

Central Georgia Technical College

For over 50 years, Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC) has provided students with an affordable, quality education. The Milledgeville campus located on Highway 22, was constructed in 1997, with the first students attending classes during the fall term.

The campus offers a broad range of educational opportunities that students may choose from including Associate Degrees, diplomas, and certificate programs. Practical Nursing, Cosmetology, Nurse Aide, Air Conditioning Technology, and Automotive Fundamentals are only a few of the many professions students can venture into at CGTC. Students may also complete coursework for other programs on the MC before transferring to the Macon or Warner Robins campuses.

Additionally, the college allows students to earn transferable credits, through designated courses, to further their education at other institutions. CGTC has articulation agreements in place with numerous universities and colleges that allow students a seamless transition.

“We offer twenty-seven education courses for transfer between CGTC and the University System of Georgia (USG),” said Jackie Turner, associate dean of Academic Affairs. “Many of the courses are offered as Dual Credit (DC) under the Move On When Ready program (MOWR) courses in our area high schools and career academies.”

An Older Profession Trending Upwards

The campus is offering a new program starting the 2015 fall term in the field of Barbering. The college conducted a survey of the northern middle Georgia counties and found a community need to offer a diploma program that could include not only traditional individuals but high school students as well through Dual Credit. Barbering classes will be available both for day and night students.

“We are very excited to start this program on our Milledgeville campus,” said Turner. “We have the Barbering program at the Macon and Warner Robins campuses and have wanted to bring it on board here for a long time.”

To facilitate the Barbering program, the MC constructed a new, state-of-the-art classroom where students will learn hands-on skills to complete their required coursework. The finishing touches were being put in place just days before students arrived.

The program will completely prepare students for careers in the field of Barbering. The courses will emphasize training in safety, sanitation, hair treatments and manipulations, haircutting techniques, shaving, skin care, reception, sales, and management.

Upon graduating from the program, the student will receive a Barbering diploma and is employable as a barber, salon/shop manager, or a salon/shop owner. After completion of coursework, the graduate must sit for examination with the Georgia State Board of Barbering to obtain the individual license.

Program chair, Leon Towles, says barbering as a career is trending among the younger generation once more. “This great profession is truly well on its way to gaining the prestige and respect that it deserves,” states Towles. “Barbers/Barbershops were once the pillars of the community. The industry is now providing phenomenal services and life lessons through fellowship and camaraderie among males.”

Towles stresses that men who may not feel comfortable seeking service in women-centered salons can find barber shops a more relaxed environment. Acquiring service in a shop instead of a salon does not mean any less of a pampering experience for the patron. “Men want nice products and expert treatments-just like in any spa visit,” said Towles.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), employment opportunities for barbers were expected to increase by 11% between 2012 and 2022 (www.bls.gov). This growth is directly contributed to increased demand by males for personal care services coupled with an increase in the number of barbers retiring and leaving positions open to the younger generation.

Towles highlights the program's unique opportunity for students to become their own boss. He says: "Barbering is a career that nurtures the entrepreneurial spirit. Opening new, locally-owned businesses strengthens communities."

Once the students begin their practicums in the program, the public will be invited to schedule appointments for services at very reasonable costs. "As with our Cosmetology program, we offer services to the public that help our students obtain work experience," added Turner.

Strengthening Our Local Community

For many years, CGTC has strived to be an institution that not only educates but builds a stronger community through preparing the workforce for modern challenges. Offering an Adult Education Program (AEP) along with opportunities for high school students to attend college classes is creating a more prepared labor base.

The AEP helps adults acquire the basics-reading, writing, computation, speaking, and listening-all necessary skills in today's business culture. This program targets the specific needs of students that are considered undereducated who want to increase their skills to compete in the modern workplace. English literacy classes are also available for people who are not proficient in speaking and writing English.

Milledgeville/Baldwin County has gone through a major economic upheaval in recent years with several large employers shutting their doors and leaving thousands unemployed. CGTC is giving many of those left without jobs chances through the AEP and other programs of study to re-educate themselves for a brighter future.

Allowing high school students to expand their learning through the Move on When Ready program (MOWR) is yet another supportive pathway offered by CGTC. The program is offered during all terms of the school year including fall, spring, and summer semester.

Turner explains: "The MOWR program provides a great opportunity for students who are dual credit enrolled at a participating public or private high school or home study programs in Georgia. The program allows students to earn credits toward both high school graduation and postsecondary requirements."

School officials are simply not satisfied with being located in our town; they want to make the college an integral partner in building a successful future. “We want the people of Milledgeville to think of CGTC as a vital part of the community,” adds Turner. “We offer an affordable, high-quality education to students, but, we also want the residents to think of us as a place to call home.”

This sense of inclusion extends to a special event open to the public this fall. “We are working on our 2nd annual Harvest Festival to be held October 29, 2015,” added Turner. “The festival offers a great chance for the community to come out and meet us. We have fun things for kids and parents to do. During this time, we showcase our programs of study and allow potential students the opportunity to meet our instructors and learn about our programs. It’s a great time to stop by, have a little fun, and apply for college.”

For more information on the programs offered at CGTC, log on to <http://www.centralgatech.edu/> or visit the Milledgeville campus at 54 Highway 22 West.