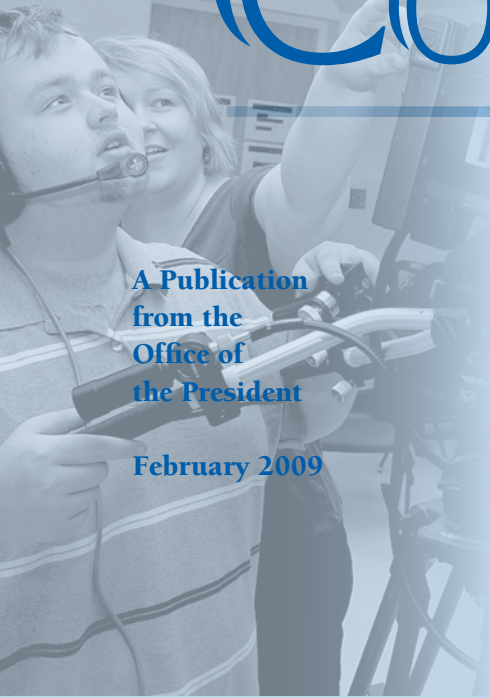


CONNECTION



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February 2009

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Learning Center at Watkins Community Center Named in Honor of Sen. Billy O'Dell

It was standing room only when community leaders, residents, and College officials gathered at the Watkins Community Center in Honea Path to celebrate the dedication of the College's new Learning Center named in honor of Senator Billy O'Dell.



As a way of thanking Senator O'Dell for his support in assisting with obtaining State funding for renovations, the Center is named the Senator Billy O'Dell Learning Center and will offer corporate and community education classes for the citizens of Honea Path.

Community leaders, residents, and Tri-County officials gathered at the Watkins Community Center in Honea Path January 30 to celebrate the dedication of the College's new Learning Center named in honor of Senator Billy O'Dell, pictured fourth from left.

Pictured with Senator O'Dell are from left, **Eddie Moore**, chair of the Anderson County Council; **Helen Rosemond-Saunders**, chair of our Commission, **Dr. Booth**; **Sen. O'Dell**; **Shelby Kay**, president of the Watkins Community Center board; **Al Young**, past president of the Watkins Center Community Board and president of The Commercial Bank; Honea Path **Mayor Lollis Meyers**; Anderson County Council member **Cindy Wilson**; and S.C. Rep. **Mike Gambrell**.

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Officials Break Ground on Bridge Facility

"This is a great example of the public and private sectors working together," Dr. Booth, third from left, said as officials from Tri-County Technical College and Clemson University, along with developers, broke ground on an Academic Support Facility for Bridge to Clemson students February 27. The 8,664-square-foot facility located at Highpointe of Clemson on Old Cherry Road will house small classrooms for tutoring, meeting spaces, and offices for Bridge to Clemson staff. Pictured from left are **Neal Workman**, chairman of the board of Trehel Corp.; **Dr. Jan Murdoch**, dean of undergraduate studies at Clemson; **Dr. Booth**; **Helen Rosemond-Saunders**, chair of the College's Commission; **Tom Winkopp**, Realtor/Developer, LLC; and **Will Huss**, president and CEO of Trehel Corp.



CONNECTING

I have promised to make communication on budget issues a top priority, so I would like to reiterate and perhaps expand on some of the points I made during the Faculty/Staff meeting last week.

All of us are concerned about the downward spiral in our economy, significant cuts to our State budget, and uncertainty about the future. Yet, in spite of it all, we have good things to celebrate.

Last month, we dedicated the Senator Billy O'Dell Learning Center at the Watkins Community Center in Honea Path. Located in the outer reaches of our service area, this small town has tremendous heart and soul – and they couldn't be more excited that Tri-County Technical College is now officially a part of their community. The beautifully remodeled space in this historic building includes two classrooms, a computer lab, and a shop area. Initially, we are offering non-credit classes and providing space for adult education programs as we monitor the demand for other types of programming.

We also held four open house events – one for each academic division – and invited high school students and the community to come see what great programs we have to offer. A lot of time and energy went into this effort, and we are confident that those who visited our campus have a better understanding not only of what we have to offer in terms of academic programs, but also the wonderful spirit of our College community. Many thanks to all of you for your hard work.

Speaking of events, when I look at our College Activities calendar in eTC, I am amazed at the many opportunities we have to engage our faculty, staff, and students in everything from workshops to student club meetings to enrichment programs and more. The economic crisis has not slowed us down in providing a dynamic College experience for those who study and work here.

We have somehow managed to do all this and more against a backdrop of significantly reduced State funding. Had we not experienced a 12.6% increase in enrollment, our circumstances would indeed be dire. Even with those additional tuition dollars coming in, we still cut our operating expenses, reduced temporary employment, and froze most open positions. All of us have learned to do more with less. It has become part of how we operate. Before any purchases are made, we ask, "Do we really need this? Can we deliver our services without it?" It's that type of thinking that will help to get us through these difficult times.

I especially appreciate the work of the nearly forty people who participated in the Budget Cut Focus Groups. They sorted through more than 90 cost-saving and revenue-generating ideas and conducted an initial triage of the broad pros, cons, and implications of each. Their work has resulted in open communication throughout the College community and provided valuable information to decision-makers within the operational units. In addition, the process reflected the true principles of a "learning college" by providing opportunities for everyone to share ideas for cutting costs and generating revenue.

(continued on page 11)



Ronnie L. Booth
President

Connecting...
colleagues ideas goals
services accomplishments
programs events
successes opportunities

2009 College Events

- Health Fair March 13
- Bluegrass under the Stars..... April 4
- Spring Open..... April 24
- Awards Ceremony..... April 28
- Groundbreaking Ceremony for
Easley Campus (rescheduled).....May 29

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

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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. The College is a member of South Carolina's nationally acclaimed system of sixteen technical colleges.





SPOTLIGHT ON Recruitment and Admissions

The Office of Recruitment and Admissions consists of the Admissions Office and the Information Center.

- Renae Frazier — Director
- Carol Welch — Assistant Director
- Admissions Counselors — Luke Black, Rachel Campbell, and Laura Hall
- Technology Programs Specialist — Donald White
- Data Coordinator — Cyndi Watts
- Administrative Staff — Kay Alexander, Amy Hart, Carolina Eguez McNeill, Carolyn White, Caroline Williams, and Sally Surver (part-time)



The Office of Recruitment and Admissions kicked off 2009 with three major initiatives designed to showcase the College and to make the application process an easy experience for everyone.

Starting January 31, and for the first time ever, prospective students had the option of applying for admission online. “This is a key customer service initiative,” said Renae Frazier, director of Recruitment and Admissions. “It’s easier for the application, and it is user friendly. It takes less than five minutes to submit the application. Applicants can pay the application fee online and receive an acceptance packet within a week,” she said.

“This really caught on quickly,” she said, adding that nearly 200 people have used the process since it debuted. Renae added that the traditional paper application is still a popular means of applying.

Another project that has been implemented this semester, and one that Renae began thinking about soon after accepting the department’s leadership role in 2007, was to streamline and revise the tour program. “Often individuals would show up unannounced at the Information Center requesting a tour and we may not have someone available at that moment to conduct it. **We decided to develop a tour program to accommodate both schools and individuals.** Now there is a program for large and small group tours,” she said.

Large group tours are ideal for groups of 20-100. Tour guides offer a general presentation about Tri-County, our academic programs, student life, and various services that are available. Tours last about 90 minutes and are available by appointment at 9 a.m. on the following upcoming dates: March 6, March 27, and April 24. To reserve a large group tour, call our Information Center at 646-1500. Small group tours are designed for individuals or groups of up to 20 every Friday at 11 a.m., except during holidays. No appointment is required to participate in a small group tour. Students should arrive 10 minutes early at the Information Center located in Miller

Renae Frazier, director of Recruitment and Admissions, left, talks with **Elsie Raguseo**, of Fair Play, who is thinking about returning to school this fall. She is among those who attended one or more of the four Open Houses held for each academic division in February.

Hall on the Pendleton Campus. If anyone desires a tour of the Anderson Campus, they also can call our Information Center. “This program allows us to show off our campuses, but most importantly, our programs,” added Renae.

February was Open House Month, and each division took this opportunity to spotlight its academic programs and student services.

The College’s four academic divisions held individual Open Houses (on our Pendleton campus) for prospective students, including high school students and their parents, persons who have been laid off from their jobs, those seeking retraining for new careers, or those currently enrolled at the College.

“We invited the community to come and see how Tri-County Technical College is in the business of changing lives,” said Renae. “We opened our doors for individuals to learn about how attending the first two years at Tri-County prepares them to transfer to a four-year college; to learn about healthcare career options to work with people or pets; to learn about business and public services programs from Management to Criminal Justice; and to learn about Industrial and Engineering Technology programs from Robotics to Welding.”

Each Open House included academic information sessions, program presentations, interactive department lab stations, and one-on-one discussions with instructors about career

(continued on page 12)

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!

our college family

excellence
through service



Lee Tennent

Three faculty/staff members have been honored as Tri-County's Educators of the Year and were recognized at the South Carolina Technical Education Association (SCTEA) meeting held February 20 – 22.

Lee Tennent, director of the Information Technology Division, is the College's outstanding administrator; **Dr. Peggy Champion**, who leads the Veterinary Technology program, is the outstanding instructor; and, **Melinda Zeigler**, administrative assistant for the Business and Public Services Division, is the outstanding staff nominee.



Dr. Peggy Champion



Melinda Zeigler

SCTEA is a professional association of technical education personnel and others interested in post-secondary technical education.

Dr. Lynn Lewis, dean of the Health Education Division, has been elected president of the State Board of Nursing for 2009–10.

Dr. Lewis was appointed by Governor Mark Sanford in 2003 to represent the Third Congressional District on the nine-member board. Dr. Lewis served as

secretary of the board from 2005 - 2007. She was elected vice president for 2008 – 09.

The board meets bi-monthly and its mission is the protection of public health, safety, and welfare by assuring safe and competent practices of nursing.

Galen DeHay and **Dr. Jerry Marshall** have been selected to serve as expert consultants on the Statewide Course Design Team for the South Carolina Course Alignment Project.

SC CAP is the first statewide collaborative effort to bring together high school and college faculty (two- and four-year) to examine the sequence and scope of high school exit courses in English, mathematics, and science in relation to the entry-level college courses in the same disciplines. The goal of the project is to determine the degree of alignment that currently exists and to improve alignment so students may have a seamless transition from secondary to postsecondary education.

in transition

STUDENT AFFAIRS DIVISION

Jennifer "Jenni" Evans is our new Bridge to Clemson Program Director. Jenni comes to us from Presbyterian College, where she served as Director of Residence Life and Student Activities from 2007–09. Prior to that, she was Residence Life Coordinator at Wake Forest University for a year and was Graduate



Dr. Lynn Lewis



Jenni Evans

Hall Director at Clemson University for two years. She began her career at the S.C. Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities as a Residence Life Coordinator.

Jenni holds a B.A. in Sociology from USC–Spartanburg and an M.Ed. in Counselor Education – Student Affairs from Clemson. She received the Walter T. Cox New Professional of the Year Award in 2008 and is Director of Member Services for the S.C. College Personnel Association.

Jenni lives in Belton.

Donald White is the new Technology Programs Specialist in the Admissions Office. Donald spent 30 years in the textile industry, beginning as a Shift Supervisor at Milliken & Co., then as a Department Manager for J.P. Stevens (1978 – 85) and Springs Industries (1985 – 89). In 1989 he joined Delta Woodside, where he rose from Superintendent to Plant Manager.



Donald White

While at Delta he received the President's Award for supervising the modernization of the Bettie plant in Fountain Inn.

Donald holds a B.S. in Textile Science from Clemson University and is active as a United Way volunteer and with the Carolina Society for Training and Development.

He and his daughter, Jordan, 15, live in Anderson.

ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

After three years as an adjunct English instructor, **Matt Simon** joins us full time this semester. In addition to teaching on the Pendleton campus, he has taught dual enrollment classes at both Daniel and Liberty high schools. Matt also worked as a



Matt Simon

tutor in the College's Writing Center from 2005– 2008.

Matt is the recipient of the 2008 Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award at the College. He holds an A.A. degree from Spartanburg Methodist College, a B.A. in English from the USC-Upstate,

and an M.A. in English from Clemson University.

He and his wife, Pamela, have one son, Whittaker, and live in Central.

Dana Griffith is back on campus – she is a familiar face to many who taught her in the 1980's or who worked with her during her tenure as the first president of our Alumni Association. Dana joined us this semester as a Speech instructor for the English Department. She has been teaching online courses as an adjunct faculty member for Georgia Perimeter College in Decatur for the past year and since 2003 has taught public speaking classes for Gwinnett Technical College in Lawrenceville, Georgia.



Dana Griffith

Dana is a 1983 graduate of our Radio and Television Broadcasting program and began her career as a morning News Anchor for WFBC-FM in Greenville. She was promoted to News Director and remained there until 1990.

She went on to earn a B.S. in Industrial Education from Clemson University and continued with an M.Ed. degree in Industrial Education Graphic Communications. During that time she served as an adjunct instructor for the RTV department from 1994 – 95

After graduating from Clemson, she

worked as an Account Executive/Manager for LTI-Atlanta and later as a Packaging Consultant for Olympic Packaging Corporation from 2000 – 2008. During that time she completed graduate level coursework in speech communications at Georgia State University.

Dana's honors include an award for excellence in research from the Department of Communication at Georgia State in 2006, the John Logan Marshal Award for Outstanding Academics, Tri-County's Distinguished Service Award, and was featured as a profile in success in 1990 by the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges.

She lives in Lawrenceville, Georgia, with her 22-year-old daughter, Sarah.

HEALTH EDUCATION DIVISION

Two new instructors, **Joanne Denz**, and **Rhonda Harris**, have joined the associate degree nursing faculty this semester.

Joanne moved to the area from Buffalo, New York, where she worked as a nurse since 1981. She was a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at the Children's Hospital of Buffalo from 1989 – 2008. She was Pediatric Clinic Coordinator for the Danbury, Connecticut, Visiting Nurse Association from 1984 – 88, and a Pediatric Floor Charge Nurse for St. Jerome's Hospital from 1981 – 83.

She holds a BSN from Villa Maria College, in Erie, PA. She also has a master's in Child Health Nursing from the University of Buffalo School of Nursing, as well as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner credential.

Joanne is a member of the National Association of Pediatric Nurses and Practitioners. She and her husband, Michael, live in Westminster.



Joanne Denz

Rhonda comes to us from Greenville Technical College where she was an associate degree Nursing Clinical/Lab Instructor for two years. She also worked as an adjunct Medical Assistant instructor for Forrest Junior College during that time. From 1997 – 2005 she was an RN/Charge Nurse for AnMed Health.

Rhonda holds an associate degree in Nursing from Greenville Technical College, a BSN from Clemson University, and a master's in Nursing from the University of Phoenix.



Rhonda Harris

She worked as a parish nurse for New Faith Ministries. She and her son, Zion, 9, live in Anderson.

Cheryln Brown is now Coordinator of the Surgical Technology program. She is a 2006 graduate of our Surgical Technology program and attended Southern Wesleyan University. She was a Certified Surgical Technologist for Cannon Memorial Hospital from 2006 – 08 and worked as a K-5 teacher at Providence Christian Academy from 1998 – 2005.



Cheryln Brown

She is a member of Keowee Presbyterian Church and she and her husband, James, have two children, Caleb, 16, and Olivia, 12. They live in Six Mile.

The following have departed the College over the past several months. We wish them well in their new endeavors.

Tom Glover
Stephanie Evans

16th Annual College and Career Fair Set for March 4

The 16th Annual College and Career Fair is a prime opportunity for soon-to-be grads, persons who are unemployed, and those transitioning from jobs to talk about employment opportunities with recruiters and managers and to develop a network of career contacts.

Sponsored by TRiO's Student Support Services (SSS) program, the College is partnering with colleges and businesses March 4 to offer students and the community the opportunity to network with dozens of representatives. The event is set for 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the College's Student Center on the Pendleton campus.

"This event is a way for us to help students and the community with their career goals and in their job searches," said Cindy Trimmier-Lee, coordinator of SSS. "First impressions are key. These prospective employers talk to our students and advise them how to get ready to compete in today's job market. We advise persons to come professionally dressed, armed with their résumés, and prepared to talk face to face with prospective employers," she said.

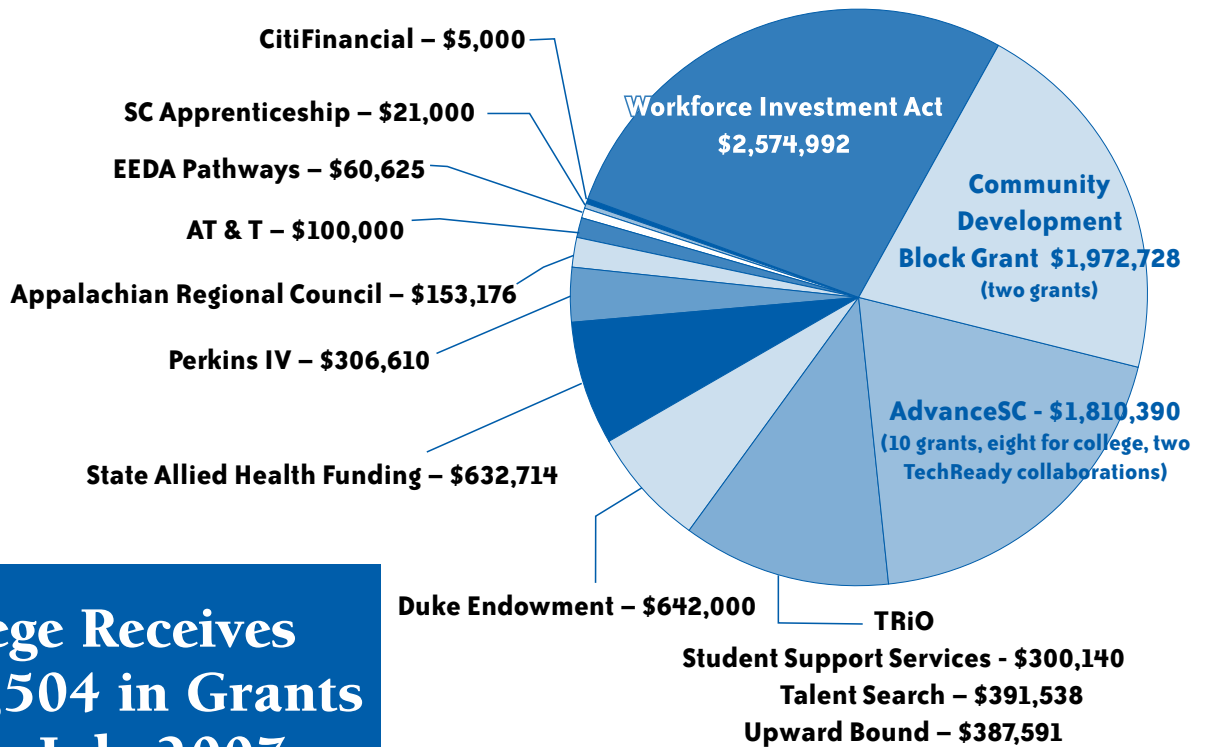
College representatives will be available to speak with individuals about their educational goals. This is a great opportunity for students who want to transfer to a four-year college, for parents with children in high school, and for

anyone considering a career change. Several colleges are waiving application fees and will take applications on site.

To date, participating businesses and industries include: Charter Communications; New Horizon Family Health; Oconee Medical Center; Girl Scouts; Lowe's of Anderson; South Carolina Probation, Parole and Pardon; Anderson Police Department; Papa John's, and SunTrust.

To date, participating colleges include: Anderson University, Bob Jones University, Clemson University and Clemson University School of Nursing, Coastal Carolina University, Columbia College, Lander University, Limestone College, North Greenville University, SC Student Loan, Sherman College of Straight Chiropractic, Southern Wesleyan University, Tri-County Technical College Nursing Department, USC-Aiken, USC-Columbia, USC-Upstate and USC-Upstate Mary Black School of Nursing, and University Center of Greenville. Our Gateway to College program also is participating in the event.

"This Career Fair offers a central place for students and our community residents to connect with these colleges, businesses, and industry who support Tri-County. It's a way to provide our services to the community. It's also a way to learn about Student Support Services and the TRiO programs as a whole," said Cindy.



**College Receives
\$9,358,504 in Grants
Since July 2007**

Celebrating Black History Month



Bryant Smith, above left, facilitator of Manhood 101/Womanhood 101, left, led a “Hip-Hop Comes to School” workshop February 4. This program is a critical examination of hip-hop culture and its impact on the institution of higher education. He is pictured talking with **Herm Allen**, Educational Talent Search coordinator.



Clark Nesbitt, at left, provided insight into the genius of some of America’s greatest African-American writers, poets and activists from the early 1900’s to the Civil Rights Movement in his presentation titled “I, Too, Am America”. The audience gained a sense of the struggles, pains, and joys of being black in America.

Twenty Join At-Work Weight Watchers

Twenty faculty and staff, along with two lifetime members, have joined our 17-week Weight Watchers At-Work weight loss program. The group meets once a week on Wednesdays during the College Activity period (and their lunch hour) to weigh in and meet with Weight Watchers leader Debbie Madden for a 30-minute information class. Joining Weight Watchers At-Work enables persons to have access to the e-tools and other Weight Watchers website features such as recipes, fitness tips, and how to track your weight loss.

“Weight Watchers is not a diet but a lifestyle change,” said Lisa Anderson, who lost 38 pounds last year when she joined a similar at-work Weight Watchers program through her husband’s job at Michelin. Lisa, our Benefits Coordinator, is a club participant and serves as our on-site coordinator.

“Several people on campus had asked me how I lost the weight and expressed an interest in a similar Weight Watchers program here on campus. We got the 20 persons needed to establish the at-work program and began the class February 11. It’s a fun time to share ideas with each other and to encourage and celebrate our weight losses,” she said.

Participants are: Faye Allen, Lynn Shook, Amanda Spacil, Judy Read, Andrea Barnett, Marla Roberson, Peggy Champion, Christee Williams, Marilyn Angoli, Tonia McClain, Lori Gourdin, Patty Manley, Jessica Raymond, Lisa Anderson, Mark Tannery, Courtney White, Cathy Cole, K.C. Bryson, Lisa Saxon, and Bill Whitlock. Lifetime members are Lou Ann Martin and Anne Bryan.

The participants’ total start weight was 4,173 pounds, and they lost 58.6 pounds during their first week.

Lisa says to look for other wellness programs in the upcoming weeks. A Health Fair (and blood screening with AnMed Health) is set for Friday, March 13. Residency doctors from the Cancer Clinic at AnMed Health will be on site for free skin cancer screenings. Details regarding appointments will be announced on eTC soon.



Haley Sitton, our director of Development, and her husband, John, are now the proud grandparents of two grandsons. Their daughter, Amy, and her husband, Scott, welcomed twin boys February 10. The babies’ names are Augustus John (Gus) Segars and Samuel King (Sam) Segars.

Congratulations to **Kelli Harrison**, our Postal Specialist, and her husband, Justin, on the birth of their second child, Noah Allen. Noah was born January 31 at 4:25 p.m. and weighed 7 lbs., 6 oz. Noah’s older brother Mikey, 17 months, is excited to have a new baby brother. Congratulations to the Harrison family.

Foundation News

Clemson Downs Volunteers Make \$7,000 Gift to Foundation to Sponsor Seven Scholarships

Tequila Clinkscales will begin her dream of attending nurse aide certification classes at Tri-County next month, thanks to the generosity of the Clemson Downs volunteers.

Recently the Clemson Downs volunteers made a \$7,000 gift to the College's Foundation to sponsor seven scholarships for students who enroll and meet the qualification criteria for the Nurse Aide Certificate program offered through the Corporate and Community Education Division at the College. These scholarships, valued at \$900 each, will provide financial assistance for tuition, books, background check, health status documentation, and the National Nurse Aide Assessment (certification exam).

Clinkscales has worked as an aide for seven years but has never had the opportunity to attend classes to become certified. "I'm so excited," said the Pendleton resident. "This is my dream."

The scholarship comes at the perfect time for Clinkscales. The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) which regulates the long-term care facilities in South Carolina, recently implemented a new standard for licensed nursing homes. All nurse aides working in a facility must become certified in South Carolina. Regulation Number 61-17, Standards for Licensing Nursing Homes, mandates that all nurse aides must be certified by December 2009.

The Clemson Downs volunteers are comprised of approximately 75 residents in the community who raise money through yard sales, the sale of note cards donated by a resident artist, and other fundraisers. The majority comes from memorials from Clemson Downs residents in their wills.

"Our residents appreciate the care given by our nurse aides and have a good experience with our nurse aides, so we wanted to assist them in obtaining certification. Memorials are our biggest way of raising funds for this," said Barbara Adams, treasurer of the Clemson Downs volunteers,

The volunteer group recently gathered to review and discuss applications, Adams said. They selected seven nurse aides based on criteria that includes whether or not they are certified, educational background, and financial needs. First choice was given to Clemson Downs employees.

"Our nurse aides are so grateful," said Susan Alexander, director of assisted living. "It is wonderful that our volunteers do this. It helps the students and the residents of the Downs."

"Nurse aides have always been a critical component of the health care team, and they are even more significant today as the need for direct patient care expands in hospitals and assisted living facilities.



Tequila Clinkscales, of Pendleton, a nurse aide at Clemson Downs, seated, is among the seven who received a scholarship to attend nurse aide certification classes, thanks to the Clemson Downs volunteers who made a generous \$7,000 gift to the College's Foundation. Pictured with her are, from left, **Rae Romesburg**, home health manager, and **Susan Alexander**, director of assisted living, both of Clemson Downs; and **Barbara Adams**, treasurer of the Clemson Downs volunteers.

The Clemson Downs volunteers have donated a total of \$10,000 to the College since 2008. We appreciate their continued support of CNA scholarships," said Haley Sitton, director of Development.

Tri-County's 92-hour nurse aide certificate program prepares individuals to provide direct care to the geriatric population in retirement homes, long-term care, and assisted living facilities. This certification also can be required for entry-level employment in the hospital as a nursing assistant.

The Nurse Aide Certificate program is recognized as an accredited training organization by the S.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Under SC regulations, all persons wanting to become certified nurse aides must complete their education in a DHHS-approved program, such as Tri-County's, to be eligible to take the National Nurse Aide Assessment Program (NNAAP) examination. Tri-County is an approved testing site for the written and skills competency examination of this national examination.

Tri-County offers several scheduling options to include day and evening classes each year on the Pendleton Campus, Oconee Campus at the Hamilton Career Center, Oconee Medical Center, Palmetto Health Baptist Easley, and other possible locations as needed and for the convenience of the students.

Hanna, Easley Students Win Top Honors at Annual Writing Contest

Students from T.L. Hanna and Easley high schools took first-place honors in the poetry and short story categories at the College's Ruby S. Hicks Memorial Writing Contest Awards Ceremony.

The event, held February 18, recognizes the creative writing abilities of area high school students.

For the eighth consecutive year, Mike and Brenda Cannon of Anderson are the patrons of the contest. Mr. and Mrs. Cannon, in honor of their sons, Brooks and Ross, funded the cash awards for the winners of the writing competition.

Since 1986, the event has recognized the creative writing abilities of area high school students. Several years ago, the English Department renamed its annual writing contest to honor the late Ruby S. Hicks for her patronage, her encouragement and her friendship. For years, Mrs. Hicks graciously donated funds and encouraged the College to continue recognizing the creative talents of area high school students with an annual contest. Tri-County Technical College's Foundation sponsored the event.



Seniors from T.L. Hanna High School took first- and second-place honors in the short story category at the Ruby S. Hicks Memorial Writing Contest Awards Ceremony held February 18. Pictured here are **Mike and Brenda Cannon**, patrons of the Writing Contest; **Anne Harder**, AP English teacher; **Katie Skawski**, who won the second-place prize; and **Dillon McDougald**, who won first place.

Sixteen Teams Compete in Climate Connection LEGO Challenge



Sixteen teams representing students from area middle schools, competed in a regional qualifying event for FIRST LEGO League teams. In this year's challenge, Climate Connections, teams built robots using LEGO kits and were judged on robot performance, robot design, presentation, and teamwork.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an organization that seeks to create a world where science and technology are celebrated similar to a sports environment.

Because of a generous donation from Robert Bosch Corporation, LLC, Tri-County provided this event free of charge.

Fifty Participate in Blood Drive



Tarah Pace, of Easley, was among the 50 faculty, staff, and students who participated in the College's Future Laboratory Professionals/AnMed Health-sponsored blood drive. Tarah, a Gateway to College student, is pictured with **Patricia Luce**, a medical lab technician at AnMed Health and a 2007 graduate of our Medical Laboratory Technology program.

Learning Center *(continued from page 1)*

“This is overwhelming and a great honor,” said Senator O’Dell, a member of the South Carolina General Assembly for two decades (representing District Four). He added that Tri-County’s presence in the building would provide training and education services for the local community.

“Through hard work, with Senator Billy O’Dell leading the charge for funding, the State awarded funds for renovations for the facility,” said Al Young, past president of the Watkins Community Center board and president of The Commercial Bank.

The College received monies in State appropriations, along with a grant from AdvanceSC, to revamp an area for two classrooms and a computer lab, along with a shop area for teaching welding and small engine repair.

“This is a way to draw people to our community. We want to share our little town with a big heart with the rest of the world,” Young said.

“This is a great day for all of us. Dreams can and do come true,” said Young. “There’s a lot of work to do and more challenges as we go forward but we’ll get there,” he added.

“This is a model of how the community gets together and makes something happen,” said Dr. Booth.

“Our mission statement says we are dedicated to serving as a catalyst for lifelong learning and economic development. Our vision statement says we want to be the role model in community college education,” said Dr. Booth. “This is what it’s all about. But people have to get to us and our services. This is a foundation piece for us and a way to bring college to your community. We will do all that we can to meet community needs. I can’t say enough about the support we have received.”

He also lauded Senator O’Dell’s work in the progress of the building. “He is one of the good guys who makes things happen. Life is about what we leave behind, our legacy. Sen. O’Dell is leaving a mark on the community and opening doors for others and giving them a chance. Tri-County is here to make it happen.”

Honea Path Mayor Lollis Meyers echoed Dr. Booth’s comments about Senator O’Dell. “This is a community building and a community effort. We are thankful for what the senator has done. He cares for his people and goes to fight for us. He stands up for what is right. This means a lot to this community.”

“This is the most inspiring community I’ve ever seen,” said Anderson County Council member Cindy Wilson. “There is a real partnership here. This community pulls together. Education



Currently, the Learning Center offers corporate and community education classes for the citizens of Honea Path. Here, instructor **Arianna Lester**, left, talks with **Janelle Hicks**, director of Health Care Programs in our Corporate and Community Education Division, middle, and **Joyce Page**, of Honea Path, about a variety of classes she teaches.



“This is overwhelming and a great honor,” **Senator Billy O’Dell**, a member of the South Carolina General Assembly for two decades (representing District Four), told the crowd prior to the unveiling of the Center’s name.

is part of the infrastructure for economic development. This is so inspiring. We have a level of citizen volunteers and community leaders who work together. This is a beautiful, wonderful town.”

Rep. Mike Gambrell said, “We have a great partner in Tri-County, and I commend the College for its forward thinking. This center makes our quality of life better. Tri-County is a long distance from Honea Path. Now we will be able to provide educational opportunities for our citizens right here. I can’t think of a better use for this building.”

Enrichment Series Presents Second Monday Spotlight, Jeopardy



The Arts and Sciences Enrichment Series Committee sponsored the first installment in its Second Monday Spotlight Series February 9. This Valentine's Day-themed session was led by **Lane Hudson**, pictured here, and focused on sharing love stories, poetry, and Dear John letters. The next installment will be held March 9 from 1:20-2:20 p.m. in Fulp Hall 310 and will, according to Lane, "celebrate college spring break vacation and the summer antics of youth through prose and stories."

The Committee also presented Health & Wellness Jeopardy to a full house of students February 11. Students learned about alcohol-related issues, the dangers of and how to avoid STDs, the importance of a nutritious diet, and other general health-related topics. The winning team was presented with \$5 gift cards to Subway. Future spring semester events include the second annual Sexual Assault Awareness Month T-Shirt Design workshop for the National Clothesline Project (April 22), speakers on Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Abuse, and an improv comedy troupe. Stay tuned to eTC for specifics.

CONNECTING

(continued from page 2)

Many of those ideas are in varying stages of implementation by the operational units. In addition, several budget-related topics require cross-functional discussion and participation, such as alternative academic program delivery, summer school profitability, course scheduling patterns, and minimum class sizes. So, our work continues.

I don't have a crystal ball, so I don't know what the future holds as we navigate through this economic crisis. Only one thing is certain – we have an important mission and critical role to play in this community. Workers who have lost their jobs are turning to us to obtain the training they need to become more competitive in the workforce. Others look to us as their best and often only option to continue their education. We can't afford to turn them away – not as a College, not as a community, and not as a State. During this economic crisis, our ability to educate a highly-skilled workforce will play a critical role in rebuilding the future of our community and the State.

As I have said repeatedly, thanks to your creativity, positive attitude, and willingness to do more with less, I am confident that we will weather this storm and come through as a stronger institution on the other side. Thank you for doing your part to get us through these difficult times.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

Two Sign to Play Women's Soccer

Austin Fagan and **Jennifer Withey**, seated left and right, respectively, are the first two to sign national letters of intent to play women's soccer at Tri-County Technical College. They are pictured here with **Coach John Borycki**, standing, right, and **Vinson Burdette**, dean of Student Development/Athletics Director.

This fall, Tri-County will add its first women's athletic team – soccer.

Tri-County's intercollegiate athletics program is affiliated with the National Junior College Athletic Association. The TCTC Lady Hawks will compete in Division I in the NJCAA Region X, the Carolina's Junior College Conference.



Executive Staff Meeting Update

- **Review of Enrollment Process:** Changes are in the works to streamline the orientation and advising process leading to registration.
- **State Funding:** The Executive Staff continued discussions on the impacts of State budget cuts, as well as implications of the federal stimulus package.
- **Scholarship Update:** Scholarship allocations will be down for the 2009-10 academic year due to lower earnings resulting from the falling stock market.
- **Budget Cut Status Reports Work Groups:** The Executive Staff discussed reports submitted to date and the progress of the budget cut focus groups.
- **Strategic Planning:** The Vice Presidents will begin working within their units to develop activities for the 2009-10 College Strategic Plan.
- **Other Topics:** changes to policies and procedures; official College colors; suspension appeals process; State Tech benchmark study; the telephone system; and the upcoming EPMS and budgeting process.

SPOTLIGHT *(continued from 3)*



Angelia Mattison and Kelsey Loch, seniors at T.L. Hanna High School, check out Stan, the human patient simulator, during the Health Education Division's Open House. Pictured with them is Lynn Lollis, lab coordinator for the program.

opportunities. Admissions and financial aid counselors were on hand to assist with questions regarding the enrollment process and filling out the FAFSA.

Renaë credited the events' success with the collaborative spirit of each division. "I arranged to meet with each academic division to gather feedback and see if they would be on board. Each division said yes without resistance. They chose the date and time, and we did the legwork to publicize, set up, and host the events," she said.

"For each new initiative to be successful, it took all of us working together to promote them – I thank Marketing, the Business Office, Information Technology, each academic division, Maintenance, Campus Safety, Printing Services, volunteers, Kevin Steele (for the use of the golf cart and van), and most of all, my staff," she said.

The Admissions staff will enter March beginning work on their new role in the enrollment management process. "Our focus will be to identify and help students who haven't finished the steps for enrollment at the College. Our focus will change from providing orientation material and interpretation of placement test scores to moving students from the status of prospects to applicants to admitted to registered students. There are three examples: persons who expressed an interest and didn't apply; persons who completed the application and stopped; and persons who were admitted and stopped. Some of the students may need one-on-one assistance so we will work toward getting them enrolled by following up with a phone call, e-mail, or letter. Each counselor will be assigned a set of prospective students to contact to make sure they are getting to the next step in the enrollment process," she said.

"I want these prospective students to have the kind of experience I had 23 years ago when my mother and I came to visit David Shirley (former Admissions Director) to talk about the specifics involved in applying for college and financial aid. He took us step by step and answered all of our questions and put to rest the fears of a first-generation college student," remembered Renaë.

"We want our students to feel that they fit in, that they feel a sense of belonging, and that there is something here for everyone."