

Connection

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Record-Breaking 6,560 Students Make up Tri-County's Largest Class in 47-Year History

It's been 10 years since Darlene Greer attended college. Since she lost her job in a plant closing several years ago, she's just been bouncing around jobs. "I want employment stability, and I'm ready and focused to return to school. Tri-County Technical College was my first and only choice," said the 43-year-old Seneca resident majoring in Administrative Office Technology. "This is where I want to be."



She joins the 6,560 students who make up the College's largest class in its 47-year history. At the beginning of the first day of classes (August 24), preliminary figures show a double-digit enrollment increase – a 14% jump over last fall's then-record-breaking enrollment of 5,730.

As of the first day of classes, overall Anderson Campus enrollment had increased 47% over fall 2008, breaking the 1,000 student mark for the first time. The number of students taking classes only at Anderson is 243, which is up 78% over fall 2008. Two-hundred-and-fifty-one students are taking L.P.N., dual enrollment, and general education classes at the College's Oconee Campus at the Fred P. Hamilton Career Center.

Tri-County's student body has increased by 59% since the fall of 2002.

"We are a visible, viable and valuable option for many," said Dr. Booth. "We are here to meet the needs of the community and to make the community stronger."

Enrollments at community colleges across the nation are climbing amidst this uncertain economic climate, and more residents than ever are choosing Tri-County as an accessible and affordable option.

"We're an affordable option for high school graduates, working adults who are seeking skills training and for those who have lost their jobs in the country's economic downturn. Rising unemployment rates have sent displaced workers back to the classroom in droves for retraining and oftentimes new careers," said Dr. Booth.

One of the reasons Emily Wright, a 2009 Pendleton High School graduate, decided to enroll at Tri-County was the good experience she had taking an English 101 dual enrollment class in high school last year.

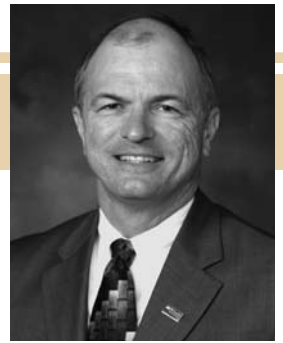
The Secondary Transition Enrollment Program (STEP) program, also called dual enrollment, allows qualifying high school students the opportunity to gain high school and college credits at the same time

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Labor Day - College Closed Sept. 7
Blood Drive Sept. 9
Showcase Your Talent Sept. 9
Fall Classic Golf Tournament Oct. 2

**Check the College Activities Calendar
in eTC for updated postings on
upcoming events.**



Ronnie L. Booth
President

Connecting

All Convocation is always a great way to kick off the new academic year. It was nice to see new faces mixed in with the rest of the College family. I sensed excitement and high expectations. There is no doubt we have a talented group of people here who are ready to tackle new challenges.

During Convocation, I talked about the tremendous amount of growth we have experienced since I arrived in 2003. We had eighty teaching faculty then; we now have 119. That represents a fifty percent increase. That same year, we enrolled 4,548 students for Fall Semester. As of the beginning of the first day of classes, we have 6,560 students, which represent more than 50% growth in seven years.

Our growth isn't limited to faculty and students. We have added campuses to other parts of our service area to increase accessibility and to accommodate greater numbers of students. The Anderson Campus and the Oconee Campus at the Hamilton Career Center both opened in 2007 and are beginning to thrive. Earlier this year, we dedicated the Senator Billy O'Dell Learning Center at the Watkins Community Center, allowing our Corporate and Community Education Division to offer courses to the citizens of Honea Path and the surrounding area.

Late in 2010, we will open the Easley Campus with two buildings – a multipurpose classroom and technology center and a QuickJobs Center. To accommodate future growth at our Pendleton Campus, we purchased forty acres of adjoining property behind campus, which will eventually house some of our industrial technology programs and Veterinary Technology.

This year, we will begin developing plans for a new Student Center on the Pendleton Campus. We are long overdue to provide a place where students can enjoy a collegiate environment and easily access a variety of services. We also will proceed with planning for a second building at our Anderson Campus, likely a space suited to our Industrial and Engineering Technology programs. The same is true for our Easley campus – we have not yet built the first two buildings, but we will proceed with planning the next phase of construction.

All of this has been (and will be) accomplished in an environment of declining State funding. During the 2003-04 fiscal year, State funds comprised 36.2 percent of our budget; now it is 21.9 percent and likely will be cut again this year. But, thanks to everyone's commitment to doing more with less, coupled with strong enrollment growth, we have been able not only to survive, but thrive as an institution.

During Convocation, I also compared the current economic climate with the early 1980's when I found myself living in western North Carolina and looking for employment. Interest rates were above 20% and jobs were scarce. I felt like some of our students must feel in the current economic climate – uncertain, yet hopeful. Scared, yet willing to try almost anything to get on the right course leading to a successful future. In the coming months, please remember that each of you has the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the students you come in contact with on a daily basis. Please acknowledge their uncertainty, support their learning, and do your best to prepare them for all that life has to offer.

New challenges await us in the coming year, and I have each of you to thank for the

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Connection

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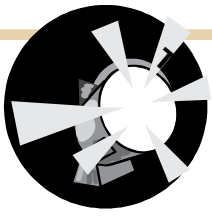
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Spotlight on Anderson Campus

Shortly after accepting the job as director of the Anderson Campus in January of 2009, Tim Bowen made a lengthy list of goals for himself and the campus.

First on the list was building good relationships with people at the College and in the community. "Everything we do is founded on that," Tim said. After acquainting himself with people and programs, he said learning how the College works and achieving the goals on the list started to fall into place. "What a team effort," he added, acknowledging that none of the progress so far was possible without the support and drive of every division. "I have been amazed at how excited and enthusiastic everyone has been about our vision and direction at Anderson!"

So much is new this fall and the campus is serving more students than ever. As of 8 a.m. on first day of classes, overall Anderson Campus enrollment had increased 47% over fall 2008, breaking the 1000 student mark for the first time. But Tim insists that an even more important indicator is the number of students taking classes *only* at Anderson, which is up 78% over fall 2008. "That's important because it shows students are getting more of a complete schedule at Anderson, and that's huge," said Tim.

In the last few weeks, the Anderson staff has had one of the best problems you can have – finding space for academic classes. He credits the enrollment jump not only to economic times, but also to the concerted effort and commitment from the academic divisions to add sections and to increase faculty and the variety of offerings. "It's a true College effort that requires commitment from a lot of folks, including Student Affairs, the academic divisions and all of our operational units," explained Tim.

There are two new faculty members at the Anderson campus. Hubert McClure moved from Pendleton campus to teach math solely at Anderson, and new sociology instructor Cathy Saidat, who taught adjunct last year, is now full time. "We have a good representation of Arts and Sciences instructors teaching math, English, sociology, and science. Adding new faculty helps with advising, increasing class offerings, dual enrollment and our ability to offer full degree programs," he said.

While high school students have taken dual enrollment classes at the Anderson Campus since it opened, this is the first semester where we have set up classes specifically for students from T.L. Hanna, Westside, and Crescent high schools and Oakwood Christian School.



*Tri-County assembled all of its resources at its Anderson Campus July 21 to allow new students to complete the entire enrollment process all in one day. Here, **David Suggs**, of Clemson, talks with **Kari Carson**, coordinator of instructional activities for the Humanities department, about his fall schedule. While a senior at D.W. Daniel High School, Suggs took dual enrollment classes and is a University Transfer major.*

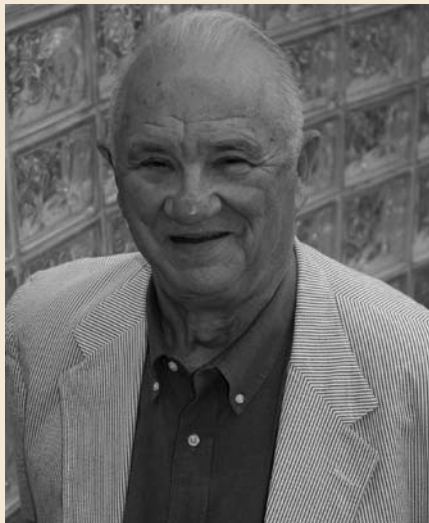
"We worked with Enrollment Management and high school officials to set up the courses. It makes sense and it's just the right thing to do as we share and leverage resources for the good of our collective students," Tim said.

In terms of new program development, a cross-divisional team is working feverishly to develop both existing and new academic programs and degrees that are appropriate for the Anderson campus. "There are some great ideas on the table and tremendous progress and momentum is being generated. We are looking for creative ways to offer greater options in terms of how and when instruction is delivered."

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SPOTLIGHT is a regular feature of CONNECTION that highlights College instructional programs, activities, and support services. Surveys show that our own faculty and staff play a significant role in influencing potential students to apply to the College. We're all ambassadors—so stay informed and keep doing a great job spreading the word that Tri-County is a great place to learn and grow!

IN MEMORIAM



Charles K. Cheezum

We are saddened by the passing of one of the College's Foundation Board members, Charles K. Cheezum, 87, who died August 7 in Weston, FL.

Mr. Cheezum, who joined the board in 2006, was president and CEO of CESI Corporation, India-Leticia Corporation in Miami, Florida, and Issaqueena Corporation in Clemson and had over 45 years of experience in real estate development and construction, as well as commercial building ventures.

He was the original developer of Brickell Key in Miami, Florida, and pioneered the redevelopment of South Beach with South Pointe Towers in 1985. After selling his controlling interest in Cheezem Development, Mr. Cheezem pursued a variety of developments including Charlestowne in Miami, Country Walk in Clemson and, with his son, Michael, Patrick Square in Clemson, South Carolina.

Mr. Cheezem is survived by his wife, the former Janis Kestnbaum of Weston, FL, and four sons, J. Michael Cheezem of St. Petersburg, FL, David Christopher Cheezem of Palmer, AK, Alexander Roy Cheezem of Weston, FL, and Matthew Wylie Cheezem of Miami, FL.

Our College Family

excellence through service



Dr. Vinson Burdette

It's now **Dr. Vinson Burdette**. Vinson received his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership (higher education) from Clemson University at its commencement held August 8. Congratulations, Vinson.

Also, congratulations to Music instructor **Lori Gourdin**, who has been selected for the SC Artists Roster. She was chosen by a jury to be available to institutions around the State (who have received funding from the SC Arts Commission) to give performances or conduct workshops.



Lori Gourdin

births

Gayle and Chris Arries welcomed a daughter, Lillian Faith, born four months prematurely, on June 23 at Greenville Memorial Hospital. Lilli, who weighed one pound, six ounces, is currently in the neonatal ICU at the hospital and is getting stronger daily. You can follow her progress at www.caringbridge.org/visit/lilliarries.

Shantell Cox and her husband, Dameon, welcomed a son, Carter William Cox, July 10.

in transition

Student Affairs Division



Kevin Woods

Kevin Woods is our new Financial Aid Counselor. He comes to us from Anderson University where from 2003 until this year, he held several student services positions and most recently was director of evening admissions and financial aid.

He holds an associate degree in Criminal Justice from Greenville Technical College, a B. S. in Business (Accounting) from Anderson University, and a master's in Human Resource Development from Clemson University.

He is a member of New Spring Community Church. He and his wife, Molly, have two children, Abby, 4; and Owen, nine months. They live in Anderson.

Industrial and Engineering Technology Division

Mandy Orzechowski joined the faculty this month as an Engineering Graphics Technology instructor and Project Lead the Way (PLTW) instructor.

She has taught in area high schools since 2003. At Pendleton High School, she taught science and PLTW, and for the last three years at Anderson Districts 1 and 2 Career and Technology Center she was the PLTW instructor. She began her career



at Carolina Circuits as a process engineer and later worked at Cans Unlimited in Greer as a sales and marketing specialist. She returned to Carolina Circuits in 2002 where over time she served as engineering team leader, program manager, project engineer and process engineer.

She holds B.S and M.E. degrees in Chemical Engineering from the University of South Carolina. She is a member of the American Society of Engineering Educators and the Americana Institute of Chemical Engineers. She and her husband, Ray, are members of New Spring Community Church. They have a daughter, Regan, 7, and live in Anderson.



Mandy Orzechowski

Many new faculty and staff joined us at the beginning of fall semester. We will feature them in the next issue of Connection.

The following recently have departed the College. We wish them well in their new endeavors.

Albert Ohanuka

Lenna Young

RTV Students Participate in Hartwell Clean-up



During the July 4th holiday break, several Radio and Television Broadcasting (RTV) students, along with **John Woodson**, RTV program coordinator, and his children, pitched in on a community service project to help keep the Upstate clean and beautiful. They picked up and hauled away thirty bags of garbage along the shores of Lake Hartwell. Pictured as they haul garbage bags to the top of a hill are **Dillion Barrs**, RTV student who coordinated the clean-up effort; **Clay Fisher**, RTV student; **Caroline and William Woodson**, two of John's children; and **Marvin McLin**, RTV student.

Andrea Whiten, a student in the Nurse Aide program in the Corporate and Community Education Division, wrote this note to **Mae Whitt**, RN, one of the lead instructors for this program.

"We just wanted to say thank you for being such a wonderful teacher. You are a true inspiration to anyone who sits at a desk in front of you. You have taught us so much in the short time we've spent with you. And you have made it so interesting – you are definitely one of a kind."

Ms. Whitt provided the students with 52 hours of classroom and laboratory instruction and 40 hours of clinical experience at a long-term care facility. At the conclusion of the program, the class presented her with a card and a gift.

Rebecca Eidson in our PR and Marketing Department wrote this e-mail to Dr. Phil Buckhiester:

"Just a quick note to tell you what a pleasure it is to work with **Chris Marino** and his team, in particular **Lisa Saxton** and **K.C. Bryson**, on my institutional data requests. The media often call me for different types of information – stats, comparisons, etc. Typically, they want obscure things that I can't find in our published institutional data reports. Chris and his team are quick to respond to my requests. They understand the time-sensitive nature of working with the media and always are willing to go the extra mile to get what I need quickly. They are also patient with my "math challenges" and interpret data in a very user-friendly way. We are lucky to have such super folks on the TCTC team!"

If you wish to thank someone publicly, share personal news, brag about a recent accomplishment in your unit, or any other highlight, send it in for our "Brag & Share" column. Email your submission (65 words or less) with "Brag & Share" in the subject line to Lisa Garrett at lgarrett@tctc.edu.

MLT Grads Achieve 100% Pass Rate on National Registry

The 2009 Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) grads are all entering the job market armed with national credentials. All 15 of the May graduates passed the National Registry administered by the American Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP).

Since 2006, three out of four graduating classes have achieved 100 percent pass rates on the exam.

The exam is a computerized, competency-based exam. Students are tested on five areas: chemistry, microbiology, hematology, immunohematology and body fluids. There are 100 multiple-choice questions to cover these five major areas of clinical laboratory science.

Tri-County ranks higher than the national figures when comparing registry scores. Tri-County's mean score was 588 as opposed to the national score of 504. (A person must score 400 or above to pass the exam.) Tri-County ranks 100 percent in average scores for this cycle (the last four months) as compared to the 78.92 percent national average score.

"This 100 percent pass rate is a nice acknowledgement of a composite of student, faculty and clinical faculty efforts. It speaks well for the credibility of the MLT program at the College," said Deborah Brock, MLT instructor.

Tri-County's six hospital affiliates are AnMed Health, Bon Secours Saint Francis, Palmetto Health Baptist Easley, Cannon Memorial Hospital, Self Regional Health Care, and Oconee Medical Center.

The MLT program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). In 2003, the MLT program received a maximum seven-year accreditation with no recommendations for improvement following a national accrediting agency's two-day evaluation.

Upward Bound Students Recognized for Academic Achievements at Banquet



*Sean Johnson, of Anderson, received an Outstanding Academic Achiever Bridge Component Award at Tri-County Technical College's 29th Annual Upward Bound Awards Banquet held recently. He also received the Randolph/McNeal Memorial Scholarship. Presenting the awards are **Belinda Brownlee**, Upward Bound coordinator, left, and **Jennifer Ealey**, Upward Bound counselor.*



Terrance Green

It makes no difference where you started in life – anything is possible, Terrance Green, author, educator, founder, and president of Limitless Attitude, Limitless Attitude, LLC, told a group of students and parents in his remarks at the 29th annual Upward Bound Awards Banquet.

Mr. Green, a former high school science teacher in Kentucky and author of the book, [Becoming An All A Student: The Quick and Easy Guide to Getting a 4.0](#), was the keynote speaker at the annual awards banquet where high school students were recognized for their academic achievements.

"Nothing can stop you. The only barrier is in your thinking," said Green, a Detroit native who admits he suffered from the "just do enough to get by syndrome" when he was in high school until he had what he calls "an academic epiphany" and discovered his abilities and how to become a 4.0 student.

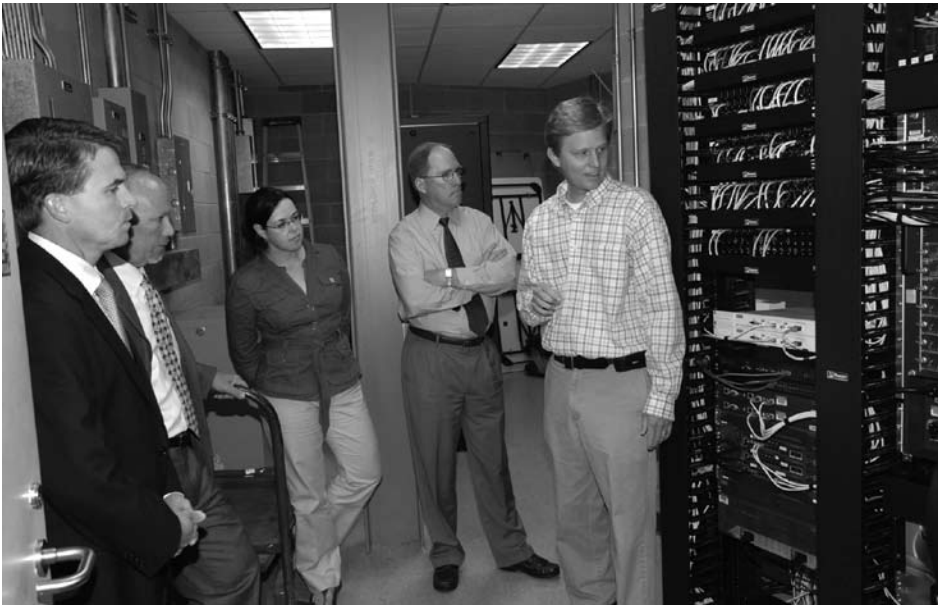
"You can't play the game of life without goals," he added.

"I urge you to plant the seeds of study. There is unlimited greatness inside of all of you," said Green, who, in addition to running his company, will enter the University of Wisconsin this fall to begin work on his Ph. D. in educational leadership and policy analysis.

Upward Bound is designed to help high school students bridge the gap between secondary school and college and to provide them with financial and academic resources to prepare for postsecondary education. The Upward Bound project, sponsored by Tri-County, serves 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders from Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties and provides high school students with services year-round through its academic and summer bridge components.

At the banquet, students received plaques for outstanding achievement and most improvement in English, math, reading, science and Spanish.

ARC Hears Updates on Projects



Members of the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) were on campus to hear updates on two projects funded this year. Diana Walter, director of Gateway to College, talked about progress in the Gateway program. Information Technology Director **Lee Tennent**, second from left, talked about the improvements to broadband Internet services on the Pendleton campus. The network-related infrastructure upgrade focused on improving reliability and speed for wireless computers. Here, Information Technology Operations Manager **Matt Edwards**, right, shows **John Lummus**, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement, left, **Kathryn Whiteman**, regional planner for ARC, and **Dirk Reis**, grant services director for Appalachian Council of Governments, one of the core wiring closets.

Campers Build, Program Robots



Shelly Saville, third from left, and **Brittani Liveright**, not pictured, won the first-place prize for their robot design during Camp Xceleration, a week-long camp sponsored by Tri-County for ages 12 – 14 to explore the fields of engineering and industrial technology. Participants built and programmed line-following robots, as well as designed and built the competition playing field.

Executive Staff Updates

- **Food Services:** After years of difficulty with contracted food services, a decision was made to hire a manager and workers on temporary contracts to provide food services in the College Café. Kevin Steele will oversee this effort, which began August 24.
- **Enrollment for Fall Semester:** In anticipation of record-breaking enrollment, department heads met with the Executive Staff to discuss a variety of topics, including orientation, advising, registration, course section availability, parking, purge dates, and communications.
- **Stimulus Funds:** The College will receive \$1.3 million in federal stimulus funding during FY10. Funds will be spent on energy projects, such as HVAC repair and replacement, load balancing controls, and occupancy sensors. In addition, funds will be used to add a chemistry lab to the Anderson Campus, to renovate the Industrial Business and Development Center, and to purchase additional security equipment.
- **Committee Structure:** Last fall, implementation of the new committee structure was delayed in order to focus the attention of the leadership on budget cuts. Work has resumed and is close to being finalized. The purpose of committees will be to enhance the College's decision-making processes through research, analysis, and guidance. The institutional effectiveness component has not yet been finalized; additional research will be completed and a recommendation made.
- **Reserved Parking:** Due to the large influx of new students, no reserved parking for outside groups will be allowed on campus during peak periods, such as the beginning of a semester. Additionally, restrictions will be placed on requests for reserved

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Golden OPPORTUNITIES *to shape the future*

Two Community Leaders Join Tri-County's Foundation Board

Two community leaders from Oconee County have been elected to serve on the College's Foundation Board of Directors.

Joining the Board's current members are Dr. T.H. (Teddy) Martin, of Seneca, and Todd Bennington, of West Union.

Members of the Foundation Board raise money to supplement appropriations, thereby helping the College to meet the educational needs of the citizens of the tri-county area.

Dr. Martin and his father, Dr. Amon A. Martin, Jr., are partners in a dental practice in Seneca.

He is a graduate of the College of Charleston and the Medical University of South Carolina. He is a member of the Golden Corner Rotary Club and serves on the board of directors for the Oconee Medical Center Foundation and Our Daily Bread in Seneca.

He and his wife, Renee, are members of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Seneca.

Mr. Bennington is vice president of operations for BorgWarner's Torque Transfer System Plant in Seneca. During his 33 years in the automotive supplier business, he has held a variety of manufacturing and engineering positions, as well as operating his own consulting business. He was instrumental in establishing the Oconee County Industrial Group.

He holds a bachelor's in business leadership from Baker



Dr. T.H. (Teddy) Martin



Todd Bennington

College in Michigan and serves as chair of the Pendleton Regional Education Center Advisory Board and the Oconee Medical Center Foundation.

In 2005, he received the Ronald Reagan Gold Medal for Leadership in Business from the National Republican Congressional Committee. In 2007, he was selected as South Carolina's Ambassador for Economic Development representing Oconee County.

He and his wife, Arla, live in West Union.

Business Technology is Advisory Committee of the Year

The work of the College's Business Technology Advisory Committee as individuals in the community and as a group of professionals devoted to enhancing learning opportunities for students earned them the honor of advisory committee of the year for 2009.

This is the eighth time the committee has received the trophy, the first time being in 1981, and later in 1984, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2008. Longtime Advisory Committee member John Powell, and Meg Allan, Business Technology department head, accepted the trophy and plaque on behalf of the committee. Dr. Booth made the presentation.

The advisory committee consists of community business leaders who meet quarterly for discussion and to provide input about keeping the Business Technology curriculum relevant to today's ever-changing work environment.



Dr. Booth, left, congratulates John Powell, a member of the Business Technology Advisory Committee, on being named Advisory Committee of the Year as Meg Allan, department head for Business Technology, looks on.

Tri-County, Local Companies Among Registered Apprenticeship Programs in Tri-County Area

Five local businesses and industries, along with Tri-County Technical College, are raising the bar with their workforce development by implementing registered apprenticeship programs – several of which are firsts in the state.

Tri-County joins Bowers Emergency Services and Peoples Bancorporation (both from Pickens County), Johnson Controls and U.S. Engine Valve (both from Oconee County), and Plastic Omnium in Anderson County in implementing apprenticeship programs that will help employees to raise their skills levels and earn a nationally recognized credential from the Department of Labor.

Tri-County is the first technical college to have the first registered customer service apprenticeship in the State.

Bowers Emergency Services, a family owned and operated business in Pickens, is the first registered EMT program in Pickens County.

Peoples Bancorporation, which includes The Peoples National Bank, Bank of Anderson, and Seneca National Bank, is the first financial institution to be registered in the state.

U.S. Engine Valve is the first industry to sign in Oconee County.

Plastic Omnium is the first registered Mechatronics apprenticeship for Anderson County.

Johnson Controls is the first registered apprenticeship program to be funded by a congressional federal grant (Apprenticeship Carolina: Building New Career Pathways). Mechatronics training will be paid for by an Apprenticeship Workforce Investment Act (WIA) /Department of Commerce grant, and an AdvanceSC grant will fund the company's certified production technician training.

"We're here to highlight the growth of the registered apprenticeship programs in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties," Dr. Booth said at the beginning of the announcement.



Tri-County was among the six local businesses and industries that were honored for their registered apprenticeship programs. Tri-County is the first registered customer service apprenticeship in the state. Pictured from left are **Rick Cothran**, dean of the Corporate and Community Education Division; **Dr. Brian Swords**, director of operations for the Corporate and Community Education Division; **Dr. Booth**; **Sharon Colcolough**, director of Personnel; and **Dr. Barry Russell**, president of the SC Technical College System.

"In just over a year, there has been tremendous growth in the registered apprenticeship programs in the local area," said Dr. Booth. "There were two a year ago and now there are 12. That's a 500 percent increase," he said.

Apprenticeship Carolina, a new division of the SC Technical College System, works to ensure that SC employers have access to the information and technical assistance they need to create demand-driven registered apprenticeship programs. "Apprenticeship Carolina was launched two years ago and is a resounding success," said Dr. Barry Russell, president of the SC Technical College System. Since July 2007, the number of registered apprenticeship programs has grown from 90 to 201, an increase of 123 percent. There were 777 active apprentices in 2007 and now there are 1,637, a 111 percent increase, he said. "We average the creation of more than one new employer-sponsored program a week across the state."

"All of the state's 16 technical colleges participate in a significant way," he added.

Faculty Orientation Kicks off Series of Workshops

More than 60 adjunct instructors attended an orientation session August 20 taught by **Deborah Brock**, center, our Medical Laboratory Technology instructor and faculty development liaison. Here, Deborah leads an exercise titled, "What candy best describes your teaching style?"

New faculty orientation is one of many faculty development workshops being offered this fall on a variety of topics, including Learning College 101, hybrid course development, best practices in online learning, learning facilitation techniques, and more. For additional information, check the Fall 2009 Faculty Development Opportunities Handbook or the eTC College Activities Calendar. Staff also are welcome to attend these sessions.



GRADUATION 2009



Lauren Woodward, of Seneca, was among the 299 who received degrees, diplomas and certificates at summer graduation. Woodward, who graduated from the Respiratory Care program and received an associate in Arts degree, expressed special thanks to her mother on her mortarboard.



Lisa Saxon, administrative assistant in our Research and Evaluation office and a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, right, helps **Janice Hanks**, also of Anderson, with her graduation attire. Hanks graduated from the Medical Assisting program.



Dr. Booth congratulates our Admissions Specialist **Carolyn White**, who received a Management degree.



Donna Getsinger, administrative specialist for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) office, right, posed with two of the WIA participants at summer commencement. **Jessica Watkins**, of Westminster, left, graduated from the Practical Nursing program, and **Lori Dobbins-Parasho**, of Anderson, is a Respiratory Care graduate.



Helen Ross, of Easley, received her high school diploma through the College's Gateway to College Program and Anderson School District One at the College's summer commencement. Presenting her with the diploma is **Dr. Booth**. Pictured with them are **Susan Allen**, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, and **Dr. Wayne Fowler**, superintendent of Anderson School District One. Helen plans to continue her college studies this fall at Greenville Technical College in its Dental Hygiene program. The Gateway to College initiative serves high school dropouts age 17 – 20 who qualify for this unique program and live in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties. The program enables students to earn a high school diploma (awarded by participating area high schools) while achieving college success. Students earn both high school and college credit, up to and including an associate degree, awarded by the College.

McGuire Among Graduates of Pharmacy Technician Program



Fiona McGuire, of Clemson, left, is among the graduates of Tri-County Technical College's Pharmacy Technician program. Here, she receives her certificate from **Jerry Hausler**, a retired area pharmacist who teaches for the program. The pharmacy technician is a specialist working under the direction of a licensed pharmacist. Duties are assigned by the pharmacist and are related to preparing and dispensing medication in accordance with standard procedures and laws. The Corporate and Community Education Division's Pharmacy Technician Program has three modules (fall, spring, summer).

Gibson Participates in Surgical Technology Pinning



Sonya L. Gibson, of Seneca, left, participates in the pinning ceremony held August 5 for Surgical Technology graduates. Pinning her is **Cheryl Brown**, program coordinator.

Men's Founding Golf and Soccer Coaches Honored



The founding coaches of our Men's Golf and Soccer teams were honored at convocation for their service to the athletics program. Here, **Vinson Burdette**, dean of student development and athletic director, middle, congratulates **Doug Allen**, left, who coached golf, and **Jonathan McCombs**, who coached soccer. Doug leads our Industrial Technology program, and Jonathan is Criminal Justice program coordinator. Clint Wright is now our Golf Coach, and Brendan Todt is our Soccer Coach.

Jessica Comolli Among 10 Vet Techs Honored Natiowide



Jessica Comolli, of Central, a 2009 Veterinary Technology graduate, left, was among the 10 Veterinary Technology students nationwide who received 2009 Sue J. Busch Memorial Awards. Administered by the Pet Care Trust in Washington, DC, each recipient received a \$500 scholarship and was honored for their significant efforts to improve the health of companion animals. Congratulating her is **Dr. Peggy Champion**, who heads the Veterinary Technology program, and who submitted the winning nomination.

Record-Breaking

(continued from page 1)

by taking college-level courses in their high schools or career centers, as well as on Tri-County's campuses or online. These 437 students account for seven percent of the College's enrollment.

"Tri-County is affordable and convenient," said Wright, who is taking University Transfer classes and plans to transfer to Anderson University to pursue an elementary education degree. "Tri-County offers all of the classes I need, and it's a good option for me."

The value of Tri-County's low tuition is definitely a factor in enrollment growth, Dr. Booth said. "We're an affordable option for everyone. Cost is a major selling point for College these days. More and more people are choosing Tri-County because they can get two years of college at a significantly reduced rate," he said. Tri-County's tuition is \$1,512 per semester for full-time students, but with lottery tuition assistance, which covers up to \$900 for eligible full-time students, a student would pay a balance of only \$612 for a semester. Many students received other forms of financial aid that enable them to attend at little or no cost.

"Many Tri-County students attend on partial or full scholarships provided through our Foundation, and will graduate with no student loans to pay back," he said.

"Students can get the education they want and need at the price they can afford with the good service they deserve," said Dr. Booth.

First-time college student Shalonda Green was nervous and excited driving to campus the first day of classes, but she's looking forward to preparing for a career in Surgical Technology. "Tri-County's classes fit my work schedule and family life (she has four children). "The time is right, the kids are older. I'm determined to do this for myself and my family." The small classes will make a difference for the 32-year-old who has been out of the classroom for 15 years. "I'm going to do what it takes to succeed. This is the start of a new beginning for me and my family," said Green.

Kevin Steele Receives Staff Medallion



Dr. Booth, left, congratulates Kevin Steele on being named the 2009 Staff Medallion Winner.

Kevin Steele, manager of administrative services, received the highest award given for staff excellence at the College.

Kevin received the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence at the annual faculty/staff fall convocation. The medallion, along with a cash award made possible by the College Foundation, goes to a person who has demonstrated over and over a strong belief in the purpose and mission of the College.

He joined the College in 2005 as manager of the bookstore and cafeteria services operations. His duties have expanded to include printing services, custodial, risk management, and shipping and receiving.

"No one has more enthusiasm and passion for customer service than Kevin Steele."

- Dr. Ronnie Booth

"No one has more enthusiasm and passion for customer service than Kevin Steele," said Dr. Booth as he made the presentation.

"Kevin is the role model for customer service," said Faye Allen, director of Fiscal Affairs in the College's Business Office, in her nomination. "His first thoughts and actions are always geared towards giving quality service to the students and the employees of the College. Kevin has more energy than 10 people put together. And he uses this energy to motivate everyone around him. Employees within all areas of the College know that Kevin is the go-to guy to get something done," she said.

Kevin spent five years as Operations Manager at Compact Automation Products before joining Tri-County. His experience included working as Purchasing Manager for Beckton Dickenson in Seneca and Customer Services Manager and Operations Manager for Unimark Plastics in Greenville. He began his career at Compact Automation, where he worked in the Inventory Control and Computer Systems Departments. Kevin holds a B.S. degree in Financial Management and a master's in Business Administration from Clemson University. He and his wife, Michelle, live in Seneca. They have two sons, Zach and Josh. They are members of Seneca Baptist Church, where Kevin is a deacon.

Lollis is Match for Bone Marrow Transplant



Lynn Lollis

Lynn Lollis is used to delivering nursing care, not receiving it.

But the roles were reversed the week of August 12 when Lynn, who is Nursing Lab Coordinator for our Practical Nursing and ADN programs, traveled to Duke University Hospital to donate bone marrow for a transplant operation for a four-year-old child who lives out of the country.

In April, Lynn received a call from the National Bone Marrow Registry about being a possible match for this child. In 1994, she and other College faculty and staff participated in a bone marrow drive held for employee Donna Jaynes, who succumbed to leukemia before a match was found. After someone joins the national registry, names are placed in a national database.

"They left me a voice mail and said I was a possible match. I called back, got

details, and began by sending back a buccal (cheek) swab," Lynn said. Weeks later, she had blood work done. Two months passed and she heard nothing. The Registry called the second week in July telling her she was a definite match, and she began her pre-op preparations at Duke. "They said it would take 10 days to get the patient ready for the operation," said Lynn. August 12 was the date of the procedure. Her parents drove her to Durham so her husband could stay behind to move her son, Tyler, into Southern Wesleyan University. "My only worry was that our daughter, Ashlei, who was pregnant, would go into labor," said Lynn. Luckily that didn't happen, and Ashlei gave birth to daughter, Emma, on August 18, making Lynn and husband, Joey, first-time grandparents.

"I'm not used to being the one on the stretcher so it was odd to be the one going into surgery," said Lynn, a registered nurse, who also works some evenings in the recovery room at AnMed Health.

She says she doesn't remember anything after receiving the spinal anesthesia, and the procedure lasted only 30–45 minutes. "They drew the bone marrow out of my hip. I had heard stories about it being painful, but it really only felt tender and bruised." She left that same day at noon to return home and was at SWU the next day.

"It was a very rewarding experience," she said.

Lynn urges persons to be tested and placed on the national registry. "As I was entering the OR, the anesthesiologist was asking me questions and indicated that she would be joining the registry. The bone marrow extraction procedure costs nothing but time away from work. It's relatively painless and very simple — nothing in comparison to what the child has gone through. I hope I get a call in a year telling me that he's five years old and doing well. That would be really wonderful."

According to the organization's website, The National Bone Marrow Registry is a source of hope to people fighting leukemia and other blood diseases. Every time a new name is added to the registry of potential bone marrow donors, the chances increase that a person in need of a bone marrow transplant will find the match that saves his or her life. The website is <http://www.marrow.org/JOIN/index.html>.

Anderson Campus

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By spring, the College will begin offering the full Associate in Arts degree at Anderson. Plus, recent stimulus funding of \$200,000 will help build a chemistry lab which will enable the addition of the Associate of Science degree by fall 2010. "It's hard to overstate what the chemistry lab will do for us," commented Tim. "This is a tremendous step forward!"

The Anderson Campus also is quickly becoming a full-service campus for students who need a variety of student services. Admissions Counselor and Career Specialist Butch Merritt is available Monday – Friday to assist students with admissions, career exploration, financial aid questions and registration. The COMPASS placement test is now offered at the Anderson Campus on Fridays with expanded hours from 8 a.m. until noon. Student Affairs, Academic Affairs and the Anderson staff also are working to extend the orientation model to the Anderson Campus. Tim added that once the advising and registration questions are addressed, students will be able to complete the entire enrollment process at Anderson.

On the Corporate and Community Education Division side, the transportation programs (truck driving, motorcycle training and driver safety) are transitioning to the Anderson Campus now. Instructors have offices at Anderson and work has begun on the large safety pad. The move will be completed in phases this fall.

Tim contends that one of the most important facets to the development of the Anderson Campus is the multiple team approach that includes an external advisory council, an academic program development team, and a cross-divisional integration team. "This approach is critical to ensure that we are not developing the campus in a vacuum," said Tim. "Everything we do must be integrated and supported across the College – that's our most important strategy."

Connecting

(continued from page 2)

many successes we can look back on with pride. Thank you for making Tri-County Technical College what it is today – a flourishing, learning-centered institution that serves as a role model for community colleges across America.



Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

Executive Staff

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group parking in preferred lots, such as Lot B.

- **Cut-off Date for New Students:**

During the coming year, the College will determine whether a cut-off date for new students needs to be implemented, e.g., before the drop/add period begins.

- **Foundation Endowments:** Due to decreased earnings on endowments resulting from the current economic downturn, the amount available from scholarship endowments has been reduced. Additionally, no funds will be available from technology endowments during the current fiscal year.

- **Grant Application Procedures:** The Executive Staff approved a new process for employees to follow when applying for external grants. The new procedures will be posted on eTC.

- **Title III Update:** Lou Ann Martin, who chairs the Title III Design Team, updated the Executive Staff on progress made thus far. The focus of the Title III grant application likely will be to create a framework to support initiatives, foster a learning college culture, and bridge the divisions of the institution so that students will obtain maximum benefit from their TCTC experience.

College Granted Full Reaffirmation by SACS

Earlier this summer Dr. Booth received a phone call from Dr. Rudy Jackson, our liaison with the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association Colleges and Schools (SACS), our accrediting agency, telling him that the College's report was favorably received by the commission, resulting in full compliance.

"You didn't hit a single, you didn't hit a double, and not even a triple. You hit a home run," said Dr. Jackson.

"Everything is at stake with a compliance report," said Dr. Booth, "and our team, led by Lenna Young, went above and beyond the call of duty. They did an exceptional job. I hope SACS will use our report as a model for others."

In August of 2007, the College received a 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation by SACS. We were asked in July 2008 to submit a monitoring report by April 14 of this year, providing evidence that a full planning and assessment cycle had been completed for all of our credit programs - including all certificates, explained Dr. Phil Buckhiester, vice president for Academic Affairs.

"We were asked to demonstrate that program outcomes and student learning outcomes had been developed and assessed and that the results had been used to make improvements," said Dr. Buckhiester.

"Much work had already been done. Last year we were in the second year of a three-year plan that, for every course, would link course-level student learning outcomes to program-level student learning outcomes and general education outcomes. However, because assessment had to be done for all certificates, as well as for degrees and diplomas, there was much work still to be done. Our faculty and staff accomplished a year-and-a-half worth of work in about seven months," he said.

All faculty, staff, program coordinators, department heads, and deans who contributed deserve thanks for their hard work. Special thanks are due to Lenna Young, who led the assessment team; team members and division representatives Stan Compton, Polly Kay, Gwen Owens, and Phil Smith; Chris Marino and Margaret Burdette for their support, ideas, great questions, and dedication to the task; and Sarah Shumpert for all of the training and direction she provided in the development of syllabi and course outcome summaries.

Tri-County was initially accredited in 1975 and every 10 years must apply for reaffirmation.

CCE Hosts HR Professionals Luncheon

Carl Sharperson, Jr., right, president and CEO of Sharperson's Executive Leadership in Clemson, was the keynote speaker at the 22nd annual Human Resources Luncheon held August 12. More than 80 human resource professionals from area businesses and industries gathered at the Anderson Campus for this annual event hosted by the World Class Training



*Center in the Corporate and Community Education Division. Pictured with Mr. Sharperson is **Richard Parker**, interim director/coordinator of the World Class Training Center.*