Our Commitment to Educational Excellence and Public Trust

For more than fifty-five years, George Stone Technical College has helped individuals gain the skills, knowledge, and confidence to build better futures for themselves and their families. We take pride in that history and in the role we play in preparing the skilled workforce that supports our community.

Our mission is **to create opportunities that transform lives.** It is a straightforward statement of why we exist, and it guides the decisions we make every day.

As a public institution within Escambia County Public Schools, we also understand that we have a responsibility to the students we serve, the employers who depend on our graduates, and the taxpayers who support our work. They should expect high standards, responsible use of public resources, and an education that delivers real value. We believe those expectations are reasonable, and we are committed to meeting them.

In response to the National Call to Action issued by U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon and the guidance provided by the Florida Department of Education, George Stone Technical College reaffirms the following commitments.

Fair and Transparent Admissions

Every prospective student deserves to understand what is required to enroll in one of our programs. We make information about admissions requirements, program prerequisites, tuition, fees, and enrollment procedures available so individuals can make informed decisions about their education.

Our admissions practices are based on established eligibility requirements, program qualifications, and applicable state and federal laws. We are committed to treating applicants fairly and consistently, without unlawful discrimination or preferences.

Our goal is to provide qualified individuals with an opportunity to pursue the education and training they need to succeed.

Freedom of Expression and Respect for Different Viewpoints

We believe students learn best in an environment where they feel comfortable asking questions, sharing ideas, and considering perspectives that may differ from their own. Open discussion and

respectful disagreement are important parts of learning, whether in a classroom, laboratory, or workplace.

We expect our students and employees to respect the rights of others, even when they disagree. Lawful expression and the exchange of ideas should be encouraged, not discouraged because a viewpoint is unpopular or different.

At the same time, freedom of expression does not excuse harassment, threats, violence, or behavior that interferes with teaching, learning, or the normal operation of the College. Maintaining a safe, respectful, and orderly learning environment is a responsibility we take seriously.

Quality Instruction and Intellectual Independence

The purpose of career and technical education is to prepare students with the knowledge, practical skills, and professional habits they need to succeed in their chosen fields.

At George Stone Technical College, our programs are built around state curriculum frameworks, industry standards, and occupational competencies. What we teach is guided by the demands of the profession and the expectations of employers, not by political or ideological agendas.

We seek instructors who know their industries, understand their responsibilities as educators, and are committed to helping students succeed. Our hiring and evaluation practices emphasize professional qualifications, instructional effectiveness, and demonstrated commitment to student learning. We value different perspectives and encourage independent thinking, sound judgment, and thoughtful discussion.

Technical knowledge matters, but so does the ability to solve problems, make good decisions, work with others, and take responsibility for one's actions. Those are qualities we want every graduate to carry into the workplace and the community.

Affordability, Accountability, and Student Success

We understand that returning to school or beginning a new career is a significant decision. Students invest their time, their money, and often make personal sacrifices to pursue an education. They deserve to know what that investment will cost and what opportunities it can provide.

As a publicly supported technical college, we are committed to keeping education affordable, communicating costs and financial aid options clearly, and making responsible decisions about how public funds are spent.

Just as important, we believe students deserve an education that leads somewhere.

We regularly examine student completion, credential attainment, and job placement results to determine how well our programs are performing. We also listen to employers and work closely with industry advisory committees to keep our programs aligned with changing workforce needs. When results fall short of expectations, we have a responsibility to understand why and make improvements.

We don't measure success simply by how many students enroll. What matters is whether they gain the skills and qualifications to complete their programs, find meaningful employment, and improve their lives.

High Standards and Meaningful Achievement

A credential from George Stone Technical College should mean something. It should tell an employer that the individual who earned it has demonstrated the knowledge and skills required to do the job. We have a responsibility to maintain that trust.

Our instructional programs emphasize clearly defined competencies, hands-on learning, and assessments that measure what students actually know and can do. We will not lower academic or performance standards, inflate grades, or award credentials that students have not earned.

Technology continues to change both education and the workplace. Artificial intelligence, in particular, presents new opportunities for teaching and learning, along with challenges in evaluating student work. We recognize its potential, but we also believe students must demonstrate their own understanding and abilities. Technology should support learning, not become a substitute for it.

Our graduates must be prepared to perform safely, competently, and independently. That expectation will remain central to our instructional practices.

Supporting American Workers and Florida's Economy

A strong economy depends on a skilled workforce. Businesses need qualified employees, communities need essential services, and individuals need opportunities to earn a living and support their families. Career and technical education helps make those things possible.

George Stone Technical College is proud to contribute to the workforce needs of Northwest Florida and our nation. Our programs prepare students for careers in fields such as healthcare, public safety, aviation, information technology, manufacturing, transportation, and the skilled trades. These are occupations that support our economy, strengthen our communities, and contribute to our nation's prosperity and security.

We will continue to work with local employers, industry leaders, and community partners to understand where jobs are needed, how industries are changing, and what skills our graduates must possess. We use that information, along with labor market data and student outcomes, to guide decisions about our programs and instructional priorities.

Our responsibility is to prepare students for the opportunities that exist today while remaining attentive to the workforce needs of tomorrow.

Earning the Public's Trust

Public trust isn't something an institution can claim simply because it has a long history or a worthy mission. It has to be earned, and it has to be maintained.

For George Stone Technical College, that means being honest about our results, holding ourselves accountable, managing resources responsibly, and continually looking for ways to improve the education we provide.

We know that the work we do has a direct impact on people's lives. A student who earns a credential, begins a new career, or gains the skills to support a family represents more than a positive statistic. That individual represents the very reason our College exists.

We are proud of the opportunities George Stone Technical College has created over the years, but we also recognize that our responsibility is ongoing. We must continue to earn the confidence of our students, employers, and community through the quality of our instruction and the success of our graduates.

Our mission is to create opportunities that transform lives. We intend to honor that commitment by maintaining high expectations, providing an education of genuine value, and preparing students to make meaningful contributions to their families, their communities, and our nation's workforce.

Stephen A. Brooks, Principal
George Stone Technical College

POLICY OF NONDISCRIMINATION

District Rule 6Gx17-1.17 The Board does not discriminate against any person on the basis of gender, age, race, religious creed, color, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, disability, or pregnancy in violation of applicable state or federal law, or these rules in the educational programs or activities which it operates or in the employment of personnel and does not tolerate any such discrimination. The Board provides equal access to the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and other designated youth groups. Complaints alleging violation of this policy shall be made to the Equal Employment Officer (EEO).

Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) Title II of the of 2008 GINA protects applicants and employees from discrimination based on genetic information in hiring, promotion, discharge, pay, fringe benefits, job training, classification, referral, and other aspects of employment.

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Revised Adoption SBR 6Gx17-1.17: 12/15/15 **Updated 06/20/2023**