

# NEWS

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Contact: Gail Eubanks  
912.443.3022

## **STC Foundation Gala to bring Community Leaders onto Campus *Judge Griffin Bell to be honored with third annual Opportunity Award***

SAVANNAH – Nearly 300 community leaders and college supporters will be on hand in the college auditorium on Friday night as the Savannah Technical College Foundation hosts its third annual Opportunity Award Gala, honoring Judge Griffin Bell. *(e-photo attached)*

The Opportunity Award Gala honors civic leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to creating opportunities for Georgians both locally and at the state level. Past recipients include former Governor Zell Miller and Arnold Tenenbaum of Chatham Steel. This year's festivities are co-sponsored by **Georgia Power** and **Memorial Health**. *(A full listing of corporate and individual sponsors is attached)*

"We wanted to create a signature event for our community," says College President C.B. Rathburn. "It began with our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year in 2004, when we celebrated our founding in 1929 as The Opportunity School. From the very beginning, this institution has been creating opportunities through technical education – so it's only fitting that we honor individuals who have devoted their lives to the same undertaking."

Griffin Bell graduated with honors from Mercer Law School in 1948 and practiced law in Savannah and Rome before joining his current firm in 1953. As the managing partner at King and Spalding, Bell was drawn into Georgia political life, and in 1958 he was appointed chief of staff to Governor Ernest Vandiver. In that capacity he was influential in organizing the Sibley Commission, which mapped Georgia's approach to school desegregation. He helped moderate state policy concerning civil rights and was instrumental in keeping Georgia's schools open during that turbulent period.

Bell served as a chair of John F. Kennedy's 1960 presidential campaign, and in October 1961 President Kennedy appointed him judge of the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, where he actively participated, often as a moderate voice, in the implementation of desegregation orders across the Deep South. He returned to King and Spalding after

fourteen years on the bench. In 1976 President Jimmy Carter nominated him to the position of attorney general of the United States, a position he held until he resigned in August 1979 to return to private practice.

Friday evening, guests will meet some of the college's successful graduates; visit interactive simulations of college-preparatory careers including Emergency Medical Technician, Criminal Justice, Automotive Technology, Paralegal and more; dine on cuisine prepared and served by culinary arts students under the direction of renowned chef and Culinary Arts Department Head Marvis Hinson and be among the first to see the just-completed renovations to the college's Savannah Campus.

The Savannah Technical College Foundation is the volunteer organization responsible for fundraising to support the college. Proceeds from the event support the Focused Investment campaign, now in its third year.

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