

## **Augusta Technical College**

### **Tobacco Free Policy**

#### **Policy:**

Effective January 1, 2010, Augusta Technical College will become a tobacco free campus. Smoking and use of tobacco products will not be permitted anywhere on the campus including all campus buildings, sidewalks, parking lots, building entrances and common areas, and in college-owned vehicles. The Administration shall fully implement this policy and all applicable laws, regulations, and local and college ordinances related to tobacco use.

Tobacco use in the workplace has become an important public health issue as evidenced by recent legislations and policies of surrounding businesses. There is considerable evidence that smoke is harmful to non-smokers as well as to smokers. In addition to causing direct health hazards, smoking contributes to college costs in other ways including potential fire damage, cleaning, and maintenance costs. The College has a responsibility to provide a safe and healthy learning and work environment. Every student, employee, and visitor has the right to breathe clean air and not to be exposed to the effects of smoke and tobacco.

Secondhand smoke, also known as environmental tobacco smoke, is a Class A carcinogen. Its many detrimental effects on health are well established and include triggering asthma attacks, causing lung cancer, and causing cardiovascular and other lung diseases. Attempts to eradicate exposure to secondhand smoke through limiting smoking to enclosed spaces or outside entrance areas and sidewalks is ineffective because smoke can easily travel through open doors and through heating and air circulation vents. People must walk on sidewalks through the smoke of others, and smoke easily travels outside any established boundaries or designated areas.

By eliminating smoking on campus, all students, faculty and staff will be protected from secondhand smoke. Smoking bans do not take away individuals' rights to smoke, but they eliminate smokers' risks of harming others on college property.

Those students of the college community found violating this policy will be governed by the policies outlined in the student code of conduct found in the Augusta Technical College catalog and the faculty and staff, accordingly, to the Positive Discipline System at the college. However, it is hoped that all members of the college community will assist in ensuring the success of Augusta Technical College's tobacco free policy.