

Connection

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Students Place First in Two Events at 2013 SCSTA College Festival

Two of our students placed first in two categories at the 2013 South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association's Annual College Festival Competition.

Ten two- and four-year colleges from around the State competed Saturday, February 2. Tri-County hosted the event at its Easley Campus.

Representing Tri-County in the competition were Matt Duncan, a University Transfer student from Clemson; Manuel Manley, an Information Technology major from Pendleton; and Sohang Patel, a Pre-Pharmacy major from Anderson.

Patel placed first in the Persuasive Speech category. Manley placed first in the Informative Speaking event.

Other categories included: Impromptu Speaking, Musical Theatre, Oral Interpretation of Prose, Duet Acting, Audition Monologue, Theatrical Design, Oral History Interpretation, and Oral Interpretation of Poetry.

"We have been taking teams to this competition for the last sixteen years. This is a great opportunity for students to develop important communications skills and do it in a competitive environment," said Speech instructor Greg Toney, who coaches the team. "Everyone worked hard and was deserving of his success."

"My goal is to go to these competitions and be competitive," said Greg. "It's a challenge to compete every year against schools, such as Newberry and USC Upstate, that actually have four-year programs in Drama and Speech. However, we always have success, and this year it was no different as we dominated the categories that we participated in."

"Communication skills are one of the most important skills someone can take into the workplace today," said Greg. "Competing in this annual speech and drama festival allows students to sharpen those skills, as well as represent their school while competing against other colleges from around the State."

Limestone College took first-place overall honors as this year's Sweepstakes Winner. Colleges

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Three students represented Tri-County in the 2013 South Carolina Speech and Theater Association's Annual College Festival Competition. They were (pictured from left to right) **Matt Duncan**, a University Transfer student from Clemson; **Manuel Manley**, an Information Technology major from Pendleton; and **Sohang Patel**, a Pre-Pharmacy major from Anderson. Sohang placed first in the Persuasive Speech category. Manuel placed first in the Informative Speaking event.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lecture by Author Matt Matthews	March 6
Industrial Technology Center Ribbon Cutting and Open House	March 8
TCTC/WorkLink Job Fair	March 21
Criminal Justice Fair	March 27
Faculty/Staff Meeting	March 28
Bluegrass under the Stars	April 6
Student Awards Ceremony	April 24
Spring Open Golf Tournament ..	April 26

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

Connection

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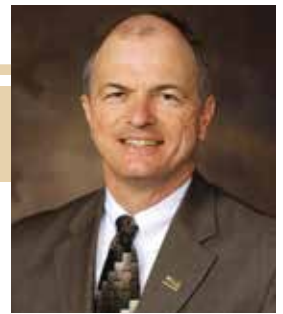
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qualifying disability, veteran's status, or
national origin.

Connecting



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

In this book, *People Follow You: The Real Secret to What Matters Most in Leadership*, author Jeb Blount sums up how quickly and profoundly our world has changed. He tells us that if we could have closed our eyes just over a decade ago and then opened them today, we would not recognize where we are. Terrorism, war, the collapse of our national economy, and what has been termed "The Great Recession" have changed the world we live in, profoundly and completely.

The impact of the economic recession that continues today has been enormous. It has touched nearly every aspect of our lives and has completely changed the way we, as a College, need to deliver value to our community. It also has impacted our State funding, federal financial aid regulations, and how we are viewed by external agencies who evaluate our success.

At the same time we are facing these challenges, we are fortunate to have many positive things happening in our service area. New manufacturing companies are locating here, and existing ones are expanding and creating new jobs. In recent years, there has been a shift to advanced manufacturing processes. These companies rely on us for trained, skilled workers to help them grow, prosper, and create more new jobs.

This is the environment in which we have developed our new 2014-16 Strategic Plan, slated to be published in March and the focus of my remarks during our Faculty/Staff meeting on March 28.

"Change is not a new concept. Like any healthy organization, we always are engaged in continuous improvement as we try to enhance student success and support economic development in our community."

- Dr. Ronnie L. Booth

As we labored over the plan, we asked ourselves over and over – how do we adapt to and thrive in this new environment?

Simply stated, we have to get better – and faster. In some cases, we need to change what we offer and how we deliver those offerings. If we do not change, then we will quickly become unsustainable and obsolete.

Change is not a new concept. Like any healthy organization, we always are engaged in continuous improvement as we try to enhance student success and support economic development in our community. But the world in which we find ourselves today means we need to pick up the pace of change. The things we have counted on to sustain us in the past no longer exist, and our customers – students and the community – need us to do things differently.

That's what we have done. The new three-year plan takes into account the realities of the new world in which we now find ourselves; establishes four strategic directions, each driven by the need to change and improve how we deliver value; sets forth activities that will allow us to achieve our ten-year vision to transform lives and shape the community; and includes an aggressive timeframe for completion.

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Spotlight on the Wellness Center

Personnel Director Sharon Colcolough says exercising every day during lunch with her co-workers in the College's boot camp fitness class helps her achieve a healthier work/life balance.

"I can keep up with my five-year-old son, Austin, and manage my stress load at work," says Sharon, who for two years has engaged in the boot camp-style fitness class and has had an employee Wellness Center on her bucket list for more than a decade.

Around 100 employees attended the February 21 Open House where they could explore the new facilities, talk with fitness experts, view Nike fitness clothing from our Bookstore, and observe a boot camp class.

For three years, Sharon and a group of employees have been meeting in the Economic Development Center, McKissick Hall, and the second floor of Ruby Hicks Hall for a weekday lunch hour boot camp group exercise class that mixes traditional calisthenic and body weight exercises with interval training and strength training.

Now they have a new and permanent home in the recently renovated basement of Ruby Hicks (formerly the Print Shop). Renovations were funded with capital funds.

"The new Wellness Center provides a convenient way to build exercise into your daily life without taking away from family or work hours," said Sharon. You can exercise at a time convenient for you

Name the Wellness Center

The Wellness Committee, comprised of Cathy Ford, Sue Andrus, Denise Hall, Cheryl Garrison, Alydia Sims, Dan Holland, and Lisa Anderson, is asking for suggestions to name the Wellness Center. After gathering suggestions, the committee will narrow it down to three choices, and employees will be given the chance to vote for the winning name.

or join a group class. The Center also will be the venue for healthy living and nutrition seminars and workshops."

As of February 22, employees can begin using the Wellness Center at no charge during College hours. If you haven't yet, first you must visit the Personnel Office to sign a waiver liability form and get activated in the system with your TCTC ID card.

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Personnel Director **Sharon Colcolough**, far right, says exercising every day during lunch with her co-workers in the College's Boot Camp fitness class helps her achieve a healthier work/life balance. Leading the class is **Andy Barth**.



From front: **Margaret Burdette**, **Sarah Shumpert** and **Sharon Colcolough** warm up in the boot camp class.



Boot camp participants warm up.

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!



Suzanne Ellenberger announced that there's been a baby boom in the Science Department.

Three faculty members have welcomed babies in the last few months:

Kirk Parmenter and his wife, **Laura**, have a son, Everett Malcolm Parmenter.

Phil Gilmour and his wife, **Amy**, welcomed a son, Kellan Gilmour; and **Drew McRae** and his wife, **Stacy**, a Nursing major, have a daughter, Ellaina Annemarie McRae.

Kay Rhodes, nursing admissions liaison, sent this note, commending **Richard Smith's** work:

"Nursing has an online Updates to Nursing, which is a group of videos with related handouts for each of the three nursing programs. The maintenance of the sites is fairly perpetual due to changes in the program. Richard Smith has been heroic in his efforts to help us keep it up to date so students can have the latest information. His patience with me (us) in constant tweaks has been amazing.

I just wanted everyone to know how much we appreciate him!"

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.

Bi-Monthly E-Newsletter Chronicles Student Success Journey

REMEMBER to check your e-mail for the College's Student Success Journey newsletter that chronicles the many projects and activities underway that connect to our efforts to improve student success.

Our College Family

excellence through service

Jennifer Beattie Hulehan, Comprehensive Studies department head, was recently elected to serve as the Secretary of the South Carolina Association of Developmental Education.

Janelle Hicks, BS, MHSA, director of Healthcare Programs for our Corporate and Community Education Division, has been invited to serve on the South Carolina DHEC-EMS Advisory Council's Educational Committee. This committee consists of EMS educators and professionals who can assist in planning and providing policy advice to DHEC staff in regard to training and continuing education for EMS.

Congratulations to the following faculty and staff who were chosen to present at the 2013 South Carolina Technical Education Association Conference held February 21 - 23 in Myrtle Beach:

- Interim Arts and Sciences Dean and English Department Head **Robin McFall** and **Galen DeHay**, interim provost and director of planning and institutional effectiveness, presented *Shifting from First to Second Gear*.
- **Laura Thompson**, administrative specialist for the Nursing and Veterinary Technology programs, presented *Insider Information: 7 Things an Online Student Wishes Instructors Knew*.
- **Dr. Jerry Marshall**, mathematics instructor, and **Rick Murphy**, Pendleton Regional Education Center coordinator, presented *Access to Quality STEM Education Activities*.

Courtney White, manager of Donor Relations and Research for the Foundation, has been appointed to the Medical University of South Carolina Board of Visitors. Members are nominated by the trustees of the university and serve as ambassadors in their respective regions.



Jennifer Hulehan



Janelle Hicks



Robin McFall



Galen DeHay



Laura Thompson



Dr. Jerry Marshall



Rick Murphy



Courtney White

Tri-County Technical College's Commission, its governing board, elected officers for 2013 at its February meeting. Their three-year terms are effective April 1.



Ham Hudson



Butch Harris



Pruitt Martin

W.H. (Ham) Hudson, of Seneca, was re-elected chairman. He has been a member of the Commission since 2001 and previously served as vice chair. **Leon (Butch) Harris, III**, of Anderson, was re-elected vice-chairman. He was appointed to the Board in 2008. **D. Pruitt Martin**, of Anderson, a member of the Board since 2004, was re-elected secretary-treasurer.

Congratulations to Information Technology Director **Lee Tennant**, who was the College's nominee for the A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year award. He was recognized at the SCTEA Conference.

in transition

Bradley Bowen joined us at the beginning of the semester as a full-time Criminal Justice instructor. He has spent his career working in law enforcement, most recently as a deputy with the Pickens County Sheriff's Office from 2007 - 2012. He also has worked as a deputy for the Anderson County Sheriff's Office and from 2002 - 2008 served in the military police of the S.C. National Guard. He was an adjunct instructor for our Criminal Justice program during the fall 2012 semester.

He is a 2004 graduate of our Criminal Justice program and went on to earn a bachelor's in Business Administration with an emphasis in Legal Studies from Strayer University in 2009, along with a master of Science in Criminal Justice



Lee Tennant



Bradley Bowen

from the University of Cincinnati in 2011. He is pursuing a master of Arts in Public Policy from Liberty University. Bradley received the J.P. Strom Award when he attended the S.C. Criminal Justice Academy.

He is a member of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Association and Keowee Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, April Bryant, have three children, Daniel, 17; Kayla, 13; and Joshua, 2. They live in Central.

Tiffany Carpenter is the new Support Specialist for the Connect to College program. A 2001 graduate of our Accounting program, while a student, Tiffany was a member and treasurer of the Alpha Zeta Beta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. She went on to earn a bachelor of arts in Elementary Education at Clemson University, where she was named to the Dean's List.

From 2002 until 2011 she worked with Tri-County's Student Support Services in the tutoring lab, tutoring students in accounting, math, business, automated office technology, and language arts. She became a National Certified Tutor in 2003.

Since 2006, she worked as front desk clerk at the Best Western Executive Inn in Seneca. She and her husband, Chris, have a daughter, Bethany, 13. They live in Newry.

Katie Wickliffe is the Orientation Coordinator for the Orientation, Advising, and Tutoring Department. She was Proctor and Interim Program Coordinator and Academic Advisor in the General Engineering Advising Center at Clemson University. She graduated cum laude with a bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in Education from Clemson University. She also earned a master of Education in Student Affairs Administration at Clemson.

She is a member of Kappa Delta Pi honor society for education majors and a Phi Kappa Phi honor society member.

She is a member and Executive Board Secretary for the Clemson Women's Alumni Council and a member of NACADA, NODA and SCCPA. She is a member of the North Hills Community Church in Taylors. She and her son, William, live in Greenville.

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Tiffany Carpenter



Katie Wickliffe

Our College Family

(continued from page 5)

Meredith Dyar

McClure is a new instructor in the Early Childhood Development program. Since 1997 she has worked in elementary education, most recently as a teacher at



Meredith McClure

Covenant Christian Academy in Anderson from 2008 – 2012. Prior to that, she was a Cornerstone WEE school teacher in Greensboro, N.C., and worked in Durham public schools for three years. She began her career teaching fifth grade in Anderson District 5 (1997 – 2000).

She earned a bachelor of arts in Elementary Education from Clemson University and a master of Education from Anderson University last year.

She is a member of the Guilford County Chapter of the Autism Society of North Carolina, as well as the Kappa Delta Sorority.

She and her husband, Bradley, have two children, Corbett, 10, and Madeline, 8. They live in Anderson.

Robin McFall is serving as the Interim Dean of Arts and Sciences as the College moves forward with the search to fill the Dean's position. Given our focus on student success and learning, **Dr. Kate Williams**, Social Sciences instructor, will be playing a role in leading the Division in designing and developing stronger communication mechanisms within the Division and grassroots activities targeting student learning within the classroom. While she will be predominately working with the Arts and Sciences faculty, she may be calling on some of you for assistance with this project.

Eighteen Teams Participate in LEGO Tournament



The Golden Oldies team won the Champions Award.



Dorian McIntire, General Engineering Technology program coordinator, second from left, served as one of the judges.

Eighteen teams, representing students from Upstate elementary and middle schools, competed in a regional qualifying event for FIRST LEGO League teams. Around 200 students, ages 9 – 14, along with coaches and parents, attended the Fifth Annual Tri-County Technical College FLL Regional Tournament February 9. The event was hosted by the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division.

This event was made possible through a generous donation from Robert Bosch LLC.

FIRST LEGO League (FLL) is a program created by the FIRST organization. It introduces younger students to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. FLL teams, guided by their imaginations and adult coaches, discover exciting career possibilities and, through the process, learn to make positive contributions to society.

In this year's "Senior Solutions Challenge," FLL teams identified problems senior citizens face today (memory loss, reaction time, flexibility, recovery from an injury, and keeping up with technology). Students interviewed their clients (senior citizens) and developed ideas for solutions that they presented at the tournament.

The event is comprised of the robot game, robot design, research project, and core values.

In the robot game, teams build and program an autonomous robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS technology to score points in 2.5-minute matches on a themed playing field, according to the FIRST website.

In the project, teams explore an actual problem that today's scientists and engineers are trying to solve, develop an innovative solution to that problem and share their findings.

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Faculty, Staff, Students Donate Blood



Cathy Strasser was among the faculty, staff, and students who participated in the College's Future Laboratory Professionals/AnMed Health-sponsored blood drive. Cathy, who is an accounts payable technician in the Business Office, is pictured with **Kelly Wilbanks**, a medical laboratory technician and 1991 graduate of the College's MLT program. Fifty-three units of blood were collected.

Eighth Annual Bluegrass Under the Stars Concert is Saturday, April 6

The College's Eighth Annual Bluegrass under the Stars concert is Saturday, April 6, at the Pendleton Campus.

The free concert and fireworks event for the family is held annually in conjunction with the town of Pendleton's annual Spring Jubilee celebration. The event will be held from 6 - 9:30 p.m. in the amphitheater. It will be held rain or shine. (Rain location is College's Student Center.)

One of the most recognizable voices in bluegrass music today – Lou Reid – will headline the show with his group, Lou Reid and Carolina.

Joining him (in order of appearance) include Most Wanted Bluegrass; Kevin Richardson and Cuttin' Edge; and West End String Band.

A pre-concert performance by the Young Appalachian Musicians (YAM) Sweet Potato Pie Kids will begin at 5:30 p.m. Several of Tri-County's academic departments will offer information and fun activities for concert-goers. The concert will end with a fireworks extravaganza. Concessions will be sold during the event.

For more information, visit www.tctc.edu/bluegrass.



CONNECTING

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The four strategic directions are:

- Driving organizational success through our people
- Reinventing our offerings to adapt to changing realities
- Positioning and equipping students for success
- Embracing personal accountability for students' learning

But that is only the beginning.

What happens next is not only exciting, but empowering. We need you, our faculty and staff, to figure out what needs to be done to create the outcomes we want to achieve. You are the teachers, the counselors, the advisors, the ones who work day in and day out with our students and community. What will work? What won't work? What should we change? I truly believe each of you has the talent, creativity and motivation to figure this out, or we would not have chosen you to be part of our team at Tri-County Technical College. We hire great people, and great people can do great things if they are empowered to make decisions and take action.

Rosebeth Moss Kanter, a professor at Harvard Business School, says it best: "Change is disturbing when it is done to us, but exhilarating when it is done by us." I hope you will embrace this opportunity to take ownership of how we deliver value to our students and the community. Everyone is counting on us, and we can't be successful unless you embrace this plan and take action.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Booth".

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

SCSTA *(continued from page 1)*

participating in the event included Tri-County, Furman University, USC Upstate, Newberry College, Lander University, Claflin University, Erskine College, Limestone College, Midlands Technical College, and Greenville Technical College.

The South Carolina Speech and Theatre Association is a professional organization that promotes the study of all areas of performance and oral communication: acting, oral interpretation/performance studies, theatre, broadcasting, public speaking, discussion and debate, and speech education. Its main purpose is the advancement of the total speech and theatre effort in the educational system of the state of South Carolina. SCSTA serves both the public and private schools and the colleges and universities in South Carolina through an annual Conference and spring festival competitions in the Communication Arts, and through recognition of outstanding contributors to its efforts. Membership is open to all persons interested in performance and other areas of oral communication and should be of special interest to persons teaching speech and drama courses at all levels.

LEGO

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The FLL Core Values are the fundamental elements that distinguish FLL from other programs of its kind. Core Values emphasize contributions of others, friendly sportsmanship, learning, and community involvement.

Awards were given in five areas: Champions Award (overall performance), Robot Performance, Robot Design, Project, and Core Values.

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.

College Receives Grant to Train Baby Boomers for New Career

Local displaced workers, ages 50 and above, will have a chance to gain a new skills set as a Certified Nurse Aide as a result of a \$15,000 grant awarded to the College.

Tri-County was the only South Carolina technical college chosen in the latest round of grants for the Plus 50 Encore Completion Program, a national effort to train 10,000 baby boomers for new jobs in healthcare, education, and social services. The program is sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC).

The College will assist in preparing displaced workers or those looking to retrain for a new career as a Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) through the Corporate and Community Education (CCE) Division. The percentage of tri-county residents, ages 50 – 64, who are unemployed are as follows: Anderson County, 19.4 percent; Oconee County, 22 percent; and Pickens County, 18 percent.

“We have long recognized the need to target relevant occupational training to our over 50-year old citizens,” said Rick Cothran, dean of the CCE Division. “This is a key step in the process of implementing and marketing needed training for this growing population of our region.”

Following completion of the CNA program, participants can augment their skills by taking additional classes in the Dementia and Alzheimer’s certificate program. They also may take the WorkKeys job skills test that measures real-world skills and is the basis for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). WorkKeys has three primary assessments: applied math, reading for information, and locating information.

The goal is to train up to 50 individuals as Certified Nurse Aides for area employment. Tri-County will receive referrals from WorkLink, Goodwill Industries, and United Way.

“At least once a week I receive calls from area long-term care facilities, retirement centers, or the rapidly expanding, private non-medical home care companies who are seeking qualified employees,” said Janelle Hicks, director of Healthcare Programs for CCE. “The students in our SC DHHS-approved program can become State and nationally certified, thus establishing core competencies in basic nursing skills. This opens the door to opportunities in a variety of healthcare settings and can serve as a springboard for a new career. Our Plus 50 Encore Completion Program really becomes seniors helping seniors.”

Since 2008, AACC and its network of Plus 50 Initiative colleges have worked with baby boomers to help them prepare for new careers. An independent evaluation of AACC’s Plus 50 Initiative found that 89 percent of students agreed that college workforce training helped them acquire new job skills, and 72 percent attributed landing a job to such training.

“Many adults age 50 and over want to train for new jobs that help others and are hiring, but they need to update their skills. Community colleges offer a supportive environment where baby boomers can train for new jobs quickly and affordably,” said Mary Sue Vickers, director for the Plus 50 Initiative at AACC.

In addition to grant funds to augment training programs, Tri-County will gain access to toolkits and extensive marketing resources tailored to reach baby boomers. The College also will benefit from the advice and support of staff at other community colleges that have successfully implemented programs for older learners and understand the unique needs of the plus-50 student population.

College to Host March 8 Dedication, Ribbon Cutting for ITC



The College is hosting a Dedication and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for the Industrial Technology Center (ITC) Friday, March 8, at 10:30 a.m. The ITC is located on Highway 76 near Sandy Springs on five acres of land and is just four miles from the Pendleton Campus. The 43,000-square-foot Center that houses the Welding and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) programs opened the first day of spring classes. The event is open to the public.

Alliance Pickens Films Video at Easley Campus



Alliance Pickens (the Economic Development organization of Pickens County) was on site at the Easley Campus to film a video that will be used by site selection groups throughout the world for the recruitment of business and industry. Pictured here are **Ray Farley**, executive director of Alliance Pickens, and **Austin Smith**, a second-year Industrial Electronics Technology student and BMW Scholar, who prepares for the interview. The film crew also shot footage at the Pendleton Campus and the new Industrial Technology Center.

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY CENTER Facts at a Glance

- Several years ago, Tri-County Technical College determined that the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) and Welding programs needed to be moved from their existing locations in Wilson and Cleveland Halls. The facilities were becoming outdated and had reached maximum capacity for enrollment.
- In an effort to be a good steward of public funds, the College decided to look for an existing facility that could be refurbished, rather than construct a new building. In addition, it was important to find a facility that was centrally located in the three-county service area because enrollment from these programs comes from all three counties.
- In August 2010, the College purchased a vacant building, formerly the Virginia Tobacco Products facility, located at 5321 Highway 76 near Sandy Springs, less than five miles from the Pendleton Campus.
- The building is 43,000 square feet and is located on five acres. The purchase price of the building was \$975,000. Funding for the project came from the College's capital reserves.
- The new facility, which has been named the Industrial Technology Center, opened January 14, 2013, the first day of Spring Semester.
- The Center has been completely renovated to create a state-of-the-art industrial training center designed to mimic a real-world industrial setting. The structure used various types of construction techniques in the retrofitting process that could be used later as teaching tools in the classroom.
- Existing equipment was refurbished and moved to the center, and new equipment also was purchased, including a new \$50,000 robot and a \$78,000 manufacturing cell for the welding program, as well as all-new gas packs for the heating and air conditioning units in the HVAC program.

Executive Staff Updates

- **Faculty Productivity:** In Fall 2012, we saw major improvements in the number of courses taught by full-time faculty as a result of improved scheduling processes. Good results also were achieved this spring: 57 percent of courses were taught by full-time faculty, an increase of five percent over last Spring Semester.
- **Strategic Planning:** The College Commission approved our four strategic directions and related initiatives for the 2014-16 Strategic Plan. Work continues to finalize the plan, which will be published in March and discussed at the Spring Faculty/Staff meeting March 28.
- **Calendars:** The Summer Enrollment Calendar was approved, and a new combined Enrollment and Academic Calendar was approved for Fall Semester 2013.
- **Matriculation Planning:** Kevin Steele and Dr. Brian Swords, who co-chair the Matriculation Team, presented a chart that explains the methodology they are using to predict enrollment by student type and compares those projections to the actual number of prospective and current students moving through the matriculation process in preparation for Fall Semester 2013.
- **Proposed Budget Timetable:** Ann Hall, interim director of Fiscal Affairs, presented a budget planning calendar that correlates with the strategic planning cycle. Budget planning/preparation workshops will be held in early March.
- **Other:** policies and procedures, project charters, EPMS cycle

iCount Logo Gets New Look

You'll be seeing a new look to the iCount logo on our campus promotions, as well as billboards, online, and television advertising, for the fall 2013 semester.

"We've launched a new look for the iCount logo to go with our renewed perspective on putting students first," said Marketing Director Gayle Arries.

The original design, that highlighted the words "I Count" in the name Tri-County, was crafted five years ago by Graphic Designer Denise Day and was used until the 50th anniversary celebration last year.

"As we neared the end of 2012, we began to discuss whether to design a new logo or to keep using iCount," said Gayle.

She invited a cross section of faculty, staff, and administrators to get together to brainstorm new ideas and to discuss changing or keeping the logo. "The consensus was to keep iCount. After lots of brainstorming and a list of great tag lines, ultimately iCount won," she said.

Four student focus groups then were asked to weigh in and tell what they think when they see or hear iCount as part of Tri-County's publicity. They liked it, but they want the College to walk its talk. "They challenged us to be intentional about putting students first," said Gayle.

This challenge coincided with the student success goals of both the Matriculation and the Communication and Tools for Students Success (CATSS) teams. Gayle serves on both teams.

Assessing and streamlining college recruitment and enrollment communications is just one of the activities the CATSS team has been working on. This group consists of eight persons representing all areas of the College and is a part of the overall matriculation review process project.

"All of our activities are focusing on students and their success," she added.

"We're working on refining and rewriting print and online communications so students will have a clear and concise direction on what they need to do during each step of their journey to enrolling at the College," Gayle said. "The bottom line is, the more the College streamlines the communication process, keeping our students at the forefront, the more successful they will be. Our message needs to be consistent and clear and accurate. And we truly want our students to be able to say, 'I Count,'" she added.

In addition to the revised iCount logo and communications, Gayle says the College's 10 pride points you've seen on publications have been pared down to five. "Consultant Jim Black, who worked with our team last year, liked our list of top 10 reasons to attend Tri-County but recommended the number be decreased and consolidated to make them more memorable and meaningful," she said.

"They focus on training, transfer, small classes, affordability and location, and promote the value of our College," she said.



PRIDE POINTS

- A value in education, where paying less doesn't mean getting less
- Classes close to home in Anderson, Easley, Pendleton, and Seneca
- Small class size centered on student success
- Quality courses that seamlessly transfer
- Hands-on training that teaches real-world skills

Spotlight *(continued from page 3)*

“When the Campus is open, the Wellness Center is open,” said Sharon. The College applied for, but unfortunately was denied a matching \$10,000 Appalachian Regional Commission grant that would have funded additional equipment, along with health risk assessments for employees. Sharon added that we cannot use State funding for the Wellness Center so she will continue to work with the grants office to find additional opportunities.

Congratulations to the following employees who won Bookstore-donated items in the Wellness Center raffle:

Mary Johnston – Dell Laptop Computer
Angel Luper – Nano iPod
Cheryl Enfinger and Cathy Strasser – Gym Bags

Existing equipment donations consist of a stationary bicycle, a weight bench with adjustable hand weights, and a sole treadmill. A Wellness Initiative account has been created through the College’s Foundation. Persons wishing to donate (payroll deduction is available) should contact Debbie Nelms in the Foundation at 646-1809 or dnelms@tctc.edu.

“I’m so excited to get help starting on a healthful lifestyle,” Dr. Peggy Champion, Veterinary Technology department head, wrote on the comments board. “Good use of space,” wrote Pat Seawright, who plans to attend exercise classes in the Center.

“Healthier employees are more productive because they are thinking more clearly, have more stamina and energy, and lose less time from work,” said Sharon.

“It’s about healthier lifestyles. These boot camp classes have been a lifesaver for me,” said Sharon. “It helps to clear my mind, my heart rate drops, and I can stay in shape. It’s the only way to get exercise into my life routine.”

The College is planning other upcoming health initiatives like the annual blood screening, Zumba classes, and an American Heart Association Health Walk set for April 12 at 1:30 on the Pendleton Campus. Contact Lisa Anderson at Ext. 1791 or landers2@tctc.edu for more information.

“Our vision is ‘to provide convenient, accessible opportunities for healthier lifestyles for TCTC employees.’ This is another step in that direction,” Sharon said.

She stressed that the Wellness Center is for all employees, not just those who attend exercise classes. “We ask for your suggestions and will do all we can to offer what our employees ask for.”



Cheryl Garrison, job placement coordinator in the Career Services office, left, who also serves on the Wellness Committee, and Grants Director **Laneika Musalini** try out the adjustable hand weights during the Open House.



Dr. Peggy Champion, who leads the Veterinary Technology program, checks out the stationary bicycle. Peggy says she is excited to get help starting on a healthful lifestyle. Pictured with her is Veterinary Technology instructor **Christee Williams**.



Beth Marsh, an instructor in our Administrative Office Technology program, gets input on performing push-ups from boot camp instructor **Andy Barth**.



Graphic Designer **Jessica Raymond** attends boot camp classes three days a week.

College Reaches Energy Efficiency Goal

In June 2007, South Carolina enacted legislation (the Energy Independence and Sustainable Construction Act of 2007) that requires state agencies and public school districts to develop energy conservation plans with an ultimate goal of reducing energy use by 20% by the year 2020.



The College received word this month that it has already reached its energy efficiency goal and has been commended for this energy reduction milestone achievement by the SC Budget and Control Board (SC Energy Office).

Ken Kopera, our physical plant director, noted that our energy efficiency improvements since 2000 have created a \$192,721 annual savings over the 2000 baseline performance indicators.

All of the College's campuses encompass 520,868 square feet, said Ken. The Anderson and Easley campuses are new and more energy efficient, explained Ken, adding that energy upgrades were made on the Pendleton Campus by installing occupancy sensors in 284 offices, 19 conference rooms and 106 classrooms. In addition the College upgraded 2,024 light fixtures in buildings, Pickens Hall got a new chiller, and Halbert Hall and the Industrial and Business Development Center received new HVAC equipment. Many of these upgrades were funded by a \$121,000 energy grant from the South Carolina Energy Office.

"Now we are spending \$1.28 per square foot per year in energy costs," said Ken. "If we hadn't made these energy efficiency upgrades or been smart with our new construction, we would be spending \$1.65 per square foot. These energy improvements are good for the environment and will make the College more sustainable in the future. It just makes good business sense."

Scenes from the SCTEA Conference



Three of our faculty/staff members were honored as Tri-County Technical College's Educators of the Year and were recognized at the South Carolina Technical Education Association (SCTEA) meeting held February 22. Also recognized was Information Technology Director Lee Tennant, who was the College's nominee for the A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year award. 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.

Pictured from left are **Lee Tennant**; **Lou Ann Martin**, academic support network coordinator, is the outstanding staff member; **Galen DeHay**, interim provost and director of planning and institutional effectiveness, is the outstanding administrator; **Robin McFall**, head of the English department and interim dean of the Arts and Sciences Division, is the outstanding instructor.

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

In addition, the College's Student Government Association (SGA) was recognized as a third-place winner in the Community Action and Benevolence category of the SCTEA conference's Student Community Involvement competition. **Donald Joslyn**, president of SGA and a Criminal Justice Technology major, accepted the award.

