

# For Immediate Release



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## Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Appoints Augusta Technical College Provost to Board of Directors

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Augusta, GA - January 22, 2025

Augusta Technical College proudly announces the appointment of College Provost Dr. Melissa Frank-Alston to the Board of Directors for the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce.

The Columbia County Chamber of Commerce is a member-driven, business-focused organization advocating for economic growth and development in the Greater Augusta region. Dedicated to fostering strategic investments, infrastructure improvements, and initiatives that attract and retain businesses, the Chamber plays a pivotal role in strengthening the local economy.



“I am honored to join the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors during the Chamber’s 20th anniversary of impact. I look forward to contributing to the Chamber’s mission of driving economic growth and development in our community,” said Dr. Melissa Frank-Alston.

Dr. Frank-Alston brings nearly 30 years of experience in higher education, including nearly two decades at Augusta Technical College. Since joining the College in 2005, she has held various vice presidential roles and worked closely with faculty, staff, administrators, and local business leaders to secure more than \$8 million in federal and private grants to support student success initiatives.

“Dr. Frank-Alston’s expertise in higher education and her commitment to economic and workforce development make her an outstanding addition to the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Board,” said Dr. Jermaine Whirl, President of Augusta Technical College.

Dr. Frank-Alston, who earned her PhD in Workforce Education and Development from Penn State University, is also a graduate of several prestigious leadership programs, including Leadership Augusta (2007), the Technical College System of Georgia Executive Leadership Academy (2014), and the Aspen Presidential Fellowship for Community College Excellence (2018). In 2018, she was recognized with the Pennsylvania State University College of Education Alumni Society Award for Leadership and Service.

Dr. Frank-Alston also serves on the Foundation Board of Directors for the South Carolina Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe.

Her three-year term on the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors will further enhance Augusta Technical College's commitment to supporting workforce development and economic growth in the region.

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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](http://augustatech.edu).

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