

State Accountability Report 2018 - 2019

Midlands Technical College

Dr. Ronald L. Rhames, President

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The vision of Midlands Technical College (MTC) is to be a premier higher education partner that creates innovative learning environments, promotes individual and business success, drives economic vitality, and enhances quality of life. With the implementation of its strategic planning model in 1984, the college developed systematic and on-going performance review systems across the institution to evaluate the success in each of these areas.

Through its strategic planning process, the college states its mission as: *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.*

The 2018-2021 Midlands Technical College Strategic Plan was prepared to bolster MTC's role in economic development and workforce preparedness through student success, and to build an improved and sustainable college infrastructure. Programs and services from all areas of MTC will be reviewed and enhanced to meet the Goal of **Ensuring Student Success and College Sustainability**. The 2018-2021 MTC Strategic Plan established four Focus Goals and twelve initiatives to measure success on achieving its mission. This report summarizes the college's major successes throughout the 2018 - 2019 academic year and the findings for several of its student success criteria.

Focus Goal: Enrollment

Initiatives:

- Increase yield of recent high school graduates
- Increase enrollment of new and first-time adult student learners
- Increase percentage of admitted to enrolled students

Focus Goal: Advisement

Initiatives:

- Reduce the number of first semester students not meeting the college's standards for academic progress
- Increase average student credit hours

Focus Goal: Retention

Initiatives:

- Increase success in targeted gateway courses
- Increase Fall to Spring persistence
- Increase the graduation rate of the first-time, full-time freshmen

Focus Goal: Sustainability and Resources

Initiatives:

- Decrease expenses
- Increase revenue
- Automate three manual processes per fiscal year
- Increase interaction with business (Increase student placement rate by Fall 2021)

Institutional Highlights 2018 - 2019

- Midlands Technical College (MTC) awarded nearly 2,400 degrees, diplomas, and certificates to students from nearly 100 academic programs during its May 2019 commencement. At the ceremony, 85 high school students earned their college degrees in the same year they earned their high school diplomas. This marks the largest number of dual-enrollment graduates in the college's history.
- For the first time in history, the 2019 high school graduating class from Fairfield County has the opportunity to attend MTC free thanks to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by MTC, Fairfield County School District, and Fairfield County. The Fairfield County Promise Program is a scholarship funded through the county and the school district in partnership with MTC that covers the cost of tuition.
- MTC helped local businesses create more than 173 new apprenticeships in a variety of different industries including healthcare, manufacturing, and information technology. Apprenticeships are a fast-growing workforce development strategy that helps employers provide a talent pipeline for difficult-to-fill positions.
- The Ritedose Corporation (TRC) became the first company to open a facility at the MTC Enterprise Campus. TRC's 150,000-square-foot facility is the anchor tenant on the MTC Enterprise Campus, a 130-acre industrial park for industries looking for prime-development space and partnership with a technically focused academic institution. The Enterprise Campus also became the newest center of operations for the French-based company Bluestar of Monaco. Bluestar is one of the world's most trusted forensic technology producers for the criminal investigation community.
- Furthering its partnership and commitment to the local military community, MTC signed an agreement to award college credits to soldiers training at the US Army Financial Management School on Fort Jackson. Credits soldiers earn from their military training will apply toward an associate degree or certificate in accounting from MTC.
- The South Carolina State Technical College System awarded Midlands Technical College's Building Occupational Opportunities in the Midlands, or BOOM Program, the best collaborative and innovative program at any of South Carolina's technical colleges. BOOM is a highly successful construction job-training program for high school students with disabilities.
- Midlands Technical College partnered with five area high school Career and Technology Education Centers and 12 industry partners to move technically talented high school students quickly into great-paying jobs in the local manufacturing industry. The Pathways to Manufacturing Careers @ MTC helps students complete their coursework while giving them hands-on experience with local businesses as they take classes at MTC.
- Many MTC students became eligible for additional scholarship funding, making MTC even more affordable. The new scholarship program called the SC Workforce and Industrial Needs Scholarship (SC WINS), is aimed at filling workforce shortages in the state.
- MTC hosted more than 100 higher education professionals for the seventh annual Southeastern Assessment Institute. The Institute is a two-day event where participants learn to specify what students will know, be able to do, or be able to demonstrate when they have completed or participated in a program or activity and assess their performance.

- MTC's launched a new Renewable Energy Technician Certificate program that teaches students to install, service, and troubleshoot renewable energy systems to include solar and wind. This is a stand-alone certificate that gives students employable skills in just two semesters.
- Midlands Technical College partnered with the University of South Carolina (UofSC) to make it easier and less expensive for students to enter high-demand, high-paying engineering fields. The agreement creates a clear path for students earning associate degrees at MTC to transfer into bachelor's degree programs at UofSC in multiple engineering and computing disciplines.
- MTC received \$60,000 from the Gene Haas Foundation to provide tuition assistance for students in MTC Advanced Manufacturing programs. Haas presented two \$30,000 checks to support both MTC's Academic and Corporate and Continuing Education (CCE) programs. The college also received a grant from BAE Systems to support the college's Machine Tool Technology program.
- Midlands Technical College partnered with high-school-level welding programs in Lexington, Richland, and Fairfield counties to make it easier, quicker, and less expensive for students to become certified welders. The partnership will help fill the local workforce demand with welding professionals with some of the highest levels of training and certification.
- The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations awarded Midlands Technical College two Paragon Awards for outstanding achievement in marketing and communications. NCMPR's Paragon Awards recognize excellence in design and communication at community and technical colleges. MTC was the only college in South Carolina to earn a Paragon Award this year.
- *Military Times* selected MTC as a "Best College for Veterans" for 2019. MTC was the only two-year college in South Carolina to receive this designation.
- The MTC Chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) celebrated the induction of 57 new student members. In addition to honorable distinction for students, the NSLS provides a step-by-step program to build their leadership skills.
- Midlands Technical College hosted "Get Psyched with MTC 2019." The conference featured free workshops on mental health topics that impact the community as well as an acclaimed multimedia exhibit that has traveled to more than 30 cities.
- MTC officially named the president's executive boardroom on its Beltline Campus as the Dr. Peter E. Sercer, Sr. Executive Board Room. Sercer, who passed away in 2018, served as an MTC Commissioner for more than 26 years and is the only MTC Commissioner Emeritus.
- To commemorate Black History Month and the long tradition of multicultural education offered at the Harbison Campus, MTC invited alumni of the historic Harbison Institute back to campus to preview a local art exhibit dedicated to the impact slavery had on African-American children.

Student Success Criteria

Fall to Spring Persistence Rates

MTC established the Fall to Spring persistence rate of 71% (+-5%) as the success criteria. Since 2013, MTC successfully met the established criteria.

Table 1. Fall to Spring Persistence Rates

MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE - FALL TO SPRING PERSISTENCE RATES					
Term	Fall Cohort	Fall Graduates	Adjusted Cohort	Spring Retention	
				N	%
Fall 2013	11,304	570	10,734	7,706	71.8%
Fall 2014	10,892	496	10,396	7,478	71.9%
Fall 2015	10,356	468	9,888	7,157	72.4%
Fall 2016	10,074	539	9,535	6,812	71.4%
Fall 2017	9,932	489	9,443	6,494	68.8%

Source: Fall data was derived from CERS closing extract. Spring data was derived from CERS opening extract. Graduate data was derived from the CERS graduate extract.

Student Success Rates

The MTC student success rate percentage must fall between the CHE success rates of 30% to 45%. Since 2011, MTC successfully met or exceeded the established criteria.

Table 2. Student Success Rates

MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE – STUDENT SUCCESS RATES						
Term	Cohort	Graduates (150%)	Transfers (150%)	Enrolled Fall	Student Success	
					N	%
Fall 2011	2,374	123	543	357	1,023	43.0%
Fall 2012	2,303	158	597	355	1,110	48.2%
Fall 2013	2,361	135	643	358	1,136	48.1%
Fall 2014	2,508	238	676	288	1,202	47.9%
Fall 2015	2,354	270	694	253	1,217	51.7%

Source: CERS opening extract data file, first-time freshman, certificate, degree or diploma seeking. CERS closing and graduate data file. Transfer data from National Student Clearinghouse.

Graduate Production Rates

MTC established a graduate production success criteria rate of greater than or equal to 20%. Since 2013, MTC successfully met the established criteria.

Table 3. Graduate Production Rates

MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE - GRADUATE PRODUCTION RATE				
Year	Fall Credit Hours	Fall FTE	Annual Graduates	Graduate Production Rate
2013	114,267	7,618	1,659	21.8%
2014	112,835	7,522	1,657	22.0%
2015	109,313	7,288	1,946	26.7%
2016	107,242	7,150	1,780	24.9%
2017	100,588	6,706	1,795	26.8%

Source: CERS opening extract. CERS graduate extract Fall, Spring and Summer.

Graduate Placement Rates

MTC established success criteria of 80% for graduation placement rate. In four of the past five years, the college successfully met or exceeded the established criteria.

Table 4. Graduate Placement Rates

MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE - GRADUATE PLACEMENT RATES					
Year	Graduates	On Job	In School	Total Placed	% Placed
2012 - 2013	1,869	1,158	308	1,466	78.4%
2013 - 2014	2,004	1,322	286	1,608	80.2%
2014 - 2015	1,932	1,239	488	1,727	89.4%
2015 - 2016	1,931	1,401	315	1,716	88.9%
2016 - 2017	2,311	1,625	448	2,073	89.7%

Source: South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) program evaluation exhibits
 Year: Academic year, Fall, Spring and Summer.
 Note: Total Placed is total graduates reporting they are either on job (working in their field) or in school.

Course Completion Percentages

MTC established the course completion success criteria as 70% +/- 5%. Since 2014, MTC successfully met the established criteria.

Table 5. Course Completion Percentages

MIDLANDS TECHNICAL COLLEGE - COURSE COMPLETION PERCENTAGE			
Term	Term Grades Total	Completion Percentages	
		Non Completers	% Completed
Fall 2014	31,835	9,597	69.9%
Fall 2015	30,877	9,184	70.3%
Fall 2016	30,200	8,917	70.5%
Fall 2017	28,692	8,633	69.9%
Fall 2018	27,389	8,343	69.5%

Source: CERS closing extract and CERS grades extract. Excludes developmental courses. Completion grades include A, B, C, and S. Non-completion grades include D, F, W, WF, U, NC, and I.