

For Immediate Release

Accelerate Augusta Celebrates Successful Grand Opening in Downtown Augusta

Augusta, Georgia - October 10, 2025

Augusta Technical College, in partnership with the Downtown Development Authority of Augusta (DDA), officially celebrated the grand opening and ribbon cutting of Accelerate Augusta, the region's newest small business incubator and microenterprise center. The event was held at the newly renovated I.M. Pei building in the heart of downtown Augusta.



The ceremony featured David Nuckolls, Executive Director of the Georgia Center of Innovation and the Georgia Department of Economic Development, as the keynote speaker. Nuckolls addressed the crowd with inspiring remarks on the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship in driving regional economic growth.

Accelerate Augusta was made possible through \$2.3 million in congressional funding secured by Senator Raphael Warnock, whose commitment to fostering local economic development was recognized at the event.

The success of Accelerate Augusta is further attributed to the dedication and support of key contributors, including Downtown Development Authority, Augusta Technical College Board and Trustees, Augusta University and the Augusta, Georgia Government. This joint effort underscores the power of collaboration in driving positive change within the community. Accelerate Augusta is poised to become a cornerstone for small business development, providing a dynamic space for entrepreneurs to thrive. The center will offer essential resources, mentorship, and opportunities for growth.

Margaret Woodard, Executive Director of the DDA, emphasized the center's mission to support entrepreneurs and small business owners with resources and guidance to stimulate growth and investment in downtown Augusta.

"Seeing Accelerate Augusta come to life has been incredibly rewarding," said Woodard. "This hub will serve as a catalyst for small business success and downtown revitalization."

Jack Evans, Board Chair of Accelerate Augusta, also shared his enthusiasm for the initiative. "This is an exciting moment, not just for downtown, but for anyone in the area who wants to get started with a business idea. I am extremely grateful for the hard work and the public and private sector support that made Accelerate Augusta possible."

As Accelerate Augusta opens its doors, it marks a significant milestone in

supporting the economic vibrancy of the region. The partners anticipate a positive impact on local entrepreneurship and look forward to witnessing the success stories that will emerge from this vibrant hub of innovation.

[Shaun Andrews](#), Executive Director of Accelerate Augusta, who has been in the role for two months now, is excited about the official launch and the impact on the community. “This region is primed for entrepreneurial growth, and I am committed to empowering the next generation of innovators to turn their visions into reality. Small businesses are the heartbeat of our nation, and I’m excited to build a foundation for lasting impact right here in Georgia.”

Community leaders, entrepreneurs, and residents gathered to celebrate the launch of this transformative initiative, which is expected to have a lasting impact on local, regional, and statewide entrepreneurship and economic development.

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About Augusta Technical College

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.

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