

Workforce Development in Screven County:

Leveraging Georgia Southern University and Ogeechee Technical College

Screven County, Georgia, stands at the forefront of workforce development, benefiting from the synergistic efforts of nearby Georgia Southern University (GSU) and Ogeechee Technical College (OTC). Together, these institutions provide comprehensive training and educational programs tailored to meet the evolving needs of modern industries, particularly in advanced manufacturing, robotics, and electric vehicle (EV) technologies.

Screven County's strategic collaboration with its workforce development partners at GSU and OTC underscores its commitment to cultivating a skilled workforce ready to meet the demands of modern industries. These partnerships not only enhance educational opportunities but also drive economic growth, making Screven County an attractive destination for businesses and professionals alike.

Georgia Southern University: Advancing Technical and Professional Expertise

1. Robotics and Manufacturing Training

• GSU offers specialized programs such as the Robotics Technician and Robotics in Manufacturing Fundamentals (RMF) courses. These programs deliver intensive training in robotics applications, electrical systems, and safety protocols, equipping students with skills essential for the manufacturing sector.

2. Customized Workforce Solutions

 Through its Division of Continuing and Professional Education (CPE), GSU provides tailored training programs to businesses, focusing on areas like leadership development, process improvement, and technical skills enhancement.

3. Strategic Industry Partnerships

 GSU has established a significant partnership with Hyundai Motor Group Metaplant America (HMGMA) and OTC to develop curricula and training programs aligned with the EV manufacturing industry's demands. This collaboration aims to produce a skilled workforce ready to meet the needs of the upcoming HMGMA facility in Bryan County, expected to create over 8,000 jobs.

Ogeechee Technical College: Specialized Technical Training

1. Industrial Systems and Robotics Programs

• OTC offers diplomas and certificates in Electrical Systems Technology, Industrial OGEECHEE Electrical Technology, and Programmable Control Technician programs. These courses focus on practical skills in electrical systems, industrial wiring, and programmable logic controllers (PLCs).

2. FANUC Robotics Training

 As a FANUC Authorized Satellite Training (FAST) site, OTC provides specialized courses in HandlingTool Operation and Programming, as well as iRVision Operation and Programming, enabling technicians to proficiently operate and troubleshoot FANUC robotics systems.

3. Georgia Industrial Systems and Industrial Robotics Training Center (GISIRTC)

• Scheduled to open in 2026, this 37,000-square-foot facility will house 12 industrial labs, classrooms, and computer labs dedicated to industrial systems, robotics, and PLC training. The center is projected to deliver over 460,000 hours of training annually, significantly boosting the region's workforce capabilities.

Collaborative Impact on Screven County

The concerted efforts of GSU and OTC have positioned Screven County as a hub for workforce development:

- Seamless Educational Pathways: Articulation agreements between OTC and GSU facilitate smooth transitions for students pursuing advanced degrees, ensuring a continuous pipeline of skilled professionals.
- Industry-Responsive Training: Collaborations with major industry players like HMGMA and others
 ensure that training programs are aligned with current and future industry needs, particularly in
 the burgeoning Automotive Parts and EV sector.
- Regional Economic Growth: The development of state-of-the-art training facilities and programs attracts businesses seeking a skilled workforce, fostering economic development and job creation in Screven County and the surrounding regions.