OUR MISSION STATEMENT

VISION We will become a premier community college with a shared commitment to create vibrant learning communities through relentless pursuit of student success and economic prosperity for all stakeholders.

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 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 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.

WE ARE GUIDED BY THE PRACTICE OF THESE CORE VALUES:

- Proactive Leadership and Innovation
- Integrity, Accountability, and Transparency
- Collaboration and Collegiality
- Inclusivity, Diversity, & Accessibility
- Student Success and Customer Service
- Awareness of and Responsiveness to Emerging Trends
- Entrepreneurship and Workforce Development
- Lifelong Learning and Community Improvement
- Data-informed Decision Making
- The Ongoing Pursuit of Excellence
- Commitment to Lean Principles
“Extraordinary times called for extraordinary teamwork, and every single member of the PTC community stepped up these past two years...”

Extraordinary times called for extraordinary teamwork, and every single member of the PTC community stepped up these past two years to keep the college not only operating but performing admirably during the upheavals and challenges of a historic global pandemic.

There were no individual “heroes” because everyone worked together harmoniously — and creatively — to solve problems and reinforce our focus on the college’s mission to transform lives and strengthen communities.

By the time I came on board in January 2021, a virtual operations infrastructure at PTC had been up and running smoothly for months. This put us in good stead to further explore and expand business relationships that are critical to continued growth and prosperity in the region. PTC was able to embark on or extend training partnerships with Teijin in Greenwood, Generac in Edgefield County, the City of Abbeville, and more. In addition, we partnered with Self Regional Healthcare on a COVID-19 awareness campaign and a series of vaccine clinics as well as joined SC Works Upper Savannah Region in hosting multiple job fairs.

In my first months as president of PTC, I had the privilege to meet community leaders from every county we serve to discuss potential needs, initiatives, and alliances. From them, I learned that community pride is high, and they are committed to supporting our mission because they understand the interdependent connections among education, workforce, and economic development.

As I told our spring 2021 graduates attending our first in-person commencement in more than a year, progress is a process. Each seemingly routine stepping stone leads us to a milestone. And then another. And another.

And so here we are, better than ever. Stronger together.

Dr. Hope E. Rivers
President, Piedmont Technical College
Value can be found in the extra one-on-one time an instructor takes to review a challenging lesson. Value can be found in graduating from college with zero debt. Value can be found in the gold tassel worn by the honor graduates at commencement.

Value can be found all around PTC. Every. Single. Day.
Value also can be found in bricks and mortar, in the latest equipment, in grand showplaces that celebrate progress and innovation. One such place is the 45,000-square-foot William H. “Billy” O’Dell Upstate Center for Manufacturing Excellence, which officially opened in summer 2021 in a ribbon-cutting ceremony that doubled as a retirement send-off for former PTC President Dr. L. Ray Brooks.

From a rough floor plan originally sketched on a 12-inch-by-12-inch piece of cardboard to 6,480,000 inches of steel, concrete, and glass structure housing state-of-the-art equipment used in advanced manufacturing, the O’Dell Center emerged from a calculated journey over some 13 years — or 6,832,800 minutes — of measured leadership from Dr. Brooks. So it was only fitting that about 200 guests at his combined retirement ceremony and the Center’s ribbon-cutting on June 4, 2021, each received a commemorative measuring tape to mark the occasion.

For Dr. Brooks, no measurement of progress is insignificant. Of course, nearly 6.5 million square inches is more easily expressed as 45,000 square feet, the common caliper indicating size in the construction industry. That’s what you will find in the building’s official schematics, but those diagrams can’t convey the relationships, conversations, negotiations, and determination over the years that brought everything to fruition.

Dignitaries in attendance included members of Sen. O’Dell’s immediate family, Bill Hollingsworth, representing the family of Ed and Elizabeth Moss, who donated the land upon which the Center was built, members of the PTC Area Commission and the PTC Foundation Board, members of the Greenwood County Council, Dr. Tim Hardee, president of the SC Technical College System, SC Sens. Mike Gambrell and Floyd Nicholson.

In his remarks at the event, Dr. Hardee recalled Dr. Brooks’ arrival on the higher education scene in South Carolina.

“He was loud. He had lots of energy, and he believed in getting things done TODAY!” Hardee said. “The trait that I think best describes Dr. Brooks is his belief that students come first. Thousands of lives were improved because of his work here. … His wisdom, his innovation, his drive made our other 15 technical colleges better. Our presidents always listened to Ray when he spoke. The entire System is better because of the influence he had.”

“This is truly a historic day that represents the culmination of a great vision and celebrates the career of its brilliant visionary,” Dr. Rivers said. “This exceptional facility will be forever linked not only to the longtime advocacy of the late Sen. Billy O’Dell but also to Dr. L. Ray Brooks and his leadership at Piedmont Technical College.”
In the high-stakes relay race that is higher education, Dr. Brooks handed off the baton to PTC’s new president, Dr. Hope E. Rivers, who has capably carried forward his vision and enhanced it with fresh new ideas and collaborations of her own design.

Perhaps the biggest announcement of Dr. River’s administration to date also involves capital improvement — a $6.8 million project to renovate and expand PTC’s health care facilities on the Greenwood campus. As the leading educator of healthcare workers in the region, PTC is well-known for educating a large number of nurses, but its Healthcare Division every year trains some 350 students in fields across the healthcare service spectrum, including surgical technology, medical assisting, cardiovascular technology, and respiratory care.

The project will include renovations to approximately 24,000 square feet of existing space devoted to training healthcare workers as well as construction of a new two-story 12,100 square foot structure.

“On behalf of the entire Self Regional Healthcare organization, I’d like to congratulate Piedmont Technical College on this exciting news about funding for expanding its healthcare education facilities,” said James A. Pfeiffer, president and CEO of Self Regional Healthcare. “This funding, and the renovations that will result from it, will make an already strong program even stronger. It’s vital to the health and wellbeing of our community that we have a pipeline of well-trained and high-quality healthcare talent right here in the Lakelands, and we are so grateful for partners like Piedmont Tech working hard to see that this need is met.”

“On behalf of the Greenwood delegation, it is our pleasure to help in this worthwhile project,” said Sen. Mike Gambrell. “This will help our Greenwood Community for generations to come.”

“We are very excited to hear the news of the expanding healthcare education facilities at Piedmont Technical College. As a partner with Prisma Health in developing the future healthcare workforce, we are proud of Piedmont Technical College for taking this step to expand and proactively address the growing challenges of resourcing healthcare,” said Justin Benfield, CEO of Prisma Health-Laurens County Hospital. “This expansion will bring additional highly qualified talent to our area, providing improved local access to quality healthcare. We look forward to the continued successes of Piedmont Technical College and our partnership.”

“It is our Delegation’s intention to continue to support the most important work of Piedmont Tech in our region,” said Sen. Billy Garrett. “We shall continue the hard work and legacy of the late Senator Billy O’Dell.”

“This is great news for Greenwood and our state,” said Rep. John McCravy. “The shortage of healthcare workers is real, and this will strengthen both our systems and numbers. The tradition of great leadership and vision is continuing at PTC.”

“This is yet another significant advancement for Piedmont Tech in their mission to provide workforce training for the Lakelands area,” said Chuck Moates, chairman of Greenwood County Council. “Greenwood County is proud to be a contributing partner in this endeavor.”

Pre-construction preparation work is currently underway.
High school juniors and seniors who have graduated from PTC before they finished high school (some with an associate degree) definitely found value in our Dual Enrollment Program. Best feature — it’s free!

PTC partners with more than 20 area schools, and 18% of PTC students are dual-enrolled, enjoying college-level course experience and acquiring college credit early on. Since making the dual enrollment program tuition-free, PTC has seen a surge in high school students looking to get a head start on their career pathways. In total, the college has nearly 900 dual-enrolled students in classes across its seven-county service area. These students get hands-on experience and learn about careers as well as transfer opportunities to four-year institutions.

In addition to conventional dual enrollment options, PTC offers 10 Career Quick Start programs available to high schoolers in their junior and senior years. Available career pathways include automotive technology, computer technology, criminal justice, HVAC, mechatronics, and more. Each program is part of a career pathway that can lead to a certificate, diploma, or associate degree, depending on the subject area.

Under this umbrella, two years ago PTC established the Healthcare Quick Start option for high school juniors who are leaning toward a healthcare field of study in college but are undecided on specialty. These students can complete core courses that qualify them for entry into a healthcare degree program of their choice by the time they graduate from high school.

“The Healthcare Quick Start option was introduced a few years ago and is designed for high school juniors who are leaning toward a healthcare field of study in college,” PTC Healthcare Dean Tara Gonce explained. “It’s a way to cover some core courses that prepare them for entry into a healthcare degree program of their choice by the time they graduate from high school.”

Each cohort participates in an evening orientation that is held for students and their parents. The event includes a Healthcare Program Fair with displays and faculty contacts available to answer questions about the various choices available in healthcare degrees and certifications offered at PTC.

Madalyn Harris went through the program and has now enrolled in PTC’s Cardiovascular Technology Program. “The Healthcare Quick Start Program is the perfect major for dual enrollment students who want to get their prerequisites out of the way and be program-ready,” Harris said. “I chose this major so I could apply for the CVT Program as soon as I graduate from high school.”

Gonce says she certainly hopes that students who complete the program enroll at PTC, but even if they choose a different path, the program is intended to help them advance in any college environment.

“Our goal is to pull them into our program,” she said. “But it’s also to get them the credits they need towards a healthcare degree wherever they go.”
Machine Tool Technology Instructor Phillip Calhoun can barely contain his excitement about the dual enrollment students in his class this fall at the PTC Center for Advanced Manufacturing in Laurens. The high schoolers from Clinton and Laurens wrote computer code for a program within their first week in class.

“I am ecstatic about the potential in this room,” Calhoun said. “They are probably the best dual enrollment group I have had in a long while.”

As Calhoun poses review questions to the students during the morning classroom portion of their day, the students respond readily with answers. The more they answer correctly, he smiles and says, “Alright, you’re all cooking now.”

Calhoun’s class is what he calls a “blended” class in which dual enrollment students and traditional college students take classes together. At a dry-erase board, Calhoun goes over formula computations that will guide the program.

“Make sure you do your math correctly,” he tells the students. “The math in machine tool is not hard. It’s basic, simple math.”

The Machine Tool Technology Program at PTC offers degrees and certificates qualifying program graduates for a multitude of jobs in advanced manufacturing. Students learn how to work with blueprints and computer-aided design files, how to align and adjust cutting tools, how to test finished work for quality and precision, and how to develop programs to control machining of metal or plastic parts.

Dual enrollment student Colby Bridges of Laurens High School chose machine tool because his brother works in a job that requires machine tool skills.

“He makes pretty good money,” Bridges said, “and I have always liked working on mechanical things.”

When asked if he was at all intimidated by the college course or found it particularly difficult, Bridges shook his head. “It’s just practice. It’s just repetition,” he said. “And Mr. Calhoun, he’s pretty fun.”

Bridges’ classmate at Laurens High School, Brandon Matthews, agreed.

“I think this should be a good career path for me,” he said, “and I enjoy it.”

Calhoun continues to be impressed by the abilities of his dual enrollment students. “By the time we get to midterms, they will be able to pretty much run their own jobs,” he said.

For more information about Career Quick Start programs, visit www.ptc.edu/quickstart.
PTC returned to in-person classes during the fall 2021 term and continues to offer virtual and hybrid course options so that all students can attend class and study in the comfort of their preferred environment. With course delivery options covered, the college continued its ongoing practice of gauging the workforce environment through relationships with business and industry partners. Their current and anticipated needs direct the evolution of all workforce programs offered at PTC.
year, other forms of costly cybercrime have come to light. There were an estimated 65,000 ransomware attacks last year in the United States. Data breaches also may be enabled by stolen credentials obtained through phishing and malware attacks. In addition to the immediate financial cost of such breaches, there are pass-along costs that include loss of productivity, legal action brought by affected customers, a tarnished business reputation, and the costs of new security resources and training.

In response to an uptick in cybersecurity incidents, PTC added its Cybersecurity curriculum in 2017. Shortly before that, the Georgia Cyber Center in Augusta was established. The Center is a sprawling cybersecurity education, training, collaboration, research and development facility where soon PTC students will have an opportunity to visit after Covid restrictions have been lifted.

“I think one reason our leadership really drove us to create this program was because of the big center in Georgia,” Coronica Oliver, program director for computer technology at PTC, said. “Cybersecurity today is a major concern of any industry. In the past, there was a lack of security measures. No one thought about it. Then Covid happened, and more people were online, and they got hacked. Zoom had to add security features because of that.

“Sometimes people don’t think about it until something happens.”

Historical perspective provides insights to system weaknesses today.

“At first, many years ago, security was linked with physical access. If you could physically get your hands on a computer or networking device, you would have free reign to do anything,” PTC Computer Technology Instructor Henry Ecker explained. “If you could restrict access to the hardware, you were protected. Things changed when computers got more networked and data became more portable.”

The profile of cybersecurity training has expanded significantly in recent years, yet some companies actually choose to be less secure simply to make life easier. Ecker says companies actually do cost analyses to justify less-intrusive policies.

“The more secure something is, the more annoying it is to use,” he said. “Sometimes we risk security in favor of increased accessibility and convenience.” Nonetheless, cybersecurity professionals are more necessary than ever in order to keep up with new strategies by bad actors and maintain a balanced infrastructure for information security.

In the wake of increasing global cybercrime and related concerns voiced by our regional partners, PTC’s Computer Technology Program began offering a Cybersecurity Certificate as well as an Associate in Applied Science degree with Cybersecurity Concentration. Our cybersecurity curriculum is teaching the future computer technology workforce to combat ransomware or malware types of system attacks and more.

Manipulating our human tendency to trust, cyber-criminals use all manner of social engineering tactics to gain access to information systems and wreak havoc that costs businesses an estimated $1.7 billion annually through creatively compromised emails alone. Most recently, in the wake of the Colonial Pipeline ransomware attack earlier this
“Good EETs are people who like gadgets and are good with computers,” Jason White, EET instructor at Piedmont Technical College (PTC) said. “You need to consistently want to take things apart and find out how they work. We need people who want to know what’s happening inside the little black box.”

After completing the program, EET graduates may be qualified for positions such as engineering technician, maintenance technician, electrician, electrical tester, product designer and cable technician. Advancement is possible with experience and continuing education.

“The bulk of our graduates will wind up working in the industrial sector, in manufacturing, helping design and maintain mechatronic and electrical/mechanical systems and things of that nature,” White said. “An EET may be editing programmable logic controllers (PLCs) or designing new systems for the manufacturing process.”

One student who appreciates that access is Joseph Pinkard of Abbeville. He’s participated in a summer internship at Greenwood CPW, which has offered him a part-time position with an eye toward permanent employment.

“What I have enjoyed the most at PTC is the programming side and robotics,” he said. “That has been so much fun!” With a strong background in information technology going into the program, Pinkard already understood computer programs and how software works. “Nothing works without power,” he noted. “That is why I got interested in the EET Program, especially the electronic part.”

Pinkard offered high praise for instructors White and Maulik Patel, citing their ability to relate complex concepts in ways that he could understand.

“Jason and Maulik are fantastic. They are really doing a good job,” he said. “I had never done anything in electronic engineering before. It was like rocket science to me. I was coming in blind. They have done a great job explaining things. And, of course, at PTC you get the hands-on experiences. It’s really helpful.”

For those who want to earn a bachelor’s degree in electronic engineering or mechanical engineering, PTC has signed articulation agreements with SC State University and University of South Carolina Upstate that facilitate work toward that goal.

“Our students can actually earn their bachelor’s degree right here on our campus,” White said. “That’s pretty big.”
The system has allowed the program to go virtually paperless, saving students nearly $400 in textbook costs.

“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.”

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 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.”

EMPLOYERS REPORT THAT ESSENTIAL COMPUTER SKILLS ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS OLD-SCHOOL PROFICIENCIES

One of the most attractive features of the program is its availability for students who work during the day and wish to attend classes exclusively at night. PTC offers a full-degree program at night. And because of the program’s compact structure, students 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.

In the constantly changing field of automotive technology, employers report that essential computer skills are just as important as old-school proficiencies. And PTC’s nationally recognized Automotive Technology Program has rolled with the changes by incorporating Electude, a hybrid computer simulation tool that is attractive to students because it uses game-based technology to engage and inspire learners.
PTC recently welcomed a new catheterization simulator affectionally named “Keanu” by Cardiovascular Technology Program students. Contained in the body of a high-tech mannequin, the simulator enables students to conduct procedures as closely as can be approximated to the real world setting as possible. The equipment gives students the opportunity to do interventions before they venture into the clinical setting.

“I like for each class to name the mannequin,” Cardiovascular Technology (CVT) Invasive Program Instructor Lena Scott said. “This semester, it was ‘Keanu.’ We also have another, ordinary lab mannequin, we call ‘Geri.’”

Scott says Keanu looks very much like an actual patient in front of the operator, and images of the procedure in progress - such as a coronary intravascular ultrasound or the implantation of a stent - appear on a computer screen.

“Each student has their own profile on the simulator,” Scott explained, “and I can track what they are doing. They log in and complete cases each day when they are here.”

“The simulator is great. It gives you an idea of what to expect and the process to expect,” PTC student Jacob Childress said. “It also gives you the foundation of what to expect for the angiograms. It will show different angulations and what to expect when it is done in the Cath Lab. Previously this would not have been possible; it would have just been pictures. This has been a great help identifying lesions during procedures at the hospital.”

As a former clinician herself with many years of experience in practice, Scott says the simulator is as authentic as it can be.

“I think it’s a great simulation of what to expect when you actually get in the clinical setting,” she said. “I think to have the patient in front of you is the biggest factor in that.”

...THE SIMULATOR ENABLES STUDENTS TO CONDUCT PROCEDURES AS CLOSELY AS CAN BE APPROXIMATED TO THE REAL WORLD SETTING AS POSSIBLE

Scott says her students love the simulator and would much rather be working on the simulator than sitting in a lecture.

“They are grateful for the opportunity to do interventions before they go out into the clinical setting,” she said. “In addition, the simulator communicates radiation levels. That’s important because we can’t ‘see’ radiation. It helps us teach about radiation safety.”

“The Cath simulator has been a great tool to learn about the projections, the coronaries under fluoroscopy and the process to expect in the Cath Lab,” Childress added.
FIRST RESPONDERS AT THE READY

As our industry partners broadcast the intensifying need for first responders in a number of disciplines, PTC doubled down on its commitment to grow its emergency medical technician and paramedic programs. The college also responded to related workforce shortages by creating two new programs in the first responder spectrum.
In 2021, PTC teamed up other technical colleges in the state to partner with the SC Criminal Justice Academy to establish a new career pathway in law enforcement — the Police Pre-Academy Training Certificate, a 14-week program. Candidates who apply for the program learn basic introductory law enforcement tactics and procedures to better qualify them for police employment and increased training success at the Academy. PTC will start offering the new training in January 2022.

Also beginning in January 2022, PTC will offer a new Fire Science Certificate. While available to the general public, it also will be a featured career path in a high school dual enrollment partnership with Greenwood School District 50 starting in the fall semester of 2022. The demand for firefighters is growing by an estimated 8% a year. Fire science is the study of all aspects of fire, from fire behavior to fighting fires to investigating fires.

THE SKY’S THE LIMIT FOR CERTIFIED EMTS AND PARAMEDICS

Students in the Emergency Medical Technician Program (EMT) at PTC recently learned about career options available after completing their one-semester EMT Certificate. An information session in spring 2021 featured several professionals in the healthcare first-responder field sharing insights about their work. Students learned that their opportunities are not limited to work on the ground. If they so choose, they eventually may even take to the skies.

There are around 1,000 EMT vacancies in South Carolina

100 students enrolled in EMT and Paramedic programs in 2021

Rod Stoll, a flight paramedic with Life Flight Air Medical Transport, told the group that the basic EMT course they are taking will serve as the core to a healthcare career layered in progressive increments.

Around every turn are more choices that go in many directions.

Programs that are currently tuition-free

“What you learn now is the foundation for where you are going,” he said. “That continues into nursing, medical school, or critical care transport... We are the 1% of the 1%. Statistically, about 1% of the population works in healthcare, and 1% of those people work in critical care.”

Perhaps the most exciting thing about EMT/Paramedic training is that the demand is very strong. “The average age of a paramedic in South Carolina is 49 years old. They will be exiting the workplace,” Steve McDade, PTC Paramedic Program Director, told the group. “I am looking for the next leaders of EMS in South Carolina.”

PRE-ACADEMY CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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FIRE SCIENCE

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The college is taking the commitment to training a logistics workforce further with apprenticeships.

In a collaboration launched last year, Piedmont Tech and the City of Abbeville are helping employees who drive any city vehicle to earn their Class B Commercial Driver’s Licenses. Full-time firefighter Chandler White is one of them. He believes the additional experience he’s receiving will help him grow in his career.

“The CDL program is a good way for us to further our education,” he said. “As a firefighter, we take classes and trainings all the time, but CDL is a little different.”

Chandler’s father, Mike White, is a training coordinator and instructor with PTC’s Continuing Education Division.

“This partnership is for the city’s drivers, including firefighters, maintenance workers and police officers,” Mike said. “It addresses a shortage of qualified CDL drivers across several departments.”

The Class B CDL applies to vehicles weighing 26,001 pounds or more and generally comprises larger vehicles like dump trucks, garbage trucks, delivery trucks and cement mixers.

Chandler already regularly drives the Fire Department’s trucks, as federal and state laws do not require firefighters to have a commercial driver’s license. However, the Department trained him to drive the truck.

“I feel like the fire truck and the Class B vehicles are very similar to drive,” Chandler noted. “They are comparable in weight, about 50,000 pounds.”

Chandler is comfortable behind the wheel of a massive fire truck but operates it with the reverence it warrants.

“You have to know the limits of what you can do and what you cannot do,” he said. “You could be responding to a call at 3 a.m. You have to be very aware of your surroundings and what you are doing” to ensure everyone’s safety. “When I have time, I will try and go back and get my Class A (big rig) license.”

Supply chain issues that peaked in the fall of 2021 reinforced interest in the college’s Commercial Driver’s License (CDL) Program. According to the American Trucking Association, more than 80% of communities in South Carolina depend on trucks to transport goods to stock store shelves. The nationwide shortage of truck drivers has motivated companies to increase driver pay, add benefits, and offer signing bonuses for new recruits. PTC is one of 13 technical colleges in the state that provide hands-on CDL Class A training, tuition-free.

The nationwide shortage of truck drivers has motivated companies to increase driver pay, add benefits, and offer signing bonuses for new recruits.
In the years since 2016, when The Greenwood Promise (TGP) last-dollar scholarship program kicked off in a historic partnership with PTC, Greenwood County made a robust improvement in the number of high school graduates who enroll in college. The Greenwood Promise Board Chairman Ron Millender said the county went from lagging up to 10% behind the state average to exceeding the state average by 5% in just the first three years. TGP data also showed a 58% increase in the number of full-time students enrolled at PTC over the program’s first three years.

Because the missions of The Greenwood Promise and PTC are so well-aligned, the partnership established years ago continues to grow and thrive. Together, these strong partners are making the promise of a college education possible for Greenwood County high school graduates.

Making eligible high schoolers and their parents aware of scholarships available through The Greenwood Promise and connecting them with those resources is a vital component of the organization’s mission. Following up with these students after they are in college, however, is really where the rubber meets the road with regard to their future success. For this reason, a new staff position has been created to help ensure TGP students progress successfully through their college programs and are connected with quality employment opportunities after graduation.

“Our focus on these students doesn’t stop at intake,” PTC Associate Dean of Students David Rosenbaum said. “To effectively fulfill the goals of our partnership with The Greenwood Promise, we must follow and support each student along their journey. The Greenwood Promise career coordinator will use a case-management approach to shepherd individuals throughout their experience all the way to graduation and career placement. Their role will be to guide and mentor, as well as document progress and maintain a database tracking whether students ultimately stay and work in Greenwood County after their college graduation.”

The Greenwood Promise career coordinator is based at the PTC Lex Walters Campus-Greenwood. Proposed as TGP enters its second phase of implementation, the position is designed to add a student success component to the program and to connect the dots between TGP students’ entry in and emergence from college.

The Greenwood Promise data also showed a 58% increase in the number of full-time students enrolled at PTC over the program’s first three years.

“We look forward to working closely with PTC’s associate dean of students and the career coordinator to ensure that clear lines of communication are open throughout the student’s experience,” said Katie Davenport, TGP executive director. “Our goal is to place The Greenwood Promise students in internships and apprenticeships and provide them with the contacts, information, and needed skills for future employment with our industries and businesses in Greenwood County. With this extra level of support, we are confident that every Promise student has the best chance for success.”
As an institution of higher learning that delivers mightily on public investment, PTC is grateful for the essential financial support it receives annually from state and federal sources. We carry close to our hearts the responsibility to be strategic and careful stewards of these dollars.

Our elected representatives listen thoughtfully and carry our voice to the table in vital discussions on the allocation of valuable funds. We are indebted to them for past, present, and future innovations at PTC.

As the college navigates the new environment of 2022, it has identified proposed new initiatives that, by judicious design, will continue to sustain and enrich the communities we serve. In brief, here are a few examples of our next big ideas. We have more business and community-related ideas that we will share in the near future.

**CREATE A FIRST RESPONDER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE:**
With shortages in multiple first-responder fields, PTC and its industry partners will answer the 911 call to address workforce shortages of emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and firefighters. Using existing physical infrastructure, PTC in 2022 will seek $2 million to renovate and upfit buildings on its Greenwood campus to serve as a First Responder Center of Excellence, providing centralized training space for the EMT, Paramedic, and Firefighter programs. Such a facility will help attract interest, build enrollment, and close first-responder workforce gaps.

**ESTABLISH WORKFORCE COLLABORATION HUBS:**
Consistent with the real-world truth that we are “stronger together,” PTC will leverage its influence and active partnerships to bring together students in high-demand majors such as criminal justice, cybersecurity, computer programming, and human services in a common environment of support. Created at a cost of $2.4 million, these Workforce Collaboration Hubs will offer state-of-the-art equipment, collaborative spaces, private study spaces, and embedded wraparound tools to help guide them to graduation and successful professional practice.

**INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY FOR STUDENTS:**
Because PTC serves a wide range of students from varying age groups and with various personal challenges, the college proposes securing $1.4 million to further modernize facilities and better accommodate students with disabilities and special needs, veterans, and vulnerable members of the community.

Together, these innovative ideas comprise PTC’s 2021-22 Workforce Growth Initiative. We are confident that legislators once again will see the imperative, viability, and prudence of these ideas and answer the call with their unflagging support.
As campus life continues at an ever-increasing pace, it’s important to slow down for a moment and take stock of what we’ve accomplished over the past year. Here’s a brief summary.
FIRST QUARTER
JANUARY-MARCH 2021

On Jan. 5, SC Gov. Henry McMaster announced that $8 million in CARES Act funding from the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) discretionary fund would be allocated to SC Technical College System institutions to provide directed job training. As a result, PTC began offering several Quick Skills certification courses at little or no cost for SC residents over 18.

PTC embarked on a partnership with GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), a federal grant program awarded to local school districts that provides academic and other support services to potentially underserved students from 7th grade until the end of their first year of college. Through this partnership, PTC is supporting the program’s final year (first year in college) for a 140-student cohort. Provisions of this grant include an instructor, tutoring, and at least four workshops a semester, as well as laptops, textbooks, access to graphing calculators, and online learning for students in the Laurens partnership cohort. These resources are designed to help connect students with academic, financial and personal advising.

PTC added a powerful tool to combat community spread of COVID-19 and mitigate the rapidly emerging workforce needs related to it with the establishment of its Contact Tracing course. The first of its kind for South Carolina, the course was developed in collaboration with the state Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC). Contact tracers work to identify all people who have come in contact with a confirmed infected patient and notify those contacts that they have been exposed to someone who tested positive. These individuals then are asked to voluntarily quarantine for 14 days. It’s also important that they are linked to available testing and care.

SECOND QUARTER
APRIL-JUNE 2021

The PTC Area Commission in April voted to extend the college’s existing freeze on tuition, instituted in 2020, through the 2021-22 school year. Chairman Richard Cain said the decision was made to put the needs of students first and empower them to continue with their education.

Piedmont Technical College (PTC) was the lead organization in a multi-agency partnership to place local school teachers and counselors on the archetypal “factory floor” of participating technology-driven businesses in the region to the empower participating educators to fully inform students, through their firsthand experience, about entry-level positions in growing industries such as advanced manufacturing, biotechnology and computer technology. The initiative was made possible by a $15,000 Workplace Immersion Experiences for Educators grant from the SC Department of Commerce Office of Innovation. Participating companies matched this commitment one-to-one, which brought the grant’s total value to $30,000. In all, 21 educators participated in “summer externships” between June and mid-July 2021. Participating employers included Prysmian Group, Lonza, Sage Automotive, Greenwood CPW, West Fraser, MacLean Power Systems, Menardi, and Fibertex. Based on their summer experiences, the educators developed lesson plans that incorporate industry career education into their instruction and counseling activities.

During a tour of the William H. “Billy” O’Dell Upstate Center for Manufacturing Excellence at PTC, officials from Eaton Corporation saw firsthand tangible results of their past and ongoing support for the college. But Eaton was not finished. The company presented a check for $50,000 to the PTC Foundation for continued support of the college’s engineering technology programs. Last year, Eaton announced it was expanding operations; creating 30 new jobs, as well as consolidating and relocating some operations to a new facility in Hodges. The company employs many PTC graduates.

In partnership with PTC, the Abbeville Promise began with the graduating high school class of 2018. Results to date of the last-dollar scholarship program continue to demonstrate a positive impact. Abbeville County Schools retained increases in the number of graduating seniors attending PTC in the year following graduation—from 23% in 2017 to 28% in fall 2020. Forty-seven (47) students completed one or more credentials at the college, and 13 have transferred to a two- or four-year college. PTC continues to see cumulative increases in enrollment from the program. One hundred fifty-six (156) eligible students attended in fall 2020, and 122 attended in spring 2021.

Students who registered early for fall 2021 classes waived the standard $25 registration fee and received a voucher worth $300 for textbooks and related materials. In creating the incentive, college officials were aware that many students had put their education on hold during the past 18 months and wanted to re-engage them to continue with their educational plans. More than 70% of PTC students already attend tuition-free, so the opportunity made college even more affordable.
After a year of virtual instruction, McCormick Middle College classes returned to the PTC McCormick Campus for the fall term. The Middle College program has a longstanding history in McCormick County. Launched in the fall of 2011, it serves as a prime example of a school district providing students with a structured way to maximize the opportunity that comes along with dual enrollment. Participants can earn an associate degree while still in high school. In past years, up to 30% of the McCormick High School graduating class has earned an associate degree concurrent with high school graduation.

Making eligible high schoolers and their parents aware of scholarships available through The Greenwood Promise (TGP) and connecting them with those resources is a vital component of the organization’s mission. Following up with these students after they are in college, however, is essential to their future success. For this reason, a new staff position was created to help ensure Promise students progress successfully through their college programs and are connected with quality employment opportunities after graduation. The TGP career coordinator is based at the Lex Walters Campus-Greenwood.

Eight Abbeville County students were honored for completing certificates during their dual enrollment at Piedmont Technical College. One earned the Emergency Medical Technician certificate; three were awarded University Studies Certificates, which are transferrable courses in English, social/behavioral sciences, math, natural sciences, and the humanities; and four earned the COMPTIA Certificate, a gateway into careers in IT or cybersecurity.

The presidents of PTC and Lander University signed a series of articulation agreements that will enhance the transfer process for qualified graduates from PTC to Lander. The agreements apply to PTC graduates with an associate in applied science degree in business administration (with various concentrations) who wish to continue their studies toward a bachelor of applied science or bachelor of science in business administration (with various concentrations) at Lander. Students who meet the transfer requirements of the articulation agreements are guaranteed admission to Lander and priority acceptance to the corresponding degree program. Both PTC and Lander trained their academic advisors in the terms of the agreements as well as the articulation of courses approved for transfer to Lander. In addition, a Lander representative is participating in PTC transfer events.

Nine automotive technology students at PTC completed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Section 609 Technician Training and Certification Program. Each passed the EPA’s certification test with a score of 84% or higher. The certification is part of the U.S. Clean Air Act of 1990. Since 1992, federal law has required any technician who repairs or services a motor vehicle air conditioning system for payment must be properly trained and certified under Section 609. The certification is good for life.

PTC and other technical colleges in the state partnered with the SC Criminal Justice Academy to establish a new career pathway in law enforcement — the Police Pre-Academy Training Certificate, a 14-week program. Candidates who apply for the program learn basic introductory law enforcement tactics and procedures to better qualify them for police employment and increased training success at the Academy. PTC will start offering the new training in January 2022.

The college announced a $6.8 million project to renovate and expand PTC’s healthcare facilities on the Greenwood campus. PTC’s Healthcare Division every year trains some 700 students in fields across the healthcare service spectrum. The project will include renovations to approximately 24,000 square feet of existing space devoted to training healthcare workers as well as construction of a new two-story 12,100 square foot structure.

A new partnership between PTC and the Federal Bureau of Prisons will bring job training to inmates at the Federal Corrections Institution in Edgefield. After equipment installation and other upfitting is completed at the Edgefield prison, projected to be spring 2022, PTC will begin conducting training classes onsite in carpentry, welding, and SC Manufacturing Certificate.
Piedmont Technical College Foundation Scholarships

Many of the students entering Piedmont Technical College are from low to moderate income households. Many are the first to attend college in their families. Some come from challenging circumstances — juggling family, jobs and college responsibilities.

Although more than 90 percent of the students at PTC receive some form of financial aid, for many it’s not enough. The PTC Foundation assists these students through more than 90 scholarship opportunities. These scholarships help to retain the best and brightest talent for our local workforce and provide educational opportunities to those who otherwise may not have been able to attend college.

The PTC Foundation Board would like to thank its generous donors for making these scholarships available, and for making the dreams of many of our students a possibility.

- A. J. Welch Memorial Scholarship
- Abbeville First Bank Endowed Scholarship
- Agape Senior OTA Scholarship
- Alfred and Miriam Adams Endowed Scholarship
- Alfred Leadership Scholarships
- Annie Lee Swygert Scholarship
- Automotive Technology Scholarship
- Bailey Foundation Scholarships
- Brighter Futures Scholarship
- Building Construction Technology Scholarship
- C. Y. Thomason Sr. Memorial Scholarship
- Carl Brock VR Scholarship
- Casandra Cae Laster Memorial Scholarship
- Charles Baumeister Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Computer Consultants & Merchants, Inc. PTC Golf Classic Scholarship
- Countybank Foundation Scholarships
- David Sherer Memorial Scholarship
- Derrick Scholars
- Doris Suber Family Scholarship
- Dr. Sandra Calliham McMullen Scholarship
- Emerald Ink & Stitches PTC Golf Classic Scholarship
- Enviva PTC Golf Classic Scholarship
- Ernest W. Prewett Alumni Association Scholarships
- Faculty/Staff PTC Golf Classic Scholarship
- First Citizens Scholarship
- Foundation Partnership Group Scholarship
- Frank Wardlaw Memorial Scholarship
- Fujifilm Manufacturing U.S.A., Inc. Scholarship
- G. B. Elledge Endowment Scholarship
- Game Changer Scholarship
- Greenwood Chamber of Commerce Scholarship
- Greenwood Corvette Club Automotive Scholarship
- Greenwood Rotary Club Scholarship
- Gwen and Gene Hancock Memorial Respiratory Care Scholarship
- H. Kelley Jones Scholarship
- Henry Blohm Leadership Scholarship
- Honeycutt Scholarship
- Human Services Scholarship
- Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship
- Jeanne C. Florence Memorial Scholarship
- John W. Drummond Endowed Scholarship
- John Hydel Cardiovascular Scholarship
- Judy Daulton Accounting Scholarship
- L. Ruple Harley, Sr. Memorial Scholarship
- La Puerta De Esperanza Scholarship
- “Lady Bug” Memorial Scholarship
- Lakelands Home Builders Association Scholarship
- Laurens County Chamber Cecil Davenport Memorial Scholarships
- Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission PTC Golf Classic Scholarships
- Laurens Rotary Club Scholarship
- Lena Wood Warren Endowed Scholarship
- Lonza Scholarship
- Louise Rambo Nursing Scholarship
- Loutrelle Self Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Lucille Brooks Memorial Scholarship
- Lula M. Smith Endowed Scholarship
- Manning Family Endowed Scholarship
- Martha B. Williams Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Medford Family Foundation Scholarship
- MJA Endowed Scholarship
- Mr. “B” Automotive Technician Scholarship
- Nancy Taylor Hall Memorial Scholarship
- Newberry County Memorial Hospital Scholarship
- Newberry Electric Cooperative Scholarships
- Nora Wells Cooner Scholarship
- Norbord South Carolina, Inc. PTC Golf Classic Scholarship
- Olly and Ross Garrison Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Paul DeLoache Memorial Scholarship
- People That Care Scholarship
- PTC 50th Anniversary Scholarship
- PTC Foundation Board Scholarships
- PTC Golf Classic Scholarship
- Rad Tech Scholarship
- RMBE Lipford Endowed Scholarship
- Scurry Foundation Scholarship
- Self Regional Healthcare PTC Golf Classic Scholarship
- Senator Floyd Nicholson PTC Golf Classic Scholarship
- Sterlile Corporation Endowed Scholarship
- Strom Thurmond Scholars
- Sylvia MacFarlane Veterinary Technology Club Scholarship
- Taylor Foundation of Newberry Scholarships
- The 40 and 8 Nursing Scholarship
- The Charlie Foundation Scholarship
- The Links at Stoney Point PTC Golf Classic Scholarship
- Tour de Tech Scholarship
- Veterinary Technician of Excellence Scholarship
- W. A. Klauber Memorial Scholarship

Foundation Board Members

Mr. Lee Matthews, Abbeville
Mr. Charles R. Williams, Abbeville (Emeritus)
Mr. Thomas H. Herlong, Sr., Edgefield (Board Treasurer)
Mr. E.H. “Rocky” Dunkman, Greenwood
Mr. Travis Gunter, Greenwood
Mr. Theo L. Lane, Greenwood
Mrs. Lauren Malone, Greenwood
Mr. Peter J. Manning, Greenwood (Emeritus) (Area Commissioner)
Ms. Anna Marie McCarty, Greenwood
Mr. Jim Medford, Greenwood (Board Chair)
Mr. James A. Pfeiffer, Greenwood
Mr. Jerry Stevens, Greenwood
Mr. David A. Tompkins, Greenwood
Mr. Steve O. White, Greenwood (Emeritus)
Ms. Diane Anderson, Laurens
Mr. Justin Benfield, Laurens
Mr. Jeff Field, Laurens (Board Vice Chair)
Ms. Mamie Banks, McCormick
Mr. H. George Pieresol, II, Newberry (Area Commissioner)
Mrs. Miriam B. Adams, Saluda
Mr. Earl Bradford Forrest, Saluda
In 2019-2020, the college enrolled 6,310 students in 101,055 credit hours.

**Quick Facts: Fall Semester 2020**

- **4,712** students enrolled in 44,440 credit hours.
- The most common student age is **18**.
- **64%** of students are part-time students.
- **36%** are full-time (taking 12 credits or more).

### Top 6 Areas of Study:

1. Healthcare
2. Business
3. Industrial
4. AA/AS/Transfer
5. Public Service
6. Nursing

### County of Residency Statistics:

- **Abbeville**: Credit Curriculum: 9%; Continuing Education: 5%
- **Edgefield**: Credit Curriculum: 4%; Continuing Education: 1%
- **Greenwood**: Credit Curriculum: 31%; Continuing Education: 26%
- **Laurens**: Credit Curriculum: 14%; Continuing Education: 7%
- **McCormick**: Credit Curriculum: 2%; Continuing Education: 2%
- **Newberry**: Credit Curriculum: 12%; Continuing Education: 50%
- **Saluda**: Credit Curriculum: 6%; Continuing Education: 2%
- **Out of Region/State**: Credit Curriculum: 22%; Continuing Education: 7%

### Placement Rates by Career Cluster:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster</th>
<th>GENERAL EDUCATION</th>
<th>INDUSTRIAL &amp; ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY</th>
<th>HEALTH CARE</th>
<th>BUSINESS &amp; PUBLIC SERVICE</th>
<th>GENERAL TECHNOLOGY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Graduates</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>507</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number Available</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>466</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Related Field</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing Education</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Non-Related Field</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placement Rate</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>83%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data from 2019-2020 academic year. Placement data is compiled for the spring semester of each year. Placement percentage includes students who are continuing their education.
INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

2020-2021 total budget: $71 MILLION

REVENUES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Fees</td>
<td>$8,911,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Net of Scholarship Allowance)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County</td>
<td>2,461,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>9,518,058</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants &amp; Contracts</td>
<td>27,329,608</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,796,192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUES</strong></td>
<td>$50,016,713</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

DECREASE IN NET POSITION: ($1,478,893)*

*With the implementation of Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement 68, the college was required to recognize its proportionate share of the State’s net pension liability and to record its effect on the college’s unrestricted net position. As a result, the financial statements reflect a small decrease in net position.

EXPENSES:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instruction &amp; Academic Support</td>
<td>$19,685,278</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Services</td>
<td>4,493,348</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Plant</td>
<td>4,175,168</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional Support</td>
<td>13,802,918</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarships (Net of Scholarship Allowance)</td>
<td>6,721,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>2,617,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$51,495,606</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: For complete audited financial statements, refer to the Piedmont Technical College website.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID:

Federal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th># of Students</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>3,561</td>
<td>$11,081,538</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>4,027</td>
<td>11,562,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Work Study</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>101,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARES Act</td>
<td>3,644</td>
<td>1,716,979</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Life</td>
<td>$1,655,659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTA</td>
<td>4,223,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Guard</td>
<td>18,002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>482,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promise Scholarships</td>
<td>77,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC Wins</td>
<td>1,949,701</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL $32,869,123

TYPES OF AID:

1. Federal Grants: 33.71%
2. Federal Loans: 35.18%
3. Federal Work Study: 0.31%
4. CARES Act: 5.22%
5. State Life Scholarship: 5.04%
6. State LTA: 12.85%
7. National Guard: 0.05%
8. State Grants: 1.47%
9. Promise Scholarships: 0.24%
10. SC Wins: 5.93%
Members of the Area Commission are recommended by their legislative delegation and appointed by the governor for four-year terms. The Area Commission is the College’s governing body.