



Georgia– Rural Utilities Service

Regional Collaboration

USDA Empowers Wiregrass Georgia Technical College to Expand Distance Learning

Outline Of Need:

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College partnered with USDA to expand their Distance Learning opportunities for promoting community, educational, and economic development by providing a highly trained workforce for South central Georgia. WGTC provides quality technical and academic instruction through campus-based and distance education delivery methods.

How Rural Development Helped:

Rural Development provided WGTC a \$497,306 Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant, allowing the college to expand it's Distance Learning to regional high schools, all WGTC campuses and its 2 extended campuses.



Above: Wiregrass Georgia Tech students in action: Elizabeth Harrelson (first student) and then Erica West (second student)



*Nikki Stubbs - instructor
Left: Wiregrass Georgia Technical College Valdosta Campus*

The Results:

This grant enhances the successful distance learning programs at the college, linking 11 counties, 6 campuses and 4 regional school systems. By providing distance learning enrollment opportunities, WGTC and local high schools are increasing access to college for more students and preparing them to be more successful in their pursuit of education past high school. Adult learners enjoy the flexibility of online courses to earn technical education and upgrade their employment skills. The college provides adult education services in each of the eleven counties in the service area which includes Atkinson, Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, Coffee, Cook, Echols, Irwin, Lanier, Lowndes, and Wilcox counties.

Fast Facts

Program: Rural Utilities Service, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program

Investment: \$497,306 Grant

Demographics

- Wiregrass Georgia Technical College is a Fringe Rural 2 year public college.
- 41% of their 3,000 student population are minority.

Impact:

- 11 South Central Georgia counties, 4 high schools, and 6 college campuses linked for employment-driven education.

Contact: Deborah.Callahan@ga.usda.gov

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