

# Workforce Development: Short-term, Long-term, Nuclear, & Beyond

Presentation to CNTA

*Wednesday, June 23, 2021*

# March 15, 2020 – Shut Down Announced



# The World Turned Upside Down

- The impact of the pandemic on the economy was catastrophic.
- Conventional wisdom did not hold true with regard to technical and community colleges.
- Whereas technical and community colleges traditionally see increased enrollment in economic downturns, they were down an average of 10% for fall.
- Students most likely to attend two-year colleges struggle in good economic times; pandemic increased challenges for those students.

# The Challenges

- ATC will need to reengage with these students who did not attend college anywhere.
- ATC still offers its traditional pathways in certificates, diplomas, and degrees.
- Fields include nursing, health sciences, welding, computer technology, advanced manufacturing, and nuclear.
- Jobs without people has been recurring theme in region.

# The Solution: Short-term Training

- Redesigned Tower and Wireless Installation program into a 12-day Tower Technician training course.
- Training course is provided through a partnership with Warriors 4 Wireless and M&M Safety Consulting and Training.
- Program costs are covered for eligible participants thanks to various funding sources.



# The Solution: Short-term Training



- Governor McMaster redirected \$8 million from Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) to the SCTCS.
- Short-term job-training programs prepare county residents with new skills to quickly enter or reenter the workforce.
- ATC is offering a free South Carolina Manufacturing Certification (SCMC) course, July 12-October 4. First group graduated from the course on June 17.

# The Solution: Short-term Training

- Dual enrollment pathways for high school students, such as cybersecurity.



# The Solution: Short-term Training



- ATC & SCTCS partnered with the SC Criminal Justice Academy.
- A 12-credit hour pre-academy certificate is offered.
- Pathway to employment in a SC law enforcement agency.
- Additional pathway to the SC Criminal Justice Academy.
- Cost of certificate fully covered.

# The Solution: WORC Grant

- Program was developed and proposed to DOE-EM & NNSA by the SRSCRO in 2015 to address long-term workforce needs at the Savannah River Site.
- DOE-EM & NNSA (at SRS) fund the WORC programs.
- SRSCRO serves as the fiscal agent & program manager of WORC.
- Aiken Technical College is one of 6 college/university partners of the WORC grant program.

# The Solution: WORC Grant

- WORC I began in 2016 for \$5M over 5 years.
- WORC I was renewed for an additional 5 years in 2021 and will run until 2026.
- Also, WORC II was awarded in 2020 – 2025, funded solely by NNSA to address specific workforce needs.
- WORC funds scholarships, student recruitment, and retention programs for each college/university partner.
- Over 1,400 scholarships have been awarded to date through WORC grants overall. That represents at least 400 students in the region, because many students receive scholarships for more than one semester.

# The Solution: WORC Grant

- **WORC I** supports marketing efforts, student scholarships, and student professional development for students going into the apprenticeship program with SRNS/SRR or into Nuclear Fundamentals and Radiation Protection Technology.
- **WORC II** supports marketing efforts, student scholarships, student professional development for students going into Industrial Maintenance Technology, Engineering Graphics Technology, HVAC Technology, Welding Technology and Electronic Engineering Technology.

# The Solution: Apprenticeship

- The first cohort of the Operator Apprenticeship program completed the Nuclear Fundamentals Certificate in October 2020. The next cohort to complete the program in July 2021.
- Apprenticeship Carolina partnered with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions and Lower Savannah Council of Governments to develop this apprenticeship opportunity.



# The Solution: New Partnerships

- RPT is in need of a full-time RPT instructor. Program is thriving with adjuncts from SRNS and SRR, but College needs that position filled.
- RPT program has grown in the last year from 32 students to 45 students from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020.
- Other companies expressed interest in moving forward with establishing apprenticeship programs similar to SRNS.
- In the process of receiving glove boxes from SRNL as well as SRSCRO Surplus.

# The Solution: Enhanced Learning Environment

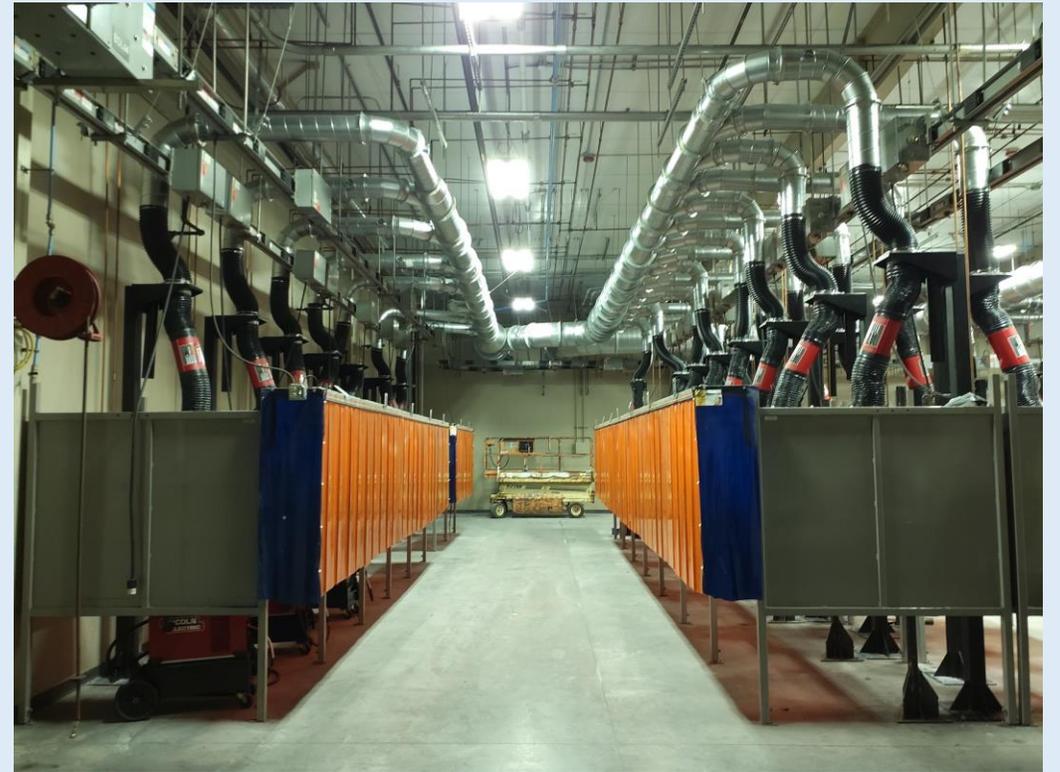


- Plan for welding lab upgrades approved by the State
  - Increased capacity
  - Ventilation upgrades
- Awarded \$25,000 American Welding Society Foundation Grant
  - Funded additional welding booths and machines

# Welding Lab – Interior – Before and After



# Welding Lab – Interior – Before and After



# Welding Lab – Exterior – Before and After



# Aiken Technical College: 1972-2022

In 2022, the College will celebrate 50 years of providing an accessible, affordable, and quality higher education to thousands in the local region and producing over 13,000 graduates.



# Aiken Technical College: 1972-2022

- Aiken Technical College was founded on September 1, 1972.
- This Founder's Day, September 1, 2021, will launch the College's 50<sup>th</sup> year with an on-campus scholarship fundraiser.
- It will replace the Giving Gala as our signature event.
- Focus will be on the campus and reengaging with community members, alumni, donors, faculty, staff, and students.
- 2021-22 will also be the year we seek input from stakeholders for the new Five-Year Strategic Plan: 2022-2027.