

# Connection

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## Ken Kopera Receives Staff Excellence Award

Ken Kopera, physical plant director, has been honored with the highest award given for staff excellence at the College.

Ken, a Powdersville resident, 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.

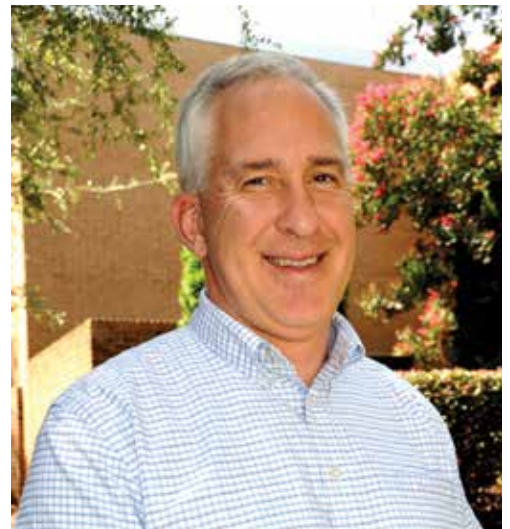
Ken joined the College in 2000 and is in charge of maintenance and security at all campuses and centers, in addition to overseeing all construction and rehabilitative projects. This year he has focused on several new projects, including overseeing the design, procurement, and construction of the Industrial Technology Center (ITC), a \$4 million state-of-the-art welding and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning training facility, set to open in the spring of 2013. The 42,000-square-foot building is located on Highway 76 in Sandy Springs on five acres of land and is just four miles from the Pendleton Campus. Designed to simulate a real-life industrial setting, the structure will use various types of construction techniques in the retrofitting process to be used later as teaching tools in the classroom.

Another ongoing project is the traffic and pedestrian safety improvements which began this month at the Pendleton Campus. This is the first phase of a new Pendleton Campus Master Plan, developed in 2011 under Ken's direction. He also oversaw projects to create a new tutoring center on the Pendleton Campus, relocation of the campus print shop, and rehabilitation of the Cleveland Hall roof this summer.

"Most people don't realize how difficult and complicated these projects are. Given the complexity of State procurement rules and the approvals required to acquire property, sanction new facilities, and to develop and manage construction contracts, the amount of planning and inter-agency coordination required to be successful in Ken's role is incredible," said Gregg Stapleton, vice president of Business Affairs at the College.

"Ken has delivered these projects with great attention to quality and cost, usually saving the College money throughout the course of a major facility upgrade or new installation. It's a sustained effort and requires Ken's knowledge of State processes, as well as construction and project management best practices," said Gregg. "He does an outstanding job of getting the best value for the dollars we spend by selecting quality contractors and working with clients and designers to

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Ken Kopera

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Get Connected

Pendleton .....	August 29
Easley .....	Sept. 5
Anderson.....	Sept. 6
Blood Drive .....	Sept. 17
Attack on Sassafras Mountain.....	Oct. 13
Wine Tasting Event.....	Oct. 17
Time Capsule Burial.....	Oct. 24

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

## Connection

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### Mailing Address (All Campuses)

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](http://www.tctc.edu)



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# Connecting



**Dr. Ronnie L. Booth**  
President

There is no better way to begin a new academic year than the gathering of our faculty and staff for Fall Convocation. I sensed excitement and high expectations among all of you. There is no doubt we have a talented group of people here who are ready to tackle new challenges during 2012-13.

During Convocation, I focused my remarks on the upcoming academic year. Since not everyone was able to join us, I will use this column to review that discussion.

First, however, I want to extend my appreciation to everyone for the tremendous amount of hard work that went into getting ready for Fall Semester. We made a lot of changes this fall compared with last, and we think our students will fare better for it.

For example, we implemented earlier deadlines to avoid a mad rush in August that creates nothing but chaos for us and a let-down for students when they can't get the financial aid and other services they need. We also ramped up our targeted marketing and recruiting by involving nearly every department in the process of encouraging new, current, and stop-out students to complete the registration process. Additionally, we made scheduling changes to maximize the numbers of students in classes and avoid empty seats. There were more changes, but these presented the most challenges and the greatest opportunity to manage our enrollment in a strategic way. I know a lot of hard work and creative energy went into making things "work" – and I appreciate everything you did.

Enrollment is down slightly overall, with the largest decrease coming from our "continuing" student classification. This decrease is likely due, in part, to significant changes to financial aid regulations. We have additional work to do to help our students take the right mix of courses, persist from term to term, and reach their goals.

Which brings me right to the point. Now that we have passed the semester start-up, what's next?

A renewed focus on student success.

We have been talking about student success for a long time. In fact, last year's Annual Report was titled "Creating Opportunities for Student Success." But we are never "finished" with student success. In fact, this year it has become pretty clear that, in a sense, we are just getting started.

As I said many times this past year, we managed to persevere through difficult times leading to where we find ourselves today. When the economy crashed in 2008, our State funding was cut dramatically as enrollment surged beyond everyone's expectations. Not only were we doing more with less, we were doing so in the midst of opening three new community campuses. At the same time, stricter federal financial aid regulations came into play that impacted aid to many of our students.

We have made a conscious effort to move ourselves beyond simply surviving to once again thriving. At the same time, we have renewed our commitment to student success. The economy is slowly recovering, but there is no going back to the way things were. In order to remain a sustainable institution, we have to change the way we do business.

Intense efforts to ensure long-term viability started this past year when we launched a number of new projects to examine our work processes and core functions. We have teams working on matriculation, curriculum and instruction, course scheduling, and more.

Thanks to the work of one of those groups – the Retention Project Team – we now have a new strategic direction that clarifies and provides a framework for our focus on student success. This direction organizes the work currently underway and will inform our focus on student success moving forward.

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# Spotlight on the Educational Talent Search

ETS Provides Academic and Motivational Support to Students Who Find College Beyond Reach

In his conversations with students and their parents about preparing for college, Educational Talent Search (ETS) Coordinator Herm Allen often repeats a quote from the film, “Gifted Hands,” a docudrama about Dr. Ben Carson, who went from struggling student to world-renowned neurosurgeon, whose mother once told him, ‘You have to see beyond what you can see.’

In his role as coordinator of ETS at Tri-County, Herm uses that powerful quote as a motivator for students to break the mindset that college is an impossibility.

“Despite your circumstances, just like Dr. Carson, who grew up in an economically disadvantaged household, if you have the desire to go to college, we at ETS can help you find a way to do that,” said Herm.

ETS, which has been federally funded at Tri-County since 1981, is designed to assist students in grades 7 – 12 with the academic support and cultural exposure to students who need assistance in understanding their educational opportunities and options.

Last year the U.S. Department of Education granted the College a five-year, \$391,538 continuation grant to provide academic support and cultural exposure to 854 students in the tri-counties. Tri-County was among the eight colleges and universities in the State to receive ETS funding. Tri-County has the only ETS program in the Upstate.

ETS 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.

ETS program services are free of charge to those who qualify.

Specifically, Tri-County’s ETS provides academic, personal, and career counseling; middle school tutoring by mentors who are retired teachers; online tutoring for high school participants; study skills and SAT/ACT workshops; cultural activities; and assistance in completing and submitting college admissions and financial aid applications.

ETS 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, he added.

“All of these services are at no cost to those who qualify, thanks to the Department of Education grant. I know – it sounds too good to be true – but it’s not. Why not take advantage of a program like this?” said Herm.

Chelsy Hunter, of Anderson, a sophomore majoring in Athletic Training at Erskine College, participated in ETS from middle school through graduation from high school. “ETS prepared me for college through my participation in the leadership conferences and help with homework that resulted in good grades. Counselors also helped with



The ETS van made stops across the tri-county area Saturday, August 25, to deliver school supplies free of charge to program participants. The van stopped at the College’s Anderson Campus, Gettys Middle School, the Pickens County Courthouse, and Seneca High School, and ended the day back at our Pendleton Campus.

choosing which college was the best for me, along with the application and financial aid processes,” she added. “The counselors were real motivators. The program is so worthwhile.”

“Our purpose is to increase the graduation and college-going rates of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds. One of the charges and challenges we have is that we no longer want to be the best-kept secret in the area. We want as many people as possible to know we exist. Our goal is visibility for Educational Talent Search and to get the information out,” said Herm.

“We work closely with the guidance departments at the schools, who serve as vehicles for recruiting students. We visit schools and talk with students during lunch periods. With the beginning of school, we are in recruitment mode,” said Herm.

“The program is funded to serve 854 students in our target schools. During the selection process, we look at grades and personal statements. We look for students who are college bound. They don’t have to be A students; they just have to be seriously interested in college when they graduate from high school,” he said.

“So often I’ve seen students who enter the program as C or D students and who turn the corner and become A or B students. We provide motivation and encouragement. With ETS, college is not impossible,” he said.

The ETS program works, said Herm. According to a performance report by the USDOE, 66 percent of Tri-County’s 2010 – 2011 ETS

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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!



**Eric J. Lapin**, of the Department of Performing Arts at Clemson University, sent **Dr. Harriette Dudley** this note:

"I just wanted to follow up with a quick thank you. You have been incredibly helpful throughout this entire process and we very much appreciate your help and understanding. I am so excited for Leigh to begin working with children. She has such a passion for helping kids and is so talented.

On another note, it was also very nice meeting you today. I really enjoyed hearing about your research and found it very interesting. If I can ever be of any help, please let me know. As a musician, I love collaborative experiences. So if you ever have any ideas where our research interests cross, please let me know.

Also, tell Dean (Jackie) Blakley that if I can be of any help at all in navigating the program (course selection, committee selection about faculty) to please let me know. I am happy to help.

Again, thank you very much. Your kindness and help made a difficult situation so much easier. You are a wonderful example of what is right in higher education."

**Harriette** responded with this e-mail to **Tom Lawrence, Jackie Blakley, Sue Dacus, Scott Harvey, and Galen DeHay:**

"I received this e-mail today, and I wanted to insert each of your names in the letter from Mr. Lapin and his wife. They have called me on several occasions to thank me for assisting them. I know that I could not have done it without the help, support, suggestions, knowledge, research, and innovation exhibited by each of you! As you know, this family has relocated and accepted jobs based on Mrs. Lapin's graduation tonight. Thank you for really putting into practice what we say we do and who we say we are, 'Outstanding programs and unparalleled service.' I am very proud to be a part of this team."

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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.

# Our College Family

## excellence through service



Mary Geren

English instructor and Student Democrats advisor **Mary Geren** has been chosen to serve as a national delegate for President Barack Obama at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte September 3-6.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I was truly surprised that I actually won my campaign for a delegate spot (we only have four from the entire 3rd Congressional District of SC)," said Mary.

The **Business Affairs Office** once again has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. For the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Division received the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).



Business Affairs Office Staff

To be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized CAFR whose contents conform to program standards. Such CAFR must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

**Jayne Hucheson**, a 2011 graduate of the Veterinary Technology program, has been chosen from 150 applicants for the only veterinary technician/technologist zoo internship in the United States. She will be working at the Tulsa Zoo, located in Mohawk Park, one of the largest municipal parks in the United States.

Jayne spent the last year participating in a paid internship program at the University of Tennessee (UT). The University's Veterinary Technician Internship Program is the only one of its kind in the country.

"She said that every time anyone compliments her on her knowledge or skills, she tells them it is thanks to her school, Tri-County. I am so proud of her," said Dr. Peggy Champion, head of our Veterinary Technology program.



Bethany Wiley

Congratulations to Human Resources Specialist **Bethany Wiley**, who earned her master's degree in Human Resource Development from Clemson University.

**Kate Williams**, Psychology instructor, received her Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Clemson University at the August 2012 commencement ceremony. The experiment for Dr. Williams' dissertation, "Does Practice Make Perfect? The Effect of Practice and Coaching on Job Interview Performance,"

## Brag & Share

(continued from page 4)

was conducted at Tri-County with the assistance of the Career Center staff.

Clemson University and Tri-County's joint program in medical laboratory science was featured in a presentation for an international lab meeting in Germany this month. Dr. Tamara McNealy, assistant professor of biological sciences at Clemson, traveled to an IFBLS meeting to give a presentation about the institutions' partnership that allows Tri-County Technical College graduates with an Associate in Applied Science degree in Medical Laboratory Technology, who meet specific criteria, to enroll as juniors at Clemson University. Qualified students are accepted in the Bachelor of Science in Microbiology degree program, with a concentration in Biomedicine.

Congratulations to our new Faculty Senate officers: President, **Dr. Amoena Norcross**; Arts and Sciences Division: **Todd Crisp** and **Corey Evans**; Business and Public Services Division: **Chris McFarlin** and **Tom Lawrence**; Engineering and Industrial Technology Division: **Tony Logan** and **Tony Young**; Health Science Division: **Ashley Brady** and **Cherlyn Brown**; At-Large Representative: **Penny Edwards**; and Library Representative: **Marla Roberson**.

If you have a concern you would like the Faculty Senate to address during 2012-13, please contact one of the full-time Faculty Senate Representatives. (Adjunct representatives will be nominated and elected before September 10, 2012.)

**Dr. Harriette Dudley** was a keynote speaker at Gateway Technical College's Academic and Campus Affairs retreat held August 1. The title of Harriette's presentation was Civility on Campus.

### *in transition*

**Dr. Scott Britten** says the College's progressive policies toward student success were just one of many attractions to accepting the job as our new Dean of the Arts and Sciences Division.

Scott, who joined us July 23, comes from Edison Community College in Piqua, Ohio, where he served as Dean of Arts and Sciences for about two years. He has worked in education as a faculty member and administrator for 22 years.

"Tri-County is a terrific institution and its Arts and Sciences faculty have high academic standards," said Scott. "The College also has strong relationships with Clemson and other neighboring four-year colleges and universities."

In addition to the emphasis on student success, the College supports and engages the community, he said, adding that programs like Bridge to Clemson, Connect to College, and the learning communities got his attention.

"What struck me was the quality faculty who are deeply concerned about students and are really engaged. It's not that way at all colleges," he added. "Everyone has been helpful, professional, and kind. It's been a nice first few weeks."

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Kate Williams



Dr. Harriette Dudley



Dr. Scott Britten

**Lillian Hunter** in Student Records sent this note, complimenting **Kevin Steele**:

"Kevin was very generous and donated team water bottles for the 10th Grade Girls PT Cruiser Basketball team, which includes young ladies from Oconee, Anderson, and Pickens counties. The PT Cruisers will be traveling to the Florida Nationals the week of July 9th to compete for the National title. With his hectic work schedule and the great many hats that he wears, he took a moment to stop and help these young ladies. We will always remember his kindness and generosity."

**Mary Johnston**, administrative assistant in the Public Relations and Marketing department, writes:

"**K.C. Bryson** recently spent an afternoon creating two reports that will save me hours in manual tweaking. It used to take me an entire day to download graduate names from ISIS and compile them in a format that could be sent to the newspapers. Another half-day was spent analyzing answers to the marketing questions on the COMPASS test and compiling a report that guides our marketing decisions. With K.C.'s help, these tasks will now take only a few minutes. I was amazed with her knowledge, speed, and patience while I explained my needs. And she even said it was a joy for her to be able to simplify my routines. How refreshing!"

**Penny Edwards**, Psychology instructor, sent this in:

"A few weeks ago, I was informed by **Campus Safety** (thank you to them and **Sandra Roddey**, as well!) that my car had a flat tire. This was one of those unbearably hot, humid days and the last thing I wanted to do was change a tire at 5:30 pm! **Harriette Dudley** stopped by on her way out and asked if there was anything she could do to help. I told her no and thanked her for the consideration. A few minutes later, here comes Harriette with several bottles of water! She may not have been able to do anything to help with the tire, but she sure made it more bearable! Thank you, Harriette!"

# The Nineties



Each month throughout 2012, CONNECTION will devote two pages to celebrating the College's golden anniversary. Through photos and articles, we will highlight the events which have shaped the College into the role model for community college education that it is today.



The Industrial and Business Development Center opened in September 1990, with a dedication ceremony taking place May 10, 1991. The Industrial and Business Development Center was the College's first building to be constructed with the investment of private money through the marriage of federal, county and private dollars. Sixty-seven individual companies and foundations gave amounts ranging from \$10 to \$100,000 to help fund a total construction cost of \$2 million. The building, which houses the Corporate and Community Education Division, was designed to provide quality instruction and quick response to technical training needs of employers and has been a great resource for business and industry to learn sophisticated manufacturing techniques, as well as serving the community's needs for personal interest and career development classes.



The executives of the Access and Equity Advisory Committee guided the committee through its first two years when goals were established. Left to right are James Williams, co-chair; Helen Rosemond-Saunders, secretary; and Carolyn Galloway, co-chair. Mr. Williams served the College in several different capacities and retired in 2006. Mrs. Rosemond-Saunders also serves on the Commission and was its chair from 2008 until 2011.



Along with 15 other colleges in the State, Tri-County switched from the quarter calendar to semesters beginning the summer term 1992, and the first semester began August 1992. Here, Sandra Roddey, administrative assistant for the Arts and Sciences Division, displays the celebratory cake.



Veteran businessman and instructor Alvin Fleishman, right, was honored – on his 75th birthday – with an endowment of a scholarship in his name. In October of 1991, friends, family, current, and past students from Tri-County and community members raised money to endow a scholarship. Mr. Fleishman, who died in 2009, was an adjunct instructor in the Business Technology Department and owned Fleishman Store and Fleishman Realty Company in Anderson. He is pictured here with President Don C. Garrison.

## Mrs. Ruby Hicks' Bequest of Nearly \$1 Million Establishes Scholarships

The late Ruby S. Hicks' love for education and her lifelong goal of helping students to achieve their educational best live on in perpetuity at Tri-County Technical College by means of the Ernest H. and Ruby Sharp Hicks Scholarships.

Since 1988, students have been benefiting from the generosity of Mrs. Hicks who, upon her death in 1992, bequeathed the majority of her estate, valued at nearly three-quarters of a million dollars, to Tri-County to establish these scholarships. Until 2001, this was the largest single donation the Foundation had received in its history.

Mrs. Hicks, who was a charter member of the College's Foundation Board, died October 2, 1992, at the age of 88. She was owner and operator of the 385-acre Water Oak Farm at Five Forks and was the widow of Colonel Ernest H. Hicks, a Pendleton native who was a retired psychologist and educator.

The criteria for the scholarships are the intent to pursue a baccalaureate degree and a B average in high school and/or a 3.0 GPR while enrolled at Tri-County or any other college or university.

"Mrs. Hicks loved academia, and she demanded excellence," said James Williams, a member of the College's Foundation Board and her attorney and close friend for 20 years. "She wasn't just interested in the education of the academically gifted; she was committed to helping all students, especially those who might not have the opportunity to pursue a college degree. She was impressed with the Tri-County Technical College students. She realized the importance of a technical education," Mr. Williams continued.

During her lifetime, her enthusiasm and generous financial support enabled the English Department to recognize the creativity of



*Mrs. Ruby Hicks, pictured here with President Don C. Garrison at the annual Writing Contest she sponsored, was a charter member of the Foundation Board.*

area high school students through an annual Writing Contest. Cash awards and plaques were awarded to first-, second- and third-place winners in short story and poetry categories, and honorable mentions in each category. The English Department renamed its annual writing contest to honor the late Ruby S. Hicks for her patronage, her encouragement, and her friendship.

In recognition of her major contributions to students and to the College, the Area Commission departed from tradition and acted on October 17, 1994, to name the Library Administration building in honor of Mrs. Hicks.



*Maudie Gaines was Executive Assistant to the President from July 8, 1963, until her retirement on June 16, 1997. Even before the first building was completed, Mrs. Gaines began her 34 years of service to the College in a temporary office on the square in the Town of Pendleton. She served, often simultaneously, as the President's secretary, business manager, purchaser, personnel manager, special schools assistant, and work-study coordinator. She became secretary to the Area Commission in 1971. She was awarded the Presidential Staff Medallion in 1991 and at her retirement reception, the Commission inducted her into the Order of the Trilon.*

## Johnstons Honor Pet Through “PAWS for a Cause”



**Mary Johnston**, third from left, and her family honored their beloved cat, *Coco*, who passed away earlier this year, through the Pet Paws Donation Program. Mary, who is the administrative assistant for the Public Relations and Marketing department, and her husband, **Danny**, left, and sons, **Isaac** and **Peter**, placed their “paw” on the wall located in the Veterinary Technology Department. “PAWS for a Cause” campaign allows individuals to purchase a dog paw, a cat paw, or a horseshoe in memory or in honor of a beloved pet. Each one is personalized with the pet’s name, the donor’s name, and a brief message and is displayed in Halbert Hall. The cost is \$50 per paw. The monies raised through “PAWS for a Cause” will support the Veterinary Technology program.

## Spaniel Mix Finds New Home



**Jacob Pelfrey**, of Liberty, adopted *Missy*, a 10-year-old Spaniel mix, one of the pets that was available for adoption through the College’s Pet Adoption Day held July 19 on its Pendleton Campus. Titled “Paws to Celebrate,” the event is part of the College’s 50th anniversary celebration.

## Spring Semester Opening Planned For Industrial Technology Center

Work on the Industrial Technology Center in Sandy Spring is continuing with an anticipated completion date of later this fall. The Center will be home to the Welding and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning programs beginning Spring Semester, 2013.

The 42,000-square-foot building is located on Highway 76 in Sandy Spring on five acres of land and is just four miles from the Pendleton Campus. The Sandy Springs location will allow the College to keep the industry training programs centrally located in the service area, which is important to our students who enroll from all three counties and for the local industries we serve.

In addition to providing much-needed additional space for instruction and updated facilities, the renovated building is being designed to simulate a real-life industrial setting, which will expose our students to the type of environment they will experience in the workplace.



Entrance to the Welding laboratory in the Industrial Technology Center, slated to open Spring Semester, 2013.

## STEM Conference Attracts Local Teachers



Around 40 elementary school teachers in the three-county area participated in a two-day institute on Integrative Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) teaching and learning seminar on our campus. The seminar was held July 30 and 31 in the Industrial and Business Development Center with presentations by NASA Astronaut Patrick Forrester, and others. During the final days, teachers worked on a problem-based action STEM plan for implementation at their schools. Pictured here are **Nikki Durham**, left, and **Dianne Lusk**, both teachers at Tamassee-Salem Elementary School.



## Easley Campus Hosts First Annual S.C. Works Veterans Job Fair



The Easley Campus was host for the first-annual S.C. Works Veterans Job Fair. This event was designed to help veterans returning home from active service, as well as those from previous military service, to obtain employment and job skills training.

## Easley Campus Receives Business of the Month Award



The Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce honored Tri-County Technical College with the Business of the Month Award. The College was presented the award in recognition of its 50th anniversary and in honor of its first successful year of operation of the Easley Campus. On hand for the presentation were members of the Easley Chamber Board of Directors, faculty, staff, and students from the Easley Campus. They were joined by S.C. House of Representatives member Phil Owens, who represents the Easley area.

## Ken Kopera

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get optimal use of our facilities. He also keeps our aging physical plant in good shape. Ken is simply key to making our campuses a great place to learn for our students and to work for our employees," he said.

"Ken is in a vital role for the College and handles it well considering all of the challenges he faces, which include an ever-changing and expanding campus," Paul Phelps, Welding program coordinator, wrote in his nomination. "Through all of these changes and expansions, the facilities staff has not increased. Yet, when there is an issue, even a small one, Ken and his staff respond within a reasonable amount of time. He is one of those guys who is behind the scenes working for the good of the College, making sure students are being provided for in the way of facilities. Unless you have worked with him, you may not even know he is there, but we all see the works of his hand daily in our facilities. In all of my time here, I have not seen Ken without a smile, regardless of the day he may be having," said Paul.

Quality and perfection are at the top of Ken's agenda, Debbie Norris, accounts payable technician in the Business Affairs Division, wrote in her nomination. "Ken's involvement is an on-call job, and he can be accessed 24 hours a day. Ken is highly respected by the staff and management. I have nothing but praise for Ken in his attitude, work ethic, service, and leadership."

Ken worked as Facility Manager at Bic Corporation in Connecticut and the Upstate from 1991 until he joined the College. Prior to that he was Maintenance Supervisor at Crucible Specialty Metals in Syracuse, N.Y., from 1987 - 91. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Rochester Institute of Technology and an M.B.A. in International Business from the University of New Haven. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Powdersville.

## Alumni Reunite at Luncheon Meeting



New Alumni Association Board member **Tina Burton**, left, who works in our Information Center, talks with **Courtney White**, manager of donor relations and research and the director of the Alumni Association.

Be our ambassadors in the community, John Lummis, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement, told a crowd of alumni who attended an open meeting held August 17 on campus.

John gave information on the upcoming 2013 Alumni Golf Tournament and reported that the Alumni Association awarded two scholarships, one valued at \$1,200 and another at \$700. In addition, five \$200 book supply awards were awarded.

"You all have great stories to tell, and they are all interesting and different," said Courtney White, manager of donor relations and research and director of the Alumni Association. "I urge you to do so."

"If you have ideas, don't hesitate to talk with John and Courtney, or alumni board members," said Bethany Wiley, alumni board member and human resources specialist in our Personnel office.

"Help us be all we can so we can give back to our students," she said

## Our College Family *(continued from page 5)*

Scott holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Communications from the University of Oklahoma and his Ph. D. in Speech Communication is from the University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign.

He and his wife, Penny, live in Seneca with their wonderful shelties, and Scott says he will happily show pictures.



Sarah Dowd

**Sarah Dowd** joined us July 16 as Director of Financial Aid. Sarah comes to Tri-County from Central Carolina Technical College where she was Director of Financial Aid & Veterans' Affairs. She has a Bachelor's degree from Newberry College and a Master's degree from Charleston Southern University. Sarah brings extensive experience to this position, having previously served in financial aid and financial planning positions at Newberry College, Wingate University, and Charleston Southern University. Sarah is President of the South Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. She and her husband, David, have four sons, Jay, 28; Curtis, 24; David, Jr., 22; and Sam, 13. They live in Walhalla.



Pat Seawright

**Pat Seawright** joined us full time as Tutor Coordinator for the Advising and Tutoring Department. She served as an adjunct English instructor from 2000 - 2005 and as Writing Center Coordinator from 2005-2012.

Pat received the Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award in 2005.

She retired from Anderson School District 5 in 2001 after 31 years of service. During her career, she was an English teacher and later served as Assistant Principal and Principal at McDuffie High School and Principal at Southwood Middle School. Before her retirement, she was Director of Community Education at the District 5 office. She began teaching for Tri-County shortly after retiring.

She has a bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education (English) and a master's in Administration and Supervision, both from Clemson University.

She is a member of Central Presbyterian Church in Anderson. She and her husband, Robbie, live in Belton.

**John McRae** is teaching full time as a Biology instructor in the Science Department after two years as an adjunct. He also worked as a math and science tutor from 2007 - 08 and from 2011 - 12. John has a B.S.E. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Iowa and an M.S. in Bioengineering from Clemson University. He is certified to teach grades 7 - 12 in Science.

John worked as a graduate student at Clemson from 2004 - 2009 and taught at Easley High School from 2009 - 2010. He is a fourth degree Sir Knight in the Knights of Columbus Council 6884 in Seneca. He lives in Liberty.

**Stacey Custer** is our new Educational Talent Search Counselor in the TRiO Department. Stacey earned a B.A. in English from William Jewell College in Missouri and an M.Ed. in Professional Counseling from the University of Georgia. She is a member of the American Counseling Association. She lives in Easley.



John McRae



Stacey Custer

Tri-County alumna **Laneika K. Musalini** joined us July 9 as our new Director of Grants. She comes to us from Clemson's College of Business and Behavioral Sciences, where she was Grants Manager from 2008 – 2012. She joined Clemson in 2000 as an Administrative Assistant for the Anderson Extension Office and two years later was the Grants and Human Resources Specialist for the Environmental Engineering and Earth Science Department.

Laneika graduated from Tri-County in 2000 with an associate in Business degree with an emphasis in Office Systems Technology. She transferred to Anderson University where she graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of Arts degree in Human Resources. She earned her master's degree from Clemson University, graduating with highest honors from the Human Resource Development program.

While at Clemson, she received the CU Board of Trustees Award two times – in 2002 and again in 2012, along with the CU Award of Merit in 2008. She also received the CBBS Team Player Award in 2012, along with the YWCA Woman of Achievement Dream Achiever Award that same year. Laneika was among the recipients of the 20 Under 40 Emerging Leaders in Anderson County award given by the Anderson Independent-Mail last year. She is a member of Tabernacle of Deliverance and Praise in Anderson and is a founder of the Women's Empowerment Conference. She serves on the board of directors for the Anderson Interfaith Ministries, as well as the Woman and Children Succeeding of the Upstate. She serves on the Anderson University Alumni Association Board of Directors, is chair of the Americorps VISA advisory board and a member of the National Council of University Research Administrators.

Laneika and her husband, Wadud Musalini, who is a 1995 Tri-County grad, have four children, Antonio, 15; Shay, 13; Nas, 8; and Naim, 5. They live in Anderson.



Laneika Musalini

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

**Esayas Araya**

**Bob Peter**

**Anna Smolen**

**Susan Crochetiere**

**Beth Schultz**

**Mark Tannery**

## Cycling Event is October 13

The Easley Campus has partnered with the Pickens County YMCA to sponsor a signature annual event for the community. Attack on Sassafras Mountain, an all-day event for cyclists, will be held Saturday, October 13, beginning at 7:30 a.m. at the College's Easley Campus located on Powdersville Road.



Cyclists will ride through parts of the cities of Easley and Pickens and up through the beautiful foothills region of South Carolina, including a challenging climb to South Carolina's highest point – Sassafras Mountain (3,353 ft.). Cyclists will travel a distance of 70 miles (35 miles to the top of the mountain). The ride will start and end at the Easley Campus.

"Canadian cyclists use this as a practice run for their cycling events," said Dr. Brian Swords, director of the Easley Campus and co-organizer of the event. "We have a strong cycling community in the tri-counties, especially in Pickens County. Our community has been asking for an event like this. We were so happy to partner with the Pickens County YMCA. Similar events, like the Attack on Mount Mitchell in Greenville, have been successful. We expect this one to draw a great deal of interest."

The registration fee is \$45, and the deadline is Sunday, October 7. Proceeds from this event will go toward the ChildWatch Center at the Easley YMCA and programming at Tri-County Technical College's Easley Campus. For more information, visit [www.attackonsassafras.com](http://www.attackonsassafras.com).

## CONNECTING

(continued from page 2)

There are three components of this new framework – empowering students and employees for success; creating processes to become sustainable; and enhancing infrastructure to support learning. It represents a new model to reflect our renewed commitment.

I have seen the energy of this retention team and the many others that have involved in this process so far. I believe we are moving in the right direction and will be successful.

Why? Because of the work you are doing. Not the work I am doing. Not the work Executive Staff is doing. Your work. That is the most powerful part of this process. You created this strategic direction; it belongs to you, and you will make us successful.

If you aren't already involved, get involved. Engage and participate in what we are doing. This isn't more work; it's changing the way we work. Also, adopt a critical view of what you are doing now – will it improve student success?

Our new strategic direction focusing on student success represents another step in the right direction for helping us to truly achieve our ten-year vision to transform lives and shape the community we serve.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.  
President

## Spotlight

(continued from page 3)

college-ready students were college bound. In addition, the 2010 – 2011 promotion rate (from grade to grade) for ETS students served in area schools for 2010 – 2011 was 94 percent.

But ETS can't do this without the help of parents, Allen added. "We are bringing parents on board in conversations to motivate students and we encourage parents to be involved at school. We urge parents to communicate frequently with the school about their children's progress – to ask questions."

## Annual Upstate Energy Summit Held July 26



**Michael Mance**, marketing director for the Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce and a 2007 RTV graduate, talks with **Sandra Strickland**, director of business and industry training, at Tri-County's booth.

Homeowners, business owners, commercial, and industry leaders attended the second annual Upstate Energy Summit and Expo July 26 at the Civic Center. The event provided education and hands-on demonstrations promoting energy efficiency and cost savings.

The Summit and Expo was sponsored by Anderson County, in partnership with Pickens County, Oconee County, Tri-County Technical College, Blue Ridge Electric Co-op, South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Piedmont Natural Gas, Fort Hill Natural Gas, Oconee Alliance, Alliance Pickens, WorkLink, Anderson Chamber of Commerce, Ever-Green Recycling, and Duke Energy.

During the Upstate Energy Summit & Expo, various sessions addressed and explored ways to reduce energy costs. Additionally, afternoon sessions were tailored to the homeowner, providing money-saving tips and other information.

Rick Cothran, dean of our Corporate and Community Education Division, stated, "The Upstate Energy Summit & Expo, in conjunction with our partners, is another opportunity for us to address topics of concerns by providing the most up-to-date knowledge and expertise about motors, air, HVAC, and new methods for reducing energy costs."

## Pre-Pharmacy Advisory Committee Honored at Convocation

The Pre-Pharmacy Advisory Committee was named Advisory Committee of the Year at the College's annual fall convocation.

Advisory Committee members Dr. Danny West and Jim Hammett accepted the trophy and plaque on behalf of the committee. Science Department Head

Dr. Suzanne Ellenberger, Dr. Lynn Lewis, dean of the Health Education Division, and chemistry instructor Karen Linscott also were present to receive the award.

The Advisory Board, consisting of Dr. Laura Fox of Presbyterian College School of Pharmacy, Kelly Clark of South University, Alissa Smith of Upstate South Carolina College of Pharmacy, Bill Stevenson of Oconee Memorial, Jim Hammett of AnMed, Donald Calvert, Dr. Danny West, Dr. Lewis, Dr. Ellenberger and Karen Linscott, meets regularly to evaluate and develop the curriculum and to serve as consultants to the department head.

This two-year program, titled General Technology with a concentration in Pre-Pharmacy, is a mix of online and traditional courses. The curriculum gives students the courses they need to have before they can apply to the S.C. College of Pharmacy.

"Our program provides students the same opportunities to enter a school of pharmacy that a four-year college or university would," said Suzanne. Tri-County was the first technical college in the State to offer this package of classes.

"The word is out to students in the Upstate that an academically qualified student can come to Tri-County and gain entry into pharmacy school at a fraction of the cost of a university. Tri-County Pre-Pharmacy students realize and appreciate the economic and educational advantage of smaller class sizes for rigorous courses with comparable chances for acceptance to pharmacy school," said Suzanne.

"The Pre-Pharmacy Advisory Committee has quickly demonstrated a maximum impact for the College in terms of program growth and selection of applicants to S.C. Schools of Pharmacy. Each pharmacy school in South Carolina is represented and each selected Tri-County students as an endorsement of the program's rigor and applicant quality," Lynn Lewis wrote in her nomination.

It's not unusual for our students to get multiple acceptances to pharmacy schools all over the United States, said Ellenberger.

Since 2009, the associate degree program has enrolled 44 students each academic year. To date, 14 Tri-County students have been accepted into pharmacy schools with sustained academic success. Tri-County now has graduates from all three colleges of pharmacy in South Carolina.



The Pre-Pharmacy Advisory Committee was named advisory committee of the year. Members **Dr. Danny West**, left, and **Jim Hammett**, far right, accepted the trophy and plaque on behalf of the committee. Pictured with them are, from left, chemistry instructor **Karen Linscott**, Science Department Head **Dr. Suzanne Ellenberger**, and **Dr. Lynn Lewis**, dean of the Health Education Division.

## Failure Is Not an Option, Selena Blair Tells Students at Upward Bound Banquet

“You are your only stop sign, you control your destiny, and you can create your future,” Selena Blair, student support services director at USC Upstate, told a group of Upward Bound students and their parents in her remarks at the College’s 32nd annual Upward Bound Awards Banquet.

Ms. Blair was the keynote speaker at the annual awards banquet where high school students were recognized for their academic achievements.

Upward Bound is designed to help high school students to 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 - 12th graders from Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties and provides high school students with services year-round through its academic and summer bridge components.

Ms. Blair talked openly and honestly about her life journey and how the TRiO programs were her salvation. “I would not be who I am today without the TRiO programs,” she said. A Talent Search participant through her senior year in high school, she said the program “gave me hope, a life, dreams, confidence. It saved me. When others said I couldn’t, TRiO counselors said you will,” she said.

“It doesn’t matter where you live, who your parents are, or how much money they make, the contents of your mind will determine how far you go in life. You and you alone,” she added.

As a multi-racial child raised by her Caucasian mother, Blair says she learned early how to deal with adversity. She proudly states that she was the only person to graduate from high school on both sides of her family. “I know your struggles. Everything you need to be successful is locked up inside of you. Your tomorrow is bright. See yourself in a cap and gown, a business suit, with degrees hanging on the wall.”

For more of Blair’s story, go to the College’s News Release Page on our website.



Guest speaker **Selena Blair**, seated, greets Upward Bound student **Kelsey Alexander**.

## Retirees Reunite, Reminisce at Reception

Nearly 50 College retirees came back to campus for a July 31 reception hosted by the Personnel Office in honor of the College’s 50th anniversary. Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of reminiscing about the past and catching up with old friends. New retirees also were honored at the event.



*Catherine Spragins, Dallas Jones, Dr. Sharon Miller, and Dianne Hiott*



*Ensley Feemster*



*Robbye Mauldin and Peggy Thomas*



*David Shirley and Al Norris*

## Campus Traffic Improvement Project Begins

As announced in an eTC message earlier this summer, work has begun on the Campus Traffic Improvement Project. We had hoped to have the entire project completed prior to the start of Fall semester; however, delays prevented that. As a result, construction will take place in two phases.

Phase I involves the “perimeter” entrances. The North Entrance to our campus will be modified to allow a right turn exit only. In addition, the intersection at Perimeter Road below the IBDC building will be modified to include a new right turn and safer egress at this busy intersection. Two-way traffic will be extended from IBDC to Oconee Hall to enable easier access to Lots H1 and H2.

Simultaneously, work will begin on a new South Entrance off Highway 76/28. The Parking Lot size/configuration will not be affected; however, it will provide an additional, convenient entrance to our growing campus and improve traffic flow.

This phase of construction should result in minimal inconvenience for you and our students.

Phase II involves our Main Entrance and the green area bordered by Perimeter Road, Miller Hall and Ruby Hicks Hall. Please note, that during this construction, two-way vehicle traffic will be maintained. From a pedestrian standpoint, however, if you park in Lot A, you will be temporarily required to enter the Campus through the Ruby Hicks Building. Upon completion, this currently unutilized space will become a beautifully landscaped pedestrian plaza and include a new bus shelter and improved safer traffic patterns.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this construction.

## Jaquanna Scott Signs to Play Basketball



**Jaquanna Scott**, of Anderson, middle, signed a national letter of intent to play women's basketball at the College. She is pictured with Women's Basketball Coach **Alesia Smith**, right; and Athletics Director **Stephanie Winkler**, left, who also serves as the College's Disabilities Services Coordinator. Jaquanna, a graduate of Westside High School, will enroll in our University Transfer program and plans a career as an engineer. Tri-County Technical College's athletics programs include varsity-level women's basketball and men's golf. Teams are sanctioned by the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and compete within Region 10 at the Division I level.

## First Time ETS Leadership Seminar a Success



Educational Talent Search hosted summer educational opportunities this month, beginning with a first-time leadership seminar for a group of 10 high school students. This three-day workshop exposed participants to leadership skills, qualities, and characteristics to help them academically and professionally. Herm Allen, Cindy Trimmier-Lee, and Stacey Custer assisted Steve Coleman, director of the Genesis program at Piedmont Tech, with leadership activities, lectures, and student projects. “The goal was to get them engaged among themselves,” said Herm, coordinator of ETS. “There were so many positive responses. Students walked away more confident, with everyone noting that the seminar was more than they expected. Students wished it was a week-long activity and hope it becomes an annual event.”

# President Booth Urges Summer Grads to Listen, Look, Learn, and Deliver

Dr. Booth told graduates to enter the next phase of their work or life with their eyes wide open to these new environments and their demands, challenges, and opportunities.

Three hundred and sixty-eight students were awarded degrees, diplomas and/or certificates during the College's 50th anniversary summer commencement held August 3 at the Anderson Civic Center.

"I want to offer a few suggestions in regard to how I believe you can build on the knowledge you have acquired and the success you have evidenced by being here tonight and how to increase the likelihood of future success in your life," he said.

Enter the next phase of your work and life with eyes wide open, he said. "Newly documented learning must be tempered with a heavy dose of reality. Failure to understand the world into which you are about to enter can be costly, if not deadly. Conversely, a strong understanding of your world of work will enhance your opportunities for success and may lead you into never-before-thought-of options for advancement and achievement," he said.

Next, he advised the grads to find a mentor. "This reality of the world of work is best gleaned from a mentor – someone who has a few battle scars. I can't say enough about how important this is," said Dr. Booth, citing his father as his early business mentor, in addition to the president of Gainesville College, where he worked before coming to Tri-County in 2003.

Do not miss the opportunity to gain from others around you, like your colleagues, he added.

Additionally, he said you must continually work on and adjust your life plan. "Do not get so involved in the heavy lifting of the day that you miss trends, market adjustments and changes in the nature of the work you do. The best way to stay ahead of what is taking place around us is to listen, look, learn, and deliver."

He concluded by telling the grads to maintain and focus on their relationships. "Really, that is all you have."



**Monica White**, of Anderson, a Surgical Technology graduate, right, takes a photo of fellow Surgical Technology classmates prior to summer commencement. Posing with White are, from left, **Britney Scarborough**, of Seneca; **Kayla Stone**, of Anderson; and **Valarie Williams**, also of Anderson.



**Corey Nelms**, of Pendleton, son of **Debbie Nelms**, fiscal analyst in the Foundation Office, right, received an Industrial Electronics Technology degree.

**Courtney White**, manager of donor relations for the Institutional Advancement Division and director of the College's Alumni Association, right, helps **Brenda Evans**, also of Anderson, with her graduation attire. Evans graduated from the Medical Assisting program.



Summer 2012 high school graduates through our Connect to College program are pictured here, from left to right, **Carly Heventhal** (T.L. Hanna High School); **Lewis Jones** (Pickens High School); **Connor Mann** (Pendleton High School); **Cooper Brady** (Pickens High School); **Caitlyn LeFevre** (Pendleton High School); **Shannon Turpin** (Crescent High School); **Stephanie Rousseau** (Pendleton High School); and **Donta Mattison** (Belton-Honea Path High School). Not pictured are **Ryan Roberts** (T.L. Hanna High School) and **Lindsay Hendricks** (Pendleton High School). These 10 graduates, coupled with Spring graduates bring the C2C numbers to a record 24 graduates for the school year. For more on C2C, visit our College's website and click on Connect to College.

## Fulp Hall Home to New Aquarium



The next time you're in Fulp Hall, stop by the fifth floor which is home to a saltwater aquarium donated by adjunct instructor Dr. Dick Whisenhunt and his wife, Reba. The Whisenhunts generously donated the tank and various saltwater fish, including two clown fish, and coral reef. Also, many thanks to Jamie Black, Engineering and Industrial Technology Division lab specialist, who spent a week building the beautiful stand that the aquarium rests on.

## New Academic Year Gets Underway

Preliminary figures available after the first week of classes indicate that College enrollment reached 6,694 students, down slightly from Fall Semester 2011, when we enrolled 6,780 students. Many thanks to everyone for their diligent efforts to communicate our earlier deadlines and for encouraging prospective students to complete the enrollment process in a timely manner.



In its second year, our newest campus, located on Powdersville Road in Easley, reported a 19.3 percent increase over last fall. To celebrate and to welcome the students, Dr. Brian Swords, director of the campus, invited community agencies to interact with the students during the first two days of class. There was a special emphasis on establishing relationships and engaging students in campus activities, community resources, and getting them familiar with campus staff.

Members of the campus staff, along with outside support agencies, were stationed throughout the building with information tables and displays. Some of these agencies, such as the YMCA and The Blood Connection, along with area businesses representatives, were on hand with giveaways to welcome the students on their first day of classes. "College-wide, we deal with the problem of retaining students after we get them here. We wanted to try to prevent that as much as possible by getting students familiar with the campus and the resources that are available to them. We also wanted to make them feel at home as soon as they stepped onto the campus this fall," said Brian.

### Executive Staff Updates

- Degree Works Update:** Lou Ann Martin, coordinator for the Title III Academic Support Network, reported that there have been unanticipated delays in the development process for the launch of the new DegreeWorks program. Work continues as we aim for launch early in Fall Semester. DegreeWorks is an academic advising tool and will replace the CAPP (Curriculum Advising Program Planning) program, which currently is used to audit program completion.
- Communications Audit:** Marketing Director Gayle Arries provided an update on the progress she and her project team are making on an audit of all communications to prospective and current students.
- Project Management:** Much of the work of the College is handled through a project management process. A repository for project documents is being developed so employees can readily access that information. The repository will include projects related to all major initiatives.
- Research Project:** The College has been awarded its first research grant by the S.C. Department of Transportation (SCDOT). Last year, we converted the textile lab in McKissick Hall into space to conduct asphalt research and training for the SCDOT.
- Mission and Vision:** Several focus groups took place this past spring as first steps in developing a new College Mission and Vision. This work will not be finalized until Spring 2013 because of the timing of various SACS activities.
- Outreach for Fall Enrollment:** Efforts have been underway all year to boost enrollment via calling campaigns and other recruiting, marketing, and outreach activities. Additional orientation and registration sessions were scheduled to accommodate students who met the deadlines but were still in the enrollment pipeline.
- Educational Goals:** Lou Ann Martin, coordinator for the Title III Academic Support Network; Scott Harvey, Registrar; and the Institutional Effectiveness Office have developed a short-term solution for capturing the educational goals of our students using the historical work of Diana Walter, Connect to College Director. An automated long-term solution is under development. This information helps us to know if our students are successful in reaching their goals, which aligns with our student success agenda and is a requirement for SACS.
- Institutional Culture Workshops:** The College's 10-year vision reflects our desire to have an institutional culture that is highly collaborative, professional, and inclusive. Employee workshops will be conducted this year to develop activities to move us in that direction. These activities also will help to inform our work on mission, vision, and values when it resumes next year.
- Road work at entrances to Pendleton Campus:** Construction is underway to improve access/traffic flow at our two entrance/exit points. Please watch for updates regarding traffic flow.
- Mechanic Street Parking Lot:** This overflow parking lot near the Pendleton Campus was opened at the beginning of fall semester. Detailed communications are available in eTC.
- Other:** Student success update communications to employees; preparations for SACS visit; and approval of policy and procedure changes (notice of changes and revised copies are available in eTC).