

The ROAR!



June 2021, Vol. 1

Augusta Technical College Official Newsletter

A Word from Dr. Whirl



Hello Friends and Supporters of Augusta Technical College.

Welcome to the **ROAR!**—a quarterly newsletter dedicated to keeping you informed on all things Augusta Tech. Within this publication you'll get access to student success stories, faculty highlights, foundation news and notes, the college's community engagement

efforts, alumni spotlights, and a calendar of upcoming events. We encourage you to share this newsletter with others while following us on our social media platforms. Enjoy the **ROAR!** of your Augusta Technical College Cougars!

Pictured: **Dr. Jermaine Whirl**, President, Augusta Technical College

President's Corner

Strategic Plan Update

Over the past five months, the college has worked on crafting a new strategic plan for Fiscal Years 2022-2027. As part of the process, the institution has adopted a new vision statement, mission statement, and institutional values.



Click [here](#) to view the strategic plan.

Recent Recognitions Bank of America

Bank of America named Augusta Technical College as a Neighborhood Champion. The Neighborhood Champions program supports the role strong nonprofit leaders play in advancing economic mobility and is an



extension of the bank's signature philanthropic initiative, Neighborhood Builders®, the largest corporate philanthropic investment in nonprofit leadership in the country.

As part of the program, Augusta Technical College received \$50,000 in grant support and an opportunity for engagement in virtual leadership training delivered by experts in the nonprofit sector.

Pictured L-R: **Mrs. Beverly Peltier**, Director, Institutional Advancement & The Augusta Tech Foundation and **Dr. Lisa Palmer**, Vice President, Economic Development

Click **here** to read the article in *AugustaCEO*.



Newsweek Magazine Cyber Recognition

Augusta Technical College's Cybersecurity Program was recently recognized by Newsweek Magazine as one of the *Leading Cybersecurity Programs in the Nation in 2021*.

Augusta Tech's School of Cyber and Digital Media

Cybersecurity Associate of Applied Science (AAS) Degree program provides students with hands-on technical training in the concepts, principles, and techniques required to successfully prevent and/or mitigate security issues on computing devices in a networked environment. Both security theory and hands-on practice are stressed. The bulk of the college's cyber and IT-related courses are held at the **Georgia Cyber Center** in downtown Augusta.

Click **here** to read the article in *Newsweek*.

Economic Impact



Augusta Technical College recently had an economic impact study completed by **Dr. Greg George**, Director of the Center for Economic Analysis at **Middle Georgia State University's School of Business**. The economic impacts calculated are those derived solely from the

operations of the College and do not include the related impacts derived from the past and future (past five-year totals) activity of the graduates (increased employment and earnings), or new businesses attracted to the region as a result of the enhanced workforce.

Per the report, Augusta Technical College generates **\$58,655,563** of annual

economic activity (in the current year), and an estimated **\$320,609,344** over the next five years after adjusting for inflation. Each year, Augusta Technical College directly employs **399** employees, generating **\$24,500,000** in direct household earnings and supports an additional **115** jobs in the local economy totaling **514** in total regional jobs impact. Additionally, Augusta Technical College enhances regional household earnings by **\$32,482,100** because of its presence. Over a five-year timeframe, total household earnings in the region are increased by **\$169,038,153** because of Augusta Technical College's operations.

Economic Impact Study (EIS)

ATC 60th Anniversary

In September, Augusta Technical College will celebrate its 60th Anniversary. To commemorate the occasion, Dr. Jermaine Whirl challenged employees to form the 60th Anniversary Task Force. The task force has created several new fun initiatives including the *Den of Distinction* (Alumni Award Ceremony), *The Gathering* (an on-campus community event), and the *1961 Club* (a new fundraising venture). Stay tuned for more details!



The Gathering @ Augusta Technical College

Join us on September 25 for the ***The Gathering @ Augusta Technical College*** from 10:00am - 2:00pm on the Augusta Technical College Augusta Campus, located at 3200 Augusta Tech Drive. This family-friendly event will feature food, games, live demonstrations, a resource fair featuring our community partners, and local employers on site. Come help us celebrate 60 years of Cougar Charisma as we enjoy a carefree day of fun. Go Cougars!

Student Success



2021 College GOAL Winner Lauren Serrano

Lauren Serrano, a Paralegal Studies student at Augusta Technical College from Grovetown, has been named as the college's winner of the Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL). The announcement was made virtually by the college president, Dr. Jermaine Whirl, on March 3, 2021.

Ms. Serrano was chosen by a panel of local leaders over three other nominees for the award. GOAL, a statewide program of the **Technical College System of Georgia**, honors excellence in academics and leadership

among the state's technical college students. Ms. Serrano competed at the regional level and was a state finalist for the award. Learn more about Ms. Serrano in the link below.

Pictured: Ms. Lauren Serrano, ATC Student, Paralegal Studies, 2021 ATC GOAL Winner

Press Release

Lee Elder Event Catered by ATC Culinary Arts



The Augusta National recently honored Mr. Lee Elder with a set of scholarships endowed in his name to Paine College, as well as financial assistance to start the women's golf program. Mr. Elder broke the color barrier at the 1975 Masters, becoming the first African-American golfer in tournament history.

The Augusta Technical College **Culinary Arts** Department faculty and students provided the food for the event and received rave reviews from all the attendees!

Click [here](#) to read the article in the *Augusta Chronicle*.

ATC Foundation News and Notes



The Timothy F. Maund Foundation Suite Dedication

The Augusta Technical College Foundation held a small ceremony to honor retiring Foundation Chairman Tim Maund.



Randy Hatcher Announced As New ATC Foundation Chairman

Augusta Technical College has appointed **Mr. Randall Hatcher** as the new chairman of the Augusta Technical College Foundation.

Tim joined the Foundation Board shortly after its inception in 1987 and faithfully served the Augusta Technical College Foundation for 34 years as a Foundation Trustee. He served as the foundation chairman from 2008 – 2021; at 13 years, Tim is the longest-serving Augusta Tech Foundation Chairman.

In recognition of Tim's leadership and service to the Foundation, the college has officially named the Foundation Offices the *Timothy F. Maund Foundation Suite*. A portrait and plaque will be installed in the suite to recognize Tim's outstanding legacy and support.

Pictured: Dr. Jermaine Whirl, President, Augusta Technical College & Mr. Tim Maund, Retired, ATC Foundation Chairman

Press Release

Mr. Hatcher is president/CEO of **MAU Workforce Solutions**, serves on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors, and the Alliance for Ft. Gordon. A past member of the Young President's Organization (YPO), Randy currently belongs to the World President's Organization (WPO) and the Chief Executives' Organization (CEO).

The Augusta Tech Foundation serves as the fundraising arm of the college and facilitates donations made by individuals, businesses, and corporations.

Visit the **ATC Foundation** page.

Pictured: Mr. Randy Hatcher, President/CEO, MAU, Inc. & ATC Foundation Chairman

Press Release

2021 College RPA Winner - Dr. David Maryniak

Dr. David Maryniak, Chemical Technology Department Head at the Augusta Campus, has been named as the college's 2021 Rick Perkins Instructor of the Year Award winner.

Dr. Maryniak completed his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY, and the Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC. He has taught at Augusta Technical College since 1993 and was also nominated for the Instructor of the Year award in 2018, 2016, 2015, and 2012. Along with teaching, Maryniak has developed or supported development of several programs at the College, including the Chemical Operator Diploma, **AAS in Chemical Technology**, and the **AAS in Nuclear Engineering**



Technology.

Dr. Maryniak competed at the regional level and was a state finalist for the award. Dr. Maryniak will continue to carry the torch for our institution throughout this year, and we are elated to have him represent our faculty and institution as a whole.

Pictured: Dr. David Maryniak, Department Chair, Chemistry/Department Head, Chemical Operation Technology

Press Release



SkillsUSA Names National Educator of the Year - ATC Instructor Sherrie Rowe

Congratulations to **Ms. Sherrie Rowe**, Department Head for the Design and Media Production Technology Department at Augusta Technical College, on being selected by the National Board of Directors of **SkillsUSA** Inc. to receive the SkillsUSA Outstanding Career and Technical Educator Award for her years of service to the organization and her students.

The Outstanding Career and Technical Educator Award honors individual educators for service and dedication to career and technical education and SkillsUSA.

During her 24-year tenure with the college, Ms. Rowe has graduated hundreds of students from her program and has served as the SkillsUSA college lead advisor for 20 years.

Pictured: Ms. Sherrie Rowe, Department Head, Design & Media Production Technology/Photography

See **Facebook** announcement.



Instructors Alan Manley and Scott Smith

Augusta Technical College is honored to support our veterans and continue our

partnership with **The Warrior Alliance**, an organization whose mission is to help Warriors and their families achieve a fulfilling civilian life by promoting collaboration between the organizations that can support them during the transition from military service. The college and the organization were recently mentioned in the *Golf Digest* magazine.

Vets in the program—called **Operation Double Eagle**—spend mornings learning topics such as horticultural science, pesticide management and irrigation in classrooms at **Augusta Technical College**. Then in the afternoon, they go apply their new knowledge at the modest hole at the golf club. After nine weeks, graduates of the program have a **Golf Turf and Landscape Specialist certificate** and, possibly, a new direction and purpose.

Conducted at Augusta Technical College and led by Golf Course Management Instructor **Alan Manley** and retired Horticulture instructor **Scott Smith**, the 14-credit hour program dives into turf grass and golf course management, irrigation and pipe installation, pest management and pesticide application, water management, horticulture science, equipment safety, planting and legal — along with daily lab visits to the Double Eagle Performance Center located at the **Augusta Municipal Golf Club**, affectionately referred to as *The Patch*.

Click [here](#) to read the article in *Golf Digest*.

Community Engagement



Associate Degree Nursing Students Give Vaccinations

Augusta Tech Associate Degree Nursing and Practical Nursing Students and Faculty help give COVID-19 vaccinations at the University Hospital Clinic.

The clinic was held at First Baptist Church on Walton Way and sponsored by University Hospital.



Augusta Technical College president **Dr. Jermaine Whirl** led the way by getting his first-dose COVID-19 Moderna Vaccine at the vaccination clinic hosted by **University Health Care System** on the Augusta Campus.

L-R: Verquishala Smith and Yoorim Noh

See [Facebook](#) post.

We had approximately 60 employees, staff, and community members come through to get their vaccination. *Go Cougars!*

Augusta United Partnership

Augusta Technical College president **Dr. Jermaine Whirl** has signed a new Memorandum of Understanding to promote joint educational and professional development opportunities with the **Augusta United Graduate Academy**, a youth organization created to coach and mentor high school graduates through spiritual & athletic building experiences.



To accommodate the student athletes' practice schedules, the college will offer a variety of face-to-face classes throughout the day while ensuring participants have access to the college's 130+ academic programs of study. Other academic support services such as tutoring and academic coaching will be offered to ensure participants' success.

Pictured: Dr. Jermaine Whirl, Mr. Sherwin Gloston, & Mr. Cornell Harris

Press Release



CSRA SHRM Partnership

Augusta Technical College and **CSRA SHRM** have established a collaborative relationship that supports the education and professional development of SHRM members.

Augusta Tech will provide credentialed faculty that will teach

SHRM certification prep classes and work to coordinate an employment law series for HR professionals. Facility space will be provided for meetings on the Augusta Tech campus, and membership opportunities for Augusta Tech's business management human resource majors will also be provided.

Moreover, the more than 200 members of **CSRA SHRM** will get an opportunity to access the college's continuing education offerings in topics covering leadership and information technology while also getting access to graduates who would fill their local workforce needs.

Program offerings are set to begin Fall 2021. Classes will be held through

Augusta Tech's Division of Corporate and Community Education under the direction of **Dr. Lisa Palmer**, Vice President for Economic Development.

Pictured: J.D. McCauley, **Dr. Jermaine Whirl**, ATC President; Dr. Lisa Palmer, Vice President for Economic Development.

Press Release



Construction Ready Classroom Visit

Augusta Technical College President **Dr. Jermaine Whirl**, in partnership with Mayor **Dr. Hardie Davis Jr.**, held a luncheon with the inaugural class of **Construction Ready** students on the Augusta Campus.

Within a few days, the men and women of this program will have the skillset to be gainfully employed in the construction industry.

Pictured: Dr. Jermaine Whirl, CEFGA student, Mayor Hardie Davis, Jr.

Press Release



The Construction Education Foundation of Georgia (**CEFGA**) is expanding its "Construction Ready" program, which takes Georgians through a free 20-day construction education program that ends with training, credentialing, and job placement.

The goal of the Construction Ready program is to help close the workforce skills gap.

The Augusta training facility is being held at Augusta Technical College located at 3200 Augusta Tech Drive. For more information and to register, applicants should visit **<https://constructionready.org/>**.

Press Release

Alumni Spotlight

Augusta Commissioner

Brandon Garrett

The spotlight is on Augusta Commissioner **Brandon Garrett**. Mr. Garrett graduated from the Augusta Technical College Landscape Management program in December 2004.

He went on to further his education at **Southern Wesleyan University** and graduated in 2011 with his Bachelor of Business Administration, Management, Administration.



Mr. Garrett was sworn in to serve as the District 8 County Commissioner in December 2018. He is a member of the Richmond County Hospital Authority.

In July 2020, he launched the "Mask Up" Initiative, a collaboration of businesses coming together to advocate for wearing masks and other face coverings to prevent further spread of the coronavirus and further economic damages.

Mr. Garrett is a member of the 2021 *Destination Augusta* Board of Directors, and currently works as a Business Development Executive at **Azalea Outdoor Advertising**.

Read Mr. Garrett's interview below.

Q: Why did you choose to attend Augusta Technical College?

A: I chose to attend Augusta Technical College because of the classes offered, and more importantly, because of the flexibility of class times.

Q: What is one of your favorite memories, classes, professors, or activities while attending Augusta Tech as a student?

A: I enjoyed the hands on learning environment.

Q: How has your education at Augusta Tech influenced or helped you in your life and/or career?

A: My education at Augusta Tech helped prepare me better for continuing my college career and gave me soft skills that I've been able to use in my career and education.

Q: What piece of professional advice would you give your fellow Augusta Tech alumni?

A: Never stop learning or taking classes. No one can ever take your education or knowledge from you.

We are proud to count alumnus Brandon Garrett as a member of the Cougar Family. Go Cougars!

Calendar of Events

Dates to Remember

CEFGA Graduation: June 4 @ 10am

Drive-Thru Graduation Celebration: June 4 from 4pm - 6pm

Adult Education Information Sessions: June 22, July 27, and August 31 @ 10am (Augusta Campus)



Law Enforcement Academy Graduation: June 17 @ 11am (Augusta Campus)

Board of Directors Meeting: June 16 @ 12 Noon (Augusta Campus)

Open House: June 26 (all campuses) and July 24 (Grovettown only) from 10am - 12 Noon

Summer Break (students) July 5-9; College closed on July 5 only.

Summer Term Ends: August 2

Fall Term Begins: August 23

Augusta

3200 Augusta Tech Dr.
Augusta, GA 30906
706-771-4000

Grovettown

3500 John Huffman Way
Grovettown, GA 30813
706-651-7368

Thomson

388 Tech Dr. NW
Thomson, GA 30824
706-595-0166

Waynesboro

216 Hwy 24 S
Waynesboro, GA 30830
706-437-6801

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