



**SOUTHERN  
CRESCENT**  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE



# TECH TRENDS

The Official Newsletter of Southern Crescent Technical College

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### SCTC: Making An Impact

In the world of higher education, Fall Semester marks an exceptional time of new beginnings. The cooler air brings with it a sense of excitement and enthusiasm like no other. As fresh faces make their way down our halls, the Southern Crescent Technical College faculty and staff seem to have a renewed focus on our core values of academic excellence, student success and integrity. It is truly a pleasure to witness the contagious energy found at every event and in each classroom.

We are halfway through this Fall Semester and as we settle into the rhythms of a new academic year, we are laser focused on carrying out the goals that we have set. This issue of Tech Trends will offer you a small glimpse into some of our upcoming programs, initiatives and offerings while celebrating some of our incredible accomplishments and successes. Our college remains at the forefront of technical education in the state of Georgia and the highlighted data from our previous academic year confirms our achievements and commitment to personal growth and economic prosperity. We are enthusiastic about where we are going and proud of where we have been.

Along that same accord, we are eagerly anticipating the upcoming launch of our first-year experience program, FYE of the Tiger, and we are more committed than ever to supporting each of our students to persist and thrive through graduation and beyond. We believe this program will make a marked difference for our students and will be a key factor in the College's continued success. With our student-focused approach, we are poised to follow this trajectory as our enrollment continues to climb.

Once again, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering support of Southern Crescent Technical College. Our college community's positive impact reaches far beyond the walls of our classrooms and the boundaries of our campus. With our employees, graduates and steadfast supporters making a positive difference in our communities, SCTC continues to be a catalyst for innovation and progress. I hope each of you are able to see the good work that we are doing and take pride in being a member of Tiger Nation!

— Dr. Irvin Clark, President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- MicroMester 3 Begins - October 30, 2023
- Fall Break - November 20-24, 2023  
> Campuses open 11/20-22, no classes
- Thanksgiving Holiday - November 23-24, 2023  
> Campuses closed, no classes

## HIGH-DEMAND INDUSTRY SPOTLIGHT



COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVING

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about this exciting career!

## SCTC Rolls Out New First Year Experience Course for Students

Southern Crescent Technical College (SCTC) is dedicated to guiding students toward academic excellence while fostering their active involvement as valuable contributors to both the community and the workforce. In higher education, the first year of college sets the tone for student success yet, first-semester and first-year college students possess a heightened risk of academic failure and non-persistence.

In an attempt to promote student success, counter academic failure and improve persistence and retention rates, SCTC is introducing a new initiative called FYE of the Tiger. This initiative aims to enhance the first-year experience (FYE) for contemporary students, focusing on career readiness and skills development throughout their first year at SCTC.

FYE of the Tiger is a comprehensive program designed to support students during their crucial first year of college. It offers a transformative experience that goes beyond academics to prepare students for their future careers.

Starting before their coursework begins at SCTC, students will be introduced to FYE of the Tiger.

From there, a systematic approach will be taken to transform a student's first-year experience through an innovative online module-based sequence designed to promote student success. Students will have access to carefully designed modules that allow them to connect to college personnel, resources, programs, policies, events and procedures that will allow them to thrive in their new environment.

Through the use of academic strategies, technology, and self-discovery, students will develop the crucial skills necessary to be successful. As a result, FYE of the Tiger will enhance career opportunities, cultivate job-related skills, and prepare students for upward mobility inside and outside of the college setting. These modules will be an integral part of students' first-year curriculum, equipping students with the skills necessary for success in both college and the workforce.

SCTC Vice President for Academic Affairs Kimberly Register, said, "FYE of the Tiger is a College-wide initiative that places student success at the forefront. It is designed to connect and acclimate new students to Southern Crescent Technical



College. It creates an awareness of the academic and life skills necessary to achieve educational and career success and empowers students to learn and master the skills and knowledge essential for prosperous careers. This emphasis sets the stage to ensure a more robust workforce, where our graduates will actively contribute to building a stronger college and community. I am thrilled to see how our students, faculty, and entire college community benefit from this unique and engaging program."

Visit [www.sctech.edu/FYEoftheTiger](http://www.sctech.edu/FYEoftheTiger) for more information.

## Mercado Sworn-In as SCTC Police Chief



During a recent ceremony, Lemuel Mercado was officially sworn in by Superior Court Judge Ben Coker as Southern Crescent Technical College's Chief of Campus Safety and Security. Chief Mercado's law enforcement career spans three decades and includes work with Florida's Polk County Sheriff's Office and locally with the Griffin Police Department.

For the past 15 years, Chief Mercado has been employed by Southern Crescent Technical College teaching Criminal Justice courses and most recently serving as the Dean of Public Safety, Industrial, and Film Technologies. Throughout his tenure at SCTC, he has maintained his P.O.S.T. certification and assisted SCTC's Police Department with various activities. During his active law enforcement career, he served as a detention deputy, juvenile boot camp drill instructor, shift sergeant and supervisor of the

Uniform Patrol Division, Crimes Against Property Investigator in the Criminal Investigation Unit, and as the lieutenant over the Juvenile Division. Chief Mercado spent the majority of his law enforcement career as a supervising officer. His previous experience also includes serving as a sergeant in the United States Army in Central America and Colorado.

Southern Crescent Technical College operates a state-accredited independent law enforcement agency which offers the highest degree of safety and security for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The SCTC Police Department, led by the Chief of Campus Safety and Security, provides basic patrol functions and has all powers which are afforded to law enforcement agencies of the state of Georgia. All officers that work for SCTC are P.O.S.T. certified with state granted powers of arrest and have authorized jurisdiction to enforce the laws of the state of Georgia. All officers are sworn to defend the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Georgia, and the laws and ordinances of the jurisdiction.

Chief Mercado is a graduate of Mercer University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and Columbus State University with a Master's Degree in Public Administration. Additionally, Chief Mercado also graduated from the Georgia Chief of Police Association Command College and Professional Management Programs. [sctech.edu/ChiefMercado](http://sctech.edu/ChiefMercado)

## SCTC Foundation's Gardner Named as Griffin Exchange Club's Man of the Year

Southern Crescent Technical College Foundation Trustee Emeritus and long time College supporter Tom Gardner was recently named the Griffin Exchange Club's Man of the Year. As he accepted the award, Gardner stated, "It is truly an honor to be selected to be part of this group of recipients for the Griffin Exchange Club's Man of the Year Award. I am grateful to be recognized in this manner and thank you very much for this honor you have given me."

In addition to being a long-standing member of the Southern Crescent Technical College Foundation, Gardner previously served as a member and Chair of the Southern Crescent Technical College Board of Directors. As the former Chair of the Dundee Community Association, Tom was instrumental in the Association's donation of one million dollars to the Southern Crescent Technical College Foundation.

SCTC President Dr. Irvin Clark stated, "Tom Gardner has been a dedicated supporter of Southern Crescent Technical College and has made a significant impact



Griffin Exchange Club President-Elect Matt Middleton, Griffin Exchange Club President Shane Steward, Gail and Tom Gardner, Spalding County Commission Chairman Clay Davis, Griffin Mayor Doug Hollberg

on the College and the SCTC Foundation by serving in various leadership roles. He has helped our students achieve their personal and professional goals through his commitment to the mission and vision of the College. Being named the Griffin Exchange Club's Man of the Year is such a deserving honor to recognize his outstanding accomplishments for the local community."



## BY THE NUMBERS

The Technical College System of Georgia has recently released end-of-year reports from Academic Year 2023 (July 2022 - June 2023) with data gathered by its Data, Planning, and Research Center. As a consistent leader in the state, this data shows the remarkable impact that Southern Crescent Technical College is making on the communities, business, and individuals that we serve.

**7,733**

TOTAL CREDIT ENROLLMENT

\*ranked 6th among Georgia's Technical Colleges

**2,784**

TOTAL NUMBER OF GRADUATES

\*ranked 3rd among Georgia's Technical Colleges

**4,557**

TOTAL NUMBER OF ASSOCIATE DEGREES, DIPLOMAS, AND TECHNICAL CERTIFICATES OF CREDIT AWARDED

\*ranked 4th among Georgia's Technical Colleges

**99.6%**

OVERALL PLACEMENT RATE FOR RECENT GRADUATES

**94.3%**

IN-FIELD PLACEMENT RATE FOR RECENT GRADUATES

## GET TO KNOW: Ingrid Rider-Owens, VP for Economic Development



Ingrid Rider-Owens  
Vice President for  
Economic Development

"While I am new to this role at SCTC, I am not new to the exciting and unique world of Economic Development. Having spent the majority of my career in this arena, my vision is for SCTC's Economic Development to play a vital role in promoting the economic growth of the communities that we serve. Using innovative methods, we will work to support our local business and industry partners of all sizes while enhancing the quality of life for our citizens. The creation of jobs requires a concerted effort by multiple entities in order to facilitate a healthy local economy and I am excited to be an integral part of that process."

What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?

Sleeping, eating, fishing, and taking vacations.

What are three things you can't live without?

Faith, Family and Friends

Where would you take a dream vacation?

Australia—the water looks beautiful and I'm intrigued by the wildlife.

What is the best advice someone has given you?

Treat others the way you would want to be treated.

What are you currently reading or watching?

Old shows from the 70s like Kojak, Mannix, Adam-12, and Emergency

What is something people may not know about you?

I played almost every sport in junior high and high school.

What is something that you hope others might learn from you?

Kindness, humility, and the importance of service to others and the community.



## Economic Development

Southern Crescent Technical College's Department of Economic Development supports partnerships with businesses, industries, and local organizations to offer customized workforce training as well as continuing education opportunities and apprenticeships for individuals. Our division takes great pride in serving Georgia's new, expanding, and existing industries through training programs that develop solutions to meet the challenges facing Georgia's businesses. By offering a variety of training in the areas of advanced manufacturing, logistics, safety, forklift certification, leadership, management, and computer skills, the Economic Development Division is able to work with businesses to provide a training program to address each company's specific need. To learn more about SCTC's Department of Economic Development and the courses offered, contact: [EconomicDevelopment@sctech.edu](mailto:EconomicDevelopment@sctech.edu) [www.sctech.edu/EconomicDevelopment](http://www.sctech.edu/EconomicDevelopment)

Have a question, comment, or story idea for Tech Trends? Email us at [marketing@sctech.edu](mailto:marketing@sctech.edu)

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