

Connection

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Denise Hall Receives Presidential Medallion For Staff Excellence

Denise Hall, manager of printing and postal services, as well as shipping and receiving, has been honored with the highest award given for staff excellence at the College.

Denise received the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence. The medallion, along with a cash award made possible by the Tri-County Technical College Foundation, goes to a person who best exemplifies the College philosophy and has contributed the most during the academic year to the development of the College and its students.

For the past 28 years, she has worked in the College's Printing Services Department, serving 25 years as manager. Five years ago, she added the management of postal services and shipping and receiving to her duties.

"As a supervisor, Denise goes above and beyond the call of duty for her employees," said co-worker Barry Phillips in his nomination. "She would never ask her employees to do anything that she herself would refuse. In fact, she often takes the lead in performing inconvenient tasks in order to keep an already tight schedule running efficiently. I have never heard Denise say no in order to take the easy way out."

Fiscal Director Faye Allen praised the innovative, cost-saving improvements Denise has spearheaded and implemented at the College. Among them are implementing discount rates for all College first-class postage, streamlining the processing of first-class mail, securing the receiving system for all the delivery and processing of incoming packages in the shipping and receiving area, upgrading the loading dock, upgrading the production of high volume copiers for campus users, and setting up a recycling system for the collection of cardboard and toner cartridges.

"Denise is one of the unsung heroes of the College," said Faye. "She is always concerned with saving the College money and resources. In her position, every task she performs affects the entire College; therefore, her work is vital to the success of students and employees. She diligently works behind the scenes to make this happen and makes herself available for campus-wide projects. She is a champion for the students and the employees and she is always willing to go above and beyond her normal job duties."

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Denise Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Get Connected Events

Pendleton Campus..... August 31
Anderson Campus..... September 1
Easley Campus September 7

Check the College Activities Calendar in
eTC for additional activities and events.

Connection

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P. O. Box 587, Pendleton, SC 29670

Pendleton Campus

7900 Highway 76, Pendleton, SC

Anderson Campus

511 Michelin Blvd., Anderson, SC

Easley Campus

1774 Powdersville Rd., Easley, SC

Oconee Campus

Hamilton Career Center
100 Vocational Dr., Seneca, SC

Main Number: (864) 646-8361

Toll-free (864 area code): 1-866-269-5677

TDD/Voice: 1-800-735-2905

Website: www.tctc.edu



Tri-County Technical College does not discriminate
in admission or employment on the basis of race,
color, religion, sex, qualifying disability, veteran's
status, or national origin.

Connecting



Ronnie L. Booth
President

Full Convocation is something I look forward to each year. I enjoyed seeing new faces mixed in with the rest of the College family, and I sensed your excitement and high expectations for the new academic year. There is no doubt we have a talented group of people here who are ready to tackle new challenges.

During Convocation, each of the Vice Presidents and I talked about our top priorities for the coming year by focusing on the key things we must accomplish as we follow the roadmap provided by our ten-year vision and three-year strategic plan. While we did not have time to talk about all our priorities, we tried to address those activities that will take much of our attention, energy, and resources. I thought it might be helpful to reiterate some of what we shared, particularly because some of you were busy serving incoming students and could not be present.

We soon will begin the second year of our "Learning Through Community and Connections (LC²)" initiative funded through Title III, which builds on the success of our Learning Excellence Initiative for first-time postsecondary students and utilizes the learning college principles adopted by the College in 2007. We started this fall by introducing thematic learning communities and making them available to all students. Soon we will initiate a readiness assessment for new students as the first phase of a comprehensive academic support network. Later, we will add linked and integrated learning communities and expand the support network to include electronic educational plans for students and an automated monitoring system with the capability to track student progress and prompt essential interventions.

Our emphasis on student success also is driving the implementation of a comprehensive, College-wide retention plan. Developed by the Strategic Enrollment Management Committee, this plan includes ten strategies and an action plan targeted to improving student retention. Another key component of improving student retention will be a new position to coordinate our advising processes, as well as a position to coordinate all tutoring services, which are currently housed in various locations and organized by different departments. In addition to these and many other student success initiatives, our Career Services group is diligently working to expand internship and cooperative education opportunities to help students gain work-based learning experiences. A great example is the new BMW Scholars program.

By the end of the academic year, we will have completed the renovation of a building in Sandy Springs, transforming it into a state-of-the-art Industrial Technology Center to house our Welding and HVAC programs. The Center will offer much more than additional space and updated equipment; it will be designed to simulate a real manufacturing environment. Students will follow OSHA safety protocols, work in teams, and gain a sense of how operations are handled in industry. Not only will this facility provide a unique training experience for our students, it also will free up much-needed space on the Pendleton Campus.

Also high on the list of priorities for the new academic year are obtaining approvals and establishing financing for a new Student Success Center on the Pendleton Campus. Both the Industrial Technology Center and the Student Success Center tie into the completion of the new Pendleton Master Plan, which is in the final stages of development. Many of you were involved in creating this plan through design charrettes and providing other input. It has been exciting to watch the development of the plan over the last six months, and I think you will be pleased with the results when we share them with you during our Fall Faculty/Staff meeting.

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Spotlight on Alumni Association

Alumni Association Wants to Reunite Graduates through Facebook Page

Dana Robertson Griffith met Joan Ashcraft back in 1980 – the first day both began Radio and Television Broadcasting classes at Tri-County Technical College. Griffith, then 29 and a divorced mother of two young children, remembers looking around the classroom and thinking, she was “ancient,” she said. “My first day I looked around and saw so many people who had just graduated from high school. I asked myself, ‘What am I doing here?’” she said.

“But I met Joan, also in her late 20’s, and we established a connection and friendship that lasted beyond graduation. Faculty and staff were so welcoming and helpful that it wasn’t long before we fit right in. The entire RTV class, then led by Charlie Jordan, really bonded, and I consider Charlie to be a good friend and mentor in my life. Many times over the years I have called him for advice or just to say hello,” said Dana.

“Joan and I kept up until the late 1990’s. The last time I saw her, she told me she was moving to the beach,” she added.

Dana has made contact with several friends and former classmates via Tri-County’s Alumni Association page on Facebook. She hopes it can lead her to find Ashcraft and will be a link to their staying connected.

To become a fan, search Tri-County Technical College Alumni Association on Facebook. It features posts on upcoming events and discussion among alumni. Tri-County Alumni Director Courtney White urges graduates to join the page and to post old and new photos, along with career updates and recollection of their years at Tri-County.

The Photo Gallery on the Facebook page gives a brief history of the Alumni Association, established in 1985, and features vignettes about the first elected officers, including Dana, who served as the first president from 1985 – 87.

After graduating from Tri-County in 1983, she began her career as a morning news anchor for WFBC-FM in Greenville and later was promoted to news anchor and remained there until 1990. She was news director at Rock 101 for a year until she returned to college to



Sixteen graduates attended the Alumni Association meeting on the Pendleton Campus where they got acquainted and discussed upcoming events and fundraising opportunities. From left are **B.J. Ellis**, Class of 2007; **Evette Moss**, Class of 2001; **Laura Thompson**, Class of 2005; **Dale Shaw**, Class of 2005; **Ruthie Millar**, Class of 2011; **Bethany Wiley**, Class of 2001; **Carolyn White**, Classes of 2004 and 2008; **Tracy Bowie**, Class of 2005; **Dana Griffith**, Class of 1983; **Lisa Saxon**, Class of 2001; **Catherine Vinson**, Class of 1996; **Tammy Lollis**, Class of 2004; **Mary Johnston**, Class of 1988; and **Greg Sosebee**, Class of 1978. Not pictured are Lisa Anderson, Class of 1984; and Larry Barnes, Class of 1990.

earn a B. S. in Industrial Education from Clemson University and an M. Ed. degree in Industrial Education Graphic Communications. During that time she worked as an adjunct instructor for the RTV program from 1994 – 99. After graduating from Clemson, she worked as an account executive manager in Atlanta and later as a packaging consultant for Olympic Packaging Corp. from 2000 - 2008. She returned to her alma mater in 2009 and is a faculty member in the English department.

“I had such a meaningful, life-changing experience at Tri-County,” says Dana, who also served as the editor of *The Prism*, the College’s newspaper, in the 1980’s.

“There are so many I’d love to keep track of – where they went and what they did. I’d love to get the word out about the Alumni Association’s Facebook page as a way to generate interest and participation in the College’s upcoming 50th anniversary next year,” she said.

“When students leave Tri-County, they are proud to be graduates, and they attribute their success and job status to earning the associate degree. I’d love to read about their successes.”

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!



Cathy Gross, of Lexington, SC, writes:
 “My son, Ryan Gross, is transferring to TCTC

from Clemson. **Cathy Cole** in Finance and **Rachel Campbell** in Admissions have been amazing! They have answered every e-mail and/or phone call promptly and with succinct and complete info. They have made this transition much easier for a searching young man and his parents!

Looking forward to being part of the TCTC family!”

Katy Goforth, Title III activity director for learning communities, writes:

“Public Services Department Head **Dr. Harriette Dudley** was chosen as a thematic learning community designer funded through Title III. Ideally, faculty design their learning communities with me and a group of other learning community designers. Due to timing issues, Harriette took on the task of designing her thematic community with only my support...at least this is what I thought. She decided to create her own “faculty design team” by bouncing ideas not only off of me, but also family members, colleagues, and students. Harriette demonstrated what it means to be a creator, which is what we encourage our students to be. Her initiative energized me, inspired me, and made me smile. Kudos, Harriette!”

This letter to the editor appeared in the August 2 edition of the Anderson Independent-Mail:

My name is Byron Welborn Wollstein. I am an English major at Clemson University with a 3.5 GPA, but only because of the incredibly gifted professionals found throughout Tri-County Technical College. And I do not simply mean the educators, but all of the faculty and staff like the Information Specialist **Caroline Williams** at the front desk or the

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Our College Family

in transition

STUDENT AFFAIRS

Stephanie Winkler is our new Disability Services Coordinator. She has a B.A. in Politics from Converse College and earned a Juris Doctorate in 2005 from Appalachian School of Law in Virginia. She was a law clerk to Judge Roger Couch from 2005 – 2006. The next year, she began working as an attorney for the Hawkins Law Firm, where she stayed until 2009 when she opened her own law practice, The Winkler Law Firm, in Anderson.

Stephanie is a member of the S.C. Bar Association. She and her husband, Donny Winkler, who is a Science instructor in our Arts and Sciences Division, live in Anderson. They have a daughter, Lauren, 8 months.



Stephanie Winkler

ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

After a year as an adjunct English instructor, **James E. (Jim) DeLoach, Jr.**, began full time this semester. Jim began his career teaching high school English for Aiken County School District and then for Richland County District 2. He entered into real estate in 1980 and owned his own company until 2006, He was named Pickens County Realtor of the Year for 1983 and again in 1998. He also has earned the honor of Easley Small Business of the Year. From 2003 – 2010 he taught real estate licensing classes for S.C. Jim holds a B.A. in English and Secondary Education from Clemson University and an M.Ed. plus 18 hours from the University of South Carolina. He is a member and past deacon of Easley Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Joan, live in Easley.



Jim DeLoach

Timeko McFadden is the new Spanish instructor in our Humanities Department. Since 2007, she has been teaching Spanish at various colleges and public schools in the area. Most recently, she was an adjunct Spanish instructor for USC Upstate and Greenville Technical College. From 2007 – 2009 she was a Spanish teacher and Spanish Department Head at Woodmont Middle School in Greenville County.

She also has worked as a pastry chef at several restaurants including The Cliffs at Glassy in Landrum, Soby’s on the Side in Greenville, and the Greenville Country Club.

Timeko earned a B.A. in Spanish, as well as a B.A. in Religion, from Converse College. She has an M.A. in Hispanic Literature from the University of Georgia. In 2005, she received an associate degree in Culinary Arts and Food Service Management, as well as a certificate in Business, from Greenville Technical College.

Timeko, who also speaks Portuguese, is a member of Alpha Mu Gamma. She was session chair of the 2011 CLA Conference in Spartanburg, was a presenter at the 2009 Upstate Foreign Language Faculty Development Workshop, and in 2010, was a co-sponsor of Exprésate, an Upstate language organization for Spanish enthusiasts.

Timeko lives in Simpsonville.



Timeko McFadden

Brag & Share

(continued from page 4)

Matthew Anzur joined the Division in August as a Mathematics instructor. He spent the last three years as an Assistant Math Professor at Huntington College and prior to that was a Math Instructor at Auburn University. He holds both a B.S. in Mathematics and a Ph.D. in Discrete Mathematics from Auburn University. Matthew lives in Anderson.



Matthew Anzur

BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICES

We welcome two new instructors to our Criminal Justice program.

Tom Lawrence has 15 years of experience in law enforcement, most recently working for the Sergeant-Training Division for Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department in Modesto, California. Over the last five years there, Tom was the department's POST Training Manager, Supervisor for Hostage Negotiation Team, Program Manager for the Operations Division, and an instructor for the Regional Criminal Justice Training Center.



Tom Lawrence

Tom was the principal author/reviewer and coordinator for all POST certified courses at the Stanislaus County Regional Training Academy. While at the Sheriff's Department, he was Policy and Procedure Manager, as well as Operations Manager of the mobile data terminal. He was author and coordinator of the COPS and Justice Assistance grant awarded to the department.

He began at the department in 2002 as a Deputy Sheriff.

From 2004 - 06 he was special agent for the USAF Office of Special Investigation in Melbourne, FL. He began his career as a police officer in 1996 at the Yreka Police Department in Yreka, CA.

He has been an adjunct instructor of Criminal Justice for the University of Phoenix since 2008.

He holds a B.A. in Management from Saint Mary's College of California and a master of Criminal Justice degree from Boston University. He and his wife, Bridgett, have two children, Payton 11, and Caden, 8. They live in Anderson.

Chris McFarlin is the Program Coordinator for our new Paralegal Studies program, set to start in Spring 2012. He also is an instructor in the Criminal Justice program. After working in law enforcement for six-and-a-half years as a patrolman at the Jonesboro Police Department in Arkansas, he earned a law degree and worked as an Assistant District Attorney and later was founder and managing attorney for McFarlin Law Firm, PLLC.



Chris McFarlin

He holds an associate of Arts in General Studies from Arkansas Northeastern College, a B.A. in Criminology and Sociology from Arkansas State University, and an M.S. in Criminal Justice from Indiana State University. Chris also earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence from Texas Southern University's Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Arkansas Bar Association, the Fraternal Order of the Police, and the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International. He and his wife, Christal, live in Easley.

Café staff and especially the hard-working individuals who keep the halls spotless.

Let me explain. Like the first pages of a book listing the acknowledgments, I wanted to thank all those who helped me in my educational journey, but the list contained hundreds of names.

When Clemson University requested that I put to paper the experiences that influenced my transition, all I could think about was what a wonderful foundation Tri-County Technical College had given me. I had been taught well by gifted professionals who cared about their mission.

So thanks to everyone at Tri-County Technical College for taking the time to teach and prepare me with the skills and tools I need for a great future.

B. Welborn Wollstein, Pendleton

Laura Thompson, administrative specialist for the Nursing and Veterinary Technology departments, sent this e-mail:

"I just wanted to share how appreciative I am of **Croslena Johnson**, who always is willing to help. I had an issue and was trying to find somebody and Croslena took the time to walk over to a nearby office to see if anyone was available and to give me the information I needed. This was not in her job, but she volunteered to help me out, which was such a kind thing to do and did truly help me."

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. E-mail your submission (65 words or less) with "Brag & Share" in the subject line to Lisa Garrett at lgarrett@tctc.edu.

Denise Hall

(continued from page 1)

Denise joined the College in 1983 as an Equipment Operator for the Print Shop and became Shop Manager in 1986. Shortly after being promoted to Manager of Printing Operations, she completed a 120-hour course in Supervision in the World of Work. She earned a certificate in Microcomputer Applications from Tri-County in 1992. Her certificate in Graphic Communications is from the B.J. Skelton Career Center.

"It has been an honor to serve the faculty, staff, and students at Tri-County for the past 28 years," said Denise. "I strive to make a difference every day, be it by making a co-worker's job easier or by saying the right thing to the right person at the right time."

She and her husband, Tommy, and their two daughters, Susan and Jo Anna, live in Travelers Rest. They are members of True Life Tabernacle Church in Travelers Rest.

College Offers Weekend Motorcycle Safety Classes



Weekend Motorcycle Safety classes are offered through the South Carolina Rider Education Program (SCREP) and are held on the College's Anderson Campus, located at 511 Michelin Blvd. in Anderson. Classes are available for individuals of all skill levels – Basic, Intermediate, and Experienced. Pictured here is **John Petrush**, interim director for the S.C. Rider Education Program.

Our College Family

Debra Nodine is our new Early Childhood Education Program Coordinator and instructor. For the last nine years, she has been Department Head for the Center for Child Care Career Development – TEACH Scholarship Program. Debra taught in public and private schools from 1993 – 2002. She has a B.S. in Special Education from the University of Maine in Farmington and an M.Ed. from Southern Wesleyan University.

Debra is a member of our Early Childhood Education Advisory Committee and is a member of the following professional organizations: South Carolina Association for the Education of Young Children, National Association for the Education of Young Children, and the Southern Early Childhood Association.

She and her husband, Gregory, have four children, Jacob and Joshua, 15, Jordan 12, and Joseph, 6. They are members of First Wesleyan Church – ALIVE in Central. They live in Central.



Debra Nodine

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Scott Edwards is the new instructor in our Computer and Information Technology Department. He has been an adjunct instructor for the last 18 months while working as a consultant for Condrey Corporation in Greenville. Prior to that, he was a Programmer for EfficientLights in Anderson for four years. Scott holds a B.S. in Computer Science from Texas A&M University and an M.B.A. from St. Edwards University in Texas. Scott, who lives in Anderson, has three children, Nancy 16; Joanne, 14; and Scott 12.



Scott Edwards

INDUSTRIAL AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Tony Young is now on board full time as the Building Construction Technology instructor. Tony has been teaching adjunct classes for the program since 2009.

Previously, Tony owned and operated T.R. Young Construction Company. He holds an associate in Arts and a B.S. in Business with a concentration in Sports Administration from Anderson University.

Tony and his wife, Jolyn, have four children, Jake, 14, Cole, 13, Payton, 12 and Jaxon, 9. They live in Williamston.



Tony Young

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

Mandy Davidson

Glenda Waters

Dr. Booth Receives Honorary Doctorate from Clemson



Dr. Booth, middle, received an honorary doctorate during Clemson University's graduation exercises Saturday, August 13, in Littlejohn Coliseum. Dr. Booth was recognized for his achievements in higher education and economic development. Under his guidance, Tri-County Technical College has partnered with Clemson University on the Bridge to Clemson Program, which allows academically talented freshmen to attend Tri-County for one year, then transfer to Clemson their sophomore year.

Presenting the degree are **David Wilkins**, Chairman of the Clemson Board of Trustees, left, and Clemson University President **James Barker**.

CONNECTING

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More than eighty percent of our students receive some form of free financial aid and more than \$34 million has been awarded so far for the 2011-12 academic year. The majority of this aid flows to the College in the form of tuition and mandatory fees. Financial aid is critical not only to student success, but also to the financial stability of the College. Ensuring our compliance with recent changes in financial aid regulations is a high priority. Many groups in addition to the Financial Aid Office play critical roles in helping us properly administer financial aid while helping students make the best use of the aid for which they are eligible.

Other upcoming priorities include developing and implementing a more comprehensive institutional effectiveness process that includes planning and evaluation; the upcoming SACS visit in the spring and the development of our fifth-year report; the construction of a new QuickJobs Development Center for our Anderson Campus; the final thrust of our Foundation's Major Gifts Campaign; and launching our 50th anniversary celebration in January 2012.

Indeed, we have many exciting challenges ahead of us as we begin the new academic year, all of which will help us focus more intentionally on student success. As I said during Convocation, if we lived in a perfect world, we'd have adequate resources, fully-prepared students, clairvoyant leadership, and everything else it takes to ensure that great things will be accomplished. However, we do not live in a perfect world, so we must make a commitment to do all we can to engage the imperfect world as it is, as we are, in whatever realm, and work towards greater success for our students.

Best wishes for a great start to the new academic year.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

Tri-County Remembers 10th Anniversary of September 11

The College has planned several activities to commemorate the anniversary of September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on New York and The Pentagon. They include:

Dr. Chad Gregory, history instructor and coordinator of instructional activities for the Humanities Department, will present a lecture titled "The 9-11 Conspiracy Theories" Thursday, September 8, from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Marshall Parker Auditorium, Pendleton Campus. The lecture is sponsored by the College Enrichment Series.

OTHER EVENTS SCHEDULED INCLUDE:

*Remembrance banner signings at all Get Connected events.

Campus Blood Drives:

- Easley Campus: Monday, September 12, 8 a.m. – noon
- Pendleton Campus: Wednesday, September 14, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Anderson Campus, Thursday, September 15, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

U.S. Constitution Day Celebration

- Cake Cutting, All Campuses, Wednesday, September 14, noon – 2 p.m.
- Readings from famous speeches about The Constitution, Wednesday, September 14, 1:25 p.m., Marshall Parker Auditorium, Pendleton Campus.

These events will be a celebration of the freedoms represented by the Constitution as we remember the lives lost and the sacrifices made on September 11, 2001. Copies of the U.S. Constitution will be distributed.

Early Childhood Development Named Advisory Committee Of the Year



The Early Childhood Development program received the Advisory Committee of the Year award at fall convocation. Here, **President Booth** presents committee member **Sharon Hwu** with a plaque.

The work of the College's Early Childhood Development (ECD) Advisory Committee members, both in the classroom and the community, earned them the distinction of advisory committee of the year.

Public Services Department Head Dr. Harriette Dudley and Advisory Committee member Sharon Hwu accepted the trophy and plaque on behalf of the committee. New ECD Program Coordinator Debra Nodine, a former advisory committee member, also was present to receive the award.

The Advisory Board, consisting of leaders and teachers in child care centers, schools and organizations, meets regularly to evaluate and to develop the curriculum and to serve as consultants to the department head.

The Early Childhood Development program is designed to prepare those entering the field of child care or those currently employed but seeking additional training. Graduates are employed as teachers in public and private early care settings, family day care homes, and as teacher assistants in public schools.

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It Feels Like Summer, But Fall Semester Is Underway with 6,836 Students



As of the end of the third day of classes, College-wide enrollment is 6,836 students. The Easley Campus welcomed 582 students for its first Fall Semester, and 1,059 students are taking classes at the Anderson Campus. Enrollment at the Oconee Campus at the Hamilton Career Center, which consists primarily of University Transfer classes for select high school students and the Practical Nursing program, is 74 students.



In an effort to alleviate the parking shortage on the Pendleton Campus, the College has opened a 347-space lot on Mechanic Street approximately one-half mile from campus. Hours are Monday-Thursday from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Fridays. The parking lot is patrolled by Campus Safety, and a continuous shuttle service transports students and employees to and from the Pendleton Campus.

Governor Haley Signs Efficiency Bill



Community and college leaders and elected officials gathered at the Easley Campus August 3 for Governor Nikki Haley (seated) to sign into law the S.C. Higher Education Efficiency and Administrative Policies Act of 2011.

Community and college leaders and elected officials gathered at the Easley Campus August 3 for Governor Nikki Haley to sign into law the S.C. Higher Education Efficiency and Administrative Policies Act of 2011 that mandates State higher education institutions' spending records to be posted online and streamlines the processes involved in college purchasing and construction projects.

"We are committed to the process. Now there is better accountability in higher education and no questions of where dollars are going," said Governor Haley. "Today is the first of many improvements in higher education that I think all of South Carolina can be very proud of."

Governor Haley added that the law joins together both flexibility and transparency for the State's higher education institutions.

This bill requires that by the end of this fiscal year all higher education institutions will have their spending records online. Today one half of the state universities' spending records are posted online, and half of the technical colleges' records are online. Tri-County's transactions can be viewed online at www.tctc.edu and clicking on About Tri-County, then Financial Transparency.

Dr. Booth said the signing of the bill is "a banner day in the Upstate and for higher education in the State of South Carolina."

Tri-County was among the first technical colleges to put spending records online voluntarily, Dr. Booth said. He said the bill reflects how "regulatory relief and transparency go hand in hand."

Also part of the bill is regulatory relief for building projects, said Dr. Booth.

Currently, whenever a public college in South Carolina decides to undertake a development project, it has to get the approval of the Commission on Higher Education, then the Joint Bond Review Committee, and finally the Budget and Control Board. When a design and budget are put together, the college must get approvals once again from the three boards.

Under this new bill, the requests now will be sent to the Joint Bond Review Committee and Budget and Control Board at the same time. The Bond Review Committee gives the final approval. The bill also limits the number of projects that require State approval.

Early Childhood

(continued from page 8)

The program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

"Our committee is so dedicated to getting the word out about how important education is in the field of Early Childhood Development," said Harriette. "We couldn't have done it all without this great group of people. They have a wonderful vision of what they want for the curriculum and the profession."

Harriette commended the committee's work this year, which included partnering with Clemson University's Early Childhood program to co-sponsor/host a professional development conference for more than 100 teachers, parents, and college students. Members marketed the conference, served as guest speakers, sponsored students to attend, and worked the registration booth.

"The advisory committee wanted our students to participate in group work so every faculty member stepped up and put group projects in very single class they teach," she said. Students are learning how to collaborate, how to accept different opinions and attitudes, as well as how to engage in problem-solving and conflict resolution strategies.

Committee members also shared their time, expertise and experiences with ECD students by serving as mentors and guest speakers in ECD classes.

"The program is truly honored and grateful to have a committee that shows its dedication, commitments, energy and passion to the college and the students through their services," said Harriette.

Educational Talent Search Receives Five-Year Funding

Our Educational Talent Search (ETS) program received continued federal funding and a perfect score on the grant submission.

The Department of Education granted the College a five-year, \$391,538 continuation grant to provide academic support and cultural exposure to 854 students, ages 11 – 27, who are in need of assistance in understanding their educational opportunities and options.

Tri-County was among the eight colleges and universities in the State to receive ETS funding.

ETS, founded in 1981, is part of the TRiO programs which are designed to provide academic and motivational support to first-generation (neither parent has a bachelor's degree) and income-eligible students in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties who might otherwise have found higher education beyond their reach.

"This is an extremely competitive federal grant," said TRiO Director Dr. Thwanda Davidson. "Receiving funding at this crucial time, coupled with a perfect score, is quite an accomplishment. A score of 99.6 was necessary to be funded. Our ETS team put forth a strong application highlighting the quality services we provide to the students in middle and high schools, as well as young adults who never attended college. The readers' comments made us feel proud of the grant we submitted," she said.

Tri-County's ETS provides academic, personal and career counseling; tutoring; study skills and SAT/ACT workshops; cultural activities; and assistance in completing and submitting college admissions and financial aid applications, said ETS Coordinator Herm Allen.

Counselors assist students with one-on-one counseling and with setting up action plans to apply for scholarships and to build a strong college application. Tri-County has

(continued on page 11)

UB Program Gives Direction, Higher M-Pact Founder Tyrone Flowers Tells Students



Higher M-Pact Founder Tyrone Flowers addresses Upward Bound students.

Growing up in Kansas City, Missouri, Tyrone Flowers was ashamed of his past and uncertain of his future.

Raised by his loving grandmother along with 12 other children in a two-bedroom house, every day had its challenges, including struggling to find one meal a day, living without electricity, and sleeping in his clothes.

During his youth, his grandmother fell ill and he was removed from the home and put into foster care, where he says he was abused physically, mentally, and emotionally.

He was placed in three different foster homes, residential treatment facilities, eight different group homes, and juvenile reformatory school. In a state hospital, he was tested for schizophrenia and retardation. He was even sent to the largest youth center in state of Missouri.

"I used to ask, 'why me?' My father was murdered, my mother didn't want me. I thought there were no answers. It was just part of my reality," said Flowers, founder of Higher M-Pact, a community-based organization

whose focus is to mentor, develop and restore hope for high-risk youth and their families.

Flowers, who was honored as one of the National TRiO Achievers in 2009, told his story recently to a group of Upward Bound students at the College's 31st annual awards banquet.

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.

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Kiana Green, of Iva, left, received an Outstanding Academic Achiever Bridge Component Award at the Annual Upward Bound Awards Banquet. Presenting the award is **Dr. Thwanda Davidson**, director of the TRiO programs. Kiana will attend The University of South Carolina in the fall. In addition, Kiana has received the following awards: District 3 Order of Eastern Star - Mary M. Miller Scholar; S.C. Baptist Congress of Christian Education Scholar; Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Kappa Zeta Omega Scholar; Anderson County; Horatio Alger Scholar; USC Opportunity Scholar; and S.C. LIFE Scholar.

Students Chosen as BMW Scholars



Tri-County BMW Scholars pose for a group photo with Governor Nikki Haley and company executives following the press conference. Pictured from left to right are: **Josef Kerscher**, president of BMW Manufacturing Co.; **Governor Haley**; **Cole Johnson**, of Williamston, student; **Chad Looper**, of Easley, student; **Michael Bonham**, of Easley, student; **Michael Bellamy**, of Anderson, student; **Charlton Balcombe**, student; **Adam Grantz**, of Anderson, student; **Doug Allen**, Industrial Technology department head; **Duke Moses**, BMW Scholars supervisor; **Ryan Childers**, project lead, BMW Training & Development; **Jasmin Begic**, BMW Scholars supervisor; and **Harald Krüger**, BMW Group Board of Management Member for Human Resources. Not pictured is **Kenneth Denmon**, of Anderson, student.

BMW associates are the company's most important asset, executives said at the Greer plant's May 3 press conference to make two major announcements focusing on investments in its current and future workforce.

Among the announcements was a new BMW Scholars program, which through a partnership with Greenville and Tri-County Technical Colleges and Spartanburg Community College, allows selected students to attend class full time while working part time at BMW. "This is a new way to recruit and train local talent. Technicians are critical to our operations," said Josef Kerscher, president of BMW Manufacturing Company.

The workforce development program allows students a chance to pursue their education, gain necessary hands-on experience, and become viable candidates for positions at BMW. During this process, BMW assists with students' tuition, books, and supplies. Students must be full time. The company will recruit 35 scholars annually. The first 15 are now working in job rotations at the plant.

"This is the most recent example of educational programs we support worldwide," said Kerscher.

"The technical colleges play a key role in workforce development and will take on a bigger role in the future with training," said Emily Higgins, BMW human resources director.

The scholars program gives students exposure to manufacturing experience and offers them a multi-skilled education, she said.

"Students are employed in five major manufacturing concentrations and work 20 hours a week. This experience qualifies them as viable candidates for positions here at the completion of their degrees," said Higgins.

"We are passionate about product, processes, and people. As a result, the company has invested more than five billion dollars in this plant over the last 17 years," said Kerscher.

Talent Search

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two counselors for the area high schools, one for the middle schools, and a coordinator/counselor, along with an administrative assistant and accountant.

"Our services give students a sense of support and hope and the resources needed to complete secondary studies and matriculate into college," said Thwanda.

"We also keep the parents informed. We have first-generation students, so their parents never have navigated these waters before. Many ETS students graduate from high school and enter Tri-County after graduation (around 30 ETS grads will enter this fall).

"These programs have endured over the last 30 years because they work," said Thwanda.

Executive Staff Updates

- **Degree Works:** Sarah Shumpert, director of Instructional Support, presented hardware needs for the Degree Works program associated with the Learning through Community and Connections (LC²) initiative.
- **Enrollment:** Dan Holland, vice president for Student Affairs, gave an enrollment update for Fall Semester. Overall, enrollment is down slightly. A post-registration meeting will be scheduled to review processes and deadlines as part of our continuous improvement efforts.
- **Other:** updated policies and procedures (to be posted in eTC); image management system; and Higher Education Efficiency and Administrative Policies Act of 2011.

UB Program

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"I've been in padded rooms and straight jackets. But I had a vision of wanting to do better," said Flowers, a first-generation college student who travels around the country telling his story. "I wanted to be successful, but I didn't know what it felt like or looked like," he said.

Flowers was offered a full scholarship to play basketball at the University of Missouri-Columbia, but instead turned it down and opted for the Army. But that plan was terminated. One day, a basketball teammate and he argued. The teammate pulled out a .357 magnum and shot him three times, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down with limited use of his left arm and in a wheelchair for life. "I had no role models and no plan B," he said. "I knew I could survive, but I wanted to live. It was then I made one of the best decisions in my life."

He enrolled at Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City and met a TRiO counselor who changed his life. TRiO programs are designed to provide educational opportunities for eligible participants regardless of race, ethnic background, or economic circumstances.

"A counselor helped me to get a scholarship to the University of Missouri-Columbia (MU). She believed in me. It was the first time in my life I had my own room – in a dorm," he remembered.

As a senior at MU, Tyrone completed a practicum at the McCune School for Boys, the same facility he had been incarcerated in years ago. "That is when I decided to go to law school," Flowers said. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Sociology and a minor in Psychology. He went on to receive a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law.

He didn't want to practice traditional law; instead, he decided to develop community programs for adolescents just coming out of the juvenile justice system.

"Let your profession line up with your passion," he told the students. "I'd rather be rolling in a wheelchair with a vision than walking aimlessly," he said.

Two-Hundred-and-Seventy-Eight Graduate

You are graduating from the right place at the right time, Dr. Booth said in his graduation address to the College's summer graduates.

Two-hundred-and-seventy-eight graduates received degrees, diplomas and certificates at the College's summer commencement held August 4 at the Anderson Civic Center.

"Whether you plan to transfer to a four-year college or university or immediately enter the workplace, many exciting opportunities lie ahead for you, particularly if you stay here in the Upstate of South Carolina," he added.

Acknowledging that it's been a difficult three-and-a-half years economically for nation and the State, with many losing their jobs and their homes, "Thankfully, good things are beginning to happen here," he said.

"Despite our continuing economic challenges at the State and national levels, we have seen some positive signs in relation to potential growth of jobs, particularly manufacturing jobs, in the Upstate of South Carolina," he said. He added that businesses are beginning to hire again and there has been an increase in companies considering locating in the Upstate.

He told the graduates that these companies can't be successful without them. "You are our State's investment in the future. Statistics show that 97 percent of all technical college graduates remain to live and work in the State. Over the last decade, the cumulative percentage increase in enrollment in South Carolina's technical colleges is 45 percent, and Tri-County's increase has been the highest at 84 percent," he said.

"Each of you can play a role in our economic recovery and in the success of our State," he said.



Just days before graduation, **Holly Alexander**, of Salem, center, was involved in a serious auto accident that left her with severe injuries, including a lacerated spleen and liver and broken bones in her feet and hands. She was on the way to her first day of training at her new job at Synergy Spine Center in Seneca. She was in the hospital for four days, two in intensive care and two on the floor, and she was released two days before graduation. "She was studying for the national certification exam from her hospital bed," said Cherlyn Brown, Surgical Technology program coordinator. "She told me she had worked hard for this and she would be at graduation. It was a great goal for her. I was so proud the night of graduation as I watched her fellow Surgical Technology graduates cheer for her as she received her diploma. It warmed my heart," said Cherlyn. Here, Holly, is surrounded by fellow Surgical Technology grads after the graduation ceremony. Following her recovery, she will return to her job in Seneca.



Lisa Saxon, of Anderson, a member of the College's Alumni Association Board of Directors, left, helps **Wendy Williams**, of Greenwood, with her graduation attire before the College's summer commencement August 4. Williams graduated from the Practical Nursing program.