

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbus Technical College Joins Lowe's Foundation Building Futures Skilled Trades Coalition to Help Strengthen America's Skilled Trades Workforce

Columbus, Ga. — Columbus Technical College today announced it is joining the **Lowe's Foundation Building Futures Skilled Trades Coalition**, a national effort bringing together organizations from across the skilled trades ecosystem to help train and develop **1 million people for skilled trades careers by 2035**.

As one of Georgia's leading providers of career and technical education, Columbus Technical College recognizes the critical role skilled trades professionals play in supporting economic growth, infrastructure development, advanced manufacturing, construction, transportation, and other essential industries. Through its workforce development programs, the college is committed to preparing students for high-demand careers that meet employers' evolving workforce needs.

By joining the coalition, Columbus Technical College will bring its expertise in technical education and workforce training to a national network of educators, workforce organizations, employers, and industry leaders working together to identify shared challenges and scale solutions that are already producing results.

"The demand for skilled trades professionals continues to grow across our region and throughout the nation," said **President Martha Ann Todd**. "At Columbus Technical College, we are dedicated to providing students with the training, credentials, and hands-on experience needed for in-demand careers. Joining the Building Futures Skilled Trades Coalition strengthens our ability to expand opportunities for learners while helping address critical workforce shortages in the skilled trades."

The Building Futures Skilled Trades Coalition is the largest cross-sector skilled trades coalition in the country, bringing together more than 75 educators, businesses, workforce organizations, and corporate leaders, including NVIDIA, AT&T, Bank of America, Carrier, General Motors, DEWALT, and Duke Energy.

The coalition will focus on three key areas:

- Changing perceptions of careers in the skilled trades.
- Scaling proven training and credentialing solutions.
- Collectively measuring progress from training to employment.

The Building Futures Skilled Trades Coalition builds upon the Lowe's Foundation's successful workforce development efforts. Its Gable Grants program, launched in 2023, has grown into an ecosystem of 73 community colleges and nonprofits across 30 states that are scaling innovative skilled trades training programs. The program's success recently led the foundation to expand its mission to train and develop 250,000 tradespeople by 2035.

"The next industrial revolution won't be built by algorithms alone. It will be built by the millions of skilled trade professionals who power, connect and move this country forward," said **Marvin Ellison, Lowe's chairman and CEO**. "For nearly four years, our foundation's sole focus has been helping thousands of people enter the skilled trades by investing in America's most innovative workforce training programs. Today through this coalition, we are answering the call from hundreds of existing partners to lead an even larger unified national effort that will redefine what's possible when leaders from different sectors rally behind a common purpose."

Through its participation in the Building Futures Skilled Trades Coalition, Columbus Technical College will continue advancing its mission of providing accessible, high-quality technical education while helping build the next generation of skilled trades professionals for Georgia and beyond.

About Columbus Technical College

Columbus Technical College provides workforce-driven education and training through academic, technical, and continuing education programs that prepare students for employment, career advancement, and lifelong learning. The college serves students and employers throughout its service area by offering industry-aligned programs designed to meet regional workforce needs.

Media Contact

Tara Askew
Vice President of Student Affairs and Communications
Columbus Technical College
706.649.1901
taskew@columbustech.edu

###