



GPTC Opens New CDL Range and Considers Sports



Here's hoping this finds you and yours well. While many of the renovations at Clarkston and Newton are on pause until January, the college has just completed the construction of a new CDL range at Newton D. We will roll in four, new trucks and begin training truck drivers in Newton County in January 2024!

Speaking of truck drivers: Construction has begun at the Regional Transportation Training Center in Stonecrest. Students will enter the new classroom space there in January 2025. And, they get new trucks too!

But wait...there's more! What if I told you that we are also exploring the creation of two collegiate sports teams: basketball and soccer? Our 99% job placement rate demonstrates that no one sits on the sidelines. In addition, GPTC and community partners are dreaming and outlining steps to establish workforce housing to include student and faculty apartments. We continue to evaluate expanding our academic programs to include occupational-based training in aviation and healthcare.

And in response to the dynamic shifts in the transportation industry, Georgia Piedmont Technical College is poised to pioneer a groundbreaking project—a state-of-the-art commercial truck driving range right here on our campus. We'll keep you posted.

Happy Thanksgiving to all! Enjoy your time with loved ones.

- Dr. Tavaraz Holston, President

CONGRATULATIONS to the GPTC Foundation on reaching the \$1M milestone!

www.gptc.edu/donate

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Fall Festival / Nov. 15**
> DeKalb Campus, Noon - 1:30 PM
- **Thanksgiving / Nov. 23-24**
> College closed, no classes
- **The Monty Awards / Dec. 1**
> Begins at 9 a.m., Pre-Show: 8:45 AM
- **EMT Graduation / Dec. 7**
> Newton Conference Center, 5 - 6 PM
- **LEA Graduation / Dec. 8**
> Newton Conference Center, 6 - 7 PM
- **College Closed / Dec. 25-29**
> Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

Fun Festivities Pack an Eventful Fall 2023



It's been a busy few months for our Student Affairs & Campus Life teams. From Hispanic Heritage celebrations, the Pink Walk & PinkBQ, Trunk or Treat, the One-Stop Enrollment Event and more, these folks are always doing more than their part to bring students in and keep them engaged and CONNECTed.

PepsiCo Apprenticeship Graduates Celebrate Completion



The first cohort of apprentices for PepsiCo were celebrated on September 21. The nine graduates have all been promoted to tier 1 maintenance technician status and, in a few months, will return to GPTC for level two mechatronics technician training. Always great to see well-deserved folks finding their way FORWARD!

Shoutouts: LEA, Latin American Association and Cosmetology Club



CELEBRATION LEFT TO RIGHT: Chief Scott Richards of Decatur PD addresses the graduating LEA class; GPTC senior staff with officials representing the LAA join together in a signing ceremony; The Cosmetology Club Trendsetterz along with their models celebrate the closure of their showcase.

Hundreds turned out to support the latest (and largest!) class of LEA graduates at the Newton Conference Center auditorium on October 26. On September 8, Georgia Piedmont signed a partnership agreement with the Latin American Association to provide work education and training in high-demand industries. On Nov. 8, the GPTC Cosmetology Club held its first showcase, where student stylists showed off their hairdressing skills with a beautiful model lineup!

Alumni Spotlight: Distinguished Alumn Recognized by TCSG



Teresa Watson
GPTC Alumna

Staff Report

We are thrilled to shine a spotlight on one of our exceptional alumni, Teresa Watson, who was recently recognized as GPTC Distinguished Alumni at the TCSG Leadership Conference held in Savannah, GA. With over 18 years of leadership experience, she has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to driving innovation and positive change within the transportation sector.

One of Teresa's most outstanding achievements is the founding of TRJ Transportation Inc. This accomplishment not only showcases her entrepreneurial spirit but also

underscores her deep dedication to the growth and development of the industry. Additionally, she has played a pivotal role as the Director of the Minority Professional Truckers Association, and is a collaborator with the Biden-Harris Administration Truck Action Plan.

Through advocacy and lobbying efforts, she has worked to create a more equitable and prosperous environment for minority truckers nationwide. Teresa Watson is a shining example of the incredible accomplishments our alumni can achieve, and we couldn't be prouder to have her as part of the GPTC family.

Join us!

MONTYS
A CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

Friday, Dec. 1

Begins at 9 a.m.

DeKalb Conference Center

Formal/Sunday-best Attire

Lunch provided

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY FOR FULL-TIME GPTC EMPLOYEES.



Have a question? Comment? Got a great story idea? Email us at marketingandcommunications@gptc.edu