

## **Georgia College & Career Academies**

### **Quarterly Report**

### **Tift College and Career Academy**

### **Tift County Schools**

### **Tifton, Georgia**

**Submitted By: Tom Mark, Ed.D (CEO)**

### **Mission, Goals, and Need**

Mission – The Tift College and Career Academy will be the economic engine of the Tift County area, preparing students to succeed in a globally competitive workforce that will positively impact the economy of Tift County. TCCA planners have gathered workforce needs data from multiple sources in multiple ways over the last several years, culminating in this plan to open TCCA: 1) Gathering data from Tift County Schools' 12 Career, Technical and Agricultural Education Program Advisory Committees to influence curriculum design and to impact course offerings and credentials. 2) Gathering and analyzing workforce needs assessment data from the Georgia Department of Labor and the Georgia Office of Workforce Development. 3) Working with the Chamber of Commerce's Business and Education Committee, giving CCA briefings and receiving dozens of local needs assessment survey responses. 4) Brainstorming with teachers/administrators from the middle and high schools about state and local data gathered above. 5) Attending CTAE and Georgia College and Career Academy Network (GCCAN) sessions and also touring successful CCAs in Warner Robins, Macon and Cairo to study best practices (and planners are scheduling upcoming visits to CCAs in Newnan, Brunswick, Rome, Covington and Conyers). 6) Incorporating the Governor's High Demand Career Initiative (HDCI) report and data into local planning.

### **Partnerships, Governance, and Leadership**

The Tift College and Career Academy (TCCA) has been in operation since the Board of Directors was formed in October of 2016 as the Charter Application Process was being finalized. In August of 2017, per the Charter requirements, the TCCA Board of Directors approved the hiring of a CEO. Since August the TCCA has provided representation at the Georgia College and Career Academy Network meeting in LaGrange, Georgia, the Academies of Nashville Study visit, and the Georgia Department of Education Regional Economic Development Meeting in Albany, Georgia. In addition, the CEO has begun reaching out to local business and industry leaders in the interest of developing partnerships between the Tift County School System and the local workforce managers.

**Is your board up and running? (If so, who are the members?) Have you had any meetings? Please share once a meeting schedule is developed.**

As already mentioned, the TCCA Board of Directors is in operation. We are following the best practice of meeting at least once per month, usually the first Thursday of each month. The lunch time meetings (where lunch is provided) have been well-attended.

The TCCA Board members are:

1. Brian Marlowe President, Chamber of Commerce/ Development Authority
2. Luke Wuthrich Plant Manager- Heatcraft
3. Carol Smith VP of Patient Care and Nursing, Tift Regional Health Systems
4. Chris Cutts VP, South Georgia Banking Company
5. Cyndy Hall Director of MOWR, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
6. Jim Glass Provost, Southern Regional Technical College
7. Scott Carlson Tift County Extension Agent\*
8. Lynn Lovett Area Manager, Georgia Power
9. Julie Smith Mayor, City of Tifton
10. Capt. Dennis Reese- Liaison Officer, Tift County Sheriff's Office
11. Mickey Weldon Tift County Schools Chief Academic Officer

**Commitment and Sustainability**

The TCCA is committed to the College and Career Academy plan as the system is currently undergoing a renovation of Tift County High School. The capital improvement grant is being used to build additional CTAE classrooms, labs, offices and a meeting room. The Tift County School System is also remodeling Tift County High School by adding a ninth grade wing to the campus which will allow all Tift County public school students in grades 9-12 to attend class and participate in CTAE programs on the same campus.

**Plan to Address Workforce Development Needs**

Members of the Tift County School System Central Office staff are currently developing a survey that will address local workforce needs. Southern Regional Technical College, a partner of the TCCA is assisting with the development of this survey. We plan to deliver the survey in 2018.

## **Standards & Curriculum**

The TCCA does have advisory committees in place. However, the advisory committees have had little effect on the operation of the TCCA. This is an area that we have targeted for improving effectiveness.

### **Plan to Increase Student Participation in Move on When Ready**

The Tift County School System currently has a significant portion of its student body enrolled in Dual Enrollment courses at both Abraham Baldwin College and Southern Regional Technical College. The Tift County School System is also currently undergoing a reconfiguration of its school alignment and scheduling in grades 7-12 which will take effect in the Fall of 2018. Once the scheduling is complete and the all 9-12 students are on the main campus of Tift County High School, the expectation is that the dual enrollment numbers will steadily increase as more students will have access to more courses.

## **Faculty & Staff**

At this time, the only recent addition to the TCCA staff is the CEO. The CEO and Tift County Schools CTAE Director have participated in Development Opportunities in LaGrange and Nashville, Tennessee. We will continue to participate as the opportunities arise. The TCCA Board is also eager to participate in learning and professional development programs.

### **Plan to Increase Work-based Learning Opportunities**

When the new schedule is implemented in the Fall of 2018, the TCCA will examine ways to involve students in apprenticeship programs, job shadowing programs and internship programs.

## **Grade Levels, Enrollment & Student Focus**

### **What grades levels are you planning to start and when?**

The TCCA will focus primarily on the high school students. However, the TCCA is also giving attention to middle school students, introducing them to pathway and dual enrollment opportunities as 6-8 grade students. Internships and apprenticeships will be the focus of older high school students as many work opportunities have age requirements. Our partnership with Southern Regional Technical College has allowed us to expand the pathway choice by adding MOWR courses and the survey results could create the need to add more. At the time of this report, there is no established enrollment process for the Tift College and Career Academy

## **Student Support and Structure**

Progress in this area is slight, but evident. The TCCA has an Agriculture Academy in place comprised of approximately 25 students operating in a cohort model. Counselors and instructors have worked together to accommodate these students. The Agriculture Academy, which has been in place for several years, is the model for integrating academics and CTAE courses, as well as Project Based Learning.

The new hybrid schedule that the school system plans to implement in the 2018-19 school year at Tift County High School will create more instructional time for courses and is allowing more lab time for our courses that require more time.

## **Evaluation and Cycle of Improvement**

At the time of this report, there is no data to share.

## **Plan to Increase Student Achievement**

Discussions are underway concerning the “Academy” or cohort model where students share the same team of instructors. These instructors would collaborate to create project based and industry standard lessons designed to interest the student and still meet the standards requirement. In theory, as student interest increases, so might student achievement.

## **Charter School Law/District Flexibility Performance Contract**

The Tift College and Career Academy Charter Plan was approved in the Spring of 2017.

## **Budget**

At the time of this report, an operating budget has not been established. Expenditures have been in the form of travel, miscellaneous meeting expenses and CEO salary.

## **Timelines**

Since the TCCA Board inception in October of 2016, the TCCA has seen its charter approved, an Agriculture Academy created, a highly qualified automotive instructor hired, and a CEO hired. The TCCA is currently studying best practices of College and Career Academies in other Georgia school systems and in other states. We anticipate that the Tift College and Career Academy will open its doors in August of 2018 at the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic school year.