



WIREGRASS

GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE®

Strategic Plan 2018 - 2023

2019 Edition

“Striving for Excellence”

History of Wiregrass Georgia Technical College

On September 4, 2008, the State Board of Technical and Adult Education (SBTAE) approved the merger of East Central Technical College and Valdosta Technical College to be effective July 1, 2010. Almost a year to the day the merger was announced, the local board, with input from stakeholders, decided on a new name for the combined college – Wiregrass Georgia Technical College (WGTC).

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College has four primary campuses – Ben Hill-Irwin campus, Coffee campus, Cook County Workforce Development Center, and the Valdosta campus – as well as an extended campus located on Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta. The college provides Adult Education services in each of the 11 counties served by the college; Atkinson, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, and Wilcox counties.

Individually, both East Central Technical College (ECTC) and Valdosta Technical College (VTC) have long, meaningful histories within the communities they have served. The rich history between these colleges and the local communities demonstrate how important training and educational opportunities have been, and will continue to be, for the citizens of the Wiregrass Georgia Technical College service area.

East Central Technical College

East Central Technical College (formerly Ben Hill-Irwin Technical Institute and East Central Technical Institute) was established in 1966. Ben Hill-Irwin Tech officially opened its doors on September 21, 1970, occupying three buildings with large vocational-technical labs and a small administration area. The first full-time graduates received their diplomas on September 15, 1971.

During the next 30 years, East Central Technical College underwent enormous transformation and growth. On June 10, 1977, Ben Hill-Irwin Tech held groundbreaking ceremonies for a new \$600,000 expansion to house new programs. The Charles Harris Learning Center opened in 1994 housing an auditorium, classrooms, and office space.

In 1995, the Board of Regents deeded land, originally part of South Georgia College, to the Department of Technical and Adult Education for the Coffee campus. On November 7, 1996, the name officially changed to East Central Technical Institute. Further county expansions occurred including the addition of the Wilcox Lifelong Learning Center in Rochelle. On April 10, 2002, the state allocated \$10,000,000 for a new technology building on the Ben Hill-Irwin campus, which was completed in 2006.

Valdosta Technical College

Valdosta Technical Institute was founded as a cooperative agreement by the state legislature, the Valdosta Board of Education, and the Lowndes County Board of Education in 1963 to serve the citizens of Berrien, Brooks, Cook, Echols, Lanier, and Lowndes counties. Valdosta Tech's original 40,300 square foot building, Berrien Hall, opened for classes in September of 1963.

The first addition to the campus was a 7,200 square foot building to house the Heating Ventilating and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and Welding programs. The vigorous economic growth of the area initiated a need for an additional expansion that almost doubled the size of the facility. In 1984, the college completed its second addition to house the horticulture, electronics, and health programs.

A few short years later in 1989, a 7,800 square foot addition for the Auto Collision program completed the U-shape of Berrien Hall. In 1989 the Georgia Legislature provided \$175,000 for the purchase of 80.2 acres of land to continue the growth of the campus. Governor Zell Miller then approved a \$7.64 million dollar, 83,770 square foot expansion which would be the second largest technical school expansion at that time. From this expansion, Valdosta Tech Buildings 300, 400, and 500 were opened in 1997.

The Cook County Workforce Development Center in Sparks opened its doors as a branch campus of Valdosta Tech in June 2002. Valdosta Tech opened an office at Moody Air Force Base in February 2004. In December 2007, Valdosta Technical College was accredited and approved for unconditional membership with the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

In February 2009, Lowndes Hall officially opened housing the administrative offices of the President, business programs, a new 7,000 square foot library, an auditorium, early childhood education, drafting technology, and printing and graphics programs. A new student center was also constructed and includes 6,625 square feet of space for the Upper Crust, security offices, and offices for student activities.

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College - Today

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College is a leader in the Technical College System of Georgia. Recognized for achievements in workforce development, Wiregrass Georgia Technical College provides individuals with the education, training, and skills to positively influence our economy.

Wiregrass offers more than 100 academic programs in the areas of Healthcare, Business and Computer Sciences, Professional Services, and Industrial and Technical trades. During the Fiscal Year 2018, the college had an unduplicated enrollment of 5,904 students. Of the 5,904 students enrolled, 2,468 were enrolled in either an online or hybrid course. The college works closely with 12 school systems and 25 high schools to offer early enrollment programs for high school students. In FY18, the college had 3,155 high school students enrolled in Dual Enrollment.

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College guarantees all programs. Curriculum standards have been developed with direct involvement of business and industry. These standards serve as the industry-validated specifications for each occupational program. "If one of our graduates educated under a standard program or his/her employer finds that the graduate is deficient in one or more competencies as defined in the standards, the technical college will retrain the employee at no instructional cost to the employee or the employer." This guarantee is in effect for a period of two years after graduation.

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College - Today Cont.

Students also have the opportunity to accentuate the power of their resume with membership in campus clubs and organizations. With opportunities ranging from SkillsUSA to the National Technical Honor Society, Wiregrass Georgia Technical College students can easily fulfill their need to serve and to be recognized. When a prospective employer sees Student Government Association on a resume, they know the applicant is a team player with experience in getting things done.

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College is a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia. Programs use cutting-edge technology and offer easy access to lifelong learning for all Georgians. A seamless education process provides students an opportunity to transfer credits efficiently as they advance from secondary schools to technical colleges and to the colleges and universities within the University System of Georgia.

In addition to academic programs, the college provides Adult Education and Economic Development services. The Wiregrass Georgia Technical College Adult Education Department served 1,586 students in Adult Education programs such as GED® preparation classes, English as a Second Language, and Adult Education basic skills classes during FY18. Approximately 285 students received their GED® diploma in FY18.

During FY18, the Department of Economic Development provided customized training classes to 80 companies totaling 45,092 hours of training. Approximately 1,384 students took continuing education courses through the Department of Economic Development.

The combination of academic programs, Adult Education services, and continuing education provided through Economic Development means that Wiregrass Georgia Technical College touches the lives of more than 8,500 students annually.



MISSION

A thorough understanding of the Strategic Plan is made possible by knowing the foundation upon which the College operations are based as articulated in our mission statement.

Our Mission:

The mission of Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia, is to promote community, educational, and economic development by providing a trained workforce in our 11-county service area and throughout the State of Georgia. The college fulfills the mission by providing technical and academic instruction, through traditional and distance education delivery methods, leading to associate degrees, diplomas, and technical certificates of credit; customized training for new and existing industries; professional and personal development through continuing education programs; and adult education services to meet the needs of citizens, business, and industry in the service area.



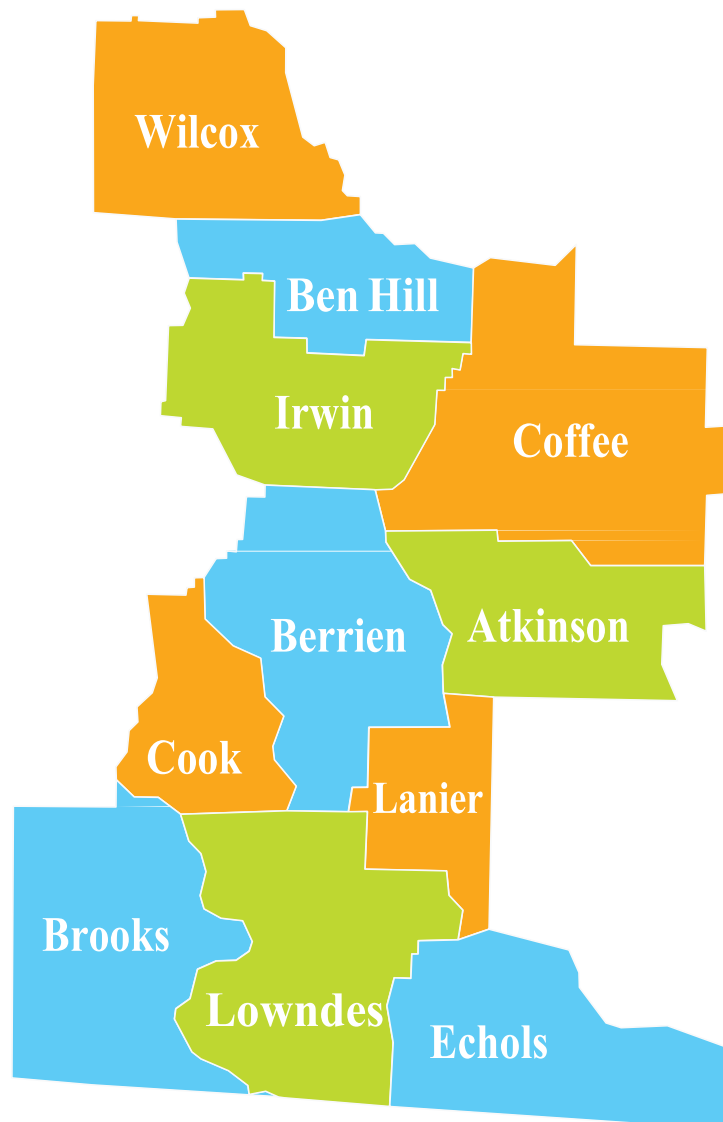
VISION

The Vision Statement is a values-based description of the College's desired future and its distinctive characteristics of success. It clarifies what the College should look like and how it should conduct itself as it fulfills its Mission.

Our Vision:

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College will be recognized as a leader in the Technical College System of Georgia exemplifying premier qualities that meet the vigorous life-long learning needs of the students, communities, businesses, and industries within the college's 11-county service area and throughout the State of Georgia.

OUR SERVICE AREA



VALUES

Values are the traits or qualities that we consider to be worthwhile. Our Values represent our highest priorities and our deeply held driving forces and beliefs. Our Values reflect how we value ourselves and our internal and external customers.

Our Values:

Core values are a set of principles that guide Wiregrass Georgia Technical College in creating its educational programs and environment and the foundation from which we perform work and conduct ourselves. We are convinced that the key to creating a truly great learning organization is an intense focus on the values that guide our actions.

- **Student Focused:** We value and respect all students as unique individuals. We assist students in identifying and realizing their educational goals and create an accessible and dynamic learning environment. We are focused on providing students with a positive educational experience.
- **Accountable:** We understand and value our individual roles in the college. We take responsibility for processes, decisions, and outcomes within our scope of influence. We work hard to communicate effectively and apply our expertise to continuously improve our systems and strengthen organizational performance.
- **Diversity:** We recognize the many diverse qualities of the citizens within our service area and strive to promote a positive and inclusive environment that encourages respect and enhances the unique qualities and strengths of each individual to ensure that all students, faculty, and staff have the opportunity to grow and to achieve their greatest potential.
- **Safety:** We strive to be proactive in promoting a safe and secure environment that enhances the learning process by allocating appropriate resources toward preparedness training, communication, and highly qualified security staff to ensure the protection of all students, faculty, staff, and visitors on our campuses.
- **Exceptional Service:** We create and improve relationships through positive interactions with others. United by a common purpose to support and improve learning, we collaborate to provide lifelong learning opportunities that enhance the well-being of individuals, businesses, and communities.



2020 GOALS

GOAL 1: Provide Avenues for Student Success

Strategic Objectives:

- 1.1 Develop programs for targeted, under-represented populations.
- 1.2 Create a welcoming atmosphere for students.
- 1.3 Identify and remove barriers for students.
- 1.4 Offer programs of study that are in high demand by local industry.

GOAL 2: Promote Excellence in Learning and Teaching

Strategic Objectives:

- 2.1 Various teaching methodologies will be enhanced based on instructor needs, through the use of the Center of Excellence, and assessed through measurements established through the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).
- 2.2 The effectiveness, quality, and safety of all programs, services, personnel, and facilities will be continuously assessed through the use of student surveys, colleague surveys, and the Offices of Institutional Effectiveness and Institutional Research.
- 2.3 The rigor of occupational programs will be maintained by the continual pursuit of program accreditation.
- 2.4 The educational quality of all programs will be maintained and improved through efficient and cost-effective management practices.

GOAL 3: Strengthen Workforce Development

Strategic Objectives:

- 3.1 Ensure Adult Education students receive excellent academic and career training to earn a measurable skill gain and transition to post-secondary education and careers.
- 3.2 Increase the skill level of our current workforce by providing targeted credit programs, non-credit customized training, professional certifications, and student apprenticeships.
- 3.3 Seek creative partnerships with the K-12 system and the Department of Corrections to help increase our workforce pool numbers and to meet industry needs.

2019 STRATEGIC PLAN STATUS OF GOAL ATTAINMENT

WGTC Strategic Goal	Measures of Goal Attainment
Goal 1: Provide Avenues for Student Success	
<p>1.1 Develop programs for targeted, under-represented populations.</p> <p>1.2 Create a welcoming atmosphere for students.</p> <p>1.3 Identify and remove barriers for students.</p> <p>1.4 Offer programs of study that are in high demand by local industry.</p>	<p>1.1 A. Developed scholarship opportunities, partnerships, and organizations in our community that had a focus on the black male population.</p> <p>B. Created a peer-to-peer support group for the underrepresented in non-traditional programs.</p> <p>1.2 A. Advisement Retention Center (ARC) increased communication through the use of software Navigate.</p> <p>B. Improvement of campus esthetics and security were made to create a welcoming and safe environment. 99.6 percent of students scored a strongly agree, agree, or N/A on the student satisfaction survey that the buildings and campus grounds are well maintained. 98.9 percent of students scored a strongly agree, agree, or N/A on the student satisfaction survey that campus police offers provide adequate security services.</p> <p>1.3 A. The WeCARE Team was created to assist students by providing resources.</p> <p>B. Scholarship applications were placed online for easier access for students.</p> <p>C. Wiregrass created and enhanced accessibility through making all outward-facing documents accessible including the Wiregrass website.</p> <p>1.4 A. Several programs were redesigned to include apprenticeship opportunities.</p> <p>B. Emergency pre-paramedic technical certificate of credit program is now offered.</p>

2019 STRATEGIC PLAN STATUS OF GOAL ATTAINMENT

WGTC Strategic Goal	Measures of Goal Attainment
<p>Goal 2: Promote Excellence in Learning and Teaching</p>	
<p>2.1 Various teaching methodologies will be enhanced based on instructor needs, through the use of the Center of Excellence, and assessed through measurements established through the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).</p> <p>2.2 The effectiveness, quality, and safety of all programs, services, personnel, and facilities will be continuously assessed through the use of student surveys, colleague surveys, and the Offices of Institutional Effectiveness and Institutional Research.</p> <p>2.3 The rigor of occupational programs will be maintained by the continual pursuit of program accreditation.</p> <p>2.4 The educational quality of all programs will be maintained and improved through efficient and cost-effective management practices.</p>	<p>2.1 A. 60 percent of full-time faculty have participated in the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).</p> <p>B. 100 percent of full-time and part-time faculty attend New Teacher Orientation and participate in the Mentoring Program.</p> <p>2.2 A. The student satisfaction survey and the college survey was distributed Fall 2018. Students answer questions related to all student services and academic affairs departments. 99.2 percent of students scored a strongly agree, agree, or N/A on the student satisfaction survey that they were pleased with general education and program instruction.</p> <p>B. The Department of Homeland Security Site Survey was conducted by GEMA to evaluate the security and safety of the college.</p> <p>2.3 A. Several programs which are accredited submitted their annual accreditation report. Radiologic Technology received reaccreditation for JRCERT.</p> <p>B. Wiregrass is the only technical college in Georgia that has achieved the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEEP) accreditation.</p> <p>2.4 A. The following grants were awarded for program instruction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USDA Grant for EMS equipment for Coffee Campus • USDA Grant for Welding equipment for Coffee Campus • USDA Grant for Allied Health equipment for BHI Campus • USDA RUS Grant for Distance Learning Equipment for ten instructional high schools <p>B. Faculty liaisons are provided for each concurrent enrollment partnerships (CEP) instructors teaching dual-enrollment at the high school level.</p>

2019 STRATEGIC PLAN STATUS OF GOAL ATTAINMENT

WGTC Strategic Goal

Measures of Goal Attainment

Goal 3: Strengthen Workforce Development

- 3.1 Ensure Adult Education students receive excellent academic and career training to earn a measurable skill gain and transition to post-secondary education and careers.

- 3.2 Increase the skill level of our current workforce by providing targeted credit programs, non-credit customized training, professional certifications, and student apprenticeships.

- 3.3 Seek creative partnerships with the K-12 system and the Department of Corrections to help increase our workforce pool numbers and to meet industry needs.

- 3.1 A. Transitioning services are provided to Adult Education students to transition to post-secondary education and careers through transitioning efforts including: WiregrassREADY, college tours, workshops, and the GED Step Up program.

B. Through the use of the College Career Readiness Standards, Adult Education students achieved a 57 percent measurable skill gain rate, and 286 students earned the GED.

- 3.2 A. Customizable non-credit programs have been developed to meet current workforce need, including the WiregrassREADY program.

B. Customized credit programs and registered apprenticeships have been created to meet current workforce needs, included AMPED and GA Steps.

C. Economic Developed offered 56,168 continuing education contact hours to 106 industries.

- 3.3 A. Wiregrass offered dual enrollment at 22 K-12 partners, serving over 3,000 students, a 50 percent increase from the previous year. Through NACEP partnerships, Wiregrass provided faculty liaisons and partnered with K-12 systems to credential existing faculty. 27,703 credit hours were earned and 272 credentials awarded.

B. Through a partnership with the Georgia Department of Corrections and Core Civic, Wiregrass provided credit and noncredit instructions to 39 institutions, serving over 5,900 students.



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