CareerFocus™

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A bright future for nursing graduates

A Head's Up on Financial Aid

Headache-saving changes are coming
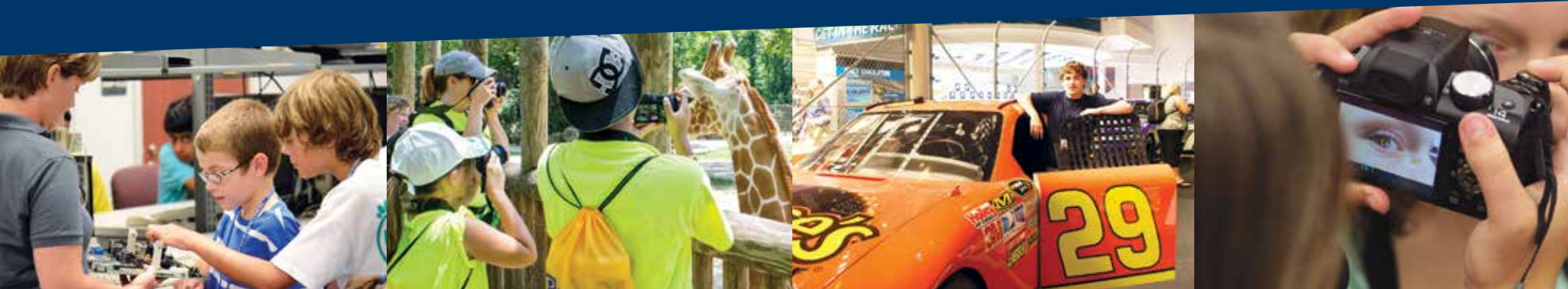
STUDENT

ABIGAIL

MORE ON THE INSIDE: | **PREPARING SKILLED TECHNICIANS FOR TODAY'S WORKFORCE** | **HELPING PATIENTS BREATHE EASY** | **AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY**

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Institutional Mission
Piedmont Technical College transforms lives and strengthens communities by providing opportunities for intellectual and economic growth.

The College, a member of the South Carolina Technical College and Comprehensive Education System, is a public comprehensive two-year post-secondary institution. Piedmont Technical College contributes to the economic growth and development of the largest and most diverse region of the technical college system, Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties and to the state. The College enrolls approximately 4,500 to 5,500 credit students. The College responds to the academic, training and public service needs of the community through excellence in teaching and educational services. Piedmont Technical College's open admissions policy provides accessibility for individuals with diverse backgrounds the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills for employment in engineering technology, industrial technology, agriculture, business, health and public service. Piedmont Technical College graduates develop competencies in communication, mathematics, problem solving and technology.

The College offers university transfer; associate degrees, diplomas and certificates in technical and occupational areas; developmental education programs; student development programs providing academic, career and individual support; and custom-designed Continuing Education programs provide training for business and industry.

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It's the easy way to share articles, access Piedmont Technical College Resources and get on the path to a new career.

Facts and Finds

Language studies gain popularity

¿Habla español? Enrollment in American college language courses other than English has risen substantially over the past decade and a half.

Spanish was by far the most popular choice for US students, making up about half of all foreign language enrollments in 2013, according to new data from the Modern Language Association of America.

Other popular second languages were French, Italian, and German, along with American Sign Language. Enrollment in Arabic courses rose by 205 percent between 2002 and 2013, and Chinese course enrollment grew 79 percent.

Source: The Modern Language Association of America, February 2015. http://mla.org/pdf/2013_enrollment_survey.pdf

How Google Translate works

Computer generated translation has come a long way over the past few years… but it still has a long way to go. The reason why is that computer translation tools, like the popular Google Translate, are based on statistics rather than linguistic rules.

Google Translate scours hundreds of millions of documents produced by human translators, including United Nations documents which are carefully translated into six languages. The program scans for patterns and develops "educated guesses" for common phrases.

When translating between some languages, such as from Russian to Spanish, Google Translate uses English as a bridge because more documents are available in English than in any other language.

Other language pairs, like Catalan to Japanese, require jumping between several very different languages. The process garbles the tone and grammar, meaning what goes in sometimes bears little resemblance to what comes out.

Source: Transparent Language, https://blogs.transparent.com/language-news/

Just jot it down

If you're a fast typist, you probably reach for your computer instead of a pen when you need to take notes.

Not so fast!

Leaving aside the fact that an open computer is a temptation to browse the wide world of distractions, studies have shown that hand-writing notes stimulates learning comprehension in a way that typing doesn't. "The act of typing effectively turns the note-taker into a transcription zombie," as one Dartmouth College professor puts it. Typists get a lot down, but they absorb and remember very little.

Princeton and UCLA researchers confirm that for retention of material, "the pen is mightier than the keyboard." When students are armed with laptops, their "tendency to transcribe lectures verbatim rather than processing information and reframing it in their own words is detrimental to learning."

Writing is slower than typing, forcing you to interpret content and make a selection of what is most important. Putting pen to paper encourages critical thinking, making the material stick in the memory better than the "shallower processing" power of auto-pilot typing.

Source: Psychological Science journal, January 2014. http://pss.sagepub.com/content/25/6/1159

Powers of persuasion

Persuasion is a skill that can help you nail a job interview. While it comes naturally to a few lucky, most can learn to speak in the language of persuasion.

Persuasive people are, first and foremost, good listeners. They exude confidence (but not arrogance!), and express honesty and level-headedness.

Ken Sundheim, CEO of New York City-based recruiting firm KAS Placement, recommends practicing three things before a job interview: "learning how to establish rapport with an interviewer; integrating compelling verbiage; and avoiding patterns of speech that weaken perceived competency."

Let's break that down. "Rapport" means a relationship where people understand each other and communicate their ideas well. Sundheim says one way to establish rapport is to hone in on your interviewer's point of view and pick up on their feelings. If they're excited about something, share in that excitement.

What about "compelling verbiage"? Persuasive people "don't speak in extremely long, convoluted sentences and avoid using cliches," says Sundheim. Keep it simple, but creative. Be direct.

Practice what you want to say to avoid patterns of speech that weaken your persuasive ability — those little "kinda," "sorta," "you know," "I think" qualifiers that unconsciously slip into our speech.

Above all, give your conversation partner — job interviewer or anyone else — your undivided attention. To speak the language of persuasion, you first must listen. ∎

Source: Personal Branding Blog, http://personalbrandingblog.com/the-language-of-persuasive-interviewers/

A Head's Up on Financial Aid

Headache-saving changes are coming

Changes are coming to the financial aid process that will make it easier to apply for help and plan ahead for college.

Beginning October 1, 2016, students will be able to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2017-18 year. This pushes the application date up by several months from the current January 1 opening date. Students will also be able to use tax information from two years earlier.

Why is this important?

Filling out a FAFSA is the first step in getting federal money, including Pell Grants, student loans, and a work-study job at your college. The information on your FAFSA is also used by colleges, state governments, and others to determine if you qualify for some other types of financial aid or scholarships.

Nearly 20 million FAFSA filers get access to federal grants and loans each year – the vast majority of American college students. Yeah, it's kind of a big deal.

The biggest mistake you can make with federal aid is assuming you don't

qualify, so even if you don't think you'll be eligible, you should apply.

Many students qualify for the Pell Grant, which is money that you do not have to pay back. Students can also access loans, which do have to be repaid, at lower interest rates than many private lenders offer.

According to education advising site Edvisors.com, two million students who would have qualified for the Pell Grant in the 2011-12 school year missed out because they didn't fill out a FAFSA.

More time to weigh options

By applying in October instead of January, students will find out earlier if they are eligible for aid, giving them time to consider college costs and weigh their options for multiple schools.

The convenience of using so-called "prior-prior-year" tax data also makes it easier for students to get college applications in before many scholarship deadlines, which are frequently set in January and February.

This widened window of time will enable families to determine the true costs of going to school once financial aid is factored in.

Streamlined process

The changes simplify the FAFSA a great deal. Students who apply early won't have to update their applications with new income information, cutting down the often rigorous federal verification process.

The FAFSA is far less of a headache than it used to be. Once upon a time (not so long ago), filing for financial

aid involved a 10-page workbook and poring over your family's paper documents. Today, less than one-half of one percent of applicants fill out the paper version.

Now an online form at fafsa.ed.gov, many of the application's 108 questions are auto-populated using data already on-file with the government through the IRS.

According to the Education Department, this has cut the filing time down to about 20 minutes on average. ∎

How to apply

Complete a FAFSA online at fafsa.ed.gov.

After filing, you will be sent a report on your eligibility for the Pell Grant and the amount you can expect to receive.

If you are seeking a loan, fill out a Federal Direct Loan application along with your FAFSA: studentloans.gov

Questions? Consult Piedmont Tech's financial aid experts for advice:

Office of Financial Aid
www.ptc.edu/fafsa
864-941-8365

Much of the FAFSA online form is automatically filled using IRS data, cutting the filing time down to 20 minutes.

Preparing Skilled Technicians for Today's Workforce

PTC HVAC program grows as job outlook increases

Every private residence, business, industry and agency needs the skill of technicians trained in the installation, maintenance and repair of heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. Because these systems are increasing in complexity, skilled technicians are in continuous demand to keep them running at maximum capacity.

"Piedmont Technical College's HVAC program focuses on providing students with the theory and the real-world experience to fully understand the three main pillars of HVAC: air, electrical and mechanical," said Keenan Tallant, academic program director for HVAC at Piedmont Tech.

Students learn to diagnose and repair malfunctions; size, fabricate and install air duct systems; and estimate cooling and heating loads for selection of the most efficient systems for a given building.

"When you're out in the field, the primary focus is on getting the job done, and you may not fully understand the science behind what you're doing every day," said Tallant. "To be successful in the field, you really need to understand the whole system. And that's the way we teach here. Our students learn from instructors with years of experience in the field."

A Positive Job Outlook

While opportunities are good across the board, job opportunities for HVAC technicians are expected to be particularly excellent for those who

have completed training at an accredited technical college or through an apprenticeship. Candidates familiar with computers and electronics, as well as those who have developed troubleshooting skills, will have the best job opportunities as employers continue to have difficulty finding qualified technicians to work on complex new systems.

In fact, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning is one of the top 50 fastest growing occupations.

Tallant says that, because many of the HVAC business owners and contractors in our region came through PTC's program themselves, graduates can be sure they're getting exactly the training they'll need to go to work after graduation.

"We like Piedmont Technical College grads because they are local and they know the communities that we serve," said Jimmy Wilson, owner of Wilson Refrigeration and AC Service in Pomaria. "The students who have graduated from Piedmont Tech are more advanced than those who don't have that degree."

Expanding Opportunities

In order to more effectively meet the workforce demands in the region, students have started learning in a new state-of-the-art facility. The new space is a little over 10,000 square feet in size which is larger than the previous location provided for the program. The facility features 3,000 square feet of concreted space which houses outside training units as well as hi-tech classrooms, a new supermarket rack refrigeration trainer and mobile walk-in freezer units. The goal is to get all of the HVAC functions, which are currently spread across three locations on the Greenwood campus, in one location.

The new facility showcases the college's commitment to increasing student access to the right technology for learning skills needed for success in today's job market.

"We really care about our students," says David Kibler, interim dean of engineering and industrial technologies. "They're here because they know what they're learning can change their lives. We're passionate about what we do because we see every day the positive impact this kind of knowledge transfer has on them." ∎

HVAC AT A GLANCE

PTC Credentials
- Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Technology (A.A.S.)
- Heating Fundamentals Certificate
- Refrigeration Applications Certificate

Job Outlook*
- **Median Salary:** $44,630
- Expected 14 percent job growth nationally through 2024

Salary information based on data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2014.

Seeking a Great Career in Health Care?

Start Developing the Skills for an In-Demand Future

HEALTH CARE JOB OUTLOOK
AT A GLANCE

From 2014-2024 the following health-related professions are projected to see faster than average growth nationally.*

- **Radiologic Technologist: 9%**
  Median Salary: $57,370
  Program: Radiologic Technology

- **Respiratory Therapist: 12%**
  Median salary: $56,730
  Program: Respiratory Care

- **Surgical Technologist: 15%**
  Median salary: $43,350
  Program: Surgical Technology

- **Licensed Practical Nurse: 16%**
  Median Salary: $42,490
  Program: Practical Nursing

- **Registered Nurse: 16%**
  Median Salary: $66,640
  Program: Associate Degree Nursing

- **Cardiovascular Technician: 24%**
  Median salary: $62,540
  Program: Cardiovascular Technology

Job growth and salary information based on national data collected by The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. ∎

Everyone has heard that careers in the medical field can be both lucrative and personally rewarding. What most people are not aware of is that the job availability in health care is largely connected to careers that require a two-year degree or less.

In fact, for each doctor there are over half a dozen jobs requiring a certificate or two-year degree in a variety of health related careers.

These jobs aren't only available right now, they are growing.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment in health occupations is projected to increase by 19 percent over the next 10 years, which is much faster than the average of most occupations. This equates to an additional 2.3 million new jobs in health-related fields. This growth is largely due to an aging population and an increase in individual access to health insurance.

Not only are these careers in-demand, they also pay well. In fact, The Bureau of Labor Statistics cites that the average median annual wage for health care practitioners and technical occupations was $61,710 in May 2014.

Piedmont Technical College offers a variety of degrees, certificates and diplomas that lead to careers in the growing realm of health care professions. ∎

A Career in CARING

A bright future for nursing graduates

With continued reports of a national shortage of nurses, there couldn't be a better time to start working toward a degree in this rewarding, high-paying profession. Through certificates, diplomas and degrees, Piedmont Technical College offers multiple options to help individuals get started in this growing field.

In fact, PTC's programs prepare students to become registered nurses and licensed practical nurses, which are among the top ten largest health care occupations in the nation according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Additionally, the need for these types of nurses is on the rise, with a 16 percent projected increase in job availability through 2024.

"Beyond classroom learning, students are able to get experience in our simulation labs," said Stephanie Cannady, Piedmont Tech nursing instructor. "This gives them the opportunity to address and re-address skills so they feel comfortable when we take them out into the clinical settings and perform procedures on real people."

Once students start applying their knowledge in real health care settings, they are placed with organizations that hire PTC grads. This allows students to get a clear view of the employment opportunities within their community.

"We have a really close working relationship with hospitals in our seven county area," said Yonce. "We

"The outlook for graduates in the job market is really good," said Stephanie Yonce, Piedmont Tech nursing instructor. "We have a lot of hospitals in the region that hire our graduates and the market is always open as there is a big demand for nurses."

In order to move forward with a career in nursing, students must start by developing the right skillset. This is why the programs at Piedmont Tech prepare students for the challenges of the modern workforce through classroom instruction in nursing concepts, coupled with practical clinical experience at area health care providers. This training provides students with a lot of hands-on experience from beginning to end.

try to utilize all of the facilities that are available to us. I personally take students to the Edgefield County hospital where there is a large number of Piedmont Tech graduates in every department, from radiology, to the emergency room.

"We also take our students to Self Regional to do clinicals in different areas including medical/surgical, obstetrics and pediatrics," she added.

Beyond the classroom and real-world training, nursing students can look forward to a career that is personally rewarding.

"Nursing gives back to you as much as you put into it," said Yonce. "It can be a hard day's work, but at the end of the day you go home satisfied after you have taken care of patients."

"Even the little things mean a lot, like a patient's progress toward their goal of rehab or wellness, or just holding the hand of a loved one during difficult family time." she added.

Becoming a Nurse

Registered nurses are trained to work in a variety of hospital settings. To become a registered nurse, students can start by completing the associate degree nursing (ADN) program at PTC.

NURSING AT A GLANCE

PTC Credentials
- Major in Nursing (A.A.S.)
- Major in Practical Nursing (D.A.S.)
- LPN to ADN Program
- Associate in Arts Nursing Transfer (A.A.N.T.)

Job Outlook*
- Registered Nurse – **Median Salary:** $66,640
- Licensed Practical Nurse – **Median Salary:** $42,490

Salary information based on data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2014.

Learn more about nursing through our program video series. Visit **www.ptc.edu/nursing**.

"An associate degree nurse would have a role in a hospital on an acute care floor, an intensive care unit or an emergency room," said Yonce. "They might also be involved in surgeries if they like the operating room."

"Our graduates have been anything from nurses on the local medical/surgical floor to directors of infusion centers and emergency rooms," she added.

Licensed practical nurses work in areas such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities and physicians' offices. They can also serve as school nurses. The practical nursing program at Piedmont Tech is designed to provide students with the needed skillset to administer supervised health care in these settings.

"Nursing gives back to you as much as you put into it. It can be a hard day's work, but at the end of the day you go home satisfied after you have taken care of patients."

"Our LPN graduates are able to fully care for a patient while being under the supervision of a registered nurse," said Cannady.

A shorter program, the practical nursing curriculum helps students get the quality, applied knowledge they need to get to work quickly.

"We start clinicals in the second semester where they go out to some of the local facilities, hospitals, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and some observational sites that get them experience with surgery," said Cannady. "Overall these students can complete the program in three semesters and sit for their licensing exam."

Piedmont Tech's Associate Degree Nursing and Practical Nursing programs are approved by the SC Board of Nursing and accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). The nursing program at PTC prepares graduates to take the licensing examination, NCLEX, to become a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse.

"We start from day one to prepare our students to take the state board exam, the NCLEX," said Yonce. "Throughout their education here at PTC we are constantly engaging students in activities to prepare them for this test including a computerized test, practicing NCLEX style questions and challenging them to think critically on every patient scenario they are presented with." ∎

SUCCESS STORY

Abigail Hershberger
Nursing student makes her dream a reality

From an early age, Abigail Hershberger knew she was gravitating to a career in health care. She read a lot and would find anything she could get her hands on that contained medical subject matter. She was also the oldest of 10 children and often found herself slipping into the role of caretaker when it came to her younger siblings. These factors were key points along her path to becoming a Piedmont Technical College nursing student.

"I grew up taking care of people," she said "And taking care of people comes natural to me. And in nursing that's just what you do."

Though she had a clear idea of where she was headed, Hershberger did not start college immediately after high school. She got married and started a family.

"I was a stay-at-home mom, but always wanted to be a nurse" said Hershberger. "When my baby was born I decided to look into pursuing my dream. I chose Piedmont Tech primarily for the affordability of it."

Hershberger was also looking for a way to start her education while still staying at home with her children. She quickly discovered Piedmont Tech's online offerings and got started early on a part-time basis.

"I tried to take two or three courses per semester which was about all I could balance at the time," said Hershberger. "I did that for two or three years before entering the nursing program."

With the exception of a couple of labs, Hershberger was able to complete the majority of the coursework needed to enter the nursing program completely online. "If it hadn't been for the online courses that PTC has to offer, I wouldn't have been able to start when I did and I wouldn't be as far along in my degree as I am now," she said.

After completing her prerequisite coursework and after all of her children were in school, Hershberger entered the nursing program. She is now slated to graduate in May. She says she has been very happy with her decision to start at PTC.

"One of the benefits of a technical college over other types of colleges is that their focus is on getting us ready to enter the workforce," said Hershberger. "The training I've received in the lab and on the clinical site has prepared me and given me the confidence I need to go forward as a real nurse, in the real world, working with real patients."

"The main thing I've found helpful or very exciting here at Piedmont Technical College is that they really have a heart for making their students successful," she added. "They have the resources to help you be successful in any walk of life and at any age." ∎

Helping Patients Breathe Easy

Respiratory Therapists Play an Important Role in Health Care

RESPIRATORY CARE
AT A GLANCE

PTC Credentials
- Respiratory Care (A.A.S.)

Job Outlook*
- **Median Salary:** $56,730
- Expected 12 percent job growth nationally through 2024

* Salary information based on data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2014.

Learn more about respiratory care through our program video series. Visit **www.ptc.edu/respiratory.**

Although the general public is more familiar with doctors and nurses, anyone who's had a serious hospital visit or surgery has probably had contact with a respiratory therapist at some point.

These respiratory experts are important members of the health care team, and are involved in saving and improving the quality of people's lives on a daily basis.

Sherri Gordon, Director of Organizational Development, Respiratory Care, Neurodiagnostics and Sleep Lab at Self Regional Healthcare, sees first hand just how rewarding and important the field can be.

"The most wonderful thing about respiratory therapy is that it is absolutely different every day," she said. "One day you might be working in adult critical care with 60 and 70 year-old patients on mechanical ventilation. The next day you're in a delivery room getting ready to help a baby because those first breaths are so critical."

Respiratory therapists are experts in life support equipment, and work closely with doctors and other health care staff to treat heart and lung diseases like cardiac failure, asthma and more.

"As respiratory therapists, we work with physicians and nurses, and a lot of times, we all have to come together to create the best plan for the patient," said Ann Allen, program coordinator for PTC's Respiratory Care program.

"We're also part of the discharge planning team," she added. "We're right there with social services and the home health nurses trying to decide what's

going to be the best plan of care for these patients when they go home."

Respiratory therapists can work in a wide variety of settings, from rehabilitation clinics and sleep labs to trauma centers and hospitals.

They provide temporary relief to patients with chronic problems, are part of the critical and intensive care teams, and can give emergency care as a part of surface and air transport teams or as part of rapid-response teams in the hospital.

Respiratory therapists provide treatment for all age groups—from infants to the elderly, and are involved in everything from rehabilitation to smoking-cessation, disease prevention, case management and the diagnosis of breathing disorders.

"We spend a lot of our time not just taking care of the patient, but also teaching them about their disease," said Allen. "It's a part of our responsibility to educate patients on their medications and how to return to a normal life."

A Rewarding, Growing Career

Recent PTC grads earn an entry level salary of about $33,000, with good potential for growth—up to around $68,000 in the seven-county region.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, employment for Respiratory Therapists is projected to increase faster than average through 2024.

"I believe the job outlook is very good," said Gordon. "There is a regional shortage of respiratory therapists and we're growing here at Self Regional. There are jobs out there."

Respiratory therapists need at least an associate degree, although both associate and bachelor's degrees are common.

To become a respiratory therapist, there are several levels of required testing at the national level. PTC graduates are prepared to take both the entry-level and advanced National Board exams. Graduates are also certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support, Pediatric Advanced Life Support, and Neonatal Resuscitation Provider, credentials that make them more marketable.

Respiratory Care at PTC

The program at PTC is a two year associate degree program. Students are in clinicals each semester and a special internship in the final semester.

In class, students get in-depth, hands-on training with ventilators, obtaining blood gases, patient interaction and more. When students actually get into the hospital, they see that what they're learning in class is directly applicable in the real world.

So, not only are the jobs out there, but PTC is providing respiratory care students with the training needed to thrive in a health care environment.

"I think one of the things that makes Piedmont Tech very unique and special is that the students spend a lot of time in clinicals," said Gordon. "So they are actually here at the hospital, getting hands-on experience. And we know that is the best possible way to learn."

For more information, visit **www.ptc.edu/respiratory** ■

Precious Logan
Respiratory Grad Finds Health Care Niche

Precious Logan always dreamed of a career in health care. She wanted to help people.

After graduating from Greenwood High School, Logan took her first step into the health care field by earning her certified nursing assistant certificate (CNA). She enrolled at a four-year university, but found it wasn't the right fit for her. So she transferred to Piedmont Technical College where she found the path to the career she had been looking for.

"I did some research on the opportunities in the health care field," she said. "A friend of mine who works in respiratory recommended the respiratory care program."

The smaller class sizes and the connection to the faculty proved her move was the right choice. The more she learned about the program, the more Logan knew she had found her niche in respiratory care.

"I like the direct contact with patients and their families," she said. "It's about helping them get better."

Logan earned her associate degree in respiratory care from PTC in 2014 and quickly landed a job at Self Regional Healthcare. She was nervous as she started her new career, but her training at PTC had given her the foundation to succeed.

"I felt that I was prepared for the job, but it was an adjustment knowing there wasn't an instructor looking over my shoulder to make sure I was doing everything correctly," Logan said. "I had to have faith in the knowledge they had given me."

Logan wants to continue her education and become a respiratory care director. She has enrolled in the bachelor's degree program through Columbia College and plans to also pursue a master's degree.

"The agreement Piedmont Tech has with Columbia College makes it so easy for me to work towards my bachelor's degree," she said. "The class schedule works well with my work schedule."

For anyone considering enrolling in college, Logan said she recommends they take a look at the respiratory care program at Piedmont Tech.

"It's a great program with wonderful instructors," she said. "If you're looking for a career that is different every day and allows you to work closely with the patients, a career as a respiratory therapist could be for you." ■

"The agreement Piedmont Tech has with Columbia College makes it so easy for me to work towards my bachelor's degree."

Automotive Technology
Career Opportunities, Economic Rewards, Emerging Technologies

Cars continue to be the primary transportation method in our region, a fact that will not change for the foreseeable future. For this reason, more skilled technicians and mechanics will be needed to fill positions throughout the automotive industry.

"There are always jobs open," said Gerald Sartin, instructor of automotive technology at Piedmont Technical College. "There are always employers wanting certified knowledgeable technicians to fill those positions.

As employers look to fill positions in the field, they are looking for individuals who have the right skillset and a drive for continued learning on the job. "The automotive business is a constant learning process," Sartin said. "The process starts for these students in our program, but they will continue to learn more. Every year technology changes. So, it's good to have the foundation of training we provide."

Piedmont Tech's automotive technology program starts building that foundation by preparing future certified technicians for the challenges of today's automotive industry. Specifically, the specialized training provided by the program prepares students to become ASE certified technicians, a credential that can provide greater earning potential through demonstrating expertise in the field.

In order to further connect the student with the needed skillset, the program at Piedmont Tech is driven by qualified faculty who understand the demands of the modern automotive industry.

"We have a great staff, a great lab and a great environment to learn in," said Don Gaskin, instructor of automotive technology at Piedmont Tech. "We have a state-of-the-art facility both in classroom and laboratory space. This includes a ten bay shop area, full wheel alignment equipment, the latest in emissions and diagnostic equipment and scan tools that we can interface with the computers on vehicles."

In these high tech learning environments, students receive training in eight areas of automotive service: engine repair, engine performance, electrical and electronic systems, manual drive train and axles, automatic transmission/transaxle, suspension and steering systems, brakes, and heating and air conditioning. Students also learn the customer service skills needed in today's automotive shop environment and they develop strong work habits.

As new technologies emerge, students with an automotive degree or certificate will be stepping into a career that will remain challenging and necessary for years to come.

"The technology is changing faster than you can imagine," said Gaskin. "But, I don't care what kind of technology you use – electric, hybrid, gasoline, propane – stuff is still going to break and technicians will be needed." ■

AUTOMOTIVE AT A GLANCE

PTC Credentials
- Automotive Technology (A.A.S.)
- Automotive Fundamentals Certificate

Job Outlook**
- **Median Salary:** $37,120
- Expected 5 percent job growth nationally through 2024

** Salary information based on data released by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2014.

Learn more about respiratory care through our program video series. Visit **www.ptc.edu/automotive.**

Where Do You Want to Go?

For many people, deciding on a career can feel like taking a journey without either a map or a destination. Eventually, with some advice and direction, a little exploration and maybe a dead end or two, you begin to get a sense of where you'd like to go and how to get there. Whether you're just starting out or picking up a new career in mid-life, Piedmont Tech offers courses and services to help you find your path and get to your goal.

Good advice and good resources are the best road maps. PTC's Counseling, Career Planning and Employment services can help you explore your options and get started on a plan of action. Academic advisors too, can help you choose the right classes for your goal.

PTC's 80+ certificate, diploma and degree programs are some of the best vehicles around for taking you to your career destinations. In a year or less a certificate can get you into a job, in two years an associate degree can move you a little farther along your career path, and transferring to a four-year college will take you even farther.

Map out your options by taking a look at the PTC A-Z listing below. And when you're ready to start planning your career, visit **www.ptc.edu** to find out how to enroll in classes. Call the Admissions Office at **(855) 446-3864** for answers to your questions. ■

PIEDMONT
Technical College

UNIVERSITY TRANSFER PROGRAMS

If you're headed toward a bachelor's degree, we can help you get there. Piedmont Tech offers more than 80 courses that transfer to any public university or college in South Carolina, and hundreds of PTC students transfer credits earned at Piedmont Tech to universities throughout the state each year.

Associate in Arts

The Associate in Arts program prepares students for four-year baccalaureate majors in fields such as business, accounting, management, English, journalism, social work, education, music, psychology, history, pre-law, humanities, fine arts and social sciences.

Associate in Science

The Associate in Science degree stresses mathematics, as well as natural and physical sciences, and prepares students for four-year baccalaureate majors in those fields, plus engineering, pre-med, veterinary medicine, chiropractic and education.

Transfer Partnerships & Career Path Transfers

PTC has established specific transfer agreements with more than 19 colleges and universities, as well as specific career path transfers in areas such as business, criminal justice, engineering technology, education and many more. Talk to your advisor to decide which path is right for you.

For more information, visit **www.ptc.edu/transfer**

PIEDMONT
Technical College

AGRICULTURE

We all know that agriculture is an important part of South Carolina's heritage. But did you know that agriculture-based businesses play a critical and expanding role in the growth of the state's economy? In fact, agribusiness is one of the largest economic clusters in the state and a critically important part of the knowledge based economy.

South Carolina Median Salaries
Farmer - $29,103
Agricultural Technician - $34,939
Nursery Operator - $29,103

Diversified Agriculture

Provides students with advanced technical knowledge in sustainable agriculture, field crop production, pest management, soil and water management, hydraulics and pneumatics, agriculture economics and marketing related to the agricultural industry.

A.A.S., Major in Diversified Agriculture
Basic Diversified Agriculture Certificate

Horticulture Technology

Students are prepared for supervisory, middle management and technical positions in horticulture, including landscape design, implementation and maintenance.

A.A.S., Major in Horticulture Technology
Horticulture Landscape Management Certificate
Agriculture Education Transfer Option to Clemson
Horticulture and/or Turfgrass Transfer Option to Clemson

PIEDMONT
Technical College

BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

If you're a good communicator who enjoys solving problems, a career in business might be right for you. Computers have also become an indispensible part of everyday life. Majoring in Computer Technology at Piedmont Tech will give you the knowledge and skills you'll need to get started in Information Technology and computer science.

South Carolina Median Salaries*
Tax Preparer - $36,767
Medical Transcriptionist - $32,400
Network Administrator - $67,279

Administrative Office Technology

Actual work experience and instruction in keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheet applications, transcription, office procedures, communication, accounting and more give graduates the ability to work independently and handle the details of office administration.

A.A.S., Major in Administrative Office Technology
Office Technician Certificate

Business

Probably no other occupational area encompasses a more diverse range of activities than the business field.

A.A.S., Major in Business
Accounting Certificate
Entrepreneurship Certificate

PIEDMONT Technical College — BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

Commercial Art
If you have an artistic streak and you enjoy solving problems by thinking creatively and interacting with computers, you should consider a major in Commercial Art.
A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Commercial Art
  • Concentrations in advertising design, digital rendering and photography.
Advertising Design Certificate
Digital Rendering and Gaming Development Certificate
Photography Certificate

Computer Technology
Students study computer maintenance, local and wide area networks and popular programming languages. Graduates are truly prepared to take their place in the Information Age.
A.A.S., Major in Computer Technology
PC Technician Certificate

PIEDMONT Technical College — QUICKSKILLS ADVANCED TRAINING OPTION

In today's Advanced Manufacturing operations, qualified employees are essential to a successful production operation. The Quickskills training programs listed below allow people to learn in a relatively short time frame the necessary entry level skills to help them start work with more than a basic understanding.

Machine Tool CNC Precision Operator
Students will learn and perfect introductory skills in the programming and daily maintenance of CNC machines. Various types of automated equipment, such as Coordinate Measuring Machines are utilized so that students gain practical experience that will help them obtain gainful employment in industry.

Manufacturing Production Technician
The curriculum includes mathematical and statistical techniques and applications, industrial safety and operational principles, production process cycle including resource availability, product specifications and state-of-the-art manufacturing practices, including Lean Manufacturing tools and techniques.

PIEDMONT Technical College — ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

If you're fascinated by technology and enjoy a hands-on approach to problem solving, Engineering Technology may be the right career path for you.

South Carolina Median Salaries
Electrical and Electronics
    Drafter - $57,391
Electronic Engineering
    Technician - $55,892
Mechanical Engineering
    Technician- $51,747

Electronic Engineering Technology
The graduate is skilled in the operation, troubleshooting, calibration and repair of electronic instruments and systems found in process control, communications, computers, manufacturing, programmable logic controllers and microprocessors.
A.A.S., Major in Electronic Engineering Technology

Engineering Graphics Technology
All phases of manufacturing or construction require the conversion of new ideas and design concepts into the basic line language of graphics.
A.A.S., Major in Engineering Graphics Technology

General Engineering Technology
Students will learn how computers and robotics are used in industry to operate automated manufacturing systems. They will also learn to program computers, robots, computerized numerical control (CNC) machines, programmable logic controllers and automated equipment.
A.A.S., Major in General Engineering Technology

Mechanical Engineering Technology
The Mechanical Engineering Technology curriculum equips the graduate for: performing a key role in the mechanical design process; installing, troubleshooting and repairing mechanical and electro-mechanical equipment; programming CNC machine tools, computers, programmable controllers and robots; and performing general maintenance functions.
A.A.S., Major in Mechanical Engineering Technology

PIEDMONT Technical College — INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Students enrolled in any of the Industrial Technology curricula will gain practical experience and technical knowledge. Well-equipped labs, broad-based programs and hands-on opportunities make the difference in their futures.

South Carolina Median Salaries
Automotive Technician - $32,551
Carpenter - $32,075
HVAC Technician - $36,854
Electronics Technician - $47,723
CNC Machine Tool
    Operator - $37,433
Mechatronics Technician - $47,723
Welder - $34,465

Automotive Technology
Students are trained to perform quality maintenance, diagnosis and repair of complex modern vehicles.
A.A.S., Major in Automotive Technology
Automotive Fundamentals Certificate

Building Construction Technology
Students gain practical training in estimating building costs, carpentry, cabinet making, residential wiring, blueprint reading, brick masonry, construction, building codes and safety.
A.A.S., Major in Building Construction Technology
Carpentry Certificate

Gunsmithing
A.A.S., Major in General Technology - Gunsmithing
Advanced Gunsmithing Certificate
Introduction to Gunsmithing Certificate

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Technology
Students in this program are educated in the installation, maintenance and repair of air conditioning, refrigeration and heating systems.
A.A.S., Major in Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Technology
Heating Fundamentals Certificate
Refrigeration Applications Certificate

Industrial Electronics Technology
Instruction covers DC and AC voltages; basic hydraulics; machine shop practice; motor control; and the generation, distribution and utilization of electrical power.
A.A.S., Major in Industrial Electronics Technology
Electronic Maintenance Technician Certificate

Machine Tool Technology
Students in this program get training and practical experience in machining operations used in the manufacturing industry. The graduate is skilled in the use of precision equipment and can make intricate parts.
A.A.S., Major in Machine Tool Technology
D.A.S., Major in Machine Tool
Computerized Numerical Control Certificate
Machine Tool Operator Certificate
Precision Metrology Certificate

Mechatronics Technology
Combining electronic, mechanical, robotics and information system technologies, this program provides the graduate with the skill set needed for today's automated manufacturing facilities.
A.A.S., Major in Mechatronics Technology
Mechatronics Technology I Certificate

Welding
Students learn to join metal by use of gas-fueled torches and electric arc processes.
A.A.S., Major in General Technology - Welding
D.A.S., Major in Welding
Basic Welding Certificate

PIEDMONT Technical College | HEALTH SCIENCE & NURSING

With the complexity and diversity of today's health care system, varieties of health care professionals are needed. To function effectively by providing safe, knowledgeable patient care, the health care professional needs a thorough understanding of basic sciences and individual curriculum theory.

Cardiovascular Technology
The Cardiovascular Technologist performs diagnostic tests which are used in the diagnosis, treatment, and serial follow-up of patients with cardiovascular disease.
A.A.S., Major in Cardiovascular Technology

Emergency Medical Technician
The Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) is a vital link in the health care chain. Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) are employed in areas such as emergency ambulances, private non-emergent transport services, clinics, and other allied health care settings.
Emergency Medical Technician Certificate

Funeral Service
This program provides the educational foundation needed to seek South Carolina licensure both as an embalmer and as a funeral director.
A.A.S., Major in Funeral Service
Funeral Service Education Certificate

Health Science Transfer Program
By working closely with an advisor, students can select options in Medical Laboratory Technology, Physical Therapy Assistant or Dental Hygiene. Successful completion of the core requirements and the selected advising option will qualify students to be considered for an Associate in Applied Science degree at Greenville Technical College.

Human Services
The program prepares students to work in diverse settings such as group homes; correctional, mental retardation and mental health settings; family, child and youth service agencies; and programs concerned with alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence and aging.
A.A.S., Major in Human Services

Massage Therapy
Massage Therapy is one of the fastest growing professions in the health care field. There is an ever increasing acceptance of massage as a holistic approach to health care and health maintenance.
A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Massage Therapy
Massage Therapy Certificate

Medical Assisting
The Medical Assisting program prepares a multi-skilled graduate to function in clinical and administrative areas of the physician's office and ambulatory care centers.
A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Medical Assisting
D.A.S., Major in Medical Assisting

Nursing
The Nursing program will assist students in developing the intellectual, technical and professional competencies necessary to practice. Upon successful completion of the NCLEX-RN licensure exam by the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina, graduates can seek employment as licensed registered nurses.
A.A.S., Major in Nursing
D.A.S., Major in Practical Nursing
LPN to ADN Nursing Transition Option
A.A.N.T., Associate in Arts Nursing Transfer

Occupational Therapy Assistant
As only one of three two-year programs of its kind in South Carolina, Piedmont Technical College's Occupational Therapy program is a great option for students seeking this in-demand training in the Upstate and Midlands.
A.A.S., Major in Occupational Therapy Assistant

Patient Care Technician
Because health care is changing at an unprecedented pace, new or varied approaches to patient care are emerging. One such approach is the use of multi-skilled individuals known as Patient Care Technicians who are a part of the health care team.
A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Patient Care Technician
Patient Care Technician Certificate

Pharmacy Technology
Graduates of the pharmacy technology diploma are health care professionals who assist the pharmacist in a hospital or clinical setting to provide quality health care related to medication administration in an institutional setting.
A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Pharmacy Technology
D.A.S., Major in Pharmacy Technology

South Carolina Median Salaries
Cardiovascular Technologist - $50,386
Funeral Director - $39,241
Human Services Assistant - $27,204
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) - $39,434
Massage Therapist - $30,365
Pharmacy Technician - $28,282
Radiologic Technologist - $51,033
Respiratory Therapist - $51,906
Registered Nurse (RN) - $59,387
Veterinary Technologist - $27,465

PIEDMONT Technical College | HEALTH SCIENCE & NURSING

Phlebotomy Technician
This certificate program provides students with the basic skills necessary for the collection of laboratory blood specimens.
Phlebotomy Technician Certificate

Radiologic Technology
The Radiologic Technology curriculum is designed to assist students in acquiring the general and technical competencies necessary to enter the radiography field.
A.A.S., Major in Radiologic Technology

Respiratory Care
The respiratory care practitioner is trained to assist the medical staff with the treatment, management and care of patients with cardiopulmonary abnormalities or deficiencies.
A.A.S., Major in Respiratory Care

Surgical Technology
Surgical technologists are members of the operating team who work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, RN's and other personnel to deliver patient care before, during and after surgery.
A.A.S., Major in General Technology – Surgical Technology
D.A.S., Major in Surgical Technology

Veterinary Technology
The veterinary technician works under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The specialized training received will allow the graduate to seek employment in such areas as clinical medicine, laboratory animal medicine, emergency medicine, pharmaceutical sales, food inspection and government agencies.
A.A.S., Major in Veterinary Technology

PIEDMONT Technical College | PUBLIC SERVICE

Students interested in a career in Public Service may choose majors in Criminal Justice, Human Services or Early Care and Education.

Criminal Justice
This program is designed to prepare professionally-educated and competent criminal justice practitioners for careers within the criminal justice system.
A.A.S., Major in Criminal Justice

Early Care and Education
The Early Care and Education program offers a combination of classroom instruction and supervised, hands-on experience that prepares students for direct entry into the field of Early Care and Education.
A.A.S., Major in Early Care and Education
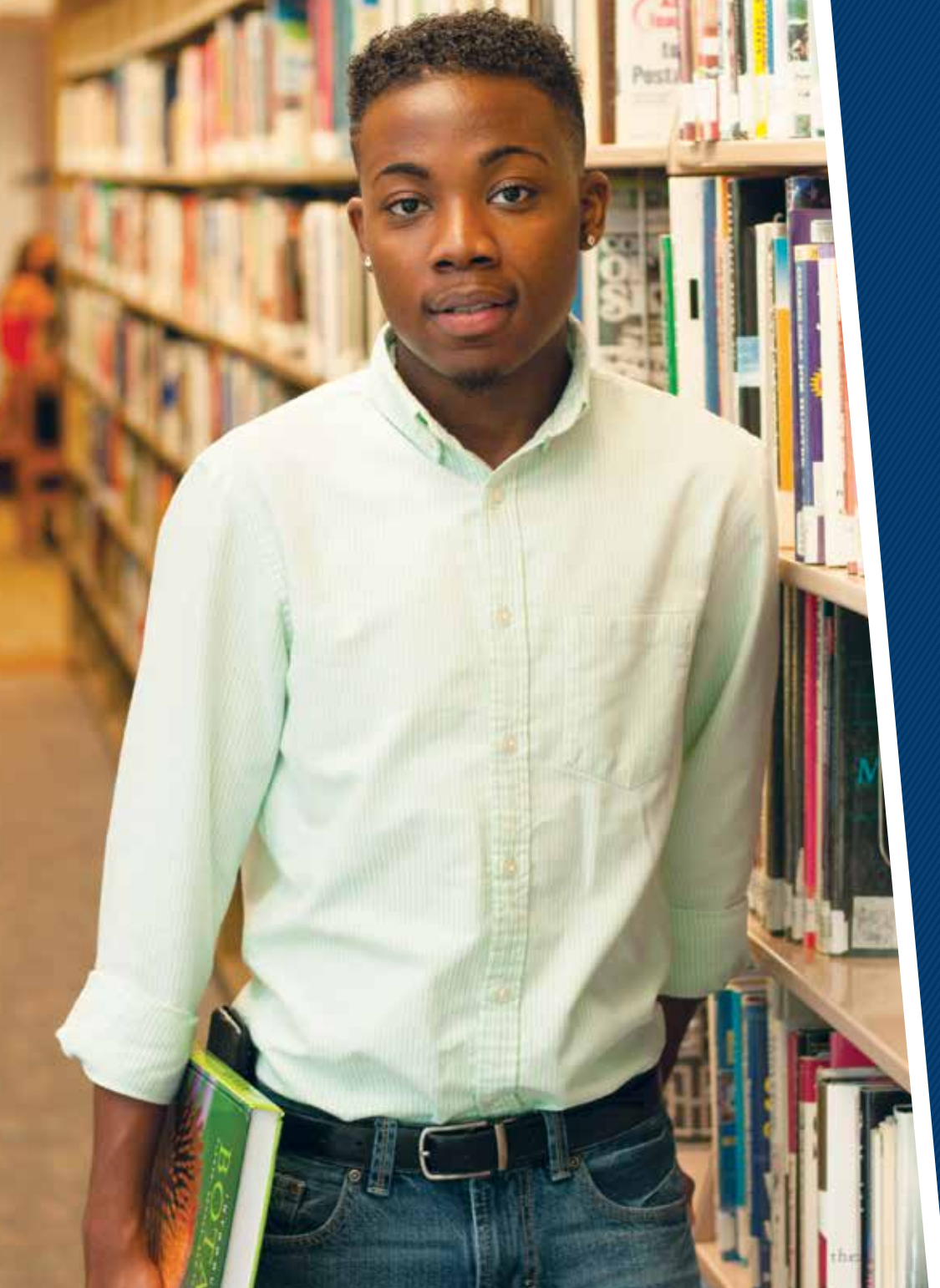**A.A.S., Major in Early Care and Education, Infant/Toddler Care Concentration**

Early Childhood Development Certificate
Infant/Toddler Certificate

South Carolina Median Salaries
Police Officer - $38,865
Preschool or Daycare
   Director - $43,879
Preschool Teacher - $24,150

PIEDMONT Technical College | GENERAL TECHNOLOGY

The General Technology degree is designed to provide students with an opportunity to upgrade diploma or certificate programs. The program is designed to be substantially individualized to meet the needs of employees who have or seek to have broad technical responsibilities.

General Technology
The major in General Technology is designed to provide students with an opportunity to upgrade diploma or certificate programs into broader occupational degrees. The program is designed to be substantially individualized to meet the needs of employees who have or seek to have broad technical responsibilities. Total credit hours for this degree must equal 60 or more. Students in the following program areas, with general education courses, may earn an associate in applied science with a general major in general technology: Welding, Gunsmithing, Commercial Art, and Health Science.

A.A.S. = Associate in Applied Science
D.A.S. = Diploma in Applied Science

START SMART START HERE

In two years or less, Piedmont Technical College can train you for a career in one of **80 plus fields that pay** — for a lot less than you'd spend at other colleges. Take classes at a campus close to home, or online from anywhere there's an Internet connection.

Whether you plan to go straight into the workforce, or work toward a bachelor's degree at a four-year college, PTC is the perfect place to **start smart**.

ABBEVILLE COUNTY CAMPUS
143 Hwy 72 W
Abbeville, South Carolina
(864) 446-8324

CENTER FOR ADVANCED MANUFACTURING
109 Innovation Drive
Laurens, South Carolina
(864) 682-3702

EDGEFIELD COUNTY CAMPUS
506 Main Street
Edgefield, South Carolina
(803) 637-5388

LEX WALTERS CAMPUS-GREENWOOD
620 N. Emerald Road
Greenwood, South Carolina
(864) 941-8324

LAURENS COUNTY CAMPUS
663 Medical Ridge Road
Clinton, South Carolina
(864) 938-1505

MCCORMICK COUNTY CAMPUS
1008 Kelly Street
McCormick, South Carolina
(864) 852-3191

NEWBERRY COUNTY CAMPUS
1922 Wilson Road
Newberry, South Carolina
(803) 276-9000

SALUDA COUNTY CAMPUS
701 Batesburg Hwy.
Saluda, South Carolina
(864) 445-3144

REGISTER NOW!

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Your goals. Our mission.

For more information,
visit **www.ptc.edu**
or call **(855) 446-3864.**