

# ***For Immediate Release***

## **Augusta Technical College and the Downtown Development Authority host Groundbreaking Ceremony for Accelerate Augusta**

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Augusta, Georgia - August 14, 2024

Augusta Technical College, in partnership with the Downtown Development Authority of Augusta, proudly announces the official groundbreaking of Accelerate Augusta, the region's newest small business incubator and microenterprise center.

This transformative initiative is made possible through the generous allocation of \$2.3 million in congressional funding secured by Senator Raphael Warnock. The collaboration extends heartfelt appreciation to Senator Warnock for his commitment to fostering local economic development.



"Today marks a significant milestone for our community as we lay the foundation for a hub of innovation and entrepreneurship," stated Margaret Woodard, Augusta Executive Director, Downtown Development Authority.

Accelerate Augusta is poised to become a cornerstone for small business development, providing a dynamic space for entrepreneurs to thrive. Housed in the renovated I. M. Pei Building, situated in the heart of Downtown Augusta, the center will offer essential resources, mentorship, and opportunities for growth.

"It is an exciting time for Downtown Augusta as the area continues to attract innovation and enterprise. Accelerate Augusta will bring further economic development and opportunity, and McKnight Construction is honored to do our part in making this dream a reality for the future business leaders of our community," stated Will McKnight, President of McKnight Construction.

"Augusta Tech is excited to officially begin the renovation of 600 Broad with our partners at the Downtown Development Authority of Augusta. Once completed in early 2025, we look forward to providing programs and services needed to support our small business/entrepreneurship community. We're also excited to announce that we've officially launch the search of the founding executive director and look to fill this role in fall of 2024. We thank Senator Warnock, our advisory board, the Augusta Tech Board, the DDA Board, and the City of Augusta for their leadership in making this project a success," stated Dr. Jermaine Whirl, President of Augusta Technical College.

[Click here to view event photos.](#)

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Augusta Technical College, a unit of the Technical College System of Georgia, is a public postsecondary institution that provides academic and technical education, customized business and industry training, continuing education, student support, economic development, and adult education services to its service area (Burke, Columbia, Lincoln, McDuffie, and Richmond Counties) at a competitive financial value. Associate of Science Degrees, Associate of Applied Science Degrees, diplomas, and technical certificates of credit are provided through traditional and distance delivery methods. For more information, visit [augustatech.edu](http://augustatech.edu).

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