

THE PRESIDENTIAL REPORT  
2019  2020

RICHLAND | LEXINGTON | FAIRFIELD



## **DEAR FRIENDS,**

It is an honor to present to you the 2019-2020 Presidential Report. It is the culmination of an academic year like one we have never seen before and, hopefully, will never see again. Through it all, Midlands Technical College remained steadfast in upholding our core strategic plan initiatives of ensuring student success and college sustainability.

During the 2019-2020 academic year, MTC launched groundbreaking initiatives, affirmed our commitment to the military, enhanced transfer paths for students, earned zero findings during the reaffirmation process; and, despite the never-before-seen impact of a global crisis, we maintained our 24-year streak of excellence in financial reporting.

Innovation did not stop at MTC because of the pandemic. We redesigned our curriculum to enable students to complete their education sooner so they can enter the workforce faster or transfer to a four-year institution quicker than ever before. More than 2,000 students finished their educational journeys this academic year. These MTC graduates will ultimately contribute significantly to the local economy by generating a world-class workforce and enhancing our community's social vitality.

The lesson I have learned from all this: no challenge is too great for the MTC family.

As you read through this report and see all that has been accomplished in this truly extraordinary year, imagine what next year could look like – with increased support from our partners and people like you.

**Respectfully,**

*Ronald L Rhames*

**Dr. Ronald L. Rhames '78**



## PROMISES FOR THE FUTURE

History is made as the Fairfield Promise Program is signed in Summer 2019. The Promise Program supports students who thought college might be an impossible dream due to a shortage of finances.



# 95%

of MTC graduates are employed or continuing their education within six months of graduation.



"When we invest in young people, that's how we transform lives. That's how we transform communities."

*Dr. J.R. Green  
Fairfield County School District  
Superintendent*



# PAVING THE PATH TO TUITION-FREE COLLEGE AT MTC

Summer 2019

**For the first time in history, Fairfield County graduates had the opportunity to attend Midlands Technical College for free thanks to the Fairfield Promise Program agreement signed by MTC, the Fairfield County School District, and the Fairfield County Council in July 2019. The Promise Program covers the cost of tuition and related fees after federal and state aid has been applied.**



“The goal of the Fairfield Promise is to increase access to higher education and create a culture that leads to the completion of a college degree,” said MTC President Dr. Ronald L. Rhames. “When these students graduate from MTC, they will be highly skilled, ready to work, and should have no college debt to repay.”

The program provides financial assistance to eligible citizens of Fairfield County to attend MTC and enroll in and complete academic curriculum degrees, diplomas, or certificate programs. Fairfield County School District Superintendent Dr. J.R. Green said the program is designed to improve the future of the whole community by investing in young people.

“We are more than just about graduating students from high school,” said Green. “High school should not be the end of their educational journey, but the beginning. We are trying to change the mindset of every young person in this county. Our goal is not to simply educate young people. Our goal is to make productive citizens, and the best way to become a productive citizen is to be gainfully employed. When we invest in young people, that’s how we transform lives. That’s how we transform the community.”

Any high school graduate of a Fairfield County public, charter, private, state-approved home school, or GED recipient who also resides in Fairfield County is eligible. Students must enroll at MTC within nine months of high school graduation or GED completion.

“I’m excited about this program,” said Fairfield County Council Administrator Jason Taylor. “Our county has great potential. But for us to reach our full potential, we have to invest in ourselves. Education is one of the surest ways to guarantee that our children will have access to good jobs and the opportunity for a better future, and an educated workforce will also be the best way to attract new employers to our community and create great jobs here in Fairfield County.”



## EXPANDING APPRENTICESHIPS

Summer 2019

To help build a pipeline for difficult-to-fill positions, MTC secured \$150,000 in funding through the American Association of Community Colleges' Expanding Community College Apprenticeship grant. Over the next three years, MTC will grow apprentices by 150 as a partner in this grant. At the completion of the first year, MTC helped 51 apprentices in four health care and two advanced manufacturing companies.



## HARBISON THEATRE BRINGS BIG ACTS TO ITS INTIMATE STAGE

Harbison Theatre at Midlands Technical College (HT@MTC) launched its eighth season featuring GRAMMY-winning South Carolina natives, Motown sounds, beautiful ballet, and children's theatre. With seven sold-out shows in the first half of the season, the theatre continued to provide fan favorites in the intimate venue.



**250,000+**  
have visited HT@MTC for signature shows, school performances, community events, and venue rentals.



"Harbison Theatre has earned a reputation as one of the area's premier performance venues. It has hauled in musicians like **Mavis Staples, Steep Canyon Rangers, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, and The Blind Boys of Alabama** along with world-renowned dance troupes, thought-provoking theater productions and much more."

*Jordan Lawrence  
Free Times*



## HARBISON THEATRE IS MORE THAN JUST A THEATRE

Summer 2019

**Harbison Theatre at Midlands Technical College (HT@MTC) is known for presenting incredible, intimate touring shows throughout the year. It also is a world-class venue for the community with a vibrant rental program.** Through strong partnerships with fellow arts organizations and local support from corporate and business sponsors, HT@MTC continues to grow every year. Its growing number of community partners and supporting organizations continue to help the organization strengthen the arts in the Midlands.

“The relationships we have created with these visiting groups and other organizations in the community are another important part of what we do at Harbison Theatre,” said Kristin Cobb, Executive Director at HT@MTC. “We are grateful for every person who performs on our stage as well as the patrons who attend each show. We look forward to hosting many more organizations in the future.”

HT@MTC frequently hosts a wide range of performances from regional presenters through its rental program. These groups produce their own great events that regularly introduce new audience members to HT@MTC. Some of these organizations include locally known Columbia Conservatory of Dance, Lake Murray Symphony Orchestra, the Irmo Chapin Recreation Commission, Celestial Stars, and The SC Jazz Masterworks Ensemble. The volume of community shows that happen at the theatre keeps the seats filled even during the off-season, and broadens the reach of Midlands Technical College into the community.

## RESPIRATORY THERAPY PROGRAM AWARDED FOR DISTINGUISHED CREDENTIALING SUCCESS

Summer 2019

The MTC Respiratory Therapy program has been awarded the highest level of distinction by the **Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC)**, the accrediting agency for all **Respiratory Care programs in the country.** The Distinguished Registered Respiratory Therapist Credentialing Success Award is presented to signature programs as a measure of the program’s success in preparing and inspiring its graduates to achieve their highest educational and professional aspirations.

“Our graduates are highly sought after in the local health care community,” said Eddie Jackson, the program’s director. “In addition to the 100 percent job placement rate, 100 percent of the employers who hire our graduates report they are happy with their performance.”

For the past four years, MTC graduates have had a 100 percent pass rate on their board exams in their first attempt. The program also has 100 percent job placement for the past 10 years.



## 100% PASS RATE

Summer 2019

**Students from seven programs within the MTC School of Health Care passed their 2019-2020 licensure exams with a 100% pass rate.**

For three of those programs – Medical Laboratory Technology, Nuclear Medicine Technology, and Respiratory Therapy – this made the fifth year in a row that their students passed with a 100% pass rate.



# MTC

has the only VetSuccess  
on Campus site in S.C.



## PURPLE HEART COLLEGE

Affirming its longstanding commitment to providing exceptional higher education and support service to military veterans and their families, the MTC Commission signed an agreement designating MTC as a Purple Heart College.



"It is in tribute to  
their dedication,  
service, and sacrifice  
that we officially  
sign this resolution  
designating MTC as a  
Purple Heart College."

*Margaret Holmes  
MTC Commission Chair*





Rhames and Holmes sign the memorandum officially designating Midlands Technical College a Purple Heart College.

## MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE DESIGNATED AS PURPLE HEART COLLEGE

Summer 2019

**The Purple Heart designation signed by the MTC Commission in August 2019 is part of an effort MTC has put into place to serve soldiers, their families, and local veterans.**

“The Commission strongly believes it is appropriate for the college to outwardly demonstrate our commitment to members of the Armed Services, especially those who have received the Purple Heart,” said MTC Commission Chair Margaret Holmes.

The Purple Heart is the nation’s oldest military award, introduced as the “Badge of Military Merit” by General George Washington in 1782. It is awarded to those who are wounded or killed in any action against an enemy of the United States or as a result of an act of any such enemy or opposing armed forces.

“We salute our student soldiers and veterans and are honored to be designated as a Purple Heart College,” said MTC President Ronald L. Rhames. “At MTC, we recognize the importance of providing higher education and support services to military families and veterans.”

“By giving those who have earned the Purple Heart this special admiration and respect, Midlands Technical College clearly demonstrates a level of caring and understanding as it strives to meet the needs of the entire community. No other institution is more deserving of this designation than Midlands Technical College. MTC is based on the continual pursuit of excellence and the continual desire to take care of the whole community,” said Commanding General of Ft. Jackson, Brigadier General Milford Beagle.

## THE MTC ENTERPRISE CAMPUS SELECTED FOR INTERNATIONAL COMPANY'S U.S. OPERATIONS

Summer 2019

**The French-based company, Aquarium Partners, chose the Midlands Technical College (MTC) Enterprise Campus as its operational center in the United States.** Aquarium Partners, which specializes in the marketing and distribution of aquarium products from Europe, was formed in 2016 to help bridge the gap between aquatic product manufacturers in the U.S. and abroad.

“We help those manufacturers export and introduce fantastic products to the American market,” said Aquarium Partners CEO Francois Nollet. “Our location on MTC’s Enterprise Campus enables us to easily receive and transport products throughout the United States.”

“Aquarium Partners’ desire to locate here was based on the Business Accelerator’s affordable, one-stop approach to its landing space concept,” said Chuck Whipple, Executive Director of the MTC Enterprise Campus.



## MTC IMPLEMENTS NEW ACADEMIC AND CAREER ADVISING

Fall 2019

**To provide a consistent advising experience for all students, MTC moved to a centralized advising model through the launch of its new Academic and Career Advising Center.**

100% of new and continuing degree, diploma, and certificate-seeking students now have a personal Academic and Career Advisor. This provides significantly more effective support for academic advising and planning at MTC as compared to national peer colleges, and the change also permits advisement to occur all 12 months in the year.





# 4,000+

square feet of manufacturing, warehouse, and office space available at the MTC Enterprise Campus Business Accelerator to house emerging businesses.



**"MTC gave me the time and the resources to make my own companies possible."**

*Ken Yamashiro  
MTC Student, Entrepreneur*



## MORE @ MTC

MTC implemented a Quality Enhancement Plan titled "Maximizing Online Readiness and Excellence." MORE @ MTC aims to increase the success rate of students taking online courses.



## AIRPORT PLANE-CRASH EXERCISE GIVES MTC STUDENTS LIFE-CHANGING LESSONS

Fall 2019

MTC School of Health Care students participated in an AirSafe exercise at Columbia Metropolitan Airport as part of a Federal Aviation Administration Requirement. The staged plane-crash, which involved 21 first-responder agencies and 176 volunteers, gave the students an opportunity to see what it feels like to be on the other side as a patient.

“This exercise is an awesome tool for the students to experience as closely as possible what it's like being a trauma victim,” said Millie Massey, Program Director for the MTC Radiologic Technology program. “We can only simulate so far in the classroom and labs. This exercise gives students the opportunity to experience the emotions and chaos of these situations.”

*MTC students participated in the mock exercise that was a joint effort between multiple local and federal agencies.*



## MTC AND UofSC BUSINESS SCHOOL PARTNER FOR STUDENTS

Fall 2019

The University of South Carolina's Darla Moore School of Business and Midlands Technical College are now offering a transfer pathway that will facilitate MTC students transferring into the Moore School's operations and supply chain program. The Moore School and MTC signed the new pathway in Fall 2019.

“This agreement marks yet another positive step by our two institutions against the background of undeniable opportunities and challenges,” President Rhames said. “There is a growing need in the Midlands and across the state for college-graduate supply chain management professionals. Right here in South Carolina, there are multiple global manufacturers and logistics employers needing these skilled professionals. This articulation agreement is both timely and efficient as it creates a clear pathway for students to become part of the world-class supply chain manufacturing and technology industry in our region.”

In the first two years of the pathway, students enrolled at MTC will earn an associate in arts degree with a concentration in business before transferring to the Moore School for their third and fourth years of coursework. Spending their first two years at MTC will save the students approximately \$16,000 on tuition and fees.

## HELPING STUDENTS SUCCEED ONLINE

Fall 2019

In October 2019, MTC implemented a Quality Enhancement Plan titled, “Maximizing Online Readiness and Excellence” also known as MORE. MORE aims to increase the success rate of students taking online courses. To achieve the goal and outcomes of MORE, MTC established three primary objectives: 1. Implement a mandatory student readiness course to prepare students for online learning. 2. Implement an Online Faculty Learning Community (OFLC) to prepare faculty for online teaching. 3. Facilitate coordination of student services in targeted online gateway courses.



**"Being able to give back to a student who is in a similar situation I was 25 years ago means a lot to me."**

*Lasenta Lewis-Ellis  
Scholarship Recipient,  
Alumni, Donor*

**\$288,000+**

provided by donors to support students through scholarships, endowments, and emergency grants.



**GIVE WHERE YOU LIVE**

The return on your investment at MTC is faster than any other higher education institution in the Midlands. Our college helps shape a world-class workforce, increasing the economic value and social vitality of the communities you call home. When you give to MTC, you are investing directly into the Midlands' future.



## MTC RECEIVES \$10,000 FROM DOMINION ENERGY TO EXPAND WELDING PROGRAMS

Fall 2019

The MTC Foundation received a \$10,000 grant from Dominion Energy that will enable the college's welding program to expand capacity for students. The funding will provide five additional welding machines that will bring the latest technology to students who need these advanced skills.

"Philanthropic investment from businesses, foundations, and individuals is a smart and fulfilling way to leverage the power of MTC to strengthen our communities," said Nancy McKinney, CEO of the MTC Foundation. "Companies like Dominion Energy make it possible for MTC students to accomplish more in the classroom and bring more skills into the community."

Providing skilled employees for the manufacturing sector has become a hallmark of MTC.

"Dominion Energy is proud to continue our longstanding partnership with Midlands Technical College by helping to develop a pipeline of skilled welders who will be ready to enter South Carolina's workforce," said Rodney Blevins, President and CEO of Dominion Energy's Southeast Energy Group. "Partnerships like this align nicely with our commitment to education and our efforts to enhance the overall vitality in the communities we serve."



## "PROOF" IN BUSINESS ACCELERATOR

Fall 2019

PROOF Alcohol Ice Cream has been named the 2019 South Carolina State Chamber of Commerce's Product Innovation Award winner. PROOF is manufactured inside the Midlands Technical College Business Accelerator. The Accelerator is designed to accommodate emerging businesses.

PROOF Alcohol Ice Cream was created in Columbia in 2015, and moved to the MTC Accelerator in August 2017. PROOF is the first alcohol ice cream of its kind. Founder Jenn Randall-Collins was introduced to the idea from a family recipe. By combining premium alcohol and proprietary processing, the specialty product has created a bold, new dessert category. PROOF has grown significantly as a result of operating in the MTC Business Accelerator.

"We signed a partnership in Lowe's [Foods], and we are rolling out to all 90 stores. We already rolled out to Raleigh and the Winston-Salem market and here in the Midlands," Randall-Collins said.

## MTC ALUM FACILITATES \$500,000 EQUIPMENT LOAN FOR STUDENTS

Fall 2019

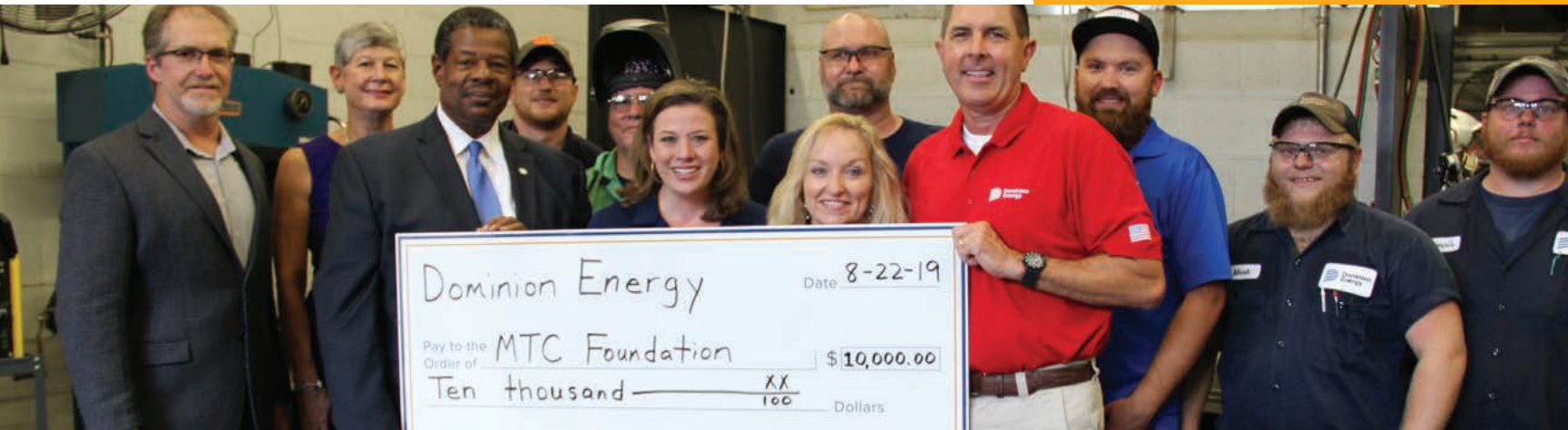
With the evolution of the surveying industry comes the need for future registered professional land surveyors, and MTC alumnus Henry Dingle knew the perfect pathway for those professionals could be found in the expansion of MTC's Civil Engineering Technology program.

Dingle reached out to Leica, a company that manufactures tools used for surveying, to help secure \$500,000 worth of new equipment for the program.

"I think that this equipment is something that gives the Civil Engineering Technology program credibility," said Dingle. "This is going to be a great program; there's no question about it. Everybody's trying to get on board because they see how important this can be for the school and the community."

When asked why he decided to give back to MTC in such a considerable way, Dingle said he believes it's essential for people to get involved in order to leave their mark on others.

"What's better than helping to educate someone so they can take care of themselves and their families for the rest of their lives?" he said. "I'm not any more special than anyone else, I've just decided to do something, and I've done it, that's all."

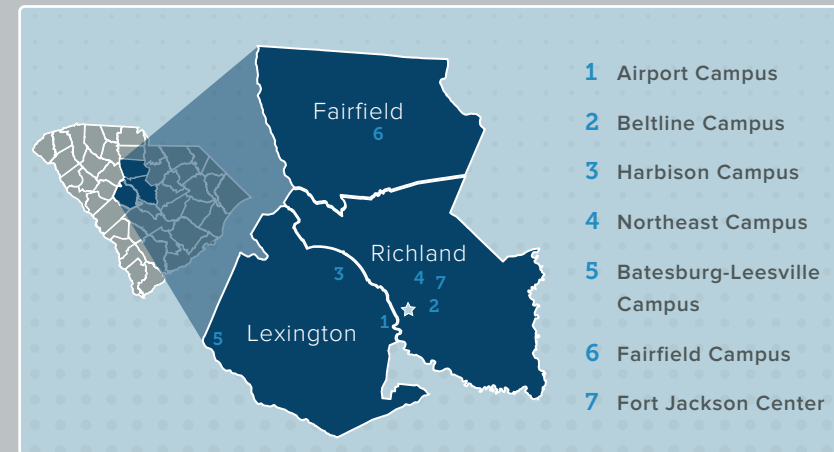


**MISSION** | Midlands Technical College is a comprehensive, multi-campus, two-year public college serving the primary region of Richland, Lexington and Fairfield counties of South Carolina. College programs and services provide accessible, affordable, quality education that prepares a diverse student population to succeed in the job market, to transfer to four-year colleges and universities, and to achieve their professional and personal goals. The college equitably provides higher education opportunities that stimulate the local economy by generating a world-class workforce and enhancing the social vitality of the community.

**\$1 BILLION**  
ANNUAL ECONOMIC IMPACT IN THE CENTRAL MIDLANDS

**25,000+** students served annually

**13,000+** Academic and Dual Enrollment students | **12,000+** Corporate and Continuing Education students



**594** credentialed and experienced full-time and adjunct faculty. MTC students have more personalized contact with faculty members compared to national peer colleges.

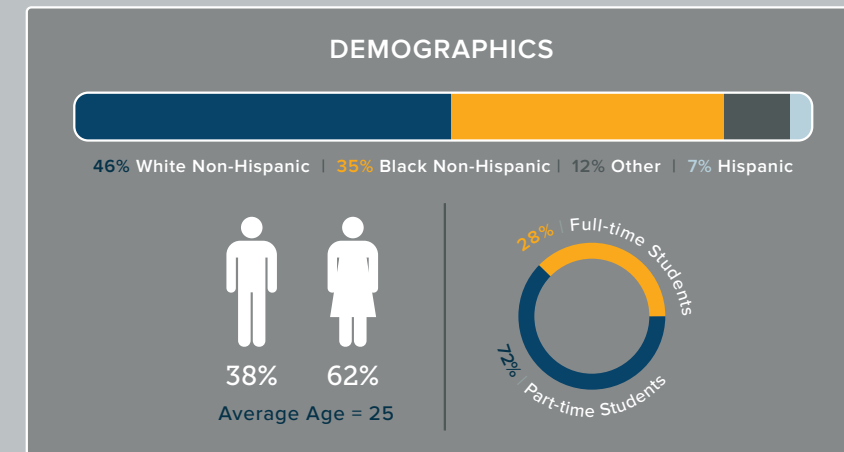
**95%** of MTC graduates are employed or continuing their education within six months of graduation.

**1,200+** dedicated high school students enrolled in MTC's Spring and Fall semester Dual Enrollment programs to get a jump start on their college education.

**80,000+** MTC ALUMNI

**{ 150+ }** degree, diploma, and certificate programs offered in 8 Schools of Study

- > The School of Advanced Manufacturing and Skilled Trades
- > The School of Business
- > The School of Education and Public Service
- > The School of English and Humanities
- > The School of Health Care
- > The School of Science, Information Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- > The School of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- > The School of Interdisciplinary Studies



**MTC is one of:**

- > the largest providers of higher education in South Carolina.
- > the largest providers of transfer students to four-year colleges and universities in South Carolina.
- > the largest and most comprehensive Corporate and Continuing Education divisions in the Palmetto State.

**5,500+** individuals were sponsored by over 100 businesses in the Midlands to receive customized training in Corporate and Continuing Education.

**More than 1,400** students received **\$6 million+** in LIFE scholarships in the 2019-2020 academic year. On average, an eligible full-time MTC student receives \$5,000 in LIFE Scholarship money per year.

**STUDENTS CAN SAVE UP TO \$40,000 PER YEAR** on tuition and fees by attending MTC instead of other in-state colleges and universities.

Approximately **\$3,848** per semester with 12 credit hours

**92%** overall licensure pass rate for MTC's first-time test takers





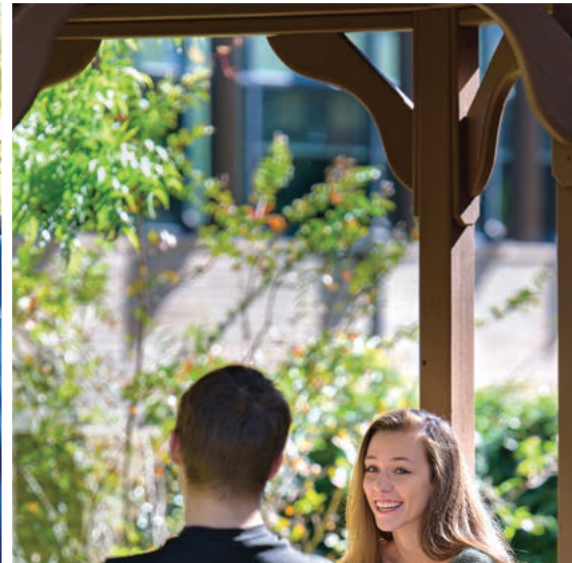
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MTC received zero recommendations in its last three accreditation reviews.



## MTC SCORES A PERFECT ZERO

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) held its expansive 10-year reaccreditation review of all MTC programs and services. The college was found in complete compliance with all SACSCOC criteria, and in a result that is extremely rare, MTC also received zero recommendations for improvement.



**"This zero findings confirms that MTC is staying the course with the highest standards of teaching and learning to the ultimate benefit of our students and our community."**

*President Ronald L. Rhames  
Midlands Technical College*



## HELPING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH CAREER PATHWAYS

Fall 2019

**Lexington School District Two students have an added advantage when taking courses that align with sets of career-pathway courses at Midlands Technical College.** The two institutions signed an agreement in Fall 2019, stating MTC will award academic dual-credit or exemption credit for specified courses taken by Lexington School District Two students who are pursuing academic and/or career program pathways. These students will be able to earn their academic credentials sooner and move into high-demand careers more quickly.

“This is an outstanding opportunity for our students to save time and money in pursuit of their careers and certainly is a testament to the fine job that our instructors are doing at the Innovation Center,” Superintendent Dr. William B. James said. “This partnership will allow Midlands Technical College to have a pipeline of advanced students who’ve already experienced instruction in their chosen fields.”

The new agreement will help Lexington Two students advance along career pathways such as engineering technologies, various aspects of business, information technology, health care, and a number of careers in the industrial and building industry.

## MTC RECEIVES THE GOLD STANDARD OF REGIONAL ACCREDITATION

Fall 2019

**The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges has confirmed that MTC is continuing the tradition of achieving the highest standards of teaching and learning.**

“I am pleased and proud that Midlands Technical College has once again received zero recommendations from the SACSCOC reaccreditation report. This exceptional achievement reflects the quality and commitment of our extraordinary faculty, staff and Commission, and it repeats our zero recommendations from the 2015 fifth-year interim report, and the zero findings in the 2010 reaccreditation review,” said President Rhames.

Accreditation by SACSCOC is significant because it not only provides students with the ability to transfer courses between SACSCOC-accredited institutions, it also ensures continuous compliance with a series of strict criteria based on detailed guidelines that guarantee institutions are alert to any modifications that can help aid in student success.

“At MTC, we like to say ‘You can get anywhere from here.’ That promise is enabled to a large extent by the SACSCOC intensive reviews and accreditation process. From validating faculty credentials to examining programmatic learning outcomes, the review takes a deep dive into all of the college’s activities. The end result affirms the exceptional job MTC is doing in providing outstanding higher education services to our community,” said Rhames.

## BRIDGING THE GAP

Fall 2019

**The MTC Foundation received a \$5,000 gift from Synovus to support the Bridging the Gap Fund that provides financial assistance to students who need a small amount of financial help to stay on track toward academic success and career preparation.**

“Midlands Technical College is a vital source of job training and career preparation for the Midlands,” said John Griggs, Synovus Central Region Executive. “We are proud to help make these services available by supporting the Bridging the Gap fund.”

This valuable initiative helps students bridge the gap between what financial aid covers and their cost of education, allowing them to complete their program.



## SINGING TOGETHER, HISTORY IS MADE

Harbison Theatre at MTC was proud to host South Carolina's HBCU gospel choirs in "Gospel Live," a celebration and tribute to Black History Month. The colleges united on the HT@MTC stage for a historic finale.



**"The significance of this event was groundbreaking, and it truly was a special night."**

*Kristin Cobb | Executive Director, HT@MTC*

The 5th Annual Harbison History Day celebrated Black History Month by welcoming alumni of Harbison Institute, a school that was located on the site of MTC's Harbison Campus from 1911-1958.







# 5TH ANNUAL HARBISON HISTORY DAY

Winter 2019-2020

MTC also honored Black History Month by welcoming graduates of Harbison Institute back to the site of their school, which was located on the Midlands Technical College Harbison Campus. The Institute provided African-American students educational opportunities during a time when options were limited.

“We gather at Harbison each year to remember the significant role Harbison Institute played in the evolution of higher education for African-Americans. It is an honor to welcome back the alumni, whose ages range up to 103 years old, and celebrate their courage and impact,” said Rhames.

In the days of racial segregation, graduates of Harbison Institute successfully went on to become distinguished teachers, lawyers, and civic leaders who greatly advanced the vitality and cultural heritage of South Carolina.



# CATCH THE COMET

Summer 2019

MTC announced that all current MTC students, faculty, and staff can ride The COMET transit bus for free. Riders can catch The COMET 24/7, on any route throughout the Midlands, with a current MTC ID card.

# HT@MTC HOSTS HISTORIC PERFORMANCE OF HBCU CHOIRS

Winter 2019-2020

During Black History Month, Harbison Theatre was proud to host South Carolina’s HBCU gospel choirs, which included Allen University, Benedict College, Clinton College, Denmark Technical College, Morris College, South Carolina State University, and Voorhees College. Each choir performed its own set. Then, there was a historic ensemble medley at the end of the performance in the intimate HT@MTC venue.

“The impact of this powerful show not only touched the people in the audience but the HBCU community as a whole,” said President Rhames.

The event sold out quickly, and for good reason. Rarely do choirs like this come together in one space for one performance. The theatre was filled to capacity on the night of the show, and the energy in the room was undeniable.

“Music is my life’s journey,” says Kabra Benford, Director of the Benedict College Gospel Choir. He continues, “Gospel music is the center of who I am. The opportunity to share that with this great group of students is such an overwhelming joy.”



# CAPITAL PARTNERSHIP

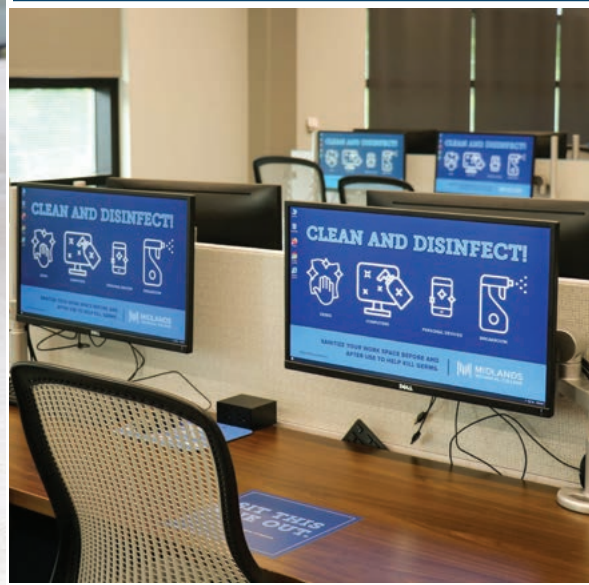
Winter 2019-2020

The City of Columbia and the MTC Enterprise Campus Authority (ECA) have entered into a joint arrangement that elevates the economic development opportunities for the Capital City and fosters growth of the MTC Business Accelerator and Industrial Park.

“Thanks this tremendous partnership, we are now able to offer the only Class-A industrial park in South Carolina’s capital,” said Chuck Whipple, ECA Executive Director.



**0**  
 academic courses cancelled in  
 spring semester as a result of  
 COVID-19.



**100%**  
 percent of spring semester  
 classes transitioned to  
 alternative instruction in an  
 online environment.

*"From day one, MTC faculty and staff have proven their commitment to student success by the way they handled the COVID-19 crisis. I cannot express my gratitude enough for their effort and dedication to our students and our mission."*

*Dr. Ronald L. Rhames  
 MTC President*

**OVERCOMING THE UNIMAGINABLE**

May 2020 marked the culmination of a school year like we have never seen before. While navigating so many uncertainties, one truth became evident – no challenge is too great for the Midlands Technical College community.

# STUDENTS PERSEVERED AND COMPLETED THEIR EDUCATIONAL GOALS

Spring 2020

Midlands Technical College (MTC) awarded almost 2,000 degrees, diplomas, and certificates to students from more than 90 academic programs. Additionally, 85 college degrees and certificates were awarded to dually enrolled high school students.

“Students who completed their work in the midst of this pandemic are to be commended. It is a tremendous accomplishment,” said President Rhames.

“Our leadership recognizes the dedication and perseverance of our students. Despite this unprecedented crisis, they finished what they started. Our graduates overcame unimaginable obstacles and achieved their goals. They are proof that at MTC, you can get anywhere from here – even in the most unbelievable times.”

While the May commencement event had to be postponed, a virtual event in December will honor students who completed their academic coursework in the Fall of 2019, Spring of 2020, Summer of 2020, and Fall of 2020.



# THE RITEDOSE RESPONSE

Spring 2020

The anchor tenant of the MTC Industrial Park altered its operations in response to the pandemic. The Ritedose Corporation scaled up production of hand sanitizer and then donated more than 6,000 liters to local hospitals, veteran’s hospitals, long-term care facilities, and rehabilitation facilities. TRC also sewed and donated headbands with buttons on the side to help alleviate ear fatigue while wearing masks, and provided solution for a rapid COVID-19 Test Kit.

“At TRC, we always ask ourselves, what can we do? We know that the community needs us. However, our TRC family members also need us. When the current COVID-19 crisis first started impacting our employees’ ability to get hand sanitizer, the decision was made. As we scaled up production of sanitizer, it became clear that hospitals and front-line providers have a critical need; a need we could help fill,” said Jody Chastain, President and CEO at The Ritedose Corporation.



# NEW PROGRAM HELPS FILL PARAMEDIC SHORTAGE

Spring 2020

Due to a nationwide demand for trained first responders, MTC launched a new Paramedic program to help combat the critical shortage. The nine-month class trains students to be multi-skilled first responders and is the only program based out of a technical college in the Midlands.



## MTC RANKS NATIONALLY IN DIVERSITY EDUCATION

*Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* ranked MTC as one of the top colleges in the nation for African-American students earning associate degrees. Five MTC career areas were in the top 25. This is the 10th consecutive year MTC has been designated as a top 100 associate degree producer among the approximately 1,200 technical and community colleges in the country.



MTC donated more than  
**35,000**  
medical supplies to the local  
health care community.



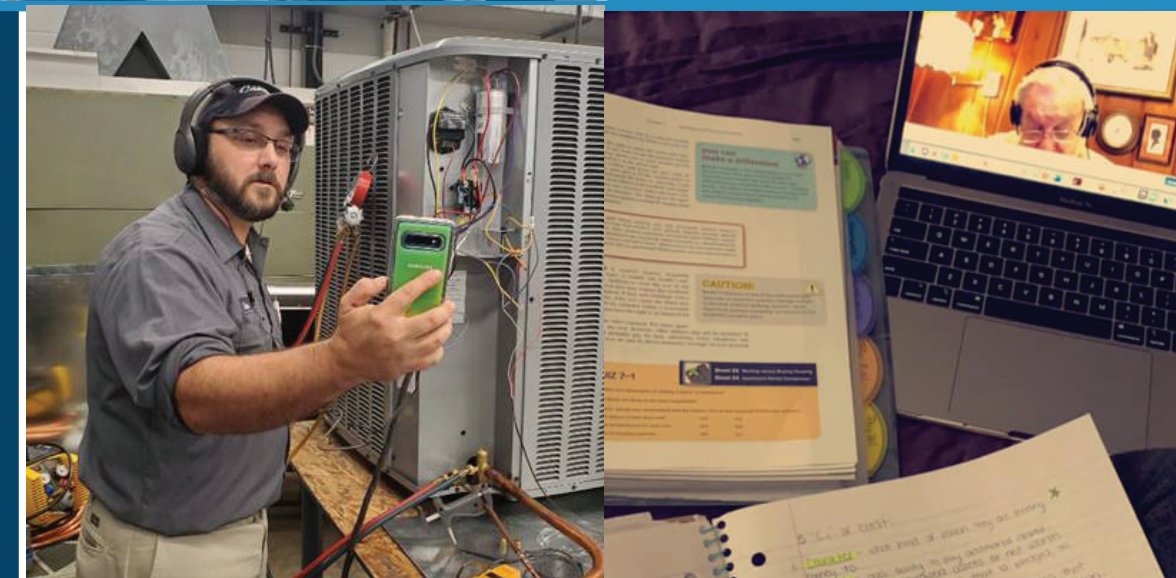
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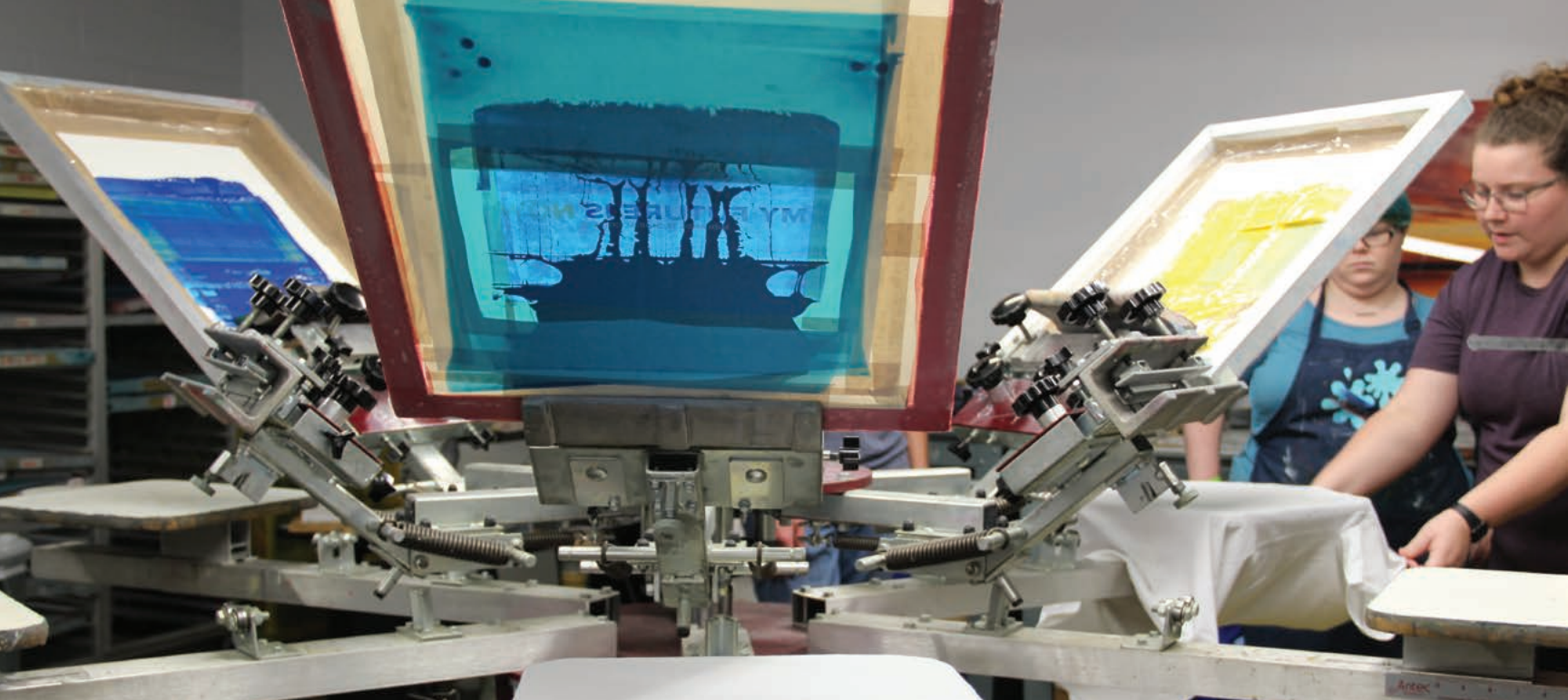
of Midlands Youth Apprenticeship high school students completed their programs virtually in partnership with the Columbia Chamber, MTC, Apprenticeship Carolina, and participating Midlands school districts and employers.



**7,600,000+**

minutes of course instruction and college operations conducted virtually during Spring 2020.





*During the Summer 2019 PACT Institute, students toured MTC's Commercial Graphics facility and printed T-shirts with the help of MTC faculty and students.*

## DONATIONS BOOST PROGRAM FOR FOSTER CARE STUDENTS

*Spring 2020*

**The Prioritizing Academics and Career Training program (PACT) has received new financial support. The PACT program, which was originally funded by the Google Impact Challenge, supports approximately 50 foster youth, ages 16-21 in the Midlands area, by helping them transition from high school to post-secondary education, to placement into high-growth, high-demand occupations. New investments for the PACT program came from the Lipscomb Family Foundation, the Nord Family Foundation, and the International Paper Foundation.**

“The generous gifts totaled more than \$44,000, and the donations help make education opportunities available to young people who might otherwise not envision themselves completing an associate’s degree or earning certification in a career training program,” said Nancy McKinney, CEO of the Midlands Technical College Foundation.

Funding makes it possible for MTC to provide each PACT student with a personal support coach to guide him or her toward academic and career goals, in addition to stipends and emergency funds. PACT funding also supports community outreach to expand a network of social service and state agencies.

## MTC FREEZES TUITION AND FOCUSES ON SAFETY

*Spring 2020*

**In June 2020, Midlands Technical College announced a tuition freeze through the end of the year.**

“The pandemic shook South Carolina’s workforce in historic ways,” said MTC Commission Chair Margaret Holmes. “We feel it is necessary to do everything we can from an affordability and accessibility standpoint so that as many people as possible can receive the career-based learning necessary for a prosperous livelihood.”

Also in June, MTC began bringing employees and students back to campus in phases. Proactive safety measures included new signage, reconfiguration of desks and other classroom furniture, as well as protective barriers in high-risk areas.

“Since this started, the well-being of students and employees has been our highest priority,” said President Rhames.

“I am proud of how the college is coming together to shift back to on-campus operations while implementing the recommendations from DHEC and the CDC.”



## LANDER AND MTC PARTNER TO ADVANCE EDUCATION

*Spring 2020*

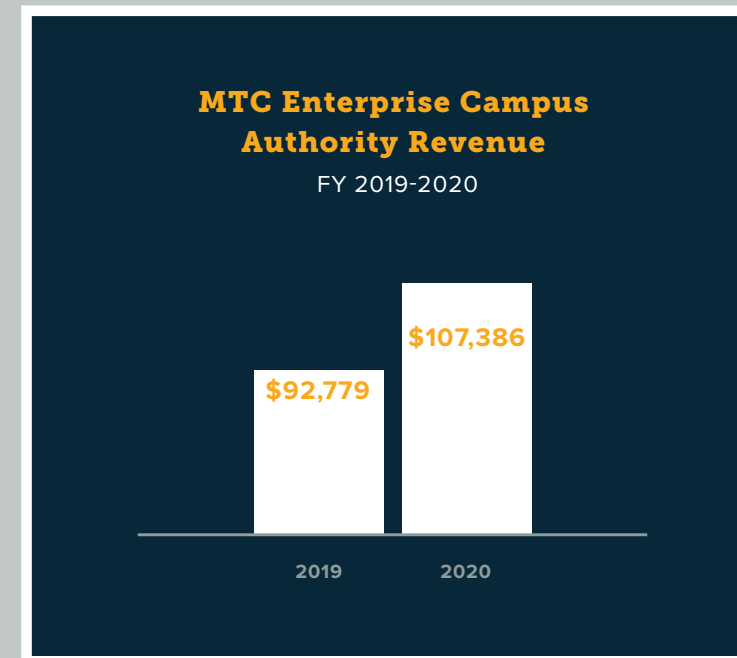
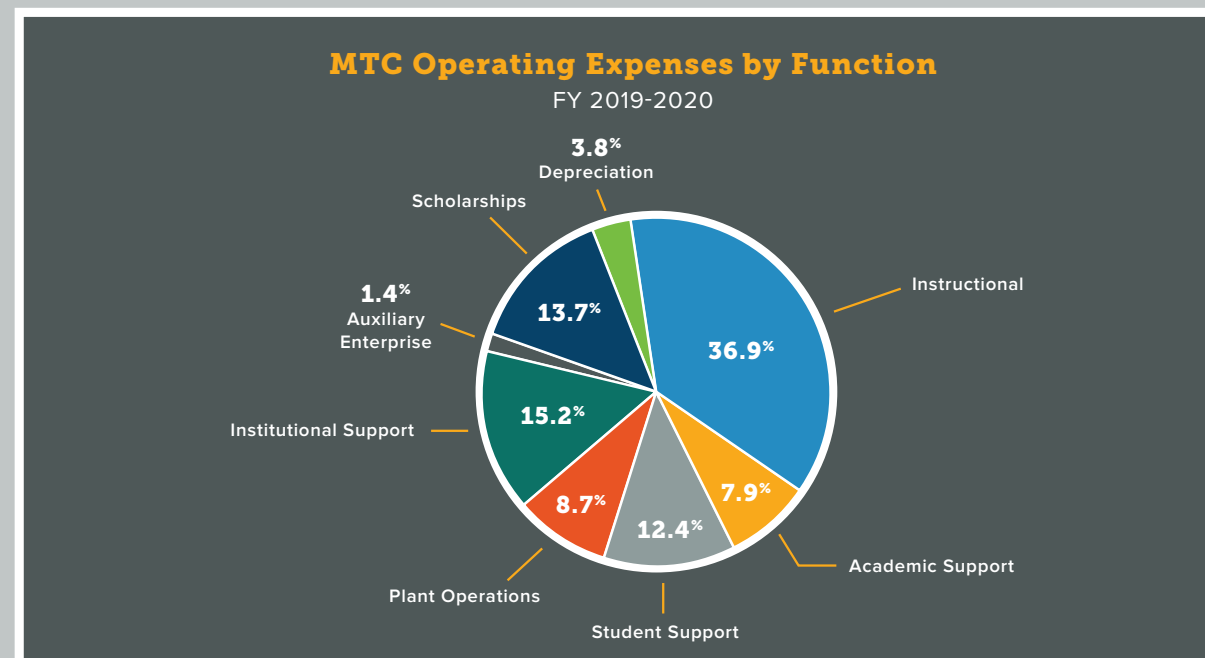
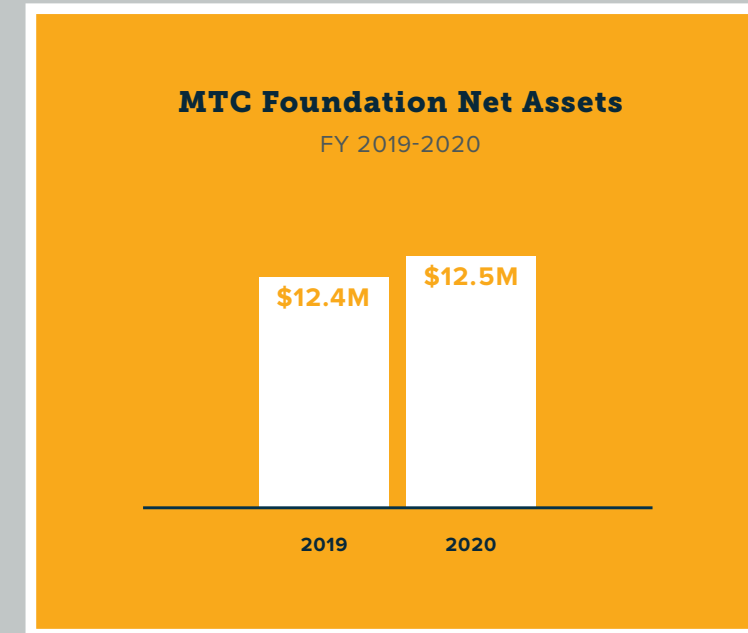
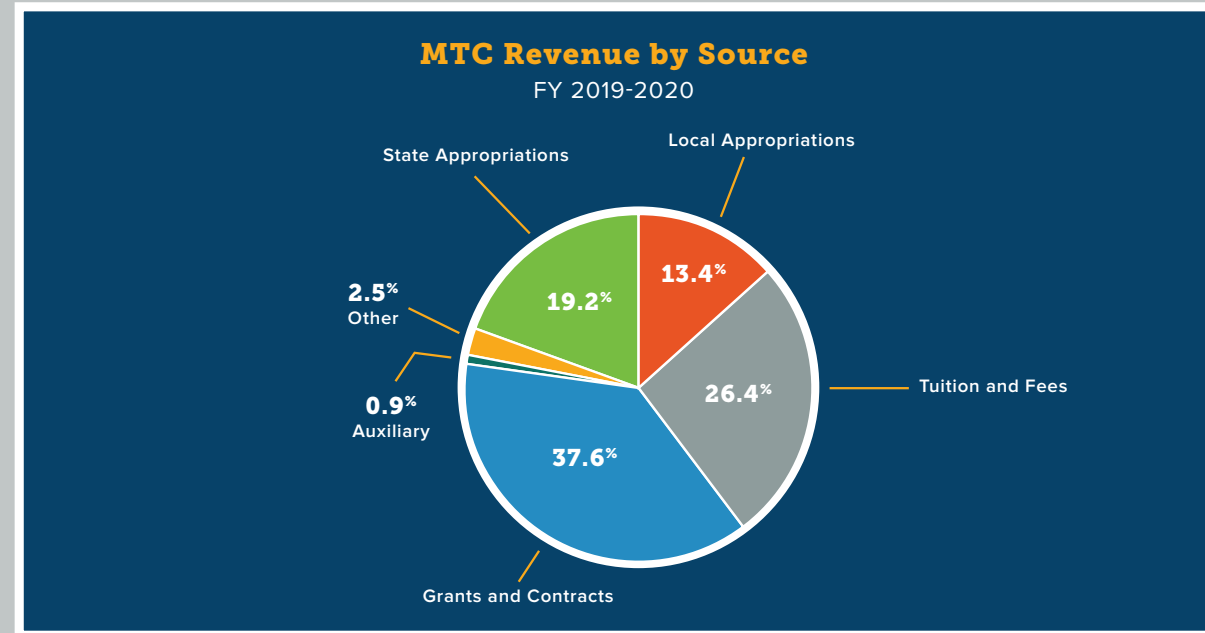
**Lander University and MTC have formed a partnership that will allow MTC students to easily transfer their credits to Lander, entering as juniors.**

“This articulation agreement means our Human Services and Paralegal Studies graduates can seamlessly transfer all of their credits to academic programs at Lander. It is an exceptional opportunity for students to complete their associate degree at MTC and continue their higher education journey,” said Larry Saunders, Dean of the School of Education and Public Service at MTC.

“Lander is excited about welcoming graduates of MTC to our programs and know that they come well-prepared for success at Lander,” said Dr. Lucas McMillan, Dean of Lander’s College of Behavioral and Social Sciences.

# Midlands Technical College Financials

The Government Finance Officer Association awarded MTC the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for fiscal year 2018-2019. This is the 24th consecutive year MTC has received the prestigious national award for its financial reporting.



# Midlands Technical College Foundation

Donors invest in MTC because their money stays in the Midlands, their investment goes further, and their legacy to their family and friends means something.

## QUICKJOBS FUNDING HELPS PREPARE CITIZENS FOR THE CHANGING JOB MARKET

Between now and the year 2022, it's estimated that 82 percent of all job openings in South Carolina will require a two-year education or a specialized certificate or training. QuickJobs programs prioritize students' time, so they can receive the skilled training quickly and begin taking advantage of available job opportunities.

Bank of America Foundation provided \$43,000 in its role as a key supporter of programs that directly connect students to job training in high-demand fields. Bank of America and its Foundation have funded QuickJobs scholarships since 2012, including earmarking some money specifically for use by veterans.

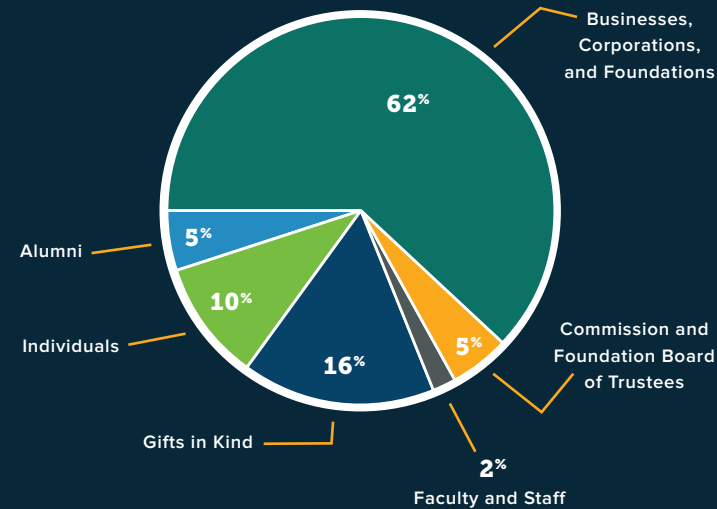
Wells Fargo and its Foundation also have a long record of investment in career training, in addition to their support of youth apprenticeships. Wells Fargo and its Foundation provided \$50,000 in QuickJobs funding.



Eight out of 10 MTC students rely on financial aid. As public funding dwindles, the need for scholarships to close the affordability gap increases.

## Foundation Fundraising Segments

FY 2019-2020



**\$786,120 Total New Gifts Received**  
(cash and stocks, pledges, and gifts in kind)

## STUDENT SUPPORT | FY 2019-2020

Endowed Scholarships	\$71,600
Non-Endowed Scholarships	\$36,587
QuickJobs Scholarships	\$158,358
Midlands Youth Apprenticeship	\$15,302
Emergency Grants/Aid	\$6,356

**TOTAL \$288,203**

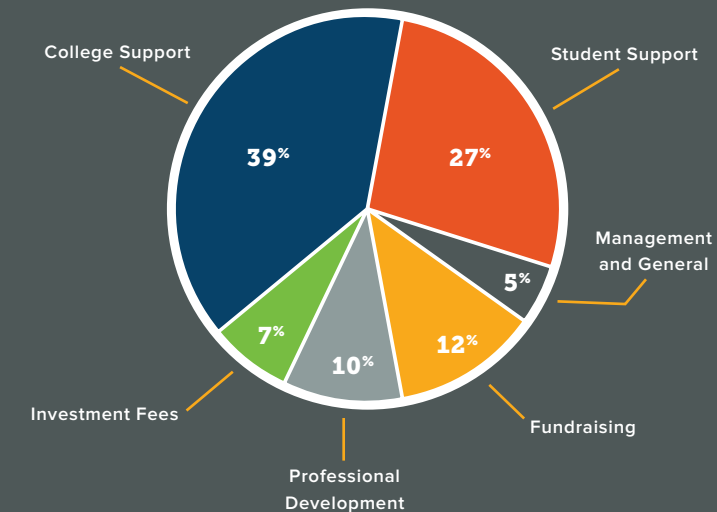
# THANK YOU!

**\$81,164**  
TOTAL GIFTS

**ONEMTC** Campaign support from MTC's faculty and staff reached a record high showing a shared commitment to the college's mission and vision.

## Foundation Expense Allocation

FY 2019-2020



## NEWLY ESTABLISHED FUNDS

- > Dr. Barry Russell Scholarship
- > Emergency Grants Endowment
- > Fairfield School District Promise Program Endowment
- > John and Carrie Adams Scholarship Endowment
- > Sabrina Brown Scholarship Fund
- > Sandra and Norman Jackson Scholarship
- > Sean Michael Blackmer Scholarship
- > Strategic Development Group QuickJobs Scholarship

## CONTACT THE MTC FOUNDATION

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Tom Schlichtman, Executive Director of Development | 803.732.5239 | schlichtmant@midlandstech.edu

Jason Boice, Senior Director of Development | 803.732.5330 | boicej@midlandstech.edu

## Midlands Technical College Grants | FY 2019-2020

**Grants support the mission and vision of Midlands Technical College.** Grant awards help students cover the cost of tuition and books, as well as support student services, curriculum, professional development, campus safety, and equipment.

### MTC New Competitive Grant Awards

**\$500,000**

**Funding Source:** U.S. Department of Labor/Apprenticeship Carolina Subaward

**Program Title:** *Youth Apprenticeship Readiness*

**Purpose:** Partners with Apprenticeship Carolina/S.C. Technical College System to create career pathways that encompass registered apprenticeships aligned with post-secondary education. Innovative strategies will help scale registered apprenticeship opportunities for underrepresented, low-income, foster care and other youth, aged 16-24, over the four-year grant performance period.

**\$30,000**

**Funding Source:** Nord Family Foundation

**Program Title:** *Education*

**Purpose:** Supports prioritizing academics and career training for young adults in foster care.

**\$7,000**

**Funding Source:** Lipscomb Family Foundation

**Program Title:** *General Grants*

**Purpose:** Supports the Prioritizing Academics and Career Training at Midlands Technical College (PACT@MTC) program, which serves foster youth ages 16-21.

**\$2,849**

**Funding Source:** National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE)

**Program Title:** *Financial Management for Entrepreneurs Curriculum Initiative - Phase II*

**Purpose:** Incorporates new online curriculum in business courses to increase knowledge and use of business software for educators and students. MTC is one of 11 community colleges selected in this national grant competition.

**\$100,000**

**Funding Source:** Apprenticeship Carolina/SC State Technical College System

**Program Title:** *Apprenticeship Carolina Expanded (ACE)*

**Purpose:** Creates new Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) in Auto Body to enroll both youth and adults, and it creates new RAPs to enroll adults in HVAC programs. The funding will provide tuition scholarships and books for this CCE training.

**\$100,000**

**Funding Source:** Duke Endowment/SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, Division of EMS and Trauma

**Program Title:** *Health Care Grants, Improving the Quality and Safety of Health Care*

**Purpose:** Enables the purchase of video laryngoscope equipment for use in the Emergency Medical Technician program.

**\$25,000**

**Funding Source:** American Welding Society Foundation

**Program Title:** *Welding Workforce Grant*

**Purpose:** Purchases five new multi-process welders that provide greater efficiencies by allowing students to train without rotating among single process machines. The grant will make it possible to increase enrollment and serve more welding students, increase the number of graduates as more students are served, and increase the number students placed in welding jobs.

**\$194,736**

**Funding Source:** Apprenticeship Carolina/S.C. Technical College System

**Program Title:** *Apprenticeship Evolved 2.0*

**Purpose:** Serve as pre-apprenticeships for high school students interested in exploring information technology or emergency medical technician careers.

**\$1,000**

**Funding Source:** S.C. Arts Commission

**Program Title:** *Art Project Support Grants*

**Purpose:** Supports the MTC ArtWorks project that utilizes creative arts and hands-on art therapy activities teaching stress management skills and providing information on student disability services at MTC.

**\$24,508**

**Funding Source:** Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation

**Program Title:** *Public Safety Grants*

**Purpose:** Purchases 15 Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for MTC campuses.



**\$15.7  
million**

Continuing Multi-year Competitive Grants | FY 2019-2020





# Midlands Technical College Leadership

## MTC Commission



**Margaret Holmes**  
Chair



**Robert Lentz**



**Robert Wilkins, Jr.**



**Katie Bolden**



**Ronald Burkett**



**Randall (Mack) Jackson**



**Todd Sease**  
Vice Chair



**George (Garry) Powers** | Past Chair



**Diane Sumpter**



**Pamela Harrison**



**Sandra Jackson**  
Treasurer



**Paula Hite**  
Secretary



**John (Jake) Knotts**

## MTC Foundation Board of Trustees



**Scott Adams**  
Chair



**Barbara Blau**



**James Braun**



**Krystal Conner**



**Tomothy Edmond**



**Kristi Eidson**



**Gwen Hampton**



**Tamara Henderson**



**Solomon Jackson, Jr.**



**Walter (Joe) Johnson**



**Willis Langley, III**



**Lasenta Lewis-Ellis**



**Joseph Powers**



**Christian Stormer**



**Gerald (Jerry) Sweetland**



**David Woolard**

## MTC Executive Council and President's Staff



**Ronald Rhames**  
President



**Mary Holloway**  
Vice President  
for Student  
Development  
Services



**Starnell Bates**  
Vice President for  
Institutional Support



**Barrie Kirk**  
Provost



**Shickre Sabbagha**  
Director of  
Student Retention



**Debbie Walker**  
Vice President for  
Business Affairs



**Chuck Whipple**  
Executive Director,  
Economic  
Development/  
Enterprise  
Campus Authority



**Stefanie Goebeler**  
Assistant Vice  
President for  
Marketing  
Communications



**Nancy McKinney**  
Associate Vice  
President for  
Philanthropy/CEO,  
MTC Foundation



**Drew Newton**  
Director of  
Academic and  
Career Advising



**Joseph Bias**  
General Counsel



**Kim Boatwright**  
Executive Assistant  
to the President



13,625



3,668



2,004



25,470

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