Each year, July 1st begins a new fiscal year (FY) for our college. It’s also a great time to make changes to and restructure aspects of our organization to enhance services provided to our students and our other stakeholders.

As of July 1, 2017, the Office of Economic Development & Community Engagement will be separated into two departments. Dr. Irvin Clark will become the Vice President of Economic Development and the Dean of the Newton Campus. I will retain Community Engagement and GPTC’s Center for Entrepreneurship & Business Development.

As we close out FY17, this issue of The Outlook provides a snapshot of a few more of the events and activities in which we have been involved during this year. Some of our new partnerships, customized training programs, and curriculum enhancements will carry over into FY18. For instance, the equipment necessary to upgrade the Advanced Manufacturing Lab at our Newton Campus has begun to arrive, and our excitement is building about our increased ability to serve our businesses and our students in this area. We appreciate those of you who completed our survey about your training needs. Your responses have been shared with Dr. Clark who is planning to get off to a “fast start” in his new assignment. So, I’m sure that you will be hearing from him soon.

I have enjoyed working with those of you I have met and look forward to opportunities that will continue our relationship in other endeavors in the future.

With best regards,

Cynthia Dorsey Edwards
Vice President, Economic Development & Community Engagement
Georgia Piedmont Technical College

Dr. Irvin T. Clark III, a career educator, will serve as the new Vice President of Economic Development and Dean of Georgia Piedmont Technical College’s Newton Campus. His appointment is a homecoming of sorts, since he had previously served as vice president of student affairs at Georgia Piedmont from April of 2013 until July of 2015.

As campus dean, Clark is responsible for planning, organizing, and leading the operations of student and academic affairs by working closely with senior management, faculty, staff and stakeholders to ensure the delivery of high-quality programs. In addition to his administrative duties, he is responsible for handling community relations in Morgan, Newton and Rockdale counties. Clark brings over 17 years of higher education experience to his new role. His experience includes leading all aspects of student affairs, including student life programming and enrollment management.
ON JUNE 19, 2017, Georgia Piedmont Technical College officially announced the roll-out of its new Advanced Manufacturing Lab. Attendees included Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) Deputy Commissioner Matt Arthur; community, business and top manufacturing leaders from Rockdale, Newton, Morgan and DeKalb counties; K-12 school superintendents and CEOs of the region’s career academies; and many elected and appointed officials from throughout the college’s four-county service area.

The update, held on the college’s Newton campus, also included a video welcome from Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) Commissioner Gretchen Corbin. She stated, “TCSG is pleased to provide nearly $1 million from its World Class Lab fund to bring state-of-the-art technology to Newton County to ensure that industries in the area will have the best facilities for training their workforce today and in the future. Technical training and apprenticeships have proven to prepare workers better for entering industry ready-to-work. That’s what we do best in the Technical College System.”

“Dr. Simama, and the rest of the team at Georgia Piedmont. This lab represents the type of partnership between the college and business & industry that gives Georgia a significant competitive advantage in the global marketplace.”

Courses will Help Prepare Students for Manufacturing Jobs Requiring Digital and Industrial Skills

Dr. Jabari Simama shares information on the new Advanced Manufacturing Lab and staff resources to support it.
JUNE 2017

Park Springs Continuing Care Retirement Community opened in Stone Mountain, Georgia in 2004, and is the flagship community of Isakson Living – Georgia’s developer of nationally recognized, award-winning residential communities for those aged 62 and over. It offers Georgia’s first fully household model that provides residents with an “environment that empowers residents to navigate their own lifestyle choices, while providing personal care in a less institutionalized model,” says Andy Isakson, Founder of Isakson Living. Each household will accommodate 18 members who are empowered to make their own decisions with regard to their day-to-day routine. The Park Springs health center will include six households comprised as follows: two long-term care; one rehabilitation skilled nursing; two assisted living, licensed memory care; and one adult day. There is also a 3,100 square-foot physical therapy center, serving members as well as the local area.

In an effort to equip some of their existing employees with skills needed in this new model, Park Springs turned to Georgia Piedmont Technical College’s Continuing Education Department to provide Certified Nurse Aide Training. Once the need was fully understood, GPTC contacted DeKalb WorkSource to assist in providing funding for this incumbent worker training. They are also assisting with transportation needs and purchasing uniforms. Initially, eight employees have been selected to participate in GPTC’s non-credit Certified Nurse Aide Training Program that meets all state and federal regulations. Students completing the program will receive a Nurse Aide Program Certificate of Completion, as well as continuing education credit hours. It features a fast-paced learning environment designed to prepare students for immediate entry into the workforce. With 136 hours of intensive classroom, laboratory, and clinical study, this program exceeds the State of Georgia’s minimum requirement for this field. This is only the beginning of a new workforce development partnership!

For more information about the CNA training program, please contact GPTC’s Continuing Education Office at (404) 297-3522 Ext.1121, or call (404) 297-9522 ext. 5016. To read more about the Park Springs Retirement Community, visit http://www.Parksprings.com.

For Independent Living Youth

Georgia Piedmont Technical College’s (GPTC) Regional Transportation Training Center (RTTC) is the home of one of Georgia’s new Driver’s Education schools. With this new capability, GPTC was recently engaged by the Georgia Resilient, Youth-Centered, Stable, and Empowered (GA RYSE) Program to offer driving training for some of its clients. GA RYSE is Georgia’s Division of Family and Children Services Independent Living Program for youth as they transition out of foster care and into adulthood. For more information about the Driver’s Ed program and to access the student application for the Georgia Driver’s Education Grant Scholarship Program, go to www.gahighwaysafety.org/gdec or call April Blount, Driver Ed Coordinator, RTTC, 404-297-9522 Ext. 5505.
Enhanced Child Development Associate (ECDA) Demonstration Project

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) has contracted with Georgia Piedmont Technical College (GPTC) to provide customized training, with a goal of increasing the number of multi-lingual infant and toddler teachers and providers in Metro Atlanta. This non-credit Enhanced Child Development Associate (ECDA) program, offered through GPTC’s Office of Economic Development, will provide students, whose first language is not English, with relationship coaching, interpretation, and an array of supports to help ensure their successful completion of activities required to obtain an international CDA credential.

The ECDA demonstration project is a partnership between DECAL, GPTC, and CDF Action (CDF). It is based on the lessons learned from the W.K. Kellogg funded Clarkston Families Decide initiative CDA project. Two demonstration sites are included in this Bright from the Start/DECAL project, one in Clarkston with students who speak multiple languages, and the second in Roswell, with students whose primary language is Spanish. Each site includes 15 students who will attend 120 hours of classroom training conducted by a GPTC adjunct instructor. Students will complete requirements for their CPR and First Aid certificate, create a portfolio, and complete required hours of classroom experience. Students will be observed by a certified Professional Development Specialist (PDS) who speaks the language of the student. The exam will be in English (or Spanish) with translation available from the Professional Development Specialist as needed.

CDF helped to recruit and enroll students. They are also supporting the coaching component, identifying centers to participate as practicum sites, documenting lessons learned and working with the ECDA team to create a “Tool Kit” to support future ECDA projects. GPTC will share the results of the ECDA project with other Georgia technical colleges and work with Bright from the Start to identify those colleges who may be interested in replication.

For more information about this project, contact Loretta Hicks, Director – Business & Industry, at hicksl@gptc.edu or Dr. Linda Grant, Program Director for GPTC’s Early Childhood Care & Education department at grantl@gptc.edu.
CONTINUING EDUCATION

Summer Film Camp for Youth

Georgia Piedmont Technical College – Continuing Education – hosted a Summer Film Camp for youth, ages 15-19. Campers worked together to write, direct, and shoot their very own short film.

The camp took place on June 5-9 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the South DeKalb campus in Decatur. The campers’ film debuted on the big screen at GPTC in a 3 p.m. premiere on Friday, June 9. Family members, friends and industry leaders were all in the audience to support the campers.

Speakers from the industry included LaRonda Sutton, Entertainment Consulting Film; Chuck Kerr, Georgia Film Academy Instructor; Ted Cummings, CEO, Onyx Media Services, Inc.; and Scoville Jenkins, Design Media Production Technology (DMPT) Program Director at GPTC.

The Summer Camp was great for those interested in filmmaking, acting, directing, editing, graphic design, and more. Campers had access to GPTC’s state-of-the-art equipment/software for editing their short films. If your child was unable to attend camp this year, mark your calendar for next year. For more information, contact Gwen Syphoe, Business & Industry Specialist at 404-297-9522 ext. 1121.

GPTC students working with industry professional to create multimedia game for entrepreneurship project. Seated (L-R): Andrew Greenberg, Executive Director - Georgia Game Developers Association; Standing (L-R) Susan Wright, Dean - Business Information Systems; and Dr. Natasha Anderson, Dean - Education, New Media and Strategic Partnerships. Not Shown: Shatrela Washington-Hubbard, Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship & Business Development/Business Administrative Technology Faculty.

GPTC Gaming Entrepreneurs

The Center for Entrepreneurship and Business Development in partnership with the School of Business Information Systems offered students an opportunity to participate on an interdisciplinary entrepreneurship team during the spring semester. Team members worked together under the guidance of faculty members, business professionals, and entrepreneurs to design a game, create a business plan for the game, and develop marketing materials for the game.

The purpose of the student entrepreneurship team was to provide students with an opportunity to work in a team setting and to apply knowledge and skills from their coursework to an entrepreneurial venture. Students were selected from various programs of study in the School of Business Information Systems and the School of Education & New Media. The inaugural team provided a good foundation on which future teams will grow. Selection for the next team will occur fall semester 2017.

For more information, contact Shatrela Washington-Hubbard at washingtons@gptc.edu or 404-297-9522 x 6001.
The GPTC Law Enforcement Academy is in a perfect position to offer innovative training to current law enforcement agencies, as well as to bring community leaders to the discussion table. The weeklong conference, held at GPTC’s Newton Campus, features ongoing informative breakout sessions and practical exercises. Topics include community policing, effective communication, crisis intervention, mental health, cultural diversity, and positive relationship building. The conference culminates in a luncheon and a discussion between community members and the law enforcement officers that serve their community.

In light of recent incidents that have raised tensions between law enforcement agencies across the country and the communities they serve, GPTC’s President, Dr. Jabari Simama, discussed ways in which our college could help mitigate potential problems in our local communities. The goal of this segment of the training is to foster a better understanding of “both sides” of issues as well as to open lines of communication for future partnerships and problem-solving. Thus far, the Academy has held two such conferences; the next one begins October 2, 2017. For future law enforcement training or if you are interested in joining us for a final day’s lunch and learn, please contact Major Harry C. McCann at mccannh@gptc.edu or 404-297-9522 extension 5031.
**MORE CUSTOMIZED TRAINING**

**Atlanta Children’s Shelter**

**Work Readiness and Technical Skills Training**

GPTC’s Office of Economic Development collaborated with Atlanta Children’s Shelter (ACS) on a grant for training homeless families in work readiness as well as technical skills. Atlanta Women’s Foundation awarded grant of $30,000 to provide career exploration and career counseling to ACS clients, along with funds for enrollment in classes. Photo L-R: Nikia Palmer, parent; Sandra Holiday, Executive Director, ACS; and Cynthia Edwards, Vice President, Economic Development & Community Engagement at GPTC.

**General Mills**

**Excel Training**

Instructor: Bonnie Heath  
Attendees: Eric Shannon, Will Hampton, Jeff Nelson, Rudy Denson, John Pulliam

**Jewish Family and Children Services**

**Accounting Support Professional Training**

Front Row - Left to Right: Lawrence Duwell, Nancy Porter, Taska Malone, Thalia Dinnall, Barbara Wakeman, Kevin Yates and Deena Takata  
Back Row - Left to Right: Amanda Wright, Donna Coles, Brent Becker and Brenda Banks

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**New GPTC Connections**

**Georgia Piedmont Technical College** works with local governments, non-profits, and other community stakeholders to expand college access, support persistence, and increase completion rates. Collaboration and cooperation allow opportunities to emerge and dreams to be fulfilled. Recently, we met with two new organizations, highlighted below, in hopes of providing residents in our service area a different path for improving their lives – through obtaining a quality, affordable postsecondary education.

**Tabitha’s House** is in DeKalb County. This local non-profit provides a place of rest, safety, and comfort that assists, empowers, supports, and protects those who have been victimized through sex trafficking. Georgia Piedmont is committed to offering clients of Tabitha’s House a chance to attend college while receiving the social and emotional support needed to achieve personal and professional success.

The **City of Covington Housing Authority** is in Newton County. They provide more than 300 families affordable housing in a safe, friendly, and well-maintained community while also assisting in their transition to full self-sufficiency. GPTC is committed to playing a role in supporting existing housing authority education initiatives while also developing new pathways towards earning college credentials in high paying, high demand professions for their clients.

**It is through collaboration that we create community. It is through community that we create change.**
Consuelo Godden. Director of the Regional Transportation Training Center (RTTC), will be retiring as of August 31, 2017. She has worked at Georgia Piedmont for 17 years, after owning and managing her own construction company for 25 years. Although the college will certainly miss her, we hope that Consuelo enjoys the additional time that she is able to spend with her family, while she also sails in the sun and moonlight!

Selina James was promoted to the position of Assistant Director of the Regional Transportation Training Center (RTTC) in March of this year. She began her employment with GPTC as an Adjunct Instructor for the Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) program in 2006 and became its Lead Instructor in 2011.

Joel Alvarado, Director of Community and Engagement received his Master’s in Public Administration from Clark Atlanta University on May 22, 2017. This fall he will continue his graduate studies at the University of Alabama.

Katrina McCollum Young, a member of the Rockdale County Board of Education, was recently elected as President of the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) for the 2018-2019 term. During the upcoming year, she will serve as President-Elect. Representatives from 133 school boards in Georgia met June 9-10 in Savannah to approve the legislative positions of the association and to elect GSBA’s officers.

The Outlook: Economic Development and Community Engagement

People in the News

Consuelo Godden
Director of the Regional Transportation Training Center (RTTC)

Selina James
Assistant Director of the Regional Transportation Training Center (RTTC)

Joel Alvarado
Director of Community Engagement

Katrina McCollum Young
Member of the Rockdale County Board of Education, recently elected as President of the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) for the 2018-2019 term.

What is Economic Development?

Economic Development creates the conditions for economic growth and improves the quality of life in our communities. Georgia Piedmont Technical College helps to expand the capacity of individuals, firms and communities to utilize their talents and skills to support innovations, reduce operating costs, and efficiently produce valuable goods and services.

Equal Opportunity Institution