

# CareerFocus

PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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## Dr. Rivers' First 100 Days are a Slam Dunk

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**DUAL ENROLLMENT:  
'IT'S REALLY PART  
OF OUR CULTURE'**

**AUTO TECH PROGRAM  
COMBINES NEW AND  
OLD-SCHOOL SKILL SETS**

**NURSING DEAN'S  
FORMER STUDENTS CARE  
FOR HER FATHER IN ICU**





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 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 System, is a public comprehensive two-year postsecondary 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 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; college preparatory programs; student development programs providing academic, career and individual support; and custom-designed credit and non-credit programs to provide training for business and industry and to meet the needs of the community. To optimize access to higher education in the rural seven-county service area, Piedmont Technical College offers distance learning courses through multiple modes of delivery.

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# CareerFocus

## FEATURES

- 2 Facts and Finds**
- 3 Dr. Rivers' First 100 Days are a Slam Dunk**
- 4 Administrator Goes Full Circle at PTC, From Dual Enrollment Student Then to DE Program Director Now**
- 5 Dual Enrollment: 'It's Really Part of Our Culture'**
- 5 Dual Enrollment By The Numbers**
- 6 Dual Enrollment is Quietly Creating Leaders**
- 7 PTC Auto Tech Program Combines New- and Old-School Skill Sets**
- 8 Nursing Dean's Former Students Care for her Father in ICU**
- 9 College Shadows Early Education Major through Field Placement Experience**
- 10 PTC Graduate Exemplifies the 'Human' in Human Services**
- 10 PTC Planning for In-Person Semester this Fall**
- 11 Where Do You Want to Go?**

**On the cover:**  
 Dr. Hope E. Rivers, PTC President





# FACTS and FINDS



## Let's Grab Lunch

Millions of people are still adjusting to working and learning from home, and for many, this change is permanent. While there have been some upsides, like reduced commute times, a recent study actually found that Americans are spending over 45 extra minutes a day working than before the pandemic. Even before working from home was the "norm," nearly two-thirds of Americans either worked through lunch at their desk or skipped their lunch break altogether. Practicing mindfulness around real breaks throughout the day can boost your mood, productivity, and overall happiness—starting with lunch!

*Resources: National Bureau of Economic Research, Collaborating During Coronavirus: The Impact of COVID-19 on the Nature of Work, 2020. The New York Times Magazine Work Issue, 2016.*

## Social Media in Moderation

How much time do you think you're spending on social media? Recent statistics may surprise you. The average time spent on social media every day is just under two and a half hours for all users between the ages of 16 and 64 across the world. If the average user continued this trend—not taking into account that the time spent on social media increases year after year—then they would spend 5.7 years of their life on social media!



There are certainly benefits to being connected. It's easier than ever before to stay in touch with friends and family around the globe. You can build and sustain relationships anywhere that wouldn't have been possible just a few short decades ago. You can leverage social media to network and find jobs. You can curate your interests and likes on a single platform, allowing you to stay on top of news and trends by building your accounts to serve you.

Of course, it's always best to keep all things in moderation. If you feel hooked, less productive than usual, or maybe you just want to take a social media breather, there are plenty of resources to help.

Try monitoring how much time you're spending on social media. Apps like Moment and Offtime are free and can help you set and stick to boundaries by notifying you once you've exceeded your chosen time limit. Some platforms such as Instagram have implemented internal features to track and share how much time you're really spending, browsing, and swiping.

*Resources: Data Reportal Digital 2020 Report; Backlinko Social Network Usage and Growth Statistics 2021.*



## The Benefits of Reading

Reading for just six minutes a day can reduce stress levels by up to 68%, according to a study by the University of Sussex. Researchers found that reading actually works better and faster than other methods like going for a walk, listening to music, or having a cup of tea. Scientists believe that this is because the brain is forced to concentrate on reading and processing, and the distraction simultaneously eases muscle tension. Reading can be a welcome and healthy escape from the stresses of everyday life. The next time you're feeling overwhelmed but don't have a lot of time, try grabbing a book and reading a few pages.

*Resource: Mindlab International, University of Sussex 2009. ■*

# DR. RIVERS' FIRST 100 DAYS ARE A SLAM DUNK

## Dr. Hope E. Rivers has game.

Ever since arriving on campus in January, the new president of Piedmont Technical College (PTC) has been in constant motion, diligently studying the college's existing playbook and gradually adding some new plays of her own.

Growing up in the quaint historic mill town of Whitmire, Rivers played varsity basketball throughout high school. And she still has a mean jump shot.

"My coach placed me in the position of shooting guard because I was pretty good at shooting jump shots," she recalled.

"My basketball lessons are relevant today because I learned that, sometimes, I had to just 'take the shot,' and other times, I had to pass the ball to my teammates because they were in a better position to score. That's how teams work!"

Already, Rivers has demonstrated a leadership style not unlike her basketball persona. She's quick on her feet, pivots on a dime, and keeps a wary eye across the entire court, constantly looking for opportunities.

In her first 100 days at PTC, Rivers has visited every campus and met with municipal officials from every county in the college's seven-county service area. She also has been interviewed by all major newspapers in the region. She has attended after-hours county council, chambers of commerce and other civic meetings to introduce herself.

"I knew coming in that I was going to need to do a lot of listening and learning. I want to understand the campus culture and the community culture," she said. "One of the things I love about this job is that I have an opportunity to be impactful in the community. It is my belief that improvement is everybody's job. We truly are that community college."

Rivers feels a kindred link with PTC students because she identifies strongly with their origins.

"I am very much like our students. That is the main thing I want them to know," she said. "I



Dr. Hope E. Rivers

**"I want you to know that you have a president who hears you. You have a president who knows."**

come from a small town, like many of them. I am a first-generation college student, like many of them. I was very fortunate to be a part of the TRIO Program (federal student support services) at the University of South Carolina. At that time, the program offered smaller classes. I

was able to receive more individual instruction."

With the help of TRIO, many high-quality mentors and her own competitive drive, Rivers ultimately earned a doctor of philosophy in educational administration and a certificate in higher education leadership from the UofSC. She obtained her master of education and bachelor of arts in English both from the same institution.

"As a college freshman, I was under the impression that everyone else understood the college life, that all the other students knew more about how college works," she said. "I did not recognize that we all come in as a blank slate. This is our maturation period."

Rivers came to PTC after serving for five years as executive vice president of the SC Technical College System. A Riley Fellow and graduate

of Leadership SC, Rivers was named the 2019 Woman on the Move by the SC American Association of Community Colleges.

She wants students, staff and faculty, and the community at large, to know that she is paying careful attention. She believes in being thoughtful and contemplative before making impactful decisions.

"I want you to know that you have a president who hears you," Rivers told the college's Interclub Council on a Zoom call in January. "You have a president who knows."

Her theme since Day One has been unity.

"We can't do our best work alone," she noted. "We can't do our best work in isolation. We are truly stronger together."

Like the basketballer of her youth, Rivers knows she must not only score points but also pass the ball. The overall success of the team — the PTC community — is always a priority.

"It's not about me," Rivers noted. "I really am just a conduit for our students' progress. I try to reach students young and old. They are my North Star." ■



# ADMINISTRATOR GOES FULL CIRCLE AT PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Like riding an infinity loop, Piedmont Technical College (PTC) Dual Enrollment (DE) Director Tameika Wideman is experiencing a bit of déjà vu now overseeing a program she herself participated in years ago as a teenager. While she may not have realized it at the time, that DE experience put her on a trajectory ultimately to a career in higher education.

"I took Dual Enrollment courses at Piedmont Tech when I was in high school," she said. "I knew how impactful it was having college courses under my belt by the time I graduated high school."

A native of Abbeville County, where much of her family still lives, Wideman attended K-12 schools in Greenwood. After high school, she attended the College of Charleston, where she earned a bachelor's degree, majoring in psychology and business administration.



The Wideman family.  
Photo by Jordan Ford

After holding various positions in Charlotte and Greenville, Wideman and her husband, Travis, decided

to make Greenwood their permanent home, and she went to work at Erskine College. Sometime later, Wideman saw an opportunity to work in Student Records at PTC and decided to apply.

As destiny would have it, she got the job. "I immediately fell in love with that work. It aligned with my analytical skills and my desire to work with people."

What followed over the next several years were the birth of daughter Ellie, now 3, the addition of a master's degree in organizational management from Charleston Southern University, as well as promotions to the position of college registrar and then to dual enrollment director — a new position she began in November 2020. Starting a new position in the middle of an operations-altering pandemic presented challenges she had

**"I immediately fell in love with that work. It aligned with my analytical skills and my desire to work with people."**



Wideman affectionately calls her 3-year-old daughter "Ellie the Engineer." Photo by Jordan Ford



Tameika Wideman,  
director of  
Dual Enrollment  
at Piedmont  
Technical College

never encountered before, but Wideman is a problem-solver.

"I think COVID-19 for all of higher education has caused us to really shift and respond to something we could never see coming," she said. "It was a big change for our high school students, too. Working with them, we have had to be flexible and accommodating. There have been a lot of adjustments, but we have been able to serve all of our DE students and deliver what they needed to be successful."

As studies continued online or in hybrid form, the DE office at PTC continued to maintain relationships with its high school partners and keeping abreast of developments in the school district and community. That outreach part of Wideman's new job is especially exciting.

Wideman recently escorted some DE counselors and students from McCormick County on tours of various departments on the Greenwood campus, including the recently completed William H. "Billy" O'Dell Upstate Center for Manufacturing Excellence.

"It's really nice to see what we have to offer and showcase to our partners," she said. "It makes what we are doing here administratively come to life. ... You know, it can be difficult to understand the value in some of our programs. You hear about mechatronics and welding and HVAC, but until you actually see those programs in person, it's very abstract. I could see the counselors on the tour make connections. They can see immediately how what our DE students are learning is going to be impactful." ■



# DUAL ENROLLMENT: 'IT'S REALLY PART OF OUR CULTURE'

When it comes to academic rigor and career development, McCormick High School offers opportunities on par with schools many times its size thanks to a critical partnership with Piedmont Technical College (PTC). The McCormick Middle College, in fact, is just one example of what can be achieved when like-minded organizations partner up to expand opportunity for youth in their communities through college dual enrollment programs.

McCormick High School Principal Steve English says the partnership with PTC, started in 2013, is a product of necessity and innovation for a rural school facing dwindling resources. "We had lost a lot of our career path courses because we didn't have the student numbers to support it," he explained. "Now we can offer them machine tool, mechatronics, welding, first responder and commercial art taught by college professors. PTC has offered anything we want as long as I can get my students up there. That has been a game-changer for us."

In general, Dual Enrollment (DE) is a concept in which students can take college courses while still in high school. This affords many high schoolers a taste of college-level academics so they can gain confidence that they can indeed succeed in college. It helps many test the waters in various subjects to help determine the career path they ultimately want to pursue. "Middle college" could be described as dual enrollment on steroids,

because participants can complete enough credited college courses to earn an associate degree along with their high school diploma. Those credits can transfer to a four-year college or equip them with the skill set they need to enter the workforce immediately and earn a good living.

"We really push students hard during the freshmen and sophomore years because we want them to have enough credits so they can spend their 11th and 12th grade years doing something that really interests them," English explained. "Last year, more than 20% of our students graduated with an associate degree."

PTC Dual Enrollment Director Tameika Wideman got her start in higher education as a dual enrollment student herself.

"Our Dual Enrollment Program has a wide range of options for every student, from those with plans for advanced degrees after high school to those wanting to learn skills or earn a credential that they can use immediately after high school," Wideman said. "We have engaged, committed instructors and have a support team in place that helps facilitate success for motivated students, and we offer these services at a fraction of the cost elsewhere."

Dual Enrollment programs are responsible for establishing a high school-to-college pipeline that benefits countless young people.

"The students are very interested in the DE classes," said Dr. Beth Taylor, director of secondary education for Greenwood School District 50. "I think they really appreciate the variety of opportunities that PTC offers. ... It's really part of our culture now, almost an expectation at this point. It's like there are no barriers anymore." ■



Counselors from McCormick High School tour the O'Dell Center in Greenwood

## DUAL ENROLLMENT "BY THE NUMBERS"



**6 MINIMUM  
CREDIT HOURS**  
Needed to Receive  
Free Tuition

**\$150**

**SAVINGS** per Credit  
Hour Provided to Those  
who Qualify for Free Tuition



**20+  
NUMBER  
OF  
SCHOOLS**

Partnering with PTC on Dual Enrollment



**18%**

**PERCENTAGE** of PTC Students  
Who are Dual Enrollment Scholars



**PERCENTAGE** of  
Dual Enrollment Students  
at McCormick High  
School Who Graduate  
with an Associate Degree  
from PTC (2020 Data)



**881 NUMBER  
OF DUAL  
ENROLLMENT  
STUDENTS**  
enrolled in Fall 2020

**\$414,368**

Total Saved by Fall 2020  
Dual Enrollment Students



## Success Stories

# DUAL ENROLLMENT IS QUIETLY CREATING LEADERS

LEADERS

## Ashley Smith

**Years ago, McCormick school officials saw something promising right away in seventh-grade honors student Ashley Smith and groomed her for opportunities to come.**

"They put me on a track for Dual Enrollment so I could be ready for it when the time came," she said.

Ashley's older sister had successfully completed Dual Enrollment courses, so Ashley — who participates in the National Honor Society and her school's Beta Club — was excited about the prospect. "My parents already knew I was interested. They were completely on board."

The first Dual Enrollment courses she enrolled in were English and history. Although she is a confident young woman, Ashley found herself wrestling with some initial anxiety.

"The night before my first class, I didn't really sleep," she said. "I was very nervous, but when I met my instructors, it calmed me down." They were completely approachable and down to earth, welcoming any questions she might have.

Because of her experience with Piedmont Tech, Ashley would be a good candidate for the Transfer Program. She ultimately hopes to work in the marketing field some day.

"I want to go to a four-year university and study business management," she said.



## Madalyn Harris



**A medical condition requiring heart surgery when she was in eighth grade led Madalyn Harris to pursue a degree in PTC's Cardiovascular Technology (CVT) Program. As a Dual Enrollment student, she is participating in the college's Career Quick Start Program with a health care concentration.**

At Ninety Six High School, Madalyn is a cheerleader active in the National Honor Society and school government. "My life is always on the fast-track," she said, adding that when she saw students at her high

school obtaining their associate degree before graduating high school, she knew Dual Enrollment was what she wanted to do.

"In the fall of 2021, I plan to enroll in the CVT Program at Piedmont Tech," she said. Last year, Madalyn was able to shadow some students in Instructor Laura Boone's classes. "It was amazing. I fell in love with the program."

Madalyn already has a vision beyond receiving her degree.

"Once I go to work at the hospital, I hope to go through a program that will pay me to go back to school. I would like to earn a bachelor's in health care administration," she said. "I want to work in a leadership position, because leadership is one of my passions. I also would love to teach."



# PTC AUTO TECH PROGRAM COMBINES NEW- AND OLD-SCHOOL SKILL SETS

It's true that auto shop work these days requires familiarity with computers, but today's automotive technicians and mechanics still rely heavily on wrenches, pliers, socket adapters and other old-fashioned tools to get their work done. As much as things change, they also stay the same.

"Our Electude online simulation program is popular and effective with our students because it's a familiar, game-based learning format," said PTC Automotive Technology Program Director Gerald Sartin. "But easily 75% of our students are still using hand tools, and that component remains important."



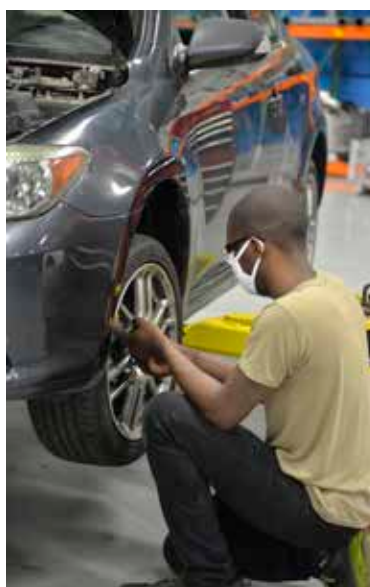
**PTC Automotive  
Technology Program  
Director Gerald Sartin**

Sartin explained that lay people often believe that technicians these days working to repair their cars have only to hook their vehicle up to some computer, and it will tell them what is wrong or even do the repair. It doesn't work that way.

"The computer tells us only what the computer sees, but it doesn't indicate what is wrong," he said. "Technicians still have to go in and diagnose the problem." They must use their knowledge and experience to think analytically and come to logical conclusions. They have to interpret the information at hand and devise a repair that usually includes use of, you guessed it, hand tools.

Even Electude, a computer simulation software, was fashioned in such a way as to incorporate as many real-world elements as possible. "With Electude, especially during Covid with hybrid classes, we wanted to find better ways to record tasks that are completed online," Sartin explained. "The online document was designed in a Work Order format just like what technicians would see in a shop or at a dealership."

Electude has enabled the Automotive Technology Program to go virtually paperless insofar as textbooks are concerned, which saved students



**PTC Auto Tech Instructor  
Bill King with Perkins  
Engine Trainer**

significant costs. However, they still have to purchase their tools. Plus, hands-on lab time in the shop is indispensable.

"When I came here six years ago and students had to pay for their textbooks, it came to about \$400," Sartin said. "And the textbooks needed to be updated often, because automotive technology changes often."

As technologies change, so do lifestyles. One thing that is unique about PTC's program is that the entire curriculum is available for students who wish to attend classes solely at night. And because of the program's compact structure, they



can earn their degree faster than at other colleges in the region.

"We require fewer credit hours for the same degree," Sartin said. "They are not being shortcut in any way. We consolidate all of the same content into the credits we require. Students will have to go to school longer elsewhere for the same degree. ... And I don't know of any other college close to us that has a full degree program at night." For working people eager to quickly ramp up their careers, that convenience is hard to beat. ■

**To learn more about PTC's Automotive Technology Program, go to [www.ptc.edu/automotive](http://www.ptc.edu/automotive).**



# NURSING DEAN'S FORMER STUDENTS CARE FOR HER FATHER IN ICU

When Tara Gonce, former nursing program director and current dean of health care at Piedmont Technical College, learned that her father was being admitted to the ICU and put on a ventilator for the treatment of his COVID-19, the news came with an unanticipated silver lining.

Over the ensuing 14 days last December, Gonce began to see some familiar faces around the Intensive Care Unit at Self Regional Healthcare. Several members of her father's hospital care team were PTC graduates she had either taught herself or who were health care students while she served as dean. She was gratified to witness their skill, professionalism and, ultimately, compassion on the job.

**Gonce today celebrates her father's recovery and reflects on the expert care he received from some of her own students.**

"In addition to the clinical knowledge and skills, we teach our students to be aware of the family dynamics and how it's not just about the patient," Gonce said. "Everything they do impacts a wide circle of people, some of whom may be anxious or even afraid. They may need attention just as the patient needs attention, even if it's as simple as offering words of comfort and reassurance."

Mark Ashley, a former nursing student of Gonce's who graduated in 2012, demonstrated calm competence tempered with compassion on the job.

"Mark remembered me," Gonce said. "He said it was kind of weird talking to me in this capacity. He was really knowledgeable about everything. I was so proud of him. I have the nursing knowledge, but the rest of the family does not. He went through details of all the medications my dad was on and explained how the ventilator works to my kids. He really put my family at ease. He did a phenomenal job."

Another PTC graduate, Dorothy Tellin, who majored in respiratory care, also provided care to Gonce's father. "I would see her name on the program notes, so I knew she took care of him a couple of times."

It was a stressful two weeks during which Gonce and many family members also contracted the virus. Fortunately, they all had milder cases and did not require hospitalization.

Gonce's father, Denny Burroughs, pulled through and was well enough to go home on Dec. 23, just in time for Christmas.



A Burroughs/Gonce family photo

"I remember bits and pieces," Burroughs said, "but I do remember a number of people who cared for me. I was fully conscious by then, and everyone I came into contact with was highly professional and super nice. I am thankful that Greenwood has Self Regional Healthcare."

As he continues to recover, Burroughs tries to do more every day. He still gets a little short-winded but is recovering quickly.

Gonce today celebrates her father's recovery and reflects on the expert care he received from some of her own students.

"You get new perspective when the patient is one of your close family members," she said. "It was so nice to see that our graduates are out there fighting on the front lines. The care dad received was really excellent. It was just unbelievable." ■

**"In addition to the clinical knowledge and skills, we teach our students to be aware of the family dynamics and how it's not just about the patient." -Tara Gonce**



Jo Ann and Denny Burroughs





# COLLEGE SHADOWS EARLY EDUCATION MAJOR **THROUGH** **FIELD PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE**

*Last fall, we shadowed Early Care and Education major Caroline Falls as she navigated her student teaching field experience at Hodges Elementary School. Here's a synopsis of her experience.*

## 'Made for the Classroom'

It was the first day of first grade for Caroline Falls. She quickly reviewed her checklist: Hand sanitizer, check. Crayons, check.

The eager 20-year-old Piedmont Technical College Early Care and Education major was truly stoked to begin her formal field experience at Hodges Elementary School on August 24, 2020. Any first-day nerves she may have harbored evaporated the moment she met her supervising teacher.

"My teacher, Kimber Burrell, is absolutely amazing," the Abbeville resident said. "I walked into her classroom, and she could not be more welcoming. I just felt like I fit in right away.

The first week left Falls in awe of Burrell, who made the simple act of reading to children magical. Falls was delighted when given the opportunity to read to the children herself.

"The kids were constantly asking questions. Not a single child didn't raise their hand," she said. "You

never know what will come out of their mouths because of their vivid imaginations."

## Affirmations

As Burrell's first-grade class eased into an affable routine, they studied the "Number of the Day," had reading time, and sang songs. Every day, the youngsters learned words of affirmation to help instill self-confidence and reinforce the importance of being kind.

"We have them tell themselves 'I am proud. I am great. I am kind.' We do that every day," Falls said. "I struggle with confidence myself. Those words mean a lot to me. I believe those words speak to the kids."

Burrell was impressed from the beginning. "Caroline came in just ready to go," she said. "She wasn't going to be the student who sits in the back of the classroom. She worked in here on the very first day of school. She was made for the classroom."

Though she is only 20, Falls felt the weight of every single cell in her body at the end of one day teaching without Burrell. "Ms. Burrell was out one day, and the substitute told me I should go ahead and lead the class. It was eye-opening, overwhelming even, because the kids are constantly having to be occupied and engaged. I had to constantly remind them to stay on task. ... After just three hours leading the class, I was exhausted. It made me have even more respect for Ms. Burrell. She makes it look easy."

## A Little Sunshine

Falls' last day in the classroom was Nov. 20. The students made cards for her and presented small



*Caroline Falls with Kimber Burrell, her supervising teacher at Hodges Elementary School*

gifts. "We have a song that we sing just about every day. It's called 'Spread a Little Sunshine.' The whole class had a shirt made that says 'Spread a Little Sunshine' on it," Falls recalled. "And I started bawling!"

In May 2021, when Falls completes her associate degree, she plans to transfer to Lander University and work on a bachelor's in education.

To read the full account of Falls' experiences, go to [www.ptc.edu](http://www.ptc.edu), scroll down and click on "Stories." ■



*Student teacher Caroline Falls displays her timeline project for the class*



# PTC GRADUATE EXEMPLIFIES THE 'HUMAN' IN HUMAN SERVICES

Shandra Aiken Martin was the kind of school bus driver most parents would want their children to ride with. If they sneezed, she said "bless you" and offered a tissue. If they hung their head, she asked what was wrong and took the time to really listen. That kind and intuitive nature suited her well for work in the human services profession, so she took the plunge.

Martin graduated from Piedmont Technical College (PTC) with an associate in applied science, human services major, last spring. Because she wanted to help other students comfortably transition into college life, she served as a Presidential Ambassador at PTC, representing the college at events and inspirational speaking opportunities. She now shares her talents and natural empathy with families navigating challenges in their immediate circumstances at the Laurens County Department of Social Services (DSS), where she works as a foster care case manager assistant.



**Shandra Martin**

"I love the job because I have always loved working with children," Martin said. "I was a school bus driver for about seven years." She is dismayed, however, by the reasons many

children end up in foster care. Very soon after she started with DSS, the 45-year-old mother of two came across a case file that she found deeply disturbing.

The first page of the extremely thick file was a forensic exam record related to a child abuse case.

"I had to take a moment," she recalled. "You hear about stuff like that, but when you see it for yourself for the very first time, it hits you hard. You have to toughen up. This is part of the job."

Martin soldiered on, focusing on making sure that any children in DSS care were made as comfortable as possible. Some become withdrawn due to trauma in their lives. "I could tell when something was wrong," she said. "I learned that from being a school bus driver. I do my best to offer them the support they need."

In her position, Martin is responsible for a variety of practical tasks, from requesting medical or school records to obtaining birth certificates for children coming into DSS custody. Sometimes she is called upon to transport children to supervised visits.

Aside from her experience as a school bus driver, Martin is quick to point out that her education at PTC was instrumental in preparing her for every aspect of her job, both the joys and the difficulties.

"Piedmont Tech definitely prepared me for this position," she said. "My instructors each were like a mentor, a parent and an instructor all wrapped into one. ... During my time at PTC, I was working two jobs and being a full-time mother. There were times I thought I had too much going on, but I received so much support at Piedmont Tech that I was able to succeed."

While working at DSS, Martin enrolled at Limestone University, where she is working on a bachelor's degree.

"I hope to be a social worker one day," she said. "I'm not sure if I will stay in the DSS agency. I do miss the school system." Wherever she ultimately ends up, Martin is sure to exemplify the "human" in human services. ■

**To learn more about PTC's Human Services Program, visit [www.ptc.edu/hus](http://www.ptc.edu/hus).**

## PIEDMONT TECH PLANNING FOR IN-PERSON SEMESTER THIS FALL

**Piedmont Technical College is planning for a return to in-person classes for the upcoming Fall 2021 semester. While the college will continue to offer hybrid and online classes for those who prefer the flexibility these options provide, students will have a wide variety of face-to-face options across all programs. Fall registration began on April 1.**

"This is really good news, especially for students who prefer face-to-face classes," said PTC President Dr. Hope E. Rivers. "As we continue to monitor the Covid-19 pandemic, the trend lines are encouraging, and we are expecting to see vaccines become widely available as this year progresses. We expect to be in a much more 'normal' situation this Fall, as experts continue to indicate."

Dr. Keli Fewox, PTC vice president for academic affairs, noted that the expedited changes in course format that were prompted during the crisis

came with valuable lessons for the college, primary among them the importance of continuing to maximize flexibility for students in any range of circumstances.

"While we are getting back to more widely available face-to-face instruction, we learned a lot about being nimble in our course delivery," she said. "At Piedmont Tech, it has always been a priority to schedule our courses to make attendance possible for students with busy schedules so they can fit a college education in between jobs, parenting and other life responsibilities."

In an abundance of caution, the college will continue to implement its existing Centers for Disease Control (CDC) safety guidelines, including the requirement that everyone on any PTC campus properly wear face coverings and maintain social distancing wherever possible.

"With the increasing availability of vaccinations, we anticipate a lowering of infection risk throughout the summer," Dr. Rivers said. "But we also recognize the need to closely monitor any additional spread of the COVID-19 virus and its variants. This is certainly no time for complacency. If we are to truly prevail over this pandemic, everyone must do their part by getting vaccinated when eligible and protecting those around them by continuing to wear a mask." ■



# 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 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](http://www.ptc.edu) to find out how to enroll in classes. Call the Admissions Office at (855) 446-3864 for answers to your questions. ■



## 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.

### University Studies Certificate

This certificate is designed to allow students to transfer to a senior institution after two semesters and a minimum of thirty (30) transferable credit hours.

### 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](http://www.ptc.edu/transfer).



## 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.

### 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**  
Turfgrass Management Certificate  
Landscape Management Certificate  
Landscape Design and Installation Certificate  
Greenhouse Management Certificate

**South Carolina Mean Salaries**  
Agricultural Inspector - \$45,490  
Agricultural Technician - \$31,950  
Nursery Operator - \$25,440



## 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 indispensable 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.

### 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 Administration

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

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

**South Carolina Mean Salaries**  
Tax Preparer - \$43,080  
Medical Transcriptionist - \$35,180







## 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

#### Cybersecurity Certificate

#### Certified IT Professional Certificate



## 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.

### Precision Metrology Certificate

The Precision Metrology certificate is designed to upgrade or refresh skills for people familiar with measuring systems required in Advanced Manufacturing industries. Working with tolerances on the order of millionths of an inch, Quality Control Inspectors require the knowledge to operate highly sophisticated inspection equipment such as optical comparators, profilometers and CMM (Coordinate Measuring Machine) systems.



## 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.

### 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 Design 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 Design 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

#### South Carolina Mean Salaries

Electrical and Electronics

Drafter - \$62,130

Electronic Engineering

Technician - \$65,520

Mechanical Engineering

Technician - \$58,000



## ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

### Engineering Bachelor's Degree Options

Agreements have been developed to provide options for transfer into three bachelor's degree programs: The USC Electrical Engineering or Mechanical Engineering programs; SCSU's bachelor of science in Electrical Engineering Technology (BSEET) degree or the bachelor of science in Mechanical Engineering Technology (BSMET) degree programs; and USC Upstate's Engineering Technology Management B.S. program.



## 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.

### 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

#### HVACR Installers 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

### 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

#### Electrical Maintenance Technician 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

#### South Carolina Mean Salaries

Automotive Technician - \$41,480

Carpenter - \$46,780

HVAC Technician - \$45,160

Electronics Technician - \$61,900

CNC Machine Tool

Operator - \$44,010

Welder - \$43,260







## HEALTH CARE

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**

**Paramedic 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 licensure exam by the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina, graduates can seek employment as licensed registered nurses or licensed practical nurses, depending on their program of study.

**A.A.S., Major in Nursing**

**D.A.S., Major in Practical Nursing**

**LPN to ADN Nursing Transition Option**

### Occupational Therapy Assistant

As only one of three two-year programs of its kind in South Carolina, Piedmont Technical College's Occupational Therapy Assistant 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**

### 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, RNs 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**

#### South Carolina Mean Salaries

Cardiovascular Technologist

- \$58,880

Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)

- \$42,190

Pharmacy Technician - \$32,660

Radiologic Technologist - \$54,840

Respiratory Therapist - \$56,740

Registered Nurse (RN) - \$64,840

Veterinary Technologist - \$33,410



## PUBLIC SERVICE

Students interested in a career in Public Service may choose majors in Criminal Justice 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**

### 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 Director's Certificate**

**Embalmer's Certificate**

### Human Services

The program prepares students to work in diverse settings such as group homes; correctional, special needs 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**

#### South Carolina Mean Salaries

Police Officer - \$43,520

Preschool or Daycare

Administrator - \$44,780

Preschool Teacher - \$28,380

Funeral Home Managers - \$70,610

Human Services Assistant - \$31,700



## 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 Care.

A.A.S. = Associate in Applied Science

D.A.S. = Diploma in Applied Science

Source: May 2019, Occupational Outlook Handbook,  
[https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_sc.htm#21-0000](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_sc.htm#21-0000)





# EXPECT MORE

Quality.  
Flexibility.  
Affordability.

**Choosing the right college is an important decision. And we know you have certain expectations. You don't need to lower those expectations to work toward the career you want at an affordable cost.**

Maybe you're paying for college out of your own pocket, and you want to save on the first two years of your bachelor's degree. Maybe you're interested in entering the workforce quickly, but you're unsure of the direction you should take. Whatever questions you have, Piedmont Technical College can help you find the path to a successful future.

**DON'T LET ANYTHING HOLD YOU BACK FROM FOLLOWING YOUR DREAMS. EXPECT MORE.**

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