

Georgia College & Career Academies
Tift College and Career Academy
Quarterly Report: *January – March 2018*

Mission, Goals, and Need

As reported earlier, the Tift College and Career Academy will be the economic engine of the Tift County area, preparing students to succeed in a globally competitive workforce that will positively impact the economy of Tift County. TCCA planners have gathered workforce needs data from multiple sources in multiple ways over the last several years, culminating in this plan to open the Tift College and Career Academy: 1) Gathering data from Tift County Schools' 12 Career, Technical and Agricultural Education Program Advisory Committees to influence curriculum design and to impact course offerings and credentials. 2) Gathering and analyzing workforce needs assessment data from the Georgia Department of Labor and the Georgia Office of Workforce Development. 3) Working with the Chamber of Commerce's Business and Education Committee, giving CCA briefings and receiving dozens of local needs assessment survey responses. 4) Brainstorming with teachers/administrators from the middle and high schools about state and local data gathered above. 5) Attending CTAE and Georgia College and Career Academy Network (GCCAN) sessions (the most recent being held in Atlanta at the Georgia Department of Education building and the Georgia State Capital) and also touring successful CCAs in Warner Robins, Macon and Cairo, as well as Spalding and Henry County College and Career Academies, and the Academies of Nashville, Tennessee, to study best practices (and planners are scheduling upcoming visits to CCAs in Newnan, Brunswick, Rome, Covington and Conyers). 6) Incorporating the Governor's High Demand Career Initiative (HDCI) report and data into local planning.

Partnerships, Governance, and Leadership

The Tift College and Career Academy (TCCA) has been in operation since the Board of Directors was formed in October of 2016 as the Charter Application Process was being finalized. In August of 2017, per the Charter requirements, the TCCA Board of Directors approved the hiring of a CEO. Since August the TCCA has provided representation at the Georgia College and Career Academy Network meeting in LaGrange, Georgia, the Academies of Nashville Study visit, and the Georgia Department of Education Regional Economic Development Meeting in Albany, Georgia, as well as Rural Prosperity Meetings in Tifton. The CEO participated in the GCCAN meeting in February (2018) and he was also part of review team re-certifying the Career Education Center (CEC) in Newnan, Georgia. In addition, the CEO has begun reaching out to local business and industry leaders in the interest of developing partnerships between the Tift County School System and the local workforce managers. Since the last submission of the quarterly report, representatives from the Tift College and Career Academy have successfully reached out to several members of the diesel mechanic repair and diesel trucking industry in the interest of developing a light diesel mechanic repair program. In January (2018) a dozen diesel mechanic and trucking industry representatives met to discuss workforce needs and curricular ideas for developing a program in the hopeful near future. Following up with the Tift College and Career Academy visit to A-West Electrical Contractors (Albany, Georgia), A-West has plans to hire two Tift County High graduates in the summer of 2018 as a result of our visit to the A-West headquarters in October (2017). Georgia Sports Medicine (Tifton) continues to work with several Tift County High School students in an apprenticeship/job shadowing environment.

Is your board up and running? (If so, who are the members?) Have you had any meetings? Please share once a meeting schedule is developed.

The TCCA Board of Directors remains in operation. We are following the best practice of meeting at least once per month, usually the first Thursday of each month. The lunch time meetings (where lunch is provided) have been well-attended. The meeting schedule has been established for the remainder of the 2017-2018 academic school year. The Tift College and Career Academy will continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month through June, 2018. In addition to our regular business meetings, we have also scheduled CCA Board training sessions. We had our first training session with Frank Pinson of the Technical College System of Georgia. We met at the Tift County Public Safety Building/911 Center, where following the three-hour training session, we toured the safety facility. Our second three hour training session is scheduled for our May meeting.

The TCCA Board members are:

1. Brian Marlowe President, Chamber of Commerce/ Development Authority
2. Luke Wuthrich Plant Manager- Heatcraft
3. Carol Smith VP of Patient Care and Nursing, Tift Regional Health Systems (TCCA Board Chair)
4. Chris Cutts VP, South Georgia Banking Company
5. Cyndy Hall Director of MOWR, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
6. Jim Glass Provost, Southern Regional Technical College
7. Scott Carlson Tift County Extension Agent
8. Lynn Lovett Area Manager, Georgia Power
9. Julie Smith Mayor, City of Tifton
10. Capt. Dennis Reese Liaison Officer, Tift County Sheriff's Office
11. Mickey Weldon Tift County Schools Chief Academic Officer

Commitment and Sustainability

The TCCA is committed to the College and Career Academy plan as the system is currently undergoing a renovation of Tift County High School. The capital improvement grant is being used to build additional CTAE classrooms, labs, offices and a meeting room. The Tift County School System is also remodeling Tift County High School by adding a ninth grade wing to the campus which will allow all Tift County public school students in grades 9-12 to attend class and participate in CTAE programs on the same campus. Both of those projects are nearing completion and those facilities expect to be in use when the 2018-2019 academic school year begins in August. The plans to construct an Agri-Science center adjacent to Tift County High School are underway. Local business partner American Textile Company recently donated \$35,000.00 dedicated to the construction of that facility. According to Tift Schools Superintendent Patrick Atwater, discussions with architects are scheduled for the near future.

Plan to Address Workforce Development Needs

As previously mentioned, a productive meeting was held with representatives of the diesel trucking industry to discuss needs in that industry as well as curricular issues as we strive to create a diesel mechanics training program. Members of the Tift County School System Central

Office staff continue to develop a survey that will address local workforce needs. Southern Regional Technical College, a partner of the TCCA is assisting with the development of this survey. We plan to deliver the survey in 2018.

Standards & Curriculum

The TCCA does have advisory committees in place. Since the last quarterly report all advisory committees have met at least one time. On March 27 all CTAE advisory committees met at Tift County High School at which Tift County Schools CTAE Director Craig Matthews updated the participants on the status of the CTAE and College and Career Academy programs. That portion of the meeting was followed by each advisory committee breaking off and holding their respective individual meetings.

Plan to Increase Student Participation in Move on When Ready

The Tift County School System currently has a significant portion of its student body enrolled in Dual Enrollment courses at both Abraham Baldwin College and Southern Regional Technical College. The Tift County School System is also currently undergoing a reconfiguration of its school alignment and scheduling in grades 7-12 which will take effect in the Fall of 2018. Once the scheduling is complete and all 9-12 students are on the main campus of Tift County High School, the expectation is that the dual enrollment numbers will steadily increase as more students will have access to more courses. Dual enrollment has the full support of the Tift College and Career Academy as one of its board of directors' members is Dr. Cyndi Hall, the Director for Dual Enrollment at Abraham Baldwin College. Scheduled to address the TCCA Board of Directors later in the spring is Southern Regional Technical College Dual Enrollment manager Mandy Ponder. Ms. Ponder is tentatively scheduled to address the CCA Board of Directors during the June meeting.

Faculty & Staff

At this time, the only recent addition to the TCCA staff is the CEO. In addition to the CEO and Tift County Schools CTAE Director having participated in Development Opportunities in LaGrange and Nashville, Tennessee, the two also joined other business leaders and CCA CEOs at the Lt. Governor's summit in Henry County. As stated in the last quarterly report, we will continue to participate as the opportunities arise. The CEO was also part of the re-certification team charged with re-certifying the Central Education Center in Newnan, Georgia in mid-February. The CEO then participated in the GCANN meetings in Atlanta in late February.

Plan to Increase Work-based Learning Opportunities

When the new schedule is implemented in the fall of 2018, the TCCA will examine ways to involve students in apprenticeship programs, job shadowing programs and internship programs. We have already made strides in that direction. In addition to A-West Electrical Contractors of Albany, Georgia, announcing plans to hire two of the interested Tift County High School students and enroll them into a four-year in-house journeyman apprenticeship program, the Tift CCA is involved in discussions with SRTC to develop mini-courses during the summer to meet the needs of the diesel mechanics industry. Also scheduled is Hospital Week in May where many of our health occupations students will have the opportunity to tour Tift Regional Medical Center and gain some more insight into occupations related to health care in our area.

Grade Levels, Enrollment & Student Focus

The TCCA will focus primarily on the high school students. However, the TCCA is also giving attention to middle school students, introducing them to pathway and dual enrollment opportunities as 6-8 grade students. Internships and apprenticeships will be the focus of older high school students as many work opportunities have age requirements. Our partnership with

Southern Regional Technical College has allowed us to expand the pathway choice by adding MOWR courses and the survey results should create the need to add more. At the time of this report, there remains no established enrollment process for the Tift College and Career Academy. That said, however, meetings have been held with middle school careers instructors providing them with information related the Tift College and Career Academy in order for the instructors to promote courses that relate to the trades.

Student Support and Structure

Progress in this area has improved. The TCCA has an Agriculture Academy in place comprised of approximately 25 students operating in a cohort model. Counselors and instructors have worked together to accommodate these students. The Agriculture Academy, which has been in place for several years, is the model for integrating academics and CTAE courses, as well as Project Based Learning. There is solid physical evidence of these programs as students participate in career fairs and competitions showing off projects in all of the CTAE courses. Examples include metals students building grills and fire pits with plasma cut designs and construction students building outdoor structures.

The new hybrid schedule that the school system plans to implement in the 2018-19 school year at Tift County High School will create more instructional time for courses and is allowing more lab time for our courses that require more time.

Evaluation and Cycle of Improvement

At the time of this report, there remains no data to share.

Plan to Increase Student Achievement

Discussions continue concerning the “Academy” or cohort model where students share the same team of instructors. These instructors would collaborate to create project based and industry standard lessons designed to interest the student and still meet the standards requirement. In theory, as student interest increases, so might student achievement. These plans remain in development.

Charter School Law/District Flexibility Performance Contract

The Tift College and Career Academy Charter Plan was approved in the spring of 2017.

Budget

At the time of this report, an operating budget has not been established. Expenditures have been in the form of travel, miscellaneous meeting expenses and CEO salary.

Timelines

Since the TCCA Board inception in October of 2016, the TCCA has seen its charter approved, an Agriculture Academy created, a highly qualified automotive instructor hired, and a CEO hired. The TCCA is currently studying best practices of College and Career Academies in other Georgia school systems and in other states. There remains the anticipation that the Tift College and Career Academy will open its doors in August of 2018 at the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic school year.