

Columbus Technical College
Adult Education Division
2015-16 Highlights



Equal Opportunity Institution

COLUMBUS TECHNICAL COLLEGE
A Unit of the Technical College System of Georgia

Newsletter Highlights



Locally at the College, I ask that you join me in congratulating April Hopson on accepting the position of Director of Adult Education. Since April has accepted this position, she will not be able to compete for the Rick Perkins Instructor of the Year. As first runner-up, English instructor Kelli Wilkes will now represent the college; and we're sure she'll do us very proud! Please wish them both well.

– Lorette Hoover, President's Report

Media Coverage

Jan. 23, 2015 – WTVM.com (GOAL, EAGLE, RPA Winners)

<http://www.wtvm.com/story/27925552/columbus-technical-college-awards-students-and-their-teacher-of-the-year>

Jan. 23, 2015 – UPColumbus (GOAL, EAGLE, RPA Winners)

<http://upcolumbus.com/profiles/blogs/ctc-announces-students-instructor-of-year-for-2015>

– Community & College Relations

Bringing English as Second Language (ESL) on Post

On January 26th, Mrs. Sarahann Wood Arcila, Lead English as Second Language Instructor, along with Ms. Diane Neal as well as Mr. Joe Hiner, Adjunct Instructor had a great start with the ESL program on Fort Benning. Our ESL is intended for students from the rich international community on Fort Benning.

Months ago, Economic Development had the honor of joining forces with Adult Education, with the goal of bringing this groundbreaking program to Fort Benning. Economic Development spearheaded the promotion and logistical coordination with the installation Education Center; with the Director of the Maneuver Center of Excellence G-2 (the Fort Benning Intelligence Officer), who facilitated the promotion of the ESL program among the international Liaison Officers and Foreign Military Personnel Exchange Program Personnel; and with the Commandant of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC), who also helped us to promote the initiative among his international soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, law enforcement officers as well as their families. The WHINSEC Commandant, Colonel Keith Anthony, US Army Special Forces, graciously provided two of his classrooms for our use. Colonel Anthony as well as the Assistant Commandant, Colonel Gustavo Nuñez from the Republic of Chile, and the Chief of Staff, US Army Lieutenant Colonel Ramiro Salazar, have enthusiastically supported this CTC pioneering endeavor.

The newly-renovated WHINSEC campus is located in the historical site that formerly housed the Fort Benning Hospital (built in 1923) and the "old" Infantry Museum. Its classrooms are equipped with "Classroom XXI" technology which brings state-of-the-art IT capabilities.

Continued from previous page -

Economic Development sincerely thanks Sarahann Wood Arcila and the Adult Education team for this phenomenal opportunity to join forces aiming at expanding a great program which is not only about teaching English but also enriches the US experience of allies, enhancing their cultural awareness as well as indirectly fostering international cooperation and fomenting trust among the nations represented.

– Economic Development

Columbus Technical College would like to congratulate its 2015 winners in the GOAL (Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership), EAGLE (Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education) and Rick Perkins/Tim Justice competitions. The winners took center stage at last week's North Columbus Rotary meeting, with each one sharing her story.



Twenty-eight-year-old EAGLE winner Raakia Cherry is the poster child for perseverance. Even though she dropped out of high school, she is not giving up on providing a better life for herself and her three young children. Raakia takes buses to get to and from her GED classes and works as a housekeeper in an area hotel to make ends meet. She only has one section left to master in her test and then she'll graduate. She, of course, hopes to enroll at Columbus Technical College.

The regional competition for GOAL and Rick Perkins is the week of Feb. 24th in Macon. The EAGLE competition will be held in Atlanta March 17 – 19th. Please wish our ladies well. We are so proud of them.

– Lorette Hoover, President's Report

Please join me in wishing our own Raakia Cherry well as Columbus Technical College's EAGLE (Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education) winner. Raakia has submitted a video of her speech and will soon learn if she is a state finalist. She's an awesome person, a great student with plans to attend College following earning her GED, and a great mom. Congratulations Raakia Cherry - enjoy the competition and leadership workshops! I look forward to seeing Raakia and our Adult Education faculty and staff in Atlanta on Wednesday!

– Lorette Hoover, President's Report





Columbus Technical College was well-represented at the annual Trivia Bee event on February 24th. The Trivia Bee pits teams from different area organizations in a fun, crazy competition to raise money and awareness for the Columbus Literacy Alliance. CTC had the “Dunderheads” community team and the “Tech-Tronics” college team. Director of Adult Education April Hopson even played her best dinosaur to serve as the “runner.” A great time was had by all!

– Lorette Hoover, President's Report

It's been an exciting few weeks and I would like to recognize some outstanding students here at Columbus Technical College.

During last week's 2015 EAGLE (Exceptional Adult in Georgia Literacy Education) Institute in Atlanta, Raakia Cherry represented Columbus Technical College among 28 adult education programs throughout the State of Georgia.

Raakia says that the most important lesson that she has learned from participating in the adult education program at Columbus Technical College is the importance of education and that learning can be fun.

Both Raakia and her nominating instructor, Heather Elliott, enjoyed sessions and workshops focused on continuing education. They also met new friends and colleagues from across the state who share the same goals and had lots of fun during the special events.

Thank you, Raakia for being an excellent representative for us!



Raakia with her nominating instructor Heather Elliott (left) and Director of Adult Ed April Hopson.

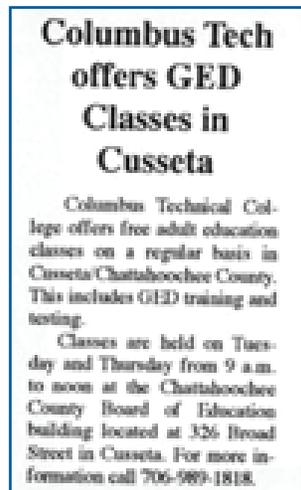
– Lorette Hoover, President's Report

Educating the International Community



The Adult Education English as a Second Language program at Columbus Tech is supporting students from around the world to adjust and thrive in their new community: Columbus, GA. Adult Education is not only teaching ESL to these international students, but enhancing their cultural awareness, utilizing a variety of techniques to include field trips to various key locations. Some of them were: the Columbus Museum, the Columbus Library, the Historic District, as well as National Infantry Museum. Adult Education English as a Second Language continues to play a key role not only supporting these promising students to adapt to their “new world” but skillfully guiding them to become an integral part of the community and its work force.

– Academic Affairs



**GED Classes: The Journal
(Buena Vista, GA), April 15, 2015**

– Community & College Relations

Helping to Expand Our Programs and to Enhance Cultural Awareness

Economic Development helped to connect the Adult Education English as a Second Language program with the Army Community Services' network of international spouses. After engaging a key ACS representative, that agency allowed Mrs. Sarahann Wood Arcila to brief her ESL program during the International Spouses Club meeting last week. Mrs. Wood Arcila, Lead English as Second Language Instructor, is conducting a superb ESL program on Fort Benning. The program has generated much interest, and continues to attract international students.

Our Fort Benning ESL program is intended for students from the rich international community on post. Given the diversity and large number of international service members, law enforcement officers, and families as well as the classroom dynamics, our College not only provides the required skills in English, but directly contributes to nurture international cooperation, leading to trust among the nations represented. Our on-post ESL program boosts confidence and enhances cultural awareness for these international soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, law enforcement officers as well as their families who substantially contribute to our local economy.

– Economic Development

The CTC Adult Education Program is now located in one central location on campus, the 1st floor of the Library. Room L611 is where all students can be sent for registration of classes and information, please call 706-641-5620 for more info. Room L616 for all ESL (English as a Second Language) students, please call 706-641-5626.

– Lorette Hoover, President's Report

Programs and Classes on Post – Fall 2015

Economic Development continues to have the honor of joining forces with Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Adult Education ESL with the intent of coordinating and advancing various programs/classes on post. Besides the medical coding program and the four classes in the Maneuver Center of Excellence Headquarters announced in the flyers below, Adult Education, with the direct support of economic development, will continue to teach ESL on Fort Benning. Our ESL program on Fort Benning is intended for students from the rich international community on post. Specific times in August TBD. However, more than likely the ESL classes will be conducted at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation since the Commandant has offered his state-of-the-art facilities, again, given the success/participation at the installation level.

WHAT: Information Sessions on the Medical Coding program that will be offered at Martin Army Community Hospital (MACH) beginning on 17 August.

WHO: For on-post personnel who are interested in taking advantage of this program

WHERE: Baugh Conference Room (MACH Basement)

WHEN: 28 May, 4 June, 9 June, and 18 June - all at 1800 hours (6 pm)

Note: During these one-hour information sessions, guidance and details will be provided on the enrollment process to include program information, application process, financial aid, and more. Follow-on Application, Financial Aid, and Testing Sessions will be announced.

– Economic Development

This article was also featured in the next three editions of the newsletter.



Speaking of successes, congratulations are also in order for the 2015 inductees into Lambda Alpha Chi (LEX). This is the honor society for paralegal students. As part of tonight's ceremony, the original program director and developer of this program for our college, April Hopson, was presented the Judge Benjamin S. Richardson Award. A special plaque will be permanently displayed in the Tim Justice law collection in the Columbus Technical College library.

– Lorette Hoover, President's Report

New Videos:

EAGLE Student: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KtK06V01gtA>

– Community & College Relations

Free English as Second Language Classes on Post

Given the significant participation during the 2015 spring semester, and in an effort to support the Fort Benning international community as well as the Army, Columbus Technical College Adult Education will be offering its free English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, on Fort Benning again. This Fort Benning ESL program is intended for participants from the wide international community on post. The program is designed to help participants acquire the necessary reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills to communicate and compete in the modern economy.

The 2015 fall semester classes, 18 August – 17 December, will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 - 8:30 pm, in Building 396, at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation state-of-the-art facilities which are being graciously offered by the Institute's leadership. The registration will be conducted on the 18th and 20th of August, 5:30-8:30 pm, Building 396. For more information, please contact Mrs. Sarahann Wood Arcila, swood@columbustech.edu, telephone: 706-641-5626.

Economic Development is delighted to support Adult Education in bringing this program to Fort Benning, its second consecutive semester. Economic Development continues to spearhead the promotion, as well as the logistical and administrative coordination with the installation authorities.

Mrs. Wood Arcila's program offers multiple benefits to the participants. Besides learning the required skills to effectively communicate, compete, and excel in the modern economy, the program includes pedagogical elements which boosts confidence and enhance the participants' cultural awareness. Given these classroom dynamics and pedagogical approaches, the ESL classroom offers a unique environment to meet people from many cultural backgrounds, and initiate life-long friendships with these families from around the world.

– Economic Development

Adult Education Opportunities

Exciting and new opportunities are available for adult education students. Summer is almost over and many children will be returning to school. What better time for parents to enroll in classes too. Adult education accommodates all learner's life schedule. We offer AM, Noon and PM classes at Columbus Technical College, English as a Second Language as well as multiple locations within all six counties (Chattahoochee, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman, Stewart and Talbotton) we serve. Adult education is now offering distant learning to accommodate individuals who struggle with childcare, employment schedules and financial strain to obtain their GED and further their education with Columbus Technical college. This new opportunity will also prepare our students for the collegiate world as we near each graduation. If you are interested, have any questions or know of someone who would benefit from this service, please have them call 706-641-5620 or ctcadulteducation@columbustech.edu for more information.

– Academic Affairs

This article was also featured in the next edition of the newsletter.

This week we will be hosting the Adult Education Grand Opening on Thursday, August 20 at 11:00 am. on the first floor of the Library building. If you are available, please join the celebration and be supportive of the newest family members at the College. I hope to see you there!

– Lorette Hoover, President's Report

August 20, 2015 was not only a day of celebration at Columbus Technical College but it also marked an important day in the life of our College. We hosted the official grand opening of our Adult Education Division complete with a ribbon-cutting, munchies, addresses from state and local Chamber officials and even tours of the renovated classrooms. The nice aesthetics, smiles, and handshakes was just the beginning. The real winners from this event will be the thousands of adult learners who now have an easy to access one-stop-shop for all their GED and education needs. As it was mentioned during the ceremony, some 18 percent of adults in the state of Georgia don't have a high school diploma. By having our Adult Education Department centrally located on our campus, it makes life easier for these people to get their GED. As you may know, we have multiple locations where folks can take classes in all of our six counties. But the term "classes" nowadays even takes on a different meaning. Gone are the days of several hours for several days in a row sitting in a hard plastic chair inhaling chalk dust. Today's adult learners have apps, hybrid classes and immediate access to their coursework and assignments with the tap of a screen.

Congratulations to our Adult Education team led by April Hopson for our successful grand opening and please support them in their future endeavors.

– Lorette Hoover, President's Report



Media Coverage

Adult Ed Grand Opening:

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/news/local/education/article31661270.html>

<http://www.wtvm.com/clip/11780854/columbus-tech-opens-new-adult-education-department>

– Community & College Relations

CTC Instructors on Fort Benning

Teachers will never be replaced by any software. Only great teachers ignite creativity, instill virtues, and inspire hope. The following CTC instructors are doing exactly that and, in the process, are opening new paths in the lives of the Fort Benning students:

English as Second a Language.

CTC is teaching its ESL Program on Fort Benning for the second consecutive semester. Mrs. Sarahann Wood Arcila, Lead English as Second Language Instructor as well as a great team of adjunct instructors have been working arduously on the registration process and are expecting a significant amount of participants. The Fort Benning ESL program is intended for students from the rich international community on post. Economic Development had the privilege to join forces with Adult Education in an effort to initiate, coordinate, and promote the program on Fort Benning. The Department spearheaded the coordination efforts with the Fort Benning Education Center, the Director of the Maneuver Center of Excellence G-2 (Intelligence Office), as well as with the commandant of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC). ESL continues to be taught in the newly-renovated WHINSEC campus. Mrs. Sarahann Wood Arcila's program is not only about teaching basic language skills. It also enriches the US experience of our allies, improve their cultural awareness, and enhance their perception of the United States.

– Economic Development

Campus and Community Events



Students from ESL program participated in the Student Organization Drive for the first time this year. There was a tremendous amount of interest expressed by students to become a part of the organization. ESL Instructor, Sarahann Wood Arcila, has graciously agreed to become the Faculty Advisor for the International Student Association.

– Student Affairs

Thanks to those of you who made time in your busy schedules to attend the recent grand opening of our Adult Education division. Having our GED and ESL services all under one roof will make life easier for those in our community seeking to pursue their dreams of attaining a quality education. Please click on this link and enjoy a look back at the very successful and well-received event!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VIUi8II6Mw>

– Lorette Hoover, President's Report



WIOA Open House

Adult Ed staff and students visit WIOA open house.

– Academic Affairs

GED Graduates

Shelia Reynolds discovered the GED program here at Columbus Tech through a Google search and enrolled in May of this year. As of September 2nd she has successfully completed all sections of the official GED test. Shelia is set to begin courses at Columbus Tech in October with goals of completing her general education courses needed to transfer to a four year University. It is her objective to obtain a degree in social work.



Shelia Reynolds



Lacie Spencer

Lacie Spencer discovered our GED program in the same way in May 2014 and decided to enroll to help further her education and begin the journey towards a career. Lacie is interested in a career as a Nurse Practitioner and plans to begin Columbus Tech's Nursing program next month. Her family is very proud of her success and happy to see her continue her education immediately.

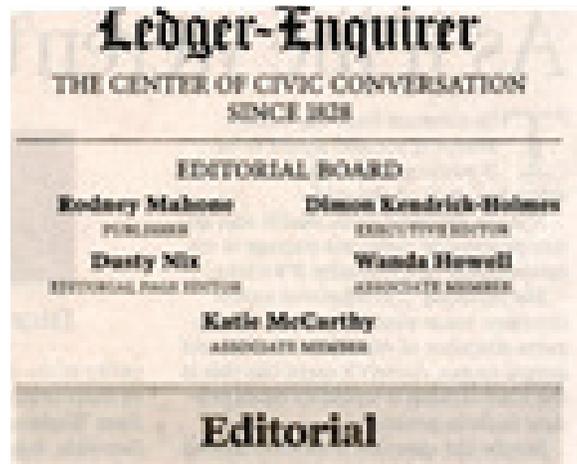
Shelia and Lacie have become good friends through the program keeping in touch with each other, acting as a support system and cheering each other on. They are excited to transition into being a college student together and to continue supporting each other.

– Academic Affairs

New “News”

Aug. 23 Op-Ed piece on Governor’s HDCI (High Demand Career Initiative)/ Adult Ed Grand Opening.

– Community & College Relations



Opportunities and challenges for workforce

Two important items came out of Gov. Nathan Deal’s High Demand Career Initiative (HDCI) meetings last week at Chattahoochee Technical College and Clayton State University. One of them is new, the other relatively familiar:

The new one involves people who have applied for jobs but failed drug tests, or who don’t bother to apply at all because of substance abuse problems.

“I think this will be one of those breakthrough opportunities that our state can pioneer,” Deal said, “but we’re in the very early stages.”

The idea is to give people who fail drug tests, or who avoid applying for jobs because of them, help in dealing with those problems before they end up in the criminal justice system and, ideally, to help them get jobs and fill those employer needs.

“If you’ve got someone who wants to kick the habit,” said Labor Commissioner Mark Butler, “we’ve got to find a way to help them.”

But drugs aren’t the only, or even the biggest, workforce problem, which brings us to the second and more familiar issue that arose at the HDCI meetings — the chronic shortage of skilled workers to fill high-demand jobs in Georgia.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Wednesday that business and industry representatives at the Clayton State meeting want workers who can not only handle high-skill jobs, but who also can interact with customers, coworkers and the public.

In other words, both the stakes and the demands are getting higher.

One suggestion from the business leaders was that job-related programs, in the form of more science and technology education, should be available in middle and high school.

By appropriate coincidence, the same week the governor’s HDCI meetings were bringing together business leaders and representatives of the state’s postsecondary education programs, **Columbus Technical College opened its new adult education facility.**

What’s the connection? Well, beyond the obvious one — preparing Georgians for an ever higher-demand workforce — Georgia has a troublingly large number of adults (8 percent) who haven’t finished high school. The GED classes at Columbus Tech are free, and every student who earns his or her GED in the program qualifies for a \$500 state scholarship.

There are approximately 1,000 students in the Columbus Tech adult education program, which the college took over from the Muscogee County School District. A graduation rate of 89 percent in the program means between 900 and 1,000 of those students should get a huge step closer to jobs or, better still, to further education in an increasingly competitive and demanding job market.

So as industry leaders are urging the state to begin workforce education at the secondary level, the state is dealing with the reality that almost one-fifth of its adults haven’t even gotten that far. Bridging that gap is of critical importance.

Are you thinking of becoming a citizen of the United States?

Columbus Tech offers free classes that help you to prepare for the citizenship test. The test consists of an oral interview and a written test on U.S. history and state/federal government. This test requires only basic reading, writing, and speaking abilities in English.

Citizenship classes provide mock interviews to prepare individuals for their citizenship interview with an officer of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). In addition, your teacher will assist you to understand the 21 page USCIS form that must be submitted at time of application.

– Academic Affairs

This article was also featured in several editions of the newsletter.

Excelling Instructors-Adult Education Conference in Atlanta, GA

On Tuesday, September 29th, two of Columbus Technical College's Adult Education instructors were recognized for their strength when facing change and showing students that technology can lead the way.

Cindy Ross and Heather Elliot

"The history begins with twenty plus years of continuous "old school" one-room style teaching with paper and pencil. Within one week this style of teaching changed and a new world for Adult Education students blossomed. Technology was incorporated, every student had a computer, and the team teaching (hybrid) classes was born in less than 24 hours.

These two instructors not only had to learn how to co-teach but they had to develop a new curriculum in one week. Ever since conception this team has not only embraced continuous change but proved change can be good.

These two instructors produced our first GED graduate within two weeks of Adult Education program's move to the library and have been the highest producer of GED graduates since conception. Instructors who once feared change have now embraced and endorsed the new teaching style."



Cindy Ross



Heather Elliot

– Academic Affairs

This week Jamie Loyd, April Hopson, and I are traveling to the Goodwill Excel Center to discover new partnership opportunities.

– Lorette Hoover, President's Report

Columbus Tech Helps a Brazilian Senior Achieve Her Dream

“I am too old to learn a new language.” Have those words ever come from your mouth? Maria Mauko, a student in Columbus Technical College’s Adult Education Program, would vehemently disagree with you. At 83 years old, she, a native Brazilian, is blazing new trails in her life and in her educational career. Mauko attends English classes three days a week at Columbus Technical College (CTC), and in July of 2015, she took the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) test to become a new and very proud American citizen.

When asked what her motivation is to learn English and become a citizen at her age, Mauko replied, “I love America! I enjoy coming to my classes at the College. This is like a second home to me.” Mauko has been studying English since 2008 and finds it very challenging and at times overwhelming, but those feelings will not deter her from success.

“The Columbus Technical College family is so proud of Ms. Mauko,” said CTC President Lorette M. Hoover. “She may not realize it, but she is such an inspiration to all of us. Seeing someone her age with such a passion for learning makes us all want to be better and improve ourselves.”

CTC celebrates not only Maria Mauko’s continued English language improvement, but also her achievement of becoming a U.S. citizen. Her success represents a challenge to all of us to continue to learn and grow.



CTC ESL Instructor SaraAnn Wood with Maria Mauko, who proudly holds her U.S. Naturalization.

– Adult Ed

Thanks to everyone who participated in the recent United Way fundraising effort and helped with the kick-off campaign. Our “Denim Day” fundraiser was held on October 29 for the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley. The State Charitable Contributions Program one-mile walk/run on October 28 was a big success with about 50 people participating and another dozen or so cheering on their team members. The two events raised \$409. Way to go guys! The ever-ebullient April Hopson won the prize for wackiest costume and Kristofer Mellinger hoofed it to win the actual race.

Also on October 29, some of the cutest goblins ever gathered outside of our library building for the annual Trunk or Treat event. Team members from Adult Ed, Phi Beta Lambda and others decked out their vehicles and gave candy to all the kids. April Hopson and Mary Ann Woyke won for Best Decorated Car. After filling up on sugar, the little ones got to watch a fun Halloween short film called “Toy Story of Terror.”

– Lorette Hoover, President's Report



ESL Class takes a Ghost Tour at the Springer Opera House

On Wednesday, October 14th Adult Education's English as a Second Language classes took 49 students to the Springer Opera House for a "ghost tour" of the historic building. Although no ghosts were spotted students learned a lot of English vocabulary and got to step back in time to discover the history of Columbus. A few students even put on a mini performance for their classmates. The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Which Shoes Should We Choose were performed by students on the Springer stage.



Congratulations, Graduates!

Philomena Ackah

Philomena moved from Africa to the U.S. where she had already completed high school and some college courses three years ago. She found the program by a Google search and began attending in August of 2014. Philomena decided that a GED was the best route for her and now that she has accomplished this goal she is interested in becoming a Columbus Technical College student. The Medical Assisting or Criminal Justice Programs are her current interests however she remains undecided. Completing the Compass test and beginning college courses in spring 2016 are her next two goals. Philomena found the GED program and the teachers to be very helpful in helping her accomplish this goal.



Natalja Sarla

Natalja found the program online while searching for GED classes and selected Columbus Tech's adult education program as she desired to further her education in Georgia rather than Alabama. She began the program in February of 2015 and after only three weeks advanced to our fast track class. Natalja is a Russia native and moved to the U.S. in 2008. Natalja would like to enroll in Columbus Tech's nursing program pending the decision of a military relocation or stabilization. Her original goal is to become a Nurse Practitioner which stems from volunteer experience overseas.

– Adult Ed

Congratulations, Aaron Guillaume!

Aaron began the GED program in May of 2015 pre-testing very high and in just a few months with hard work and consistency was able to begin taking his official GED tests. Aaron plans to take some time to study for the ASVAB so he can score high enough to begin a career in the United States Army with hopes of being a part of the Ranger Regiment.



First Annual ESL Cooking Contest



Did you notice the delicious smells coming from the library building on Thursday, October 29th? The Adult Education, English As A Second Language program was holding their inaugural cooking contest. After studying a unit on food and cooking, the students prepared a traditional dish from their country. There were over 40 dishes from all over the world! The honorable Mrs. April Hopson, Director of Adult Education, was the judge. She found it very difficult to make a decision

in each of the 3 categories, appetizers, main course, and desserts. To enter the competition the students had to bring their dish accompanied by their recipe translated into English. We are looking forward to making this an annual event.

– Adult Ed

Congratulations to our EAGLE student!

Each year Adult Education Instructors at technical colleges across the state of Georgia nominate their best students to interview for the Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education (EAGLE) competition. Columbus Technical Colleges Adult Education Department nominated a total of 16 students and interviews 8. Among those 8 was Lacie Spencer who has been chosen as the CTC EAGLE delegate.



Lacie is 26 years old from New Iberia Louisiana and moved to Georgia at the age 17 to start over. She completed the GED program in September 2015 and has kept the momentum going by going straight into the RN program at Columbus Tech In October. Lacie would like to become a nurse practitioner once she completes her degree to help make a positive impact on her community. She is a mentor to young girls at her church, as well as a role model for her two daughter's ages 8 and 6. Lacie plans to transfer to Columbus State once she completes her degree here at CTC.

The staff in the Adult Education Program are ecstatic to have a great candidate to represent Columbus Tech at the state level in Atlanta in March 2016. We are sure she will excel and confident she can win!

– Adult Ed

Thanksgiving Celebration

Our Adult Education ESL students paused before Thanksgiving to reflect on all of the things that they are thankful for. So many of the students are away from their families during this holiday season but have found a family here at Columbus Tech. For that, and many other things they are thankful.



During the Thanksgiving celebration they learned the history of the holiday, how the holiday is traditionally celebrated in America, and put on Thanksgiving plays for their classmates. They also participated in the canned food drive to benefit the Valley Rescue Mission.

– Adult Ed

Thank you for your volunteerism for an amazing local charity. We met some fantastic people, didn't we?! We met little kids who were so excited to drop each bit of change mamma had available, the kind souls who rolled up several dollar bills for the kettle, men who didn't have change but walked back from their trucks having empty their truck's change holder, wonderful retired veterans...each one a friend. Thank you all for supporting Columbus Technical College's two days of service as Kettle Ringers at the Winn Dixie on Veterans Parkway. The Volunteers shared that they enjoyed it so much they would like to do it again next year! Happy Holidays!

– Adult Ed



Sarahann Arcila, ESL student
Ramona Marcano and Diane Neal



Heather Elliott and
Sherri Cutting



Barbara Moushon

I wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some moments from our Annual Meeting in December. What a wonderful time for all of us to come together and enjoy each other's company. It also gives us an opportunity to recognize our hard work and dedication to Columbus Technical College!

– Lorette Hoover, President's Report



2015 Faculty and Staff Development Grant Recipients



Front row (l-r): Sarahann Arcila, Donna Emmons, Leatha Cyprian, Mary Ann Woyke. Back row (l-r): Alan Ashmore, Kristofer Mellinger, Melinda Delbridge, and Kathleen Decker.

2015 Monolithic Awards



Hattie Bailey
"Attitude is Everything"

Congratulations!

Bryce Grant

Bryce Grant passed his final GED test on December 10th and did so with flying colors earning State Honor test scores. Bryce is from a military family that just spent three years at an installation in Germany. Upon returning to the States and realizing that he may be set back more than he like he decided that traditional high school was not for him and enrolled in CTC's adult education program in October 2015. In only 3 months he attended class, studied and aced all four GED tests. Bryce is now a Columbus Tech General Studies student; he plans on completing his associates degree and working as much as he can to figure out what he wants to be "when he grows up". With interests in Technology, networking, and history he would like to give himself time to figure it out. Bryce intends to move back to the Seattle Washington are where he is originally from and where the majority of his friends and family reside. He will be participating in the upcoming graduation ceremony.



– Adult Ed

Giving Back



The Adult Education Department gives back to the community by participating in the canned good drive and donating clothes and toys to Goodwill.

– Adult Ed

Mrs. Sarahann Arcila is also leading the charge in her third consecutive semester of **English as Second a Language** on the Installation, Sarahann and an excellent team of adjunct instructors are engaging a significant group of families from all the corners of the world. Economic Development had the privilege to join forces with Adult Education in an effort to initiate, coordinate, and further promote the program on Fort Benning. The Department spearheaded the coordination efforts with the Fort Benning Education Center, the Director of the Maneuver Center of Excellence Intelligence Office, as well as with the Commandant of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. Besides teaching English, Sarahann's program continues to enrich the US experience of allies, improve their cultural awareness, and enhance their perception of our great Nation.

– Economic Development

Columbus Tech and Habitat for Humanity Holiday Celebration

Kolb Ave, Columbus, GA. – What seemed like a normal closing day turned into a celebration for a local family. In addition to closing on their first home, Mr. and Mrs. Clive Cannon were surprised by the members and advisors of Phi Beta Lambda and Student Leadership Council on December 18th 2015. The new homeowners and their three children were welcomed home to a fully decorated Christmas tree, gifts for the family and dinner to include a turkey, ham and sides. The family expressed their gratitude and was overjoyed by the thoughtfulness of the organizations. Congratulations to the Cannon family and welcome to the neighborhood.



Dean Nicole Jackson, Kelton Mathis, Sheena Clark, Shadarrius Jones, Crystal Waye, Tasha Cannon, Clive Cannon, Brandon Gilland, Anisha Tyson, Mary Woyke, Jonathan Jones



Shadarrius Jones, Sheena Clark, Mary Ann Woyke



Kelton Mathis, Crystal Waye, Sheena Clark, Shadarrius Jones, Anisha Tyson, Mary Woyke, Brandon Gilland, Jonathan Jones, Christopher Cunningham

Congratulations to our Division of Adult Education students who were honored at Thursday's pinning ceremony.

The celebration recognized students who have completed their GEDs and also our ESL students. We had a full house of those who showed up to support their loved ones for their accomplishments. Please enjoy a few photos from this special occasion.

– Lorette Hoover, President's Report



Congratulations to our ESL Students!

Pictured back row (l-r): Qazi Abid, Jose Almonte, Yanelly Altagracia, Adela Avellaneda. **Fifth row** (l-r): Nelly Cañón, Antonio Dangond, Jamie De Avila, Dalis Diaz. **Fourth row** (l-r): Weiping Ding, José Figueroa, Luisella Fiorelli, Laydee Hayes. **Third row** (l-r): Simon Henríquez, Nancy Hurtado, Gisela Mera, Walter Navarro. **Second row** (l-r): Eugenio Pagan, Jorge Paulino, Silvia Reyes, Robinson Salazar. **Front row** (l-r): Jean Senat, Carlos Soler, Luis Vargas.

Congratulations to our GED Recipients!

Pictured back row (l-r): Bryce Grant, Zackary Mayes, Amber Pipkins, Ja'Narda Pitts. **Middle row** (l-r): Sheila Reynolds, Angelica Rosado, Natalja Sarla. **Front row** (l-r): Randall Sheppard, Lacie Spencer.

Pictured (l-r): Lorette Hoover, Oprah Stephens, Honors Diploma recipient Bryce Grant and April Hopson.



We had lots to celebrate last week with both graduation and the pinning ceremony for the Associate Degree of Nursing program. Graduation is always such an exciting time for the college, seeing the pride in our students and being able to join them in celebrating their accomplishments. Please enjoy some photos of both events.

Highlighting the graduation ceremony were several key speeches given by our Rick Perkins/Tim Justice Instructor of the Year, Dr. Tara Scott; our EAGLE student, Lacie Spencer; and our GOAL student, Donald Thrasher.

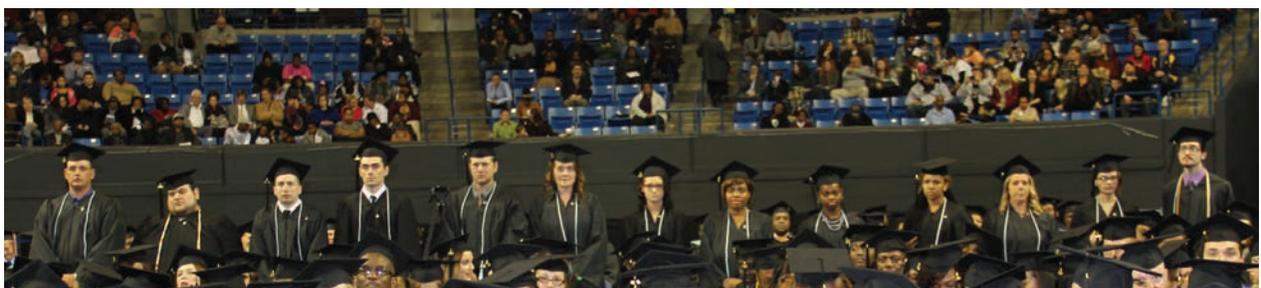


"Lacie Spencer is 26 years old from New Iberia, Louisiana and moved to Georgia at the age 17 to start over. She completed the GED program in September 2015 and continued by going straight into the RN program at Columbus Tech In October. Lacie would like to become a nurse practitioner once she completes her degree to help make a positive impact on her community.

She is a mentor to young girls at her church, as well as a role model for her two daughters ages eight and six.

Lacie plans to transfer to Columbus State University once she completes her degree here at Columbus Technical College."

– Lorette Hoover, President's Report



Community Report Highlights



Columbus Technical College has been home to the region's adult education division for a little over two years now. Education professionals provide free GED classes in multiple locations in the College's six county service area (Muscogee, Harris, Talbot, Chattahoochee, Stewart, and Quitman). English as a Second Language (ESL) courses are also offered. Having a quality adult education program is vital for regional economic impact. After all, employers and companies are not going to invest in an area without there being an educated workforce already in place. Besides taking the classes to the community, students can now come to the Columbus Technical College campus on Manchester Expressway where they'll find all services for adult education under one roof. In August of 2015, the ribbon was cut on this department's new home in the library building at Columbus Technical College.

Media Coverage Highlights

Adult Education Has A New Home...



Join us for:
**GED® • English Language •
Work-Ready Classes**

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TECHNICAL COLLEGE



A Unit of the Technical College System of Georgia

Equal Opportunity Institution

Cheryl Myers, Exec. Director • Community & College Relations • 706-649-1290 or cmymers@columbustech.edu

Columbus Technical College Giving Free GED Practice Tests

September 29, 2014

For Immediate Release: Columbus Technical College is providing free GED practice tests through October 2nd to all current or potential students who come into one of the participating Adult Education Learning Centers in the College's six county (Muscogee, Harris, Talbot, Stewart, Quitman, and Chattahoochee) service area. The free testing window is part of a statewide initiative called "See for Free" where students who take the GED Ready (practice) test will be able to immediately see if they are ready to pass the real thing or if they have certain skills that need honing before taking the official exam.

Associate Vice President of Adult Education, Dr. Sarah Beecham, calls this a great opportunity.

"By taking the free practice exam, students are able to find out right away whether they're ready to go forward or if they need a little extra guidance," Dr. Beecham said. "Earning a GED is not an easy process and oftentimes current or potential students give up. This way, they'll have a personalized approach to successfully earning their diploma, and hopefully feeling confident enough to seamlessly continue their postsecondary education."

Columbus Technical College will provide the free practice tests at the main Manchester Expressway campus from 9:15AM – 4:00PM on October 1st and 2nd. So far, nearly 30 free practice tests have already been administered. For more information, call 706-641-5620 or email ctcadulted@columbustech.edu.

Other testing locations in the Columbus Technical College service area include:

Open Door (Muscogee)
2405 2nd Avenue
Columbus, GA 31901
706-323-5518

Educational Opportunity Center (Harris)
757 Carver Circle
Hamilton, GA 31811
706-628-5661

Board of Education (Chattahoochee)
Portable
326 Broad Street
Cusseta, GA 31805
706-989-1818

Georgetown Learning Center (Quitman)
41 Old School Road
Quitman, GA 39854
706-575-2147

Parks Memorial Library (Stewart)
890 Wall Street
Richland, GA 31825
706-580-7261



CTC Announces Students, Instructor of the Year for 2015

January 22, 2015

For Immediate Release: Columbus Technical College has the best students and faculty around and on occasion, some rise above the rest. That was the case as the winners for the annual GOAL (Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership), Rick Perkins/Tim Justice Faculty Award, and the EAGLE (Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education) winners were announced recently.

GOAL winner Leonna Harris is passionate about her education and career; she holds a bachelor's degree in biology but wanted more. After researching possible health care programs and visiting campuses around the Chattahoochee Valley, she realized Columbus Technical College's respiratory care technology program was the perfect fit.

"I was just amazed at the labs, state-of-the-art equipment, and the overall learning environment," Harris said. "The instructors all have first-hand knowledge in their areas of study and work hard and making sure we are successful."

Once she graduates, Harris plans to continue her education by earning a Master's degree. With it, she hopes to eventually work as a clinical instructor or in a health-related managerial/administrative setting – possibly at the CDC. Whatever her final destination, she wants to "help save lives."

The EAGLE winner is 28-year-old Raakia Cherry. Cherry is the working mother of three children and is completing her GED. When she was younger she realized high school wasn't for her and after many stops and starts, she eventually got frustrated and quit. Soon she realized she was all but unemployable without a diploma so she sought a quick fix via an online vendor. It turned out to be an expensive lesson.

"I paid \$450 to take classes that earned me a 'diploma,'" she said. "When I tried to enroll at Columbus Technical College, I was told the diploma wasn't accredited and that I needed a GED to enroll. That's when I started my Adult Ed classes."

Raakia Cherry jumped in with both feet -- both she and her children see the results. She is involved in her family and community more than ever, participates in her children's PTA program, is a class mom, and even helps her kids with their homework. She hopes to enroll in a health sciences program at Columbus Technical College once she completes her GED.

English instructor and department chair Kelli Wilkes has been named the College's Rick Perkins/Tim Justice Instructor of the Year. Kelli has been with the college for almost five years and thoroughly enjoys the challenges and rewards she experiences every day.

"I'm honored to be chosen as the Rick Perkins Instructor of the Year. I started teaching to help students prepare for the workforce, but I have learned more from them about perseverance, success and life in general," Wilkes said. "Every semester I am inspired to be better because they are striving to do the same thing."

All three winners will compete regionally and, if successful there, will continue to the state level. If they take home the state title, the GOAL and EAGLE students will also win a new car. The state winners will be announced in April and all three winners would travel Georgia throughout 2015, touting the importance of education. Congratulations to all!

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April 8, 2015

The Journal

CCHS Career Choices earns Gold Medal Award

The Chattahoochee County High School Career Choices: Financial Literacy program recently received a gold award status from Academic Innovations that produced and sponsors the Career Choices Program. The course is co-taught at Chattahoochee County High by Ms. Amanda Hollomon, CCHS Teacher, and instructors from Columbus Technical College.

The program was deemed a gold medal recipient because it was developed and implemented in a way that will dramatically lower the student dropout rate while preparing students for a self-sufficient adulthood.

The program is being implemented for all ninth grade students in Chattahoochee County High School and is serving as the pilot program for the state of Georgia as other schools begin to include the program. The program gives a snapshot into the future of our students by showing them what they will be responsible for in the upcoming years. Students learn and actively participate in managing personal finances; purchasing a home and car; purchasing health, life, home and rental insurance; and planning for the incidental things that happen in life that are not expected but must be budgeted for financially. Students also learn about starting a savings account and how to manage it.

Throughout the course students look into different career

See CCHS, Page 7

April, 2015

Buena Vista

Columbus Tech offers GED Classes in Cusseta

Columbus Technical College offers free adult education classes on a regular basis in Cusseta/Chattahoochee County. This includes GED training and testing.

Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Chattahoochee County Board of Education building located at 326 Broad Street in Cusseta. For more information call 706-989-1818.

The solution to this week's

CCHS: Program gets good review

Continued from Page 1

clusters and paths to help them to decide which path is best for them and learning how much money they will need to earn in order to live their desired lifestyle. Students undergo assessment questionnaires to determine which career path is the best option for them. Finally students learn the art of public speaking, how to build a resume, and practice interviewing skills along with business language

and writing to prepare them for the working world ahead.

This program is taught in partnership with Columbus Technical College and incorporates hands on opportunities from guest speakers in the career and technical fields to help give students an insight into what college will be like and which college is the right choice for each student. The course counts as six college credit hours and can be transferred to other colleges once the students completes the dual enrollment program.

The ninth grade class of Chattahoochee County High School has put in a lot of hard work throughout the school year in discovering and developing who they will become in the future and certainly deserve this award. Ms. Amanda Hollomon, all of Chattahoochee County Middle High School and Columbus Technical College congratulate everyone for a job well done.

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Study: 10 am
p: 11 am & 5 pm
e Study: 7:00 pm

Free Study of Bible in Your Home!

49-7717 or 229-649-4124

To Our Services

Grand Opening of the Adult Education Division of Columbus Technical College

August 20, 2015

WELCOME

Lorette M. Hoover, President
Columbus Technical College

REMARKS

Dr. Steve Pearce
Grant Support Coordinator
Technical College System of Georgia

Janeen Tucker, Senior VP
Economic Development
Greater Columbus Chamber

April Hopson, Director
Adult Education Division
Columbus Technical College

RIBBON-CUTTING

REFRESHMENTS

TOURS



You are cordially invited to attend the
Grand Opening
of the
Columbus Technical College
Adult Education Department

Columbus Technical College
Library building, room 600

Thursday, August 20, 2015
11:00AM

928 Manchester Expressway
Columbus, Georgia 31904

Refreshments will be served.

Help us celebrate the new home for adult education
in our six county service area!

RSVP by August 13
MaryAnn Woyke/Adult Ed Data Specialist
706-641-5622 or mwoyke@columbustech.edu





928 Manchester Expressway • Columbus, Georgia • 31904

Flint Energies Provides Special Scholarship via CTC Foundation, Inc.

December 8, 2015

For Immediate Release: Flint Energies Foundation, Inc. has generously donated a \$1,600 grant to Columbus Technical College Foundation, Inc. to help ease the financial burden for local students pursuing their General Education Diplomas (GEDs). Ten students who live in the service area of Flint Energies who are enrolled in Columbus Tech's Adult Education division will be eligible to receive \$160.00 each from this grant to pay for their GED testing. Columbus Technical College Foundation, Inc. will manage the funds.

"This is amazing news," said April Hopson, director of adult education. "When it comes to completing their GED tests, so many of our students face serious financial obstacles. Being able to provide this assistance for our students is a huge help."

The funds are made available through Flint Energies' program called *Operation Round-Up*. Many Flint Energies' members agree to "round up" their electric bill to support worthy causes such as this. In a press release, manager of public relations for Flint Energies Marian McLemore said, "Supporting quality education has always been a large part of our commitment to community. College costs continue to increase each year and we hope that this scholarship program will help local students achieve their dream of a college education."

The GED monies are part of a larger scholarship that totals approximately \$80 thousand. The scholarships are divided into three areas: GED, technical college and college or university. Applications may be downloaded at www.flintenergies.com and must be postmarked by March 31, 2016. Questions can be directed to Marian McLemore at mmclemore@flintemc.com.

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ROVING REPORT

Community events across the Chattahoochee Valley

ound Off!

Flint Energies Foundation Inc. donates \$1,600 to Columbus Tech

Flint Energies Foundation Inc. has donated a \$1,600 grant to Columbus Technical Collection Foundation Inc. to help ease the financial burden for local students



pursuing their General Education Diplomas (GEDs). The students who live in the service area of Flint Energies who are enrolled in Columbus Tech's Adult Education division will be eligible to receive \$160 each from this grant to pay for their GED testing. Pictured from left are: Flint Energies Foundation Chairwoman Kathy Waites; Flint Energies Foundation member Charles Harrison; Columbus Tech Adult Ed Transition Specialist Oprah Stephens; Foundation members George West, Eloise Doty, Betty Chase, Connie McCutchen, Joanne Hamlin; Columbus Tech President Lorette Hoover; Pat Bartness; Columbus Tech Director of Advancement Gloria Johnson and Foundation member John Luppino.

Free Adult Ed Classes offered in Cusseta

Columbus Technical College offers free adult education classes in Cusseta/Chattahoochee County. This includes GED training and testing. Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Board of Education building located at 326 Broad Street in Cusseta. For more information call 706-989-1818.

The Journal, Buena Vista 1-14-15

*You are cordially invited to
the Pinning Ceremony
honoring the
Fall 2015 Graduates
from
The Division of Adult Education
January 21, 2016
6:00 p.m.
Library Room 600*

Please RSVP by Monday, January 18, 2016

706-641-5625

or

ostephens@columbustech.edu

Attire: Business Formal



COLUMBUS TECHNICAL COLLEGE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 26, 2016

National GED® test changes have positive impact on Georgia, Columbus Technical College students

National scoring system enhancements mean almost 1,900 former Georgia GED® test-takers now eligible to pass; others can earn college credits more quickly

Atlanta – Almost 1,900 Georgia students may achieve a passing grade on their GED® Test thanks to new scoring enhancements by the national GED® Testing Service. The passing score for high school equivalency has been recalibrated from 150 to 145, which means that 1,880 Georgia students who, since Jan. 1, 2014, have received scores from 145 to 149, may now be eligible for Georgia’s high school equivalency credential. In addition, the enhancements provide a path for some test-takers to receive college credits.

“These changes mean that more highly-qualified individuals in Georgia have the opportunity to access higher education or enter the workforce,” said Gretchen Corbin, Commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia. “Not only is this great news for our adult education students, but its great news for Georgia, bringing us closer to our Complete College Georgia goal set by Gov. Deal and expanding the workforce pipeline for our companies.”

Director of Adult Education for Columbus Technical College says the changes will have positive long term effects.

“This is great news for our program,” Hopson said. “Many in our six-county service area are afraid of the test because they’ve heard it’s extremely difficult. Now that the scoring has been adjusted and people can more easily earn college credit, it will help us communicate how important it is for folks to earn their GED and, hopefully, continue their education.”

The enhanced program will also include two optional levels above high school equivalency to signify college readiness, and for some test-takers the opportunity to earn college credits. Under the new GED® “College Ready” performance level, 3,639 Georgia students have a score of 165 to 174 in at least one or more of the four subject tests and may now be considered ready to enter credit-bearing college courses. The other performance level, GED® “College Ready + Credit,” may qualify 685 Georgia students with at least one or more scores of 175 - 200 for college credit, while 22 students scored 175 - 200 on all subjects and may qualify for up to ten hours of college credit.

The scoring enhancement is driven in part by the GED® Testing Service’s detailed analysis of educational outcomes of GED® program graduates compared to high school graduates over the past 18 months. The test remains the same and continues to be fully aligned to state college and career readiness standards, measuring the key problem solving and critical thinking skills vital to success in jobs and career or college training programs. As always, the passing score of

the GED® test will continue to be used to measure high school equivalency and to award a state's GED® credential. In Fiscal Year 2015, 14,468 individuals in Georgia took at least one section of the GED test. Of the 7,348 people who took all four sections of the test, 4,781 graduated: a 65 percent pass rate.

“The two most important things about a high school equivalency exam are providing the best prep possible to our students through well-trained instructors and accessible free class locations, and ensuring that the exam is a validated credible measure of high school equivalency. That way Georgia’s employers and colleges know they’re getting employees and students with the true competence of a high school graduate,” said Beverly Smith, TCSG Assistant Commissioner for Adult Education. “We know that for individuals without a high school diploma or a GED®, the unemployment rate is 5.4 percent higher and average annual income is \$10,000 less than for those with these credentials, so these enhancements are game-changers for GED® graduates.”

Georgia GED® students and educators can expect to see the changes implemented starting on March 1, when scores, score reports, and other information will be available on GED.com. Georgia GED® graduates effected by this change should receive their diplomas and transcripts by mid-March. TCSG’s Office of Adult Education will reach out to students not currently enrolled in classes to notify them of the changes.

About the TCSG GED® Testing Program

In the past ten years, the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) GED® Testing Program has awarded 166,378 diplomas. Georgia was the first state to offer the GED® test on computer in December, 2011 and the first to complete the transition of the GED® mobile computer-based testing in corrections facilities in 2014. TCSG has 66 GED® Testing Centers and 33 mobile testing sites, providing testing for two Youth Challenge academies, three Job Corps centers, over 50 correctional institutions and seven youth detention centers.

About the Technical College System of Georgia

The 22 colleges of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) are Georgia’s top resource for skilled workers. TCSG offers world-class training in 600 associate degree, diploma and certificate programs to students who are trained on state-of-the-art equipment by instructors who are experts in their fields. The system also houses Georgia’s Office of Adult Education, which promotes and provides adult literacy and education programs, including the GED® testing program, throughout the state. In addition, TCSG partners with companies through Quick Start, the nation’s top customized workforce training program, and through its individual colleges, who work with local industry to provide workforce and training solutions. For more information, visit TCSG.edu.

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Contact: Alison Tyrer
404-327-6913
atyrer@tcsge.edu

Columbus Technical College award winners



Columbus Technical College has named Leonna Harris, left, the annual GOAL (Georgia Occupational Award in Leadership) winner. Harris is in the respiratory care technology program. Raakia Cherry, center, is working to complete her GED and enroll in a health science program, and has been awarded the EAGLE (Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education). Kelli Wilkes, right, has been named the Columbus Technical College 2015 Rick Perkins/Tim Justice Instructor of the Year. Wilkes is an English instructor and department chair.

CL-E Rovings Reporter Jan. 27, 2015

January 27, 2016 5:08 PM

GED test changes allow some previously failed students to pass

By MARK RICE mrice@ledger-enquirer.com

Nearly 1,900 Georgians who had failed the GED test may now be eligible for the general equivalency diploma, and hundreds of others could earn college credit from the exam, because the national scoring system has changed.

The passing score was lowered from 150 to 145. That means 1,880 Georgians who received a score of 145 to 149 on the GED test since Jan. 1, 2014, when the exam went from paper to computer, could receive the high school credential, the Technical College System of Georgia announced in a news release.

"These changes mean that more highly qualified individuals in Georgia have the opportunity to access higher education or enter the workforce," TCSG commissioner Gretchen Corbin said in the release. "Not only is this great news for our adult education students, but it's great news for Georgia, bringing us closer to our Complete College Georgia goal set by Gov. Deal and expanding the workforce pipeline for our companies."

April Hopson, Director of Adult Education at Columbus Technical College, said in the release, "Many in our six-county service area are afraid of the test because they've heard it's extremely difficult. Now that the scoring has been adjusted and people can more easily earn college credit, it will help us communicate how important it is for folks to earn their GED and, hopefully, continue their education."

The national changes to the GED test also include levels above high

school equivalency to signify college readiness - and some test-takers might earn college credit:

Through the new GED "College Ready" performance level, 3,639 Georgians have a score of 165 to 174 in at least one of the four subject tests and may now be eligible to enter credit-bearing college courses.

Through the new GED "College Ready + Credit" performance level, 685 Georgians with at least one score of 175 to 200 may qualify for college credit, and 22 Georgians with scores of 175 to 200 on all subjects may qualify for as many as 10 college credit hours.

The GED Testing Service's analysis of GED program graduates compared to high school graduates during the past 18 months played a part in the scoring changes, the release said, but the test remains the same.

In fiscal year 2015, which ended June 30, the GED test passing rate in Georgia was 65 percent of the 7,348 students who took all four sections of the exam.

Here's why increasing that passing rate matters:

"We know that for individuals without a high school diploma or a GED, the unemployment rate is 5.4 percent higher and average annual income is \$10,000 less than for those with these credentials, so these enhancements are game-changers for GED graduates," TCSG assistant commissioner for adult education Beverly Smith said in the release.

The GED scoring changes will be implemented March 1, when results and other information will be available on GED.com, the release said. Georgians affected by these changes should receive their diplomas and transcripts by mid-March, the release said. The TCSG Office of Adult Education will contact former GED students who are eligible but not enrolled in classes, the release said.

So GED students who think they qualify for this reprieve don't have to do anything else to be eligible.

"They just have to wait until they get the letter mailed to them," Hopson told the Ledger-Enquirer in an interview Wednesday.

Hopson knows of approximately five Columbus Tech GED students who already have received such a letter, but she won't know how many in total are eligible until the state completes the notification process. Columbus Tech GED test-takers who scored from 145 to 149 since Jan. 1, 2014, but didn't receive a qualification letter by mid-March should call Hopson at 706-641-5620.

"My door is always open," she said.

Georgia GED test-takers also may call the program's customer service center at 404-679-1645 for more information.

LOCAL & REGION

COLUMBUS TECHNICAL COLLEGE GRADUATION

Taking the next step



Columbus Technical College GED students wait in the wings of the Columbus Civic Center for the start of graduation ceremonies Thursday. Many of these GED recipients are already enrolled at CTC, furthering their academic goals.



A very excited 19-month-old Carlin Wilcoxson watches his mom, Charity Wilcoxson, receive her degree from Columbus Technical College at the Columbus Civic Center Thursday.



Kim Smith shows off her mortar board, decorated to show she was graduating with a nursing degree from Columbus Technical College on Thursday.

MORE ONLINE

IE Were you spotted at the Columbus Technical College graduation ceremony? Visit www.ledger-enquirer.com to find out.



Columbus Technical College graduates rise from their seats, ready to walk across the stage and receive their diplomas Thursday evening at the Columbus Civic Center.

PHOTOS BY DARRELL ROADEN // SPECIAL TO THE LEDGER-ENQUIRER

Marketing Pieces

Rack Cards

REACH *Your Dreams!*

LET US HELP!

Columbus Tech Application Waivers

See me for a GED waiver. Lets make your transition a smooth one.

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Make sure that you are prepared to invest in your education. Apply for financial aid, and learn the terms, understand the process.

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If you already have a resume that needs a second look or some helpful tips simply email it to ostephens@columbustech.edu.

Mock Interviews

Get the experience, confidence, and helpful suggestions you need to ensure your next possible employment.

Military

Interested in the armed services? Let us help you to the right recruiters and answer all your questions.

Goal Setting

Get everything out on paper figure out a timeline and get the vision for your future solidified for academic, professional, and personal goals.

Transition Specialist:

Oprah Stephens

706-641-5625

Library Room 610

ostephens@columbustech.edu



REACH *Your Goals!*

Improve your life by improving your English!

If you are new to the United States or have lived here all your life, Columbus Technical College is here to help you achieve your English language goals. We offer convenient, leveled, classes that allow students to learn necessary everyday skills such as going to the doctor and reading a menu as well as upper level skills like preparing for job interview or the Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOFEL test).

To register for the classes you must be 18 or older and have a valid state-issued identification.

Classes are ongoing throughout the year. For more information please contact SarahAnn Wood at 706-641-5626.



Equal Opportunity Institution



Flyers

REACH

Goals. Dreams. Potential.



**Thinking of becoming a United States citizen?
Let Columbus Technical College's Adult Education program help!**

We assist with:
Preparing you for the citizenship test
Completing your citizenship application.

Registration Requirements
A valid state issued ID (such as driver's license and/or green card.)
Basic English skills

Classes are held Tuesday – Thursday from 4-6PM
Located at Goodwill Industries of the Southern Rivers
Cross Country Plaza Shopping Center 2607 Cross Country Dr. Columbus, GA 31906
For more information or questions, contact:
SaraAnn Wood/ESL & Civics Teacher @ 706-641-5626 or swood@columbustech.edu

 **COLUMBUS TECHNICAL COLLEGE**
A Unit of the Technical College System of Georgia
Equal Opportunity

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Goals. Dreams. Potential.



Adult Education Program

Registration/Orientation
Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 p.m.
If you are 18 or older, please bring a valid state ID. If you are under 18, please call 706-575-2147 or 229-334-8610.

BENEFITS

- \$500 GED vouchers for college course(s) to GED graduates
- Columbus Technical College application fee waivers (savings of \$25)
- Get one on one personalized goal-setting, career exploration and FAFSA help
- Celebrate your success with us at the next graduation ceremony

Classes are offered Tuesday and Thursday
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Located at the Georgetown Lifelong Learning Center
706-575-2147 or 229-334-8610
ctcadulted@columbustech.edu

 **COLUMBUS TECHNICAL COLLEGE**
A Unit of the Technical College System of Georgia
Equal Opportunity Institution

Posters

Free GED Classes

Become a student at
Columbus Technical College
Today.



Georgetown Learning Center
41 Old School Road Georgetown, GA 39854
229-334-8610

Why get a GED?
You deserve it!

Let's start a Certified Literate Community Program together!
To volunteer, contact bmoushon@columbustech.edu.



COLUMBUS TECHNICAL COLLEGE
A Unit of the Technical College System of Georgia