

Connection

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Dr. Brian Swords Receives Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence

His months-long efforts in coordinating and overseeing a new matriculation (enrollment) process that focuses on student success and student engagement helped to earn Dr. Brian Swords the College's 2013 Staff Excellence award.

Dr. Booth presented Brian with the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence at the College's fall convocation. 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.

A 20-year employee of the College, Brian currently serves as director of the Easley Campus, as well as the QuickJobs Development Centers in Seneca and Easley and the Watkins Center classroom/lab facilities in Honea Path.

Nominations from his peers lauded his work during the last year on the new matriculation process that focuses on proper assessment, registration for the right courses during students' first semester, and a support system in place to help the students throughout their college career.

"I'm very humbled by my selection. I give all the credit to the team that worked with me this year to help take this step toward improving student success. I feel very blessed to have the type of job here at Tri County that allows me to help make a small difference in the lives of our students," said Brian.

He led a team of faculty and staff to design a new structure of intake processes and intake personnel that focuses on one-on-one engagement with students to build a foundation for their success.

He continues to work with team members to implement processes and facilities changes and to expand engagement opportunities with students through fall 2014.

"Brian is one of the most student-focused members of the Tri-County family, but he also cares very much about the faculty and staff. He truly is an asset to this institution and well deserving of this recognition," said Gayle Arries, marketing director and a member of the matriculation team. "He is dedicated to ensuring that students are a good fit for their chosen program of study and are on a pathway that ensures their success."

In addition, Brian will be among the 10 pilot student engagement coaches for the new Twenty20 program that launches this fall. Twenty20 is a mentoring and personal relationship-building program.

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Dr. Booth, left, presented **Dr. Brian Swords** with the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence at the College's fall convocation.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Disabilities Services Information Session
For Faculty and StaffSeptember 4
- Get Connected,
Anderson CampusSeptember 4
- Get Connected,
Easley CampusSeptember 9
- Foundation Fall Classic
Golf Tournament.....September 20
- Alumni Association
Meeting.....September 24
- Student Services Open House for
Employees.....September 24
- Benefits Fair.....October 3
- Anderson QuickJobs
Dedication..... October 11

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

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Anderson Campus

511 Michelin Blvd., Anderson, SC

Easley Campus

1774 Powdersville Rd., Easley, SC

Oconee Campus

Hamilton Career Center

100 Vocational Dr., Seneca, SC

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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



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

First and foremost, I want to start by thanking everyone who worked so hard to implement our new matriculation process during the busiest time of the academic year.

The late Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf said it best: "The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it."

Here at Tri-County Technical College, we knew the right thing to do. We needed to do a better job positioning and equipping our students for success right from the very beginning as they made the transition to college.

The hard part was actually doing it. Starting with the matriculation process, we had to find the time, creativity, and resources to rethink and revamp the many steps students follow before they ever set foot in a classroom – and make those experiences better.

Our efforts to improve took us in a new direction. Now, the matriculation experience no longer starts with automatic admission followed by a series of enrollment steps. Instead, we are taking more time with each student to ensure his or her chosen program of study is a good fit based on the student's interests, abilities, and life circumstances. Simply stated, our approach has shifted from "auto-admit" to "program fit."

As is to be expected, we experienced some challenges as we implemented the new matriculation process during June. While it is never easy to make a change of this magnitude, putting it in place during our peak enrollment period was particularly demanding. Because prospective students apply throughout the year, by June we already had hundreds of students in what we call the "pipeline," so we had to adapt as needed.

"Bottom line, we are more engaged with students as they transition to college, just as we ask our faculty and staff to be more engaged with them in and out of the classroom."

- Dr. Ronnie L. Booth

The good news? Preliminary figures show we successfully enrolled more new students for Fall 2013 than Fall 2012, and now we are in a good position to make improvements based on what we learned. That process starts now, and it will help us get to the next step in better serving our students.

This effort also yielded several other significant changes. The new matriculation process is now embedded in a new Transition to College unit. Offices include high school engagement, TRiO, recruiting, Bridge to Clemson, Connect to College, admissions, comprehensive studies, and college skills classes. Closely aligned with these functions are assessment, advising, and financial aid, which report in other areas because those services extend beyond the initial transition experience.

This new Transition to College unit will provide a more cohesive transition experience, as well as the ability to customize the experience for different categories (or types) of students as needed. As we learned in matriculation, a "one-size-fits-all" process doesn't work. A recent high school graduate has needs that differ from a dislocated worker, just as a dual enrollment student's needs differ from an adult who is learning new skills for career advancement. Some students will need comprehensive studies; some will not, and so forth. What all groups have in common is the need to develop learning capacity within an educational environment that is engaging and positions them for success. That's the vision of the Transition to College unit.

We are working to make the matriculation experience more like a program rather than

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Spotlight on Arts and Sciences Showcase

Arts and Sciences faculty gathered the week before the semester began to hear presentations by their colleagues on teaching strategies that are designed to contribute to student success.

Presenting from each department were:

Science – Shelby Duffy and Donny Winkler

Comprehensive Studies – Tonia Faulling

English – Matt Simon and Dr. Amoena Norcross

Humanities – Dr. Della Vanhuss

Mathematics – Alberta Reed

Social Sciences – Penny Edwards

Social Sciences instructor Dr. Kate Williams kicked off the session by giving an overview of research data on student success. She led

with a quote by Arthur W. Chickering, one of the leading researchers in student development theory: “Apathetic students, illiterate graduates, incompetent teaching, impersonal campuses – so rolls the drumfire of criticism of higher education. More than two years of reports have spelled out the problems. States have been quick to respond by holding out carrots and beating with sticks.”

The quote is from the article, “Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education,” published in the [American Association of Higher Education Bulletin](#) in 1987.

“We’re still facing the same problems 26 years later,” she said.

She also referred to leading higher education researcher Alexander Astin’s Input-Environment-Outcome (I-E-O) Model that evaluates the relationship between student inputs, institutional environment, and student outcomes. This model suggests postsecondary institutions can impact a student’s growth and development and contribute to his/her outcomes. According to Astin, Input represents student characteristics at the time of entry. Environment or Engagement is what students experience during college, and Output is cognitive or affective growth.

“Our students have unique characteristics when they come to us. We can’t change them at entry, but we accept them. The Environment, or the student engagement piece, is the part we do have control over,” said Kate.

Astin’s historic study with more than 45 years of data from 15 million college students shows two factors consistently predict academic and personal development: interaction among students and interaction between faculty and students, she said.

“By focusing on the environment, you can yield the biggest

changes,” she said. “We can influence what happens to students while they are here. It’s an opportunity for change in Output – or learning..

“Faculty agree that student success is defined as learning and is about setting and achieving realistic goals. If learning occurs, our students will stay. We want them to grow and change while they are here – that’s student success,” she said.

“In the Arts and Sciences Division, our focus is on student success and what we, as individuals, can do,” said Interim Dean Robin McFall. “It’s not about overhauling a class; usually it’s a simple technique that can cross curricula. In their presentations, our faculty did a great job of showcasing their teaching strategies to show what they have done to help our students who are struggling with a concept and how often we can make a difference by changing small things.”

“Faculty agree that student success is defined as learning and is about setting and achieving realistic goals. If learning occurs, our students will stay. We want them to grow and change while they are here - that’s student success.”

- Dr. Kate Williams

Here are two examples of faculty presentations:

PENNY EDWARDS - SUCCESS NOTES

Penny Edwards created an assignment titled “Success Notes” for two of her Psychology 201 classes last spring.

She developed it as part of the department’s success plan and as part of designing an integrated learning community. Her community incorporated Freshman Seminar principles into the Psychology 201 content course with the intent of bolstering student success.

The note-taking assignment was to be completed outside of class while reading each chapter of the textbook. Students turned in electronic notes on Blackboard before Penny covered the material in class. Having completed the assignment this way was a means of being prepared for the variety of teaching strategies Penny implemented during class. Students were to select and use various reading and note-taking strategies from an OnCourse Freshman Seminar book to develop the notes. This semester-long assignment encouraged students to try out different techniques with each unit of material and was 10 percent of their grade.

At the end of the semester, they were required to write a reflective essay on these note-taking strategies, discuss how well it worked for them, and how they planned to use this technique in future classes.

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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!



Sue Dacus, office manager for the Student Records department, sent this note commending

Sandra Roddey,

administrative assistant for the Arts and Science Division.

“During our crunch time with end of term and graduation, I called Sandra concerning non-graduates for Associate in Arts and Sciences to see if she could review the degree audit to re-evaluate the courses to see if the students could meet the requirements of graduation. This was around 5 p.m. after hours and she stayed until close to 6:30 p.m. until I had entered all adjustments into DegreeWorks to ensure that there were no additional issues. During this time, Sandra showed great enthusiasm and a willingness to stay and do what she could do for the success of the students.”

Lee Colombo, dual enrollment counselor, received this note from a parent, Dawn Roark, praising the College’s dual enrollment program:

“Our older daughter, Caroline, who graduated from Daniel High School in June 2012, had a great first year at Winthrop University this past year. She was so thankful for all of the classes that she had taken as dual credit her senior year of high school. It helped her get ahead in a big way. She is on track to graduate from Winthrop in just three years thanks to TCTC! We are so grateful for all you did for us.”

Student Success Coach Rachel Campbell commended **Pat Vatakis,** office manager at the Anderson Campus, for her customer service skills:

“I met with Avis Burnhart today and she made a point of telling me how helpful you were when she came by the Anderson Campus to inquire about returning to Tri-County. Avis was extremely apprehensive about getting back into college, and she said you were absolutely wonderful and helped to allay her fears.

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Our College Family

excellence through service

Congratulations to Marketing Director **Gayle Arries,** who received a master of Arts in Organizational Change and Leadership from Columbia College August 4.



Gayle Arries

Michelle LeTourneau

in transistion

Michelle LeTourneau joined us this summer as the Assistant Manager of the Café. She worked as Dining Room Manager at Logan’s Roadhouse for 10 years and is a 2008 alumna of our Business Management program. Michelle has two children, Bishop, 6, and Trinity, 10, and they live in Anderson.

The following have left the College to pursue other opportunities. We wish them well in their new endeavors.

Kaye Bathe
Elisabeth Gadd

Kathryn Wickliffe
Suzan Schwarz

Many new faculty and staff members joined the College this semester. Look for their bios and photos in the September issue of [Connection](#).

Paralegal Program Hosts Open House



Criminal Justice instructor **Chris McFarlin** talks to prospective students about the new Paralegal Certificate program at an Open House held in July. Attendees met with faculty, heard an overview of the program, and learned about job opportunities in the Upstate. The program is designed to give students an introduction to paralegal work, with classes in civil and criminal law, legal research, drafting legal memos, and legal ethics.

Student Ambassadors Kick Off New Year



Eleven students have been selected as members of the Tri-County Technical College Student Ambassadors.

This program fosters the personal and professional development of students interested in acquiring leadership skills by serving the College. Ambassadors completed the training sessions, which focused on business etiquette and networking, making oral presentations, and guided tours to learn about the College's varied academic programs.

Students will represent Tri-County at internal and external events, such as the college and career fairs, graduations, annual report luncheons, tour guide services, community events, and College promotional initiatives.

Pictured from left are (seated) **Hannah Duffie**, of Anderson, secretary and a University Transfer major; **Kameisha Guild**, of Easley, treasurer and an Accounting major; **Taylor King**, of Clemson, president and a University Transfer major; and **Adriana Nagy-Gyorgy**, of Liberty, vice president and a University Transfer major; and (standing) **Tim Chapman**, of Liberty, a University Transfer major; **Kelly Foster**, of Westminster, an Automotive Technology major; **Julia Murray**, of Clemson, a Radio and Television Broadcasting major; **Melina Rodelo**, of Seneca, a University Transfer major; **Jessica Hollifield**, of Central, a Veterinary Technology major; **Cyndi Hopkins**, of West Union, a Medical Laboratory Technology major; **Bryan Taylor**, of Anderson, a University Transfer major; and **Croslena Johnson**, co-advisor. Not pictured is Cheryl Garrison, co-advisor.

Ten Graduates Serve on Alumni Association Board Of Directors

Ten Tri-County graduates are serving on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Pictured from left are (seated)

Bethany Wiley, of Belton, a 2001 alumna; **Ruthie Millar**, of Pendleton, a 2011 alumna; and **Sue Rogers**, of Walthalla; and (standing) **Greg Sosebee**, of Clemson, a 1975 graduate; **Sandra Sandifer**, of Seneca, a 2006 alumna; **Ed Sullivan**, of Easley, a 2008 graduate; and **Tracy Bowie**, of Townville, a 2003 graduate. Not pictured are John Powell, of West Union, a 1972 alumnus; Evette Moss, of Anderson, a 2001 graduate; and Tina Burton, of Anderson, a 1994 graduate.



Brag & Share

(continued from page 4)

Of course, we already know this about you, but sometimes it is nice to hear it from students, too. Thank you for your excellent customer service."

Ken Kopera, director of physical plant, sent this note:

"I would like to thank everyone in the **Campus Safety Department** for the great job they did during the first week of classes dealing with the traffic on each of our campuses. Each Officer worked extremely hard to keep things moving and getting students parked so they could make it to classes, even during the pouring rain."

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.

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a series of enrollment steps. Much like students complete an academic program to prepare for a job or transfer to another college or university, our students will complete a transition to college program that positions them for success before they ever enter the classroom.

Bottom line, we are more engaged with students as they transition to college, just as we ask our faculty and staff to be more engaged with them in and out of the classroom.

Again, many thanks to those of you who jumped in and made it all work as we implemented a new matriculation process. I am deeply grateful for your "can-do" attitude as you dealt with the fluidity that comes with a period of transition. You did an exceptional job, and I am confident your work will make a significant difference in the success of this year's incoming class of students.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

Community Explores Opportunities at Job Fair and Training Expo



Deborah Watson, of Anderson, left, talks with **Cheryl Allmon**, human resources and safety manager for Imperial Die Casting Co., at a job fair and training expo held August 13 at the College. The event was sponsored by Tri-County and the local SC Works Centers/Satellite locations.

Attendees were given the opportunity to meet and interview with area employers and/or find out if they are candidates for training.

Bridge to Clemson Admits Nearly 700



The Bridge to Clemson program, in its eighth year this fall, held orientations over the summer for 683 students who joined us this semester. This is the Bridge program's largest class to date. Here, **Sue Dacus**, office manager for Student Records, standing, assists incoming Bridge to Clemson student **Brianna Case**, of Easley, with registering for classes.

BMW Scholar Offered ESA Position

Austin Smith, of Easley, was among the 2013 graduating class of the BMW Scholars Program. He received an Industrial Electronics Technology degree at summer commencement and has been hired as an Equipment Service Associate (ESA) for the BMW plant in Spartanburg.

In his remarks at the scholars' graduation ceremony, BMW President Josef Kerscher (now Managing Director of BMW's Plant Dingolfing in Germany) said to the scholars, "We are doing world-class manufacturing, and we need a world-class workforce. With your qualifications, you are prepared for our future."

Every member of the scholars class, which included students from Tri-County and Greenville Technical College, and Spartanburg Community College, were placed in full-time jobs in the manufacturing area.



Austin Smith

Three New Bosch Scholars Selected

Weston Fulbright, of Williamston, seated, left, **Tyler Vaughan**, of Seneca, middle, and **Chase Madden** of Iva, are the three newest Tri-County students selected for Bosch's new Scholars Program.

The company is targeting Tri-County evening students in their last semester to join its new program. Scholars will work 40 hours a week, in addition to their coursework at Tri-County. They are full-time Bosch associates when they begin their training, which includes more than

300 hours of mentor training and 200 hours of classroom/lab training. After completion of the four-month program and graduation from Tri-County, they will be assigned to a production department as an entry-level technician.

Weston is a Mechatronics major; Tyler is an Industrial Electronics Technology major; and Chase is a Mechatronics major. They are pictured with **Cheryl Garrison**, job placement coordinator at Tri-County, and **Doug Wilson**, senior associate development specialist at Bosch.



Pre-Pharmacy Named Advisory Committee of the Year

For the second consecutive year, the College's Pre-Pharmacy Advisory Committee was named Advisory Committee of the Year at the annual fall convocation.

Advisory Committee Chair Bill Stevenson, who is director of Pharmacy Services at Oconee Medical Center, and committee member Jim Hammett, assistant director of Pharmacy Services at AnMed Health Medical Center, 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, chemistry instructor Karen Linscott and biology instructor Dennis Lee also were present to receive the award.

"We celebrate a continuing and successful collaboration between the Arts and Sciences and the Health Education Divisions that is benchmarked by increasing and measurable successes of Tri-County students in pharmacy," Lynn wrote in a nomination. "The program delivers significant placement of students into pharmacy schools and ultimately provides the community with a pipeline of pharmacy professionals who will strengthen the health of our local citizens."

This two-year program, titled Occupational 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. Schools 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.

"Each pharmacy school in South Carolina continues to select Tri-County students for entry to pharmacy school as an endorsement of the program's rigor, applicant quality, and persistence past admission," said Suzanne.

Since 2009, the program has averaged 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. This year, Presbyterian College of Pharmacy signed an agreement with Tri-County which guarantees interviews to qualified applicants.

"The most interesting findings of the advisory committee have been not only the sustained percentage of Tri-County students accepted to these highly competitive colleges but their subsequent leadership within the programs," she added.



Advisory Committee Chair **Bill Stevenson**, director of Pharmacy Services at Oconee Medical Center, sixth from left, and committee member **Jim Hammett**, assistant director of Pharmacy Services at AnMed Health Medical Center, far right, accepted the trophy and plaque on behalf of the committee. Also present to receive the award are pictured from left, **Debbie Thrasher**, health education division office manager; biology instructor **Dennis Lee**; chemistry instructor **Karen Linscott**; Science Department Head **Dr. Suzanne Ellenberger**; and **Dr. Lynn Lewis**, dean of the Health Education Division.

"The committee's dominant goal remains to keep student advising specific/current to S.C. Schools of Pharmacy to eventually enrich the shortage of Upstate pharmacists with a pipeline of local students who might not have the advantage of generic baccalaureate pre-pharmacy preparation," Suzanne said.

"A secondary goal of the advisory committee remains reaffirmation for the coursework of the curriculum and seeking to identify specific quality niches that match the needs of Schools of Pharmacy," said Suzanne.

Each pharmacy school in South Carolina is represented on the advisory board:

- Dr. Laura Fox, Presbyterian College School of Pharmacy
- Dr. Allissa Smith, South Carolina College of Pharmacy
- Dr. Danny West
- a Pre-Pharmacy student representative (to be named Fall 2013)
- Jim Hammett, AnMed Health
- Donald Calvert, Walhalla
- Dr. Bill Stephenson, III, Oconee Medical Center
- Dr. Melissa Jones, South University College of Pharmacy
- College representatives: Dr. Suzanne Ellenberger, Karen Culp-Linscott, and Dr. Lynn Lewis

Foundation News

Foundation Board Welcomes Five New Members

Five community leaders have been elected to serve on Tri-County Technical College's Foundation Board of Directors.

Joining the Board's current members are Frank Lamson-Scribner, of Oconee County; Bill Harley, Jr., of Pickens County; and Lee Garrison Smith, Scott Webber, and Scott Miller, all representing Anderson County.

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



Frank Lamson-Scribner



Bill Harley, Jr.



Lee Garrison Smith



Scott Webber



Scott Miller

FRANK LAMSON-SCRIBNER

Mr. Lamson-Scribner is Site Director of the BASF plant in Seneca. He has worked with Engelhard/BASF since 1991. Prior to moving to the Seneca site in 2003, he worked at the company's facilities in Charleston, outside of Macon, Georgia, and Peekskill, New York.

He is a member of the Clemson Chamber of Commerce and served on its board of directors from 2005 – 11. He is a member of the Oconee County Industrial Group and the Oconee County March of Dimes Walk. He holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Clemson University. He and his wife, Pam, live in Seneca and have two children in college.

BILL HARLEY, JR.

Mr. Harley is senior Vice President/Market Relationship Executive at First Citizens Bank in Clemson.

He earned a B.S. in Industrial Management from Clemson University and is a graduate of the South Carolina Bankers School as well as the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University.

He is a past president of the Rotary Club of Clemson, former Assistant District Governor of Rotary District 7750 and current Chair of the District's Grants Committee. He is past Board Chair and Treasurer of the Clemson Chamber of Commerce, current Board Chair of the Collins Children's Home, and has served on the boards of Alliance Pickens and United Way of Pickens County. He is also a Deacon of the Clemson Presbyterian Church.

He and his wife, Becky, live in Clemson.

LEE GARRISON SMITH

Mrs. Garrison Smith is co-owner/manager of Denver Downs

Farm Market in Sandy Springs. She earned a B.S. in Administrative Management from Clemson University and for 23 years was a Flight Attendant for U.S. Airway Airlines. Currently, she serves on the Anderson County Heritage Corridor Board, is active in the fundraising committees for the PTO at several schools, and is an AnMed Health Ambassador.

She and her husband, Ron, live in Anderson and have two children, Emily and Garrison.

SCOTT WEBBER

Mr. Webber is Senior Vice President – Anderson Market President – for Wells Fargo Bank in Anderson. He started in the banking industry with South Carolina National Bank (SCN) and worked in banking in Greenville, Walterboro, Aiken, and Florence before moving to Anderson in 2005 with Wachovia, which subsequently merged with Wells Fargo.

He serves on the AnMed Health Foundation Board, as well as the Hospice of the Upstate. He is a member of the Anderson Rotary Club. He is a 1979 alumnus of our Industrial Electronics Technology Department. In 2008, he was honored with the College's Distinguished Alumni Award highlighting his dedication to his alma mater.

He and his wife, Kim, live in Anderson. They have two adult children and two grandchildren.

SCOTT MILLER

Mr. Miller is District Manager for Duke Energy (covering five counties Anderson, Pickens, Oconee, Laurens, and Abbeville).

He serves on the boards of Anderson University, the Anderson Chamber of Commerce, and Innovate Anderson. His other memberships include Anderson Rotary, Anderson Water Advisory Board, Oconee/Pickens Chamber Coalition, Laurens County Chamber of Commerce, Pickens County Education Alliance, and Oconee County Infrastructure Advisory Commission.

He holds a degree in Business from Clemson University. He and his wife, Cindy Fox Miller, live in Powdersville.

The Grainger Foundation Supports Welding Program

The Grainger Foundation made a \$4,000 donation to the College's Foundation to support the Welding department at the new Industrial Technology Center. Earlier this year the College dedicated the 43,000-square-foot Center that houses the Welding and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) programs and was specifically designed to mimic a real-world industrial setting.

"We are very pleased to partner with Tri-County Technical College in supporting its mission of serving as a community college dedicated to being a catalyst for the economic and lifelong development of Upstate citizens," said Paul Ellis, branch manager of W.W. Grainger, Inc., in Greenville.

"Grainger has been impressed with the work Tri-County is doing in the community to train and develop talented welders for Upstate businesses. It is your work that ultimately supports our industrial supply business. We are excited to be a part of your work in this small way," said Ellis.

Grainger has been a part of the Upstate community for more than 30 years and is dedicated to engaging the community in ways that support its citizens and brings growth to its businesses.



*Paul Ellis, branch manager of W.W. Grainger, Inc., in Greenville, pictured third from left, presents a \$4,000 check to **John Lummus**, vice president for economic and institutional advancement at the College, second from left. Also pictured in the photo are, from left, **Andrea Hamby**, government account manager at Grainger; **Paul Phelps**, welding program coordinator; and **Elisabeth Gadd**, former director of development at Tri-County.*

Executive Staff Updates

- **Student Reaction to Instruction:** Dr. Chris Marino, director of Institutional Research, and Jackie Blakley, dean of the Business and Public Services Division, presented the results of a pilot for online course evaluations, which will replace the pencil/paper version completed by students in the past. The new system allows evaluation data to be easily accessible and queried in various formats to help instructors and their supervisors identify strengths and opportunities for improvement. Faculty feedback has been positive, and the new process will be fully implemented this fall.
- **WorkKeys Update:** John Lummus, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement, reported that the State will fund WorkKeys and KeyTrain as part of the WorkReady Communities initiative to help unemployed and underemployed individuals evaluate their basic skills and job readiness. There also is interest from area school districts to have students participate in the assessment. Additional funding will be needed.
- **Academic Program Review:** The College has made good progress in implementing this new process, which is a self-study conducted by faculty that focuses on continuous improvement of program offerings. Its purpose is to help faculty clarify and achieve program outcomes and student learning outcomes, as well as align programs and stakeholder needs to ensure we are delivering value to students and our community.
- **Talent Management Strategy Project Approval:** Approval was given to establish a project team to research and develop a business case and gap analysis to guide in the development of a talent management strategy for employees.
- **Other:** Road work at the north entrance to the Pendleton Campus; enrollment updates; policy and procedure updates; final State budget allocation; lecturer positions; tobacco-free campus discussion.

President Booth Tells Summer Grads to Be the CEOs of Their Lives

President Booth urged summer graduates to think of themselves as their own corporations and to take charge and be in charge of their own lives.

Five hundred and thirty-six students were awarded degrees, diplomas and/or certificates during the College's 49th summer commencement held August 2 at the Anderson Civic Center.

"My challenge to each of you is that you understand that you are and must continue to be the CEO of your life. You should think of yourself as an entity that has something to offer the world, such as your skills as a nurse, medical laboratory technician, welder, police officer, IT specialist, machinist, or pre-engineer," said Dr. Booth.

"Whatever your goals may be, one thing is for certain: you are ultimately responsible for whether or not they are accomplished. Others will certainly have an impact and play a role in what takes place in our lives, but only you can control many of the variables that will determine the outcomes."



Karen Curenton, of Greenville, gives a thumbs up after receiving her Medical Assisting degree.



Student Government Association President **Donald Joslyn** received a Criminal Justice degree.



Five Marshals Participate in Commencement Ceremony

Graduation Marshals have the honor of participating in the commencement ceremony by leading graduates and other participants into and out of the processional and recessional, as well as other ceremonial duties.

Michelle Hammond, of Liberty, a Computer Technology major;
Roger Ruszkowski, of Westminster, a Computer Technology major;
Ashley Lowie, of Westminster, a Medical Laboratory Technology major;
Ashley Fuller, of Clemson, an associate in science major, and **Maja Sljivic**, of Anderson, an associate degree Nursing major.

Bosch Scholars Graduate



Three Bosch Scholars received degrees at summer commencement. From left are **Rodney Johnson**, and **Tyler Watkins**, who both received Industrial Electronics Technology degrees, and **Michael Langer**, who earned a degree in Mechatronics.

Ten Graduate From Connect to College



Summer 2013 high school graduates through the Connect to College program are pictured here, from left to right: **A. Blake Banks** (T.L. Hanna High School); **Chloe L. Chiles** (Wren High School); **W. Tyler Swaney** (Pendleton High School); **Erica Breeze Glenn** (Pendleton High School); **Charles P. Dolly, Jr.** (Seneca High School); **Leslie M. Gonzalez** (Easley High School); and **Celeste E. Citelli** (D.W. Daniel High School. Not pictured are Amanda L. Miller (Seneca High School); Emily R. Ramey (Pickens High School); and Rodney L. Teasley (T.L. Hanna High School).

Dr. Brian Swords

(continued from page 1)

Twenty members of Tri-County's faculty and staff each will serve as "Twenty20 coaches" for twenty students to improve student retention and success. This initiative will support the institutional goal of increasing student retention.

"Brian has been one of our biggest supporters and most energetic pilot coaches," said Stephanie Winkler, disabilities services coordinator and co-director of the Twenty20 program. "He always has great ideas and even has volunteered to take on more students than planned for the mentoring project. Perhaps more important than all of his hard work is his positive attitude and willingness to help. I continue to be amazed at his energy level and dedication to helping students. He always has a smile on his face and no matter what I ask of him, he is always willing to help."

Brian is an active member of the community as well, working with the Pickens County School District to create innovative partnerships that use resources on the Easley Campus, as well as facilities owned by the school district.

He serves as chairman of the Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce, is an active member of the Easley Rotary Club, is chairman of the Junior Leadership Pickens County Board of Directors, and is a member of the Board of Visitors at Southern Wesleyan University.

Brian holds an undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Southern Wesleyan University and a master's in Technology and Human Resource Development and doctorate degree in Vocational and Technical College Administration from Clemson University.

College and TCEDC Formally Enter into Partnership That Supports Small Business Development, Economic Growth

Representatives from the College and the Tri-County Entrepreneurial Development Corporation (TCEDC) formally entered into a partnership that supports small business development, as well as economic growth in the tri-county area.

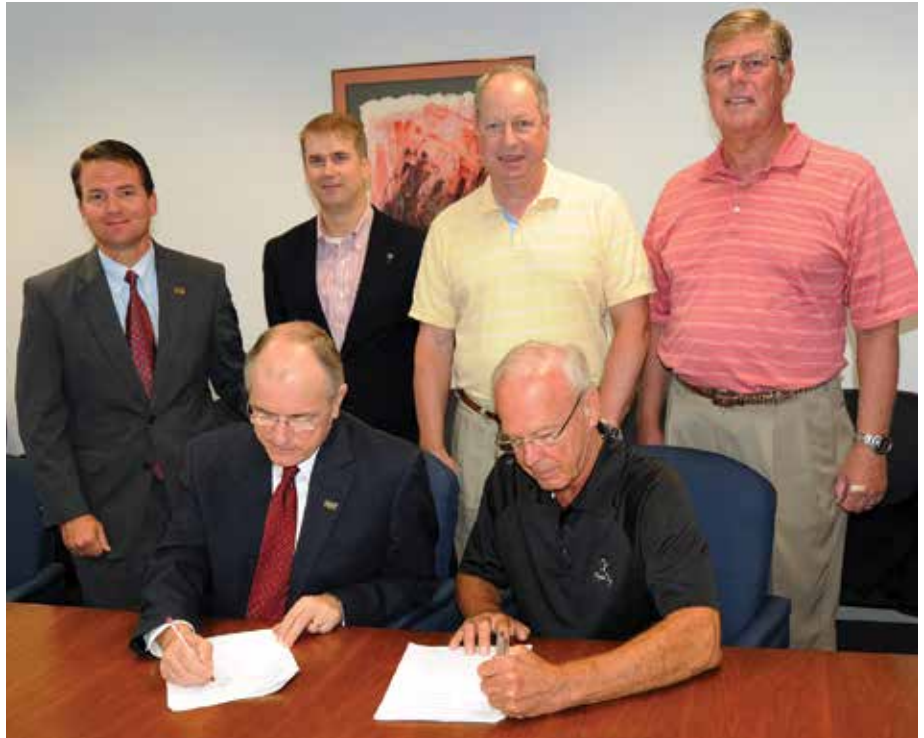
TCEDC Chief Executive Officer Dave Eldridge and Dr. Booth signed an agreement that enhances the organizations' partnership and dedication to helping small businesses develop and expand to create new jobs.

Originally established as the Mountain Lakes Business Development Corporation and recently renamed TCEDC, the Walhalla-based organization began two years ago as a result of efforts by local business and community leaders who saw a need for a non-profit organization devoted to helping small businesses with start up and guidance on the pathway to success, said Eldridge. TCEDC is located at 104 Brown's Square in Walhalla.

"We saw the need for professional training programs directed towards small businesses getting started and properly organized, as well as becoming proficient in the many aspects of business management. We've always had a strong partnership with Tri-County and the South Carolina Small Business Development Center at Clemson," Eldridge added. The Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) came on board later to donate their time and expertise as volunteer business counselors and provide counseling and mentoring at no charge to the business, he said.

"We conduct a no-cost training program at Tri-County monthly. Usually there are between 10 and 25 participants who are considering starting a business or have been in business for some period but need guidance and support to get to the next level," added Eldridge, who also serves as a mentor.

Over these two years, Eldridge says this group of volunteers has done an outstanding job in working with the clients but saw a shortfall in keeping up with the administrative tasks. The contract arrangement with Tri-County provides administrative support for the TCEDC with training programs, seminars, and grant writing and research, along with continuing to provide training space and instructors. "With this agreement we have access to skills that will help us get to the next level of growth and prosperity in our three-county region, thereby adding new jobs to our communities," said Eldridge.



Tri-County Entrepreneurial Development Corporation Chief Executive Officer **Dave Eldridge**, seated, right, and **Dr. Booth**, seated, left, signed an agreement that enhances the organizations' partnership and dedication to helping small businesses develop and expand to create new jobs. Also pictured are (standing from left) **John Lummus**, vice president for economic and institutional advancement at the College; **Richard Blackwell**, Oconee County economic development director; **Michael Hehir**, TCEDC secretary and Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) mentor; and **Jim Gadd**, executive director of Oconee Alliance.

Upcoming TCECD events include:

- A course to help current small businesses grow, Business Immersion: NxLevel for Entrepreneurs, is set for September 17.
- Tri-County Program Coordinator Sandra Strickland will discuss the partnership on WSNW's Coffee Talk segment September 24
- A small business startup class will be October 3 at the Oconee County QuickJobs Center.

"This agreement makes TCEDC and Tri-County really tightly bound together as partners in moving to the next phase of success," he said.

"This is a great opportunity for the economic development leadership of our three county area. Each of the various organizations are dedicated to assisting our businesses in getting better at what they do, and at the same time creating more jobs within the small business community," said Eldridge.

He specifically applauded the efforts of leaders in Oconee County, whom he says were key players in the early initiative. "The Oconee County Council, Administrator Scott Moulder, Economic Development Director Richard Blackwell, and the Oconee Alliance really took the lead in working with us to make this happen. Without them we would not be where we are today," he said

Students Recognized for Academic Achievements at Upward Bound Banquet

Robert Crooks, lieutenant of investigations for the Clemson Police Department, spoke about the importance of education to a group of Upward Bound students at Tri-County's 33rd annual Upward Bound Awards Banquet.

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

"Give everything 100 percent and take advantage of educational opportunities," said Lt. Crooks, who has been with the Clemson Police Department for 29 years and is an alumnus of Tri-County's Criminal Justice program. "Do the best you can, and it will pay off in the long run," he added.

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, federally funded and 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.



Lieutenant Robert Crooks

College Gets STEM Innovator Award



George Acker, Laneika Musalini, and Sandra Strickland

Laneika Musalini, director of grants, and Sandra Strickland, program coordinator for Corporate and Community Education, attended a reception in Columbia for Tri-County and other S.C. colleges and school districts designated as recipients of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Innovator awards. The event was hosted by Duke Energy and George Acker, southern region director for government and community relations for Duke Energy and a College Commissioner, presented the awards to organizations who received grants that focus on STEM and manufacturing.

Duke Energy partnered with the Clemson University Center for Workforce Development to fund workforce development initiatives within South Carolina.

Tri-County received a total of \$68,000 in funding for these three initiatives.

- Six Sigma Yellow Belt Consortium project: \$15,000 for Six Sigma Yellow Belt training as part of a partnership between Tri-County and Greenville Technical Colleges and Spartanburg Community College
- Achieving Gold for our Students: \$15,000 to train high school educators to benefit them in training high school seniors (who are less likely to attend college) how to score at the "GOLD" level on the ACT WorkKeys exam
- STEM Transfer Scholarships: \$38,000 to fund transfer scholarships to students in STEM areas. Awards are encouraged to be given to first-generation college students, traditionally disadvantaged, and underrepresented groups.

Ajah Chambers Receives Mathematics Award



Ajah Chambers, of Easley, middle, received the Most Improved in Mathematics Award at the Annual Upward Bound Awards Banquet. Presenting the award are **Tequisha Whitener**, Upward Bound coordinator, left, and **Dr. Thwanda Davidson**, director of the TRiO programs.

Spotlight *(continued from page 3)*

The end of semester outcomes included improved grades, she said. "I found that students who consistently completed Success Notes scored higher on quizzes and group activities and later unit exams. Students said they felt prepared for discussion and activities in class," said Penny.

"This note-taking assignment gave me the flexibility in class to incorporate more active learning techniques because the students were more familiar with the material. It wasn't the first time they had been exposed to the material, so I was able to use class time for the students to make material more relevant to their lives. In essence, it affected the way in which students learned. They were more prepared, more engaged, and more involved."

BERT REED - SYLLABUS SEARCH

Mathematics instructor Alberta (Bert) Reed teaches Math 102, Intermediate Algebra, a class in which students traditionally struggle. In an effort to enhance student success, she implemented a "Syllabus Search" assignment into the curriculum.

The assignment included: General Information; Instructor Contact; Textbook and Other Materials; Attendance, Cheating, and Cell Phone Policies; Course Grading Policy; Grading Scale; Homework and Test Policies; Grade Expectation; Course Resources; Where do I go for help?; Where do I go if I need special accommodations?; and How do I form a study group?.

Not only are the students asked to recall the information and policies of the course, but they are asked to form a study group, and share phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

"This exercise has provoked a change in the mindset of the students," said Bert. "I found that students referred to this handout, instead of the syllabus, when they were in need of information concerning the course. The student becomes more responsible and less reliant on you, the instructor. By forming a study group, they met other students and developed relationships both inside and outside of the classroom, developing a sense of the community. Success isn't always about the A, B, and C."

CDL Student Gets Job Offer Before Completion of Class

Tim Ferron, of Simpsonville, already has a job waiting when he finishes the College's four-week Quickjobs Commercial Truck Driving Program taught by instructor June Osborne. "It's unusual and very nice," said Ferron, who decided to change careers after being laid off in March from a field technician job with a cable company. "I was looking for quick training to get back into the workforce, and a friend of mine has been a truck driver for years and encouraged me to pursue this as a new career."

Tri-County's Commercial Truck Driving Program is classified as Quick Jobs – quick, affordable and in-demand training that can be completed in 90 days or less. The program provides both Class A and Class B training. The program provides students with required training (50 hours of classroom, 50 hours of range, 32 hours of observation and 16 hours of behind-the-wheel driving per student) and licensure to be able to enter the work force. "It appeals to those who are looking for a career change, have been unemployed for a while and looking to get back into the workforce or simply know that commercial driving is what they want to pursue as their life work," said June.

"You can train for four weeks, and if you pass the licensure exam, you are eligible to compete for the 930 jobs available in S.C. alone," she said. Persons must be 18 years of age with a good driving record to enroll.

"June is a great instructor. She shares her stories about her years of experience on the road. She takes the classes above and beyond with her insight about the ups and downs, the good and the bad. There will be no surprises when you get out there on the road. It's been a great class – I just wish I had done this years ago. I should have listened to my friend 20 years ago," said Ferron.

Certification can lead to long-time, full-time or part-time employment, said June.

"It's a great career for someone who is patient, adventurous, a good planner. You can't waste time because there is always a schedule to meet. The field is becoming increasingly popular with both men and women because of the growing demand for products and the need for more truckers to move it," said June.



June Osborne and Tim Ferron

COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVER CAREER FACTS

- According to the South Carolina Employment Security Commission there is an estimated 12-plus percent increase in job availability predicted through 2018 and the median salary is \$16 per hour or \$33,500 per year.
- Nationally, the Department of Labor predicts a 21-plus percent increase in jobs through 2018 and the median salary to be \$37,900 per year.

New Academic Year Gets Underway



Parking lots and classrooms quickly filled as Fall Semester got underway on August 19. As of the beginning of the second week, enrollment closely mirrored that of Fall 2012, but that didn't dampen the enthusiasm of faculty and staff who welcomed new and returning students to Tri-County campuses in Pendleton, Anderson, Easley, and the Oconee Campus at the Hamilton Career Center in Seneca.

Pendleton Campus students and employees are encouraged to use the College's Mechanic Street parking lot, located approximately one-half mile from campus across from Subway. 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.

IET Program Holds Orientation For Incoming Freshmen



The Industrial Electronics Technology program held an orientation session for freshmen during the first week of classes. Students got an overview of the program from IET instructor Ron Talley; Job Placement Coordinator Cheryl Garrison talked to them about co-op opportunities as well as the job placement services available for seniors; and Doug Wilson gave the group an insight into industry expectations for our graduates.

Here, **Kevin Johnson**, an IET grad and former co-op student who now works at Schneider Electric in Seneca, left, and **Jeff Brown**, senior human resources representative at Schneider, talk to the students about career opportunities and expectations on the job. There are 219 students enrolled in the IET program, and 75 of them are freshmen.

Thirty Educators Attend STEM Conference



Teachers traveled to Mt. Lebanon Elementary School in Pendleton to work on activities that included the featherweight challenge, whose objective is to use the least amount of paper by weight (beginning with a rectangle of dimensions of a certain length and width) that will hold the bottle without breaking. Pictured here are **Jodi Cowart**, a gifted education teacher at Cedar Grove in Anderson District I, and Institute speaker and facilitator **Mike Daugherty**.

Thirty educators from Anderson-Oconee-Pickens school districts, along with educators from Tri-County and Clemson University, attended the Institute on Integrative Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Teaching and Learning conference July 29 and 30 at Tri-County.

The conference leaders/experts discussed how to promote STEM education at teachers' individual schools. Speakers included Dr. Michael Daugherty, a professor of Technology and Engineering Education and head of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Arkansas. Experts from the field informed and coached school teams through a process for school improvement.

"The STEM conference is a chance to unite teachers from K - 12, Clemson, and Tri-County to collaborate and communicate at all levels of STEM education," said Rick Murphy, Pendleton Regional Education Center coordinator. An ongoing goal is to develop ways to integrate technological literacy into the K-16 curricula in ways that will encourage more local students to choose STEM careers.

The Institute is funded by an AdvanceSC grant.

Library Gets a Facelift

By Marla K. Roberson, Library Director

For the first time in more than 20 years, the TCTC library has been remodeled. The new design integrates traditional library décor with modern touches. We have heard lots of positive comments from returning students and faculty.

This summer project included new furniture, a new circulation and reference desk area, new carpet, new paint on the walls, and an enhanced café area. We are especially proud of the updates to the large study rooms. These rooms include a media platform and large screen monitor that is hooked to the student's individual laptop. By using this technology, students can collaborate on team group projects. We opened up the periodical area so that the browser can actually view all the magazines and journals that are available in print. Additionally, we added a specific area for Mac computers only. The library is the only place on campus to offer this service, and it is already a popular area. Finally, we have also added additional electrical outlet areas utilizing lamps and the Mac bar.

Planning for this library remodeling project started a few years ago and ramped up in December 2012, with the choice of KI as the furniture vendor and designer. During January, February, and March, colors, which reflect the TCTC palette of red, black, and khaki, fabric patterns, and furniture were discussed between a number of faculty, staff, and students. In April, the Library staff began the process by shifting some of the shelving so that the large back window area became more open. The bound periodicals were moved to another location so that a Legal area could be created to support the new Paralegal program. During May and June, furniture began disappearing from the Library. Carpet, painting, and other construction happened in July. Finally, during the first week of August, the new furniture began arriving.

This redesign brings a much needed facelift to the library. The library now offers more seating than it did previously. There are conversational areas, better group study areas, and better individual study areas. Librarian Sue Andrus commented that if she heard it once, she heard it a dozen times, "Wow, it really looks great in here," the first week of school.



Library Before Renovations



Library Post-Renovations

I, personally, would like to thank everyone involved in this project including Galen DeHay and Gregg Stapleton, who were the project charter advocates. Ken Kopera was a calming influence during the stress of the destruction and construction. Finally, the Library team and the Maintenance team were exceptional during this remodel. This teamwork between all of us has been reflected in how great the Library looks.