand's 50 Most Influential" by B2B: The Grand Strand magazine.

Integrated Media Publishing, Inc., publishers of Charleston Business Magazine, Columbia Business Monthly, Greenville Magazine, and formerly the Greater Pee Dee Business Journal, launched B2B: The Grand Strand magazine in January 2024. As part of the inaugural edition, Dr. Fore is profiled along with other Business Leaders recognized for their significant impact on their professions and valuable community contributions.

Dr. Fore, affectionately known as "Murph," has dedicated over 40 years to the field of higher education. Her illustrious journey began in Ohio and West Virginia, and she has been a prominent figure in South Carolina since the inception of her remarkable career.

Her extensive educational background, including an honorary Doctorate of Public Service from Coastal Carolina University, underscores her unwavering commitment to continuous learning and academic excellence. A distinguished alumna of the University of South Carolina in Columbia, Dr. Fore holds an Education Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction, a Master of Arts in Economics, and a Master of Arts in Educational Administration. Her foundation in education began with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences from Fairmont State College in Fairmont, West Virginia.

As the first female president of HGTC, Dr. Fore has shattered glass ceilings and exemplified extraordinary leadership. Her tenure at HGTC includes pivotal roles such as Professor of Economics, Academic Dean, and Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. Throughout her renowned career, Dr. Fore has served as a beacon of inspiration for colleagues in higher education.

The recognition by B2B: The Grand Strand magazine is a well-deserved acknowledgment of Dr. Fore's impact on the community and higher education.



Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President

"We are excited to see Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore acknowledged as one of the Grand Strand's 50 Most Influential by B2B: The Grand Strand magazine. This recognition highlights not only her leadership in higher education but also her substantial contributions to the community," says Nicole Hyman, HGTC Public Relations Director.

The 50 Most Influential recipients, including Dr. Fore, will be honored at an exclusive reception on January 30. This "invitation-only" event is set to celebrate the achievements of these individuals and will be attended by the recipients, their guests, and sponsors. The January issue of B2B: The Grand Strand, Columbia Business Monthly, Greenville Business Magazine, and Charleston Business Magazine will feature profiles of the honorees, providing statewide recognition for their outstanding service.

In addition to her inclusion in the "50 Most Influential" list, Dr. Fore's recognition by B2B: The Grand Strand adds to her already impressive list of accolades, including the City of Conway's Excellence in Education Award, the Order of the Palmetto, and the SC Association of Technical College Commissioners-Chief Executive Officer of the Year.

"We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore for this well-deserved recognition. Her influence extends beyond the HGTC campus, impacting the entire Grand Strand community," adds Hyman.

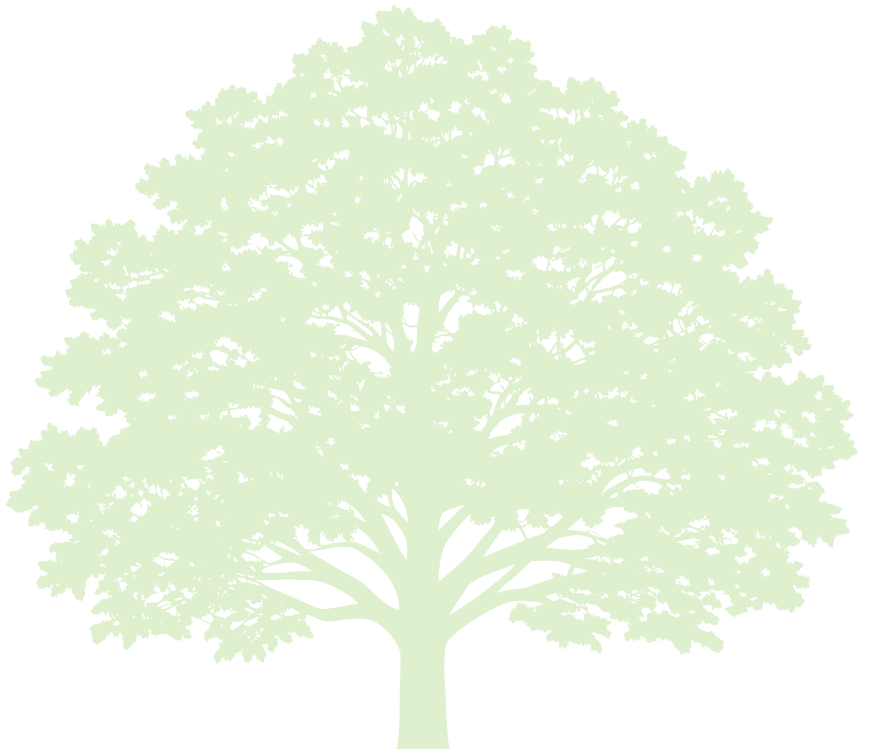


HGTC President Accepts Community Appearance Board Chairman's Award and Participates in Annual Arbor Day Ceremony

HGTC President, Dr. Marilyn Fore, took part in the City of Myrtle Beach's Annual Arbor Day Ceremony held in the Arts & Innovation District of Myrtle Beach. The event, organized by Myrtle Beach City Government, celebrated Arbor Day with a tree planting ceremony, Community Appearance Board awards, and the 27th annual Tree City USA recognition. During the ceremony, President Fore was presented with The Community Appearance Board Chairman's Award for HGTC's exceptional contributions to the aesthetic appeal and environmental consciousness of its HGTC Grand Strand Campus in Market Common. The Chairman's Award is a testament to HGTC's commitment to maintaining an outstanding environment that aligns with the city's vision for a green and sustainable community. President Fore expressed gratitude for the honor bestowed upon HGTC, stating, *"We are proud to be recognized by the City of Myrtle Beach for our dedication to creating and maintaining an aesthetically pleasing and environmentally conscious campus. This award is a tribute to the unwavering commitment and dedication of our exceptional landscapers. Their tireless efforts in maintaining the lush greenery, preserving trees, and ensuring the overall beauty of the surroundings have not only contributed to the recognition by the City of Myrtle Beach but also reflect HGTC's commitment to environmental sustainability."*



Arbor Day – City of Myrtle Beach, December 2023



COMMUNITY IMPACT



1966

12 PROGRAMS

530 STUDENTS

2024

70+ PROGRAMS

11,005 STUDENTS

\$65 MILLION OPERATING BUDGET

9,005 CURRICULUM STUDENTS ANNUALLY

2,000 CONTINUING EDUCATION STUDENTS ANNUALLY

36% MALE **64% FEMALE**

AVERAGE AGE OF STUDENTS: 24

STUDENT PROFILE



41% FULL TIME **59% PART TIME**



90% ARE SC RESIDENTS **92% RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID**

STUDENT SUCCESS



96% of HGTC Graduates Live, Work, & Thrive in South Carolina

95% University/Job Placement Rate

COLLEGE SUCCESS



4TH LARGEST Technical College in South Carolina



\$325 MILLION Our Local Economic Impact



\$2,186 PER SEMESTER One of the Most Affordable Colleges in South Carolina



600 Employees

HGTC Celebrates Vice President Harold Hawley's CPA Licensure

HGTC's Harold Hawley, HGTC Vice President for Finance and Administration, has achieved a significant professional milestone by obtaining his Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license in the state of South Carolina. This accomplishment adds to his existing licensure as a CPA in the state of Virginia.

Harold's unwavering dedication, expertise, and commitment to excellence have culminated in this remarkable achievement across multiple states. As a CPA, he joins an elite group of professionals who uphold the highest standards of integrity and financial expertise.

In response to this achievement, Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, President of HGTC, stated, *"Harold's tireless efforts and exceptional leadership have been instrumental in advancing our College's financial stability and growth. His dual licensure as a CPA demonstrates his commitment to professional excellence and dedication to our institution."*

As Vice President for Finance and Administration, Harold oversees critical departments, including Finance and Accounting, Financial Aid, Student Accounts, Procurement, Capital Project Administration, Public Safety, Maintenance, Grounds, and Custodial Services. His extensive 20-year tenure at HGTC reflects his deep-rooted commitment to the College community.



Harold Hawley

HGTC Names SCTEA Educator of the Year Award Winners 2024

Employees Honored at SC Technical Education Association's Annual Conference

Three HGTC employees were selected as the South Carolina Technical Education Association's (SCTEA) "Educators of the Year." The employees were recognized along with their colleagues from other South Carolina technical colleges at SCTEA's annual conference in February 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 & 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



Ann Daniels



Erin Ivey



Bobbi Jo Oxendine

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."*

HGTC Extends Support to Meals on Wheels

In a generous gesture of community support, HGTC is providing a temporary home for Meals on Wheels of Horry and Georgetown counties during a critical period of transition. With the immediate need for a new location, Meals on Wheels, a commendable non-profit organization serving homebound, elderly, and terminally ill community members, faced the challenge of a potential suspension of services. HGTC recognizes the invaluable impact this organization has on the lives of so many, and in a spirit of partnership and community collaboration, has answered the call for a viable solution through a facility use agreement.

"We are incredibly grateful for the generous support extended to us by Horry-Georgetown Technical College during this challenging time. Their swift and compassionate response ensures that we can continue our mission of delivering nutrition, compassion, and hope to those who are homebound, elderly, and terminally ill. The provision of a temporary space on the Conway Campus, equipped with a kitchen area, is not just a physical location for us but a symbol of community solidarity and shared commitment. This partnership with HGTC is instrumental in allowing us to maintain our services seamlessly while we work towards securing a permanent home. We extend our deepest appreciation to HGTC for their invaluable support, and we look forward to the positive impact we can create together for our community," said Michael Snuggs, Chief Executive Officer for Meals on Wheels of Horry & Georgetown Counties.

HGTC is proud to extend the use of a designated space on the Conway Campus, complete with a fully equipped kitchen area, ensuring that Meals on Wheels can continue their vital work without disruption. This collaboration is more than just the provision of physical space; it represents a shared commitment to the well-being of our community and a belief in the power of collective action.

"This partnership between Horry-Georgetown Technical College and Meals on Wheels shows our commitment to supporting organizations that make a profound difference in the lives of our neighbors. We are honored to stand alongside Meals on Wheels during this critical time and to offer a space that will serve as their operational hub as they work towards securing a new facility," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.

The College understands the urgency of Meals on Wheels' situation and is making this space available for a year with the possibility of renewal, providing the organization with the time and stability needed to identify and establish a permanent location for their essential services.

HGTC encourages the community to join in supporting Meals on Wheels during this transitional phase and looks forward to witnessing the continued positive impact that this organization brings to our community.

For more information about Meals on Wheels of Horry and Georgetown Counties, contact Michael Snuggs, Chief Executive Officer for Meals on Wheels of Horry and Georgetown Counties, at mowhorry@gmail.com, 843-970-2330 ext. 5 or P.O. Box 50862, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29579.



HGTC Employees Donate Presents to Waccamaw Youth Center for Angel Tree project.

HGTC Employees Support the Waccamaw Youth Center During the Holidays

In the spirit of giving during the holiday season, HGTC employees demonstrated their commitment to community service by supporting the Waccamaw Youth Center in Conway. The HGTC Academic and Workforce Development Division organized the annual "Blue Jeans Week" fundraiser, rallying employees to contribute to a meaningful cause. This year, the focus was on raising funds for the Waccamaw Youth Center, which provides a safe and comforting home for at-risk youth in South Carolina. HGTC employees enthusiastically embraced the initiative, collectively raising over \$1,175 to contribute to the center's ongoing efforts. Generous contributions from HGTC employees and students went beyond monetary donations, with a heartfelt collection of food, cleaning supplies, clothes, pots & pans, and more. HGTC Employees Donate Presents to Waccamaw Youth Center for Angel Tree project.

BLUE JEANS WEEK

Benefiting
**CONWAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S
MG Strong
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

This fundraiser honors McKinley Grace Thompson, daughter of Professor Greg Thompson. Your contribution will support the Conway Christian School's MG Strong Memorial Scholarship Fund to support local students at CCS in their pursuit of healthcare careers.

April 15-19
Wear Jeans for One Day (you pick) **\$5**
Wear Jeans for the Entire Week **\$20**

Please sign up at one of these locations by April 12.

Conway Campus Gina Halodook Bldg. 200, Deans' Suite	Grand Strand Campus Yevonne Connolly Bldg. 1000, Rm. 1282A
Richard Maniz Bldg. 1100, Library	Christina Fieber Bldg. 200, Rm. 141A/B
Greg Thompson Bldg. 300, Rm. 107	Lindsay Greenwood Bldg. 500, Reception
Georgetown Campus Philip Lance Bldg. 100, Rm. 107	

Amount of \$20 or more will receive an orange ribbon pin to wear and also support during Blue Jeans Week.

**HORRY
GEORGETOWN
TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

HGTC Raises Record Amount for MG Strong Memorial Scholarship Fund During Blue Jeans Week Fundraiser

HGTC Announces Outstanding Success of its Recent Blue Jeans Week Fundraiser

Thanks to the generosity of HGTC employees, the Academic and Workforce Development Division raised an impressive \$1,800.00 for the McKinley Grace (MG) Strong Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The MG Strong Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in honor of McKinley Grace Thompson, a beloved member of the HGTC community, who lost her life to an extremely rare form of renal cell carcinoma in February 2023. Her diagnosis is only seen in five percent (5%) of patients. She also developed secondary ovarian cancer. McKinley Grace's legacy lives on through this scholarship, which supports local students at Conway Christian School pursuing careers in healthcare.

HGTC Executive Vice President of Academic and Workforce Development, Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks, expressed her gratitude, *"Our Blue Jeans Week fundraiser exemplifies the spirit of community and compassion at HGTC. The funds raised will directly impact local students, and we are thrilled to support the MG Strong Memorial Scholarship Fund."*

HGTC Professor Greg Thompson, McKinley Grace's father, shared his heartfelt appreciation, *"I am profoundly humbled by and grateful for the generous participation of employees in the recent HGTC Blue Jeans Fundraiser. The support from the HGTC family not only honors McKinley Grace's memory but also empowers local students in their pursuit of higher education. Thank you for making a meaningful difference."*

Kidney cancer awareness was also a key focus during the fundraiser. Kidney cancer ranks among the 10 most common cancers in both men and women. Symptoms include blood in the urine, an abdominal mass, and back or flank pain. Renal cell carcinoma (RCC) is the predominant type of kidney cancer, accounting for approximately nine (9) out of 10 cases.

The inaugural MG Strong Scholarship presentation is scheduled this month and will provide a \$2,500 scholarship to a deserving senior at Conway Christian School. Top applicants for the 2024 scholarship are all in the PACE program at HGTC.

For more information about the MG Strong Scholarship, please contact Meredith Donahue, Director of Guidance and Development at Conway Christian School, at 843-365-2005.



HGTC Professor Greg Thompson and his daughter, McKinley Grace Thompson, who passed away in 2023 from an extremely rare form of renal cell carcinoma.



Left to right: Meredith Donahue, Conway Christian School – Director of Guidance and Development; Connie Smith, Conway Christian School – Head of School; Kari Royals, HGTC Administrative Assistant.

HGTC Hosts 2024 Lecture Series for Addiction & Recovery

Series Featured Spectacular Celebrity Speakers Maintaining Recovery from Addictions

HGTC hosted the 17th annual HGTC Addiction and Recovery Series commencing on Thursday evenings starting January 25. The series showcased two celebrity speakers, four creative demonstrations from local recovery institutions, and several student testimonials of recovery from different addictions using diverse recovery methods. All events were free, open to the public, and held in the Burroughs & Chapin Auditorium on the HGTC Conway Campus. The series was presented by Horry-Georgetown Technical College and sponsored by ACCESS FAVOR, Conway Medical Center Foundation, Lighthouse Behavioral Health Hospital, and Shoreline Behavioral Health Services.

Headlining the series was actor and comedian, **Tom Arnold**. Arnold has had a well-publicized journey with addiction and child sexual abuse. His drinking and substance use began years prior to his leaving the Midwest, where he was born and raised, and where his sister became one of the most prominent drug dealers. He honestly shares the ups and downs of his recovery with audiences. Arnold says rehabilitation is an ongoing process. He has been attending 12-step meetings for 35 years and is sober. *"It is something I work on every day,"* he said.

The following Thursday featured Kevin McCauley, MD, a Senior Fellow at The Meadows in Wickenburg, Arizona and co-founder of the Institute for Addiction Study in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Corporate sponsors of the series, including ACCESS FAVOR, Conway Medical Center Foundation, Lighthouse, and Shoreline offered presentations on recovery adding insight into aspects of addiction and recovery from a professional viewpoint. Students in recovery from different addictions and using different recovery methods presented descriptions of what it was like, what happened, and what they do on a daily basis to maintain their recovery.

The HGTC Addiction and Recovery Series was created in 2008 by HGTC physics and natural science professor Casey King to: increase public awareness of recovery in our community, educate the public on the biology and psychological basis that drives many addictions, demonstrate that addiction crosses all social and economic boundaries, reduce the stigma our culture assigns to those in recovery, and to demonstrate that recovery from addictions is possible through a multitude of methods and can be free to those who want it.

To support the Addiction & Recovery Lecture Series, please visit www.hgtc.edu/give. For more information contact Casey King at 843-477-2154 or casey.king@hgtc.edu.



Actor and comedian, Tom Arnold.

HGTC Forestry Professor Deanna Ruth Recognized as Certified Wildlife Biologist by The Wildlife Society



Professor Deanna Ruth.

HGTC's Professor Deanna Ruth, a distinguished faculty member in Forestry and Wildlife, is now a Certified Wildlife Biologist by The Wildlife Society. This esteemed recognition underscores Professor Ruth's dedication to excellence and her commitment to advancing expertise in biological sciences.

The attainment of the Certified Wildlife Biologist designation is a testament to Professor Ruth's years of experience and her adherence to rigorous educational requirements. Recognized by The Wildlife Society, this certification signifies that Professor

Ruth has surpassed industry standards and demonstrated exceptional proficiency in the wildlife profession over the past five years.

Charles Granger, HGTC Professor and Chair, expressed his delight in Professor Ruth's accomplishment, stating, *"I am delighted to announce Professor Deanna Ruth, an esteemed faculty member in Forestry and Wildlife at HGTC, has recently achieved the prestigious certification as a Board-Certified Biologist. This significant accomplishment reflects Professor Ruth's dedication to excellence in the field and underscores her commitment to advancing her expertise in biological sciences. Her attainment of this certification is a testament to her outstanding knowledge, skills, and contributions to the academic community. We are proud to have such a distinguished scholar as part of our faculty, and we look forward to the continued impact of Professor Ruth's expertise in shaping the next generation of biologists and conservationists."*

Professor Ruth's recognition as a Certified Wildlife Biologist by The Wildlife Society not only elevates her standing within the academic community but also enhances HGTC's reputation as a leading institution in the field of forestry and wildlife studies. Her dedication to advancing knowledge and fostering future generations of biologists and conservationists exemplifies HGTC's commitment to academic excellence and environmental stewardship.

Professor Lauren Roberts, releasing a sea turtle hatchling after a nest inventory at Myrtle Beach State Park.



HGTC Recognizes Professor of Biology Lauren Roberts as Nominee for Volunteer of the Year

HGTC's Professor Lauren Roberts was nominated for Volunteer of the Year with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR). Professor Roberts has been recognized for her outstanding dedication and contributions to the SCDNR sea turtle program at Myrtle Beach State Park.

"Professor Lauren Roberts' passion for volunteer work is truly inspiring. Her dedication to the Sea Turtle Patrol and Myrtle Beach State Park reflects her commitment to making a positive impact on our local environment," said Dr. Christina Fieber, Academic Chair & Professor, Natural & Physical Sciences, and Grand Strand Campus Director. *"Beyond her exemplary work in the biology classrooms at HGTC, Professor Roberts actively engages with the community, educating about sea turtle conservation and emphasizing the importance of protecting this native threatened species. We are immensely proud of her contributions and the difference she continues to make."*

Professor Roberts' commitment to conservation and education shines through her work with the sea turtle program helping to find, relocate, and mark sea turtle nests for conducting nest inventories after hatching. She also assists the rangers with sea turtle educational programming for park visitors and training the volunteers both in person and virtually. Her hands-on involvement and initiative have greatly enhanced the effectiveness of the program, making it more educational, interactive, and enjoyable for both administrators and volunteers alike.

Professor Roberts was a former wildlife and research biologist for several years, including sea turtle research, prior to joining the College as a full-time educator.

All sea turtle monitoring by the Myrtle Beach State Park sea turtle patrol is permitted and authorized by the SCDNR Marine Turtle Conservation Program under Marine Turtle Permit #510. For more information about the SCDNR sea turtle program, please visit <http://www.dnr.sc.gov/seaturtle/>. For dead, injured or sick sea turtles, please contact the SCDNR Hotline at 1-800-922-5431.

HGTC Professor Publishes New Book

Dr. Michael Roberts Releases New Book "Aftermath: Reflections on Near-life Experiences"

HGTC Professor of English, Dr. Michael Roberts, recently unveiled his latest creation, "Aftermath: Reflections on Near-life Experiences." This compelling collection of poetry delves into the chasm between our aspirations and the often-harsh realities of existence, offering profound insights into the human condition.

Debuting on Amazon at an impressive #34, based on pre-sale figures, "Aftermath" promises to captivate readers with its raw and introspective exploration of life's unfulfilled desires and missed opportunities. Dr. Roberts, a prolific author with this being his sixth book, has once again demonstrated his literary prowess and deep understanding of the human psyche.

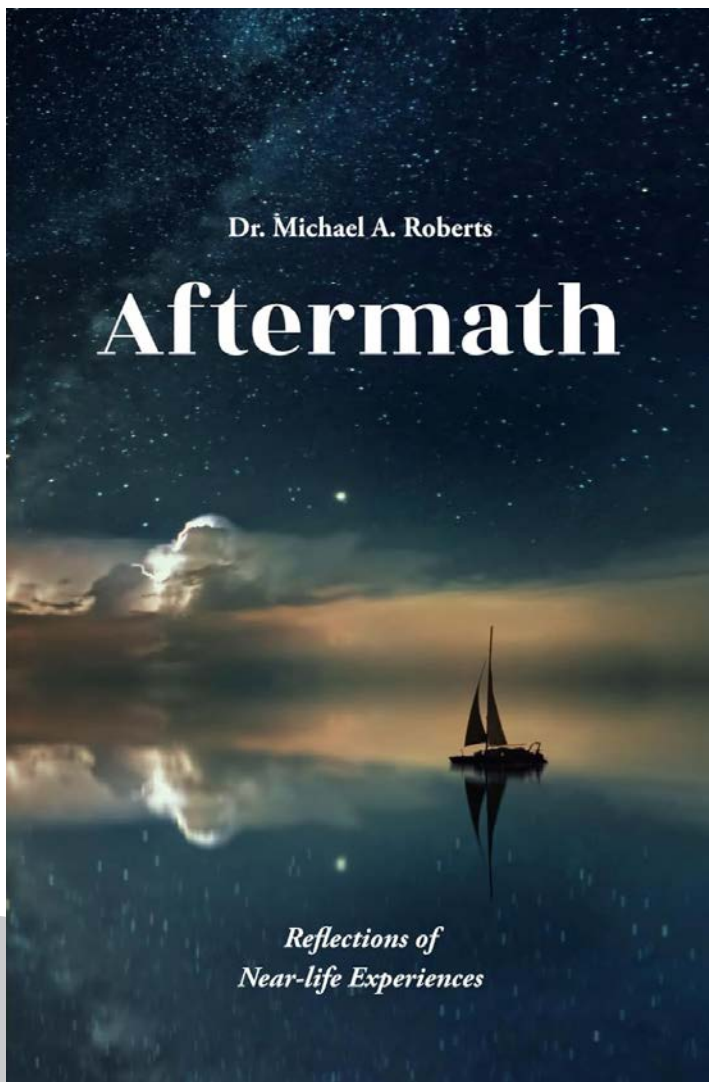
Inspired by poignant encounters with old friends and acquaintances, "Aftermath" invites readers to reflect on their own life journeys, confronting the "what-if" and "if only" moments that punctuate our existence. Through a series of evocative poems, Dr. Roberts navigates themes of connection, spirituality, and self-fulfillment, offering solace and inspiration to those who grapple with the complexities of modern life.

In a generous gesture of philanthropy, Dr. Roberts has pledged to donate all author royalties from "Aftermath" to the Paralyzed Veterans of America, continuing his tradition of giving back to the community. Previous contributions from his book sales have supported the noble endeavors of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Commenting on his latest work, Dr. Roberts shared, *"My new book is a tribute to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. Through 'Aftermath,' I hope to spark meaningful conversations about the paths we choose and the roads left untraveled."*

HGTC President, Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, commended Dr. Roberts for his literary achievements, stating, *"We are immensely proud of Dr. Roberts and his contributions to both academia and the literary world. 'Aftermath' exemplifies the intellectual curiosity and compassion that define our institution's values."*

"Aftermath: Reflections on Near-life Experiences" is now available at leading retailers including Barnes & Noble, Books-a-Million, Amazon, Bookzilla, Walmart, and Target, inviting readers to embark on a profound journey of self-discovery and introspection.



HGTC Professor Appointed to SREB Commission on Artificial Intelligence

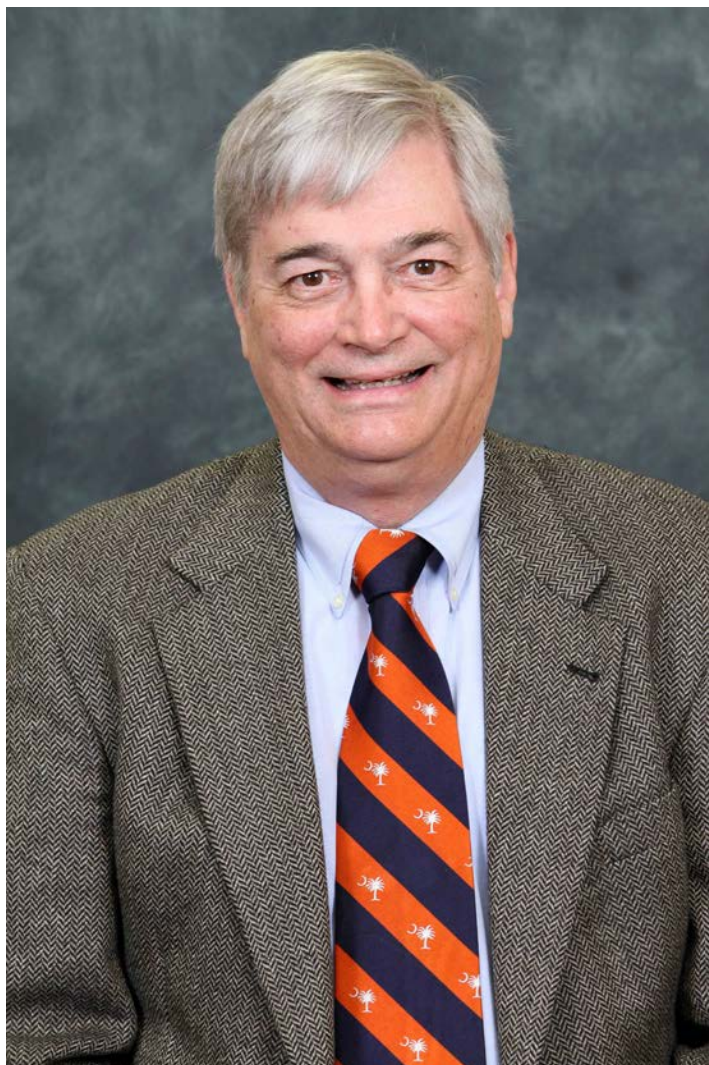
HGTC's Professor Stan Greenawalt, a distinguished faculty member in the Cybersecurity and Information Technology, has accepted the invitation to join the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Commission on Artificial Intelligence (AI). This esteemed commission, chaired by the Governor of South Carolina, is dedicated to addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by artificial intelligence in education and workforce preparation.

"We are immensely proud to announce Professor Greenawalt's appointment to the Southern Regional Education Board Commission on Artificial Intelligence. This prestigious recognition not only underscores the caliber of expertise within our faculty but also reinforces HGTC's commitment to shaping the future of education. We are confident that Professor Greenawalt will bring a wealth of knowledge and insight to this influential commission. The appointment reflects not only on the excellence of Professor Greenawalt but also on the standing of HGTC as a leading institution dedicated to innovation and educational excellence," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC president.

As an expert in analyzing the management and instructional use of AI, Professor Greenawalt will play a pivotal role in shaping policies and practices that bridge the gap between education and the evolving workforce landscape. The SREB Commission on Artificial Intelligence recognizes the transformative potential of AI and aims to provide strategic guidance on its integration into classrooms at both K-12 and postsecondary levels.

The Commission, comprising representatives from SREB's 16 states, state leadership, K-12 and postsecondary education professionals, and industry leaders, will conduct thorough research, analyze industry data, and seek advice from education experts. The goal is to develop recommendations that will position the southern region as a leader in AI education and workforce development.

The key focus areas of the Commission will include examining and formulating policies that guide the responsible use of AI in K-12 and postsecondary education, exploring innovative ways to integrate AI into educational practices to enhance learning experiences, and identifying the skills and knowledge needed to prepare students for successful careers in the rapidly evolving field of artificial intelligence.



Stan Greenawalt, HGTC Professor of Cybersecurity and Information Technology.



South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster and Stan Greenawalt.

HGTC's Savannah Rabon Graduates from Leadership Conway

Savannah Rabon Completes Leadership Program and Will Serve on Board of Regents

HGTC's Savannah Rabon, HGTC Marketing Coordinator and Graphic Designer, successfully graduated from the 2023-2024 Leadership Conway program. This year's program proudly graduated 20 participants who spent the past nine months immersed in learning about the City of Conway and honing their leadership skills to better serve the community.

As part of the Leadership Conway program, participants engaged in various community-oriented projects, including a significant fundraising initiative for local nonprofits. Rabon's team chose to support The Caroline Grace Foundation's Camp Rockstar SC, a free, five-week summer camp in Conway, South Carolina, for individuals ages 5-25 with special needs. The camp encourages socialization and a consistent routine to maintain skills and emotional stability. Through their successful T-shirt sponsorship campaign, Rabon and her team raised over \$24,000, directly supporting Camp Rockstar's 2024 operations. This funding will allow the camp to run for five (5) weeks, accommodating up to 30 campers, and will enhance camp activities and resources, ensuring a safe, engaging, and enriching experience for all attendees.

Savannah Rabon's exceptional contributions to the program have also led to her election to the board of regents, where she will serve for the next two years. Her selection by her peers is a testament to her leadership qualities and dedication to the community.

Leadership Conway, for over a quarter of a century, has provided existing and emerging leaders with opportunities to enhance their civic knowledge and network. For more information about the program, visit conwayscchamber.com.

"HGTC is proud to sponsor and support employees in the participation of leadership programs with our area chambers of commerce," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President. *"Leadership is not something we take lightly at the College. It is the basis for every decision we make; leading by example, inspiring passion, and motivating our team to accomplish the mission of our College."*



Savannah Rabon (center), HGTC Marketing Coordinator and Graphic Designer, receives her Leadership Conway diploma at the graduation ceremony from Becky Hubbard (left), Conway Chamber Immediate Past President, and Le Hendrick (right), Conway Chamber Vice President for Educational Programs.



Savannah Rabon, HGTC Marketing Coordinator and Graphic Designer, and her team proudly present the \$24,000 check to Camp Rockstar.

HGTC Applauds Historic Statewide Transfer Agreement Signing

HGTC President, Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, attended a press conference in January 2024 with Governor Henry McMaster and other state legislators at the State House in Columbia. It was a historic moment for higher education in South Carolina as leaders, including House Speaker Murrell Smith, Governor Henry McMaster, and SC Technical College System President Dr. Tim Hardee, gathered to celebrate the signing of the Statewide Transfer Agreement. This groundbreaking collaboration between the South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS), Clemson University, and the University of South Carolina Columbia is set to streamline the transfer process, enhancing student success across the state.

This landmark initiative, designed to be dynamic with ongoing assessment and evaluation, aims to optimize student educational opportunities by strengthening the seamless transfer of credits from technical colleges to public research universities within the state. Key components of the agreement include the establishment of 30 or more credit hours of guaranteed acceptance and applicability to the student's major, maintenance of a minimum of 60 credit hours for specific programs, a reverse transfer credit option, annual data sharing, and a commitment to ongoing collaboration through faculty and staff convenings.

"I am thrilled to celebrate the signing of the Statewide Transfer Agreement, an endeavor I have wholeheartedly supported for many years," said Speaker of the House Murrell Smith. *"This is a great first step in a continued commitment to making education more accessible, affordable, and adaptable to our state's students."*

"At a time when workforce development is crucial, the Statewide Transfer Agreement will make college more affordable and accessible, encouraging South Carolinians to pursue degrees in high-demand career fields," stated Governor Henry McMaster.

Dr. Tim Hardee, President of the SC Technical College System, highlighted the commitment to accessibility, stating, *"This statewide agreement streamlines achieving higher education goals for students across South Carolina, allowing them to initially take financial advantage of lower tuition at their local technical college and then seamlessly transfer to USC or Clemson for their bachelor's degree."*

University of South Carolina President Michael Amiridis and Clemson University President James P. Clements expressed excitement about expanding opportunities for South Carolinians to earn a four-year college degree.

"The Statewide Transfer Agreement is a huge win for South Carolina students and their families," said Senate President Thomas Alexander. *"This teamwork will make college education more affordable and achieving a degree more efficient."*

Chairlady Shannon Erickson commended the collaboration, stating, "This is a wonderful example of the great work we can accomplish when we put families and students first."

University of South Carolina Provost Donna Arnett emphasized the agreement's critical role in supporting the university's mission of academic excellence.

The excitement and enthusiasm for the Statewide Transfer Agreement extend to local institutions, with Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, President of Horry-Georgetown Technical College, expressing immense enthusiasm. She highlighted the transformative nature of the collaboration, commending the guaranteed acceptance of 30 or more credit hours and the innovative reverse transfer credit option. Dr. Fore sees the potential of this agreement to make higher education more efficient, affordable, and adaptable for local students in Horry and Georgetown counties.

"This collaborative effort between technical colleges, public research universities, and state leaders sets the stage for a more accessible, affordable, and seamless higher education experience for South Carolina students," said President Fore.



Press Conference Attendees, including Governor Henry McMaster, South Carolina Technical College Presidents, and other State Legislators.

Community Support



Left to right: Ed McCarthy, HGTC Assistant Chair for Electrical Engineering Technology; Jamey Gowdy, Georgia Pacific Human Resources Business Partner; Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President; Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks, HGTC Executive Vice President for Academic & Workforce Development; Charles Granger, HGTC Department Chair for Electrical Engineering Technology; Charles Hucks, HGTC Associate Professor for Electrical Engineering Technology.

HGTC Receives \$5,000 Donation from Georgia-Pacific for Electrical Engineering Technology Program

HGTC received a significant boost to its Electrical Engineering Technology program with a generous \$5,000 donation from Georgia-Pacific. The contribution will further enhance the program's capabilities and ensure students have access to advanced resources for their academic and professional growth.

President of HGTC, Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, expressed gratitude for Georgia-Pacific's continued support, stating, *"We are thrilled to receive this generous donation from Georgia-Pacific, a company that understands the importance of investing in education and workforce development. Their support directly contributes to the success of our Electrical Engineering Technology program and ensures our students receive the best possible education to excel in their future careers."*

Jamey Gowdy, Human Resources Business Partner at Georgia-Pacific's Clarendon Oriented Strand Board plant, highlighted the company's commitment to education and workforce development. *"Education and workforce development are vital priorities at Georgia-Pacific, and we believe that investments in institutions like HGTC can have a profound impact on the future economic success of our communities,"* said Gowdy. *"We also want to express our appreciation to the teachers and staff at HGTC for the dedication and guidance they provide to students who are preparing for their futures."*

The donation from Georgia-Pacific will support the mission of the HGTC Electrical Engineering Technology program, aiming to produce well-educated graduates who are innovative and productive members of society. This financial contribution will help ensure that students possess both problem-solving skills and fundamental soft skills needed in the workplace.

For more information about the HGTC Electrical Engineering Technology program, contact Charles Granger, Department Chair, at 843-349-5189, or Ed McCarthy, Assistant Department Chair, at 843-349-3642.



HGTC Community Dental Clinic

HGTC Receives Grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation to Enhance Dental Sciences Program

HGTC was awarded a \$32,000 grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) Foundation to upgrade the Dental Sciences program's lab equipment. The grant, titled "Dental Sciences Lab Equipment," will enhance learning outcomes and skill development for dental assisting and dental hygiene students, ultimately addressing the oral health needs of the region.

The \$32,000 grant, awarded by the BCBS Foundation, will fund the upgrade of dental science labs at HGTC. The project, slated to conclude in December 2024, aims to alleviate chronic barriers to oral health for vulnerable residents.

Horry and Georgetown counties face significant challenges in oral health, with a dental workforce shortage further exacerbating the issue. As the region's primary provider of postsecondary health and dental sciences training, HGTC plays a crucial role in addressing these challenges. The upgrade of dental labs will enhance student learning outcomes, promote retention, and produce highly trained graduates to fill the regional dental workforce shortage.

The grant will be used to upgrade dental science labs, focusing on digital radiography and clinical care preparation. Digital sensors and a dental manikin simulator will be added to provide students with hands-on experience and clinical competency. These enhancements will strengthen clinical skillsets, promote student retention, and better prepare graduates for the workforce.

The grant will directly benefit dental sciences students, of whom 54% are low-income, 38% are minorities, and 35% are first-generation college students. These upgrades align with the Foundation's oral health priorities and will contribute to the quality dental workforce needed to improve care outcomes in the region.

For more information about the Associate in Applied Science Degree in Dental Sciences, contact Professor Michelle Meeker at michelle.meeker@hgtc.edu or 843-839-1091.

Foundation News



Left to right: Ms. Ann Daniels, HGTC Assistant Vice President & Dean, Nursing & Health Sciences; Mrs. Shannon Detzler, HGTC Foundation President & CEO; Mr. John Rutenberg, Truist President; Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President; Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks, HGTC Executive Vice President Academic & Workforce Development.

HGTC Foundation Receives \$40,000 from Truist Foundation

Truist Foundation Grants \$40,000 to HGTC Nursing & Health Sciences Institute

The HGTC Foundation was awarded a \$40,000 grant from the Truist Foundation for the new HGTC Nursing & Health Sciences Institute. This significant contribution will serve as a catalyst for enhancing nursing and health science education programs and overall healthcare services within the community.

"We are overwhelmed and so very grateful for this tremendous support from the Truist Foundation," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC. *"This grant will significantly impact our ability to fulfill our mission and elevate the quality of our health science programs. It will enable us to provide enhanced learning experiences, support the professional development of our faculty, and expand access to critical healthcare services in our region."*

The grant underscores Truist Foundation's commitment to investing in education and healthcare, closely aligning with HGTC's core values and objectives. By partnering with Truist

Foundation, HGTC can further its efforts in training and educating the next generation of healthcare professionals, who are poised to play a vital role in improving health outcomes and addressing healthcare disparities in the community.

"We are proud to support the Horry-Georgetown Technical College Nursing & Health Sciences Institute in their mission to provide quality education and healthcare services," said John Rutenberg, Truist President. *"This grant reflects our ongoing dedication to empowering organizations that make a positive impact on education and healthcare, and we are excited to see the transformative results it will bring to the community."*

Shannon Detzler, HGTC Foundation President & CEO, worked with the Truist Foundation to secure the grant funding for the project. *"The collaboration between Truist Foundation and HGTC exemplifies the power of partnerships in driving meaningful change and creating opportunities for the betterment of society. Together, they are paving the way for a brighter future, where education and healthcare are accessible to all,"* said Detzler.

For more information about the HGTC Foundation, please call 843-477-2105, email foundation@hgtc.edu, or visit the website.



Left to right: Ms. Ann Daniels, HGTC Assistant Vice President & Dean, Nursing & Health Sciences; Mrs. Shannon Detzler, HGTC Foundation President & CEO; Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks, HGTC Executive Vice President Academic & Workforce Development; Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President; Monica Vehige, CEO McLeod Loris Seacoast; Sherrill Nielson, Chief Nursing Officer McLeod Seacoast; Charity Gerald, McLeod Director of Workforce Development; Jennifer Hedinger, McLeod Academic and Student Coordinator; Cindy Hyatt, McLeod Vice President Patient Services.

HGTC Foundation Receives Grant from McLeod Health for New Nursing and Health Sciences Institute

McLeod Health Grants \$375,000 to HGTC Nursing & Health Sciences Institute

The HGTC Foundation proudly received a generous \$375,000 grant for the establishment of the new Nursing and Health Sciences Institute on the Grand Strand Campus. This substantial contribution, provided by McLeod Health, exemplifies a shared commitment to fostering a well-prepared healthcare workforce and enhancing the overall health of the community.

"Our commitment to fostering a well-prepared healthcare workforce extends to our partnership with Horry-Georgetown Technical College," said Monica Vehige, CEO of McLeod Loris Seacoast. *"By investing in the nursing and health science programs, we're not only ensuring high-quality graduates but also contributing to the overall health and vitality of our community."*

The grant from McLeod Health will play a pivotal role in advancing nursing and allied health education at HGTC, empowering students to excel in their studies and pursue

meaningful careers in healthcare. This substantial investment reflects McLeod's dedication to supporting educational initiatives that have a lasting impact on the community.

"We are deeply grateful to McLeod Health for their generous support of the HGTC Foundation," said Shannon Detzler, President & CEO of the HGTC Foundation. *"This grant will enable us to establish a state-of-the-art Nursing and Health Sciences Institute, equipped with the resources and facilities needed to provide top-notch education and training to our students."*

"This generous grant from McLeod Health is a testament to the strong partnerships we have cultivated with industry leaders," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, President of Horry-Georgetown Technical College. *"With their support, we are poised to transform healthcare education and prepare our students for successful careers in the field."*

The establishment of the new institute marks an exciting chapter in HGTC's ongoing mission to provide high-quality education and workforce development opportunities in the field of healthcare. With the support of partners like McLeod Health, HGTC is well-positioned to meet the evolving needs of the healthcare industry and empower students to make a positive impact in their communities.



Bank of America awards HGTC \$250,000 toward its new Nursing and Health Sciences Institute and builds on the bank’s commitment to creating career pathways for diverse students. Pictured left to right: Kelly Tyler, President, Bank of America Myrtle Beach; Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President; Shannon Detzler, HGTC Foundation President & CEO; Dr. Jennifer Willbanks, HGTC Executive Vice President for Academic and Workforce Development; Cecilia Evans, Market Executive, Bank of America Myrtle Beach.

Bank of America Grant Boosts HGTC Fundraising Goal

\$250,000 grant to bolster funding for HGTC’s ongoing capital campaign for New Nursing and Health Sciences Institute

HGTC took a significant step forward in realizing its vision for a new, world class Nursing and Health Sciences Institute with the help of a \$250,000 grant from Bank of America. This generous contribution marks a pivotal moment in HGTC’s ongoing capital campaign to support the construction and expansion of the institute, which is part of a larger \$15 million project. The grant from Bank of America will accelerate progress toward expanding physical facilities and attracting new students to its Nursing and Health Sciences programs, preparing students for success in the rapidly evolving healthcare sector.

The project scope encompasses the renovation of 14,122 square feet of existing space and the addition of 10,000 square feet through the construction of a second floor inside the existing structure. With Bank of America’s support, HGTC aims to double its enrollment in health science programs, bolster the healthcare workforce pipeline, provide students

with invaluable clinical rotations and internships, introduce new healthcare science programs, and offer professional development opportunities for our healthcare partners.

“We are immensely grateful to Bank of America for their generous grant, which is instrumental in advancing our mission to provide accessible, high-quality education and workforce development opportunities in the healthcare sector,” said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, president, Horry-Georgetown Technical College. *“This partnership exemplifies the transformative impact that strategic collaborations can have on our community, and we are excited to continue working together to empower our students and build a stronger, healthier future.”*

“We support Horry-Georgetown Technical College’s mission to provide an accessible, affordable, high-quality, collegiate education and workforce development, which is why we directed this strategic philanthropic investment to help build stronger communities,” said Kelly Tyler, president, Bank of America Myrtle Beach. *“This grant is an acknowledgment of the impact HGTC has on our community and exemplifies Bank of America’s efforts to partner and invest in organizations that support community development and share our commitment to creating economic opportunity for the people of Horry and surrounding counties.”*



Dr. Marilyn Fore, HGTC President, presents Colonel Thomas Buddy Styers with the Legacy Endowment for Workforce Development. Left to right: Senator Luke Rankin; Mrs. Peggy McMaster; Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President; Colonel Thomas Buddy Styers; Governor Henry McMaster; Representative Case Brittain.

HGTC Honors Colonel Buddy Styers with Legacy Endowment

HGTC and the HGTC Foundation established and presented the Colonel Thomas C. “Buddy” Styers Legacy Endowment for Workforce Development award. This endowment, totaling \$250,000, is a testament to the profound impact of Colonel Buddy Styers on the HGTC community and his unwavering dedication to progress and development in the Myrtle Beach area.

Colonel Buddy Styers, Executive Director for the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base Redevelopment Authority, is a visionary leader whose name has become synonymous with innovation, resilience, and commitment. His transformative efforts in the redevelopment of the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base property have left an indelible mark on our community, reshaping its economic landscape and providing opportunities for growth and prosperity.

In recognition of his monumental contributions, HGTC honored Colonel Styers by establishing an endowment. The Colonel

Buddy Styers Legacy Endowment for Workforce Development will serve as a lasting tribute to his commitment to empowering individuals and building a brighter future for our region.

President of HGTC, Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, expressed her profound appreciation, stating, *“We pay tribute to a visionary leader whose foresight and dedication have transformed the landscape of our community. It’s with great honor and admiration we celebrate the remarkable achievements of Colonel Buddy Styers, a true champion for the Myrtle Beach area. On behalf of our College, Foundation, and community, I extend my deepest gratitude to Colonel Styers. May his legacy continue to remind us of the extraordinary things we can achieve when we dare to dream and work together.”*

“The Colonel Buddy Styers Legacy Endowment for Workforce Development will enable HGTC to invest in the education and training of the local workforce, providing scholarships and resources to students pursuing careers critical to our region’s prosperity. Through this endowment, Colonel Styers’s legacy will live on as we carry forward his vision with passion and determination,” said Shannon Detzler, President of the HGTC Foundation.



Edwin Hinds, Vice Chairman of The Chapin Foundation, presents the \$250,000 check to the HGTC Foundation for the new HGTC Nursing & Health Sciences Institute. Left to right: Neyle Wilson, Former HGTC Foundation President/CEO; John Sawyer, HGTC Foundation Vice Chairman; Shannon Detzler, HGTC Foundation President/CEO; Rhonda Grose, HGTC Nursing Dept. Assistant Chair/Professor; Edwin Hinds, Chapin Foundation Vice Chairman; Jo Beck, HGTC Nursing Dept. Chair/Professor; Tory Mackey, Chapin Foundation Executive Director; Tim Tilley, HGTC Foundation Chairman; Lawton Benton, Chapin Foundation Chairman.

HGTC Receives \$250,000 Donation from The Chapin Foundation

The Chapin Foundation Bolsters Healthcare and Education at HGTC

The HGTC Foundation is proud to announce a donation of \$250,000 from The Chapin Foundation, reaffirming a steadfast commitment to advancing healthcare and education in the Myrtle Beach area. This significant contribution will have a profound impact on the educational opportunities available to students within the Digital Resources Lab following the upcoming expansion of the new HGTC Nursing and Health Sciences Institute on the Grand Strand Campus.

The grant from The Chapin Foundation will not only bolster the educational infrastructure of the Nursing and Health Sciences Institute but also cultivate a pipeline of skilled healthcare professionals equipped to address the evolving needs of our community. Through innovative programs and cutting-edge technology, students will gain hands-on experience and develop the critical skills necessary to thrive in their careers.

"It is an honor to partner with The Chapin Foundation in our shared commitment to advancing healthcare and education in the Myrtle Beach area. We are immensely grateful for the extraordinary support and belief in our mission," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President. *"This generous donation will enhance our ability to provide students with state-of-the-art resources and educational experiences, positioning them for success in their academic and professional endeavors. Together, we will continue to empower individuals, transform lives, and build a healthier, more prosperous community for all."*

The impact of The Chapin Foundation's philanthropy extends far beyond the walls of the HGTC community. By investing in the education of our students, seeds are being sown for a brighter, healthier future for generations to come.

"The HGTC Foundation extends its deepest gratitude to The Chapin Foundation for their visionary leadership and unwavering support. This partnership exemplifies the power of collaboration in driving positive change and creating opportunities for future generations," said Shannon Detzler, President & CEO of the HGTC Foundation.



Left to right: Ms. Ann Daniels, HGTC Assistant Vice President & Dean, Nursing & Health Sciences; Mrs. Shannon Detzler, HGTC Foundation President & CEO; Mr. John Draughn; Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President; Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks, HGTC Executive Vice President Academic & Workforce Development.

HGTC Foundation Receives Grant from Draughn Family for New Nursing and Health Sciences Institute

John and Trena Draughn Provide \$30,000 for the Lobby and Vestibule Area of the New Nursing & Health Sciences Institute

The HGTC Foundation was thrilled to announce a significant donation from longtime supporters John and Trena Draughn towards the enhancement of the new Nursing & Health Sciences Institute on the HGTC Grand Strand Campus.

The Draughn family's commitment to HGTC spans years, marked by their dedication to fostering excellence within the HGTC educational community. With the latest donation of \$30,000, designated specifically for the lobby and vestibule area of the Nursing & Health Sciences Institute, the Draughn family continues to set a shining example of philanthropy and leadership.

"We are profoundly grateful to John and Trena Draughn for their continued generosity and belief in the mission of HGTC," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President. *"Their longstanding*

support has been instrumental in advancing various initiatives across our campuses, and this latest contribution will undoubtedly leave a lasting impact on the experience of our students and faculty."

This latest grant builds upon the Draughns' previous contributions, including their instrumental support for the International Culinary Institute through the naming of the Culinary Lobby, as well as the establishment of the Trena & John Draughn Medical Laboratory Technician Endowed Scholarship in 2022. Now, with their focus on the Nursing & Health Sciences Institute lobby naming, the Draughns' legacy of philanthropy continues to flourish, leaving an indelible mark on the future of healthcare education at HGTC.

The new Nursing & Health Sciences Institute promises to be a hub of innovation and excellence, equipping students with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in the dynamic field of healthcare. Through the Draughns' generous contribution, the lobby and vestibule area will serve as a welcoming and inspiring space, reflecting HGTC's commitment to fostering student success and academic excellence.

Groundbreaking



HGTC Groundbreaking for Nursing & Health Sciences Institute

In April 2024, HGTC held a groundbreaking ceremony for its much-anticipated Nursing & Health Sciences Institute expansion at the Grand Strand Campus. The ceremony marked a significant milestone in the HGTC's commitment to excellence in healthcare education and community service.

The ceremony was attended by esteemed guests, including HGTC Area Commissioners, representatives from the HGTC Foundation, School of Nursing & Health Sciences, and distinguished members of the State of South Carolina, including Lt. Governor Pamela Evette. HGTC extended its heartfelt gratitude to Governor McMaster, Lt. Governor Evette, and the South Carolina Legislative Delegation for the unwavering support and commitment to the College's mission.

Key contributors to the project, including Conway Medical Center, McLeod Health, the Chapin Foundation, Bank of America, Truist Foundation, the Draughn family, and the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base Redevelopment Authority have all played a vital role in realizing this vision.

The building housing the new Nursing & Health Sciences Institute, Building 100, holds a rich history dating back to its original construction in 1960. Originally erected on the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, it served as a gymnasium dedicated to base personnel. Following the base closure, the facility seamlessly transitioned into part of the HGTC Grand Strand Campus, representing a continuity of purpose and community service. This historic structure, the final addition before the base's closure, stands as a testament to resilience and adaptability, embodying the spirit of progress and transformation that defines HGTC's commitment to excellence.

The expansion will transform Building 100 into a state-of-the-art facility, providing an inter-professional training environment for 18 healthcare programs and community partners. With plans to expand to approximately 24,100 square feet by the end of 2025, the Nursing & Health Sciences Institute will accommodate the growing needs of HGTC's nursing and emergency medical technology students.

The goals of the HGTC Nursing & Health Sciences Institute are ambitious yet attainable, aiming to introduce a world-class, integrative simulation learning environment, increase nursing enrollment to 600 students by 2030, provide invaluable clinical rotation and internship opportunities, and continue to attract top-tier healthcare faculty. Additionally, the Institute will offer professional development opportunities for healthcare partners, further strengthening ties between academia and industry.



HORRY GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

100

Partnerships

HGTC & Myrtle Beach Classic Join Forces for Golf and Community

Education and sportsmanship collide as HGTC and the Myrtle Beach Classic Announce Partnership

HGTC was proud to support the Myrtle Beach Classic with a hospitality sponsorship May 9-12, 2024 at the prestigious Dunes Golf & Beach Club.

As HGTC students, faculty, and graduates immerse themselves as volunteers in every aspect of the tournament, they embody the spirit of collaboration and innovation that defines both the College and the Myrtle Beach Classic. Together, this partnership is paving the way for a new era of excellence in golf and education.

President of Horry-Georgetown Technical College, Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, expressed her enthusiasm, stating, *"HGTC is thrilled to partner with the organizers of the Myrtle Beach Classic. This event not only highlights the excellence of our community but also provides invaluable opportunities for our students to engage in real-world experiences within the golf industry right here at home."*

Echoing Dr. Fore's sentiments, President & CEO of the HGTC Foundation, Shannon Detzler, added, *"The Myrtle Beach Classic represents more than just a golf tournament; it symbolizes community pride and collaboration. We are proud to support this historic event and contribute to its success."*

HGTC's involvement in the Myrtle Beach Classic extends beyond sponsorship. The College has identified four primary areas of partnership through golf course maintenance, community engagement, turfgrass program involvement, and industry networking.

HGTC students are actively engaged in preparing the Dunes Golf & Beach Club for the tournament. Under the guidance of the Dunes Golf & Beach Club Director of Agronomy and Facilities, Steve Hamilton, and Golf Course Superintendent and HGTC alum, Josh Taylor, students are integral in providing essential agronomic support. Their dedication ensures that the course meets the stringent standards set by the PGA TOUR. This partnership extends beyond the greens, reaching into the heart of the community. HGTC students and faculty contribute to the tournament's success, fostering a sense of pride and unity among residents.

HGTC's renowned Turfgrass program takes center stage as students gain hands-on experience at the Dunes Golf & Beach Club. From course maintenance to tournament logistics, students immerse themselves in every aspect of event preparation.

The Myrtle Beach Classic serves as a networking hub for HGTC students, providing invaluable connections within the golf industry. With alumni and current students working side by side, this event offers unparalleled opportunities for professional growth and mentorship.

"We are excited to support the Dunes Golf and Beach Club with a tournament in our area," exclaimed Charles Granger, HGTC Chair and Professor of Golf and Sports Turf Management. "This partnership is not merely a sponsorship; it's a seven-day commitment to excellence. HGTC representatives, including past and current students, will work tirelessly to ensure the success of the event, demonstrating their dedication to both education and community involvement.

"HGTC has been an integral part of our community for decades, and their involvement in the Myrtle Beach Classic further strengthens our partnership," said Josh Taylor, Dunes Golf & Beach Club Golf Course Superintendent and HGTC alum.

Myrtle Beach has long been known as the "Golf Capital of the World." The Myrtle Beach Classic solidifies this claim combining the world-renowned accolades and success as America's favorite traveling golf destination, with the prestige of hosting a golf event on the world's top professional golf tour, the PGA TOUR.

For more information about applying, enrolling, and registering at HGTC, call 843-347-3186 or visit hgtc.edu.



Golf & Sports Turf Management program students, faculty, and graduates.



HGTC and Atlantic Collegiate Academy Form Partnership for Dual Enrollment Programs

HGTC and Atlantic Collegiate Academy (ACA) formalized a partnership aimed at enhancing educational opportunities for high school students through dual enrollment programs. The memorandum of agreement signed between HGTC and ACA marked a significant milestone in fostering academic growth and success for students in Horry and Georgetown counties.

Dual enrollment offers high school students the unique opportunity to enroll in college-level courses while simultaneously earning both high school and college credits. Under this agreement, qualifying students from ACA will have access to HGTC's diverse range of courses, which can be completed through online delivery, in-person classes at HGTC campuses, or on the ACA campus itself.

"At HGTC, we are committed to providing accessible and high-quality education to our community," stated Dr. Candace Howell, HGTC Assistant Vice President & Dean – School of Arts & Science. *"This partnership with ACA aligns perfectly with our mission, enabling students to jump-start their college education while still in high school."*

Mr. Michael Lorenz, Atlantic Collegiate Academy Principal and Dr. Candace Howell, HGTC Assistant Vice President & Dean – School of Arts & Science.

"We are thrilled to partner with HGTC in providing our students with expanded educational opportunities," said Michael Lorenz, Principal at ACA. *"This collaboration empowers our students to excel academically and prepares them for success beyond high school."*

Dual enrollment not only enriches students' academic experiences but also strengthens their pathways to higher education and future career endeavors. By fostering collaboration between secondary and post-secondary institutions, HGTC and ACA are paving the way for a brighter future for the youth of Horry and Georgetown counties.

Provisions for the agreement include adhering to HGTC's rigorous academic standards, ensuring that students receive instruction of the highest quality. ACA has committed to a collaboration with HGTC's Dual Enrollment staff to identify eligible students, who must meet HGTC's admissions requirements. The agreement will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure its continued effectiveness.

For more information about dual enrollment opportunities at HGTC, please contact Hope Wofford, HGTC Dual Enrollment Director, at hope.wofford@hgtc.edu, 843-477-2097, or visit hgtc.edu.



Left to right:
 Hope Wofford, HGTC
 Director of Dual Enrollment
 Rebecca Hubbard, HGTC
 Department Chair of
 Teacher Education
 Dr. Jamia Richmond, CCU
 Dean, Spadoni College of
 Education and Social
 Sciences
 Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore,
 HGTC President
 Keith Price, GCSD
 Superintendent
 Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks, HGTC
 Executive Vice President,
 Academic & Workforce
 Development
 Dr. Dan Wysong, HGTC
 Assistant Vice President for
 Academic Affairs and
 Dean
 Dr. Pamela Vereen, GCSD
 Director of College &
 Career Readiness
 Kristi Kibler, GCSD Director
 of Communications

HGTC Announces Partnership Agreement for Teach to Teal Program with Georgetown County School District and Coastal Carolina University

HGTC has a new partnership agreement with the Georgetown County School District (GCSD) and Coastal Carolina University (CCU) for the Teach to Teal program. This innovative initiative aims to provide an accelerated pathway for aspiring educators, paving the way for their seamless transition into the esteemed Spadoni College of Education and Social Sciences at CCU.

"I am thrilled to launch this collaborative partnership between GCSD, HGTC, and CCU. We have a number of remarkable students who have expressed an interest in pursuing a career in education. With the Teach to Teal program, our students will be able to begin this journey while still in high school and finish with a degree from CCU with supporting coursework from HGTC," said Keith Price, Georgetown County School District Superintendent.

Under this collaborative agreement, students from the Georgetown County School District will have the opportunity to participate in dual enrollment programs, earning college credits through HGTC. These credits will serve as a solid foundation as students progress from HGTC's Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Teacher Education program to CCU's Bachelor of Arts (BA) programs in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Middle Level Education, Physical Education, and Special Education.

"We have a long history of collaboration with HGTC and Georgetown County Schools, and we are thrilled to continue our partnership with them on the Teach to Teal program," said Dr. Jamia Richmond, CCU Dean, Spadoni College of Education and Social Sciences. *"This initiative will create a pipeline of future educators who could graduate with a four-year degree in less time and begin to fill vacancies within the school district. We believe it will positively impact our schools and the communities they serve."*

The Teach to Teal pathway is designed to streamline the academic journey, enabling students to complete their degree within three years. Effective from the fall 2024 semester onwards, CCU will accept all transfer credits established in the SC Transfer Articulation Center, ensuring a smooth transition for participating students.

"We are excited to embark on this collaborative venture with the Georgetown County School District and Coastal Carolina University," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President. *"The Teach to Teal program represents a commitment to fostering the next generation of educators and addressing the growing demand for qualified teachers in our community."*

High school students with a passion for education are encouraged to explore this unique pathway, which offers comprehensive guidance and support from Georgetown County School District, HGTC, and CCU. Advisors will be available to assist students with understanding the details of the agreement, including dual enrollment opportunities, admission requirements, and transfer credits.

For more information about the Teach to Teal program and how to get involved, please visit the Georgetown County School District website at www.gcspd.k12.sc.us or contact a high school counselor.



Left to right: Dr. Theresa Strong, HGTC Assistant Vice President & Dean; Dr. Jennifer Wilbanks, HGTC Executive Vice President of Academic & Workforce Development; Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President; Dr. Boone Hopkins, Converse University President; Jamie Grant-Ponce, Converse University Vice President for Enrollment Management; Tanya Greenlee, Converse University Assistant Professor of Accounting. Not pictured: Dr. Joe Wilferth, Converse University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

HGTC and Converse University Sign Articulation Agreement

HGTC and Converse University signed a new articulation agreement to develop a block transfer articulation agreement that allows for seamless credit transfer between the two institutions facilitating student success and collaboration.

Under the block transfer agreement, HGTC graduates who have successfully completed an Associate in Arts, Associate in Science, or Associate in Applied Science degree in Accounting or Business Administration will have the opportunity to enter Converse University with the General Education Program requirements already satisfied. This means that eligible students can seamlessly transition to Converse and pursue a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, or Bachelor of Science degree in a chosen major.

“This partnership represents a significant step toward enhancing educational opportunities for students in our region and proves our commitment to supporting student success through seamless pathways for academic advancement,” said Dr. Theresa Strong, HGTC Assistant Vice President and Dean.

HGTC graduates meeting the grade criteria with a grade of “C” or higher in relevant courses will be admitted to Converse with Junior standing at registration. Financial aid will be available for eligible students, provided grade-level progression supports it. Students will have the opportunity to explore Converse’s diverse academic programs and engage in a supportive community.

“We are excited to build a strong partnership between Converse University and Horry-Georgetown Technical College through this transfer agreement,” said Converse University President Dr. Boone Hopkins. *“Our missions align in our commitment to empower students to become the transformative leaders and*

thinks that their communities need. We look forward to welcoming HGTC students as they join our Converse community to complete their bachelor’s degrees and embark on their career goals.”

The partnership between HGTC and Converse is not only about credit transfers; it also represents a commitment to collaboration. Both institutions recognize the value of working together to enhance educational experiences for students.

“As we continue to build on this foundation, more opportunities for joint initiatives, research, and community engagement are expected to emerge. This agreement confirms our dedication to encouraging and empowering the next generation of business leaders and professionals,” continued Dr. Strong.

HGTC’s Business Administration degree program continues to expand. HGTC’s enrollment in the Associate in Applied Science (AAS) Business Administration degree program reached over 560 students in spring 2024 with its highest enrollment in the history of the program. Contributing to the growth was the implementation of a Human Resources pathway to the AAS Business Administration degree in fall 2023 as a direct response to the critical shortage expressed by business and industry leaders.

“We are pleased to enter into this partnership with Converse University, which exemplifies our commitment to providing students with one of many pathways to further their education and achieve their career aspirations. This agreement not only enhances the academic opportunities available to our graduates but also strengthens the ties within our educational community, paving the way for future collaborations and innovations,” said Dr. Marilyn Fore, President of Horry-Georgetown Technical College. *“Our students are at the heart of everything we do, and this partnership ensures they have the support and resources needed to succeed at Converse University and beyond.”*



Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President, and Dr. Boone Hopkins, Converse University President, officially sign the new articulation agreement for seamless credit transfer between the two institutions.



Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President, and Dr. Boone Hopkins, Converse University President, shake hands during the signing of the agreement.



Left to right: Chip Fallaw, Apprenticeship Carolina; Dr. Jordan Booth, USGA-Green Section; Charles Granger, HGTC Chair and Professor of Golf & Sports Turf Management; Jim Huntoon, HGTC Associate Professor of Golf & Sports Turf Management; Brandon Haselden, HGTC Assistant Vice President and Dean; Vincent Myers, HGTC Workforce Development Manager; Dr. Carson Letot, USGA-GAP Program; Dr. Matt Pringle, USGA-Green Section.

HGTC Partners with USGA to Launch Greenkeeper Apprenticeship Program in Myrtle Beach

HGTC is proud to announce its collaboration with the United States Golf Association (USGA) in introducing the Greenkeeper Apprenticeship Program (GAP) to the Myrtle Beach area. This groundbreaking initiative aims to address the growing demand for skilled professionals in golf course maintenance while promoting sustainability within the industry.

The GAP, which has been successfully piloted at Sandhills Community College, will now be extended to HGTC, providing local students with access to high-quality education and hands-on training in golf course maintenance. With a commitment of \$1 million over five years from the USGA and generous contributions from industry partners, HGTC will offer tuition-free education and paid on-the-job training positions to aspiring greenkeepers.

“At HGTC, we are dedicated to equipping our students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today’s workforce,” said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President. *“The partnership with the USGA to launch the Greenkeeper Apprenticeship Program underscores our commitment to providing innovative educational opportunities that meet the needs of our community. We are excited to be a part of this initiative and look forward to empowering our students to thrive in the golf industry.”*

“The introduction of the Greenkeeper Apprenticeship Program at HGTC represents a significant milestone for our institution and the Myrtle Beach community,” said Charles Granger, HGTC Chair and Professor of Golf & Sports Turf Management.

“This program will not only provide students with valuable hands-on experience but will also contribute to the sustainability and growth of the golf industry in our region. We are grateful for the support of the USGA and our industry partners in making this program possible.”



Left to right: Chip Fallaw, Apprenticeship Carolina; Charles Granger, HGTC Chair and Professor of Golf & Sports Turf Management; Fred Perpall, USGA President; Vincent Myers, HGTC Workforce Development Manager; Brandon Haselden, HGTC Assistant Vice President and Dean; Jim Huntoon, HGTC Associate Professor of Golf & Sports Turf Management.

Through this partnership, HGTC aims to cultivate a skilled workforce that meets the evolving needs of the golf industry while fostering environmental stewardship and community engagement.

For more information about the Greenkeeper Apprenticeship Program at HGTC, please visit Golf & Sports Turf Management at hgtc.edu/golf. For more information, visit www.usopen.com/, and to learn more about the Greenkeeper Apprenticeship Program, visit www.usga.org.

Myrtle Beach Middle School Students Explore Educational Opportunities at CCU and HGTC during the Teal & Tech Experience on April 9

The first-ever Teal & Tech Experience, a partnership between Coastal Carolina University (CCU) and Horry-Georgetown Technical College (HGTC), introduced more than 350 Myrtle Beach Middle School eighth (8th) grade students to the educational opportunities available at both institutions. The day-long event was held on both campuses with the goal for CCU and HGTC to provide the same opportunity to every middle school within Horry County Schools.

CCU President, Dr. Michael Benson, commented on the exciting plans prior to the event. *"The Teal & Tech Experience promises to be a wonderful opportunity for Myrtle Beach Middle School students to explore the ample educational programs that are offered at two local institutions, which also happen to be great neighbors. We are delighted to collaborate with HGTC in launching this innovative pilot program. Eighth grade marks a pivotal time to inspire young minds toward higher education, and it's never too early to show these students what post-high school educational opportunities are available right here in Horry County."*

During the event – the brainchild of CCU first lady Debi Benson – more than 20 CCU students served as volunteer group leaders, which gave them the opportunity to meet the middle school students and escort them through the day's various activities.

"So many people pitched in to make this educational day possible," said Debi Benson, *"and we couldn't wait to showcase all that both CCU and HGTC have to offer."*

HGTC President, Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, gave a statement in anticipation of the Teal & Tech Experience, *"Horry-Georgetown Technical College is thrilled to partner with Coastal Carolina University in providing an immersive and enriching experience for the students of Myrtle Beach Middle School. This collaboration underscores our commitment to fostering educational opportunities and inspiring the next generation of the workforce. This 'day in the life' style event, highlighting the Gator experience, will offer students a firsthand glimpse into the diverse programs and opportunities available at HGTC. Through engaging presentations and demonstrations, we aim to ignite curiosity and passion for careers while showcasing the unique pathways our College offers. We are proud to join forces with Coastal Carolina University in this endeavor and look forward to welcoming the students for a day filled with discovery, exploration, and inspiration."*



TEAL TECH XPERIENCE



Student News

HGTC Welding Students Excel at Annual Welding Competition

The HGTC welding program has once again proven its excellence on the statewide stage. Six HGTC welding students showcased their skills and expertise at the 40th annual South Carolina Technical College Welding Competition, held at Midlands Technical College.

Competing against representatives from seven technical colleges and 37 student competitors, HGTC emerged as a powerhouse, securing top positions and demonstrating unparalleled professionalism.

"I am immensely proud of our welding students' exceptional performance at the SC Technical College Welding Competition. Their success not only highlights their individual talents but also underscores the quality of education and support provided by our dedicated faculty and staff. This achievement reaffirms HGTC's commitment to excellence and hands-on learning experiences that prepare our students for success in their future careers. Congratulations to our students and faculty on this well-deserved recognition," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.

Among the standout performances were:

Terrance Humphrey – Secured 2nd place in Category 1, showcasing proficiency in Gas Metal Arc Welding, Gas Tungsten Arc Welding, Carbon Steel & Aluminum Tee joint, and Vee Groove Plate.

Richard Alarcon – Claimed 1st place in Category 3, demonstrating excellence in Shielded Metal Arc Welding, Carbon Steel Vee Groove Plate.

Bryce Whitworth – Achieved 3rd place in Category 4, exhibiting skill in Shielded Metal Arc Welding, Carbon Steel 6-G Pipe.

Jose Cruz Prieto – Earned 1st place in Category 5, showcasing mastery in Gas Metal Arc Welding, Shielded Metal Arc Welding, Carbon Steel 6-G Pipe.

Chaz Binkley – Secured 2nd place in Category 6, displaying expertise in Gas Tungsten Arc Welding 6-G Pipe Stainless Steel.



Left to right:
Brian Muldowney, HGTC Welding Professor
Wheeler Marlow, HGTC Welding Student
Jacob Satterfield, HGTC Welding Professor
Richard Alarcon, HGTC Welding Student
Jay Owens, HGTC Welding Professor
Bryce Whitworth, HGTC Welding Student
Chaz Binkley, HGTC Welding Student
Ivan Johnson, HGTC Adjunct Welding Professor
Terrence Humphrey, HGTC Welding Student
Jeff Ball, HGTC Chair for Academic and Workforce Development
Jose Cruz Prieto, HGTC Welding Student

Despite the intense competition, HGTC dominated with the best overall score, placing 1st to 3rd in five out of six categories.

"I'm proud to say our students and faculty represented HGTC with the utmost professionalism and competency. This remarkable accomplishment showcases the hard work, dedication, and support of our students, faculty, and the welding program as a whole," said Jeff Ball, HGTC Chair for Academic and Workforce Development.

For more information about HGTC's Advanced Welding Technologies Certificate Program or Welder Qualification, please contact Jeff Ball, HGTC Chair for Academic and Workforce Development, at 843-349-7875 or jeffery.ball@hgtc.edu.

HGTC Students Succeed at Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition

Computer Technology Students Place 3rd in the Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition

HGTC students were successful at the Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition held at Trident Technical College in North Charleston, South Carolina. Among a competitive field of ten collegiate institutions, HGTC students showcased their expertise in cybersecurity, securing an impressive 3rd place award.

The competition, which took place in April, saw HGTC students David Helm, Sean Martin, Xander Sampson, Ryan Gault, Anthony Critelli, and Jordan Wyels, under the leadership of Professor Brian Tessenear and Professor Matthew Servedio, rise to the challenge with distinction.

In a simulated scenario where teams defended a medical facility from cyber threats, the HGTC team demonstrated remarkable skill, determination, and teamwork. Their efforts ensured the security of the facility's systems, preventing hackers from compromising data and stealing funds. As a testament to their success, HGTC emerged as the highest-ranking technical college in the competition, earning the prestigious Tech School Challenge Cup.

The HGTC team's achievement underscores the college's commitment to excellence in computer technology education and its dedication to preparing students for success in rapidly evolving fields such as cybersecurity.

Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President remarked, *"The success of our students at the Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition is a demonstration to the exceptional talent and dedication within our institution. David, Sean, Xander, Ryan, Anthony, and Jordan, along with their mentors, have demonstrated the highest standards of excellence in cybersecurity. Their achievement reflects the commitment of HGTC to providing students with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in today's rapidly evolving technological landscape."*



Left to right: HGTC Students David Helm, Sean Martin, Xander Sampson, Ryan Gault, Anthony Critelli, and Jordan Wyels with Scott Bell (far right), Director for the Palmetto Cyber Defense Competition.

HGTC Earns 1st Place Honors in National Surgical Technologists Championship

HGTC's Surgical Technology students were awarded 1st place national honors in the Association of Surgical Technologists (AST) National Scrub Bowl Championship. This prestigious event was held at the 54th Annual AST Surgical Technology Conference in Denver, Colorado in May 2024.

The National Scrub Bowl Championship is a highly competitive event that tests the knowledge and skills of surgical technology students from across the country. HGTC was the only college representing South Carolina and a fierce competitor beating out more than twelve four-year and two-year schools that qualified for the Bowl. Cabarrus College in North Carolina took the second-place prize, and Blackhawk Technical College in Wisconsin received the third-place position. HGTC Surgical Technology students competed against other technical colleges and community colleges from across the nation. Other participating colleges included Ivy Tech Community College in Indiana, Houston Community College in Texas, and Monroe Community College in New York just to name a few.

Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President, expressed immense pride in the students' achievement. *"This is a remarkable accomplishment for our Surgical Technology program and a proud moment for our entire College community. Our students have demonstrated exceptional skill and knowledge, and their success at the national level underscores the quality of education and training provided by our dedicated faculty. We are committed to continuing to support our students as they pursue excellence in their chosen fields."*

The victorious team from HGTC includes Samantha Kemmerer, Cheyenne Mallery, and Rebecca Yates, who showcased their expertise and teamwork in a series of rigorous challenges that culminated in their well-deserved first-place win. Their achievement not only highlights their individual talents but also brings national recognition to HGTC and its Surgical Technology program.

"Our students' outstanding performance is a testament to their dedication, hard work, and the exceptional education they receive at HGTC. Students were given the rules for the tournament just one week prior to the event. During this competition, students were presented with categories that covered Preoperative, Intraoperative, Postoperative, Anatomy, Microbiology, and Surgical Procedures. Each team raced against the clock to answer as many questions in these categories as they could before the buzzer. The competition was fierce and our students who are only in their second semester of training were up against teams that were seniors and would be graduating in a few short weeks and sitting for their National Board exams," said Erin Ivey, HGTC Assistant Chair and Professor of Surgical Technology.

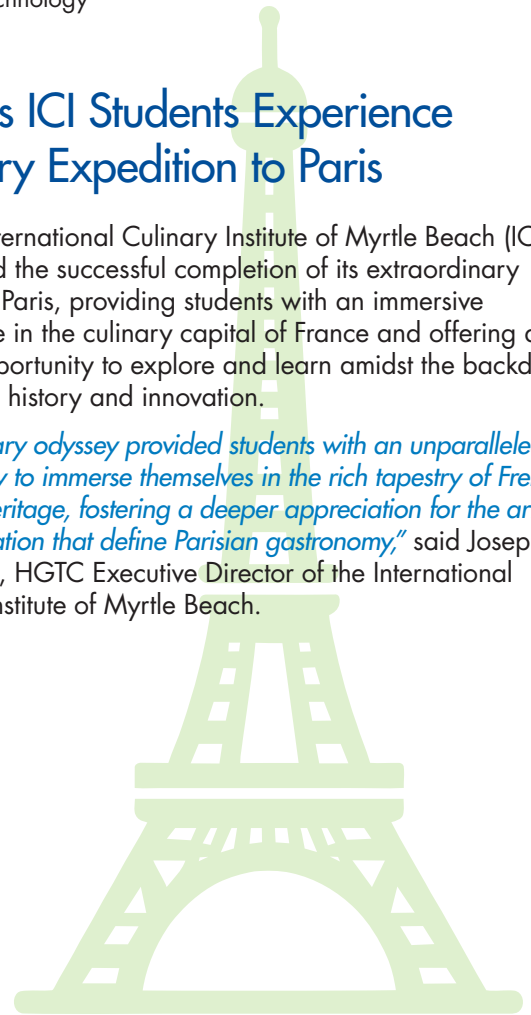


Left to right:
Erin Ivey, HGTC Assistant Chair and Professor of Surgical Technology
Rebecca Yates, HGTC Surgical Technology Student
Samantha Kemmerer, HGTC Surgical Technology Student
Cheyenne Mallery, HGTC Surgical Technology Student
Karey Covington, HGTC Associate Professor/Clinical Coordinator
Surgical Technology

HGTC's ICI Students Experience Culinary Expedition to Paris

HGTC's International Culinary Institute of Myrtle Beach (ICI) announced the successful completion of its extraordinary journey to Paris, providing students with an immersive experience in the culinary capital of France and offering a unique opportunity to explore and learn amidst the backdrop of culinary history and innovation.

"This culinary odyssey provided students with an unparalleled opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of French culinary heritage, fostering a deeper appreciation for the artistry and innovation that define Parisian gastronomy," said Joseph Bonaparte, HGTC Executive Director of the International Culinary Institute of Myrtle Beach.





HGTC Culinary Students at Alleno at Palace Ledoyen, a Michelin 3 Star Restaurant

HGTC Celebrates Inaugural Alpha Beta Gamma Induction

The inaugural induction ceremony of the HGTC Alpha Beta Gamma Honor Society was an outstanding success, thanks to the diligent efforts of co-advisors Kevin Miller and Pete Yocum. Under the guidance of Miller and Yocum, the planning and execution of the ceremony were meticulously coordinated, resulting in a seamless and memorable experience for all attendees. A total of 26 students were inducted into the society, with 10 of them attending the ceremony alongside their proud family members.

The presence of the entire Business faculty underscored the department's unwavering support for both Kevin and Pete, as well as their commitment to fostering a holistic educational experience for their students. The ceremony served as a platform for faculty and students to connect beyond the confines of the classroom, reinforcing the sense of community within the academic environment.

"We are thrilled by the overwhelmingly positive response to the Alpha Beta Gamma Honor Society and participation in the induction ceremony," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President. *"It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. As we look ahead, we are excited to witness the continued growth and success of Alpha Beta Gamma, knowing that it will serve as a beacon of academic excellence for years to come."*



Inaugural induction ceremony of the HGTC Alpha Beta Gamma Honor Society. Peter Yocum (far left), HGTC Associate Professor–Business, and Kevin Miller (far right), HGTC Associate Professor–Economics.

The creation of Alpha Beta Gamma has been a collaborative effort supported by the entire HGTC community.

"We appreciate the support and leadership of the students through Alpha Beta Gamma. As the society continues to flourish, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who have contributed to its establishment and success," said Dr. Theresa Strong, HGTC Assistant Vice President and Dean of the School of Business.



Award Winners – HGTC Radiologic Technology Student and SCSRT Student Council member – Alexis Watts and Stevie-Leigh Parker.

HGTC Radiologic Students Shine at SCSRT Conference

HGTC proudly announced the outstanding achievements of its students at the recent South Carolina Society of Radiologic Technologists (SCSRT) 75th Diamond Jubilee Conference held in Charleston, South Carolina April 2024.

Under the guidance of Dr. Douglas Gleasman, HGTC Academic Chair, Professor, and Program Director for Radiologic Technology, students Alyssa Holodook, Alexis Watts, and Stevie-Leigh Parker, participated in a series of enriching activities aimed at enhancing preparation for the National Registry Examination. Engaging in team-building exercises and attending speaker presentations, they absorbed valuable insights crucial for their future in the field.

One of the highlights of the conference was the “RAD Bowl,” where students pitted their knowledge against peers from other technical colleges across the state. Demonstrating their expertise, HGTC students secured an impressive 2nd place by answering practice registry examination questions with precision and depth of understanding.

“These achievements underscore the dedication and talent within our Radiologic Technology program,” said Dr. Douglas Gleasman. *“We are immensely proud of our students’ accomplishments and remain committed to providing them with the best education and opportunities for success.”*

“The success of HGTC’s Radiologic Technology students at the SCSRT conference serves as a testament to the program’s commitment to excellence and its role in shaping the future leaders of the radiologic technology field,” said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.

HGTC Recognizes Success in Radiologic Technology Program

The HGTC Radiologic Technology graduating cohort of 2024 achieved an exceptional milestone. The program boasts a 100% first-time pass rate on the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists (ARRT) Registry Examination and a 100% job placement rate for its graduates. This remarkable achievement highlights the dedication and excellence of both HGTC students and faculty.

Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President, expressed her pride and admiration for the program’s success, *“This is a momentous accomplishment for our Radiologic Technology program and a testament to the hard work, perseverance, and dedication of our students and faculty. Achieving a 100% pass rate on the ARRT Registry Examination and a perfect job placement rate reflects the high standards and commitment to excellence we uphold at HGTC.”*

The Associate in Applied Science Degree (AAS) in Radiologic Technology at HGTC prepares students to assist radiologists in performing critical examinations to diagnose fractures or diseases. Students are trained in the precise use of advanced radiographic equipment and ionizing radiation under the supervision of Board-Certified Radiologists and Technologists. The program emphasizes the development of critical-thinking skills, interpersonal skills, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

Dr. Douglas Gleasman, Chair and Professor of the Radiologic Technology program, added, *“Our students’ success is a direct result of the collaborative efforts of our dedicated faculty, the support of our clinical partners, and the unwavering determination of our students. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and their readiness to enter the workforce as skilled radiologic technologists.”*

The Radiologic Technology program at HGTC is accredited by the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) for eight years and is up for re-accreditation in June 2030. This accreditation underscores our commitment to maintaining the highest educational standards in the field of radiologic technology.

“We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Radiologic Technology graduating cohort of 2024 and look forward to their continued success in the medical imaging field. This level of excellence is a true team effort and would not be possible without the understanding, guidance, and support of everyone involved,” said Ann Daniels, HGTC Assistant Vice President and Dean.

For more information about the Radiologic Technology program at HGTC, please contact Dr. Douglas Gleasman, HGTC Chair and Professor of Medical Imaging Sciences, at douglas.gleasman@hgtc.edu or 843-839-1149.



Left to right: Dr. Douglas Gleasman, HGTC Chair and Professor of Medical Imaging Sciences, Alyssa Holodook, and Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.



HGTC students celebrate graduating from the Radiologic Technology program at the pinning ceremony in May.



Chef Vincent Pellat from the Ritz-Escoffier in Paris conducts master classes and demonstrations for students at the International Culinary Institute of Myrtle Beach on the HGTC Grand Strand Campus.



HGTC's International Culinary Institute Hosts Chef Vincent Pellat from Ritz-Escoffier, Paris

HGTC's International Culinary Institute of Myrtle Beach (ICI) held an exclusive culinary event featuring Chef Vincent Pellat, renowned chef instructor and advocate for eco-responsible cuisine from the Ritz-Escoffier in the famed Ritz Hotel in Paris. As part of HGTC's commitment to excellence in culinary education, the ICI hosted Chef Pellat for a week of master classes on the Grand Strand Campus.

Chef Pellat honed his expertise in the kitchens of the most prestigious establishments in Paris, including "La Maison du Denmark" and "L'Atelier Joël Robuchon." His culinary journey led him to renowned hotel institutions such as the Collectionneur and the Cercle National des Armées. In 2018, Chef Pellat transitioned to culinary teaching, sharing his knowledge through workshops in Paris.

His commitment to eco-responsible cuisine led him to take charge of the kitchens of a Parisian restaurant, earning the establishment the highest level with three Ecotable macarons in just six months. As Head Teacher at the Ritz Escoffier School, Chef Pellat not only imparts culinary skills but also instills values of sustainability in the next generation of chefs.

"We were honored to host Chef Vincent Pellat from the Ritz-Escoffier in Paris. His expertise and commitment to eco-responsible cuisine aligned perfectly with our mission at HGTC. This event was a highlight for our culinary faculty, staff, students, and the broader community," said Joe Bonaparte, HGTC Executive Director of the International Culinary Institute of Myrtle Beach.



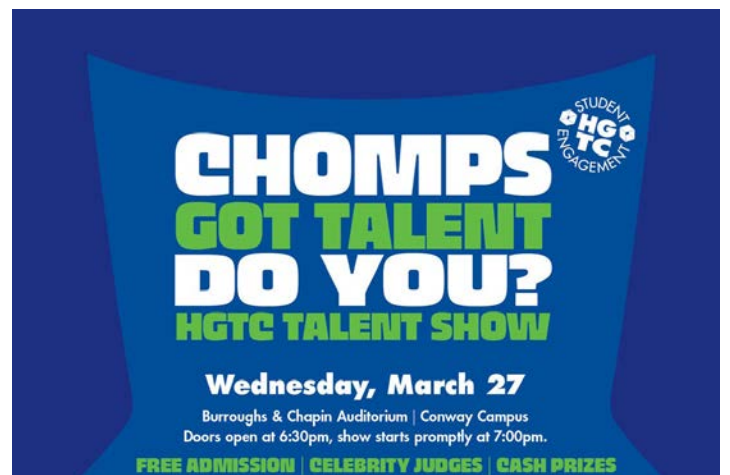


HGTC Hosts Chomp's Got Talent

HGTC's Office of Student Engagement hosted the inaugural Chomp's Got Talent event at the Burroughs & Chapin Auditorium on the Conway Campus. In honor of Chomp, HGTC's gator mascot, the talent show was an evening filled with excitement, showcasing the incredible talents of our HGTC students.

There were 16 HGTC students that competed for the coveted \$500 1st Place Cash Prize. The event was open to the public, inviting everyone to join HGTC in cheering on the talented contestants.

"We were incredibly proud to host the first-ever talent show at HGTC," said Rebecca Kaneiwa, HGTC Student Engagement Coordinator. *"It was an opportunity for our students to shine, and we were thrilled to see such enthusiasm from our College community!"*



"As President of HGTC, I am delighted to witness the vibrant showcase of talent and creativity at our first-ever Chomp's Got Talent event. This initiative embodies our commitment to fostering a dynamic learning environment where students can not only excel academically but also thrive artistically. I commend our students for their courage and dedication as we celebrated their extraordinary talents," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.



HGTC President, Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, presides over HGTC's 58th Commencement Ceremony on May 1, 2024 at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center.

2024 Graduation

HGTC Celebrates Class of 2024

HGTC celebrated the Class of 2024 with 1,500 students receiving degrees, diplomas, or certificates this year, and over 700 of them marched at HGTC's commencement ceremony Wednesday, May 1 at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center.

Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC's President, honorably presided over the ceremony and celebrated the many successes of the Class of 2024.

"Our graduates deserve recognition for their hard work and dedication to their goals. They have proven their strength to endure and not given in when faced with difficult challenges. Our graduates possess the qualities needed to succeed and have the spirit of resiliency, determination, and perseverance. The entire HGTC family celebrates the accomplishments of our students, and we look forward to celebrating the many successes in the next chapter of their lives," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President.

Graduates' ages ranged from 16 to 70, and students came from states as far away as Arizona, Vermont, and Wisconsin, territories as far away as Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands, and countries as far away as Colombia, Ecuador, Nigeria, Morocco, Georgia, India, and Russia.

A number of awards and honors were given during the ceremony:

Tanya Moser, HGTC Graduate, received the HGTC Service and Leadership Award.

Christine Farrior, HGTC Chair and Professor of Phlebotomy, received the HGTC Professor of the Year Award.

Stephanie Danesie, HGTC Administrative Coordinator, received the HGTC Staff of the Year Award.

Keith Price, Superintendent, Georgetown County School District, received the HGTC Distinguished Patron Award.

Demetrius Williams, Principal, Early College High School, received the HGTC Distinguished Patron Award.

This was HGTC's fifty-eighth commencement.



Left to right: Tanya Moser, HGTC Service and Leadership Award 2024 – Graduate; Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President; and Dr. Melissa Batten, HGTC Vice President for Student Affairs.

Service & Leadership Award 2024 – Tanya Moser

The Service and Leadership award is presented to an exceptional student who best exemplifies the values of HGTC. Recipients make significant leadership contributions and demonstrate the values of responsible citizenship.

The 2024 recipient of the HGTC Service & Leadership Award is an individual whose tireless efforts, exemplary leadership, and profound impact have truly set her apart. This individual has distinguished herself academically and demonstrated an unparalleled dedication to service, embodying the very essence of what it means to be a leader. As an active member of our HGTC Phi Theta Kappa chapter, she consistently exemplified the hallmarks of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Fellowship. She served as a role model as a non-traditional student obtaining her associate degree. She balanced a full-time job while going to college and serving the chapter as an officer. Her passion for service knows no bounds, and her impact extends far beyond the confines of our campus. She graduated Summa Cum Laude with an Associate in Applied Science in Paralegal Studies.



Left to right: Professor Charles Granger, HGTC Professor of the Year 2023; Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President; Professor Christine Fariior, HGTC Professor of the Year 2024—Chair/Professor of Phlebotomy; and Mr. Tim Tilley, Chairman of the HGTC Foundation.



Left to right: Mrs. Stephanie Danesie, HGTC Staff of the Year 2024-Administrative Coordinator; Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President; Mr. Tim Tilley, Chairman of the HGTC Foundation; and Mrs. Jackie Snyder, HGTC Vice President for Human Resources.

Professor of the Year Award 2024 – Christine Fariior

More than two decades ago, HGTC began a tradition of recognizing a member of our full-time faculty for instructional excellence, contributions to students' growth and development, and contributions to the academic reputation of the college. The College continued that tradition this year with the naming of the outstanding "Professor of the Year." This year's honoree was presented with the college mace and will serve as grand marshal at the 2025 commencement ceremony.

The 2024 HGTC Professor of the Year embodies the very essence of an unwavering commitment to the success of students. This professor's journey in academia began nearly a decade ago, a journey marked by hours of hard work and an unyielding belief in the transformative power of education. Throughout the tenure at HGTC, this professor has challenged students, instilling within them the values of integrity, diligence, and academic honesty. Her mantra, *"There is no sitting in phlebotomy,"* echoes not only in the halls of the institution but also in the hearts of all those whose lives she has touched. As a Phlebotomy Professor, she has imparted knowledge and an environment of inclusivity, ensuring that every student feels empowered to achieve their full potential. Her tireless dedication knows no bounds, as she goes above and beyond, always with a smile on her face and a genuine concern for the well-being of her students. But her impact extends far beyond the walls of our college. From her tenure as a Phlebotomist at Tidelands Hospital to her role as a Clinical and Lab Coordinator, she's demonstrated commitment to excellence, serving as a mentor, a guide, and a source of inspiration for countless individuals. In the words of her dear son, Ricky, *"Perseverance isn't always just about getting through the rough parts of a day or situation. It's when everything might be going wrong in your life, yet you somehow find a way to make someone else's day better. I've seen days when my mother put everything she had into her students to make sure every single one of them succeeded. She's a prime example of not just perseverance but also strength and grace."* As her son attests, though her journey has been marked by both triumphs and tribulations, she's faced every challenge with courage and resilience. Her late husband, watching from above, would undoubtedly be bursting with pride at the woman his beloved wife has become.

Staff of the Year Award 2024 – Stephanie Danesie

Just as HGTC recognizes excellence in teaching, the college also honors a member of the full-time staff for exemplary service. The recipient receives an award from the College and the HGTC Foundation.

From the moment our 2024 HGTC Staff of the Year joined HGTC in 2016, their unwavering commitment to excellence has been nothing short of exemplary. Early on, she attended the Strayer Business School, where she completed a non-credit Accounting Program. Her pursuit of continuous learning led her to the University of Baltimore where she graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in History. Since joining our college, she has held roles within our administrative offices. From her tenure as Administrative Coordinator in the Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs to her current position in the President's Office, her dedication has been nothing short of exceptional. In her role as Administrative Coordinator, she serves as the backbone of the President's Office. Moreover, her commitment to serving others is remarkable. Through her involvement with the HGTC Pantry, she has worked diligently to combat food insecurity within our community, dedicating countless hours to ensuring the pantry's success. From staffing information tables during Welcome Week Events to organizing donations and preparing annual reports, her dedication knows no bounds. Her selflessness has made a profound impact on the lives of many within our community. This individual's impact extends far beyond the confines of the office. As a devoted wife to her husband, Gordon, a loving mother to her children, Amethyst and Dustin, and a precious grandmother to her grandson, Rylan, she embodies the values of family and community, enriching the lives of those around her through selflessness and compassion. Her daughter, Amethyst, provided this quote about Stephanie, *"As a mother and an integral staff member, she is the epitome of a Velvet Hammer. She leads with kindness, intelligence, and grace, yet maintains the highest standards. In turn, those who are privileged enough to know or work alongside her exceed their goals."*



Left to right: Dr Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President; Mr. Keith Price, Superintendent, Georgetown County School District; Mr. Tommy Branyon, HGTC Area Commission Chairman.



Left to right: Dr Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC President; Ms. Demetrius Williams, Principal, Early College High School; and Mr. Tommy Branyon, HGTC Area Commission Chairman.

Distinguished Patron Awards 2024

The Distinguished Patron Award is presented to someone who has made significant contributions to the HGTC community and beyond.

Keith Price

Superintendent, Georgetown County School District

Mr. Keith Price has exemplified visionary leadership, spearheading initiatives aimed at fostering academic success and creating a supportive learning environment for all. Mr. Price has proven to be an invaluable partner and supporter of HGTC in Georgetown County. Through his guidance, the Georgetown County School District secured a federal Magnet School Assistance Program Grant, establishing the Carvers Bay Early College and Career High School. Additionally, Mr. Price significantly contributed to the development of the innovative Teach to Teal Pathway, providing Georgetown County high school students with early access to a career in education. But Mr. Price's dedication to education extends beyond administrative roles. With 27 years of experience as an educator, he's served in various capacities, from teaching mathematics to assuming administrative positions. A lifelong learner himself, Mr. Price has pursued advanced degrees in educational leadership, currently working towards his doctorate degree from the University of South Carolina. He serves on the Clemson University Board of Visitors and the Coastal Carolina University Board of Visitors. Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr. Price is a devoted family man, sharing his life with his wife Janet and their four daughters: Amanda, Camryn, Lauren, and Micah. Keith, thank you for your support of HGTC.

Demetrius Williams

Principal, Horry County Early College High School

With a career spanning 29 years in public education, she's been a guiding force in shaping young minds and fostering a culture of academic achievement. Beginning her journey as a social studies teacher in 1992, Ms. Williams quickly distinguished herself as a beacon of inspiration within the classroom. Her passion for teaching and commitment to student success propelled her to new heights, earning her accolades such as the prestigious Horry County Schools Teacher of the Year in 2005. A proud alumna and teacher in Horry County Schools, Ms. Williams's commitment to her alma mater has been unwavering. Armed with a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education Social Studies and a master's degree in History from the University of South Carolina, she has continually sought to expand her knowledge and expertise in the field of education. Under her leadership, Horry County Early College High School has earned prestigious accolades. Perhaps most notably, the school's recognition as the third best public high school in South Carolina in 2023 is a testament to Ms. Williams's commitment to academic excellence. HGTC honors Ms. Demetrius Williams with the Distinguished Patron Award to celebrate her remarkable achievements in making Horry County Early College High School one of the best high schools in the nation.



↑ Above: HGTC Student receives assistance at the Career Fair in March 2024.

← Left: Lauren Skipper, HGTC Career Development Coordinator, and Chomp, HGTC's Mascot.

HGTC Career Services

Building the Future, One Fishing Lesson at a Time

As the proverb says, "If you give a man a fish, he eats for a day. If you teach a man to fish, he eats for a lifetime." This is the approach HGTC's Career Development Coordinator, Lauren Skipper, has taken to prepare HGTC students for their future careers after graduation. In her short time serving in this capacity for the College, Skipper has made it her mission to revitalize and elevate the office of Career Services for HGTC. Stepping into a role that was vacant for some years, presented both challenges and opportunities. Over the past year, she has cultivated meaningful connections with community partners and faculty members who also empower students for success in future careers.

To bridge the gap between theory and practice, she introduced mock interview sessions tailored to industry-specific scenarios. Collaborating with faculty members and industry professionals, these practice interviews provide immediate feedback and real-world insights, preparing students to shine in actual job interviews. Recognizing the importance of early career development, Skipper initiated a series of interactive classroom presentations from resume development to job fair preparation. These presentations aim to instill professional skills from the onset of a student's academic journey.

In line with HGTC's commitment to holistic student development, Skipper has coordinated three college-wide career and transfer events alongside several team members in the Student Affairs Division. These events gave students a chance to network and connect with employers and academic institutions, opening doors to an array of opportunities. To prepare students, Skipper also rolled out professional development workshops to equip students with the tools to navigate the competitive landscape of finding employment with confidence and encourage student creativity through the "Chomp at Work" contest for the Digital Arts program.

"I've had the chance to partner with our wonderful faculty from the Engineering Technologies and Golf & Sports Turf Management to gain a behind the scenes view into their successful history of hosting their respective 'Career Day' events, and I'm excited to work with additional departments for industry-specific job fairs this fall," said Lauren Skipper, HGTC Career Development Coordinator.

Central to HGTC's mission is fostering strong partnerships with employers seeking top talent. Skipper has established mutually beneficial relationships with a diverse range of industry partners eager to connect with our students at campus events and in the classroom. Connecting HGTC students with local employers not only enhances internship and job placement prospects but also creates pathways for students to shine in the professional world.

"I'm thrilled to share we have updated our online job board this year. With the help of Student Affairs and Technology Solutions, Handshake launched to students in March 2024. This modern platform is streamlining the process of connecting students to potential employers and ultimately resulting in more successful job placements," continued Skipper.

By updating the Career Services webpage and expanding the online catalog of career resources, HGTC is giving access to tools available to all students online and in-person. These digital assets empower students to navigate their career journey at their own pace, anytime and anywhere.

Why is it so important to learn how to fish? *"It's not just about handing out answers; it's about equipping our students with the skills and mindset to navigate their career journey independently. Because when they can fish for themselves – when students can craft resumes, ace interviews, and forge their own paths – they are not just prepared for today; they are empowered for a lifetime of success,"* Skipper explained.

Testimonials

"Career Services held a Resume Workshop with my class, broke down the simple parts of a resume, and worked with us to improve ours. It is by far one of the best workshops I have attended since my enrollment at HGTC. This workshop in large part helped me prepare my resume and secured a post-graduation job for me," said Domoniq Jackson, HGTC Golf & Sports Turf Management Graduate.

"Career Services at HGTC helps prepare students for the real world by making sure they understand how to successfully write a resume, cover letter, and prepare for an interview. In my personal experience, doing a mock interview with Lauren Skipper was very beneficial for me as I have never had an interview. It gave me a better understanding of what to expect in an interview and prepared me for upcoming interviews. Taking the time to go over resumes, cover letters, and mock interviews with Lauren was very beneficial to me as I graduate soon and can be for other students too," said Charleigh Watson-Foor, HGTC Occupational Therapy Assistant Student.

"Career services, under the guidance of its Coordinator Lauren Skipper, is one of the most impactful departments in the entire college. Our Engineering Technologies and Golf & Sports Turf Management department took advantage of the full suite of services provided by them including an in-class workshop for our students on gathering information on potential job opportunities, dressing and meeting potential employers for the first time, how to successfully engage companies by asking relevant and knowledgeable questions, building a resume that gets you the in the door, and how to prepare for the first set of interviews. The high praise from our students and the acclamation from our employers after our job fair that resulted in numerous career opportunities reflected how critical Career Services is to HGTC mission of providing the workforce education experience that will leave a lasting positive impact on our students and our community," said Ed McCarthy, HGTC Professor, Electronics Engineering Technology and Assistant Chair, Engineering Technologies and Golf & Sports Turf Management.



Danica Stone (right), HGTC Student, awarded First Place for the 2024 Digital Arts Student Showcase from Lauren Skipper (left), HGTC Career Development Coordinator.

For more information, please contact Lauren Skipper, HGTC Career Development Coordinator, at career@hgtc.edu.

Visit www.hgtc.edu/current_students/career-services/.

Career Services is on the Conway Campus in the Student Affairs Office (Building 1100).

ACADEMIC CALENDARS

Fall 2024

Full Fall

Fast Forward I

Flex Start

Fast Forward II

Registration Begins	April 8, 2024	April 8, 2024	April 8, 2024	April 8, 2024
Classes Begin	Aug 26	Aug 26	Sept 16	Oct 17
Last Date of Semester	Dec 14	Oct 16	Dec 14	Dec 13
Grades Due	Dec 16 at 5:00pm	Oct 17 at 5:00pm	Dec 16 at 5:00pm	Dec 16 at 5:00pm

Spring 2025

Full Spring

Fast Forward I

Flex Start

Fast Forward II

Registration Begins	Oct 28, 2024	Oct 28, 2024	Oct 28, 2024	Oct 28, 2024
Classes Begin	Jan 13	Jan 13	Feb 3	March 10
Last Date of Semester	May 6	May 5	May 6	May 3
Grades Due	May 7 at 5:00pm	March 6 at 5:00pm	May 7 at 5:00pm	May 7 at 5:00pm



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Conway, SC 29526
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743 Hemlock Avenue
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577
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4003 South Fraser Street
Georgetown, SC 29440
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