



## Forward Thinking

GPTC moves forward into brighter future



The year 2021 has been full of ups and downs in the midst of a global pandemic. We have learned from our experiences, continued to serve our college community and one another, and we have taken up the mantle of leadership in spite of difficult circumstances.

We remain steadfast to our commitment to developing a skilled workforce for our service delivery area. I'd like to highlight a few "Pandemic Positives." We are still changing lives, 7,916 since January 2021 to be exact. We have served 4,202 through credit instruction, 2,187 through adult education, and 1,527 through economic development. Students are still graduating! Employers are still clamoring for their skills. The successes experienced by our college community would not have been possible without you! Thank you for moving GPTC forward into an even brighter 2022!

– Dr. Tarez Holston,  
President

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Virtual Enrollment Sessions / Dec. 14 & Dec. 21**  
> 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
> See [gptc.edu](http://gptc.edu) for details
- **Winter holidays / Dec. 23 - 31**  
> Campus closed, no classes
- **Spring '22 classes start / Jan. 10, 2022**

### Thriving amidst crisis



As we look forward to a new year, let's take a look back at how GPTC has adapted in response to a global pandemic, and for the better.

- In 2020, for the first time ever, GPTC offers adult education classes via Blackboard
- GPTC offsets tuition costs with CARES funds provided by the federal government
- GPTC increases health and wellness efforts greatly by installing temperature and face protection monitoring equipment across campuses.

## 'Grateful Gathering' huge success for college



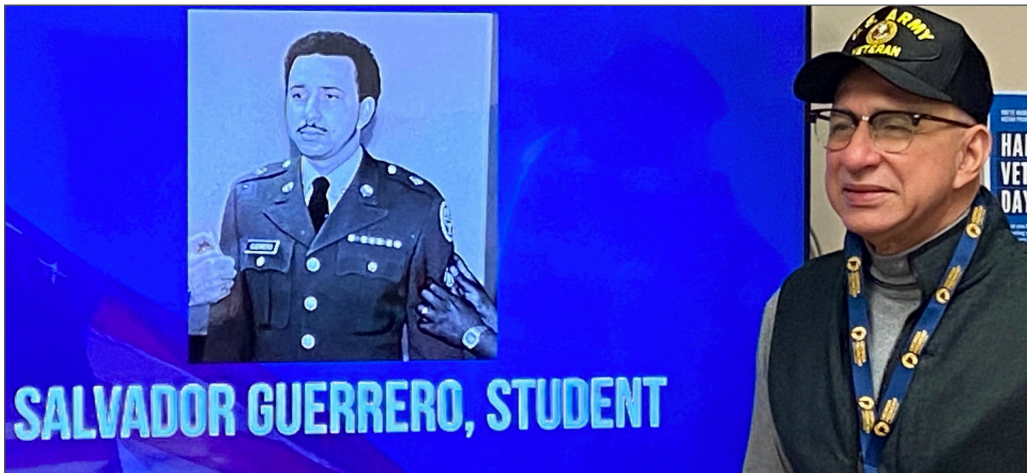
While Mother Nature decided to send a cold spell on November 19 pushing the event indoors, this year's Grateful Gathering was still a huge success.

After Dr. Holston and the senior leadership team gave updates on the college and various areas, it was time for the annual

Years of Service recognitions and the President's 'Forward' award winner. And for the first time ever, part time employees were treated to accolades for their service. More than 50 GPTC team members earned service certificates – ranging from five to 25 years of service to the State

of Georgia. And big congratulations to CNA and Allied Health program director Dr. Patricia Wilkins for being named this year's Forward winner! Special thanks to the GPTC Foundation for helping defray the cost of this fun, inclusive event.

## GPTC honors staff, student veterans



**A DAY TO REMEMBER** Salvador Guerrero, GPTC student and pictured above, was one of the several army veterans recognized in the video commemorating the selfless service given by GPTC's veterans.

The Veterans Day holiday on November 11 marks a time when America recognizes servicemen and women for their commitment to keeping our country safe and free. GPTC hosted a drop-in lunch and produced a 'thank you' video for these special individuals. Watch the video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqFdc-9dgsW>



**\$60 for 60 Years**



Scan the QR code to download the \$60 for 60 donation pledge card. Once filled out, the card can be given to the GPTC Foundation, located at the DeKalb Campus in Building A, 2nd floor, president's suite.

Remember the \$60 for 60 internal campaign is still going on! When the Foundation goes to the community seeking support, a huge selling point is being able to tell potential donors that our faculty and staff invest in the internal campaign. The deadline to make your pledge or donation is Christmas Day.

## Alumni spotlight: From employee to graduate and back again

Contributed by Cory Thompson

Sakita Fleet knows a lot about Georgia Piedmont Technical College from various perspectives. After moving from Albany, Georgia in 2012, she started working as an Accounting Technician in the college's finance department to provide for the youngest of her two sons. "I knew in order for me to progress and take care of him like I needed to, I needed to get a degree," Fleet said.

In the fall of 2014, she enrolled in the Accounting program. Among others, she credits Candice Buckley in Student Affairs and Shunteka Curtis in Admissions for creating a welcoming environment for her to continue her education while also working full time for the college.

"What better way to do it. You get off from work, and you take classes in the evening. If they had one offered on my

lunch break, I will go take it, and then come back to work," Fleet said. "It was very helpful to be able to work here and to take classes because it was convenient."

She left GPTC to work for other state agencies in 2015, the same year she graduated with her associate's degree. But she returned in July of this year to be the property accountant specialist for the College. She continues her part-time studies at Albany State University – working on her bachelor's degree in accounting. She is only taking a couple of classes per semester online with an anticipated graduation of December 2024.

Sakita Fleet wears many hats these days. Full time employee at GPTC, mother of two, grandmother to two boys with a third on the way as well as a student working towards her bachelor's.

Her goal is to be in management, helping to lead, inspire and help others.



Sakita Fleet

## Employee Spotlight with: Director of Dual Enrollment Kristin Corkhill



Dr. Kristin Corkhill

### Going Above & Beyond

I'd like to nominate Dr. Kristin Corkhill, our Rockdale College and Career Academy and High School Initiatives director.

Dr. Corkhill was selected to serve as a fellow with Advance CTE. She is one of 15 individuals selected to this prestigious Career and Technical Education Fellowship. This Fellowship is specifically focused on closing racial equity gaps in CTE.

In addition to this achievement, Dr. Corkhill has done a tremendous job leading our Dual Enrollment programs.

– Dr. Shawn Adams, Vice President, Student Affairs

### Favorite part of your job?

I embrace the mission of open-access education, so just being part of an organization that is changing the lives of students (and their families) through any of our programs is exciting and humbling. As far as projects, I love working on anything that is research, writing, analysis—basically all of the things that are like schoolwork. I would be a professional student if I could.

### Favorite destination?

I am a Southwestern Florida native, so anywhere that is warm is my favorite destination.

### What do you do when not working?

Since it is football season, my weekends are dedicated to simultaneously loving and hating my teams.

### Three things you couldn't live without?

Gator football, my pool, and Chapstick (also my spouse, Anthony and our two dogs Joker and Harley are pretty important too).

### What show are you watching?

Waiting patiently for Yellowstone and Outlander to have their new seasons. When in doubt, I watch Supernatural reruns on the Netflix.

### What is your go-to movie?

If Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade is on tv, I have to stop and watch.

### Something people may not know about you?

Just after I finished my Master's, I was on a vacation and won a huge jackpot playing Pai Gow poker. I traveled extensively and was able to buy a house before starting a real job.

### Your best advice would be?

Never let the truth get in the way of a good story.



Have a question? Comment? Got a great story idea? Email us at [marketingandcommunications@gptc.edu](mailto:marketingandcommunications@gptc.edu)