



**SOUTHERN  
CRESCENT**  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE



# TECH TRENDS

The Official Newsletter of Southern Crescent Technical College

NOVEMBER 2023

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### SCTC: Making An Impact

As we near the end of Fall Semester, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the collective journey we are undertaking and express my gratitude for the vibrant community that defines Southern Crescent Technical College. Each day, as I visit with our local leaders, industry partners, staff and students, I am continually inspired by the meaningful impact that Southern Crescent Technical College is making in the diverse communities that we serve.

In this edition of our newsletter, I am delighted to share updates on the exciting happenings around campus as well as Southern Crescent Technical College's remarkable achievements and the latest initiatives aimed at enhancing - and perhaps redefining - the college experience for our students. As we navigate the academic landscape together and prepare our students to transition into the workforce, I am confident that our collective efforts will contribute to the continued success and growth of this institution.

Remarkable things are happening at Southern Crescent Technical College and as we set our sights ahead toward Spring Semester, I would like to thank our dedicated faculty and staff for contributing to the impressive 17.8% enrollment growth as of November 1st, 2023. With these Fall Semester figures the highest among Georgia's 22 technical colleges, Southern Crescent Technical College remains on an upward trajectory, and we're committed to furthering workforce development in our region.

As Thanksgiving draws near, I am compelled to express my deepest gratitude to each and every member of Tiger Nation. To our students, faculty, staff, alumni, supporters, and workforce partners, thank you for being an integral part of our community. Your contributions shape the character of Southern Crescent Technical College and I look forward to the continued collaboration and shared achievements that lie ahead.

- Dr. Irvin Clark, President

## OERs Pave the Way for Upcoming Zero Textbook Cost Courses

Southern Crescent Technical College (SCTC) is pleased to announce the introduction of Open Educational Resources (OERs) and Z-Courses within its Arts and Sciences division, beginning Spring Semester 2024. This important initiative seeks to revolutionize the educational landscape by providing students with free and accessible learning materials while enhancing the overall quality of education.

Open Educational Resources are educational materials that are openly licensed for anyone to use, adapt, and share freely. These resources include textbooks, multimedia content, assessment tools, and more and they are designed to provide an affordable and equitable solution to traditional, costly educational materials.

The introduction of Open Educational Resources has paved the way for Z-Courses, an exciting new initiative at SCTC. With the addition of OERs into the curriculum, students are now eligible to register for specific courses offered each semester

that have been identified as Zero Textbook Cost courses or Z-Courses. Using OERs, there are no textbook costs associated with Z-Courses and will offer students a multitude of benefits such as significant cost savings, enhanced learning, increased accessibility, and inclusivity.

Kimberly Register, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Southern Crescent Technical College, expressed her enthusiasm for this transformative initiative saying, "We are excited to introduce Open Educational Resources and Z-Courses within our Arts and Sciences division. This initiative reflects our continued commitment to enhancing the educational experience for our students. OERs not only reduce the financial strain on our students, but also provide additional flexibility and empower instructors to innovate in their teaching methods. We believe that this move will create a more equitable and inclusive learning environment for all. Moving forward, we plan to further expand our Z-Course offerings using OERs."



In addition, SCTC is also implementing Low Cost Textbook Pathways (LTC) where required textbooks can be purchased for \$40 or less in either physical or electronic format. Similar to Z-Courses, LTC Pathways allow students to acquire supporting course materials at a deeply discounted rate. The implementation of OERs signifies a progressive step toward a more affordable and inclusive education, ensuring that students have the resources they need to excel in their academic journey. [sctech.edu/Zcourses](http://sctech.edu/Zcourses)

## SCTC Foundation Hosts 6th Annual Drive FORE Education Golf Tournament



SCTC President Dr. Irvin Clark, Golf Tournament Winning Team from United Bank - Tyler House, Cam Gilbert, Neill Jordan, Cameron House, SCTC VP for Advancement Barbara Jo Cook

The Southern Crescent Technical College Foundation recently hosted the Drive "Fore" Education Golf Tournament on November 2, 2023 at the Heron Bay Golf & Country Club in Locust Grove with 27 teams participating.

The Lauderdale style tournament was presented in partnership with Impact Office Interiors. Early estimates indicate that proceeds from the tournament will be in excess of \$57,000 with that money going to support the needs of the College including student scholarships and campus expansion.

SCTC President Dr. Irvin Clark expressed gratitude on behalf of the College and thanked the golfers in attendance before the 10 a.m. shotgun start. Dr. Clark stated, "Your attendance here today shows your commitment to the mission and purpose of Southern Crescent Technical College, and we cannot thank you enough for supporting our students and helping to make their career dreams a reality. We

take great pride in building strong students, strong careers, and strong communities, and your support is a vital part of the success of the College."

The Drive "Fore" Education Invitational Golf Tournament was a phenomenal success, primarily due to the unwavering support of those who participated and those who so generously donated items for auction. The SCTC Foundation expressed its appreciation when Foundation Chair Jack Bowdoin stated, "The College deserves the very best we can offer in our support, and the communities have surely risen to the occasion with their attendance and their donations. We are very thankful for their generosity and the opportunities it affords the students of Southern Crescent Technical College."

Tournament participants represented various business and industry partners from the College's eight county service area. United Bank took home top honors with a score of 19 under par. Double P Grading placed second with a score of 18 under par; Georgia Power finished third with a score of 17 under par. General Storage and Smith & Sons Funeral Home followed with a score of 13 under par.

Barbara Jo Cook, VP for Advancement commented, "We were beyond thrilled with the participation and support we received for the Southern Crescent Technical College Drive "Fore" Education Invitational Golf Tournament. Team representation and tournament sponsorships covered each of the eight counties that we serve, and the Foundation trustees were thrilled to host this tournament as a way to bring our external stakeholders together to support the needs of the College and our students." [sctech.edu/golf](http://sctech.edu/golf)

## SCTC Hosts Annual College Fair



SCTC's Career and Academic Planning Center hosted the College Fair on November 8th on the Griffin Campus with representatives from 20 colleges and universities in attendance. This annual event provided information about articulation agreements and transfer opportunities to SCTC students and graduates who aspire to continue their education at four-year institutions after graduation. In a special corresponding event, National First-Generation College Student Day was also celebrated where first-gen college students received information about institutional resources that may help during their tenure at SCTC.

## Fall Festival: Fun for ALL!

The Griffin Campus recently came alive with SCTC's annual Fall Festival and Open House. The atmosphere was filled with autumn excitement, and it can be safely said that a fantastic time was had by all! Students and guests were treated with

a jam-packed lineup of food and fun with program displays and a variety of activities. The event was held during NO FEE NOVEMBER, so all SCTC application fees were waived during the event. The Fall Festival was a whirlwind of fall fun for those in attendance!



## GEORGIA MATCH

Southern Crescent Technical College is proud to announce our partnership with other colleges and universities throughout Georgia to participate in the GEORGIA MATCH direct college admissions initiative. Governor Brian Kemp recently launched this largest state-run direct admissions initiative in the nation at the Governor's Workforce Summit last month.

In the initial phase of GEORGIA MATCH over 120,000 high school seniors in Georgia recently received a personal letter from Governor Kemp listing the public technical colleges and universities that are holding a spot for them for the Fall 2024 semester. The letter is based on academic eligibility and is a call to action to begin the next step in applying for college.

"SCTC has already received numerous inquiries from local students requesting more information and claiming their spot to attend SCTC starting next Fall," shared President Dr. Irvin Clark. "We couldn't be more pleased to have these students join the Tiger Nation and help them pursue their education and career goals."

Governor Kemp's letter encourages high school students to inquire about further information from a college and then "claim" their spot by selecting their college of choice. Additionally, NO FEE NOVEMBER has also launched so those who apply for college during the month of November will have their application fee waived. [sctech.edu/GAMatch](http://sctech.edu/GAMatch)



The SCTC Tigers and Lady Tigers have kicked off their 2023-24 Basketball season! We hope to see all of Tiger Nation on the court! [sctech.edu/basketball](http://sctech.edu/basketball)



Southern Crescent Technical College was recently announced as a 2025 Aspen Prize Top 150 U.S. Community College! The \$1 million Aspen Prize aims to elevate the community college sector and draw attention to what exemplary colleges can do to promote economic mobility for students and talent development for communities. [sctech.edu/Aspen](http://sctech.edu/Aspen)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Fall Break - November 20-24, 2023  
> Campuses open 11/20-22, no classes
- Thanksgiving Holiday - November 23-24, 2023  
> Campuses closed, no classes
- Spring Semester ROAR - December 7, 2023
- Last Day of Fall Semester - December 15, 2023

**NO FEE NOVEMBER** APPLICATION FEE WAIVED FOR THE WHOLE MONTH! SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS JANUARY 8 APPLY TODAY

## HIGH-DEMAND INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT

**WELDING TECHNOLOGY**  
CLICK HERE to learn more about this exciting career!

## GET TO KNOW: Lori Pitts, Coordinator - Tutoring and Mentoring Center



"As the Tutoring and Mentoring Center Coordinator, I am honored to assist students each day as they strive to achieve success at SCTC. It is our mission to support and empower students in their efforts to master skills and concepts that will enable them to realize their academic and professional goals. The relief and excitement on a student's face when they finally understand a concept that they struggled with a few minutes prior is priceless. The success of our students is the Tutoring and Mentoring Center's #1 priority, and it is truly a privilege to be of service to our amazing students!"

**What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?**  
I am the Mom of four boys. When I am not working, I am usually at school or athletic events cheering on my guys!

- What are three things you can't live without?**  
Jesus, my children, and chocolate
- Where is your favorite place to relax?**  
In the swing on my front porch.
- What is the best advice someone has given you?**  
Be kind. Always.
- What is your favorite memory?**  
As a UGA graduate and an avid UGA football fan, my most recent favorite memory is when UGA won the College Football National Championship (ending a 41-year drought) on January 10, 2022.
- What is something people may not know about you?**  
I LOVE Christmas and I begin decorating for Christmas on October 1 every year.
- What is something that you hope others might learn from you?**  
Never, ever give up! Don't be afraid to reach out if you need help. Asking for help doesn't make you weak, it makes you wise.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT Tutoring and Mentoring

The Tutoring and Mentoring Center at SCTC was designed to assist students in achieving their academic goals with in-person and virtual tutoring services. Tutors provide supplemental instruction in the areas of Math, English, Science and Reading, and are trained in learning strategies, including the study cycle to provide support to students in general work ethics and study skills. Additionally, all SCTC students, at all campuses and sites, have access to online tutoring services through Tutor.com. Tutor.com is an embedded tool link in all Blackboard courses offered at Southern Crescent Technical College. All tutoring services are free to SCTC students. The Tutoring and Mentoring Center completed 2,193 tutoring sessions in AY 23 with a 75% pass rate. This is a 36.6% increase in the number of tutoring sessions when compared to the previous year. To learn more about SCTC's Tutoring and Mentoring Center, contact: [tutoring@sctech.edu](mailto:tutoring@sctech.edu) [www.sctech.edu/tutoring](http://www.sctech.edu/tutoring)

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