



SAVANNAH
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Strategic Plan

2027-2031



Advancing Opportunity Across Coastal Georgia



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**To the Savannah Technical College Family and Our Coastal Empire Partners:
Thank you for making this the BEST technical college in the State of Georgia!**

When people ask me how things are going at Savannah Tech, I often joke that I haven't burned down any buildings yet, so I'm counting that as a win. But the truth is, there is a "spark" on our campuses that you can feel the moment you walk through the doors. There is a current of electricity fueled by the energy our team brings day in and day out, and it's lighting people up.

While some might think that this momentum is just a feeling, I am here to tell you: it is a reality. **At Savannah Tech, we believe education is the ultimate driver of economic mobility.** The "secret sauce" of our success is the incredible dedication of our faculty and staff, combined with the unwavering support of our local leaders.

In the pages ahead, you will find a roadmap for the next five years grounded in that expertise and driven by our purpose of providing the access and opportunity that every individual needs to turn raw potential into a meaningful career.

Our region is a magnet for excellence, already home to and continuing to attract world-class partners in health care, manufacturing, logistics, aviation, and hospitality. We know that world-class industries need a world-class workforce. This plan ensures we anticipate those needs through aggressive enrollment growth, innovative new programs, and flexible delivery that "meets students where they are" right now.

I invite you to join us as we continue to create a legacy where "opportunity" isn't just a word we use; it is the daily reality for every person who calls the Coastal Empire home.

The energy is electric. The momentum is unstoppable.
The future is ours to create. Let's go build it!

Sincerely,



Ryan W. Foley, Ed.D.

President, Savannah Technical College



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**Carl Vinson
Institute of Government**
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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PLANNING PROCESS BACKGROUND

Savannah Technical College designed an intentional process to assess the current operations of the institution and needs of its service region. The planning process was conducted in partnership with the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. This five year plan was developed utilizing three major phases.

Review of Data

Data on Savannah Technical College, along with labor market, education, and demographic trends, were gathered, visualized, and analyzed to inform the planning process.

Stakeholder Engagement

Numerous stakeholder groups including students, faculty, business partners, board members, and community leaders were engaged through interviews and listening sessions.

Plan Development

A group of institution leaders worked to distill the data and stakeholder engagement into top issues for the next strategic plan to address.

FACTORS AND FORCES

GROWING COASTAL EMPIRE

- The Savannah region is projected to add over 80,000 residents over the next 15 years¹.
- The region is seeing record economic growth with major new locations and expansions like Hyundai, Gulfstream, Hyundai Globis, Virginia Transformer, Seoyon E-HWA, JCB, Georgia Power, and Georgia Ports.
- This growth indicates a demand for more technical education and workforce development services.

FUTURE ORIENTED SAVANNAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE

- Savannah Technical College will meet demand for more technical education and workforce development services by delivering programs and services aligned with regional workforce needs.
- A new leadership team at the institution will evolve Savannah Technical College to meet the needs of students and businesses.

BALANCING INSTITUTIONAL GOALS AND CONSTRAINTS

- Enrollment at Savannah Technical College has remained stable in recent years. Enrollment growth will be critical to achieving the goals outlined in this plan.
- The plan envisions new models and approaches to advance the college's mission, requiring strong alignment and buy-in from internal and external partners.

¹ Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, 2025 Series Population Projections



MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES

As part of the strategic planning process, a new mission, vision, and set of values were established to ensure that Savannah Technical College continues to evolve and strive to be the best institution for its students, faculty and staff, business and industry supporters, and community partners. Below are the mission that drives the daily work of the Savannah Tech team, a vision for that team to strive toward, and values to guide the decisions and investments in the years to come.

MISSION: Savannah Technical College, a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia, is a public, two-year college that delivers market-driven, high-quality education programs that create economic mobility for students and a skilled workforce.

VISION: We expand opportunity through transformative education.

VALUES:

- **Innovation:** Continuing to create and implement new ideas for institutional improvement
- **Excellence:** Maintaining high standards for all who are part of Savannah Technical College
- **Student-Centric:** Keeping students at the center of all decisions and actions
- **Community:** Fostering connection and collaboration with community partners



SAVANNAH TECHNICAL COLLEGE GOALS

The following four goal areas define Savannah Technical College's strategic direction for the next five years. Each goal outlines targeted actions and measurable outcomes that will guide the college's efforts to grow enrollment, support student success, and meet the evolving needs of the regional workforce.

GOAL 1:

Develop effective people, places, and processes that foster an environment of innovation, excellence, and continuous improvement.

GOAL 2:

Enable sustainable growth by expanding access.

GOAL 3:

Advance the college's student success ecosystem.

GOAL 4:

Deliver market-driven programming that meets workforce needs and drives economic advancement.

GOAL 1:

Develop effective people, places, and processes that foster an environment of innovation, excellence, and continuous improvement.

Savannah Technical College will strengthen its foundation by investing in its people, modernizing its facilities, and refining the processes that support daily operations. These efforts will foster a culture of innovation, accountability, and continuous improvement across the institution.

To advance this goal, Savannah Technical College will pursue the following strategies:

Short-term action items (2027–2028)

- Complete a new campus master plan.
- Document all major processes and standard operational protocols. Through the process, consider ways to streamline them using new technological tools.
- Develop a formal and consistent on-boarding program for new employees.
- Enhance professional development and cross-training opportunities.

Long-term action items (beyond 2028)

- Create targeted and ongoing job specific training including implementation of new tools.
- Build succession plans for key roles in the organization.
- Develop an employee recognition program.

SUCCESS MEASURES

Key metrics to measure progress on the goal include the following:

- Faculty and staff retention rates
- Percentage of key roles with identified succession plans
- Percentage of employees meeting minimum of 20 hours of professional development annually
- Faculty and staff satisfaction scores
- Percentage of core institution processes documented and improved

GOAL 2:

Enable sustainable growth by expanding access.

Savannah Technical College will expand access to education and training in ways that support long-term, sustainable growth. By strengthening recruitment, increasing program flexibility, and extending its reach across the region, the college will serve more students and meet evolving community needs.

To advance this goal, Savannah Technical College will pursue the following strategies:

Short-term action items (2027–2028)

- Implement the new Savannah Technical College brand.
- Launch college mascot.
- Pursue a Strategic Enrollment Management Plan.
- Increase online offerings in strategic areas.
- Strengthen efforts to increase yield rate from student interest to registration.

Long-term action items (beyond 2028)

- Grow military affiliated population through creation of a VECTR Center.
- Increase high school student engagement including:
 - Dual enrollment through new partnerships and pathways
 - Credentialling of high school instructors to teach Savannah Technical College courses
 - Direct enrollment in Savannah Technical College following high school graduation
- Pursue a physical presence in Bryan County for additional regional reach and service given fast population and industry growth.
- Establish a unified look and experience across all Savannah Technical College campuses.

SUCCESS MEASURES

Key metrics to measure progress on the goal include the following:

- Regional engagement and reach rate
- Military affiliated enrollment
- Total credit enrollment
- Dual enrollment participation rate
- Application-to-enrollment (yield) rate
- Percentage of regional high school graduates enrolling at Savannah Technical College

GOAL 3:

Advance the college's student success ecosystem.

Savannah Technical College will strengthen a coordinated, student-centered ecosystem that supports learners from enrollment through completion and beyond. By enhancing advising, support services, and engagement opportunities, the college will improve outcomes and create a more seamless student experience.

To advance this goal, Savannah Technical College will pursue the following strategies:

Short-term action items (2027–2028)

- Develop an intentional student success center on the Savannah Campus.
- Conduct student-centric customer service training for all faculty and staff members.
- Assess the current advising and registration support model.

Long-term action items (beyond 2028)

- Pursue the creation of an on-campus health clinic.
- Create a digital orientation to engage students and provide key resources prior to the beginning of classes.
- Implement the TargetX Retention Suite to provide more tools to support student advising and engagement efforts.
- Develop a plan to build lifelong affinity with the college to enhance the ways that graduates engage with the institution, such as continuing education, further skill development, and providing support for college operations.

SUCCESS MEASURES

Key metrics to measure progress on the goal include the following:

- Overall retention and program retention rates
- Job placement in the field of study
- Student satisfaction score
- Graduation rate
- Time to completion
- Utilization rate of advising and student support services

GOAL 4:

Deliver market-driven programming that meets workforce needs and drives economic advancement.

Savannah Technical College will ensure its programs remain closely aligned with the needs of employers and the regional economy. By continuously evaluating and adapting curriculum, the college will prepare students with the skills required for high-demand careers and support long-term economic growth.

To advance this goal, Savannah Technical College will pursue the following strategies:

Short-term action items (2027–2028)

- Continue to evaluate and adapt curriculum to match industry needs including formal processes such as peer review, advisory councils, and regular consultation with labor market data.
- Promote current fast track programs and explore opportunities for additional fast-track programs in high demand areas.
- Assess current policies and practices for awarding credit for prior learning.

Long-term action items (beyond 2028)

- Expand and increase Work-Based Learning opportunities.
- Establish new articulation agreements in key areas.

SUCCESS MEASURES

Key metrics to measure progress on the goal include the following:

- Student participation in Work-Based Learning experiences
- Number of students in apprenticeship programs
- Students receiving credit for prior learning
- New or updated programs aligned with high-demand workforce needs
- Number of active employer partners engaged in advisory committees



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