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GTCC DRIVING INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE TRIAD

The Triad is experiencing a remarkable transformation, positioning itself as a hub for advanced manufacturing in aviation and electric vehicle (EV) battery production. Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC) is at the heart of this economic surge, a vital player in equipping the local workforce with cutting-edge skills through its innovative career and technical education (CTE) programs.

AVIATION PROGRAMS: SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

GTCC's aviation programs are a cornerstone of its CTE offerings, consistently evolving to meet the ever-changing needs of industry giants like Haeco, HondaJet, Lockheed Martin, and Boeing. These partnerships ensure that GTCC's curriculum is aligned with the latest technological advancements and industry requirements, providing students with unparalleled opportunities for hands-on learning and immediate employment post-graduation.

"Our aviation programs are designed in close collaboration with our employer partners," said GTCC President Anthony Clarke, Ph.D. "We are continually innovating our training modules to incorporate the latest industry practices, ensuring our graduates are job-ready and highly sought after."

GTCC's commitment to innovation in aviation education is evident in its comprehensive training programs. From aircraft maintenance and avionics to advanced manufacturing techniques, GTCC offers a broad spectrum of courses that cater to the specific needs of the aviation sector. This adaptability enhances the employability of GTCC graduates and supports the operational excellence of the Triad's leading aerospace companies.

THE BATTERY BELT: POWERING THE FUTURE

With the Triad region newly positioned as a leader in EV battery manufacturing, often referred to as the "battery belt," GTCC quickly adapted its programming to meet the demands of this booming industry. The college is expanding its curriculum to include specialized training in battery technology, partnering with local manufacturers to develop a skilled workforce to support this new economic frontier.

A recent New York Times article highlights the Triad's transformation into an economic powerhouse driven by

About GTCC

Guilford Technical Community College is the fourth largest of 58 institutions in the North Carolina Community College System. Serving 28,000 students annually from five campuses and a Small Business Center, GTCC offers more than 80 programs of study, including flexible, low-cost options for earning associate degrees, diplomas, and certifications. GTCC is rooted in innovative education, training, and partnerships.

innovation in manufacturing and technology. GTCC's educational offerings evolve alongside industry trends and technological advancements.

A CRITICAL JOB TRAINING PIPELINE

GTCC's impact on the Triad's economy cannot be overstated. The college serves as a critical job training pipeline, producing skilled graduates ready to contribute to the region's leading industries. The combination of innovative programs, strong industry partnerships, and a commitment to adapting to market needs makes GTCC an indispensable asset to the Triad's economic landscape.

"Our goal is to provide our students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in high-paying, in-demand careers," said Dr. Clarke. "By doing so, we support the growth and prosperity of our entire community."

A proof point of GTCC's impact was celebrated this Spring when its students secured 16 first-place and seven second-place awards across 26 areas at the SkillsUSA North Carolina state competitions. With 39 top-five finishes, GTCC demonstrated excellence in various trade, technical, and leadership contests. SkillsUSA is a national organization supporting career preparation in trade, technical, and skilled service occupations. It hosts this annual competition featuring more than 2,100 participants in more than 120 contests, making it North Carolina's largest showcase of career and technical education.

Guilford Technical Community College is at the forefront of technological education and workforce development in the Triad region. Through its dynamic CTE programs, strong industry partnerships, and commitment to innovation, GTCC ensures that its graduates are job-ready and poised to lead in their respective fields. As the Triad continues to grow as a hub for advanced manufacturing and technology, GTCC remains a pivotal force driving this economic transformation.



GTCC and Carolina Battery Institute signed an affiliation agreement this year to establish a workforce education program within the electric battery manufacturing industry to support business growth and new career path opportunities in the Triad. Left to right: Solect CFO Tim Price; Vice President of Workforce & Continuing Education Manuel Dudley, Ph.D.; GTCC President Anthony Clarke, Ph.D.; Solect CEO & Founder Sung-Jin ("Jin") Cho, Ph.D.; Associate Vice President of Workforce & Continuing Education, Claire Ricci; Solect Sr. Manager of Strategic HR & Business Development June Sunwoo.



GTCC student, Mary Medlin, 1st place, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVAC) at SkillsUSA North Carolina State Leadership and Skills Conference postsecondary awards ceremony at Koury Convention Center Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

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