



Walton Career Academy

212 Bryant Road, Monroe, GA 30655

"Your Pathway To College and Career Achievement"

About the Walton Career Academy

The Walton Career Academy is a publicly-funded charter school serving grades 10-12 with the mission of "ensuring a viable 21st Century Workforce". It is a joint venture among local businesses, the Walton County School System and Athens Technical College that seamlessly connects Loganville High School, Monroe Area High School, Athens Technical College and local businesses to create new options for students.

Walton Career Academy responds to a rapidly changing economy by SEAMLESSLY combining academics with career and technical education ... high school with college ... and education with businesses. We design our curriculum around the needs and expectations of business. We regularly ask businesses what they "need." Businesses tell us to focus as much on soft skills (work ethic) as on academic and technical skills. We respond by providing a work ethic grade in every class in addition to a course grade. We provide work-based learning opportunities (job-shadowing, internships, and apprenticeships) to hundreds of team members each year in collaboration with more than 80 local businesses.

We offer high school students the chance to earn dual-enrollment college certifications through Athens Technical College (WCA serves as the Walton County campus for Athens Technical College), learning alongside adults. Those dual-enrollment students experience success in both the workplace and in additional post-secondary education. WCA serves as our county's "workforce development center", a center for lifelong learning. We teach adults in Technical College and GED-preparatory courses day and night., and we provide customized training to local corporations through Athens Technical College.

Since opening in 2006, the WCA has seen an increase of over 500% in the number of dual-enrollment students in Walton County, and the adult population for Athens Technical College in Walton County has increased by over 200%. We have also doubled our number of dual-enrollment course offerings during this timeframe, and we have recorded a 99% graduation rate for all dual-enrollment students.

As a result of this good news, the WCA was selected by the Southern Growth Policies Board as the winner of the 2007 "Innovator of the Year" award for the state of Georgia. Each year, Southern Growth Policies Board honors innovative Southern initiatives that are improving the quality of life in the region. The 2007 Innovator Awards were chosen in the context of creating an enterprising and globally competitive workforce in the South, and the WCA's selection is a tremendous endorsement of our ability to impact our community.

The WCA/ATC partnership was one of only 6 state-wide awardees of Lt. Governor Cagle's "Career Academy Initiative". This grant is targeted towards the development of a "Life Science Wing" that will house a full-time HealthCare Education program and a Life Science/Biotechnology program. Our success (and the Lt. Governor's initiative) has led many of our surrounding communities (Athens/Clarke, Newton, Barrow, Jackson, Greene, etc) to begin their own Career Academy concept, and we are actively serving as a model for these communities.

WCA connects Walton County's citizens and businesses with the opportunities created by a more global and "technical" economy. As our motto states:, "WCA is your pathway to College and Career Achievement."

We look forward to working with you to make our community the best it can be, so please call on us when we can help.

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Ensuring a viable 21st century workforce.