



On the move!

Top achievements in local business

ACADEMICS

HGTC's Savannah Rabon graduates from Leadership Conway

Horry-Georgetown Technical College announced that Savannah Rabon, HGTC marketing coordinator and graphic designer, has successfully graduated from the prestigious 2023-2024 Leadership Conway program. This year's program proudly graduated 20 participants who spent the past nine months immersed in learning about the City of Conway and honing their leadership skills to better serve the community.

As part of the Leadership Conway program, participants engaged in various community-oriented projects, including a significant fundraising initiative for local nonprofits. Rabon's team chose to support The Caroline Grace Foundation's Camp Rockstar SC, a free, five-week summer camp in Conway for individuals ages 5-25 with special needs. The camp encourages socialization and a consistent routine to maintain skills and emotional stability. Through their successful T-shirt sponsorship campaign, Rabon and her team raised over \$24,000, directly supporting Camp Rockstar's 2024 operations. This funding will allow the camp to run for five weeks, accommodating up to 30 campers, and will enhance camp activities and resources, ensuring a safe, engaging, and enriching experience for all attendees.

Additionally, Leadership Conway teams made significant contributions to other local nonprofits:

The Shepherd's Table: A donation of \$1,212, enabling the organization to serve 400 plates of chicken bog, green beans, rolls and cookies, providing multiple meals to those in the community.

A Father's Place: A donation of \$10,000 to support the organization's mission of empowering fathers to become responsible, nurturing parents and positive role models in their children's lives.

Rabon's exceptional contributions to the program have also led to her election to the board of regents, where she will serve for the next two years. Her selection by her peers is a testament to her leadership qualities and dedication to the community.

Leadership Conway, for over a quarter of a century, has provided existing and emerging leaders with opportunities to enhance their civic knowledge and network. The program helps participants understand how the community functions, build relationships with the area's current and future leaders and inspire them to focus their talents on serving the community. Participants develop the leadership skills necessary to assume leadership roles and become involved in community opportunities. For more information about the program, visit conwayscchamber.com.

"HGTC is proud to sponsor and support employees in the participation of leadership programs with our area chambers of commerce," said Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, HGTC president. "Leadership is not something we take lightly at the College. It is the

basis for every decision we make; leading by example, inspiring passion, and motivating our team to accomplish the mission of our College."

For more information about applying, enrolling, and registering at HGTC, call 843-347-3186 or visit www.hgtc.edu.

MEDICAL

Two longtime community leaders have joined the Tidelands Health board of trustees

Tony Cox, a retired Myrtle Beach real estate executive, and Ray Funnys, director of public services for Georgetown County, have joined the 23-member board, which oversees the region's largest health care provider. Board members volunteer their time and expertise to serve as stewards of the not-for-profit health system.

After joining Georgetown County as a plans examiner in 1992, Funnys was named the county's director of public works in 1994 and director of public services in 2002. He holds Federal Emergency Management Association certification in the National Incident Management System, as well as South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control cer-



Funnys

tifications in erosion prevention and sediment control and mining and solid waste landfill management.

He is also the founder and director of The Village Group, a non-profit organization that supports youth development, food justice, conservation and more in Georgetown County.

In 2020, Funnys received the Presidential Leadership Award from the American Public Works Association. He earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering technology at Savannah State University and a master's degree in management at Webster University.



Cox

Cox serves on the South Carolina Department of Transportation Commission and has held two terms as chairman. Prior to his retirement, he was executive vice president of real estate for Burroughs and Chapin Co. Inc.

Cox is a Certified Commercial Investment member and graduate of the Realtor Institute. He serves on the boards of directors of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corp. and South Atlantic Bank and is a member of the executive committee of the Grand Strand Business Alliance.

He is a former member of the advisory boards of the National Bank of South Carolina and Crescent Mortgage. Cox is a past chairman of the South Carolina Real Estate Commission and a former chairman of the Horry County Planning Commission. In 2023, he was named Citizen of the Year by the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. Cox earned a bachelor's degree in public administration and real estate from the University of South Carolina and completed the Harvard Graduate School of Design's advanced management development program.

"Tony and Ray bring decades of experience, distinguished leadership and dedicated community service to our Tidelands Health board of trustees," said J. Edward Norris III, chairman of the board. "Their insight and expertise will be invaluable as our board collectively continues to shape our strategic vision to meet the needs of our fast-growing region."

NONPROFIT

Grand Strand Young Professionals host 'Christmas in July' fundraisers for Substitutes for Santa charity

Grand Strand Young Professionals, a program of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, is celebrating Christmas in July with several fundraisers benefiting the annual Substitutes for Santa experience supporting Horry County youth over the holidays.

On July 1, Tidal Creek Brewhouse in Market Common hosted a Brews to Benefit with \$1 from each beer purchased donated to the charity.

On July 10, Beachfront Kitchen and Bar in Myrtle Beach is having a Spaghetti Wednesday from 11 a.m. and 9 p.m. with \$12.99 spaghetti and salad plates available for dine in, carry out or pick up.

July 21 - 28, WonderWorks in Myrtle Beach is donating a portion of ticket sales from their "Buy Now, Use Later" promo. Tickets are \$15 using the online code GSYP.

On July 24, BurgerFi on Saybrook Parkway in Myrtle Beach will donate 20 percent of orders purchased from 4-8 p.m.

All proceeds from these Christmas in July fundraisers will benefit Substitutes for Santa, the annual holiday event held in partnership with SOS Care that provides 150 children in Horry County with a magical Christmas shopping and entertainment experience.

Founded in 2008, Grand Strand Young Professionals is a program of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce for members ages 21 to 40. Participants take part in monthly networking, education and community service opportunities, including Substitutes for Santa, an annual holiday celebration for 150 Horry County students.

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