



**Polaris Tech**  
CHARTER SCHOOL

.....  
*Reach.  
Rise.  
Soar.*

# **News Release**

**May 7, 2021**

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## **New Board of Directors set for Polaris Tech Charter School after election**

Polaris Tech staff and enrolled families voted Wednesday and Thursday to elect a new board of directors at the Ridgeland charter school. The newly-elected board will work closely with incoming executive director Dr. Fred Hunter to help students at the free state charter school prepare for careers and college.

Incoming and re-elected members include incumbents Gen. Lloyd “Fig” Newton and Kim Statler, along with newcomer Gloria Baker. Re-appointed to a two-year term was incumbent Reginald White.

Polaris Tech is a state-approved charter school serving fifth grade through 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. Student applications for grades 5-12 still are available for the coming school year at [www.polaristech.org](http://www.polaristech.org). The election process was managed by the Public Charter School Alliance for South Carolina and the entire process was conducted online. Electronic ballots were available May 5-6.

The new member of the Polaris Tech Board of Directors is Gloria Baker of Gillisonville. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Fordham University and owns SLJ Management. She was born in the Lowcountry but moved to New York when she was 15. Before returning to the Lowcountry 12 years ago, Ms. Baker worked as a researcher for Columbia University in New York City.

Returning to the board he helped found is General Newton, chair of the Polaris Tech board. He is a retired four-star General with the US Air Force and Executive Vice President, Pratt & Whitney Military Engines. The General is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours in the T-37, T-38, F-4, F-15, F-16, C-12 and the F-117 stealth fighter. He was born in Ridgeland, South Carolina, where he graduated from Jasper High School.

Also re-elected was Mrs. Statler, the Regional Workforce Advisor in the Lowcountry for the South Carolina Department of Commerce. Prior to working for the state, Kim led economic development efforts in the Lowcountry for eight years.

Re-appointed to the board last month to continue his service, Reginald White is a correctional officer with the South Carolina Department of Corrections. He is well known in the community and is a frequent volunteer for local efforts.

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 upcoming school year for students in grades 5-12 at [www.polaristech.org](http://www.polaristech.org).

The school is located on Grays Highway across from the Ridgeland Airport. Young people from Jasper, Colleton, Hampton and Beaufort counties attend.

To keep updated about Polaris Tech Charter School, follow them on Facebook and at [www.polaristech.org](http://www.polaristech.org). For specific questions, email [info@polaristech.org](mailto:info@polaristech.org) or call 843-645-0605.

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