

Piedmont Technical College

Fall 2012 Volume 4 • Issue 1

CareerFocus™

**A Career in Compassion:
S.C.'s Only Funeral
Service Program**

**Enhance Your Job Search
With Social Media**

**How to Avoid Student Loan
Debt and Get a Great
Education**

**PTC's HVAC Program
Prepares Skilled Technicians for Success**

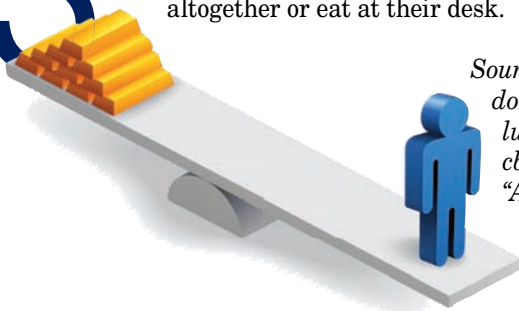


Piedmont Technical College
PO Box 1467
Greenwood, SC 29648

NON PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
ACADEMIC
MARKETING SERVICE

ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Facts AND Finds



Let's Do Lunch

Should you take a lunch break or not? You'd be surprised how complicated the laws on lunch are—Federal law doesn't require employers to provide one but many states do. However no one can make you take a break if you don't want to. And even more wacky, if you do take a break, you can be fired for working while off the clock.

Meanwhile only about 35 percent of American workers say that they usually take a lunch break and the other 65 percent say they either skip lunch altogether or eat at their desk.

Sources: "Employers don't have to require lunch breaks" cbsnews.com and "America's lunch hour on the endangered list" msnbc.com



Who Hates Monday?

This just confirms the obvious: People who like their jobs—who feel engaged and respected at work—feel pretty good about starting the workweek every Monday. But those who don't like their jobs—who feel disengaged and undervalued—well, they hate Monday.

It took a Gallup poll to demonstrate how happiness plays out across the work week. About 95 percent of engaged workers report feeling happy yesterday whether it's the weekend or the work week, Yet actively disengaged workers report a plummet in happiness as soon as Monday dawns. Even during the weekend, they report lower rates of happiness at 82 percent to 85 percent but during the week this fell to a low of 74 percent by Tuesday.

Conclusion? If you want happiness, choose a job you love.

Source: Gallup.com July 23 2012 "Mondays Not So 'Blue' for Engaged Employees"



College Spending Down

In 2012 American college students spent about \$20,902 a year on college.

That's down from a high of \$25,097 in 2010. Yet tuition continues to rise, so what gives?

The answer is that college students are cutting cost just like everyone else.

1. 29 percent of new high school graduates chose to attend lower cost two-year public colleges, up from 23 percent in 2010
2. 51 percent of new college students chose to live at home to save on college costs, up from 43 percent in 2010
3. 69 percent of families reported that they eliminated certain colleges from consideration because of cost
4. 45 percent of students received federal and state grants, up from 30 percent in 2010

Still 71 percent of students and 70 percent of their parents agree that a college education is necessary for their future occupation. While parents are taking on less of the cost of college, students are assuming more. Each year since 2008, college students have borrowed more and contributed more of their own savings and income to make up the difference.

Source: *How America Pays 2010*, Sallie Mae



Give It the Old College App

The Digital Marketing Coordinator for McGraw Hill Education, Angela Santiago, recommends her favorite apps for college students. Here are a few you may not have heard of before:

- **Foursquare for Universities** (foursquare.com/universities) The famous Foursquare locator app, only tailored for university campuses.
- **Pulse** (www.pulse.me) A highly visual news reader app, organized by interests.
- **Exam Support** (itunes.apple.com) A meditation app to sooth your jangled pre-exam nerves.
- **g-Flash + Flashcards and Tests** (itunes.apple.com) Create your own flash cards and study up!
- **Diigo** (www.diigo.com) Highlight and add notes to web pages, also archive, organize and search.
- **Bubbl.us** (bubbl.us) Organize your thoughts and ideas with this mind-mapping tool. **CF**

Source: www.socialbrite.org



Questions about the PTC programs and services described in this publication should be directed to the Office of Admissions at (864) 941-8369. Comments or questions about the publication itself can be directed to the PTC Office of Marketing and Public Relations at (864) 941-8541.

Publisher: L. Ray Brooks
 President, Piedmont Technical College
 Editor: Josh Black
 Assistant Editor: Dawn Lewis
 Photography: Randy Pace

Visit Piedmont Technical College on the Web at www.ptc.edu

Piedmont Technical College Area Commission

- Y. J. Ahn—Greenwood
- Cherry Houston Brown—McCormick
- Dr. George P. Cone, Jr. —Greenwood
- Richard Cain—Laurens
- Emma Goodwin—Abbeville
- Jane J. Herlong, Secretary—Edgefield
- Stephen M. Lamb—Laurens
- Peter J. Manning—Greenwood
- H. George Piersol, II—Newberry
- Rufus C. Sherard—Abbeville
- William I. West—Greenwood
- William A. Whitfield, Chairman—Saluda

Institutional Officers

- L. Ray Brooks, Ed.D., *President*
- K. Paige Childs, *Vice President for Business and Finance*
- Rebecca R. McIntosh, *Vice President for Student Development*
- Susan G. Timmons, *Vice President for Educational Affairs*

Institutional Mission

Piedmont Technical College transforms lives and strengthens communities by providing opportunities for intellectual and economic growth.

The College, a member of the South Carolina Technical College and Comprehensive Education System, is a public comprehensive two-year post-secondary institution. Piedmont Technical College contributes to the economic growth and development of the largest and most diverse region of the technical college system, Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties and to the state. The College enrolls approximately 4,500 to 5,500 credit students. The College responds to the academic, training and public service needs of the community through excellence in teaching and educational services. Piedmont Technical College's open admissions policy provides accessibility for individuals with diverse backgrounds the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills for employment in engineering technology, industrial technology, agriculture, business, health and public service. Piedmont Technical College graduates develop competencies in communication, mathematics, problem solving and technology.

The College offers university transfer; associate degrees, diplomas and certificates in technical and occupational areas; developmental education programs; student development programs providing academic, career and individual support; and custom-designed Continuing Education programs provide training for business and industry.

CareerFocus is published twice a year by Piedmont Technical College, PO Box 1467, Greenwood, SC 29648 in partnership with Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI 48106.

All rights reserved. No part of the material printed may be reproduced or used in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage retrieval system without the permission of the publisher.

© 2012 Piedmont Technical College

CareerFocus™

Features

2 The Top Five Excuses Adult Learners Use Not to Go to College

...and Advice About Why These Excuses Don't Fly

3 Enhance Your Job Search Using Social Media



PTC Programs

4 A Skill Set That's Always in Demand

PTC's HVAC Program Prepares Technicians for Success

STUDENT PROFILE

Mark Lee

6 A Career in Compassion and Service

PTC Offers S.C.'s Only Accredited Funeral Service Program

STUDENT PROFILE

Kevin Jenkins



9 How to Avoid Student Loan Debt AND Get a Great College Education

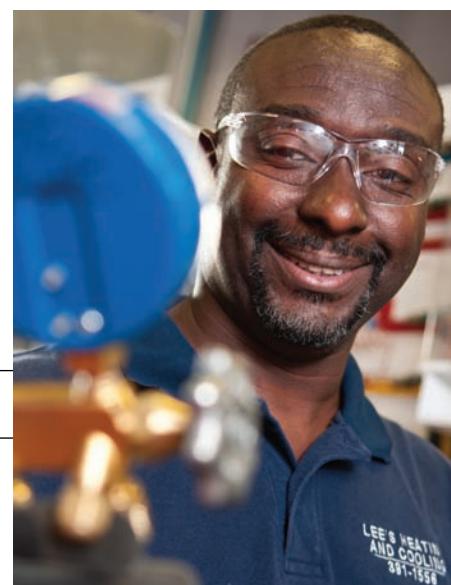
Choose your Local Technical College

Inside Back Cover In Every Issue

FACTS AND FINDS

- Let's Do Lunch
- Who Hates Monday
- College Spending Down
- Give It the Old College App

10 Where do you want to go?



On the cover:
 Mark Lee
 HVAC Graduate. Page 5.



On the go?

Read CareerFocus anytime on your mobile device, computer or tablet at

<http://ptc.mycareerfocus.org>

It's the easy way to share articles, access Piedmont Technical College resources and get on the path to a new career.



The Top Five Excuses Adult Learners Use Not to Go to College

...and Advice About Why These Excuses Don't Fly



You wake up every day to return to the same job you have been dragging yourself to for the past 10 years. However, you don't see a way out. More sitting at a computer crunching numbers you don't care about; or performing mind-numbing data entry; or performing work that, let's face it, was fine 10 years ago, but is starting to wear on you physically now.

You've always been interested in helping people, or computers, or nursing, or [insert your interest here] but you're not sure if you can hack going to college at this point. You don't have time. You're afraid of math. Your cat wants you home at night. The excuses are endless.

"For most adult learners, college really is possible," says Brenda Edwards, career counselor at Piedmont Technical College. "You have to make a choice whether you are going to live the life of your dreams or a life of fear and excuses."

Here are some top excuses. We'll work on debunking each one.

EXCUSE #1: "I didn't do well when I was in high school. Therefore, I won't do well in college."

Who you were in high school has little relevance to who you are today. Your values, interests, and yes, your skills, have evolved.

You might be sorely out of practice at playing football today, though you

might have been great at it 20 years ago. Likewise, you might be a great student today though you weren't when you were younger. You're more motivated. You have a lot of great experience to draw upon. You're more mature.

"We have students come in who are absolutely brilliant and have no idea of their potential," Edwards said. "Returning to college ends up being such a confidence booster for them and also has a dramatic, positive impact on their whole family."

EXCUSE #2: "I don't have the time."

We're all doing a million things. However, think of the time that is wasted in your life when you're unhappy with your career path. We tend to compensate for our unhappiness with other huge time and money wasters.

Also, most colleges, including PTC, cater to busy adults. At PTC, courses are offered at multiple campus locations day, evening and online. Many parents like taking online courses, which allow them to complete their courses without having to arrange childcare. Through online learning, students take their classes when their children go to bed, on their lunch breaks, or whenever it's convenient for them.

You will probably find that when you begin learning material that resonates with you, you will have a lot more energy and time to get the work done than you thought.

EXCUSE #3: "I can't afford it."

You may think that college is out of your reach because of cost. However, college may be more affordable than you think. "Financial aid and scholarships are available to those who qualify for both full-time and part-time students," says Tanisha Latimer, PTC's dean of Enrollment Management. Latimer encourages students to apply early, which gives them the best chance of a financial aid package that meets their needs. A majority of PTC students receive some sort of financial aid. Most colleges, including PTC, have payment plans allowing you to pay your bill monthly instead of in one lump sum.

Latimer encourages all students considering college to fill out the FAFSA form, the first step in the financial aid process, by going to www.fafsa.gov.

Latimer also points out that money can be available from sources you may not have thought of. "Many employers offer tuition assistance, so it's worth asking about."

And when it comes down to it, PTC costs significantly less than most other colleges.

EXCUSE #4: "I can't do math."

So you haven't done calculus since your junior year of high school. So what? You won't be thrown into calculus your first semester (and maybe not at all if your degree or certificate doesn't require it). When you enter as a new student, you will be placed in courses that match the level you are at and you will start there.

For those who see math as an insurmountable challenge, like walking the entire length of the Mohave Desert with no shoes, Edwards encourages some perspective. "I had a female adult learner who told me she just couldn't do it. At the same time, I had seen this student conquer huge personal challenges in her life, not related to her academic career. I told her that making it through math was one more opportunity to grow her life skills," Edwards said.

"Often times we get this tape replaying in our head about how we can't do something," Edwards said. "If we just change the tape in our head, we can break through barriers. I often tell students to change the tape in their head to, 'I can do math' and before you know it they are doing math."

EXCUSE #5: "I don't know what I want to study."

You know that you want to earn a degree in something, you just aren't sure what that something is yet! Do you keep putting off college until the bolt of inspiration comes?

"Students can always begin with general courses to explore their interests," Edwards explained. "From there, they can make an appointment with the PTC Career Services office to help them figure out their interests and what types of careers would suit them." The Career Services office can also assist before you become a student. **CF**



Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning is one of the top 50 fastest growing occupations—projected to grow by 23 percent in South Carolina alone.

—U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

A Skill Set That's Always in Demand

PTC's HVAC Program Prepares Technicians for Success

When all goes well, air conditioning and heating systems typically go unnoticed. But anyone who's lived through a sweltering South Carolina summer day when the air conditioning is on the fritz knows how important these systems have become in our daily lives.

In fact, every private residence, business, industry and agency needs the skill of technicians trained in the installation, maintenance and repair of air conditioning, refrigeration and heating systems.

Because these systems are increasing in complexity, skilled technicians are in continuous demand to keep them running at maximum capacity.

In fact, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning is one of the

top 50 fastest growing occupations—projected to grow by 23 percent in South Carolina alone.

Closing the Loop

While opportunities are good across the board in heating, air-conditioning and refrigeration, the best opportunities exist for those with an HVAC degree and certification, says David Kibler, HVAC program coordinator.

He explains that PTC's HVAC program focuses on providing students with the theory and the real-world experience to fully understand the three main pillars of HVAC: air, electrical and mechanical. Students are then taught how to apply that knowledge to the same kind of challenges they'll face on the job.

Students learn to diagnose and repair malfunctions; size, fabricate and install air duct systems; and

estimate cooling and heating loads for selection of the most efficient systems for a given building.

There are also plenty of opportunities for students to get real-world experience on actual HVAC jobs, from planning and design, all the way through installation, troubleshooting and repair.

Kibler says this focus on “closing the loop” is why the program continues to thrive.

He says, “When you're out in the field, the primary focus is on getting the job done, and you may not fully understand the science behind what you're doing every day. To be successful in the field, you really need to understand the whole system.”

“That's the way we teach here,” he says. “And our students learn from instructors with years of experience in the field.”

The HVAC program offers certificates in Refrigeration Applications and Heating Fundamentals as well as a full associate degree, so there are options for everyone.

Students also graduate with a variety of additional certifications from HVAC Excellence covering the whole spectrum of skills needed in the field, which makes PTC graduates even more marketable.

Although many are curious if field experience is required before enrolling, Keenan Tallent, an instructor in the program says that the program is designed to meet the needs of students at all skill levels. The program enrolls students who come in with no experience, and students who work out in the field every day.

“For people who do have field experience, we offer some exemption credit that allows them to enter the program with advanced standing,” he says.

Practical Experience, Flexible Scheduling

“Our program is project driven,” says Kibler. “After we go through the technical information in class, everything is directly applied through hands-on work.”

Students design walk-in coolers, troubleshoot the same kinds of working systems they’ll see in the field, and work closely with PTC’s Building Construction Technology program to design, install and test full HVAC systems in new construction.

The program also provides a service to the community by assisting organizations like Connie Maxwell, Dorn Veteran’s Home and more.

Kibler says that all students coming through the program get this kind of on-the-job experience. “Every student will be involved in fully implementing at least one HVAC system from start to finish.”

Students learn in state-of-the-art facilities including a brand new sheet metal lab, a weatherization facility, and a wide variety of HVAC equipment—all similar to what they’d find in the field.

The program also hosts regular factory and service seminars, in which suppliers provide training to students and for people in the field.

For Mike Rhinehart, a second-year student, the hands-on portion of the

program has proven to be the most helpful. “Anyone can read out of a book on how to do something, but unless you actually get to do it, it’s really hard to grasp the concept,” he says.

Tallent says that students learn the full range of skills they’ll need on the job after graduation.

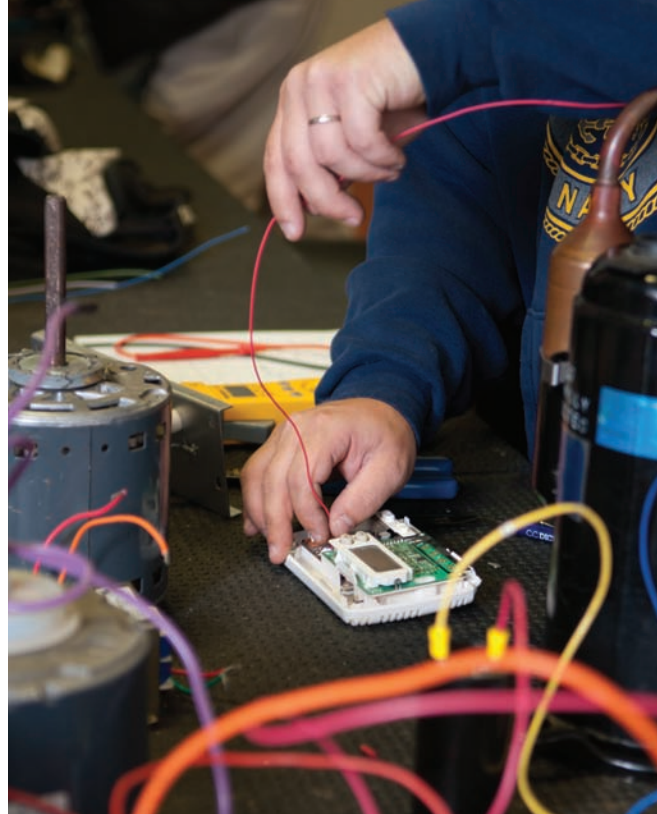
Because PTC is aware that many students need to balance the demands of work and family while attending classes, the HVAC program offers several options to increase flexibility for students who need to work around a busy schedule.

“We offer both an evening program and a day program,” Tallent says. “The evening program is designed primarily for people who work during the day.”

Both programs last approximately two years for those who want an associate degree, but many students complete the program part time by taking a few courses at a time while they’re working.

Solid Career Prospects

According to Tallent, demand for well qualified HVAC technicians in the area is constant.



“Right now, our employment rate since 2009, even in today’s tough job market, has been 94 percent placement,” he says. “Generally, there are more jobs out there than we have graduates.”

“Every maintenance job is looking for HVAC skills,” Kibler agrees. “We have a lot of students who are cross-training from other curriculum areas at the College because this skillset is in such high demand.”

Tallent says that, because many of the HVAC business owners and contractors in our region came through

PTC’s program themselves, graduates can be sure they’re getting exactly the training they’ll need to go to work after graduation.

“There’s a brotherhood here, and there’s also a culture that develops as students learn, network, and become familiar with the suppliers and the contractors,” Tallent says. “A lot of the local contractors cut their teeth in this program – this is where they got their basics, so they know the program is turning out well-educated graduates, and good workers.”

According to Mark Penland, a second-year student, the HVAC program is a great choice for anyone looking for a rewarding, hands-on career. “The job market for

this program has openings just about anywhere you could imagine,” he says. “You can earn a great living and challenge yourself every day.”

“We really care about our students,” says Kibler. “They’re here because they know what they’re learning can change their lives. We’re passionate about what we do because we see every day the positive impact this kind of knowledge transfer has on them.”

For more information, visit www.ptc.edu/hvac. **CF**

Student Profile

Mark Lee

HVAC Grad Continues Family Tradition in Abbeville

Mark Lee is following in the footsteps of many of his family members in more ways than one.

The Abbeville native first came to Piedmont Technical College in 1984, earning an associate degree in business and computer programming. He spent 15 years in the work force before he decided he wanted a change.

“I just decided I needed something different,” he said.

Lee followed in his sister’s footsteps and enrolled again at Piedmont Tech in 2000. He also followed his father’s lead and enrolled in the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Technology program.

“My father was a retired plumber and HVAC technician,” he said. “I used to help him in the summers when I was out of school, so I thought I would give heating and cooling a try.”

Lee was well acquainted with the ins and outs of HVAC, but the classes he took gave him an

even better grasp of the concepts he had been using for years.

“It’s been a great experience,” said Lee. “I had some experience when I started at Piedmont Tech, but the program reinforced what I knew and showed me the importance of the service we provide.”

Lee graduated from PTC in 2002 and began working for a local heating and cooling company. With his business degree and HVAC degree, he decided to strike out on his own in 2009. He is now the owner and operator of Lee’s Heating and Cooling.

“After graduating, I gained the experience I needed to go out on my own,” he said. “The company is doing great and we are staying busy.”

Lee said he would recommend Piedmont Tech to anyone wanting to further their education at any point in their life.

“The college environment is great,” Lee said. “In all of the classes I’ve taken, whether it was the computer programming or HVAC classes, the hands-on experience I received was very valuable.”



“Graduates leave us fully prepared to go to work, ready to serve the community and help others in their greatest time of need.”

— David Martin, Program Coordinator

A Career in Compassion



Dennis Carroll, an Army veteran and a 2008 Piedmont Technical College graduate, first became interested in Funeral Service while still in the military.

“One of my jobs in the Army was to play Taps for military funerals, and that kind of tugged at my heart to serve families in that capacity,” he said.

For Keisha Floyd, a 2010 graduate, it happened at the death of her brother as she worked with the funeral directors to plan his memorial service.

According to David Martin, program coordinator, and Dedrick Gantt, funeral service education instructor, students become interested in funeral service in too many different ways to count. But whether it’s a desire for a rewarding career or a good experience with a caring funeral service professional, most find that the personal fulfillment that comes from helping families cope with their grief make the job worthwhile.

There is always a demand for professionals trained in the field, regardless of economic conditions. And both Martin and Gantt agree that they’d like to hear from anyone considering entering the profession.

“If you’re interested in becoming a licensed funeral director and embalmer, the South Carolina Center for Funeral Service Education at Piedmont Technical College is the place for you,” said Gantt.

Statewide Reach. Personal Connections.

As the only program of its kind in South Carolina, and one of only a handful of public college programs in mortuary science in the United States, Piedmont Technical College’s ABFSE-accredited Funeral Service Education

program is well equipped to prepare students for a rewarding career in the Funeral Service industry.

The program offers both an Associate in Applied Science degree and a certificate.

The associate degree offers students the educational foundation needed to seek licensure in South Carolina or in another state, both as a funeral director and an embalmer.

The certificate, which is available only online, was developed for students interested in becoming licensed funeral directors in the Carolinas. The courses in this program will prepare students to take the South and North Carolina Funeral Directors’ Exams.

“Our program is a state program, not just regional,” Martin said.

“Almost 90 percent of our students are from out of this area.”

“But because we keep our classes small, you’ll get personalized, hands-on instruction from our experienced, licensed faculty,” he said.

A Schedule Built for Convenience

“As the only program in South Carolina, we have students from all over the state as well as western North Carolina and parts of Georgia,” said Gantt.

He says that because many students already hold bachelor’s degrees and are attending classes while working full time, it’s important to offer classes that can accommodate a busy life.

Continued on next page

and Service **PTC Offers S.C.’s Only Accredited Funeral Service Program**

“Our classes are scheduled two days a week to increase your flexibility as you complete your degree, and, for funeral service professionals, we offer distance learning opportunities for continuing education,” he said.

Freshmen attend classes Mondays and Tuesdays, while upper classmen have class Wednesdays and Thursdays. Classes generally run from 1pm to 6pm both days.

For Funeral Service alum Paula Patterson, the two day a week schedule made completing the program possible.

“It’s harder to go to school the second time around because I’m married with three children,” she said. “Working full time and going to school full time is a full load, but the two day a week classes really worked well for my schedule.”

“When I started at Piedmont Tech in 2007, I actually had a bachelor’s degree in education, so I was able to

exempt a lot of the general education requirements—so I exempted my whole first year,” Patterson said.

“We’ve also built in an online option for students who need even more flexibility,” said Martin.

The certificate program is offered completely online, and all of the general education requirements for the associate degree are available online.

A State of the Art Education

Students in the program learn the profession in a facility featuring state-of-the-art technology for embalming, cremation and restorative art.

The funeral service facility features a fully functional, custom designed Duncan Stuart Todd embalming lab that exceeds industry standards and includes the same cutting edge equipment found in modern funeral homes.

“Our students are able to receive hands-on instruction in aspects of embalming that can’t be taught at a practicum site,” said Gantt.

Faculty members conduct embalming laboratories using a wide range of embalming instruments and preservation chemicals, giving students invaluable actual experience with the same kinds of scenarios they’ll face on the job.

The restorative art laboratory offers students hands-on experience in facial reconstruction and restoration for proper viewing. Laboratories featuring sophisticated modeling equipment and instruments are conducted by experienced, licensed instructors.

The program is also equipped with a B & L pet crematorium—the first of its kind in any mortuary science program in the country. This facility offers students hands-on experience with the preparation of bodies for cremation.

“We’re the first and only Funeral Service program in the country to offer Pet Cremation services,” said Martin. “This not only offers practical experience for students, but also offers a service to the community.”

Students also get in-depth instruction in the business side of the industry, including courses in business and mortuary law, funeral service directing, and funeral service management and merchandising.

“Our students plan, conduct, and direct a memorial service twice a year,” said Martin. “They’re learning every aspect of the business, from embalming and restorative art, to counseling and ethics.”

“Graduates leave us fully prepared to go to work, ready to serve the community and help others in their greatest time of need,” he said.

To learn more, visit www.ptc.edu/funeralservice **CF**

Student Profile

Kevin Jenkins

Funeral Service Grad Ventures Out on His Own

As a first-generation mortician, Kevin Jenkins gets a lot of questions about his chosen profession. He responds that this is something he feels he has to do.

“I look at this as a career and I have a passion for it,” Jenkins said.

A licensed hair stylist in Saint Matthews, Jenkins worked with local funeral homes in helping with the preparations of the deceased. He began to get interested in the funeral home business, but he didn’t want to compete with the established businesses in his hometown. So he contacted Franklin Dash, owner of Dash’s Funeral Home.

“I told him I wanted to pursue a career in funeral service and he told me if I would go to school, he would know I was serious about it,” he said.

Jenkins said he knew of the Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service in Decatur, Ga., but he could not see himself relocating his family or rearranging his schedule for the time it would require to travel each week to Atlanta. While searching the Internet, he came across the information on the Funeral Service program at Piedmont Technical College.

“After doing some research, I found out it was only two days a week and I knew I could make that sacrifice,” Jenkins said. “With my undergraduate degree, I found out it would only take a year to complete the program.”

Jenkins graduated from Piedmont Tech in May 2008 with his associate degree in funeral service education. Upon graduation, he returned to Dash, where he was hired as an apprentice. A few years later, Jenkins said he is ready to venture out on his own.

“I enjoy working with Mr. Dash and his family and I enjoy the funeral service profession,” Jenkins said. “But there’s nothing like home folks. I want to take a chance and try my home area.”

Jenkins’ new facility is on track to open at the beginning of the year. He said his work at Piedmont Tech and his apprenticeship with Dash have prepared him to take on this endeavor.

“The program prepared me tremendously,” he said. “And when I did my apprenticeship, Mr. Dash would use the same terminology and techniques that I had to learn in my classes.”

Jenkins said he faced many challenges while adjusting to his return to class, but he has experienced many more successes. His greatest achievements have come from helping people in their time of sorrow.

“The best thing is knowing you have served a family,” Jenkins said. “It’s a reward knowing you have put forth all your effort and knowing they are pleased with what you have done.”



How to Avoid Student Loan Debt AND Get a Great College Education?

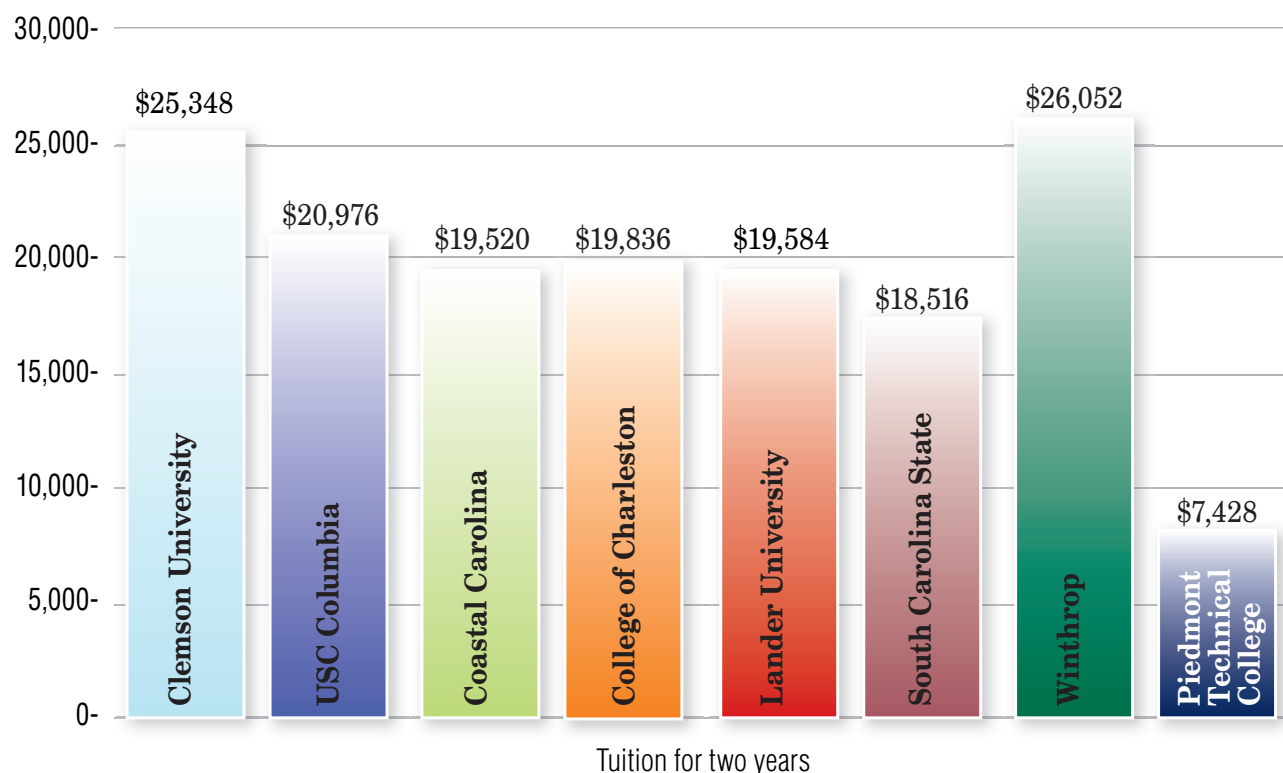
Choose your Local Technical College

Everyone has heard the new figures on student loan debt, and they are mind-boggling. According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, student loan debt in the United States has now surpassed \$1 trillion—that's more than the total owed by Americans on their credit cards or auto loans. Total student debt is more than five times what it was a dozen years ago.

There are some 37 million people in the U.S. currently holding student debt, with the national average among undergraduate student borrowers carrying a debt load of about \$25,000. As a recent study by NERA Economic Consulting noted, "Student debt loads of \$50,000, \$100,000, and \$200,000 are still the minority, but those high figures are becoming more common."

What steps can you take to avoid this type of unmanageable debt, while still reaching your educational goals? While no one can single-handedly control the economy, being knowledgeable about trends in the college education market could be one of the best first steps in making some very important decisions about your future.

Starting at PTC Gives You a Financial Edge



For more cost comparisons, visit www.ptc.edu/savings

*Cost estimates based on Fall 2012 tuition & fees as reported to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.



Choosing a college is a big decision. Now more than ever, attending your local community college may not only be the best choice, but one of the smartest ones you can make. This valuable local resource not only offers top-notch educational opportunities—it may allow you to complete your chosen field of study on a more sound financial footing.

As a prospective student, you want to find the right "fit", somewhere that will challenge you while providing the guidance you need to reach your goals—whether that means earning your degree, fine-tuning your skill set, or beginning a new career.

While costs at all two- and four-year colleges and universities are rising, tuition and fees at community colleges averaged only 36.2 percent of the average four-year public college tuition and fee bill in 2009, according to the College Board.

But the advantages of a community college education go beyond a pure financial calculation. These benefits include small class sizes and a teaching staff committed to providing individualized attention, along with more night and online classes for the flexibility to fit your busy schedule.

At Piedmont Technical College, bridge programs and transfer agreements are in place to ensure a smooth transition to your destination school after finishing your coursework. In fact, hundreds of students in our region are already taking advantage of these programs each year to get a solid start on their bachelor's degrees, at a much more affordable price.

Taking all these factors into account, the decision to start at a two year college might not just be the best choice for your educational future, but a very smart one at that. **CF**



Where do you want to go?

For many people, deciding on a career can feel like taking a journey without either a map or a destination. Eventually, with some advice and direction, a little exploration and maybe a dead end or two, you begin to get a sense of where you'd like to go and how to get there. Whether you're just starting out or picking up a new career in mid-life, Piedmont Tech offers courses and services to help you find your path and get to your goal.

Good advice and good resources are the best road maps. PTC's Counseling, Career Planning and Employment services can help you explore your options and get started on a plan of action.

Academic advisors too, can help you choose the right classes for your goal.

PTC's 80+ certificate, diploma and degree programs are some of the best vehicles around for taking you to your career destinations. In a year or less a certificate can get you into a job, in two years an associate degree can move you a little farther along your career path, and transferring to a four-year college will take you even farther.

Map out your options by taking a look at the PTC A-Z listing below. And when you're ready to start planning your career, visit www.ptc.edu to find out how to enroll in classes. Call the Admissions Office at (855) 682-7094 for answers to your questions. **CF**



UNIVERSITY TRANSFER PROGRAMS

If you're headed toward a bachelor's degree, we can help you get there. Piedmont Tech offers more than 80 courses that transfer to any public university or college in South Carolina, and hundreds of PTC students transfer credits earned at Piedmont Tech to universities throughout the state each year.

Associate in Arts

The Associate in Arts program prepares students for four-year baccalaureate majors in fields such as business, accounting, management, English, journalism, social work, education, music, psychology, history, pre-law, humanities, fine arts and social sciences.

Associate in Science

The Associate in Science degree stresses mathematics, as well as natural and physical sciences, and prepares students for four-year baccalaureate majors in those fields, plus engineering, pre-med, veterinary medicine, chiropractic and education.

Transfer Partnerships & Career Path Transfers

PTC has established specific transfer agreements with more than 15 colleges and universities, as well as specific career path transfers in areas such as business, criminal justice, engineering technology, education and many more. Talk to your advisor to decide which path is right for you.

For more information, visit www.ptc.edu/transfer



AGRICULTURE

We all know that agriculture is an important part of South Carolina's heritage. But did you know that agriculture-based businesses play a critical and expanding role in the growth of the state's economy? In fact, agribusiness is one of the largest economic clusters in the state and a critically important part of the knowledge based economy.

Diversified Agriculture

Provides students with advanced technical knowledge in sustainable agriculture, field crop production, pest management, soil and water management, hydraulics and pneumatics, agriculture economics and marketing related to the agricultural industry.

A.A.S., Major in Diversified Agriculture
Basic Diversified Agriculture Certificate

Horticulture Technology

Students are prepared for supervisory, middle management and technical positions in horticulture, including landscape design, implementation and maintenance.

A.A.S., Major in Horticulture Technology

Horticulture Landscape Management Certificate

Agriculture Education Transfer Option to Clemson

Horticulture and/or Turfgrass Transfer Option to Clemson

South Carolina Median Salaries

Farmer - \$32,300
 Landscaping Supervisor - \$39,800
 Nursery Operator - \$43,230



BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

If you're a good communicator who enjoys solving problems, a career in business might be right for you. Computers have also become an indispensable part of everyday life. Majoring in Computer Technology at Piedmont Tech will give you the knowledge and skills you'll need to get started in Information Technology and computer science.

Administrative Office Technology

Actual work experience and instruction in keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheet applications, transcription, office procedures, communication, accounting and more give graduates the ability to work independently and handle the details of office administration.

A.A.S., Major in Administrative Office Technology
Microcomputer Software Specialist Certificate
Office Technician Certificate

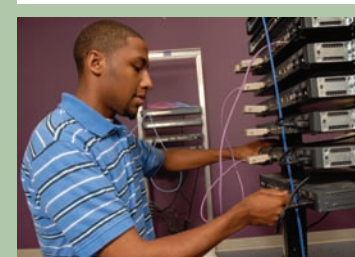
Business

Probably no other occupational area encompasses a more diverse range of activities than the business field.

A.A.S., Major in Business
Accounting Certificate
Entrepreneurship Certificate

South Carolina Median Salaries*

Accounting - \$31,600
 Administrative Office Technology - \$28,600
 Office Manager - \$41,200
 Network Administrator - \$61,700
 Funeral Director - \$54,600



Computer Technology

Students study computer maintenance, local and wide area networks and popular programming languages. Graduates are truly prepared to take their place in the Information Age.

A.A.S., Major in Computer Technology
Advanced Web Development Certificate
PC Technician Certificate

Commercial Art

If you have an artistic streak and you enjoy solving problems by thinking creatively and interacting with computers, you should consider a major in Commercial Art.

Advertising Design Certificate
Desktop Publishing Certificate
Digital Rendering and Gaming Development Certificate
Illustration Certificate
Photography Certificate

Funeral Service

This program provides the educational foundation needed to seek South Carolina licensure both as an embalmer and as a funeral director.

A.A.S., Major in Funeral Service
Funeral Service Education Certificate

Professional Pottery

Located in historic Edgefield County, the Professional Clay program is designed to offer a comprehensive education in the craft of pottery, and in the discipline of making a living doing what you love.

Advanced Professional Clay Certificate
Professional Clay Certificate

If you're fascinated by technology and enjoy a hands-on approach to problem solving, Engineering Technology may be the right career path for you.

Electronic Engineering Technology

The graduate is skilled in the operation, troubleshooting, calibration and repair of electronic instruments and systems found in process control, communications, computers, manufacturing, programmable logic controllers and microprocessors.

A.A.S., Major in Electronic Engineering Technology

Engineering Graphics Technology

All phases of manufacturing or construction require the conversion of new ideas and design concepts into the basic line language of graphics.

A.A.S., Major in Engineering Graphics Technology

General Engineering Technology

Students will learn how computers and robotics are used in industry to operate automated manufacturing systems. They will also learn to program computers, robots, computerized numerical control (CNC) machines, programmable logic controllers and automated equipment.

A.A.S., Major in General Engineering Technology

Mechanical Engineering Technology

The Mechanical Engineering Technology curriculum equips the graduate for: performing a key role in the mechanical design process; installing, troubleshooting and repairing mechanical and electro-mechanical equipment; programming CNC machine tools, computers, programmable controllers and robots; and performing general maintenance functions.

A.A.S., Major in Mechanical Engineering Technology

Transfer Options

Electrical Engineering Transfer Option
Mechanical Engineering Transfer Option

South Carolina Median Salaries

Electrical and Electronics Drafter - \$49,300
Electronic Engineering Technician - \$52,600
Mechanical Engineering Technician - \$44,400

Students enrolled in any of the Industrial Technology curricula will gain practical experience and technical knowledge. Well-equipped labs, broad-based programs and hands-on opportunities make the difference in their futures.

Automotive Technology

Students are trained to perform quality maintenance, diagnosis and repair of complex modern vehicles.

A.A.S., Major in Automotive Technology
Automotive Fundamentals Certificate

Building Construction Technology

Students gain practical training in estimating building costs, carpentry, cabinet making, residential wiring, blueprint reading, brick masonry, construction, building codes and safety.

A.A.S., Major in Building Construction Technology
Carpentry Certificate
Construction Management Certificate

Gunsmithing

Introduction to Gunsmithing Certificate
Advanced Gunsmithing Certificate

Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Technology

Students in this program are educated in the installation, maintenance and repair of air conditioning, refrigeration and heating systems.

A.A.S., Major in Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Technology
Heating Fundamentals Certificate
Refrigeration Applications Certificate

Industrial Electronics Technology

Instruction covers DC and AC voltages; basic hydraulics; machine shop practice; motor control; and the generation, distribution and utilization of electrical power.

A.A.S., Major in Industrial Electronics Technology
Electronic Maintenance Technician Certificate

Machine Tool Technology

Students in this program get training and practical experience in machining operations used in the manufacturing industry. The graduate is skilled in the use of precision equipment and can make intricate parts.

A.A.S., Major in Machine Tool Technology
D.A.S., Major in Machine Tool Computerized Numerical Control Certificate
Machine Tool Operator Certificate

Mechatronics Technology

Combining electronic, mechanical, robotics and information system technologies, this program provides the graduate with the skill set needed for today's automated manufacturing facilities.

A.A.S., Major in Mechatronics Technology
Mechatronics Technology I Certificate

Welding

Students learn to join metal by use of gas-fueled torches and electric arc processes.

D.A.S., Major in Welding
Journeyman Welding Certificate

South Carolina Median Salaries

Automotive Technician - \$32,700
Carpenter - \$33,000
HVAC Technician - \$35,900
Electronics Technician - \$47,900
CNC Machine Tool Operator - \$34,100
Mechatronics Technician - \$59,300
Welder - \$35,100



With the complexity and diversity of today's health care system, varieties of health care professionals are needed. To function effectively by providing safe, knowledgeable patient care, the health care professional needs a thorough understanding of basic sciences and individual curriculum theory.

Cardiovascular Technology

The Cardiovascular Technologist performs diagnostic tests which are used in the diagnosis, treatment, and serial follow-up of patients with cardiovascular disease.

A.A.S., Major in Cardiovascular Technology

Massage Therapy

Massage Therapy is one of the fastest growing professions in the health care field. There is an ever increasing acceptance of massage as a holistic approach to health care and health maintenance.

Massage Therapy Certificate

Medical Assisting

The Medical Assisting program prepares a multi-skilled graduate to function in clinical and administrative areas of the physician's office and ambulatory care centers.

D.A.S., Major in Medical Assisting

Nursing

The Nursing program will assist students in developing the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to practice. Upon successful completion of the NCLEX licensure exam by the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina, graduates can seek employment as licensed nurses.

A.A.S., Major in Nursing

D.A.S., Major in Practical Nursing

LPN to ADN Nursing Program

Patient Care Technician

Because health care is changing at an unprecedented pace, new or varied approaches to patient care are emerging. One such approach is the use of multi-skilled individuals known as Patient Care Technicians who are a part of the health care team.

Patient Care Technician Certificate

Pharmacy Technology

Graduates of the Pharmacy Technology diploma are health care professionals who assist the pharmacist in a hospital or clinical setting to provide quality health care related to medication administration in an institutional setting.

D.A.S., Major in Pharmacy Technology

Phlebotomy Technician

This certificate program provides students with the basic skills necessary for the collection of laboratory blood specimens.

Phlebotomy Technician Certificate

Radiologic Technology

The Radiologic Technology curriculum is designed to assist students in acquiring the general and technical competencies necessary to enter the radiography field.

A.A.S., Major in Radiologic Technology

Respiratory Care

The respiratory care practitioner is trained to assist the medical staff with the treatment, management and care of patients with cardiopulmonary abnormalities or deficiencies.

A.A.S., Major in Respiratory Care

Surgical Technology

Surgical technologists are members of the operating team who work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, RN's and other personnel to deliver patient care before, during and after surgery.

D.A.S., Major in Surgical Technology

Veterinary Technology

The veterinary technician works under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The specialized training received will allow the graduate to seek employment in such areas as clinical medicine, laboratory animal medicine, emergency medicine, pharmaceutical sales, food inspection and government agencies.

A.A.S., Major in Veterinary Technology

Health Science Transfer

Health Science Transfer Option

South Carolina Median Salaries

Cardiovascular Technologist - \$46,300
Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) - \$37,600
Massage Therapist - \$27,800
Pharmacy Technician - \$26,200
Radiologic Technologist - \$48,700
Respiratory Therapist - \$51,200
Registered Nurse (RN) - \$57,500
Veterinary Technologist - \$26,800

Students interested in a career in Public Service may choose majors in Criminal Justice, Human Services or Early Care and Education.

Criminal Justice

This program is designed to prepare professionally-educated and competent criminal justice practitioners for careers within the criminal justice system.

A.A.S., Major in Criminal Justice

Early Care and Education

The Early Care and Education program offers a combination of classroom instruction and supervised, hands-on experience that prepares students for direct entry into the field of Early Care and Education.

A.A.S., Major in Early Care and Education

A.A.S., Major in Early Care and Education, Infant/Toddler Care Concentration

Early Childhood Development Certificate

Infant-Toddler Certificate

Human Services

The program prepares students to work in diverse settings such as group homes; correctional, mental retardation and mental health settings; family, child and youth service agencies; and programs concerned with alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence and aging.

A.A.S., Major in Human Services

South Carolina Median Salaries

Police Officer - \$36,800
Preschool or Daycare Director - \$34,500
Preschool Teacher - \$22,000
Human Services Assistant - \$26,800



The Occupational Technology degree is designed to provide students with an opportunity to upgrade diploma or certificate programs. The program is designed to be substantially individualized to meet the needs of employees who have or seek to have broad technical responsibilities.

General Technology

The major in General Technology requires that a student have completed or be in the last term of a diploma or certificate program of 28 hours. Students in the following programs, with general education courses and a secondary specialty, may earn an Associate in Applied Science with a major in General Technology: Advertising Design, Desktop Publishing, Horticulture Landscape Management, Illustration, Machine Tool, Medical Assisting, Pharmacy Technology, Photography, Surgical Technology and Welding.

*Salary data is based on information from the South Carolina Employment Security Commission.

A.A.S. = Associate in Applied Science

D.A.S. = Diploma in Applied Science

Piedmont Technical College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number (404) 679-4901) to award the associate degree and holds membership in the American Association of Community Colleges and in the American Technical Education Association. For a full list of accreditations, visit <http://www.ptc.edu/about-ptc/accreditation>

Upcoming Continuing Education Classes & Events

From GED to PTC: The Transition is Easier than Ever

For many students, the process of obtaining a GED and enrolling in a college degree program may seem overwhelming. Piedmont Tech and Greenwood County Adult Education have joined forces to make the student's transition from Adult Education's GED classes to a Piedmont Technical College certificate or degree program easier than ever. Students who need to obtain a GED are now able to complete the GED class pre-assessment on campus.

This test will assess the student's current skill level and will determine if Piedmont Tech's fast track GED class or Adult Education's traditional GED class would be of most benefit to the individual.

Students who qualify for the Fast Track GED class can begin attending GED classes on the Piedmont Tech Greenwood Campus. These students are able to become acclimated to campus, learn their way around, interact with other Piedmont Tech students, and speak to counselors about Piedmont Tech

admissions, all while attending GED classes. Upon completion of the six week Fast Track GED class, participants are better prepared to take the GED test and are ready to enroll at the college after they receive a GED.

For more information about the Fast Track GED class at Piedmont Technical College, call Continuing Education at 864-941-8400.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES

Computer Classes

Continuing Education offers computer classes for individuals on every level. Whether you are a new user, or just need to brush up your skills in a specific application or program, there is a class for you.

- Microsoft Office-Basic, Advanced, Intermediate (Excel, PowerPoint, and Word)
- Computer Skills 101 & 102
- Dreamweaver-Basic
- All About Facebook
- Internet Safety for Parents
- Skype 101

Health Care Classes

Health care classes are available for those interested in pursuing short training programs or obtaining marketable skills for the health care workplace.

- American Heart Association Basic Life Support
- American Heart Association CPR/AED
- LPN/RN NCLEX Review
- Nursing Assistant Class
- Certified Nursing Assistant Exam Preparation
- Emergency Medical Technician

Maintenance & Safety Classes

Maintenance and safety classes are available for those who need required training to avoid workplace hazards or to operate equipment.

- Forklift Driving & Safety
- Certified Pool Operator
- Hazardous Waste Update
- HAZWOPER (8, 24, and 40 hour)
- OSHA (10, 24, and 30 hour)



Personal Enrichment Classes

Just for fun, personal enrichment classes are perfect if you're seeking to learn a new skill or begin a hobby. We have something for every interest!

- Painting
- Aromatherapy 101
- Basic Floral Design
- Cake Decorating
- Writing
- Belly Dancing
- Crocheting
- Sewing
- Motorcycle Safety (Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced)
- Defensive Driving
- Driver's Education with Simulation

Professional Development Classes

Continuing Education offers professional development classes to help you expand your skill set, obtain Continuing Education Units, and stay up-to-date.

- Supervisory Development
- SHRM Essentials of HR Management
- SHRM Learning Systems
- Social Work Continuing Education
- Massage Therapy Continuing Education
- Pharmacy Technician Continuing Education
- Real Estate Continuing Education
- Leadership
- Lean
- Wedding & Event Planning

For more information about Continuing Education classes, visit www.ptc.edu/coned or call 864-941-8400.

Get Started Today.

SPRING CLASSES
start **JANUARY 16th.**

In two years or less, Piedmont Technical College can train you for a career in one of **80 plus fields that pay** — for a lot less than you'd pay at other colleges. Take classes at a campus close to home, or online from anywhere there's an Internet connection.

Where are you headed?

Visit us today at Piedmont Tech and let's talk about how you can get there.



ABBEVILLE COUNTY CAMPUS

Highway 28 Bypass
Abbeville, South Carolina
(864) 446-8324

CENTER FOR ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

109 Innovation Drive
Laurens, South Carolina
(864) 682-3702

EDGEFIELD COUNTY CAMPUS

506 Main Street
Edgefield, South Carolina
(803) 637-5388

GREENWOOD CAMPUS

620 N. Emerald Road
Greenwood, South Carolina
(864) 941-8324

LAURENS COUNTY CAMPUS

663 Medical Ridge Road
Clinton, South Carolina
(864) 938-1505

MCCORMICK COUNTY CAMPUS

1008 Kelly Street
McCormick, South Carolina
(864) 852-3191

NEWBERRY COUNTY CAMPUS

1922 Wilson Road
Newberry, South Carolina
(803) 276-9000

*New campus
opens
January 2nd!*

SALUDA COUNTY CAMPUS

701 Batesburg Hwy.
Saluda, South Carolina
(864) 445-3144

PIEDMONT
Technical College

Your goals. Our mission.

For more information,
visit www.ptc.edu
or call (855) 682-7094.