



Polaris Tech

CHARTER SCHOOL

News Release

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Polaris Tech, Board of Directors begin strategic planning for school's growth and expansion

As Polaris Tech Charter School in Ridgeland enters its second year by adding 11th grade and additional career paths including foundations of aerospace and health sciences, the Board of Directors is beginning work on a long-term strategic plan to guide future growth.

“We had a strong first year and our second year is off to a great start with more students and new career programs. We felt the time was right to take our charter document and start putting work into a strategic plan to help with our expansion,” said Board Chair and retired Air Force Gen. Lloyd “Fig” Newton.

Ginger Hopkins, a veteran educator, school administrator and curriculum expert from Upstate South Carolina, is leading the strategic planning work with the Board. A full-day retreat Aug. 24 with the Board of Directors and the Polaris Tech leadership team set the stage for coming work.

When the next school year starts in August 2020, Polaris Tech will serve all grades in middle and high school, and will celebrate its first South Carolina diploma graduates in Spring 2021.

“We hear from families in Jasper, Hampton, Colleton and Beaufort counties about what they’d like to see at Polaris Tech, and we are exploring some exciting options,” Newton said.

“I don’t think many second-year charter schools are tackling strategic planning like we are,” Newton said. “We feel it’s a natural step in our growth and will provide a roadmap to how we take our next steps, how to use the test data from our students, and how to make Polaris Tech the best charter school in South Carolina.

“We have stable leadership at the school and we count on them for daily operations,” Newton said. “We have a strong Board of Directors, including several from the school’s original planning

committee that wrote the charter, and we provide another layer of stability. That stability is what lets us take a look into the future, for the betterment of our students now and in coming years.”

Polaris Tech is a state-approved charter school serving middle and high school students from Jasper County and the Lowcountry. It is a free school (no tuition), that focuses on preparing young people for successful work and college.

The Polaris Tech academic emphasis is on six career areas, starting with: Aerospace, Health Sciences and Business Management. Polaris Tech continues to accept student applications for the 2019-2020 school year for students who will be in grades 6-11. Applications are available online at www.polaristech.org.

“There are so many moving pieces to a successful school that the more we and the Board can plan ahead, to set out a strategic plan we can all look to for guidance, the smoother we will sail into the Polaris Tech future,” said Dr. Melissa Crosby, executive director at Polaris Tech.

“Strategic planning is intense, and ours will be data-centered with the focus on improving student achievement across all grades. At the end of the day, we are here to serve our students and to ensure their successful futures,” she said.

Polaris Tech is located in a newly-constructed school on Grays Highway across from the Ridgeland Airport.

To keep updated about Polaris Tech Charter School, follow them on Facebook and at www.polaristech.org. For specific questions, email info@polaristech.org or call 843-645-0605.

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