



# frequently asked QUESTIONS by students

Altamaha Technical College and Okefenokee Technical College will be merged effective July 1, 2014, under a plan adopted in early August by the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia.

## **Why are the two colleges merging?**

The main campuses of OTC and ATC are relatively close. Merging will allow our students to have more opportunities, while we maintain a concentrated focus on building a workforce that keeps our communities strong. Merging also makes sense financially, saving the taxpayers of Georgia hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

## **How will this change my classes?**

For the better! Consolidating the two colleges into one will create one of the largest two-year colleges in Georgia. You will have access to exceptional instructors, programs and technology in 13 counties: Appling, Bacon, Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Clinch, Glynn, Jeff Davis, Long, McIntosh, Pierce, Ware, and Wayne.

## **Will the name of my college change because of the merger?**

Yes. Effective July 1, 2014, the merged institution will be known as Coastal Pines Technical College.

## **Where will I graduate from if I finish before the merger is complete?**

If you finish before July 1, 2014, at OTC, your graduation institution will be OTC. Likewise, if you finish before July 1, 2014, at ATC, your graduation institution will be ATC.

## **If I graduate before the merger is complete, will the change in college names be confusing for my future employers?**

It is quite common for colleges to merge or change names as time goes by. This will not affect your status as a graduate in the community. Both ATC and OTC have outstanding reputations in the community and are committed to maintaining that reputation.

## **Will my tuition change because of the merger?**

Tuition will not be directly affected by the merger. Tuition costs are determined by TCSG, and tuition is the same for all colleges in our system. We are proud to offer an outstanding education that is both affordable and accessible.

## **How will the merge affect student organizations?**

Student organizations are important, and we will continue to support the growth of these organizations.

## **I plan to continue my education at a four-year institution after I graduate. How will the merger impact current student articulation agreements?**

The merger will have a positive effect on articulations agreements. We expect the number of agreements to increase, giving students more options. Instead of separate articulation agreements for OTC and ATC, student in all thirteen counties can transfer college credits from the merged college to many other four-year colleges and universities.

## **I'm a high school student. Will the dual enrollment program change because of the merger?**

Many high school students are currently participating in the dual enrollment programs offered by OTC and ATC. Current dual enrollment classes will not be affected by the merger, and the opportunities for students after the merger will continue to grow.