

2024-2025 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

connecting people to
POSSIBILITIES



cctech
Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College

president's **REPORT**



As we reflect on another extraordinary year at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, I am filled with pride in the remarkable work of our

faculty, staff and students. This has been a year defined by innovation, resilience and an unwavering commitment to preparing the next generation of South Carolina's workforce.

Our faculty and staff remain the heart of our mission. Every day, they bring learning to life – training students with the skills, discipline and confidence needed to excel in high-demand industries. Their dedication is reflected in our 94% job placement rate, a powerful testament to the relevance and quality of our programs. From advanced manufacturing and healthcare to information technology, skilled trades and public service, OCtech graduates are stepping directly into careers that build our local and regional economy.

Our deep partnerships with employers remain one of our greatest strengths. By listening to industry leaders and aligning our programs with their evolving needs, we ensure that OCtech remains a vital contributor to workforce development across Orangeburg,

Calhoun and the broader region. Whether through apprenticeships, internships or customized training, we continue to serve as a bridge between education and employment – helping both students and businesses succeed.

We are equally committed to meeting students where they are. Through expanded Early College opportunities, flexible scheduling, online learning options and comprehensive student support services, we're removing barriers and opening doors. OCtech is more than a college – it's a community where every student is known, supported and encouraged to reach their full potential.

This year's achievements underscore what happens when purpose meets passion. The collaboration among our faculty, staff, community and industry partners has positioned OCtech as a 21st-century college. Together, we are not only transforming lives – we are shaping the future of our region's workforce.

Thank you for your continued trust, partnership and support of OCtech. The future is bright, and we are just getting started.

With deep appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walt A. Tobin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

DR. WALT TOBIN
OCtech President



SACS VISIT

OCtech received an exceptionally positive review during the SACSCOC On-Site Reaffirmation Committee's visit October 28-29, 2025.

During their time on campus, committee members met with students, faculty, staff, area commissioners and the college's leadership team; explored academic programs and lab spaces; and traveled off-site to Calhoun County High School to tour one of OCtech's Project Lead the Way pre-engineering classrooms.

The visit went so smoothly that the committee completed its work a full day early. In the exit conference, OCtech received no recommendations – a rare and significant indicator of strong institutional health and preparation.

While a Quality Enhancement Plan is no longer part of the formal reaffirmation process, the committee offered helpful, consultative feedback on the college's QEP – titled "Transform Your Journey" – and praised the campus community as "passionate about the work" and "committed to the college and its students." SACSCOC will issue its final vote on reaffirmation in summer 2026.

ONLY THREE OF THE STATE'S 16 TECHNICAL COLLEGES MET ALL OF THE SC TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM'S PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR 2025-26. OCTECH WAS ONE OF THEM.



73%

FALL-TO-SPRING
PERSISTENCE RATE

🎯 **71%**



74%

STUDENT
SUCCESS RATE

🎯 **67%**



91%

LICENSURE
PASS RATE

🎯 **80%**



94%

GRADUATE
PLACEMENT RATE

🎯 **85%**

return on EDUCATION

For flight nurse Deon James, the path to his dream job began long before he boarded a helicopter. At OCtech, he discovered the confidence, clinical skills and sense of purpose that now guide him through life-saving missions as a member of the Med-Trans team.

“Completing the Associate Degree Nursing program at OCtech was one of the hardest things I have achieved,” Deon said. “The number of clinical hours and various clinical sites provided the foundation of my nursing career.”

Deon credits the program’s rigor and high expectations for shaping him into the nurse he is today – a truth underscored by a defining moment from his OCtech days when, as a student on the step-down unit, he faced his first code.

“I suddenly became a prisoner of fear and shock,” he said. “I was completely useless and helpless.”

But retired instructor Laura Murphy turned the moment into a lesson that changed him. “I cannot remember her exact words, but her warmth and empathy left a lifelong impression,” Deon said.

That experience – and the example of the skilled medical team rushing in – shaped his desire to work in critical care.

After graduating, Deon built the experience needed for flight nursing in the ICU at the Regional Medical Center and later at MUSC Health in Charleston while earning his bachelor’s degree in nursing from USC-Aiken. A fly-along with fellow OCtech graduate Sam McSween “rekindled” his passion, eventually leading him to Med-Trans.

Today, when he and his partner respond to strokes, heart attacks and traumatic injuries, Deon carries OCtech with him.

“My professor’s warmth, the passion of those medical providers and the desire to make a difference are all things that I carry with me each day I go to work,” he said.

2020 GRADUATE



AMONG ALL SC
COLLEGES AND
UNIVERSITIES,
OCTECH HAS THE
HIGHEST PERCENTAGE
OF GRADUATES WHO
REMAIN EMPLOYED
IN THE STATE ONE,
FIVE AND 10 YEARS
POSTGRADUATION.

SC Department of Employment and Workforce



\$16,000

more than SC's
living wage is
what many
Nursing
graduates earn
just one year
after graduation



59%

of Machine Tool
graduates made
at least \$15,000
more within
a year of
graduation



68%

of Mechatronics
graduates
made at least
\$15,000
more within
a year of
graduation





metallica **SCHOLARS**

This year, OCTech was chosen as one of 15 nationwide recipients to join Year 7 of the prestigious Metallica Scholars Initiative.

The generous \$75,000 MSI grant aims at enhancing persistence and retention in OCTech's nursing programs by providing scholarships and support services to eligible students.

"OCTech is committed to fostering educational excellence and community development. This grant significantly contributes to the retention and graduation of first-time college students," President Dr. Walt Tobin said. "The Metallica Scholars Initiative benefits our students and contributes to our region's broader economic and social development. Through collaborations like

this, we can create a brighter future for all."

All Within My Hands – the nonprofit philanthropic organization created by the members and management of Metallica – announced Year 7 of its Metallica Scholars Initiative with its largest grant to date, totaling approximately \$3 million. MSI now has a presence in 75 colleges across all 50 United States and the territory of Guam, and is expected to reach approximately 10,000 students.

"I could not be any prouder of our Metallica Scholars. We know that our country needs millions of skilled tradespeople, and it warms my heart to know that our foundation's efforts are making a positive impact and putting hard-working people on the path to



“
*I am thrilled
and deeply
appreciative.
I am grateful
for not just the
financial
assistance,
but also for the fact
that Metallica
believes in us
and wants to invest
in our future.*
”

careers in the trades,” Metallica bassist Robert Trujillo said.

“Whether it’s a school visit or a meet and greet before a show, there is no better feeling than meeting our Metallica Scholars in person and hearing their stories of grit and determination firsthand, along with their pride and commitment. It is truly inspiring,” Trujillo said.

Launched in 2019 by All Within My Hands in partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges, MSI began with 10 colleges focused primarily on manufacturing programs. The workforce initiative has since expanded to offer opportunities in diverse fields for students interested in gaining the skills and training necessary to establish meaningful careers that provide family-sustaining wages.

Tonnette Valentine’s journey to the OCtech Associate Degree Nursing program began with a spark of inspiration close to home.

Her niece, already enrolled in the program, spoke so highly of it that Tonnette decided to take a deeper look. After the birth of her son, she knew it was time to return to school and finally pursue her dream of becoming a registered nurse.

“I did my own research, and I was impressed. The program has a strong reputation, so I moved from Florida at the end of 2023 to begin my journey at OCtech,” she said.

Having family nearby for support made her decision even easier.

Healthcare had always felt natural to her, even if she didn’t immediately see it as a career. “To be honest, I feared the sciences,” Tonnette said. Becoming a home health aide over a decade ago changed everything.

“I felt like I had found my calling,” she said. “That role led me to become a CNA, and now I’m pursuing my RN license so I can make an even bigger impact.”

Her experience at OCtech has reaffirmed that she made the right choice.

“It has truly been amazing,” she said. “Our instructors push us to think critically and really prepare us for the realities of patient care. They want to see us succeed, and that makes a huge difference.”

Tonnette said being named a Metallica Scholar only strengthens her resolve.





CampusCARE

OCtech officially opened The Owl's Nest Food Pantry in March, making an important step in supporting the overall well-being of students, faculty and staff.

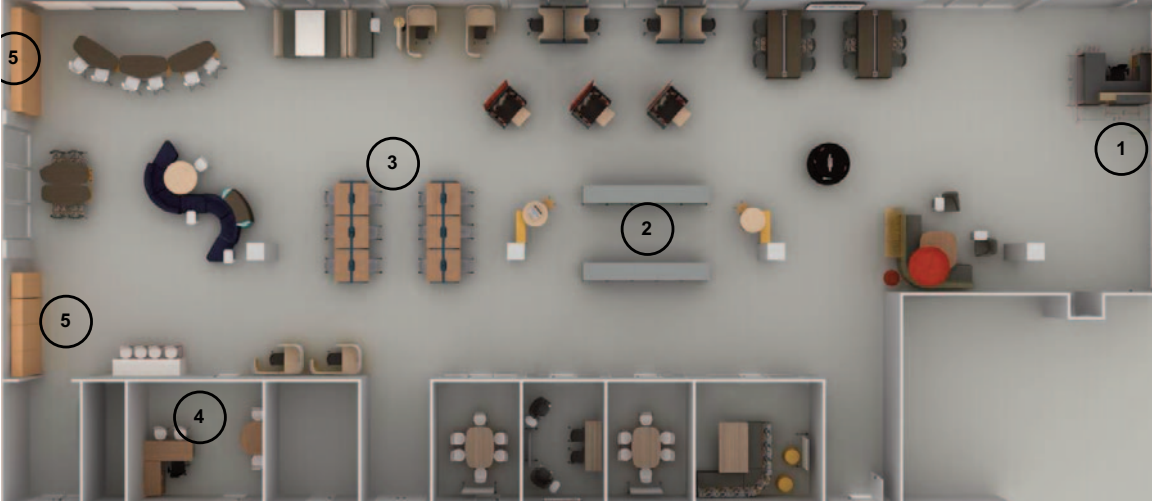
The pantry operates every Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon in Building P and is designed to assist campus community members who may be experiencing food insecurity. Access is simple and judgment-free – all that's required is a current OCtech ID.

Each visit, individuals can pick up a food box filled with non-perishable, prepackaged items that can be used to prepare quick meals or grab-and-go snacks. For those who need something small to get through the day, snack bags are also available. The goal is to make sure no one on campus has to worry about where their next meal will come from.

Funding for The Owl's Nest is provided through a partnership with ECMC – Educational Credit Management Corporation, whose support has made it possible to keep shelves stocked and resources available. Since opening, The Owl's Nest has distributed more than 180 food boxes, demonstrating a clear and growing need within the campus community.

The pantry represents OCtech's ongoing commitment to removing barriers to student success and ensuring that everyone has access to basic resources while pursuing their education.





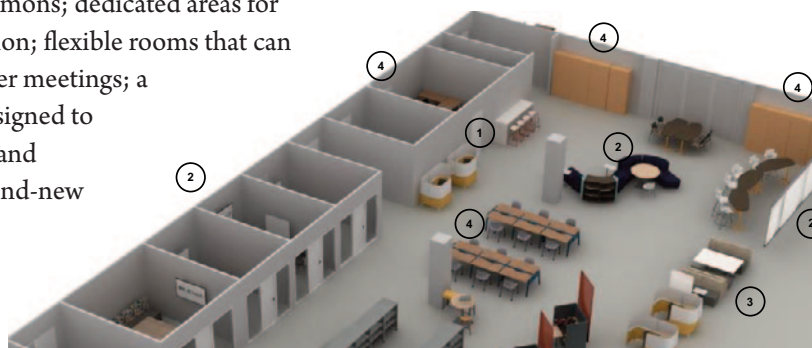
COMING SOON

COLLEGE RENOVATIONS

Renovations to our Health Science building will bring a refreshed, modernized environment to campus. The \$8 million project includes a complete HVAC replacement; new lighting and ceilings throughout the building; updated flooring, paint and finishes; and all-new furniture (except lab spaces). The redesign will also open up the center of the building and feature reconfigured areas to create a more functional, welcoming layout.



The Library's updated space will feature modern, tech-friendly furniture similar to what's in the Student Learning Commons; dedicated areas for small-group collaboration; flexible rooms that can host workshops or larger meetings; a comfortable lounge designed to encourage connection and conversation; and a brand-new location for the Career Services Office.



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*I/Williams & Williams
see OCtech as integral
and foundational
to our community.*

It combines quality and substantive education with practicality and accessibility, which enriches not only the individuals it serves but also businesses in our counties, allowing us to make a stronger, more meaningful contribution to our community. At least three of our top-performing and most dedicated employees received degrees from OCtech before coming to Williams & Williams. They are consistent proof of the caliber of students OCtech produces. We see the benefits daily.

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GINNY WILLIAMS

Attorney at Williams & Williams
Attorneys at Law and OCtech
Foundation Board Vice Chair

CURRENT STUDENT

MIKE HAMILTON



His connection to the college goes back to before he was born.

“My mom went to OCtech when she was pregnant with me, studying criminal justice, so I thought that would be interesting,” Mike Hamilton said. “I want to be a forensic scientist. I think the science behind evidence collection is really cool.”

Although she didn’t pursue a criminal justice career because “life happened,” his mother encourages him to keep going. Mike is now on track to earn his associate degree in Criminal Justice and Forensics certification in May.

“I’m glad I came here first. Everyone I’ve encountered at OCtech has really helped me progress and grow. I found myself here.”



“OCtech has been wonderful,” the 2024 Orangeburg-Wilkinson graduate said. “I feel seen and heard here.”

Mike credits his academic success to the supportive and empowering environment he found at OCtech.

“My instructors have been amazing,” he said. “Ms. Eboney Smith is wonderful. She introduced me to Phi Theta Kappa, and she helps me balance my work and class schedule so I can do both. If I miss a class, she checks on me and makes sure I keep up with my assignments. Mr. Tim Thomas and Mr. Billy Ethridge are great, too. I don’t feel like just another student to them.”

Through programs like PTK and TRIO, Mike has built confidence and community.

“Being in this environment has made me more comfortable in different situations,” he said.

When he’s not in class, Mike works as a wellness attendant at the Orangeburg County YMCA and has served as a work-study for OCtech’s Student Services – experiences that have strengthened his time-management skills.

“Once you do the hard things in life, it becomes easier,” he said. “Anything is better than just sitting still. Idle hands are the devil’s workshop.”

Through guidance, encouragement and hands-on experiences, Mike said OCtech has helped him grow academically and personally. He’s now exploring his transfer options to continue his education.

2024 GRADUATE

PRESTON BRYANT



He wasn't sure what direction to take after high school – so he took a chance on OCtech.



“OCtech offers everything a student with good motivation and a desire to learn needs to find a great job in a trade right out of school.”

After looking at several options, Preston Bryant enrolled in Machine Tool Technology.

By the end of his first semester, that uncertainty was gone. Preston had fallen in love with the trade and the hands-on nature of the work that came with it.

That first step led to a larger academic journey. After completing his MTT degree, Preston decided to pursue Engineering Design Technology at OCtech as well. The two fields complemented each other perfectly.



“Both skills and careers fall hand in hand,” he said, and having both credentials opened the door to even more opportunities.

Today, Preston is putting those skills to work as a tooling engineer technician at Phoenix Specialty in Bamberg. He designs the tooling used to produce the company’s specialty parts and programs the CNC machines that bring those designs to life.

Preston’s time at OCtech is filled with standout moments – building intricate projects in the machine shop, designing 3D models in the engineering lab, experimenting with 3D printing and learning machining techniques from instructor Chris Gerstner. One of his most meaningful experiences was creating the V-block project, an assignment that taught him skills he still uses today.

Preston believes OCtech gave him exactly what he needed to succeed. The college provided high-quality training in an in-demand field and helped him step confidently into the workforce.



ribbon **CUTTING**

Our new Machine Tool Technology Center represents an investment of \$2 million and features cutting-edge CNC machines, precision manufacturing equipment and coordinate measuring machines to ensure quality production. The labs were designed in collaboration with local industry partners to train students in high-demand, high-wage careers to meet the expanding demand for advanced manufacturing in our area.





Mellisa Black

What did you do before coming to OCtech? Before coming to OCtech, I was a nursing director at MUSC Health-Orangeburg.

Describe your role at OCtech in three words. Leader, facilitator, mentor

How do you see your work making a difference for our students? The work I do and my attitude set the tone for our Nursing and Health Science faculty, which then trickles down to students in the classroom, lab and clinical.

What's one book, podcast or show you'd recommend? "Emotional Poverty in All Demographics: How to Reduce Anger, Anxiety, and Violence in the Classroom" by Ruby Payne, Ph. D.

What accomplishment in your career are you most proud of, and why? I'm always most proud of my team's accomplishments and knowing that I had the opportunity to play some part in that. I'm very proud of so many things, but one comes to mind that was really special. I helped design and build a new hospital, and was able to represent the healthcare team and our needs to provide great care to our patients while creating a safe environment for our team.



Billy Ethridge

What did you do before coming to OCtech? I worked with the Orangeburg County Sheriff's Office and SLED, and was a law enforcement instructor at Dorchester County Career and Technology Center.

Describe your role at OCtech in three words. Student-centered leader

How do you see your work making a difference for our students? We are creating programs and learning environments that prepare students for success beyond the classroom. We want students to earn credentials, but we really want to equip them with confidence and employable skills.

What's one book, podcast or show you'd recommend? "No Angel: My Harrowing Undercover Journey to the Inner Circle of the Hells Angels" by Jay Dobyns and Nils Johnson-Shelton

What accomplishment in your career are you most proud of, and why? My education. I was once just like the majority of our student body, starting my journey at OCtech immediately after high school. I later returned to continue my education while working full-time and raising my children. This journey taught me commitment, discipline and the value of an education. It inspires me to help students achieve their own goals.



Melissa Plummer

TRANSFER, FACULTY DEVELOPMENT AND ACADEMIC ADVISING

What did you do before coming to OCtech? I worked at NC State University in crop science research as a tobacco breeder. That experience gave me a strong foundation in applied science and collaboration.

Describe your role at OCtech in three words. Supporting, teaching, learning

How do you see your work making a difference for our students? My work ensures that students not only receive quality instruction, but also have the academic advising and support systems they need to be successful. By helping faculty strengthen their teaching, guiding assessment efforts and expanding online learning, I'm working to remove barriers and create opportunities for every student to thrive.

What's one book, podcast or show you'd recommend? "Survival of the Sickest: The Surprising Connections Between Disease and Longevity" by Dr. Sharon Moalem

What accomplishment in your career are you most proud of, and why? I am most proud of seeing our students graduate and go on to successful careers. Knowing that the work I do to support teaching, advising and faculty development plays a role in helping them achieve those milestones makes the accomplishment even more meaningful.

Q&A

Three academic deans have been appointed as the college's new divisional assistant vice presidents. Dr. Mellisa Black, Billy Ethridge and Melissa Plummer are helping guide the college's academic vision, support faculty and strengthen programs that prepare students for in-demand careers.

CURRENT STUDENT

SA'DIAMOND GIBSON

She didn't expect her college journey to take so many twists and turns, but she's grateful for where it led.



In 2022, Sa'Diamond Gibson graduated from the High School for Health Professions at 17 with dual-enrollment credits and what felt like a head start on her theater degree. She spent that summer earning more credits at Claflin University before enrolling at Francis Marion University. But once she got there, nothing felt right.

"It felt like the harder I tried, the less I accomplished," she said. "I didn't feel supported academically. It was hard to stay motivated."

Unsure of her path, Sa'Diamond stepped away from school for a year. Instead of seeing that time as a setback, she used it to reset. "I just needed a moment to breathe, to think about what I truly wanted to do," she said.

When she was ready to return, she came back to the place where she'd once thrived. "I thought, let me give OCtech a chance since I did well here and I'd already been here," she said.

Drawn to its hands-on structure, Sa'Diamond enrolled in the Electronic Instrumentation Technology program. But the transition wasn't easy – she failed trigonometry her first semester back. Still, she wouldn't let that define her. She retook the class and earned an A.

What changed, she said, was the environment. "Y'all know my name," she said. "You talk to me, help me. You all have been so supportive of me, and I feel appreciated in ways I never thought I could."

EIT's hands-on labs quickly became her favorite part. "Labs help me understand the work," Sa'Diamond said. "You can reach the end goal in different ways, and nobody here makes me feel bad for figuring things out in my own way."

That flexibility and support helped her rebuild confidence she thought she'd lost. Now, Sa'Diamond is thriving. She's on the President's List, feels a strong sense of belonging and expects to graduate in May.

While she plans to transfer and ultimately earn her theater degree, EIT has given her a solid backup plan. "OCtech has definitely been a stepping stone, a great foundation," Sa'Diamond said. "It really is a family that wants to make sure their kids are OK."



I support the OCtech Foundation because its impact is evident in numerous meaningful ways.

I see students achieve their goals, walk across the stage at graduation and step confidently into their new careers. I see my colleagues continue to grow through professional development opportunities that the foundation makes possible. Every contribution creates a ripple effect that touches lives, strengthens our programs and enriches our community. Supporting the foundation feels personal. It's a way to invest in people, in potential and in the future of education. I truly feel like I'm making a lasting difference by continuing to give.



DR. STEFANIE BROWN
Dean of Academic Advising

THE BENEFITS OF DUAL ENROLLMENT



OCtech math coordinator Wendy Alsup and public relations coordinator Wendy Crider watched their children graduate from high school this spring after they received an associate degree from the college.

“Early College helped me 100% realize what I wanted to do before I graduated, and it helped me save a ton of money in the process. I was able to transfer 60 credit hours to the College of Charleston, which means I’m almost two years closer to earning my bachelor’s degree in Middle Grades Education.”

EMILY CRIDER

Edisto High School
Orangeburg Advanced College

From left, fellow EHS and OAC graduate Catherine Brunson with Emily Crider at their OCtech graduation.



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SENIORS
DUAL
ENROLLED
AT OCTECH





“Getting my associate degree at OCtech has set me ahead a full year in my Systems Engineering program at the College of Charleston. I was able to get many of my prerequisite courses out of the way so that I could start my major requirements right away.”

ETHAN ALSUP

Calhoun County High School
Calhoun County Honors Academy

Mom Wendy Alsup and brother Luke
with Ethan at his high school graduation.

89%

of Early College
high school
seniors
continued
to college
in fall 2024;
the state
average for
college-ready
students
was 32.5%

37

ASSOCIATE
DEGREES
AWARDED

7,635

TOTAL
CREDITS
EARNED

25

AVERAGE
CREDIT HOURS
PER SENIOR

\$3.5

MILLION
SAVED
IN TUITION
COST
COMPARED
TO USC



Class
of 2025



Fate

Wall's
Lawn Care and
Landscaping, LLC



FATE WALL



When he graduated from Barnwell High in 2024, he knew a four-year college wasn't for him.

From the time he was old enough to get his driver's license, Fate Wall had been managing crews at his family's landscaping company.

"In high school, I always made my schedule so that I could get out of class early and go to work," he said.

His mom encouraged him to pursue an education, but Fate wanted a path that allowed him to keep earning. OCtech was the perfect fit.

Fate chose Business Administration-Accounting because he wants to "know how to keep the books, and maybe do taxes."

Managing his workload while attending college isn't easy, especially with online classes. Time management, he's learned, is everything.

"It's not as much pen and paper, but once you figure out how to work with a computer, you're good to go," Fate said.

He said tough coursework is more manageable with the support his instructors offer.

"Most of my classes are with Ms. Dawn Lavanway," Fate said. "She's great. A couple of nights ago, we got on a Zoom call close to 9 at night, but she helped me figure out what I needed to know."

Balancing responsibilities is normal for him. In addition to landscaping, Fate helps run charter fishing trips. He even started a small T-shirt business for customers on the boats.

"I try to have all of my schoolwork done by Thursday so I can focus on work," he said. "If I had to do it again, I'd come back to OCtech. It's been great. The classes aren't big, you get a lot of hands-on experience and you get the help you need."

new programs WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FAST TRACK TO A BETTER JOB

In just weeks, students in our Workforce Development programs gain the hands-on skills and certifications needed for high-demand, better-paying jobs in healthcare, skilled trades, manufacturing, technology and more. Courses are aligned with industry needs, helping students transition smoothly from the classroom into the workforce.

PATHWAY TO A DEGREE

For many, Workforce Development becomes the first step toward a long-term career. Short-term training can lead to certificates, diplomas or associate degrees, and our team helps students navigate their journey at whatever pace fits their life.

COST SHOULD NEVER BE A BARRIER

To make opportunities accessible, we offer financial assistance for eligible Workforce Development students, including SC WINS, WIOA, employer sponsorships and other funding sources. Our team guides students through the process so they can focus on their future.

TRAINING DESIGNED FOR EMPLOYERS

Whether companies are onboarding new employees, upskilling their team or preparing for new initiatives, we tailor training to their goals on-site, on campus or online. We have established MOUs with key industry partners, including:

- ADUSA
- Allied Air Enterprises
- Dominion Energy
- INDEVCO
- SC Department of Social Services

Together, we're helping individuals build better careers and employers strengthen their workforce.





OCtech's new Workforce Development programs are equipping students with practical skills, connecting them to employers and opening doors to careers that keep our communities running.

ELECTRICAL LINEMAN

This program offers intensive, field-based training for those interested in working on the front lines of the power industry. Students gain skills in electrical theory, power distribution, pole climbing, rigging, equipment operation and utility-level safety procedures. Training includes first aid, CPR and OSHA standards, along with real-world practice on overhead and underground lines. Graduates will be prepared for apprentice roles with utility companies, electrical contractors and co-ops, with opportunities to pursue additional CDL or NCCER certification.

HVAC TECHNICIAN

This program provides a strong introduction to how heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems regulate temperature, air quality and circulation. Students learn safe electrical practices and gain hands-on experience installing, maintaining and troubleshooting A/C, heating and heat pump systems. All participants earn EPA certification, a key credential for entering the field.

PLUMBING TECHNICIAN

This program prepares students for entry-level roles across residential, commercial and industrial settings. Students learn pipefitting, water supply and drainage systems, fixture installation, blueprint reading, safety and basic plumbing codes. Hands-on labs with industry tools and materials help students build confidence troubleshooting and solving real-world problems. Graduates are ready for entry-level employment and may qualify for apprenticeships or future licensure pathways.

“Colleges will need to adapt to better accommodate a changing student population with their own shifting expectations for their college experience. Driven especially by adult learners, student demand is increasingly moving toward credentials that are highly workforce-connected and can be completed more quickly and at a lower cost than traditional degrees.”

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Resilient by Design: The Future of America's Community Colleges

Cost Comparison per Credit hour

\$0

HERE AT
OCtech



\$508

4-YEAR SC
COLLEGES

Many of our students pay no tuition, thanks to SC WINS. However, there are other necessary and unexpected college costs.

foundation SCHOLARSHIPS

Agape Hospice Endowed Scholarship
Willie Aiken Scholarship
Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship
Arnold & Carolyn Bates Endowed Scholarship
Belk Endowed Scholarship
A.L. "Red" Brewington Endowed Scholarship
JaColby Brown Memorial Scholarship
Calhoun County Cares Scholarship
Buyck Carpenter Trust Scholarship
Dr. Rocco Cassone Endowed Scholarship
CFE ADN Scholarship
Ellen Chaplin Endowed Scholarship
CVE ADN Scholarship
Cypress Creek Renewables Scholarship
Steve Dalton Memorial Scholarship
Delta Sigma Theta Scholarship
Dukes Nursing Endowed Scholarship
Edisto District Boy Scouts Scholarship
Clarence Evans Nursing Endowed Scholarship
Joseph K. Fairey II Endowed Scholarship
Federal-Mogul Endowed Scholarship
First Citizens Nursing Endowed Scholarship
Garden Club Scholarship
Gene Haas CNC Scholarship
GKN Endowed Scholarship
Goldstein's on Russell Street Scholarship
Harold Green Endowed Scholarship
Health Science & Nursing Scholarship
Ineos Electronic Instrumentation Scholarship
T.W. Irick Scholarship
Dean Livingston Endowed Scholarship
Joseph J. Miller Scholarship
Medical Assisting Scholarship
Nassri Endowed Scholarship
OCtech Foundation Scholarship
Okonite Endowed Scholarship
Physical Therapy Assistant Scholarship
St. Matthews Garden Club Scholarship
D.L. Scurry Scholarship
Sylvamo Scholarship
Tri-County Electric Scholarship
Meg Gantt Ulmer Rad Tech Memorial Scholarship
Robert Wayne Gibson Memorial Scholarship
John O. Wesner Endowed Scholarship
William W. Hodges Endowed Scholarship
Williamson Nursing Endowed Scholarship
Marcia Wood Endowed Scholarship



I am passionate about my hometown, and I wanted to stay home to receive my education. My OCtech Foundation scholarship helped me purchase nursing books and clinical supplies. Thanks to the foundation's support, I will be able to enter the workforce without being stressed about working to pay for my education, a burden that many young graduates face.

HALLIE FANNING
Associate Degree Nursing



give to the
FOUNDATION
HELP STUDENTS LIKE ME

OCTECH FOUNDATION

Many OCTech students are the first in their family to attend college, often balancing the demands of work, home and school. Financial assistance is crucial, as the costs extend beyond tuition and textbooks to include laptops, internet access, uniforms, lab kits, testing fees and travel. Unforeseen emergencies can further complicate their educational journey. The OCTech Foundation helps students overcome these financial obstacles so they can pursue their dreams of higher education.

foundation BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Craig W. Smith
Randolph D. Smoak Jr. (Emeritus)
Ansley R. Turnblad
Walter A. Tobin, Ex Officio

\$85,450



awarded
in foundation
scholarships
for 2024-2025

128
STUDENTS

assisted by the foundation

\$10,311



granted
in emergency
assistance

90%



of scholarship
recipients
continue studies
at OCTech or
graduated
within 2 years

COMPARED TO 73%
OF ALL OCTECH STUDENTS

20:1

STUDENT TO
FACULTY RATIO



66%

FACE-TO-FACE
CLASSES

After years of dedicated service, Faith McCurry retired as executive director of the OCtech Foundation in June – leaving behind a legacy built on kindness, strong community partnerships and countless opportunities created for students. Our new executive director, Dr. David Finklea, brings fresh ideas, genuine excitement and the same commitment to making sure students have what they need to succeed.



Faith McCurry

If you could describe your years here in a single word or short phrase, what would it be and why? Changing students' lives! We had an incredible team that worked together to meet their needs, and that team extended well beyond the foundation. I always knew I could rely on Student Services, the Financial Aid Office and Academic Affairs to help find solutions for our students. By pooling our resources and working collaboratively, we found a way to support students and help them move forward.

What has the OCtech community meant to you personally over the years?

I loved my time at OCtech! After 22 years at the college, the people I worked with became like family. Many faculty and staff members became close friends. We shared stories about our families, celebrated milestones and supported one another through life's challenges. That connection is what I miss most.

What do you hope people will remember most about your time with the foundation? By working together, we helped students finish their programs, earn their degrees and move into successful careers that improved their families' lives.

What role does community involvement play in the foundation's success?

We were fortunate to have community leaders who generously gave their time to serve as foundation board members. Through their network of friends and business associates, they helped champion the college. Over the years, the Home & Garden Symposium and Fine Wines and Food events grew into a vital part of the foundation's fundraising efforts. We were grateful for the volunteers, community support and annual contributions.

How do you explain to someone in the community why the foundation matters?

By helping our students gain the training and skills they need, we strengthen our local workforce while also empowering them to create better lives for their families.



David Finklea



What inspired you to take on this role, and what excites you most about leading the OCtech Foundation into its next chapter?

I was inspired to take this role because of the long-standing reputation OCtech has in the community. The opportunity to serve students and partner with organizations to find solutions that improve the community was most exciting to me.

What do you see as the biggest opportunities or priorities for the foundation in the coming years? We have a great opportunity to increase the amount of support for student scholarships and programs. Many of our students face extraordinary challenges, and we would like to provide more scholarships and emergency assistance to those who wish to continue their education at OCtech. Our highest priority is to increase the number of endowed funds, major gift donors and monthly gifts.

What's one fresh idea or dream you'd love to bring to life for the foundation? One fresh idea I would love to bring to life for the OCtech Foundation is the launch of a planned giving and legacy giving program. This initiative would allow alumni, community partners and friends of the college to make a lasting impact through bequests, endowed scholarships and estate gifts. By creating pathways for long-term generosity, we can ensure future students have access to education, opportunity and upward mobility for generations to come.

What role does community involvement play in the foundation's success? Our community is essential to everything we accomplish. When I reflect on events like the Webber Evening of Fine Wines and Food or the Home & Garden Symposium, I'm reminded of how deeply the community's support strengthens our ability to meet student needs and enhance our region's workforce. Without the support of our community, we simply could not sustain our level of impact on students pursuing an education at OCtech.

How do you explain to someone in the community why the foundation matters? The OCtech Foundation is essential because it generates additional funding to support our students, faculty and staff, and programs that fulfill the college's mission and vision.

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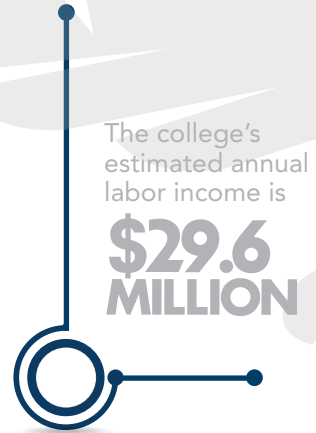
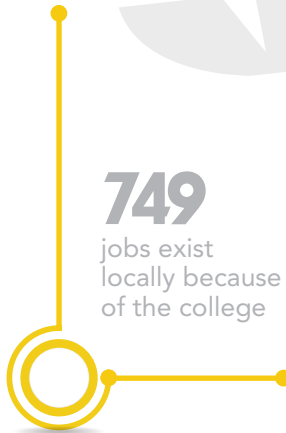
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[return on **EDUCATION**

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