

## **Georgia's College and Career Academies** **The most effective workforce pipeline in Georgia**

Since 2007 – Georgia has grown a network for College and Career Academies that are serving as a change agent for communities and regions throughout the state to better prepare students for the local workforce. Today we have 43 College and Career Academies with seven (7) communities competing for four community grant awards in December 2018. Georgia's in-demand industries have found great success in fulfilling their workforce needs as a result of their partnership with a college and career academy. Attachment A demonstrates the effective involvement of industry and post-secondary partners.

Future growth of college and career academies is strong – we know of interest from 31 communities who are now developing the community partnerships necessary to redesign the high school opportunities to ensure students' education experiences support the growth of a high-demand workforce for the economic prosperity of our state.

### **College and Career Academy Statutory Authority – OCGA 20-4-37**

In 2011 the Georgia General Assembly established (OCGA 20-4-37) and funded the Office of College and Career Transitions at the Technical College System of Georgia. This law also defines a College and Career Academy (CCA), sets up the grant process for future growth, and requires College and Career Academies to embark on a certification process in cooperation with the Department of Education to ensure accountability through their charter or system contract and fidelity to the CCA model. The statute was approved by the General Assembly after the body had a chance to study several communities in which the CCA model was already working. Success in local communities preceded the passage of a law that captured the important elements of the success.

### **CCA Success:**

- Community partnerships bringing industry together with education to provide quicker response to industry need
- Fulfilling current and future workforce needs – including best practice apprenticeships
- Increased graduation rates
- Effective use of resources at the CCA and partner Technical College
- Single location for employers to focus efforts - creating most effective training/industry partnership
- Innovations that lead to improved student outcomes created by charter/contract flexibility status
- Economic Development tool used to attract local business investment and new industry growth

### **What Georgia College and Career Academy Network needs for the future:**

- Annual funding of 12 million bond dollars and start-up cash award to support the continued growth of the CCA Network.
- Appropriate Dual Enrollment Funding so that school systems and post-secondary partners can continue and improve program offerings.
- Funding sources that more effectively support rapidly changing industry needs.
- Support for effective aptitude/career interest guidance (YouScience) that effectively assists student pathway and post-secondary enrollment decisions.
- Support work based learning/apprenticeship program offerings developed at a CCA by their industry partners.
- Georgia College and Career Academies have become an effective tool where business and industry, post-secondary, and K-12 partners are working together to solve Georgia's workforce development needs – commit to their continued success.