

Connection

In this Issue ...



Spotlight on Disabilities Services..... 3



John Powell Named to Commission..... 5



Alumni Board Honors Jimmy Edmonds 6



Oconee QuickJobs Update 7

Eugene Grant Receives A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year Award

Examples of creating real-world learning experiences on campus and off, and keeping the curriculum current by offering programs that supply industry with graduates possessing the technical and mechanical skills needed in today's competitive workforce earned Eugene Grant the A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year award.

Eugene, dean of our Industrial and Engineering Technology (I & ET) Division, was singled out among nine state technical college nominees and accepted the award at the 2010 South Carolina Technical Education Association conference February 19. The Innovator of the Year award is named in honor of A. Wade Martin, the first executive director of the technical and industrial training program in South Carolina. The award was established to recognize individuals in the technical college system who employ innovative approaches to meet the ever-changing needs in the technical education arena and whose achievements assist in statewide economic development and the education of students.

Since taking over the leadership of the I & ET Division in 2004, Eugene has been focused on initiatives that will result in greater student success and enhanced services to local industries.

One of the examples of the real-world learning experiences is a project whereby the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning students upgraded the entire climate control system for the Veterinary Technology Department's large dog kennel. Other examples of the division's service-learning projects include the construction of fabricated trailers for firefighters to use to collect aluminum cans to raise money for burn victims and the construction of a footbridge in a local city park.

Class projects often are used for recruiting in the local high schools and in the community. Several class projects that combined technical skills from several majors resulted in building a race car, a Henry Ford 1896 Quadacycle, and a motorcycle.

Partnerships with local colleges and school districts have been a priority for Eugene and his division. The Welding students partnered with Clemson University Architecture and Landscape Architecture students,

(continued on page 7)



Eugene Grant, dean of the Industrial and Engineering Technology Division, was honored with the A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year award by the South Carolina Technical College System Foundation at the SCTEA annual conference February 18-20. "When I was hired as dean of the I&ET Division, my goal was to find ways to make learning fun and keep students in the lab," said Eugene. "Now, they love it so much we can't get them out of there!" Eugene credited his creative and dedicated faculty and staff for the successes they have enjoyed as a Division this year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Writing Contest..... March 8
 Invention ConventionMarch 10-11
 Bluegrass under the
 Stars Concert.....April 3
 Student Awards Ceremony April 26
 Spring Open April 30
 Spring GraduationMay 11
 Tri-County Road Race (5K).....May 29

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

Connection

is published ten times each year by the
 Office of the President and the Public
 Relations and Marketing Department.

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 587, Pendleton, SC 29670

Pendleton Campus

7900 Highway 76, Pendleton, SC

Anderson Campus

511 Michelin Blvd., Anderson, SC

Oconee Campus

Hamilton Career Center
 100 Vocational Dr., Seneca, SC

Main Number: (864) 646-8361

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

TDD/Voice: 1-800-735-2905

Website: www.tctc.edu



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

Connecting



Ronnie L. Booth
 President

It's almost inevitable. When I wear a shirt branded with the College logo, I am often stopped by people in the community who tell me how they, too, are connected to Tri-County. Many are students or alumni; others are parents or employers. I often ask, "So, what do you think about us?" or "Tell me about your experience." Recently, a young lady responded, "I felt like people *cared* – and that really made a difference for me." I don't always get the perfect answer, but I love it when I do.

Her reply, and many others, reflected her perception of at least one component of the "organizational culture" of Tri-County. She sees us as people who care.

What is organizational culture? It is one of those terms that can be difficult to define, but everyone knows it when they sense it. Sometimes called the "personality" of an organization, organizational culture is the environment that surrounds us at work all of the time. It's made up of the values, beliefs, underlying assumptions, attitudes, and behaviors we share as a group. Our culture shapes the often unspoken and unwritten rules we have for working together, as well as our relationships and level of work satisfaction.

You can get a sense of our College culture by listening to what we talk about as employees, how we utilize and take care of our physical spaces, what we wear, our demeanor, and – as in the case of my conversation with the young lady I met – what people say about us.

Culture is not usually defined as good or bad, but certain aspects of our culture are important to our ability to progress as an institution and other aspects hamper our progress. Gaining a solid understanding of our culture can help us to take steps to improve it.

We recently invited all full- and part-time faculty and staff to complete an organizational culture survey. Many of those completing the survey have been a part of this College for many years; others teach only a few classes on a sporadic basis. But all have perceptions about the culture of our organization.

We learned we have many strengths to build upon, as well as challenges to address. I was pleased to see the results reflected confidence in the College's leadership, our mission-driven decision-

making processes and practices, and the progress we have made on our journey to becoming a role-model institution. Additional strengths cited were the perception that the College is a great place to work; we encourage and value improvements in work processes; and we have improved our work processes and working conditions. Other strengths related to openness and honesty in communications by administrators; adequate research and discussion before changes are made; and the ability of our supervisors to anticipate problems and take timely actions.

Communication was cited as a challenge – mechanisms, timeliness, and effectiveness – within and across departments, divisions, and the College as a whole. Other challenges include the need to develop a more "team-oriented" culture and improve employee satisfaction. Also cited were the need to do more to develop our people and help them feel empowered to take action to solve problems. Innovation, creativity, and risk-taking should be encouraged more strongly, and we need to do more to communicate our institutional values of integrity, responsibility, accessibility, collaboration, and learning.

The good news is this: We can and will commit to strengthening what we do well and tackle our challenges head-on. In fact, work is already in progress. As we went through the

(continued on page 4)

**For a summary of the results
 of the Organizational Culture
 survey, go to eTC, Employee
 tab, Institutional Data link.**



Spotlight on Disabilities Services

When Carol Miller was a child in school, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) didn't exist so there were no accommodations for students who struggled with learning disabilities. "I remember I was failing algebra (I was math learning disabled and hadn't been diagnosed). Nobody knew what it was and how to deal with it. I truly struggled and made it through school with self-made strategies."

Today, as Tri-County's Disabilities Coordinator/Counselor in the Student Life and Counseling Office, Carol works to provide students who have disabilities with equal access in their educational programs. Those who receive services exhibit substantial limitations in major life activities, such as the ability to read and write at college level-expectations, and to focus and concentrate. Many have vision and hearing limitations, along with mobility and sensory impairments.

"When talking about our services, an example I give is that someone with low vision, like me, can correct the problem by wearing glasses," said Carol. "Wearing glasses, I am functional under the ADA. But if someone wore glasses and still had to use a screen enlargement or magnifier, he or she would qualify as having a special need. The disability must be categorized as permanent."

Carol estimates that six percent of Tri-County's student body receives services from the Disabilities Services Office. Many transition their Individualized Educational Plans from high schools to postsecondary education, and faculty members at Tri-County refer others. She sees a minimum of four to five students daily, each meeting for about one hour with her to arrange for accommodations that could be extended time to take a test in the Assessment Center or a private environment. They may need assistance with note taking in class or may be a student who is a wheelchair user who needs specific assistive technology.

"We are fully covered with assistive devices. This technology makes the student more independent," said Carol, who was an assistive technology specialist for pre-school classes from 1974 – 2001. She has a master's degree in Special Education and worked at Clemson University for four years before joining Tri-County in 2005.



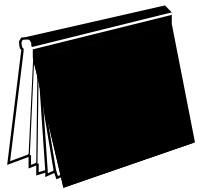
Carol Miller, our disabilities coordinator/counselor, talks with **James Fisher**, of Anderson, about a new piece of assistive technology, the Live Scribe Pen, for note taking.

"Eighty to eighty-five percent of the year, I am booked every hour on the hour," said Carol. "We have grown exponentially in numbers because persons are more aware that postsecondary services exist. The economic status is forcing more and more people of all ages back to college. The non-traditional student population has bloomed. Many of them never had been identified and struggled through school like I did. They are dumbfounded when they find out there are services to help them to be successful in college," she said.

"I use the terms 'we' and 'us' when I talk with students. I say those of us who have Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and we who are learning disabled," says Carol, who has ADHD herself and a medical condition (asthma, which kept her bedridden for much of her childhood).

"Carol makes a special connection with our students," said Croslena Johnson, director of Student Life and Counseling. "Many feel like they can't do the work and want to give up. But Carol understands and talks with them about her situation. She goes out of her way for students."

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!



The eTC Development Team would like to recognize the IT Operations Department, in particular **Jan Kempinski**,

Matt Edwards, and **Larry Barnes**, for the outstanding effort and assistance they provide in support of the eTC portal. Jan willingly volunteers to create and update content and links to keep eTC current and relevant to the campus community. Matt and Larry put in long hours, including evenings and weekends, to keep the system up and running even when the technology is less than cooperative! The entire department goes above and beyond to do the work that is needed and responds to unexpected challenges in a dedicated, professional manner. Thanks to you all!

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

Connecting

(continued from page 2)

process of developing our ten-year vision last fall, we recognized the need to address our organizational culture and developed a cultural adaptation strategy to do just that.

Change takes time, commitment, and resources. Because everyone who has ever worked for Tri-County has played some role in shaping our culture, all of us who are still here and those yet to come will play a role changing it for the better. As the leader of this institution, I recognize the major role I play in this transition and humbly accept that responsibility.

The young lady I met told me we were a caring institution – and it made all the difference for her. She sees that in our culture. Let's remember and build upon that strength as we tackle our challenges.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

Our College Family

excellence through service

Amanda Blanton, dean of Enrollment Management, and **Rebecca Eidson**, director of Public Relations and Communications, conducted a session titled "Integrating EEDA Career Cluster Concepts into Marketing Strategies at Tri-County Technical College" at the annual South Carolina Technical Education Association (SCTEA) conference February 18-20 in Myrtle Beach, SC. Participants learned how to develop marketing materials and curriculum pathways that align college programs with the EEDA career clusters used by the high schools.



Rebecca Eidson and Amanda Blanton

Dr. Valerie Ramsey, who represents Pickens County on our College Commission, has been appointed to serve on the Association of Community Colleges Trustees (ACCT) Finance and Audit Committee.



Dr. Valerie Ramsey

in transition

Industrial and Engineering Technology Division

Matthew Woodall is now a full-time Welding instructor. He spent the last three years as an adjunct while working as a Fabricator and Shift Coordinator at GE Gas Turbines in Greenville. He began his career as a Journeyman Pipe Welder for Becon Construction and Greenwood, Inc. He represented Becon Construction in the 2001 ABC National Craft Olympics in San Antonio, TX, and is a three-time winner of the Project of the Month Award at GE. He was a nominee for Tri-County's Adjunct Presidential Award in 2009.

He is a 2007 graduate of our Welding program. Matthew lives in Central.



Matthew Woodall

Arts and Sciences Division

Two University Transfer adjunct instructors have become full time this semester. **Celeste Davis** is our new English department faculty member, and **Corey Evans** is now a Spanish (Humanities) instructor.

Celeste has been our Writing Center Tutor since 2004 and taught English part time from 2004 – 2008. She holds a bachelor of Arts (English) degree from Clemson University, where she graduated cum laude, and a master of Arts in English with an emphasis on Composition and Rhetoric from the University of Mississippi.

She and her husband, Theron, have two children, Lauren, 17, and Connor, 14. They live in Anderson.



Celeste Davis



Corey Evans

Corey taught adjunct classes for the Math Department from 2005 – 2008 and part-time Spanish classes since 2008. He has taught classes at Georgia State University and at Clemson University, where he was a full-time Spanish lecturer.

He holds associate in Arts and associate in Science degrees from Tri-County in 2003 and went on to earn a B.A. (double major in Spanish and English) from Clemson University and a master's in Teaching Foreign Language from the University of Southern Mississippi. He has studied abroad in Mexico, Chile, and Argentina. Corey lives in Anderson.

John Powell Named to Commission

In the early 1970's John Powell served as the leader of the student body of Tri-County Technical College. The Oconee County real estate developer and business entrepreneur is again serving in a leadership position at his alma mater, this time as a member of the College's nine-member Commission.

Powell is the newest commission member representing Oconee County. He is the second alumnus in the history of the College to serve on its governing board. Governor Mark Sanford appointed Powell to a three-year term on the Commission effective January 11.

Powell said he is honored to serve his alma mater "because Tri-County touches so many people in our three counties by serving their educational needs and consequently positively changing their lives and lifestyles. I wanted to be a part of that. Tri-County changed me," said Powell, who, since graduating, has maintained a close connection to the College by serving on various boards and continuing to spread the word about a place that gave him career direction and many fond memories.

He says Tri-County offered exactly what he was interested in – practical experience combined with classroom knowledge.

He served as the College's second Student Government Association president and was selected as a student member of the Governor's Drug Abuse Council in SC in 1972. "I still feel a real connection to the College," said Powell, who, to date, is the first and only alumnus to serve on the College's Foundation Board, was the Alumni Association's second president, and now is serving on its board of directors. He also is a longtime member of the Business Technology Advisory Committee.

During his tenure as president of the Alumni Association, he helped to organize the first annual golf tournament in 1987. Last year he received Tri-County Technical College's Distinguished Alumni Award.

He entered the real estate business in 1973 and today Powell Real Estate has 16 sales agents in three offices. He also owns a cattle farm and has been involved in the creation of

(continued on page 7)



John Powell

Get Involved!

This Spring Tri-County is planning two big community events – a concert and a 5K run. Volunteers are needed to make both events a success for the College and the communities we serve.



The fifth annual Bluegrass under the Stars concert is scheduled for Saturday, April 3, from 6-9:30 p.m. in the amphitheater on the Pendleton Campus. This free concert will feature four bands: Mountain Faith, Last Road, The Little Roy and Lizzy Show, and The Josh Williams Band. Departmental displays are planned, along with concessions and a fireworks extravaganza to close the show.



The first annual Tri-County 5K Road Race will take place at the Anderson Campus. "Run for the Health of It" is the theme of the race, and proceeds will be used to fund Health Education scholarships and other program needs. The event is scheduled for Saturday, May 29, at 8 a.m. Departmental and community displays are planned, as well as fun activities to engage runners and their families.

Both events are made possible by the generosity of community sponsors who believe in us and our mission in the community. Additional information can be found in the eTC featured events channel and on the public website.

Our College's ten-year vision states that we will "share our resources through community events." We want Tri-County to be more than a place to get an education – we want people to enjoy our hospitality, the beauty of our campuses, and think of us as friends and partners in improving the quality of life in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.

We need your help! Call the Public Relations and Marketing Office today at Ext. 1503 if you are willing to get involved with either or both events.

Golden OPPORTUNITIES *to shape the future*

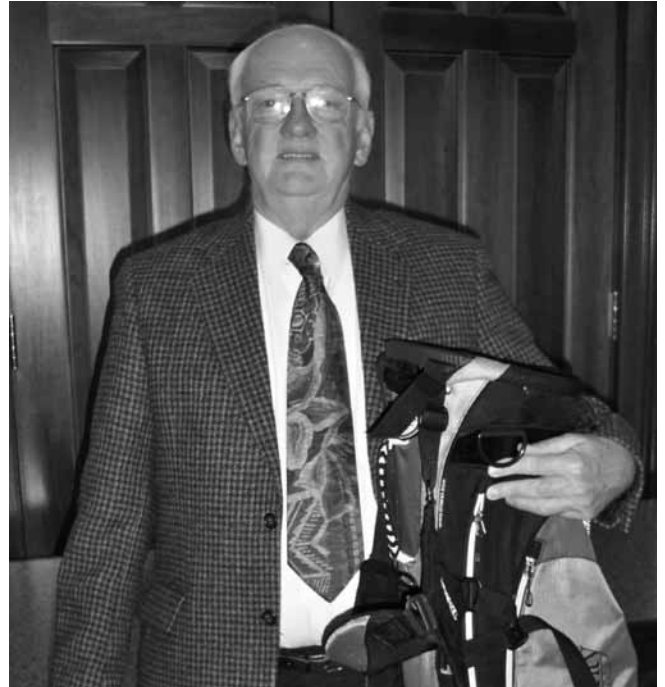
Alumni Association Board Honors Jimmy Edmonds

Jimmy Edmonds' dedication and leadership to the College and its Alumni Association were honored recently at a meeting of the Alumni Board of Directors. Jimmy, a member of the College's first evening graduating class of 1967, has been a member of the Alumni Board since its inception in 1985. He was one of the first to volunteer his time and talents and continued his leadership when the College held its first annual alumni golf tournament in 1987. He made the decision this year to resign from the board but to continue his support of the College. An avid golfer, Jimmy plans to play in the annual Spring Open golf tournament set for April 30.

As a special gift, the Alumni Board of Directors presented Jimmy with a monogrammed golf bag. In a letter to the College, Jimmy wrote, "I appreciate all that Tri-County Technical College has done for me. It has been an honor through the years to be affiliated with the Alumni Association. Also, thank you so much for honoring me at the luncheon and for the special monogrammed golf bag. I can't wait to put it to use."

Jimmy has spent countless hours devoting his time and energy to the growth of the Association. He has held numerous officer positions, including president and vice president. To date, the Association has contributed more than \$30,000 to endowed scholarships and has named rooms in Fulp Hall and at the Anderson Campus. In 2004 Jimmy received the Distinguished Alumni Award.

"We appreciate Jimmy's exemplary service to the Board. Without his support, events like the annual golf tournament would not have been possible," said John Lummus, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement.



Jimmy Edmonds

Friends, Co-Workers Honor Dr. Lewis Through "PAWS for a Cause"



Friends and co-workers honored Health Education Division Dean **Dr. Lynn Lewis**, pictured here, and her beloved dog, Corey, who passed away last year, through the Pet Paws Donation Program.

The "PAWS for a Cause" campaign allows individuals to purchase a dog paw, a cat paw, or a horseshoe in memory or in honor of a beloved pet. Each one is personalized with the pet's name, the donor's name, and a brief message and is displayed in Halbert Hall. The cost is \$50 per paw.

The monies raised through "PAWS for a Cause" will one day be used toward the cost of expanding Halbert Hall to better serve the animals that come to the Veterinary Technology Department through local animal shelters. This addition will include a new dog kennel with 20 indoor/outdoor runs, 12 additional outdoor runs, a new cat ward, and a new isolation ward, as well as additional storage space.

Here, Dr. Lewis places her new paw on the wall located in the Veterinary Technology Department.

Employees Participate in Diversity Training



Faculty and staff attended on January 26 a diversity workshop designed to increase the general awareness of challenges and opportunities when working with colleagues and students in a multicultural environment. The workshop was presented by **Elizabeth Woods**, standing, a partner and training consultant with Enduring Ties and former Access and Equity coordinator at the College.

During this fun and interactive session, Elizabeth provided tips on building relationships and understanding others with different cultural backgrounds.

Oconee QuickJobs Center

Targeted Opening Date is April 1



A completion date for the Oconee QuickJobs Center is April if the weather cooperates. "The goal is to be ready by April 1," says Ken Kopera, director of facilities maintenance. "The building is almost complete, but the rain and inclement weather over the last month or so have delayed the paving of the parking lot. The weather has been a big hold up."



The inside work is on schedule, he said, and furniture should arrive mid-March, with IT equipment following soon after. Outfitting the building is the last step, said Ken. The Corporate and Community Education (CCE) Division already has seven classes scheduled for opening month. Most of them are Certified Production Technician – MSSC training, said CCE Dean Rick Cothran. A pre-employment training class for an organization in Oconee County also is lined up, as are Workplace Skills classes.

Oconee and Pickens counties received \$986,364 each from the State Department of Commerce to build QuickJobs Centers to assist in workforce training and skills development. Community Development Block Grants funds cover the construction costs of the Centers which will be operated by the College. The Oconee County QuickJobs Training Center is located at the Hamilton Career Center. The 4,600 square-foot building will have two classrooms and a large space for labs and classes.

Powell

(continued from page 5)

36 subdivisions, including being a partner in Falcon's Lair Golf Community in Walhalla. He and good friend, Rick Cook, formed a partnership and today they have nine Subway franchises in Upstate SC.

In 1992 he was elected to the Oconee Medical Center Board of Directors and served as chairman from 1995 – 1998. He also chaired the Hospital's Building Committee and the Oconee County School Task Force. He currently serves on the board of directors for Table Rock Retreat Center and the Business Education Industry Organization in Oconee County. He served as chair of the fundraising campaign to build Our Daily Rest, a homeless shelter in Oconee County.

He is very active in his church, Welcome Wesleyan Church. He resides in West Union with his wife, Joyce, and their teenage son, Cliff, 18. They also have three adult children, Joy, James and Mark, and four grandchildren.

Grant

(continued from page 1)

using their metalworking skills to help create a sustainable housing unit. The students took a shipping container and turned it into a hurricane-resistant housing option for residents in underprivileged countries.

This semester, the College partnered with Anderson School District Five's Hanna-Westside Extension Campus to offer an evening Automotive Technology program. The certificate program prepares persons to work in the area's auto businesses and service centers.

In addition, the division has partnered with the S.C. Silver Crescent Foundation to provide summer camps for middle school girls to raise awareness of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers.

Eugene is a 1990 alumnus of our Electronics Engineering Technology program and was its outstanding graduate. He was an instructor for the IET program from 1991 - 96. He went on to earn a B. S. in Industrial Education and a master's in Industrial Education at Clemson University.

Executive Staff Updates

- **Financial Modeling:** Reviewed results of a new financial model that assists the College in formulating long-term plans via “what if” analysis — taking into account key variables such as enrollment increases, tuition rates, State and local funding levels, staffing strategies, building, and other capital programs.
- **Title III:** Discussed next steps in the Title III development process, which will include engaging a consultant to assist us in identifying and/or developing a project that is linked to our ten-year vision and strategic plan.
- **Organizational Culture Survey:** Discussed the strengths and challenges identified in the Organizational Culture Survey conducted by the Institutional Research office (results have been posted in eTC). Determined that the feedback ties directly to the strategies identified in the ten-year vision and will be addressed through planning.
- **Anderson Campus Update:** Tim Bowen, Anderson Campus director, provided information on enrollment, recent accomplishments, space additions and schedule changes, upcoming highlights, and key challenges/opportunities.
- **Financial Aid Update:** Bill Whitlock, financial aid director, provided an update on numbers served and types of aid awarded, loan processing, recent accomplishments, and issues/challenges related to Title IV funding. The focal point for future discussions will be the necessity of assuring that students receiving Title IV aid are taking courses for which Federal aid can be used, i.e. those in a student’s program of study.
- **Other topics:** Perkins funding; Title IV Student Aid; audio-visual set-ups; policies and procedures (reviewed and approved - details will be posted in eTC).

Students Support LTA at Rally in Columbia



Tri-County students joined students from the other 15 technical colleges in S.C. to voice their support for Lottery Tuition Assistance (LTA). The record-number of students – 315 – gathered at the State House January 26 represented a fraction of the nearly 285,000 technical college students who have benefitted from LTA since its inception. The 16 technical colleges across the state educate more than half of all undergraduate students in the State. The System educates South Carolinians to live and work in South Carolina – 96% of technical college students are South Carolina citizens and nearly 90% choose to stay in the state after graduation.

Pictured from left are (standing) **Tammy Lollis**, administrative specialist for Student Life and Counseling Services; **Croslena Johnson**, director of Tri-County’s Student Life and Counseling Services; **Robin Kyle**, of Liberty; **Wendy Sutton**, of Belton; **Jarell Dawkins**, of Central; **Marvin McLin**, of Anderson; **April Chandler**, of Clemson; and **Maine Dawkins**, of Central; and (kneeling) **Mindy Amaro**, of Williamston; **Jennifer Howell**, of Anderson; **Heather McGill**, of Anderson; and **Josue Montoya**, of Belton.

Dr. Stewart Honored for Service on Commission

Dr. Mendel Stewart, former chair of the Tri-County Technical College Commission, was honored for his 32 years of service at a reception hosted by South Carolina Association of Technical College Commissioners in Columbia January 26. **Mrs. Helen Rosemond-Saunders**, current Commission chair, presented the award. Dr. Stewart was appointed to the Commission in 1977 to represent Pickens County and served as Commission Chair from 1998-2008.

