

For Immediate Release



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Augusta Technical College establishes Greater Augusta Banking and Finance Institute

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Augusta Technical College is excited to announce the establishment of the Greater Augusta Banking and Finance Institute. In partnership with local area banking and finance companies, Augusta Tech will offer banking and financial education courses in continuing education, providing resources and opportunities for professionals, students, and the community. Additionally, the College plans to offer a Banking and Finance Specialist Technical Certificate of Credit program in 2025, pending SACSCOC approval.

The first continuing education course will begin June 14, 2024, at the Grovetown site. Students will complete a ten-day course focusing on Introduction to Banking and Finance, and essential skills such as customer service, time management, communication skills, cybersecurity, and business ethics. Graduates will be exposed to the banking and finance industry and can apply for open positions in the CSRA or continue their academic coursework at the College.

Julie Langham, Vice President of Economic Development, explained that the continuing education course is a great entry point into the industry. "Gaining a foundational knowledge of banking and finance is crucial for students, as it equips them with the essential skills and understanding needed to navigate and excel in the banking and finance industry. This short-term educational program not only opens doors to a wide array of career opportunities but also empowers students to enter a rewarding and successful career. They will hear firsthand from our partners about the industry, learn valuable tools to prepare for work, and ultimately have an opportunity to connect with those making hiring decisions."

Penny Wasden, Senior Vice President of First Citizens Bank, echoed the importance of this new institute. "When thinking about careers, financial services is not always top of mind, but it is critical to the success of a community to have professionals that are well versed and passionate about helping others achieve financial success. Financial principles, banking navigation and financial services can be taught. A heart for helping people and a desire to create a professional career is where it starts."

"The program will offer a clear pathway for students interested in banking and finance, whether they are seeking short-term education or aiming to earn a Technical Certificate of Credit. We are thrilled to provide this pathway, equipping students with the essential tools to either enter the workforce or advance their education in the banking and finance industry. Our partners are passionate about

this newly created pathway and pipeline to industry. By listening to their workforce challenges, we developed a program to assist their needs. We appreciate the support of our partners," said Langham. Those partners to date include F&M Bank, First Citizens Bank, Pinnacle Bank, South State Bank, SRP Federal Credit Union, and Queensborough Bank.

Thanks to the banking and finance partners, the continuing education program is tuition free, with limited spaces. Registration is now open on the [Augusta Technical College website under Economic Development](#).

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About Augusta Technical College

Augusta Technical College, a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia, is a public postsecondary institution that provides academic and technical education, customized business and industry training, continuing education, student support, economic development, and adult education services to its service area (Burke, Columbia, Lincoln, McDuffie, and Richmond Counties) at a competitive financial value. Associate of Science Degrees, Associate of Applied Science Degrees, diplomas, and technical certificates of credit are provided through traditional and distance delivery methods. For more information, visit augustatech.edu.

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