

**2024**



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**LESS TIME, MORE PAY - IT'S THE TECHNICAL WAY!**





A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

# DeAnnia Clements

## Wiregrass Friends,

In 2023-2024 the college adopted the tagline, "Less Time. More Pay. It's the Technical Way." As you read through the college's Annual Report you will see stories of student and college success that support this tagline while supporting the overall mission of the college of "workforce development."

Wiregrass Tech was proud to see another enrollment increase of 6% in credit programs. The Dual Enrollment program served over 2,000 high school students who earned over 19,000 college credit hours.

This early jump on college credit hours allows these students to spend "less time" in college once they graduate while exposing them to in-demand career fields offered at Wiregrass.

The Adult Education program served 80 graduates through the college's Integrated Education and Training program (IET) providing industry-recognized credentials in the areas of Manufacturing, Construction, Medical Office, or Welding while attending adult education classes. This equips these students with skills to earn "more pay" once they earn their high school equivalency. This was in addition to over 150 students who earned their high school equivalency. Wiregrass credit students continued to shine at both the state and national levels at the SkillsUSA competitions including earning the State Advisor of the Year award. The Economic Development Department has continued to provide continuing education and contract training for over 2,000 students.

The Wiregrass team worked together as one team with one mission to serve the students in our 11 counties and help them succeed. Your support as stakeholders is also appreciated as students' needs were met through the generous donations made to the college's foundations. Thank you for taking the time to read this report. The college will continue to impact the communities we serve by providing quality education. "It's the technical way," here at Wiregrass Tech.

**DeAnnia Clements**, President  
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College



# ANNUAL REPORT

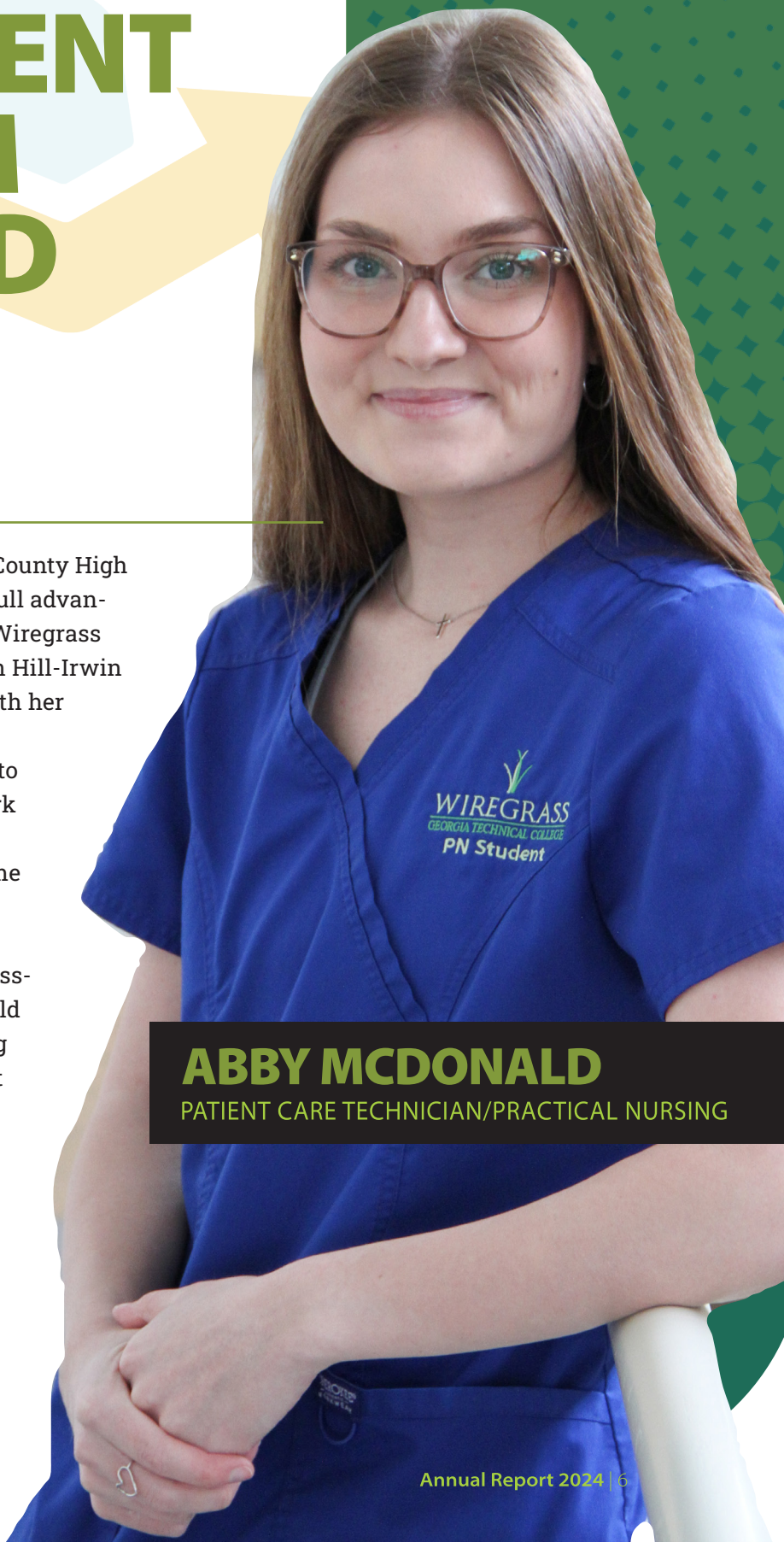
LESS  
TIME.  
MORE  
PAY.



# WIREGRASS DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM LAUNCHED FUTURE NURSE

**Abby McDonald** graduated from Irwin County High School in 2020. While in high school she took full advantage of the Dual Enrollment classes offered by Wiregrass Georgia Technical College and attended the Ben Hill-Irwin Campus where she graduated Summer 2024 with her diploma in Practical Nursing.

Abby decided early on that she wanted to be a nurse. "I used to go with my mom and work the entire 12-hour shift with her at the nursing home when I was 11 years old. The nursing home let me be the "assistant activity director" and I thought I ran the place," joked Abby. While in high school she enrolled in dual enrollment classes as soon as they were available to her. "I would undoubtedly encourage anyone that is planning on attending college, to use the dual enrollment route," shared Abby. She continued to share that the Dual Enrollment program not only prepared her for the environment of college but also helped her knock out many of the core classes that are required in college and the classes are free. While in high school she took nurse aide classes through the college and is employed at Coffee Regional Medical Center as a Patient Care Technician/CNA.



**ABBY MCDONALD**

PATIENT CARE TECHNICIAN/PRACTICAL NURSING



# RECOGNIZING OUR SKILLSUSA STATE WINNERS

**5** BRONZE **4** SILVER **11** GOLD

SkillsUSA  
**NATIONALS**

10 STUDENTS  
REPRESENTED  
WIREGRASS  
AT NATIONALS,  
IN FOUR  
COMPETITIONS!

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO OUR  
WINNERS!

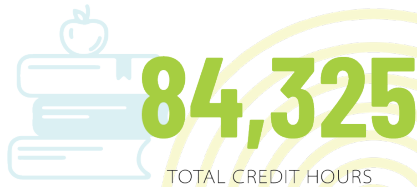
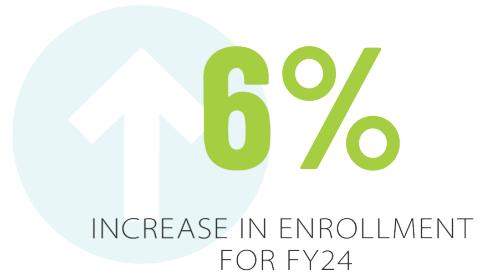
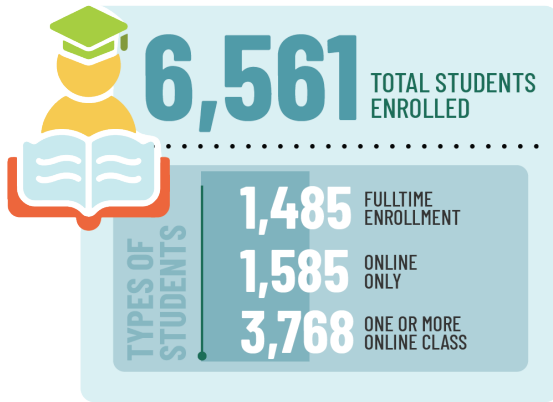


SkillsUSA  
**KELLEY  
WETHERINGTON**

SKILLSUSA  
**STATE  
ADVISOR OF  
THE YEAR**



# OVERALL CREDIT ENROLLMENT DATA



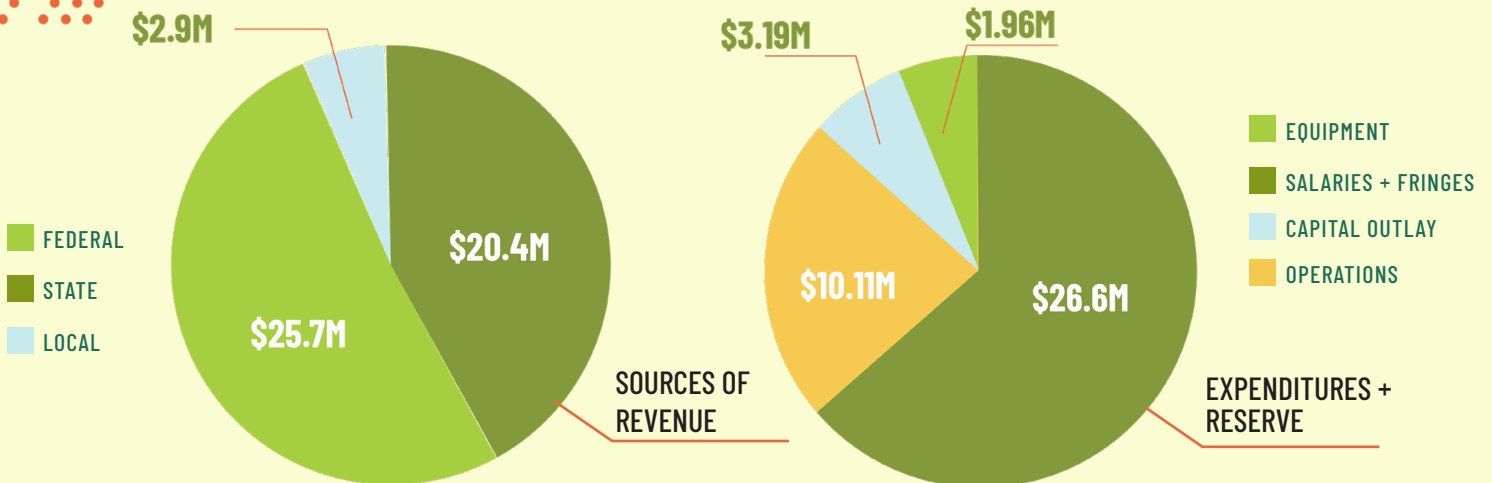
**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**ETHNICITY OF STUDENT POPULATION**

AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE	- 18
ASIAN	- 46
BLACK/AFRICAN-AMERICAN	- 2,794
CAUCASIAN/WHITE	- 2,773
HISPANIC/LATINO	- 730
NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	- 6
MULTI-RACIAL/TWO OR MORE RACES	- 179
UNKNOWN	- 15



## REVENUE + EXPENDITURES





## 2024 GOAL WINNER MADISON GARCIA

***“MY WEEK AT THE GOAL CONFERENCE WAS NOTHING SHORT OF AMAZING! I WAS ABLE TO MEET AND GET TO KNOW OTHER STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE STATE, NETWORK, AND ATTEND EXTREMELY BENEFICIAL WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS LIKE ME WHO ARE GETTING READY TO START THEIR CAREER JOURNEY! MOST IMPORTANTLY THOUGH, IT WAS SUCH AN HONOR TO REPRESENT WIREGRASS AND THE SOUTHERN REGION OF THE GREAT STATE OF GEORGIA!”***

Madison Garcia, a Surgical Technology student on the Valdosta Campus, was named the 2024 Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL) winner for Wiregrass Georgia Technical College. The runners-up were: Ashontee Clark, Cybersecurity from the Coffee Campus; Mia Muscarella, Dental Assisting from the Valdosta Campus; and Payton Vaughn Advanced Patient Care, Nursing from the Ben Hill-Irwin Campus.

Garcia shared, “I am extremely honored and excited to have been chosen as the GOAL winner for Wiregrass.” After she and her family were stationed at Moody AFB, she knew coming back to the States she would be able to start her career. The small classes and tons of hands-on training were some of the reasons she chose Wiregrass Tech. She also knew with the national certification she would receive in Surgical Tech that she would be able to live anywhere and work if the military moved them again. She will be graduating in May and is enjoying her clinical rounds. Even though Surgical Techs rarely see patients while they are awake, she feels they serve as a vital part of one’s recovery and healing. In April at the Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL) in Atlanta, Garcia was named as one of the top nine finalists. Garcia received a trophy for being named as one of the top finalists and an iPad.

## 2024 RICK PERKINS AWARD WINNER ADRIENNE YOUNG

Adrienne Young, Director of Practical Nursing, was named the 2024 Rick Perkins Award winner for the college. The year’s finalists were Toby Heard, Automotive Program Coordinator – Valdosta Campus, and John Patten, Media Production Program Coordinator and Multimedia Specialist – Valdosta Campus.

“It is difficult for me to think of another instructor who works harder and travels as much for both her students and faculty. Adrienne presents herself well and always strives to maintain a level of professionalism that speaks well of herself, her profession, and Wiregrass. Her dedication to her profession is obvious and provides a great model of success for her students,” read one of her nominations. She has been teaching for seven years at Wiregrass



***“SOMEONE GAVE ME A GIFT AND THE QUOTE STATES, “DO WHAT YOU LOVE, LOVE WHAT YOU DO”. THIS SPEAKS TO ME BECAUSE I AM TRULY HAPPY WHEN INTERACTING WITH STUDENTS AND I LOVE TEACHING ABOUT THE PROFESSION. I LOVE NURSING.”***

# ADULT EDUCATION

**162** HIGH SCHOOL  
EQUIVALENT  
GRADUATES

**80** IET  
GRADUATES

**934** TOTAL  
STUDENTS

## WHAT IS IET?

The Integrated Education & Training program (IET) is designed to prepare Adult Education students for a job and boost their earning potential. Adult Education students will earn industry-recognized credentials in the areas of Manufacturing, Construction, Medical Office, or Welding while attending Adult Education classes. All IET students will also earn their Georgia BEST soft skills certification. IET classes are held quarterly on rotating campuses.





## 2024 EAGLE STUDENT BRENDA HOOPER

**“WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU ARE A 43-YEAR-OLD SINGLE MOTHER AND HAVE EXPERIENCED: NUMEROUS EVICTIONS, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, MISSED JOB OPPORTUNITIES, AND WANT TO GIVE UP?” SHARED HOOPER. “YOU HAVE TO SEARCH DEEP DOWN AND FIND THIS FOUR-LETTER WORD CALLED “HOPE!””**

Brenda Hooper of Lowndes County was named the 2024 Wiregrass Georgia Technical College Dinah Culbreath Wayne Exceptional Adult Georgian in Literacy Education (EAGLE) Student of the Year. The finalists, including the winner, are Brenda Hooper (Lowndes County), Barbara Dunlap (Brooks County), Shawna Dominguez (Ben Hill County), and Z’Kerra Bradshaw (Coffee County).

Adult Education Instructor Darrell Hill nominated Brenda Hooper. At the reception, Brenda shared the story of her journey to the adult education program at Wiregrass. After being fired from another job she found herself at a career center when she was asked if she had her high school diploma. Having dropped out her senior year she had dropped the ball due to life’s inconveniences. She took the career center’s advice, enrolled in Wiregrass’ Adult Education classes, and completed her GED in January of 2023. Now, Hooper is a college student attending Wiregrass Tech in the Associate of Applied Science program with a concentration in Elementary Education. In March the Technical College System of Georgia hosted the 30<sup>th</sup> Dinah Culbreath Wayne State EAGLE and Adult Education Teacher of the Year Week in Atlanta where Brenda was named State Runner-Up.

## 2024 ADULT EDUCATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR MARGO YOUNG-SMITH



Margo Young-Smith was named the 2024 Adult Education Teacher of the Year Award winner for Wiregrass Georgia Technical College.

This year’s finalists were Joan Duffie, Adult Education Services Instructor – Ben Hill County, Renee Elliott, Adult Education Services Instructor – Coffee County, Sandra Scurry, Adult Education Services Instructor – Coffee County, Krista Spires, Adult Education Services Instructor – Coffee County, and Margo Young-Smith, Adult Education Services Instructor – Berrien County.

Smith has taught seven years as a middle school grade educator, seven years as a public-school media specialist, and four years as a private school media specialist. She has been teaching adult education for the past four years serving in Cook County and Berrien County. Smith believes that while some students only need to be shown the type of content they will be required to know to pass the HSE, most need so much more. First and foremost, they need someone who believes they can do the work and grow academically.

**“FOR ME, TEACHING HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CALLING; MY PURPOSE. ADULT EDUCATION ALLOWS ME TO HELP PEOPLE OF ALL AGES, ALL BACKGROUNDS, AND ALL LIFE SITUATIONS ACHIEVE THEIR EDUCATIONAL GOALS SO THAT THEY CAN IMPROVE THEIR OWN LIVES, THEIR FAMILIES, THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND THE WORLD AS A WHOLE.”**

# DUAL ENROLLMENT

**2,288** — **19,543**

TOTAL HIGHSCHOOL STUDENTS ENROLLED

34.9% OF TOTAL WIREGRASS ENROLLMENT

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS

## MOST POPULAR PROGRAMS

1. Early College Essentials (Academic Core Programs)
2. Cosmetology/Barbering
3. Nursing
4. Welding
5. Culinary Arts

**2,651** ACADEMIC CORE CLASSES THAT TRANSFER TAKEN

**3,315** OCCUPATIONAL CLASSES TAKEN

## SCHOOL TYPES

Public - 2,113 students

Private - 155 students

Homeschool - 20 students



## ENROLLMENT BY GENDER

→ **1,447 (63%)** - FEMALE → **841 (37%)** - MALE

## TOP 5 HIGH SCHOOLS WITH HIGHEST WIREGRASS DUAL ENROLLMENT

1. VALDOSTA HIGH SCHOOL (575)
2. FITZGERALD HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE & CAREER ACADEMY (343)
3. COOK HIGH SCHOOL (132)
4. LOWNDES HIGH SCHOOL (130)
5. WIREGRASS REGIONAL COLLEGE AND CAREER ACADEMY (129)

## GRADE SUCCESS RATE

**90%** A, B, C

D, W, F **10%**



## WIREGRASS GRADUATES

**467**

DUAL ENROLLMENT STUDENTS EARNING A WIREGRASS CREDENTIAL

**599**

AWARDS EARNED - ONE DIPLOMA AND 598 TECHNICAL CERTIFICATES

## ENROLLMENT BY ETHNICITY

AMERICAN INDIAN/  
ALASKA NATIVE - **9**

ASIAN - **21**

BLACK/AFRICAN-  
AMERICAN - **919**

CAUCASIAN/WHITE - **1,003**

HISPANIC/LATINO - **286**

NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC  
ISLANDER - **1**

MULTI-RACIAL/TWO OR  
MORE RACES - **49**

# COLLEGE EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



## 2024 STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

### ERIN JAMES-CARTER

Erin James-Carter, Student Success Coordinator, was awarded the annual James A. Bridges Vanguard Award for the staff member of the year. One of her nominations shared this about her, *"Erin loves Wiregrass. She is very vested in her students and the programs she advises. She shows up at all the community events and talks about Barbering, Cosmetology, and her other areas. She is always promoting and recruiting. She has such a fun-loving personality and is always very nice to students and her co-workers."* Carter has been with the college for five years. Carter is a graduate of the Wiregrass Cosmetology Program and has served as a member of the United States Navy.

## 2024 SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

### TABORA TEMPLE

Tabora Temple, Military and Veterans Services Director, was awarded the annual Lewis I. Brinson, Sr. Leadership Award for the supervisor of the year. One nomination for Temple stated, *"Tabora takes time to really listen to our students and assist with making decisions about their education as well as ensuring they applied for their VA benefits and healthcare benefits, and that Veterans counselors are available to assist all students. Her programs are constantly showcased and have received awards for her top-notch programs. She is a pleasure to work with and makes everyone feel comfortable. She deserves to be nominated for this prestigious award."* Temple has been employed by Wiregrass for eight years and is a retired member of the United States Air Force.



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



*Contract Training*

**115,523**

TRAINING HOURS

**304**

STUDENTS TRAINED

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

**44,626**

HOURS

**2,206**

STUDENTS

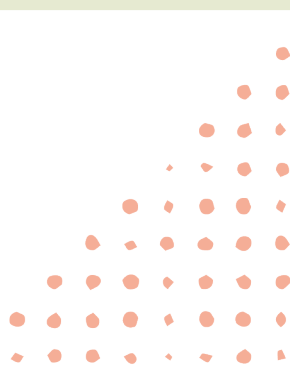
### OUR POPULAR PROGRAMS

DRIVER'S ED | AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION | GA TAPP | FORKLIFT



EMPOWERING & TRAINING OUR COMMUNITY: 83 COMPANIES SERVED

WIREGRASS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY | GOODWILL CONSTRUCTION |  
GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS | OSHA | ELECTRICAL CONTROLS | PLCS | INDUSTRY READY





# FOUNDATION

*Appreciation of Our Community Partners +  
Our Foundation Teams*

★ OUR MISSION

THE MISSION OF WIREGRASS TECHNICAL COLLEGE FOUNDATIONS IS TO FURTHER THE MISSION AND GOALS OF WIREGRASS TECHNICAL COLLEGE BY PROVIDING, ENCOURAGING, RECEIVING, AND ADMINISTERING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO FUND EMERGING AND EXISTING ACADEMIC INITIATIVES AND PRIORITIES.



# BY THE NUMBERS



TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

**\$ 331,412.09**

AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

**\$ 46,326.58**



TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED

**\$ 501,902.16**

AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

**\$ 131,402.58**



**J. GLENN GREGORY,**  
ALUMNI OF THE YEAR



SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED BY



# Foundation North

SCHOLARSHIPS	AMOUNT AWARDED
ADULT EDUCATION/GED	\$2,092.00
BUCK & LIBBY ANDERSON	\$600.00
CDL	\$15,237.50
COFFEY MEMORIAL	\$1,039.62
FISHERMAN'S FUND	\$8,940.46
FRANCIS LOTT/DOUGLAS LIONS CLUB	\$250.00
HANNA FAMILY	\$750.00
HOWARD JORDAN	\$750.00
JOE & AUDIS COMPTON	\$250.00
JOHN HENRY DORMINY, JR.	\$250.00
MARION H. MASSEE, III MEMORIAL	\$800.00
ROGER CRENSHAW MEMORIAL	\$500.00
SATILLA REMC	\$5,649.00
THE ROSALIE & BUDDY KRUGER SCHOLARSHIP	\$400.00
WILLIAM CRIDER	\$451.00
WOODRUFF FOUNDATION	\$8,367.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$46,326.58</b>



# Foundation South



## SCHOLARSHIPS

## AMOUNT AWARDED

ADULT EDUCATION/GED	\$1,012.00
BEN COPELAND RN	\$12,000.00
BENJAMIN HERRON MEMORIAL	\$1,100.00
BRANT & BARBARA JENKINS	\$1,406.00
BYNUM PRIDE AWARD	\$500.00
CAROLYN KING PANIZZI	\$446.00
CDL	\$9,805.90
CJB INDUSTRIES	\$2,000.00
CLARENCE SMITH MEMORIAL	\$1,946.01
COYOTE MANUFACTURING	\$1,762.00
DAN HATFIELD MEMORIAL	\$1,000.00
DENTAL HYGIENE SCHOLARSHIP	\$750.00
EAGLE	\$2,062.00
EMILE T. FISHER FOUNDATION	\$250.00
FARMER'S & MERCHANTS BANK	\$5,300.00
FISH	\$14,818.91
FLORA FOURAKERS	\$1,500.00
FRYSLIE	\$500.00
GEORGE STRICKLAND LAST MILE	\$20,962.63
GEORGE STRICKLAND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP	\$1,000.00
GEORGIA POWER FOUNDATION	\$2,500.00
GOODWILL	\$9,545.50
HAAS FOUNDATION	\$5,500.00
JERRY JENNETT INTERNATIONAL	\$3,700.00
KEVIN ACREE MEMORIAL	\$500.00

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# A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO....

# Our Trustees!

## FOUNDATION NORTH TRUSTEES

**Wyndall Walters**  
Fitzgerald Ford Lincoln, **Board Chairman**

**Chip Dorminy**  
ABCD Farms, **Vice Chairman**

**Pat Ashley**  
Meeks CPA, LLP **Treasurer**

**Buck Anderson**  
Dixie Management Company

**Bobby Chasteen**  
Superior Court Judge

**Mike Durden**  
Wilcox County State Bank

**Ben Floyd**  
Coffee Regional Medical Center

**Walter Hudson**  
Entrepreneur – Irwin County

**Lee Liles**  
Retired, Farm Bureau

**Mark Massee**  
Colony Bank

**Bob Porter**  
Cottingham & Porter

**Tom Smith**  
Retired, South Georgia State College

**Scott Spivey**  
AsystYou Technology

**Howell Taylor**  
Taylor, Towson, & Brady Insurance

**Steve Taylor**  
Southern Physical & Occupational Therapy

**Chris Tuten**  
Raymond James Financial Services

**Shannon Vickers**  
Irwin County State Bank



## FOUNDATION SOUTH TRUSTEES

**Stacy Bush**  
**Chairman**  
Bush Wealth Management

**Michael Smith**  
**Vice Chairman**  
Greater Valdosta United Way

**Jay Prince**  
**Treasurer**  
Prince Automotive Group

**Brenda Alexander**  
South Georgia Medical Center

**Dr. Todd Cason**  
Retired School Superintendent

**Ray Chitty**  
Guardian Bank

**Judy Hathcock**  
Thunder Group

**Dr. Charles Hobby**  
Retired, Radiologist

**Dr. Ed Mark**  
Retired

**Lisa Posas**  
SGMC Neurology

**Angela Schruijer**  
Gideon Construction

**Bill Slaughter**  
Lowndes County Commission Chairman

**Tommy Stalvey**  
ACE Electric

**Chip Wildes**  
SAFT

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS FROM 2023-2024

## Joe Brownlee

Lowndes County, Certified Board Member  
Regional Director SW Region Georgia Power

## Phaydra Crews

Lowndes County, Certified Board Member  
Community Support Coordinator

## Rebecca Corbet

Echols County  
Retired

## Ronald Dean

Lowndes County, Certified Board Member  
CEO, SGMC

## Dr. Joi Williams

Cook County, Certified Board Member  
Principal  
Cook County School System

## Bradfield Shealy

Brooks County, Certified Board Member  
District Attorney Southern Judicial Circuit

## Lisa Sumner

Berrien County, Certified Board Member  
Market Manager Hire Dynamics

## Dr. Mark Sutton, Vice Chair

Ben Hill and Wilcox Counties,  
Certified Board Member Retired

## Alfalene (Al) Walker

Coffee County, Certified Board Member  
Retired

## Dr. Rodney Green

Lowndes County, Certified Board Member  
Assistant Superintendent For Teaching & Learning

## Sue Lane Hughes, Chair

Coffee County, Certified Board Member  
VP of Nursing Services  
Coffee Regional Medical Center

## Amanda Ramshead

Cook County, Certified Board Member  
Behavioral Health Service Line Director  
Tift Regional Health System  
Southwell Medical

## Matt Seale

Irwin County, Certified Board Member  
Owner/CEO  
Fourth & Cherry Co.



# SENIOR STAFF FROM 2023-2024

## DeAnnia Clements

President

## April McDuffie

Executive Vice President  
For Academic Affairs

## Lidell Greenway

Vice President for  
Facilities

## Keren Wynn

Vice President for  
Administrative Services

## Shannon McConico

Vice President for  
Enrollment Management

## Michael Williams

Vice President for  
Economic Development

## Casey Thompson

Chief Information Officer

## Dr. Jammie Wilbanks

Senior Institutional Research  
& Planning Analyst

## Shalonda Sanders

Associate VP for  
Human Resources and  
Operations

## Brandy B. Wilkes

Assoc. VP. For  
Workforce Development,  
GATAPP

## Timothy Allmond

Chief of Police

## Elizabeth Vickers

Executive Director for  
Community Relations and  
Fundraising

## RoMona MacKenzie

Ben-Hill Irwin Campus  
Administrator

## Brooke Jaramillo

Executive Director for High  
School Services

## Kelly Peacock

Executive Director of Adult  
Education Services

## Holly Greene

Dean of Academic Affairs

## Thomas Feagle

Dean for Academic Affairs

## Frank Barnett

Dean of Academic Affairs

## Ken Strickland

Special Assistant to the  
President

## Susan Jones

Executive Assistant to the  
President

# CONTACT US

## WIREGRASS GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE

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### **Main Campus**

4089 Val Tech Road  
Valdosta, Georgia 31602  
(229) 333-2100  
Fax (229) 333-2129

### **Ben Hill-Irwin Campus**

667 Perry House Road  
Fitzgerald, Georgia 31750  
(229) 468-2000  
Fax (229) 468-2110

### **Coffee County Campus**

706 West Baker Highway  
Douglas, Georgia 31533  
(912) 389-4303  
Fax (912) 389-4308

### **Cook County Center**

1676 North Elm Street  
Sparks, Georgia 31647  
(229) 549-7368  
Fax (229) 549-6286

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees, diplomas, and technical certificates of credit. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Wiregrass Georgia Technical College.

Equal Opportunity Institution | A Unit of the Technical College System of Georgia | WGTC is accredited by SACSCOC