

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AUGUSTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE RECIPIENT OF \$60,000 DEFENSE COMMUNITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT**

GRANT WILL HELP OUTREACH TO MILITARY SPOUSES AND ELIMINATE BARRIERS

Augusta, GA, August 13, 2019 – President Terry D. Elam announced that Augusta Technical College is the recipient of a \$60,000 Defense Community Economic Development Fund Grant from the Technical College System of Georgia’s Office of Workforce Development.

The funds will be used to strengthen the relationship between Augusta and the military community by working to match military spouses with employment opportunities through such initiatives as a Military Spouse Economic Empowerment Zone (MSEEZ) in collaboration with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation’s Hiring Our Heroes (USCCF -HOH). An MSEEZ works to combat military spouse unemployment and underemployment with workshops aimed at training spouses on employment skills, training employers on how/why to hire military spouses, and advocating for this population both to hiring managers and local civic leaders.

“Fort Gordon is an important asset in our community and to our college. This grant allows us to continue to extend and enhance services to military spouses, service members, and veterans. We are excited to partner with *Hiring Our Heroes* and hope to play a vital role in helping to eliminate barriers to military spouse unemployment on a local level.,” stated President Elam. “Augusta Technical College is already proficient at building bridges to a successful college experience for nontraditional students and first generation college students, and we stand ready to expand our services to military students and their families.”

Additional initiatives funded by the grant will include the College organizing military spouse hiring fairs; hosting AMPLIFY, a 2-day intensive career program for military spouse professionals; and expanding the College’s reach into the Military Spouse Professional Network (MSPN).

“Working with local partners like Augusta Technical College is key in our efforts to removing barriers to military spouse employment,” said Elizabeth O’Brien, Senior Director of Military Spouse Programs at *Hiring Our Heroes*. “We look forward to continued collaboration with the College to connect the talented workforce represented by Fort Gordon’s military spouses with meaningful employment in Augusta and the surrounding communities.”

“The Office of Workforce Development is excited to offer the Defense Community Economic Development Fund Grant in support of the training and employment of military families in Georgia,” said Dr. Serena Walker, Grants Director for the Technical College System of Georgia Office of Workforce Development. “We seek to deploy resources that support the empowerment of each population within Georgia’s workforce system, one of the most significant being our military service members and their families.”

The Memorandum of Understanding between Augusta Technical College, the USCCF, and *Hiring our Heroes* was effective as of July 16, 2019. The purpose of the MOU is to foster mutual understanding and a working relationship

between Augusta Technical College and *Hiring our Heroes* and build programs to help create long-lasting economic opportunities for military spouses and their families.

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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 www.TCSG.edu.

About the *Office of Workforce Development*

The Technical College System of Georgia's Office of Workforce Development is the administrator of WorkSource Georgia, the state's federally-funded employment and training system, working to connect talent with opportunity. At a local level, the Office of Workforce Development provides Workforce Innovation of Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds and technical assistance to the 19 Local Workforce Development Areas across the state. WIOA funds are allotted to dislocated workers, low-income adults and youth and administered specifically through services geared toward helping disadvantaged citizens obtain meaningful employment. For more information visit TCSG.edu/WorkSource.

About *Hiring Our Heroes*

Launched in March 2011, Hiring Our Heroes is a nationwide initiative to connect veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses find meaningful employment. Working with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's vast network of state and local chambers and other strategic partners from the public, private and nonprofit sectors, Hiring Our Heroes has helped hundreds of thousands of veterans and military spouses find meaningful employment through more than 1,000 job fairs in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and on military installations overseas; a suite of free online career-based resources; and the Hiring 500,000 Heroes campaign

About *Augusta Technical College*

Augusta Technical College, a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia, is a public postsecondary institution that provides academic and technical education, customized business and industry training, continuing education, student support, economic development, and adult education services to its service area (Burke, Columbia, Lincoln, McDuffie, and Richmond Counties) at a competitive financial value. Associate of Science Degrees, Associate of Applied Science Degrees, diplomas, and technical certificates of credit are provided through traditional and distance delivery methods. For more information, visit www.augustatech.edu.

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