

# BLAZING NEW TRAILS

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2024 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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**PIEDMONT**  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 2 president's report

## 4 academic pathways

- 5 FACES OF DUAL ENROLLMENT
- 8 PARAMEDIC PROFILE: ANA RAMOS
- 9 STUDENT PROFILE: VISITS CAPITOL
- 11 HONORS PROGRAM VISITS CAPITOL

## 14 partnerships & community involvement

- 15 PRISMA HEALTH INVESTMENT
- 17 FACULTY PROFILE: DANIEL GREENWELL
- 19 PTC AND HYUNDAI PARTNERSHIP
- 21 INTRODUCING THE PTC PHOENIX

## 24 expanding impact

- 25 OUR PROGRESS SO FAR
- 27 \$11 MILLION HEALTHCARE INVESTMENT
- 29 ALUMNI PROFILE: TRACY PEDIGO

## 31 2024 year in review

## 36 PTC Foundation

## 39 economic impact report

- 43 COUNTY CAMPUS INFORMATION
- 44 BUDGET AND FINANCIAL AID
- 46 MISSION STATEMENT

## 47 area commission



A portrait of Dr. Hope E. Rivers, President of Piedmont Technical College. She is a Black woman with long, dark, wavy hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a dark blue blazer over a matching blue blouse with a large bow at the neck. A small PTC logo pin is visible on her left lapel. The background is a soft-focus indoor setting with light coming from a window.

## BLAZING NEW TRAILS

*In a year filled with milestones and forward momentum, one achievement truly captured our community's enthusiasm: a compelling report that spotlighted Piedmont Technical College (PTC) as a vital economic force in our region.*

Compiled by Lightcast, a global leader in labor market analytics, this report revealed that PTC had an impressive annual economic impact of \$240.8 million in its seven-county service area. This remarkable figure not only underscores our ongoing commitment to transforming lives and strengthening communities — it also confirms that we are more than just an educational institution. We are an engine of opportunity, driving both personal growth and economic development.

Three major announcements in September offered further proof that PTC is steadily advancing toward its vision of becoming a premier community college. From generous contributions to transformative partnerships, each milestone underscores our commitment to academic excellence, community engagement and the pursuit of innovative solutions that benefit students and the broader region alike.

Leading the charge was Prisma Health Laurens, which pledged \$1 million to support nursing education and health sciences training on our Laurens County Campus. Just two weeks later, the U.S. Department of Commerce announced an \$11 million investment for constructing a modern health sciences facility on the Greenwood campus — another testament to our expanding role in healthcare workforce development. Simultaneously, we unveiled a partnership with Hyundai Motor America, offering advantages for automotive technology students, including preparing them for the rapidly emerging electric vehicle industry.

As a further example of our commitment to health sciences education, construction on

the new health sciences facility will begin very soon, but the momentum does not stop there. Plans are already in motion for an extensive renovation and expansion of the James Medford Family Event Center in Greenwood and creating centers for manufacturing excellence in Edgefield and Saluda counties. Over the past year, we also completed an extensive remodel of the James C. Self Conference Center and the administration building's main lobby and board room — providing a modern setting for important meetings and training while creating a welcoming environment for visitors.

This progress runs parallel to a 6% increase in enrollment since 2021 — a testament to PTC's continuing efforts to provide top-tier learning experiences in state-of-the-art facilities. We want to create the best educational setting for our students, where dedicated and knowledgeable faculty can train them for highly skilled positions in the workforce of tomorrow.

At the beginning of the fall semester, I had the honor of revealing the name of the new PTC mascot: Blaze the Phoenix. Looking to

the future, I envision our mascot serving as a valuable symbol that will inspire students, staff and faculty alike. Just as a single spark can ignite a roaring flame, all of us have the potential to light our own paths, to blaze trails of success and contribute to the warmth and strength of our community.

At PTC, we are not merely adapting to change — we are driving it. Our dedication to empowering students and cultivating a culture of excellence positions us as a premier institution in higher education. With every initiative, partnership and success story, we reaffirm our mission to ignite potential and create brighter futures.

The work outlined in this report is just the beginning, and the best is yet to come.

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Hope E. Rivers". The script is elegant and fluid, with a large, sweeping "H" and a long, trailing "s" at the end.

Dr. Hope E. Rivers  
President, Piedmont Technical College



# INNOVATION MEETS ACADEMIC PATHWAYS

Piedmont Technical College (PTC) offers a wide range of academic pathways, ensuring that students of all backgrounds can find roadmaps to fulfill their educational goals. With six career communities encompassing numerous programs, campuses in seven counties, and a robust Dual Enrollment initiative, PTC is dedicated to meeting our region's overall needs. Whether students are just starting, aiming for a career change or looking to get a head start during high school, we provide high-quality academic experiences that equip them with practical skills and knowledge, preparing them for immediate employment and further educational opportunities. At PTC, we are transforming lives through accessible, flexible and high-impact education. Our students are confident and prepared for their future careers.

# FACES OF DUAL ENROLLMENT

A record 1,139 students took Dual Enrollment classes offered by Piedmont Technical College (PTC) during the fall 2024 semester, eclipsing the previous record of 1,005 Dual Enrollment students from the spring 2024 semester.

But when it comes to Dual Enrollment, numbers tell only part of the story. The program is changing the lives and educational futures of motivated high school juniors and seniors who are taking advantage of an affordable way to get an early start on college.

## Fernando

Fernando Reyes of Greenwood talks a lot about passion and drive in describing his future. It's one of the reasons he chose Dual Enrollment at PTC. "I wanted to get ahead of my peers," he said.

After seeing his mom, aunt and grandmother cope with health issues, Reyes



became passionate about finding a way to make a difference. He's been accepted to the pharmacy program at the University of South Carolina and will arrive in Columbia with a head start on his college career.

## Nadia

Nadia Sanders overcame stress caused by two Dual Enrollment math classes and accumulated enough college credits to earn an Associate in Arts degree from PTC by the time she graduated from Laurens District 55 High School in May 2022. Those credits also enabled Sanders to finish work on a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of South Carolina in only two calendar years.

"I think doing this program is great," said Sanders, who has applied to law schools and is currently working at a law firm in Greenville. "It was very helpful for me."

## Madison

Earning college credit while still in high school isn't the only benefit Madison Anderson has experienced by taking Dual Enrollment courses.

"It's given me a lot of confidence and new skills," she said. "It helped me as a student as well as a person."

A recent graduate of Strom Thurmond High School in Edgefield County, Anderson earned an associate degree in diversified agriculture in December 2024. She already has a job lined up at a ranch in Wyoming.

*Pictured from left to right, top to bottom: Fernando Reyes, Nadia Sanders, Madison Anderson, Jeremy Glasgow, Jonah Cooley and Rebecca Jackson.*

## FOUR WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN DUAL ENROLLMENT

- Traditional Dual Enrollment courses are taken at the student's high school with their high school instructors.
- OnDECK classes are offered on a PTC campus and let students earn high school units and college credit at the same time.
- PTC has partnered with some school districts on a Middle College that allows high school juniors and seniors the chance to earn 48-plus college credit hours over the course of their high school career.
- Early admission is for students looking to earn credit through PTC but not through their high school.

and wants to eventually go back to school for a degree in agriculture business.

"I would love to start my own horse-training business, or maybe manage a ranch," Anderson said.

## Jeremy

PTC Dual Enrollment student Jeremy Glasgow is a dedicated musician who managed to carve out time for piano practice while juggling classes at the Newberry County Campus and Newberry High School.

Right now, he's focused on becoming a propulsion engineer in the aeronautics field, a job that typically requires an advanced college degree. Glasgow, who has been accepted into the aerospace engineering program at the University of South Carolina, will leave the Dual Enrollment program having already earned 60 credits, making him ready for takeoff.

## Jonah

Abbeville High School graduate Jonah Cooley has a definite plan for his future. "I'm majoring in political science and then I'm planning to go to law school and become a government lawyer," he said.

Cooley is entering Clemson University as a sophomore, thanks to Dual Enrollment at PTC. He took a combination of classes in Greenwood and at the Abbeville County Campus, plus some online courses. "I definitely enjoyed it," he said.

## Rebecca

Rebecca Jackson earned college credit and received EMT training through PTC's Dual Enrollment program while attending Saluda High School. Now she is doing her part to address a shortage of emergency medical workers throughout South Carolina.

Like many other students, the affordability of PTC's Dual Enrollment courses appealed to Jackson. South Carolina

residents attend tuition-free if they take at least six credit hours per semester (generally at least two classes) at their high school, on campus or online.

"My parents thought it was great," Jackson said. "That's already one year of college down."

**The program is changing the lives and educational futures of motivated high school juniors and seniors who are taking advantage of an affordable way to get an early start on college.**

PTC Vice President of Student Affairs Joshua Black said the college is fully committed to Dual Enrollment.

"We see it as mission central," Black said. "Our work continues to result in robust, growing enrollment and deeper relationships with our local partners in K-12."



# PARAMEDIC PROGRAM RECEIVES ACCREDITATION

In a meaningful accomplishment, the Piedmont Technical College (PTC) Paramedic Program has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

The college's Paramedic Program, which was established in 2019, focuses on the complex medical knowledge and skills needed to care for and transport critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system.

Program Director Kile Antone said achieving accreditation is important for several reasons.

"Accreditation assures that we offer a quality education experience, a well-prepared and qualified workforce, and the community can be assured that, no matter where they are in the nation, our paramedics have received the education to deliver quality care in a consistent manner," he said.

An accreditation team conducted a site visit to the PTC Paramedic Program in October 2023, only five months after Kile became the program's director.

There are currently nine students enrolled in the year-long Paramedic Program, Kile said. These students represent emergency medical services agencies from Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens and McCormick counties and the Irmo Fire Department.

The program's lead instructor is Rodney Free.

# STUDENT PROFILE: ANA RAMOS

Ana Ramos knew she wanted to pursue a “hands-on” career by the time she was a senior at Emerald High School in Greenwood. She soon found an option at Piedmont Technical College (PTC) that sparked her interest.

“I was interested in construction but then I saw the welding program at Piedmont, and I jumped right into it,” Ramos said. “And from the first day, I fell in love with it.”

Her career choice defied convention. Only about 5% of welders in the nation are women, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. “My first semester, I was the only girl there,” Ramos said. “But they all just welcomed me with open arms.”

She never looked back.

Ramos has the talent to be an elite welder, said Jim Ladd, director of PTC’s welding program.

**Welding job supply in the region is projected to grow by 16% through 2034.**

“She is an outstanding welder, one of the better welders we’ve had come through,” Ladd said.

Ramos has honed her skills at welding aluminum, which can be particularly challenging. “You have to be a lot more careful because of how delicate it is and how easy it is to mess it up,” she said.

Thanks to this specialty, Ramos was hired in May as a full-time welder at VELUX, a Danish company that manufactures skylights at its facility in Greenwood. So now she works during the day and attends night classes at PTC.

Ramos said being the only woman welder at VELUX has not been a problem for her.

Ana

*“My first semester, I was the only girl there, but they all just welcomed me with open arms.”*

“I love it there,” she said. “The people that I work with are all so friendly and welcoming.”

Ladd said that Ramos has helped recruit other women into PTC’s welding program. Her advice to prospective students is to take the plunge.

“If there is something that you are a little bit interested in, it is better to go in and try it rather than never finding out whether you would have liked it or not,” she said. “It’s going to take a lot of hard work but at the end of the day all that hard work will be worth it.”

After being born and raised in Greenwood, Ramos said that she eventually would like to find a welding job that allows her to visit new places. She said working on pipelines is a possibility that she’s considering.

“I just know for a fact that I do want to travel,” she said.



# HONORS PROGRAM VISITS NATION'S CAPITOL



Eight Piedmont Technical College (PTC) Honors Program students made a springtime visit to Washington, D.C. to view monuments, visit historic sites and museums, and tour four-year universities that are potential transfer destinations for them.

The Honors Program at PTC was reactivated last year and inducted 12 students. Those participating in the trip included: Emily Galloway (Horticulture), Fernando Reyes (Pharmacy Technician), Caleb Riddle (Associate in Science), Audrey Shepherd (Associate in Arts), Sarah Shore (Associate in Science), Charvis Stevens (Associate in Science), Daisy Villalobos (Associate in Arts), and Chantel Robinson (Dual Enrollment, Middle College). They were accompanied by three chaperones: PTC Transfer Coordinator Tiffany Prowell, PTC Arts and Sciences Dean Joshua Lindsay and PTC Art Department Head and Instructor Leandra Arvazzetti.

Prowell said the four-day, whirlwind visit was packed with tours and activities. "Art appreciation was the focus on our first day in DC. We visited the National Gallery, the Hirshorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and the National Museum of African Art," Prowell said. "On day two, we visited history and government sites, including the White House, Ford's Theater, the U.S. Capitol, the National Museum of African American History & Culture and the National Mall. The third day was reserved for tours of university transfer sites in the area, including the University of Maryland, Howard University and the University of the District of Columbia. On day four, the students visited the National Zoo and the International Spy Museum before heading home."

The students all shared positive reviews of their experiences. "The architecture alone in the Capitol building was breathtaking," said Sarah Shore of Batesburg. "From the details on the ceiling of the dome to the

paintings showing huge turning points in our nation's history, it was truly something I will never forget."



"The National Gallery was, by far, my favorite museum," said Audrey Shepherd of Greenwood. "There was one installation in particular that severely touched me. An artist named Dorothea Lange took many photos of different people and cultures throughout the Great Depression into World War II."

Some found that various memorials put

into greater perspective the memories shared by loved ones who served their country.

"I stood and watched the fountains (of the WWII Memorial) while I reminisced on stories my grandfather told about his days in the Pacific fighting the Japanese," said Emily Galloway of Laurens. "He passed away in 2013, so this moment was incredibly special."

Others said they made memories to last a lifetime.

"The opportunity to experience DC with other students in the Honors Program has created friendships and bonds that will continue for years to come," said Greenwood resident Charvis Stevens. "The memories of the sites we were able to see, the food we ate and the time spent together at different institutions of higher learning will be cherished memories."



## PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

This year, Piedmont Technical College (PTC) has continued to forge meaningful partnerships that enhance community involvement and expand educational opportunities for students. By collaborating with major industry leaders such as Prisma Health and Hyundai Motor America, PTC has strengthened its role in building a skilled workforce ready to meet the demands of high-growth sectors. These partnerships not only enhance the educational experience for students but also contribute directly to the economic development of the community by creating pathways for success and professional advancement.

# PRISMA HEALTH ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION GIFT TO PTC



Prisma Health has committed \$1 million to Piedmont Technical College (PTC) Foundation to increase access to nursing education and health sciences training on the PTC Laurens County Campus. The investment will strengthen a workforce pipeline aimed at addressing nursing and other healthcare profession shortages in Laurens County and the surrounding region.

Details of the three-year program were announced Wednesday, Sept. 11, by Prisma Health Chief Executive Officer Justin M. Benfield and PTC President Dr. Hope E. Rivers at the “Maximizing Our Future Upstate Summit,” hosted by Ten at the Top at the Greenville Convention Center.

“This partnership underscores our shared commitment to enhancing healthcare education in Laurens County,” Rivers said. “With Prisma Health’s generous support, this program will allow an increasing number of students to build foundational knowledge for future growth and success.”

**“This partnership underscores our shared commitment to enhancing healthcare education in Laurens County.”**

Officials at Prisma Health echo this sentiment. “Investing in nursing and health science education is an investment in the future health of our community,” said Benfield. “We are proud to collaborate with Piedmont Tech to develop a robust pipeline of skilled nurses and health sciences professionals who will serve the needs of Laurens County.”

PTC students in the Prisma Health Laurens Nursing Ladder Initiative will have

an opportunity to complete the following credentials, culminating in an Associate Degree in Nursing:

- **Patient Care Technician (PCT)**  
(One semester)
- **Practical Nursing (PN)**  
(Three semesters)
- **Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)**  
to **Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)**

The Prisma Health funding will contribute to three new staff positions and facility updates on the PTC Laurens County Campus with anticipated completion by late 2025. Facility updates will include creation of learning spaces equipped to simulate real-world clinical and laboratory environments.

PTC officials anticipate that enrollment and completion rates will increase in each section of the nursing career ladder program. “Graduates who complete all



levels of the career ladder will excel as registered nurses, equipped with both practical experience and advanced clinical knowledge,” said Dr. Keli Fewox, PTC’s vice president for academic affairs.

A report issued earlier this year by the federal Health Services Administration warned that South Carolina could have the nation’s seventh-largest shortage of registered nurses by 2036. This partnership directly addresses this looming crisis by expanding educational opportunities and producing more qualified nursing professionals.

# FACULTY PROFILE: DANIEL GREENWELL

One of Daniel Greenwell's main goals as Department Head of Piedmont Technical College's (PTC) Agriculture and Horticulture program is to encourage his students to "reach higher than they realize they can go." He likes nothing more than boosting students' knowledge and enthusiasm about their future in the field.

Since joining PTC in 2017, he has worked to update the program and provide hands-on learning and career development opportunities for students. This includes adding four certificates that align with industry needs: a greenhouse management certificate, a landscape design and installation certificate, a landscape management certificate and a turf management certificate.



He also prioritizes enabling students to attend state and national conferences, an effort that he and students say has long-lasting paybacks.

This dedication recently led to Greenwell being named Educator of the Year by the National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) Foundation. The award was presented this spring at the National Collegiate Landscape Competition at Brigham Young University in Utah. The annual conference draws more than 600 landscape and horticulture students from around 50 colleges across the United States. Greenwell took five students to the event, which features competitions, hands-on

workshops, networking events with industry professionals and a career fair.

"I've taken groups for four years and they always mention the impact it makes on them," Greenwell said. He says that most students aren't aware of how big the industry is and how much opportunity is out there.

"Agriculture and horticulture are among South Carolina's largest industries and range from greenhouse management to landscape design to maintaining golf courses and athletic fields to agriculture. NALP and other events that we attend help them see these options firsthand," he said.



Daniel

"Most students aren't aware of how big the industry is and how much opportunity is out there."

Greenwell was himself inspired at NALP when he attended and competed twice while a student at the University of Florida, where he earned his bachelor's degree in landscape and nursery horticulture with a minor in golf and sports turf management. He later earned his master's in horticulture and graduate certificate in public horticulture from Auburn University.

PTC students competed this year in 15 events, ranking well as a team and proving they can hold their own against students from much larger schools.

Emily Galloway, who attended NALP and competed for the second year, said the event boosted her confidence. "When I got there the first year and got involved, I realized that I could be a leader," she said. "I found a competitive streak that I didn't realize I had."

It was Galloway who nominated her professor for the NALP Foundation's Outstanding Professor of the Year Award.

In her nomination letter, Galloway wrote: "Professor Greenwell works tirelessly to involve students within their own interests. He wants us all to succeed and to go as far as we can."

Greenwell says he's humbled to receive praise from his students and the NALP Educator of the Year award.

"If anything, being recognized with this award makes me want to grow as an educator even more," he said.

# PTC AND HYUNDAI MOTOR AMERICA FORM INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP

Piedmont Technical College (PTC) and Hyundai Motor America (HMA) recently announced an innovative partnership that will provide tangible benefits for students in the college's nationally recognized Automotive Technology program.



The partnership with HMA presents PTC Automotive Technology students with a unique opportunity to access and complete training modules in Hyundai's learning management system. As a result, graduates who complete this training will be qualified to start work at Hyundai franchises at a higher level with better wages than other college graduates who have not received similar advanced training.

"Automotive technology is a rapidly evolving growth industry that is both challenging and rewarding," said PTC Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Keli Fewox.

"Our new partnership with Hyundai will put PTC Automotive Technology graduates in an outstanding position to pursue fulfilling careers with a leading automaker."

Hyundai Technician Recruiting Liaison Candace Mabry said that her company is excited to be partnering with Piedmont Technical College. "This is going to be definitely quite an experience for the automotive students," she stated.

Students who complete the training in Hyundai's learning management system will be considered as certified service technicians after completing the orientation course upon employment.

"This will look fantastic on your resume," Mabry said. "Ideally, we would love to have you all join a Hyundai dealership."

The new partnership between HMA and PTC was announced Sept. 24 at the William H. "Billy" O'Dell Upstate Center for Manufacturing Excellence on the PTC campus in Greenwood.

"Partnerships like this give added value to the high-quality education that PTC students receive each and every day," Fewox said.

The partnership with HMA comes after Piedmont Tech received \$332,554 through an Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 2023. The grant's objective is to develop and implement a cutting-edge, comprehensive electric vehicle service technician curriculum, with modules from Hyundai's program enhancing and expanding the existing electric-vehicle training.

Piedmont Tech is also pursuing an additional grant through the NSF to expand its initiatives.



# INTRODUCING Blaze

As students returned for the first day of fall classes, Piedmont Technical College (PTC) President Dr. Hope E. Rivers revealed the name of the new PTC mascot: Blaze the Phoenix.

"Blaze isn't just a name; it's a powerful symbol of action each of us can take as a Phoenix," said Rivers as she stood next to the mascot outside the Student Center on the Greenwood campus. "Blaze represents the spirit of renewal and transformation that defines the student journey."

The decision to introduce a new mascot, the PTC



Phoenix, was influenced by overwhelming support from the college community. A survey of faculty, staff and students showed that 90% of respondents believed Piedmont Technical College should have a mascot.

The PTC Phoenix mascot was unveiled at Spring Activities Day. The Phoenix was chosen because it is a symbol of inspiration and renewal that fits with the college's ongoing commitment to academic excellence. It also aligns with PTC's broader efforts to transform lives, strengthen communities and enhance the overall student experience.

Students, faculty and staff submitted 33 names for the mascot. The PTC Mascot Committee narrowed that list down to three finalists: Felix, Blaze and Ash. Voting on those choices began in the spring, allowing the college community to directly select the mascot's name.

In recent months, Blaze has been visiting each PTC campus and attending numerous events.



## EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY IMPACT

Piedmont Technical College (PTC) is at the forefront of an exciting new chapter, with a range of construction and renovation projects underway to enhance our campuses and serve our community better. Recent renovations are just the beginning of a broader initiative, including upcoming projects across the college's service region. Thanks to recent federal and state investments, PTC is also poised to revolutionize healthcare and advanced manufacturing education in the region, ensuring that students receive training in state-of-the-art facilities that mirror real-world conditions. These efforts underscore our commitment to transforming lives and strengthening communities for years to come.

# THE START OF SOMETHING INCREDIBLE

Over the summer, PTC completed work on two projects, marking the beginning of a multi-year slate of construction and renovations that will transform and upgrade the college's campuses across the region. The first two projects featured a total interior renovation of the college's James C. Self Conference Center and the lobby and boardroom areas of the Administration Building.

"We reimagined and made much-needed upgrades to several buildings and meeting spaces," PTC President Dr. Hope E. Rivers said. "This is just the beginning. We are just getting started with some of the great things on the horizon here at PTC."



## 2025 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

**New Health  
Sciences Building**  
(Winter Start)

**Signage and  
Wayfinding Redesign**  
(Spring Start)

**Engineering Building  
Renovation**  
(Summer Start)

**Family Life and  
Conference Center**  
(Fall Start)

**Saluda Center for  
Manufacturing Excellence**  
(Fall Start)





# \$11 MILLION INVESTMENT IN HEALTH SCIENCES

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding an \$11 million grant to Piedmont Technical College (PTC) to support healthcare workforce development.

The grant will support construction of a state-of-the-art health sciences facility on the PTC campus in Greenwood. Construction is slated to start in the first quarter of 2025.

"This EDA investment will help support workforce training in essential healthcare jobs and boost regional economic resilience in Greenwood County," Raimondo said.

Cristina Killingsworth, acting assistant secretary of commerce for economic development, said her agency "is proud to partner with local communities to support place-based economic growth."

"This project will enable Piedmont Technical College to better serve health sciences students, ensuring that good-paying jobs remain in the region," Killingsworth said.

This project was made possible by regional planning efforts led by the Upper Savannah Council of Governments and Piedmont Technical College.

"We are immensely grateful for the U.S. Department of Commerce's \$11 million investment in our new health sciences

building," PTC President Dr. Hope E. Rivers said. "We look forward to collaborating with our partners to ensure this investment helps grow a strong healthcare workforce in our region."

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**The grant will support construction of a state-of-the-art health sciences facility on the PTC campus in Greenwood.**

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The 27,000-square-foot health sciences facility will feature amenities that include nursing simulation spaces, six skills labs and multiple classrooms.

"A key priority of this project is to create spaces that mirror real-world conditions, preparing our students to be work-ready upon graduation," said Dr. Keli Fewox, PTC's Vice President for Academic Affairs.



# ALUMNI PROFILE: TRACY PEDIGO

As he settles into his new position at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville, Tracy Pedigo has a good feeling about the latest chapter in his life.

"It has been an amazing transition," said Pedigo, who became assistant director of the school's nurse anesthesia program in 2024. "I feel like I was made for this. I'm where I'm supposed to be."

Pedigo's professional journey began two decades ago at Piedmont Technical College (PTC).

After graduating from high school in Tennessee, he moved to South Carolina to live with his sister and get away from home for a little while.

"I had no intention of staying here," he said. "I was just going to get my prerequisites out of the way. I always

wanted to go into medicine but wasn't sure which direction."

Pedigo's original plan was to go back home and attend the University of Tennessee. Instead, he met his future wife, Sharon, and graduated from PTC in 1995 with an Associate in Applied Science degree in respiratory care.

Coming from a family unfamiliar with the process for financial aid, Pedigo leaned on PTC's staff for assistance, particularly at the Laurens County Campus.

"I didn't understand the FAFSA or any of the stuff," he said. "It was astronomical the help they gave me."

Like a lot of students who go into medical fields, Pedigo recalled his anatomy and physiology course. The perennially tough class was led by Dr. Dale Smoak.

"He was pretty much the gatekeeper whether you were going to get into any kind of healthcare field," Pedigo said.

Respiratory therapy offered a fast track to a job as Pedigo started a family. Many medical professionals can begin their career with a certification or associate degree and continue up the ladder with additional coursework. "I always knew I was going right back in (to school) to start working on my nursing degree," Pedigo said.



Tracy

*"It has been an amazing transition. ... I feel like I was made for this. I'm where I'm supposed to be."*

While in nursing school, he met a certified registered nurse anesthetist who felt Pedigo would be a natural for the specialty, given his background in respiratory therapy. Pedigo followed that path, earning bachelor's and master's degrees along the way, and then a Doctor of Nursing Practice to bolster his management qualifications.

Instead of returning to the Volunteer State, he has worked for hospital systems around the Upstate. He's also gone on medical mission trips to Guatemala and Honduras with non-profit and church group volunteers.

In 2001, Pedigo was named Registered Nurse of the Year for Self Regional Healthcare.

He was at Prisma Health Laurens County Hospital when the USC opportunity became available. Now an administrator with a resume full of credentials, Pedigo's path to success began at PTC.

"I made a lot of lifelong friends and good connections," he said. "It was a good experience for me."

Good enough for his daughter, Anna Brooke Pedigo Parker, to follow in his footsteps through PTC's nursing program.

"She just graduated with her associate degree," Pedigo said.

# 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

From achieving major milestones to hosting impactful community initiatives, Piedmont Technical College (PTC) demonstrated a true commitment to the college mission throughout 2024. Accolades were received and celebrated, partnerships were forged and strengthened and the community was engaged through meaningful programs.

## FIRST QUARTER JANUARY-MARCH 2024



2024 began with an ensemble of accolades for Piedmont Technical College, highlighted by the **MODELS Academy** being chosen as recipient of the SC Technical College System's highly esteemed A. Wade Martin Innovation Team of the Year Award. The MODELS Academy – which stands for Men of Distinction becoming Elite Leaders and community Servants – seeks to increase the success rate of African-American males in grades four through 12.

### Other awards from the first quarter included:

- **Sally Cooke**, executive assistant in the President's Office, was presented with the South Carolina Association of Technical College Commissioners (SCATCC) 2023 Professional Board Staff Member Award.
- **Nicole Fuller**, advising coordinator; **Dr. Donna Foster**, associate vice president of institutional effectiveness and compliance; and **Phillip Calhoun**, program director/instructor for Machine Tool Technology; were named as South Carolina Technical Education Association (SCTEA) Educators of the Year.

- **Lakeya Jenkins**, English Department chair, and **Kendra Lagreca**, student life coordinator, received annual National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Awards.
- **Nicole Fuller**, the business division's advising coordinator, was named as PTC's Innovator of the Year.

A total of 54 runners and 40 walkers took part in the Piedmont Technical College Foundation's 3rd Annual Spring Forward for Student Success 5K Run/Walk. Net proceeds from the event totaled \$14,365.



# SECOND QUARTER APRIL-JUNE 2024



Emily Galloway, a horticulture major and PTC student leader, was selected for the 2024 All-USA Academic Team. Galloway is one of only 20 students nationwide to receive this honor,

selected from a competitive pool of over 2,300 applicants from 1,300 technical and community colleges nationwide. She is the first student from South Carolina to receive the award in over ten years.

**Galloway earned several other awards:**

- She was recognized as a New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar. Sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation, the American Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa, this award is given to the top All-USA applicant from each state.

- She received the Kevin Kehoe Student Leader of the Year Award from the National Collegiate Landscape Professionals Foundation, recognizing her leadership in horticulture.
- She was named to the All-State Academic Team by the South Carolina Technical College System and Phi Theta Kappa, an honor bestowed upon only 50 students across the state.
- At PTC, Galloway received the President’s Award, the college’s top student award; the Industrial and Engineering Divisional Award; and the Horticulture Program Award for her outstanding academic contributions.

Daniel Greenwell, Horticulture Program director, praised Galloway’s proactive nature, saying, “Emily is extremely bright and hard-working. We offer a lot of opportunities for students, and she takes advantage of as many as she can. She is always moving forward.”



PTC unveiled the newly renovated James C. Self Conference Center, the first in a long list of college revitalization and expansion projects. The updates were shared in collaboration with the Greenwood SC Chamber of Commerce, which partnered with the college to host their June Business After Hours event at the conference center.



MODELS Academy Summer Institute students embarked on an inspiring journey to Atlanta, immersing themselves in the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement. Their day began at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, where they explored powerful exhibits that brought history to life. They toured the historic grounds of Morehouse College, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once walked and studied.



# THIRD QUARTER JULY-SEPTEMBER 2024

Days before classes resumed, nearly 300 faculty and staff members gathered Aug. 13 for the fall 2024 convocation in the James Medford Family Event Center on the Greenwood campus.

“This is the start of something new, something that is refreshing,” PTC President Dr. Hope E. Rivers said during her State of the College address. “I hope that you can feel the momentum that Piedmont Technical College has. I hope that you can see the progress that we have made so far, and we’re just scratching the surface.”

Rivers said PTC’s past accomplishments and future plans are part of the vision “for Piedmont Tech to become a premier community college.”



As students returned for the fall semester, Dr. Rivers revealed the name of PTC’s new mascot: Blaze the Phoenix.



The mascot is enhancing school spirit and creating a stronger sense of community. As a visually striking symbol, Blaze boosts brand recognition and serves as a key element in marketing efforts. By embodying the college’s values, the Phoenix helps draw new students and strengthens the college’s overall appeal.



In September, Prisma Health announced a \$1 million commitment to enhance nursing

education and health sciences training on the Laurens County Campus.

Later that month, PTC was informed that the U.S. Department of Commerce will provide \$11 million in grant money for construction of a new health sciences facility on the Greenwood campus.



The remnants of Hurricane Helene swept through PTC’s seven-county service area with high winds and heavy rain on Friday, Sept. 27, knocking out power to much of the region for an extended period. As a result, all the college’s campuses were closed for more than a week. During this challenging time, faculty and staff worked tirelessly to restore the college to full operation. Their dedication ensured a swift recovery, enabling us to welcome students back as soon as it was safe.

# FOURTH QUARTER OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2024

Community members, alongside our faculty and staff, continued to step up by providing much-needed resources to students in the



months that followed. Hundreds of people affected by Helene attended Team South Carolina hurricane recovery events hosted by PTC at its Laurens County and Greenwood campuses. The events brought together state and federal officials and representatives from nonprofits to provide residents with a one-stop opportunity to learn about relief resources available to them.



As a result of Greenwood County voters approving an extension of a penny sales tax, plans call for construction of a Technical Innovation Center on PTC's Greenwood campus.

This project represents a partnership between PTC and the three Greenwood County school districts. The new center will serve over 1,100 students now enrolled at the G. Frank Russell Technology Center while also expanding programs in a host of key areas such as automotive and electric vehicle technology, healthcare, heavy equipment training, logistics and supply chain management, and truck driving training, as well as the arts and sciences.



Fifty-five young men taking part in the MODELS Academy program attended a University of South Carolina football game



in Columbia, thanks to a generous donation from Lonza.

Lonza donated \$10,000 to the PTC Foundation. The Swiss multinational manufacturing company for the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and nutrition sectors has had a presence in Greenwood since 1967. Its state-of-the-art manufacturing plant across from the PTC Greenwood campus has around 700 employees.

# PIEDMONT TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Many of the students entering Piedmont Technical College (PTC) 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% 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 retain the best and brightest 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 possible.

## Foundation Board Members

Mr. Lee Matthews, Abbeville	Mr. Dan Hobbs, Greenwood	Mr. Michael Walters, Greenwood	Mr. Earl Bradford Forrest, Saluda (Executive Board Member)
Mr. Jeff Wilson, Abbeville (Board Vice Chair)	Mr. Theo L. Lane, Greenwood	The Honorable Diane Anderson, Laurens	
Mr. Thomas H. Herlong, Sr., Edgefield (Board Treasurer)	Dr. Matt Logan, Greenwood	Mr. Justin Benfield, Laurens (Executive Board Member)	<b>Emeritus Members</b>
Ms. Alicia Padgett, Edgefield	Ms. Kristine Manske, Greenwood	Mr. Jeff Field, Laurens	Mr. Peter J. Manning, Greenwood (Emeritus)
Mr. Christopher Brown, Greenwood	Ms. Anna Marie McCarty, Greenwood	Ms. Mamie Banks, McCormick	Mr. Steve O. White, Greenwood (Emeritus)
Mr. E.H. "Rocky" Dunkman, Greenwood	Mr. Jim Medford, Greenwood (Board Chair)	Mr. H. George Piersol, II, Newberry (Area Commissioner)	Mr. Charles R. Williams, Abbeville (Emeritus)
Mr. Travis Gunter, Greenwood	Mr. David A. Tompkins, Greenwood	Mrs. Miriam B. Adams, Saluda	

## PTC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

- Abbeville First Bank Endowed Scholarship
- Agape Senior OTA Scholarship
- AJ Welch Memorial Scholarship
- Alfred and Miriam Adams Endowed Scholarship
- Allred Leadership Endowed Scholarship
- Annie Lee Swygert Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Automotive Technology Scholarship
- Bailey Foundation Endowed Scholarship
- Bil Heath Rad Tech Scholarship
- Briana J. Carruth Memorial Scholarship
- Building Construction Technology Endowed Scholarship
- C. Y. Thomason Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Carl Brock VR Scholarship
- Carolina Health Centers PTC Golf Classic Scholarship
- Casandra Cae Laster Memorial Scholarship
- Charles Baumeister Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Computer Consultants & Merchants, Inc. PTC Golf Classic Scholarship
- Countybank Foundation Scholarship
- David Sherer Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Derrick Scholars Endowed Scholarship
- Doris Suber Family Endowed Scholarship
- Dr. Lorraine Angelino Scholarship
- Dr. Sandra Calliham McMullen Scholarship
- Enviva PTC Golf Classic Scholarship
- Ernest Prewett Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship
- First Citizens Scholarship
- Foundation Partners Group Scholarship
- Frank Wardlaw Memorial Scholarship
- G. B. Elledge Endowed Scholarship
- Game Changer Scholarship
- Gavin Lloyd Truelove Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Gavin Truelove Memorial Scholarship
- Greenwood Chamber of Commerce Community Scholarship
- Greenwood Corvette Club Scholarship
- Greenwood Rotary Club (Industrial or Engineering) Scholarship
- Grey Hamlett Welding Scholarship
- Gwen and Gene Hancock Memorial Respiratory Care Scholarship
- H. Kelley Jones Scholarship
- Henry Blohm Leadership Endowed Scholarship
- Honeycutt Scholarship
- Human Services Scholarship
- Jeanne C. Florence Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- John Heydel Cardiovascular Scholarship
- John W. Drummond Endowed Scholarship
- Judy Daulton Accounting Scholarship
- L. Ruple Harley, Sr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- La Puerta De Esperanza Scholarship
- Lady Bug Memorial Scholarship
- Lakelands Home Builders Association Scholarship
- Laurens County Chamber Cecil Davenport Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Laurens County Water & Sewer Commission PTC Golf Classic Scholarship

## PTC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

- Lena Wood Warren Endowed Scholarship
- Lonza Endowed Scholarship
- Lonza PTC Golf Classic Scholarship
- Louise Rambo Nursing Scholarship
- Loutrelle Self Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Lucille Brooks Memorial Scholarship
- Lula M. Smith Healthcare Endowed Scholarship
- Manning Family Endowed Scholarship
- Martha B. Williams Memorial Scholarship
- Mary Jo Groomes Brighter Futures Scholarship
- Medford Family Foundation Scholarship
- MJA Endowed Scholarship
- Mr. "B" Automotive Technician Endowed Scholarship
- Nancy Taylor Hall Memorial Scholarship
- Newberry County Memorial Hospital Scholarship
- Newberry Electric Cooperative Scholarship
- Nora Wells Cooner Memorial Scholarship
- Olly and Ross Garrison Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Paul DeLoache Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- People That Care Scholarship
- PTC 50th Anniversary Scholarship
- PTC Foundation Board Scholarship
- PTC Golf Classic Endowed Scholarship
- Ran Fairburn Memorial McCormick County Endowed Scholarship
- RMBE Lipford Scholarship
- Rosalie Stevenson Nursing Scholarship
- South Carolina Green Industry Association Scholarship
- Stephen Franklin Sherard III Endowed Scholarship
- Sterilite Corporation Endowed Scholarship
- Strom Thurmond Endowed Scholarship
- Sylvia MacFarlane Veterinary Technology Club Scholarship
- Taylor Foundation of Newberry Scholarship
- The 40 & 8 Nursing Scholarship
- The 40 & 8 Nursing Scholarship - Edgefield County
- The Charlie Foundation Scholarship
- The Fran K. Wiley Family Endowed Scholarship
- The Links at Stoney Point PTC Golf Classic
- The Links of Stoney Point Military Scholarship
- The National Board for Respiratory Care Scholarship
- The Teacher's Pet Scholarship
- Veterinary Technician of Excellence Scholarship
- W. A. Klauber Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- West Fraser PTC Golf Classic Scholarship

Become a Donor Today.  
Visit [www.ptc.edu/give](http://www.ptc.edu/give)




# DRIVING REGIONAL GROWTH


Piedmont Technical College (PTC) had a total economic impact of \$240.8 million in its seven-county service area during the 2022-23 fiscal year, according to a report by Lightcast, a global leader in labor market analytics. This impact underscores PTC's role as a key economic driver within the region.

The report also underscored the considerable benefits for students, highlighting a 26.6% annual rate of return on their educational investment at PTC. This exceptional rate demonstrates the significant value students gain from their education at PTC.


### In one academic year, PTC...



Has a total economic impact of **\$240.8 million** in a seven-county region




Supports **1 out of every 30** jobs in the region




Places **94%** of graduates in employment or continued education.

Provides education and training that leads to a **significant return on investment** for stakeholders.



Student Perspective  
**26.6%**  
Rate of Return



Taxpayer Perspective  
**4.1%**  
Rate of Return

"This tremendous rate of return shows that our students are receiving a high-quality education that provides them with long-lasting value," PTC President Dr. Hope E. Rivers said.

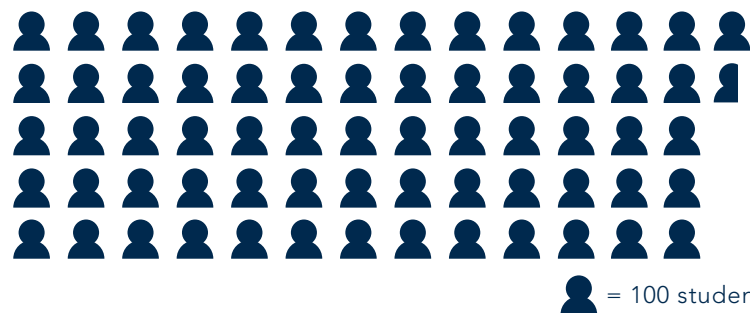
Russell Martin, assistant vice president of marketing and public relations, emphasized the scale of PTC's influence:

"Think of our economic impact like hosting the World Series 31 times in one year," Martin said. "The kind of boost we provide to the local economy is similar to bringing in a major, once-in-a-lifetime event — except we do it every year.

"Whether it's adding millions to local businesses, supporting thousands of jobs, or ensuring students receive an exceptional return on their educational investment, PTC is consistently delivering value to our community."

**"This tremendous rate of return shows that our students are receiving a high-quality education that provides them with long-lasting value."**

6,686 students enrolled in 2023-24



**6,686** students enrolled in **107,883** credit hours.

The most common student age is 18.

**62%** of students are part-time students.

**38%** are full-time (taking 12 credits or more).

1. Healthcare
2. Business
3. Dual Enrollment
4. AA/AS/Transfer
5. Industrial
6. Public Service
7. Nursing
8. Engineering

## Age of students

**17 or under: 20%**

**18-21: 31%**

**22-34: 30%**

**35-49: 15%**

**50-59: 3%**

**60+: 1%**

**67%**  
of students  
are female.

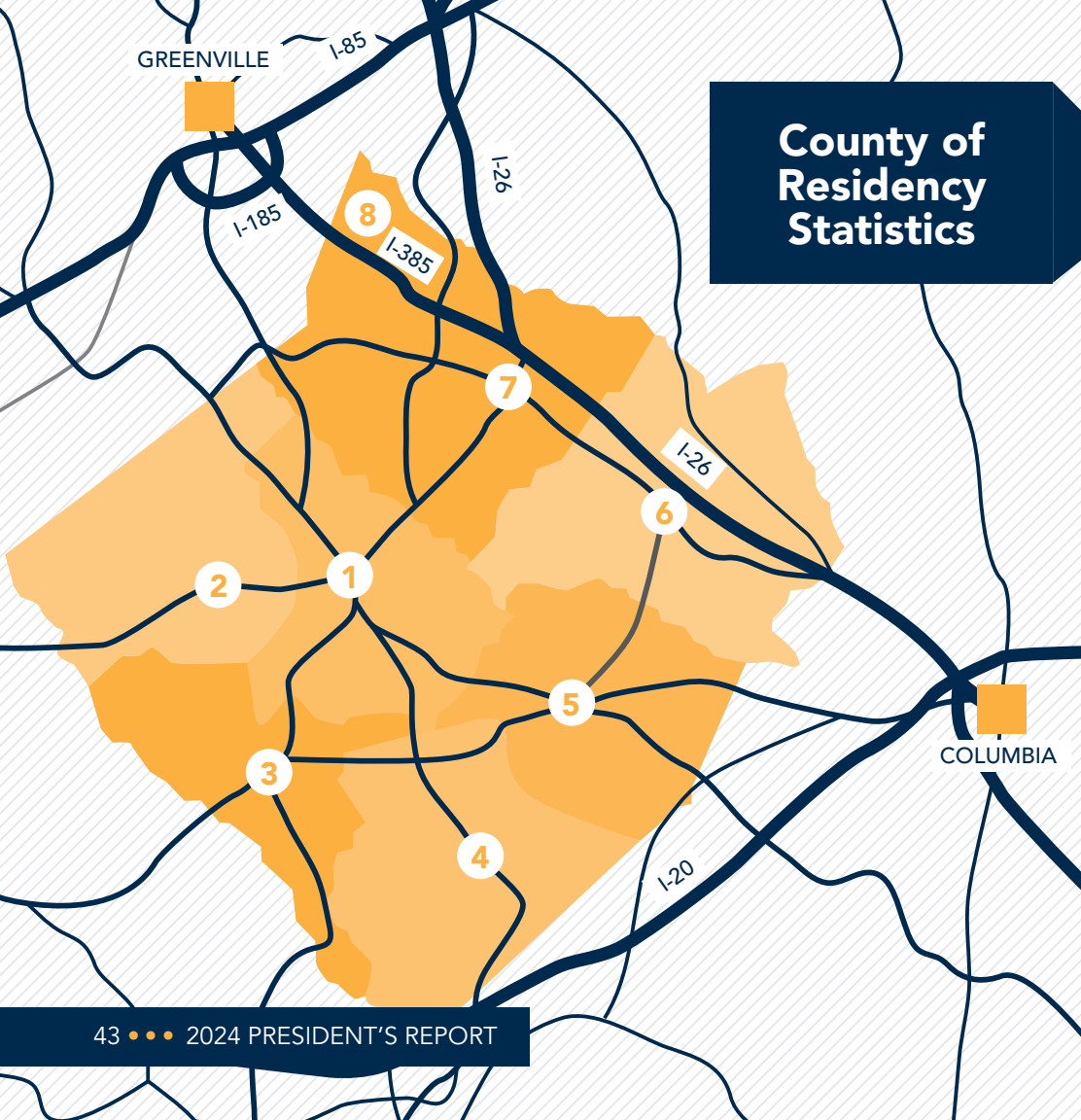


**33%**  
of students  
are male.

## PLACEMENT RATES BY CAREER CLUSTER

Area of Study	Number of Graduates	Number Available	Working Related Field	Continuing Education	Working Non-Related Field	Unemployed	Placement Rate
GENERAL EDUCATION	309	306	43	261	0	1	99%
INDUSTRIAL & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY	549	545	139	379	20	5	95%
HEALTHCARE	410	405	186	201	13	4	96%
BUSINESS & PUBLIC SERVICE	616	600	181	366	37	12	91%
GENERAL TECHNOLOGY	52	50	39	5	6	0	88%
TOTAL	1936	1906	588	1212	76	22	94%

Piedmont Technical College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or veteran status in its admissions policies, programs, activities or employment practices. For Title IX, Section 504, or Title II inquiries, contact: Employee and Job Applicants, Vice President of Human Resources PTC, PO Box 1467, Greenwood, SC 29648, (864) 941-8611, brown.a.@ptc.edu; or Students and Prospective Students, Dean of Student Services, PTC, PO Box 1467, Greenwood, SC 29648, (864) 941-8364, adoer@ptc.edu.



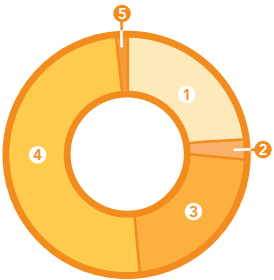
## County of Residency Statistics

- 1 Abbeville**  
Credit Curriculum: 8%;  
Continuing Education: 6%
- 2 Edgefield**  
Credit Curriculum: 5%;  
Continuing Education: 4%
- 3 Greenwood**  
Credit Curriculum: 32%;  
Continuing Education: 48%
- 4 Laurens**  
Credit Curriculum: 15%;  
Continuing Education: 15%
- 5 McCormick**  
Credit Curriculum: 2%;  
Continuing Education: 2%
- 6 Newberry**  
Credit Curriculum: 13%;  
Continuing Education: 5%
- 7 Saluda**  
Credit Curriculum: 3%;  
Continuing Education: 3%
- 8 Out of region or out of state**  
Credit Curriculum: 23%;  
Continuing Education: 19%

# INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

## REVENUES

Tuition and Fees (Net of Scholarship Allowance)	\$7,585,612
County	3,359,930
State	13,277,589
Grants and Contracts	30,212,651
Other	3,038,687
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$57,474,469</b>
<b>INCREASE IN NET POSITION</b>	<b>\$1,338,140</b>

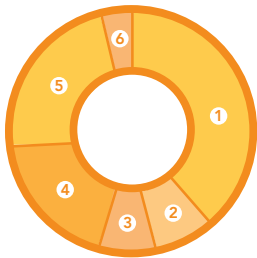


**REVENUES:**  
(1) Tuition and Fees: 13%,  
(2) County: 6%,  
(3) State: 23%,  
(4) Grants and Contracts: 53%,  
(5) Other: 5%

**2023-2024 total budget:** \$116 MILLION

## EXPENSES

Instruction and Academic Support	\$24,620,706
Student Services	6,524,720
Physical Plant	5,482,166
Institutional Support	6,266,780
Scholarships (Net of Scholarship Allowance)	9,470,835
Depreciation and Amortization	3,771,122
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$56,136,329</b>



**EXPENSES:**  
(1) Instruction and Academic Support: 43%,  
(2) Student Services: 12%,  
(3) Physical Plant: 10%,  
(4) Institutional Support: 11%,  
(5) Scholarships: 17%,  
(6) Depreciation and Amortization: 7%

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

## TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

### 2023-2024

Over **90%** of students attend PTC at **NO COST FOR TUITION AND FEES.**

PTC students who transferred in 2022-2023 saved an **estimated \$10,296,698\*** on tuition.

\*This rate is an average of PTC's in-county tuition rates. Your cost of attendance will vary based on your county of residence. Visit our tuition and fees page at [www.ptc.edu/tuition](http://www.ptc.edu/tuition) for the most current information about the costs related to attending PTC.

	Type of Aid	# of Students	Amount
FEDERAL	Grants	4,271	\$14,510,948
	Loans	1,716	11,222,686
	Federal Work Study	61	274,763
STATE	GED by 23	23	\$109,038
	LIFE	405	1,730,770
	Lottery Tuition Assistance	3230	3,338,143
	National Guard CAP Grant	10	40,563
	Palmetto Fellows	2	13,400
	SC Need-Based Grant	821	1,595,851
	SC WINS	1494	1,756,857
	State Apprenticeships	22	44,795
OTHER	Workforce Scholarships & Grants	158	188,323
	Workforce Sholarships for the Future	1048	1,655,097
	Book Assistance	49	\$16,010
	DL Scurry Scholarship	5	2,694
	ESSR Dual Book Vouchers	504	111,760
	Foundation Scholarships	134	100,144
	GED Scholarship	88	9,875
	PowerED	46	30,000
	Presidential Scholarship	103	114,224
	Promise Scholarship	24	31,578
	Vision Greenwood	23	15,000
	TOTAL		\$36,912,518

# 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 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 broad 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
  - 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

# AREA COMMISSION

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.



Y.J. Ahn  
*Greenwood*



Cherry Houston Brown  
*Secretary, McCormick*



Anita Butler  
*Abbeville*



Richard Cain  
*Laurens*



Dr. George P. Cone, Jr.  
*Greenwood*



Blake Davis  
*Laurens*



Charles Graves  
*Greenwood*



Jane J. Herlong  
*Vice Chair, Edgefield*



Dr. Dennis Lambries  
*Chair, Saluda*



Hannah Metts  
*Greenwood*



H. George Piersol, II  
*Newberry*



Thelma Woody  
*Abbeville*

