



**SOUTHERN  
CRESCENT**  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE



# TECH TRENDS

The Official Newsletter of Southern Crescent Technical College

DECEMBER 2024

[www.sctech.edu](http://www.sctech.edu)

Connect with Us



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### SCTC: Making An Impact

This year has been one of extraordinary accomplishments for Southern Crescent Technical College. Our students have excelled in the classroom and beyond and our faculty and staff have continued to innovate and inspire, fostering an environment where learning thrives and new ideas take root. I am proud to share with you some of those recent highlights and accomplishments in this issue of Tech Trends.

Throughout this year, we have continued to lead the way in providing cutting-edge technical education that equips our students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed. Our graduates are entering the workforce ready to make a difference, and their stories of success and resilience are a testament to the power of technical education. With a mission of workforce development, our many accomplishments underscore the vital role our programs play in preparing students for high-demand careers and fueling economic growth in our community.

As we look ahead to the new year, we do so with excitement and optimism. Together, we will continue to pursue excellence and create opportunities that transform lives. Thank you for being an essential part of our college community. I wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a bright start to the new year.

— Dr. Irvin Clark, President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Semester Break - No classes  
December 13, 2024 - January 6, 2025
- Winter Holidays -  
December 25, 2024 - January 1, 2025  
> Campuses closed, no classes
- Spring Semester Begins -  
January 7, 2025



Thank you to the Spalding County Pickleball Association (SCPA) for their \$1,500 donation to the SCTC Foundation. These funds will be used to award three \$500 scholarships for SCTC's Practical Nursing program. Under the direction of SCTC Nursing faculty, each year student nurses have assisted with the SCPA pickleball tournaments by volunteering in the first-aid tent. [sctech.edu/Pickleball](http://sctech.edu/Pickleball)

## SCTC Administrators Participate in Leadership Development

Four top administrators from Southern Crescent Technical College recently participated in prestigious leadership training programs, further enhancing the college's ability to serve students and the community. Each program focused on key aspects of higher education leadership, preparing participants to address the unique challenges and opportunities in their respective roles.

Dr. Xenia Johns, Vice President for Student Affairs, participated in the highly-acclaimed American Association of Community Colleges Future President Institute in Washington, D.C. which provided in-depth training on governance, leadership, fiscal planning and resource development, student success, and the importance of partnerships for senior leaders aspiring to become community college presidents and for those seeking to become more engaged leaders in their own college. The program brought together leaders from across the nation to discuss issues and collaborate on innovative solutions to challenges faced in higher education.

Vice President for Administrative Services Stacy Acey and Vice President for Academic Affairs Kim Register have both completed the Senior Leadership Academy, hosted by the Technical College System of Georgia.

This year-long program is designed to prepare senior-level leaders to advance innovation, student success and workforce development within Georgia's technical colleges. Through workshops, case studies, and collaboration with peers from across the state, participants gained valuable insights into strategic planning and leadership, focusing on aligning institutional goals with workforce needs while equipping participants with advanced tools to drive institutional success.

Dr. Drew Todd, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, participated in Atlanta Regional Commission's Regional Leadership Institute, a unique program that encompasses a cross-section of leaders from the metro region to share knowledge, learn and discuss key policy issues impacting the region, and build relationships to shape the future. This immersive experience fostered professional growth and practical approaches to leadership with special emphasis on the core challenges impacting the region and SCTC's student population.

SCTC President Dr. Irvin Clark said, "Southern Crescent Technical College takes immense pride in the commitment of its administrators to leadership excellence. Stacy Acey, Xenia Johns, Kim Register,



and Drew Todd embody this dedication through their active participation in leadership development programs, ensuring they are well-equipped to inspire innovation, support student success, and advance the mission of SCTC."

All participants remarked that their leadership training programs helped to them to gain fresh perspectives and they are eager to apply these new insights to a number of upcoming college initiatives as well as long range strategic planning. The knowledge and strategies gained through these programs will enhance the College's efforts toward student success, workforce readiness, and community engagement, ensuring Southern Crescent Technical College remains a leader in technical education in the state. [sctech.edu/LeadershipTraining](http://sctech.edu/LeadershipTraining)

## SCTC Graduates 33 in First Class from LPN/Paramedic to RN Bridge Program

Southern Crescent Technical College proudly announces the graduation of the first cohort of students from the innovative LPN/Paramedic to RN Bridge Program. The milestone ceremony, held December 11, 2024, recognized the achievements of 33 nurse graduates who were pinned to signify that they have successfully completed this transformative program designed to advance their nursing careers and address critical workforce needs in healthcare.

SCTC's new Nursing Bridge Program provides an accelerated and streamlined pathway for Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and Paramedics to earn their Associate of Science in Nursing (ASN) and become eligible to sit for the NCLEX-RN state board exams to become official Registered Nurses (RN). The program combines rigorous academic coursework with hands-on clinical training, ensuring graduates are well-prepared to deliver exceptional patient care in a variety of healthcare settings. It consists of three semesters, enabling participants to complete their RN education in just one year.

"I am deeply honored to celebrate the first graduating class of the LPN/Paramedic to RN Bridge cohort at Southern Crescent Technical College," said Kim Register, SCTC Vice President for Academic Affairs. Their hard work, resilience, and passion for advancing their careers in nursing are a testament to their commitment to making a difference in healthcare and beyond. This milestone not only reflects their personal achievements but also reinforces our mission to equip students with the skills and knowledge to transform lives and serve our communities."

The RN Bridge program provides upward mobility for students seeking career development. Graduates of the first cohort have already begun securing more advanced roles in local hospitals, clinics, and long-term care facilities, contributing to the region's healthcare workforce and addressing a growing demand for skilled nursing professionals.



Erin Jones, SCTC Nursing Department Chair said, "The inaugural pinning ceremony honors this special group of student nurses, recognizing their dedication and achievements as they step into the future of nursing. This milestone symbolizes a pivotal step in addressing healthcare needs and marks the expansion of opportunities for aspiring nurses. We have recently announced plans to expand the RN Bridge program in the coming year and are extremely excited to further strengthen the profession."

"The RN Bridge program has been life-changing for me," said graduate Lauren Epperson. "It allowed me to be physically and financially present for my family and provided me with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to take the next step in my nursing career."

As demand for skilled nurses continues to rise statewide, SCTC is committed to providing high-quality, accessible education that meets the needs of both students and the community. The success of this first graduating class reflects the program's effectiveness and the college's dedication to fostering career-ready graduates. [sctech.edu/BridgeGraduates](http://sctech.edu/BridgeGraduates)

## College Updates Shared with Local Legislators



On December 4, 2024, Southern Crescent Technical College hosted a number of area legislators and leaders on the Griffin Campus and the Henry County Center for the annual Legislative Update. The session included college updates and program tours with engaging information sharing forums aimed to bring together policymakers and practitioners for insightful discussions. This annual event fosters collaboration and understanding, laying the groundwork for informed decision-making that will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of workforce development training for SCTC and the community.

SCTC President Dr. Irvin Clark said, "I want to express my sincere gratitude to our legislators for their interest and support of Southern Crescent Technical College. The commitment they show to workforce development and education ensures we can continue to equip students with the skills needed to succeed and continue to drive our community's economic growth. Thank you for recognizing the vital role technical education plays in building a brighter future for us all."

## GET TO KNOW: Adult Education Executive Director Curtis Ward



**Curtis Ward**  
Executive Director  
Adult Education

"My goal in teaching Adult Education is to make sure that my students walk out of class each day glad that they came in. I know they have other priorities like family and jobs and if my class doesn't provide something useful and relevant to their lives, then I took them away from something that did. The best part about my job is seeing students succeed - maybe even for the first time in their lives. In Adult Education, we get to see lives change every day. Students graduate with their high school equivalency, enroll in college, earn their citizenship, and are able to help their kids with their homework. Every student's goals are different, but am confident that our program offers help and hope to so many."

**What are three things you can't live without?**  
I can do without most things, but those I treasure most are my faith, my church, and my amazing fiancé.

**Where would you take a dream vacation?**

I would go almost anywhere - I love a good adventure. But my dream would have to be the Mediterranean, touring the sites of Ancient Civilizations.

**Where is your favorite place to relax?**

Sprewell Bluff in Upson County. It's quiet and just far enough away to get a little lost in an afternoon.

**What is something people may not know about you?**

My grandmother and her 4 siblings held the Guinness World Record for Five Oldest Siblings.

**What is your favorite memory?**

"Helping" my grandfather in his garden when I was very young - literally walking in his footsteps. He taught me so much and took time to make me feel important.

**What do you hope others learn from you?**

Math! But also I hope that I can inspire other people to do what they are passionate about. I truly believe that God will put you where you need to be, so use your talents, abilities, and interests to serve wherever you are and you'll see great things happen.



### Adult Education

SCTC's Adult Education classes assist students with College and Career Readiness, Adult Basic Education, Georgia High School Equivalency Exam Preparation (such as a GED or HiSET, Career Plus diplomas) Integrated Education and Training (IETs), job placement, college enrollment, basic life skills, digital literacy, citizenship, and English Language Learning. Individuals ages 16 and older are eligible to enroll in the Adult Education program. Instruction includes individualized assignments, small group and large group instruction and activities, and online components in order to maximize learning opportunities. An array of class times, days and locations allow students to attend classes without sacrificing job, family, and other commitments. All instruction, books, and materials are free of charge. Regular attendance is required. [AdultEducation@sctech.edu](mailto:AdultEducation@sctech.edu) [sctech.edu/AdultEducation](http://sctech.edu/AdultEducation)

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

Southern Crescent Technical College is an Equal Opportunity Institution