

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

August 14, 2024

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services Board Meeting

Tom Wilson, Board Chairman

GVRS_Board@gvs.ga.gov



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Board Meeting Agenda

August 14, 2024

1:00 P.M.

Roosevelt Warm Springs, 6135 Roosevelt Highway, Warm Springs, Georgia 31830

11:00 am	Tours of the RWS Vocational Educational & Training Building & Lunch	
1:00 pm	Opening	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
1:05 pm	Welcome and Remarks	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
1:10 pm	Recognition of Special Guests (EOM & Supervisors)	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
1:20 pm	Roll Call and Agenda	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
1:25 pm	Consent Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board Meeting Minutes Approval• FY2024 & FY2025 Budgets	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
1:30 pm	GVRA Update & Introduction of New Additions to the Client Services Team	<i>Chris Wells GVRA Executive Director</i>
1:50 pm	RWS Update	<i>Chip Medders Residential Services Director</i>
2:00 pm	Georgia CTI & Recap of GVRA Day with the Braves and Potential Opportunities	<i>Mary Donahue Executive Director, Georgia CTI</i>
2:20 pm	New Business/Old Business	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>
2:25 pm	*Public Comments/Adjournment	<i>Tom Wilson Chair</i>

** Individuals are allowed up to five (5) minutes for public comment. The board asks that individuals seeking to offer public comments provide written notice in advance or upon completion of the meeting.*



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Board Meeting Agenda

- ❖ Welcome and Remarks
- ❖ Roll Call and Agenda

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Consent Agenda

- ❖ Previous Board Meeting Minutes Approval
- ❖ Budget Report

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Board Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2024

MEETING MINUTES OF THE
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD
May 8, 2024
1:00 PM – 2:15 PM
Virtual Meeting via Teams

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Tom Wilson, Chair	Suzanne Dooley
Faye Perdue, Vice Chair	Vincent Martin
Sandy Adams, Secretary	Johnathan Taylor
Louise Hill	James Defoor
Jane McCall	
GVRA Executive Director Chris Wells, Non-Member	

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Craig Camuso

Opening, Welcome, and Invocation

GVRS Board Chair Tom Wilson welcomed everyone in attendance, and the meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

Chairman Wilson performed a roll call and recommended the agenda be as amended as follows:

- Remove the Annual Report
- Move the Budget Report to Executive Director Wells's section

Chairman Wilson recommended the approval of the amended agenda.

On motion of Secretary Adams, seconded by Mrs. McCall, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda as amended.

Chairman Wilson recommended the approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following:

- Approve Board Meeting Minutes from Previous Session
- Approve Budget Report

On motion of Secretary Adams, seconded by Mrs. McCall, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

GVRA Staff Updates/Reports:

Executive Director Report – Executive Director Chris Wells

Agency Spotlights

- Executive Director Wells recognized the following employees:
 - Gwen Lesperance, the District Administrator for District 1 in the Lafayette office, was chosen as the February employee of the month.



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Board Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2024

MEETING MINUTES OF THE
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD
May 8, 2024
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- Erica Shedd, the Administrative Assistant 2 for Program Support, was chosen as the March employee of the month.⁷
- Moses Little, a GVRA Specialty Counselor in Athens, was appointed by Governor Brian P. Kemp to serve as a member of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) on April 1st.

Executive Director's Update – Chris Wells, GVRA Executive Director

- Executive Director Wells provided information on the following topics:
 - Federal 2023 Monitoring Report
 - Employee Pulse Survey
 - Employee Appreciation Week
 - Appropriations Act

Public Affairs & Communications Updates – Carla Murphy, Director

- Director Carla Murphy shared the following Public Affairs & Communications Updates:
 - External Website Highlights including:
 - Website is managed in collaboration with GVRA Information Technology (IT) Department.
 - Public Affairs Department is responsible for content (including imagery) and look & feel.
 - Recent redesign follows a Georgia Technology Authority/Digital Services & Solutions refresh of templates used by state agencies.
 - Homepage has been redesigned and additional webpages created to support and promote programs and initiatives.
 - Webpages and documents are currently undergoing a review for updates and to ensure accessibility for audiences.
 - Website traffic has increased significantly since start of fiscal year – with more than 13,500 visits a month in July 2023 to more than 19,600 visits a month as of April 2024.
 - Highlighting Success Stories on the website, social media platforms, and flyers.
 - Outreach Materials Such As:
 - Who We Are Rack Cards
 - Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) Rack Cards
 - Bud McCall Grant Posters, Rack Cards, and Postcards
 - Spanish Outreach Materials
 - Sensory Brochures in Large Print & Braille
 - Online Outreach Materials Request Form
 - A List of Outreach Activities Conducted to Date
 - Internal Newsletters: GVRA On Target Newsletter & Roosevelt Warm Springs Newsletter



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Board Meeting Minutes – May 8, 2024

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD
May 8, 2024
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Old Business/New Business

Mrs. Hill took over the gavel for the Annual Election of Board Officers.

Mrs. Hill stated that the Board has an uncontested slate of officers and opened the floor for other nominations. Hearing none, Mrs. Hill made a motion to accept the slate of officers by acclamation. Mrs. McCall seconded the motion, and the board unanimously voted to affirm the following officers.

- Chairman – Tom Wilson
- Vice Chairman – Faye Perdue
- Secretary – Sandy Adams

Chairman Wilson reminded the Board of the remaining meetings for the year:

- August 14, 2024 at Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute
- October 9, 2024 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, also GVRA Day at the Fair

Chairman Wilson also reminded everyone that June 30th will be GVRA Day with the Braves

Public Comment & Adjournment

Chairman Wilson opened the floor for public comment. As there was no public comment, he called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Mr. Martin, seconded by Mrs. Hill, the board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 2:11 p.m.



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

FY 2024 Program Based Budget

Program Name	FY 2023 Expenditures	FY 2024 Current Budget			
		State	Federal	Other	Total
Business Enterprise Program	\$2,925,020	\$336,906	\$2,443,269	-	\$2,769,410
Departmental Administration	9,535,556	2,504,607	7,846,048	284,597	10,567,432
Disability Adjudication Services	57,949,199	-	66,908,724	-	66,908,724
Georgia Industries for the Blind	5,010,339	82,045	-	4,365,888	4,365,888
Vocational Rehabilitation	70,390,121	24,037,721	69,425,542	5,063,038	98,517,151
Total	\$145,810,235	\$26,961,279	\$146,623,583	\$9,713,523	\$183,128,605



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

FY 2025 Program Based Budget

Program Name	FY 2024 Expenditures	FY 2025 Current Budget			
		State	Federal	Other	Total
Business Enterprise Program	\$2,673,619	\$335,972	\$2,443,269	-	\$2,779,241
Departmental Administration	9,672,203	2,908,950	7,846,048	284,597	11,039,595
Disability Adjudication Services	55,981,717	-	65,972,102	-	65,972,102
Georgia Industries for the Blind	5,434,708	-	-	4,365,888	4,365,888
Vocational Rehabilitation	88,322,632	25,752,292	69,425,042	5,063,038	100,240,372
Total	\$162,084,879	\$28,997,214	\$145,686,461	\$9,713,523	\$184,397,198



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

GVRS Board Meeting

Chris Wells, Executive Director

Chris.Wells@gvs.ga.gov

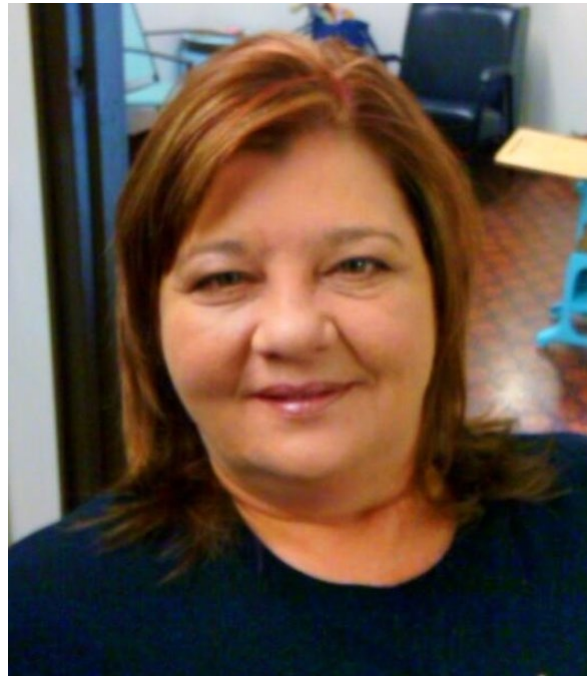


Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Agency Spotlight – Employees of the Month for FY 2024



Alfred Wheeler
VR Supervisor
Dublin Office



Kathy Riner
Intake Specialist
Dublin Office



Aszure Odum
Intake Specialist
Columbus Office



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Agency Spotlight – Employees of the Month for FY 2024



Erica Shedd
Administrative Assistant
Program Support



Gwen Lesperance
District Admin. Assistant
District 1



Treasure Hight
Counselor
Columbus Office



Jessica Sanford
Counselor
Lafayette Office



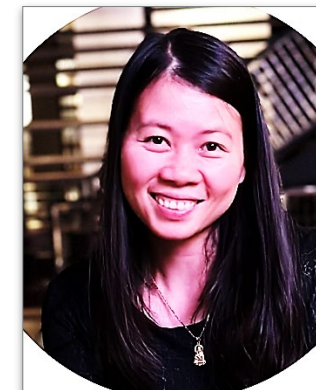
Cara Lofton
District Admin. Assistant
District 8



Moses Little
Specialty Counselor
Athens Office



Hope Pounds
Procurement Manager
Disability Adjudication Services



Sarah Pham
GL Accountant 4
Fiscal Services, Atlanta



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Roosevelt Warm Springs Update

Chip Medders, Residential Services Director

Dennis.Medders@gvs.ga.gov



Roosevelt Warm Springs



#RWS-2.0

Current PATHWAY Offerings

Low Voltage Wiring



Hospitality



Logistics/Warehousing



Certified Nursing Asst.

(C.N.A)



Auto Detailing



Retail (CVS)



Heavy Equipment Operator

(Excavator & Bulldozer)

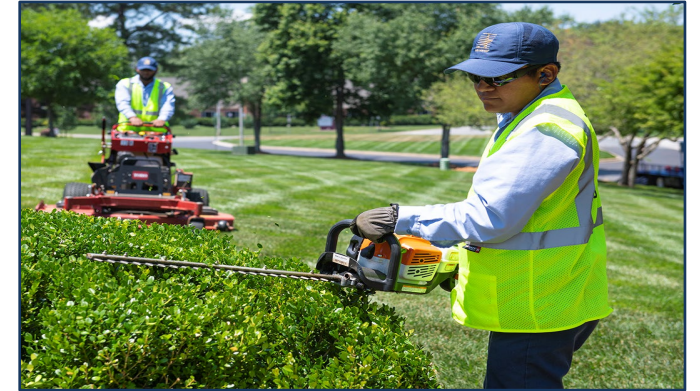
* * All program offerings allow the opportunity to earn nationally accredited industry certifications ! * *

New PATHWAY Options Coming soon

Construction Jumpstart

Components Including:

- Framing/Carpentry
- Light HVAC & Plumbing
- Landscape Maintenance & Design
w/ Small Engine Repair



Pharmacy Technician



Roosevelt Warm Springs Student Calendar 2024-2025

Fall Semester 2024

**July 30th - August 2nd:
Move-In/Student Orientation**

**Aug 5th:
Classes Begin**

**Sept 2nd: Labor Day
Holiday/Dorms Open**

**Oct 14th: Columbus Day
Holiday/Dorms Open**

**Nov 10th: Veteran's Day
Holiday/Dorms Open**

**Nov 22-Dec 1: Thanksgiving
Holiday/Dorms Closed**

**Dec 4th:
Last Day of Program**

**Dec 5th - 11th:
Transition Activities**

**Dec 12th
Graduation/Move-Out**

**Dec 16-31: Christmas
Holiday/Dorms Closed**

Spring Semester 2025

**Jan 2nd-6th:
Staff Preparation Days**

**Jan 7th-10th:
Move-In/Student Orientation**

**Jan 13th:
Classes Begin**

**Jan 20th: MLK Day
Holiday/Dorms Open**

**Mar 28 - Apr 5: Spring Break
Holiday/Dorms Closed**

**May 13th:
Last Day of Program**

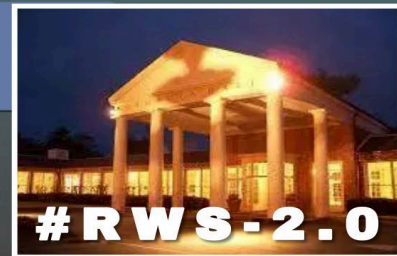
**May 14th-21st:
Transition Activities**

**May 22nd:
Graduation/Move-Out**



Roosevelt Warm Springs

Roosevelt Warm Springs



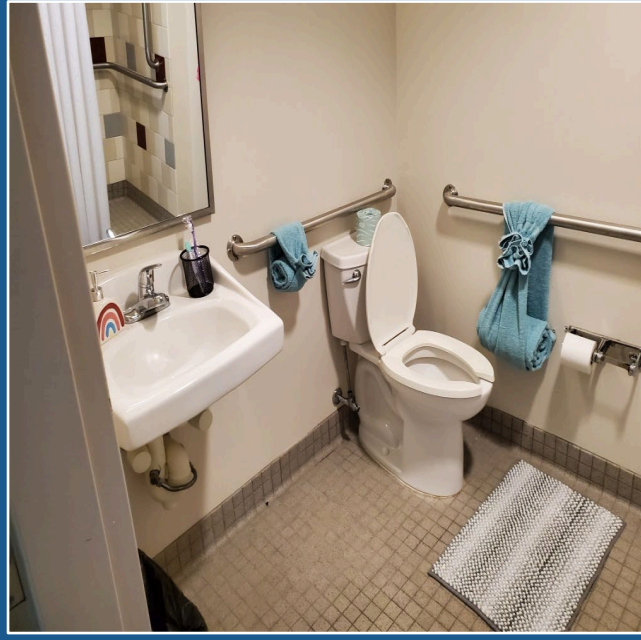
Roosevelt Warm Springs Class Schedule: Spring 2024

Course/Instructors	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Logistics/Forklift (12) D. Beasley, J. Buggs	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00	Class: 10:00 - 11:00 BlazeSports: 11:00-12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class Lab: 1:00 - 3:00 Tutoring: 3:00 - 4:00	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00	Class: 10:00 - 11:00 Tutoring: 11:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Elective: 1:00 - 2:00 Class: 2:00-3:00 CTR: 3:00 - 4:00	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00
Hospitality (16) G. Henderson, H. Flournoy, G. Webb	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00	Tutoring: 9:00 - 10:00 Class: 10:00-12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 2:00 BlazeSports: 2:00 - 3:00	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00	Tutoring: 9:00 - 10:00 Class: 10:00-12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 CTR: 1:00 - 2:00 Elective: 2:00 - 3:00	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00-1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00
CVS / Retail (15) A. Lewis, D. Newman, L. Phillips, C. Huckaby	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00	Tutoring: 9:00 - 10:00 Class: 10:00-12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 BlazeSports: 1:00 - 2:00 Class: 2:00 - 3:00	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00	Tutoring: 9:00 - 10:00 Elective: 10:00 - 11:00 Lunch: 11:00 - 12:00 Class: 12:00 - 2:00 CTR: 2:00 - 3:00	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00
Low Voltage Wiring (7) L. Tate, H. Williams	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00	BlazeSports:: 9:00 - 10:00 Tutoring: 10:00 - 11:00 Lunch: 11:00 - 12:00 Class: 12:00 - 3:00	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00	Elective: 9:00 - 10:00 Tutoring: 10:00 - 11:00 CTR: 11:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 2:00 - 3:00	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00
C.N.A. (5) L. Dorman, Z. Powell, D. Talley	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00	Class: 10:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00 Tutoring: 3:00 - 4:00	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00	Class: 10:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00 Tutoring: 3:00 - 4:00	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00
Auto Detailing (9) M. Dorman, D. Davis, C. Sizelove	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00	Tutoring: 9:00 - 10:00 BlazeSports: 10:00 - 11:00 Lunch: 11:00 - 12:00 Class: 12:00 - 3:00	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00	Tutoring: 9:00 - 10:00 CTR: 10:00 - 11:00 Elective: 11:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 12:00 - 3:00	Class: 9:00 - 12:00 Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 Class: 1:00 - 3:00

Electives Taught by WBL Staff (Classes will meet in School House)
 Week 1-4: Job Exploration Weeks 9-12: Career Advancement
 Weeks 5 - 8: Soft Skills Weeks 13-16: Financial Literacy/Entrepreneurship

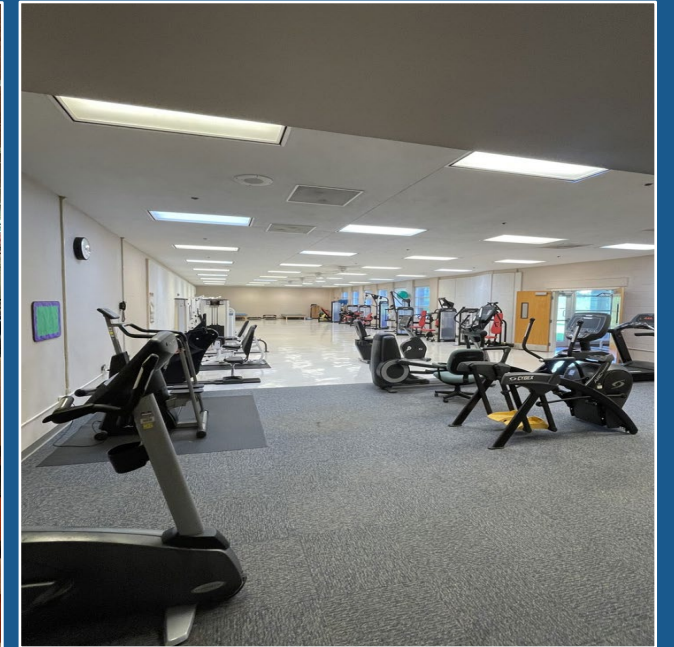
Tutoring Rosters:
 = K. Ferguson: Hospitality/Logistics
 - J. Hendrix: Logistics/Retail
 - B. Jenkins: Auto Detail/C.N.A./Low Voltage

Dorm Life





Center for Therapeutic Recreation (CTR)



More CTR and Campus Amenities

Transition Tour

- Specifically for high school students
- General overview of certification programs offered at RWS
- Tour of campus



TOURS

Parent -Student Tour

- Specifically for parents and their child
- Introduction to RWS
- Tour of Campus
- Exposure to certification programs



School Faculty Tour

- Specifically for teachers and school staff
- Gain better understanding of certification programs
- Tour of campus
- Learn key steps to begin process of transitioning a high school student to RWS



706-655-5000

Already a VR Client?

- Contact your VR counselor or reach out to RWS directly at rws.csc.referrals@gvs.ga.gov to receive an application for admission and information on admissions criteria
- Admission decision made within 10 business days of receipt of completed application and required supporting documents
- Clients will be notified directly by RWS staff of their admissions status (admissions packet if accepted to RWS, referral to local field counselor for additional supports if criteria is not met)



GVRA

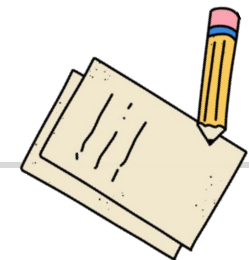


GEORGIA VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION AGENCY



Not a VR Client?

- Contact Niki Watts at Elizabeth.Watts@gvs.ga.gov OR reach out to your local VR counselor
- RWS staff will work with applicant to determine if they are eligible for VR services and if they meet RWS admissions criteria (determination within 10 days)
- If the applicant is eligible for VR services and meets criteria for admissions, counselor will notify the client and work with them to develop an IPE
- If the applicant does not meet RWS criteria, they will be notified by RWS staff and the case will be transferred to local field office to develop an optional plan for supports.



Current Admissions Process

Find us on 



Roosevelt Warm Springs Center - RWS

127 likes • 130 followers

-  Following
-  Message
-  Search



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Residential Services Pathways

RWS Pathway Options

- Low Voltage/Light Electrical
- CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant)
- Logistics/Warehouse
- Hospitality
- Auto Detailing
- CVS/Retail
- Heavy Equipment Operator

RWS Future Pathway Options

- Groundskeeping
- Pharmacy Tech
- Construction Jumpstart

Pathway	Aug 23 Enrollment	Jan 24 Enrollment	Aug 24 Enrollment
CVS/Retail	7	14	17
Logistics	3	12	14
Hospitality	5	15*	20
Low-Voltage	1	7	18
Auto-Detailing	0	9	12
Certified Nursing Assistant	0	5	6
Heavy Equipment	0	0	9
Total Enrollment	16	62	96

**8 Students approved and enrolled in the Hospitality Pathway were either no-shows or left within the first few weeks, reducing the number to 15.*



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Georgia CTI

Mary Donahue, Executive Director
Georgia Career & Technical Instruction, Inc. (CTI)
GeorgiaCTI@gmail.com





Career & Technical Instruction





Career & Technical Instruction

Mary Davis Donahue

Executive Director

Georgia Career & Technical Instruction, INC (CTI)

Phone: 678.617.0439

Email: georgiacti@gmail.com





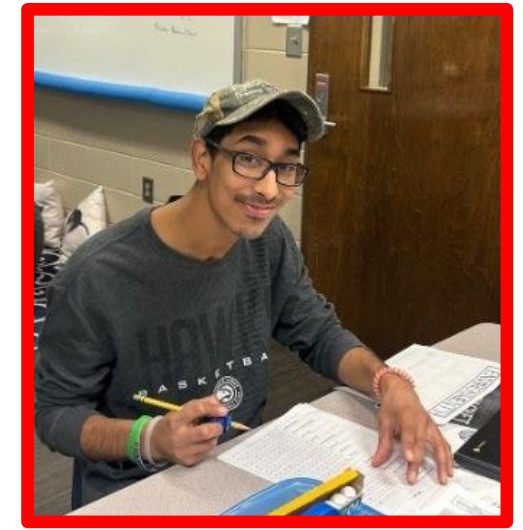
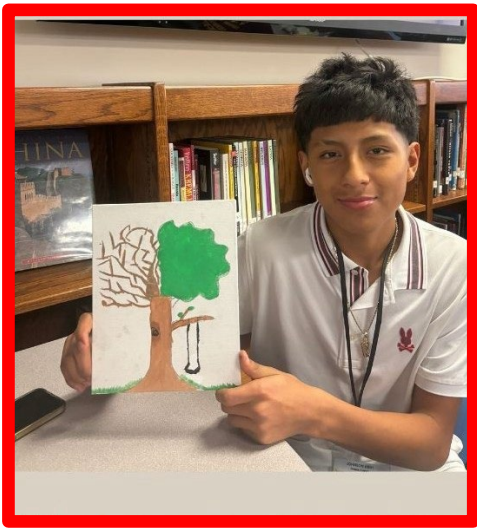
BRAVES with GVRA!





G.R.O.W with GVRA!





In-School Pre-ETS with GVRA!





GVRA/CTI Partnership

CTI and GVRA have worked to strengthen the local school contacts and VR Counselor relationship, helping to identify qualified high school students for VR support and increasing the Pre-ETS and client base.

Serving 2500+ students per year



GVRA/CTI Partnership

VR Enrolled Students Served by Georgia CTI

BRAVES DAY: 386 Students

G.R.O.W: 661 Students

In-School Pre-ETS: 231 Students

Georgia CTI Conferences:

244 September/ 461 November/ 572 April

Conference Total: 1,277 Students

Serving 2500+ students per year



Career & Technical Instruction





Career & Technical Instruction





Career & Technical Instruction

Founded in 1975

Georgia is the only state to offer a CTSO serving students with disabilities enrolled in CTAE programs.

Serving 12,000 students in 100+ local school programs.

Serving 12,000 students in 100+ programs.

Opportunities

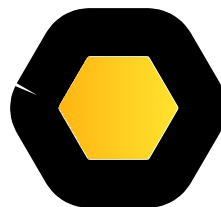
Georgia CTI is an organization which provides an avenue for students with disabilities to:

- Learn self-advocacy
- Be exposed to and explore multiple career interests.
- Gain skills needed for a successful transition into the workforce.
- Georgia CTI offers a low-risk setting for our students to hone the employment skills needed to enter the workforce successfully!



Georgia Career Technical Student Organization (CTSO) 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

The National Research Center reports that the more students participate in CTSO activities, the higher their academic motivation, academic engagement, grades, career self-efficacy, college aspirations, and employability skills.



Career & Technical Instruction

Georgia CTSOs



Career & Technical Instruction



Georgia FIRST Robotics



GEORGIA STATE ASSOCIATION



Georgia Department of Education



THANK YOU GVRA!



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

GVR Board New Business & Old Business

Tom Wilson, Chairman
GVR Board@gvs.ga.gov



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Services

GVR Board Public Comments & Adjournment

Tom Wilson, Chairman
GVR Board@gvs.ga.gov

