

STC Ranked #2 in Forbes Advisor for Best Online Management Certificate Program

Southeastern Technical College (STC) ranked #2 in the latest Forbes Advisor for best online certificates in management.

“I am thrilled and honored to see the Management and Leadership Specialist Certificate program at Southeastern Tech recognized as the second-best management program online by Forbes Advisor. This accolade is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our instructor Tina Jernigan and our students, and reinforces our commitment to providing top-notch education and leadership training,” said Gina Robison, STC Dean of Business Technologies and Human Services.

Forbes reports, “We ranked 193 accredited, nonprofit colleges offering online undergraduate management certificates in the U.S. using 12 data points in the categories of credibility, affordability, student outcomes, and student experience. We pulled data for these categories from reliable resources such as the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, private, third-party data sources, and individual school and program websites.”

Schools were scored based on the following metrics: Student Outcomes – graduation rate within eight years of normal time, Pell Grant recipient graduation rate, retention rate, Pell Grant graduation rate versus overall graduation rate, ability to transfer certificate credits to a degree program; Student Experience – student-to-faculty ratio, socioeconomic diversity, program’s coursework (excluding student orientations, field experiences, and labs) available 100%

online, the proportion of undergraduate students enrolled in at least some distance learning courses; Credibility – fully accredited; and Affordability – per-credit tuition rate.

Mrs. Jernigan has taught in the Business Management and Business Technology departments for more than twenty years at Southeastern Tech. She has been nominated for the Rick Perkins Instructor of the Year four times by her peers for her significant contributions to education. Jernigan is also STC's lead advisor for SkillsUSA.

"Wow! It is an honor to be #2 on the Forbes Advisor list for 2024. It is awesome that the program and College are being recognized. The best part of being an instructor in this program specifically is that I know my students have opportunities to find jobs in their fields of study, and many already work locally in our communities – earning good wages. This year, I am particularly proud that my enrollment increased by twenty-two percent. I love teaching, and I hope that in some small way, I have positively impacted students' lives," said Jernigan.

Southeastern Technical College's online Management and Leadership Specialist Certificate program generally takes three semesters. The curriculum includes five required courses: Principles of Management, Leadership, Performance Management, Employee Training and Development, and Employment Rules and Regulations.

The fully online platform of Southeastern Tech's Business Management program, like several programs at Southeastern Tech, provides significant advantages for students. Eliminating the need for commuting or relocating closer to campus, the program is more convenient for students who are pursuing an education while managing family responsibilities and/or working full-time jobs. Online courses require discipline and time management skills from students, but they offer the flexibility to balance educational pursuits with

existing commitments. Students may still meet with Mrs. Jernigan in person and are encouraged to meet on campus for study groups if they desire to do so.

The STC Business Management program offers six technical certificates of credit, a degree program, and a diploma program.

For more information on these programs offered by Southeastern Technical College, visit www.southeasterntech.edu or call (912) 538-3123.

Photo: Tina Jernigan, Southeastern Tech Business Management Instructor

STC Students Attended National SkillsUSA Conference

The state of Georgia SkillsUSA winners advanced to the national competition, which was held in Atlanta during the last week of June.

Representing STC at the national level were:

Heavenly Mincey competed in Nail Care, with Estrella Hernandez as her model. Both students are from Claxton.

Findlay Griner competed in Cosmetology. Findlay is from Metter.

The icon of the hands in the SkillsUSA logo symbolizes the search for knowledge and skill. Under the instruction of Cosmetology instructors Althea Coney-Ricks and Linda Hairr, respectfully, these students found just that.

We often hear, "If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you."

Griner spoke of her experience as invaluable, saying, "Wow! Where do I begin? During my first semester of school, I competed at SkillsUSA State, and I am so glad I did. I received a gold medal. That insured me a trip to NATIONALS!! I knew I had the skills and knowledge to compete with the very best. Having Mrs. Hairr by my side made it even better. Nationals was an experience I will never forget and has made me overcome so many of my fears. I started Cosmetology school in August of 2023, and having a teacher and mentor like Mrs. Hairr has been a blessing. She has pushed me through school and shown me how great I can be. Also, a huge thank you to my parents for supporting me in everything I do."

"Findlay has proven herself to be a great student with a determination and a drive to excel, not often seen in a young lady her age. She is extremely talented, and I feel blessed to be a part of her journey. She is going to accomplish great things, and soon, people will recognize her name and her work, said Mrs. Hairr.

SkillsUSA is students' number one workforce development organization, empowering them to become skilled professionals, career-ready leaders, and responsible community members. America's proud champions of the skilled trades and largest gathering of America's future skilled workforce, the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference was held at the Georgia World Congress Center.

For more information on SkillsUSA at Southeastern Technical College, visit www.southeasterntech.edu or call (912) 538-3100 or (478) 289-2200.

Photo (L-R): STC Cosmetology Instructor Althea Coney-Ricks, Estrella Hernandez (Nail Care model), Heavenly Mincey (Nail Care student), Findley Grinder (Cosmetology student), and STC

Rustin Retires After 25 Years at Southeastern Technical College

Director for Economic Development and Continuing Education
Susan Rustin retired after twenty-five years of dedicated service to Southeastern Technical College (STC).

While a student at Southeastern Technical College, receiving a Business Office Technology Diploma, Rustin began working for Southeastern Tech as a continuing education business and industry specialist. She assisted in coordinating classes, conferencing, and catering, served work-ready programs, coordinated leadership programs, hired instructors, and administrated proctored exams for industry certifications.

Rustin worked in business-related fields for most of her career, having once owned three businesses of her own. Her experience brought valuable insights to her role at Southeastern Technical College. She earned an Associate of Applied Science from East Georgia College and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Troy University.

Rustin was promoted to Director for Economic Development and Continuing Education for Southeastern Tech in 2020, where she was responsible for personalized training for businesses and industries and collaborating with economic development authorities.

President Larry Calhoun said, "We thank Susan for her 25 years

of dedicated service to Southeastern Technical College and our businesses and industries. Many of the folks she has worked with and trained along the way have become her friends. They are not numbers, they aren't statistics, they are not classes – they are people. It takes a rare person to do all that Susan has done. Her duties resulted in many lives of local citizens being positively impacted. We wish her all the best in retirement.”

“Thank you for the trust you’ve had in me,” remarked Rustin as she reflected on her tenure. “Together, we have worked to improve the economic well-being of our citizens. I’ve enjoyed working with everyone and all of our industries. I have enjoyed all my years at Southeastern Tech. When you work at the same place for so many years, coworkers become family. I’m going to miss everyone.”

Among other courses, the STC Economic Development and Continuing Education Center provides American Heart Association First Aid and CPR training, ServSafe Manager’s training, Joshua’s Law Driver’s Education and defensive driving instruction, and OSHA-approved forklift safety certification. Ed2go courses for online continuing education are also available.

The Economic Development Center served 78 companies in 2023. For more information regarding the Economic Development and Continuing Education Department, visit www.southeasterntech.edu or call (912) 538-3258.

Photos: STC President Larry Calhoun and Retired Director of STC Economic Development and Continuing Education Susan Rustin

Crumpler Judges for Outstanding Apprenticeship Competition

Southeastern Technical College's (STC) Michael Crumpler served as a judge for the 35th Annual Outstanding Apprenticeship Competition hosted by Ironworkers Local Union 709 Southeastern District Council.

The competition brought together the best in ironworking, with representatives from fourteen Union Ironworking Apprenticeship Centers across Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Tennessee to showcase their expertise.

Mr. Crumpler's role as a judge involved assessing weld plates and burn plates in the competition held in Pooler, Georgia, on Wednesday, June 12. Weld plates typically test the strength and integrity of weld joints under specified conditions, while burn plates evaluate the cutting precision and technique used in burning through metal plates. A Thursday luncheon was held to celebrate the apprentices who excelled in the various categories and acknowledge the efforts of all participants.

"Michael Crumpler is an exemplary instructor who inspires his students and peers to be their best. It is such an honor to have him represent Southeastern Tech as a judge at the apprentice competition," said Sonya Wilson, STC Dean of Industrial and Environmental Technologies.

"It was a privilege to be invited to judge this competition. Observing the exceptional performances of these welders was inspiring. The Ironworkers have an outstanding apprenticeship program. Their representative comes to STC each year to speak with our students about the great opportunities that lie ahead of them," stated Crumpler.

Mr. Crumpler's career spans 33 years in the welding profession. He has been a welding instructor at Southeastern Technical College for 24 years. He holds professional certifications through the American Welding Society as a CWE (Certified Welding Educator), CWI (Certified Welding Inspector), and CWS (Certified Welding Supervisor). Since becoming a CWI in 2005, he has administered over 1,300 welding certification tests to students and employees of various companies, showcasing his extensive knowledge and expertise in welding inspection. In recognition of his dedication to welding education, he was awarded The Section Educator Award by the AWS in April 2024.

To learn more about the Welding program at Southeastern Technical College, contact Mr. Crumpler at (912) 538-3257 or mcrumpler@southeasterntech.edu.

Photos: (L-R): Union 709 Business Development/Recruiter Reis James, STC Welding Instructor Michael Crumpler, and Union 709 Apprenticeship Coordinator Derrick Sample. Union 709 Southeastern States District Council President Jack Jarrell, STC Welding Instructor Michael Crumpler, and Union 709 Business Manager Billy McMillan

STC Foundation is Accepting Fall Scholarship Applications

Southeastern Technical College Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications for the Fall semester. The deadline to apply is **Thursday, July 25, 2024**.

Students are asked to complete one application and will be considered for all scholarships they qualify to receive. The

scholarship application and a full listing of all scholarships available can be found on the Southeastern Technical College website at <https://www.southeasterntech.edu/foundation/>.

Scholarship packets, including the application, acceptance letter/proof of registration, letters of reference, and transcript(s), must be received by the deadline listed above.

Completed scholarship packets can be mailed or hand-delivered to Blythe Wilcox, Executive Director for Institutional Advancement, Southeastern Technical College, 3001 East First Street, Room 127, Vidalia, GA 30474.

For more information on opportunities provided by the Southeastern Technical College Foundation, visit www.southeasterntech.edu or call (912) 538-3147.

Eisner and Noles Chosen for AI-ALOE Teaching Fellows Program

The National AI Institute for Adult Learning and Online Education (AI-ALOE) has announced that Dr. Jessica Eisner and Liz Noles of Southeastern Technical College (STC) have been chosen for the inaugural AI-ALOE Teaching Fellows Program. Both instructors teach in the Business Technology program at Southeastern Tech.

Gina Robison, STC's Dean of Business Technologies and Human Sciences, said, "I am extremely proud that Liz Noles and Dr. Jessica Eisner were chosen to join the esteemed AI-ALOE Teaching Fellows Program. Both instructors understand the

importance of staying current with AI advancements as they equip Business Technology program students for the workforce. AI in education provides benefits like personalized learning, streamlined grading and feedback, and enhanced administrative tasks – leading to increased student engagement and academic success. I am excited to learn from these instructors and share this knowledge with other STC educators.”

The AI-ALOE Teaching Fellows Program is committed to empowering educators by integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in teaching and learning environments. The involvement of Eisner and Noles will not only contribute to the advancement of AI in education but will also significantly enhance their professional development.

AI-ALOE extended invitations for Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) instructors to apply for a fellowship. AI-ALOE, housed at Georgia Tech, has 14 national institutes. Several TCSG colleges have been pivotal in the success of this institute by introducing novel AI tutors into their classrooms.

“Being a Teaching Fellow in the AI-ALOE program is not just about embracing innovation. It empowers educators and students to thrive in the digital age. By integrating AI into my classes, I aim to cultivate a dynamic learning environment that fosters critical thinking and prepares students for the evolving demands of the workforce. I anticipate the enrichment of student experiences and a direct impact on our local workforce by equipping learners with the skills needed to excel in tomorrow’s digital landscape,” said Liz Noles.

AI-ALOE Institute’s mission is to aid the digital transformation of the workforce. The Teaching Fellows Program is an opportunity designed for educators passionate about harnessing AI technologies to elevate teaching and learning experiences. These tools and analytics will aid students in higher education, continuing education, and workforce

training.

Eisner said, "I wanted to be involved because I see this fellowship as a unique chance to not only innovate in the field of education but also to make a tangible impact on how adult learners access and engage with educational content. The program's focus on personalization and adaptability through AI aligns with my strong belief in catering to individual learning styles and needs."

Research in AI is paving the way for groundbreaking advancements in online adult learning. By harnessing the power of artificial intelligence, we can revolutionize education with innovative techniques and theories tailored specifically to the needs of adult learners.

"AI isn't just the future of online adult learning – it's a transformative journey towards unlocking human potential like never before. I am so excited that we get to represent STC and TCSG in this capacity! AI technology will empower adults to learn effectively and stay competitive in their careers. With AI-driven tools, our learners can navigate the complexities of the modern workforce, acquire new skills, and adapt to emerging trends with confidence and agility," said Eisner

Teaching Fellows must actively engage in program activities and provide feedback to AI-ALOE researchers. The fellowship requires a one-year commitment, with an estimated involvement of 10-20 hours per semester. Fellows receive a \$2,000 stipend for their participation.

For more information on programs at Southeastern Technical College, visit www.southeasterntech.edu or call (912) 538-3100 or (478) 289-2200.

Photos: STC Business Technology instructors Dr. Jessica Eisner and Liz Noles

Southeastern Tech Congratulates 2024 Spring Semester President's List

Southeastern Technical College is proud to announce the 2024 Spring Semester President's List.

These students earned a grade point average of 3.75 or higher while enrolled in 12 or more credit hours for the semester:

Appling County: Autumn Besch, Anna Sharpe, Austin Stanley, Haylee Wiggins, Jessica Yawn

Bulloch County: Lattra Plotts, Michael Tepetate-Waters

Burke County: Jeffrey Broadbent, Fre'shondra Wright

Candler County: Alicia Boyette, Francisca Ortiz

Emanuel County: Caleb Avery, Manuel Bustamante, Gavin Hood, Michaela Hudson, Destin Johnson, Carrie Newsome

Jeff Davis County: Victor Marquez, Ally Skipper, Jonathan Stapleton

Jenkins County: Shaniah Dickerson

Montgomery County: Kaland Brazell, Yulissa Garcia

Tattnall County: Jennifer Cruz-Hernandez, McKenzie Davis, Courtney Hutcheson, Esmerelda Juarez, Norman Munthe, Sandra Olvera, Malia-Ana Peralta, Ansley Trotter

Telfair County: Payton McDaniel

Toombs County: Willie Badie, Sarah Bullard, Danny Carter, Katrina Charity, Crisdel Cobos Cortez, Timothy Davis, Karson Evans, Laura Guerrero-Chavez, Christiana Jernigan, Raymond MacDonald, Sidney Metts, Noelia Nevarez, Lauren Soley, Lasondra Wells, Adelyn Williams

Wayne County: Trenton Dubberly

Wheeler County: Alyson Crawford, Amy Dalton, Owen Stokes

STC Spring 2024 Commencement

Southeastern Technical College (STC) held its 2024 commencement ceremonies on May 7, in Vidalia. Degree, diploma, technical certificate of credit, and high school equivalency graduates were honored.

“Receiving a credential from STC is a major life milestone and significantly enhances the futures of our graduates and their families. We are proud of the work we do at STC, and we share that pride with our graduates who have worked so hard to earn their credentials. Career opportunities for our graduates have never been brighter, and they are all to be congratulated and celebrated,” said President Larry Calhoun.

President Calhoun welcomed the graduating class and guests on behalf of the Southeastern Tech faculty, staff, and the Technical College System of Georgia.

“Congratulations on your hard work and dedication that led you here tonight,” said Mr. Calhoun. “As you begin the next chapter of your life, I encourage each of you to find your passion in what you do, love those around you, believe in a higher purpose, and work to positively impact the greater good

of your communities.”

Of the 887 graduates from the academic year 2023-2024, 155 graduates chose to participate Tuesday evening, with some students obtaining more than one certificate. One thousand one hundred thirty-four awards were conferred.

STC Board of Directors Chair Chris Hopkins introduced Mike Hagan as the keynote speaker. Hagan is the Vice President of Operations at Memorial Health Meadow’s Hospital, where he has been an integral part of the executive team since 2017. His journey began with the hospital in 2011. Mike is an alumnus of the University of Georgia with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. He has extensive prior experience in operations and technology leadership in the financial services industry with both Wachovia Bank and Capital One Bank. Mike is an active member of the community and serves as the Immediate Past Chairman of the Board of the Greater Vidalia Chamber of Commerce.

“Job demand is still outpacing supply. Though the unemployment rate is low, the number of open positions still outweighs the number of workers. Opportunities abound for the one who seizes it. You are our future. Let me share with you some of the more important pearls of wisdom that I am confident will make a profound difference in your life. Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Seek first to serve rather than to be served. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. And most importantly, love your neighbors as you love yourself. As you can see, these are easy to say but hard to do. Let me encourage you to put forth the effort. The journey of life is not just about the destination but about all the amazing experiences that are yours along the way.”

Hagan attributed Abraham Lincoln as having said, “Whatever you are, be a good one.” He encouraged the graduates to be mindful of more doors opening as a result of hard work. “Do your best, and it will serve you well. Job demand is still outpacing

supply. Though the unemployment rate is incredibly low, the number of open positions still outweighs the number of workers. Opportunities abound for the ones who seize it."

Hagan said, "Let me share with you some of the more important pearls of wisdom that I am confident will make a profound difference in your life. Be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Seek first to serve rather than to be served. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. And most importantly, love your neighbor as you love yourself."

"As you can see, these are easy to say but hard to do. Let me encourage you to put forth the effort. The journey of life is not just about the destination, but about all the amazing experiences that are yours along the way," said Hagan.

The presentation of diplomas was carried out by President Calhoun, assisted by Hagan and Hopkins.

Honor graduates, students enrolled in a degree or diploma program and have an overall grade point average of at least 3.75, were distinguished in gold honor cords. Members of the National Society of Leadership and Success, SkillsUSA, and Student Government Association were recognizable by stoles and pins.

"Graduation day at STC is always a joyous and memorable occasion, and it holds a special place in my heart for several reasons. First and foremost, it's an opportunity to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our students as they embark on new career paths, ready to make their mark on the world. Moreover, we are privileged to hear inspiring words of wisdom from our exceptional guest speakers, who never fail to leave a lasting impact on our graduates and the entire STC community. This year's graduation ceremony was no exception, as we were honored to have Mike Hagan deliver a powerful and thought-provoking address," said Dr. Barry Dotson, Vice President for Student Affairs.

STC offers more than 90 programs of study. Automotive, business, childcare, criminal justice, cybersecurity, healthcare, industrial maintenance, and machine tool technology are among the programs offered to prepare students for numerous careers.

For more information on educational opportunities at Southeastern Technical College, visit www.southeasterntech.edu or call (912) 538-3100 or (478) 289-2200.

Photo: STC Graduation

Third Annual This Guy Can

On Thursday, May 2, Southeastern Technical College (STC), along with Toombs County Family Connection, co-hosted the third annual This Guy Can graduation.

This Guy Can is a workforce development program created in collaboration with Toombs County Development Authority and Greater Vidalia Chamber. Its aim is to provide male students with exposure to and hands-on experience in career pathways traditionally dominated by females.

Toombs County Family Connection offered their 7th and 8th grade after school students at Vidalia Learning Center and Toombs County After School with the opportunity to participate. Students spent each afternoon during the week of April 15 in a different program area of Southeastern Tech.

“The Technical College System of Georgia defines a non-traditional career as comprised 75% of one gender, as determined by labor statistics. We are in our third year, and the program has been a success. We are trying to expand the

views of job fields available to males and females. If students are inclined to help others, they may want to consider the Early Childhood Care and Education field," said Helen Thomas, Special Needs Specialist at STC.

Students spent Monday learning how to create personalized business cards in Business Technology with Dr. Jessica Eisner.

On Tuesday, students learned various braiding techniques in Cosmetology. Several students admitted that they loved this hands-on activity led by Mrs. Althea Ricks and Mrs. Jamie Lambert.

The third day, participants spent time in the Early Childhood Care and Education program where Mrs. Mindy Sumner challenged students to be creative in an art activity. Some of Sumner's current students were present to discuss different career paths within this field.

The workshop series wrapped up on Thursday. Participants learned about Southeastern Technical College's Radiology Technology program from Mr. Keagan Spell and Medical Assistant training from Mrs. Erin Rollins. Rollins taught the boys how to check blood pressure, how to tie a tourniquet, and much more. The students said they really enjoyed using the stethoscope and learning about what phlebotomists do on a daily basis.

During the graduation ceremony, Paige Williamson, Family Connection Director, welcomed everyone and provided an overview of the program. Helen Thomas of STC expressed the College's excitement to partner with This Guy Can. Kurt Peters, a graduate of Southeastern Technical College's nursing program, and Michele Johnson, Executive Director of the Greater Vidalia Chamber, were keynote speakers. Participants then received a certificate of completion. After the graduation, everyone gathered in the Student Center for a meal.

“Thanks to our sponsors at Trane Technologies, our students gained some much needed hands-on experience during This Guy Can,” said Williamson. “We simply could not do this program without our wonderful partnerships. Thank you to the fantastic instructors for engaging our students this week in such a meaningful way. We appreciate each of them and are encouraged by all the opportunities our students have at their fingertips through Southeastern Tech. I’d also like to specifically thank Helen Thomas, Jeannie Morris, and Laura McCullough at STC for planning, decorating, and hosting the program. Our community can accomplish big things when we work together towards a common goal and this program is proof.”