

Connection

In this Issue ...



Spotlight on Learning
College 101 3



Our College Family 4-5



Bluegrass Concert Is
April 5..... 13



Welding Gets Boost With
Duke Energy Grant 16

Paul Phelps Receives A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year Award

Paul Phelps' talent for teaching first-year welding students, as well as employees who are upskilling for today's workplace, along with his gift for building collaborative partnerships with area industries, earned him the esteemed A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year award.

Paul, program coordinator for Welding, was singled out among 10 State technical college nominees and accepted the award at the 2014 South Carolina Technical Education Association conference February 21. 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.

In the eight years that Paul has served as Program Coordinator, our Welding program's enrollment steadily has increased from 60 to 120 students. In addition to teaching and advising students, he assists local companies with pre-hire assessment, fabrication training, weld testing, quality improvement, and writing procedures.

Paul was instrumental in shaping the design and construction of the College's 43,000-square-foot Industrial Technology Center that houses the Welding and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) programs. The building was specifically designed to mimic a real-world industrial setting, complete with OSHA compliance standards. In addition to teaching classes, he works with readySC™ staff when they offer training and assessment tests for prospective employees.

"Paul Phelps was instrumental in McLaughlin Body Company, Inc., choosing Anderson as the location for our new facility," said Randy Frederick, general manager of the Anderson company. "Our company representatives toured the weld labs and were very impressed with what Paul had accomplished there. I believe this immaculate facility will help us train our employees about what we expect in our facility, and I am so appreciative that he has instilled that in his students. We have hired several students thus far from the readySC™ class and have been very pleased. He designed a significant portion of the pre-hire training curriculum and instructed our first pre-hire training class with a great success rate of candidates being hired by the company. Paul is a gifted instructor, a trusted ally in the hunt for dedicated employees, an excellent resource for information regarding

(continued on page 7)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Reading by Ron Rash – March 12

Criminal Justice Fair – March 27

Media Mash-Up – March 28

Bluegrass under the Stars – April 5

Alumni Association/Career Services Career Forum – April 9

Student Awards Ceremony – April 15

Spring Open Golf Tournament – April 25

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 Department.

Mailing Address (All Campuses)

P. O. Box 587, Pendleton, SC 29670

Pendleton Campus

7900 Highway 76, Pendleton, SC

Anderson Campus

511 Michelin Blvd., Anderson, SC

Easley Campus

1774 Powdersville Rd., Easley, SC

Oconee Campus

Hamilton Career Center

100 Vocational Dr., Seneca, SC

Main Number: (864) 646-TCTC (8282)

Toll-free: 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

Pilot Program Generates New Pathways



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

Seven Crescent High School seniors are well on their way to completing a TCTC Basic Electronics Certificate by the time they graduate this spring.

They are part of a technical career pathway pilot program that begins in high school and culminates with an associate degree from Tri-County. The program is designed to allow the high school students to seamlessly transfer into Industrial Electronics or Mechatronics. If they choose to go directly into the workforce, they have a marketable credential to take with them and are well positioned to enroll at the College at a later date.

That's the beauty of technical career pathways – greater access, increased options, and unique opportunities that otherwise would not exist. These pathways are yet another way we are reinventing our offerings to adapt to changing realities.

The College family was introduced to the pilot program at Crescent High School during Professional Development Day in late February. Upon completion of the high school Electricity program their junior year, students participating in the pilot earned four hours of Technical Advanced Placement (TAP) credit toward a TCTC Basic Electronics certificate. These credit hours, along with the 16 credit hours they earn as dually-enrolled students in Electronics classes at the Anderson Campus, will allow them to cross the stage twice in May – once at Crescent High School to receive a high school diploma and once at our commencement to receive a Basic Electronics Certificate.

It gets even better.

The students also take the WorkKeys assessment this spring, which earns them another nationally-recognized credential that is highly valued by industry.

Students who choose to continue at Tri-County to earn an associate degree, which is the main intent of the program, have the opportunity to apply for a Technical Scholar slot with several major manufacturers, including Michelin and BMW. That means earning a paycheck, having tuition and books paid for by the employer, gaining valuable and relevant work experiences, and a good chance at a great job upon graduation. In addition to Scholars Programs, numerous internship and cooperative education opportunities are available with local companies that offer many of the same benefits.

The Basic Electronics program for Crescent High School is only the beginning. Next fall Crescent students also will have the opportunity to enroll in the College's Data Entry and Business Foundations certificates at the Anderson Campus. Like Basic Electronics, they will be awarded TAP credit for articulated high school courses and earn a TCTC credential by the time they graduate. Both programs are articulated with associate degree programs at the College.

Building on the success of the program with Crescent High School, career pathways have been created for each school district in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties, most of which will be available Fall Semester 2014. For example, Oconee County

(continued on page 6)

"That's the beauty of technical career pathways – greater access, increased options, and unique opportunities that otherwise would not exist."

~Dr. Ronnie Booth



Spotlight on Learning College 101

New faculty who joined the College in Fall 2013 participated in a semester-long pilot project, titled “Learning College 101: Teaching in Our Learning College.” Participants included: Dr. Renet Bender, Mathematics; Bethany Conrad, Speech, Spencer Heringa, Biology; Meredith McClure, Early Childhood Development; Ashley Polasek, English; Aristide Sechandice, Social Science; and Lara Wrightson, Social Science.

Bethany Conrad is the first to admit she was a little nervous about beginning her first semester as a full-time Speech instructor at Tri-County.

“I was thrilled when I was offered the job, but it was intimidating because in addition to teaching five classes, I had much to learn about advising, answering daily questions from students, and about the College and its services.” said Bethany.

New to the area, she was concerned about feeling disconnected and was looking for a way to immerse herself into a new workplace with new colleagues.

She was relieved to learn about a new course designed to acclimate new full-time faculty to the Tri-County culture while also providing them with the tools and resources they need to facilitate student learning.

Last semester the College began a pilot project, titled “LC 101: Teaching in our Learning College,” which allows these new faculty an opportunity to connect with colleagues. Deborah Brock, medical laboratory technology faculty member, as well as facility liaison for professional development, leads the class that is continuing this semester.

“In the past, there was limited time for new faculty orientation. It was a broad overview of the College packed into three hours. Basically it was information overload,” said Deborah.

In this new semester-long program, new faculty meet weekly and participate in presentations about tools for teaching, the Learning College academic support network, using Blackboard and Learning Communities. Later, they discuss it among themselves and with Deborah.

“We attempt to do more Just-in-Time teaching to acclimate new faculty to the Learning College principles. For example, several weeks before campus advising week, we’d have a session on advising and later a follow-up discussion,” said Deborah. A large piece of the course is advisor training, whereby Title III Activity Director Lou Ann Martin introduces participants to



Pictured left to right: Bethany Conrad, Dr. Renet Bender, Meredith McClure, and Spencer Heringa.

Smarter Measure, Degree Works, and Early Alert. Other sessions on developmental advising and financial aid info are led by Rob Massey and Sarah Dowd.

In addition to facilitating the class, Deborah fields questions each week, which range from the attendance policy to where to find specific resources.

Spencer Heringa had been an adjunct for two years when he joined the Science Department full time as a Biology instructor.

“As a full time faculty member, there is a lot of responsibility I didn’t have as an adjunct. A big piece of that is advising. It’s beneficial to get knowledge from peers and bounce ideas off one another,” said Spencer.

“I didn’t know anyone when I came back because I had only online relationships. Now because of the class I have professional relationships with my cohorts.”

~Lara Wrightson



Lara Wrightson

“I was thrilled to pieces when I was hired full time,” said Lara Wrightson, who has taught online Social Sciences classes as an adjunct for six years. She began advising students for the first time with her full-time faculty status. “The sessions on advising were very helpful,” she said, *(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

Congratulations to Director of Grants **Laneika Musalini**, pictured second from left, who was honored January 21 with Clemson University's Martin Luther King, Jr. Excellence in Service award.



The service was held at the university's Martin Luther King, Jr., commemorative service where Laneika was presented with an engraved plaque and a \$250 check that was sent to the charity of her choice in her name. Laneika selected Anderson Interfaith Ministries (AIM), where she serves on the board. Rosa Grayden nominated Laneika and wrote, "The selection committee for this award was thoroughly impressed with your dedication to serving humanity. The committee members felt that you are most deserving of this award recognition for your extraordinary work on behalf of others."

Pictured with Laneika from left are **Dr. James Clements**, president; Clemson University; **Emily Howard**, Clemson student; **Serita Acker**; and **Leon Wiles**, Chief Diversity Officer.

Congratulations to our **Student Government Association (SGA)** for winning second place in the 2014 Student Community Involvement Project competition sponsored by the South Carolina Technical Education Association (SCTEA). Their project was titled "Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Awareness."



SGA officers attended the SCTEA Conference and accepted the award Feb. 21. Pictured here are SGA President **Melina Rodelo**, left, and **Jessica Hollifield**, SGA volunteer. Thirteen projects were entered in the 2014 SCTEA Student Community Involvement Project Competition.

Dr. Chris McFarlin, program director/faculty member for Criminal Justice and Paralegal Studies, is in his second year of serving as a regular Judge for the Carol N. Ney National Mock Trial Tournament at Furman University. It's an annual event held in March.

Last year he was selected as a National Mock Trial Judge for Furman University who seeks current and former lawyers/judges who have experience as trial litigators and a great deal of knowledge about the Rules of Evidence used to determine legal admissibility of evidence in both criminal and civil matters.



Dr. Chris McFarlin

Library Director **Marla Roberson** and Gypsey Teague, branch head Architecture Library, Clemson University, were co-presenters at the national Florida Emerging Technology Conference held January 28 - 31 in Orlando.

The session topic was "Looking to the Future for Library Connects: Engaging Students at the Research Point." This presentation focused on the tools that are already familiar to most participants as individual users and showed how the Library uses the same tools to engage students in research.



Marla Roberson

Music instructor and Chorus Director **Jeff Christmas** is working with Clemson University's Performing Arts Department as the Choral Director for its production of "Working: The Musical."



Jeff Christmas

in transition

ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

Bethany Conrad teaches Public Speaking classes for the English Department at the Anderson Campus. Her work experience includes serving as Coordinator of Resident Graduate Recruitment at Liberty University from May 2012 until she moved to the area last semester. While at Liberty, she also worked as a National Recruiter for a year. She graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in Communication Studies from Liberty in 2009 and went on to graduate



Bethany Conrad

summa cum laude with a Master of Arts in Communication Studies in 2011.

At Liberty, she was a member of the Honors Program and the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. She served as Secretary of the American Advertising Federation from 2007 – 09 and was a member of the National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals.

Bethany, who was a member of the pilot Learning College 101 class last semester (see story on page 3), lives in Seneca.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS DIVISION

Catherine Carey DuRant is our new Financial Aid Program Coordinator. She has worked with the Financial Aid office as a temporary Administrative Specialist since last September. Prior to that, she was the Administrative Specialist for Clemson University's College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Life Sciences Dean's Office for a year. Catherine earned a B.A. in English from Clemson University. She is a member of Clemson United Methodist Church and lives in Central.



Catherine Carey DuRant

Carla Brewer is our new Financial Aid Counselor. She worked for a year as the Center Director for the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and for five years as Veterans Affairs Coordinator for Austin Peay State University's Fort Campbell Center. She also has a year's experience as International Studies Coordinator (study abroad programs) for the College of William and Mary. Carla earned a B.A. in English from Clemson University and is working on her master's in Counseling (online) through Liberty University. She served as president of the Tennessee Educational Association of Veterans Programs Administrator from 1997 – 98.



Carla Brewer

Carla and her daughter, Beth, 7, reside in Clemson.

HEALTH EDUCATION DIVISION

We welcome two new faculty members to our Nursing Department.

Stacy P. Smith has taught classes as an adjunct in the department since 2007. Her work experience includes serving as Clinical Educator for Between the Lakes Family Practice

from 2005 – 07, Charge Nurse for Post-Coronary Care for Greenville Memorial Hospital from 1997 – 2005, and at the Wellness Center at Oconee Medical Center for a year. She began her career as an R.N. at AnMed Health in 1994.

She serves on the Stewardship Committee at St. Andrews Catholic Church, where she is the Children's Liturgy Parent Leader. She serves on the Clemson Elementary School PTA. Stacy and her husband, Daniel, reside in Clemson with their two children, Adam, 13; and Annslee, 11.



Stacy P. Smith

Kristen Lundkovsky joined the Nursing Department as an instructor. She has been an R.N. at AnMed since 2003, as well as working as an adjunct for our department since 2009.

She is a 2004 graduate of Greenville Technical College's associate degree Nursing program and earned a B.S.N. from Clemson University in 2007. She received an M.S.N. in Education from the University of Phoenix in 2011. Kristen lives in Anderson.



Kristen Lundkovsky

ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Justin Herndon joined us this semester as Program Coordinator for Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Technology. He worked as a Maintenance Technician at Erskine College from 2010 – 2013 while teaching adjunct classes for Tri-County since 2010. Justin earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Clemson University in 2008. The following year he completed courses in the HVAC department at Tri-County. Justin lives in Easley.



Justin Herndon

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

Mel Chandler
Cathy Ford
Julius Shirley

Connecting

(continued from page 2)

students will be transported to the Industrial Technology Center in Sandy Springs to enroll in HVAC, and in 2015, a Mechatronics pathway will be available to them on the Pendleton Campus.

Great partnerships yield great results, and the new Technical Career Pathways programs are a prime example of a win-win for everyone: The high schools have more options to offer students; the College increases enrollment in programs where graduates are in high demand; and industry benefits from a steady pipeline of skilled employees. And the students? Just ask the seven Crescent High School senior who already refer to themselves as TCTC students and clearly see the benefits of the path they have chosen.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

Ron Rash to Give March 12 Reading

Award-winning poet and novelist Ron Rash will make a return visit to Tri-County March 12 to read from his novel, *Serena*.

The event will be held from 1:20 – 2:20 p.m. in the Marshall J. Parker Auditorium on the Pendleton Campus. The event, free and open to the public is part of the College's Cultural Enrichment Series.

Ron taught English at the College from 1986 until 2003. Today, in addition to teaching Creative Writing at Western Carolina University, he holds the Parriss Chair in Appalachian Studies at Western Carolina University.

His novel, *Serena*, has been made into a major motion picture starring Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence and will be released this year.

Wellness Challenge Winners Announced



Cinco Deny-O is the first place winner in the 12-Week Wellness Challenge held from September 23 - December 15, 2013. The team had an overall total of 4846 points. Lisa Anderson, fourth from left, poses with Glenn Hellenga, Rachel Campbell, Lou Ann Martin, Lynn Smith, and Robin Pepper. Each team member won a \$50 gift card.



First-place individual honors go to Marilyn Angoli from the Sleek and Sexy team. Marilyn racked up 1095 points and was the winner of an Intel Notebook donated by our Bookstore. Thanks to our Bookstore and congratulations to Marilyn on all her accomplishments. Lisa Anderson is pictured with her.



Names of participants who completed tracking forms for all 12 weeks and submitted them on time were submitted for a random drawing. Laneika Musalini was the winner of a \$25 gift card.

The Wellness Challenge kicked off September 23 with employees (permanent and/or temporary) forming five-person teams to compete in this challenge. Twenty-three teams were formed, and team captains were established.

Each team member tracked their points on a weekly basis and submitted them each Monday throughout the 12-week challenge. The points were tallied each week and posted on team boards in the Wellness Center and the wellness webpage.

Thanks to all of our participants and stay tuned for some exciting events for the Spring.

Paul Phelps

(continued from page 1)

welding and equipment, and a partner with our company. I believe that our first hire of employees was a successful one due to Paul's contributions."

Paul is often described as a gifted instructor and partner, and industry leaders compliment the welding skills, work ethic, safe work habits, and workplace cleanliness of his students they hire.

Dr. Joe Campbell, continuous improvement manager for Watson Engineering, Inc., said Paul "mentors, leads, and guides by example through positive and innovative leadership." Dr. Campbell cited two instances where he provided guidance and leadership for the company with regulations and legal requirements mandated by customers and governments.

"Paul is able to lead and teach our welders through his exclusive, one-of-a-kind, hands-on approach that enables students and employees to grasp both the textbook and regulatory requirements of the American Welding Society. At the same time, he helps them to broaden their intellectual equity to solve challenges outside their comfort zone. He also stays on the leading edge of technology in the metal fabrication field and finds innovative solutions to meet our training needs. He has been and continues to be an integral part of the success and growth of Watson Engineering, Inc."

"Most of the welding instructors that I have known have been excellent teachers of their profession. On very rare occasions, one has the pleasure of meeting a welding instructor who is truly outstanding in the teaching profession. Paul Phelps is that person," said Dr. Dan Averette, dean of the College's Engineering and Industrial Technology Division. "Not only do students elaborate on his teaching style and techniques, but they commend his ability to ensure that the students understand the material and have the basic skills to produce welds that the students are proud to claim."

Under Paul's guidance, students have consistently placed at the top of every welding category at the State Welding Competition held each spring at various technical colleges across the State.

He also has led the way in the development of a stackable credentials model at Tri-County. Welding, along with CNC, is the first associate degree program to reorganize the curriculum into manageable components allowing students to complete a specialized certificate that can be stacked upon other credentials leading to an associate degree.

Paul was honored in 2010 for his dedication to the profession with the highest award presented to the faculty, the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence, at the College's annual commencement.

He is a 2003 graduate of our Welding Program and a former member of the American Welding Society Regional Board. He is a Certified Welding Inspector through the American Welding Society (AWS). He also earned Certified Welding Educators credentials.

He and his wife, Shannon, have two children, Jonathon and Katelynn.

"Paul Phelps was instrumental in McLaughlin Body Company, Inc., choosing Anderson as the location for our new facility"

~Randy Frederick, General Manager

Chat with the President

Dr. Booth has set aside some time to get to know our growing College family. Whether you have been here 20 years or two months, mark your calendar to join the President and your colleagues for some casual conversation.

Brown Bag Lunch: Grab your lunch and join Dr. Booth at noon in the Faculty/Staff Dining Room on the Pendleton Campus. He has plans to be there Wednesday, April 30, and Thursday, May 20, at noon.

Open Forum Discussion: Join Dr. Booth and your colleagues for informal discussions about topics that interest all of us—new things happening at the College, issues in higher education, and whatever you may want to bring up for discussion. Light refreshments will be served. Dates for Spring Semester are: Friday, March 7, at 9:30 a.m. (Anderson Campus); Monday, March 24, at 3 p.m. (Ruby Hicks Room 248); Monday, April 21, at 3 p.m. (Easley Campus).

These events and others scheduled in the future will be posted on the College Activities Calendar in eTC.

Oscar Winner Visits Campus



Academy Award winner **Dr. Jerry Tessendorf**, right, visited campus February 10 to discuss his computer software used to create water effects in the movie “Life of Pi.”

Dr. Tessendorf won an Oscar in 2008 for technical achievement and his software was used in the 2012 film “Life of Pi,” which was the 2013 Academy Award winner for best visual effects. Currently Dr. Tessendorf is director of Clemson University’s master of fine arts in digital production arts. Here, he talks with Media Technology and Arts major **Timothy Carter**, of Fair Play.

The lecture was sponsored by the College’s Enrichment Series Committee.

Anderson Campus Gets Connected



Anderson Campus students enjoyed free pizza, drinks, and freebies at the “Get Connected” event held February 5. They also learned about clubs and activities. Here Student Ambassador President **Taylor King**, right, of Clemson, a University Transfer major, talks about the program designed to foster the personal and professional development of students interested in acquiring leadership skills by serving the College. Ambassadors represent Tri-County at internal and external events, such as the college and career fairs, graduations, annual report luncheons, tour guide services, community events, and College promotional initiatives.

Bosch Sponsors FLL Tournament



The Sixth Annual Tri-County Technical College FLL Regional Tournament was held January 25 in the Marshall J. Parker Auditorium. It was hosted by the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division. This event was made possible through a generous donation from Robert Bosch LLC.

Twenty-one 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 event.

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 “Nature’s Fury” challenge, FLL teams explore natural disasters and what can be done to prevent harm to people and property. Teams develop an innovative solution to that problem and share their findings.

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

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.

CRJ Major Places First in Persuasive Speaking Category at Speech Festival

A Tri-County Technical College sophomore placed first in the Persuasive Speaking Category at the 2014 South Carolina Speech and Theater Association's Annual College Festival Competition.

Criminal Justice major Samantha Crowl, of Central, took the highest honors, placing first in the Persuasive Speaking category out of the ten S.C. colleges participating in the event held at Newberry College.

Tri-County was represented by two students in the competition, Crowl and Nikki Giba, a freshman University Transfer major, also from Central.

"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 Coach Greg Toney, speech instructor. "Everyone worked hard and was deserving of success," he added.

"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, Limestone, 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 category that we participated in," he said.

"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 represent their school while competing against other colleges from around the State."

Colleges participating in this year's event included Tri-County Technical College, USC Upstate, Newberry College, Lander University, Claflin University, Erskine College, Limestone College, Midlands Technical College, USC Lancaster, 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.



*Criminal Justice major **Samantha Crowl**, of Central, left, placed first in the Persuasive Speaking Category at the 2014 South Carolina Speech and Theater Association's Annual College Festival Competition.*

*Tri-County was represented by two students in the competition, Crowl and **Nikki Giba**, a freshman university transfer major, also from Central, pictured at right.*

CRJ Career Fair Is March 27

The College's upcoming Criminal Justice Career Fair is a chance for students and the public to present themselves and their resumes to potential employers and get one step closer to landing a job

The event will be held Thursday, March 27, from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. in the Café of the College's Pendleton Campus. "This is the only criminal justice career fair in the Upstate," said Criminal Justice (CRJ) Program Coordinator and event organizer Chris McFarlin. "The goal is to bring CRJ students and the general public together to meet agency employers, learn about what jobs are available, and possibly secure employment. I'm asking my students to dress as if it was a job interview and to bring resumes in hand."

Also during the Career Fair, agencies will give presentations about their requirements. "It's an opportunity to find out how to position yourself to be competitive and to help you get the job," said Chris.

"This is our signature event. We've grown it every year. Because it has gotten bigger, we decided to widen the net to include the public. This is a win-win for everyone involved—the students can meet employers, employers can meet prospective job candidates."



Veterans Learn About College, Community Services

Patriots' Place, our new student veterans' office, hosted a Get Connected event specifically designed for our student veterans. Get Connected Veterans was held January 30 in the College Café on the Pendleton Campus.

*Several local vendors, military-friendly groups from the community, and four-year institutions set up booths, distributed materials, and met with our student veterans. Here, Anderson Campus Director **Tim Bowen**, far right, talks with **Ryan Hulon**, of Anderson, an Army veteran who plans to start classes this summer. Also pictured, from left, are **Rhett Keaton**, of Central, a Business major and Marine veteran; **Logan Bryson**, of Anderson, a Mechatronics major and Marine veteran.*

College-Bound Students and Families Get Help with Filing out FAFSA



Financial aid professionals and representatives from Tri-County, Anderson University, Clemson University, and Southern Wesleyan University were on hand at College Goal 2014 to help college-bound students and their families with the financial aid application process and admissions-related questions.

Around 45 participants attended this free event held February 22 for those who have questions or want help in completing the FAFSA.

“Many students across South Carolina still are not aware of all the higher education choices, free financial assistance, and general support available to them,” said Carla Brewer, financial aid counselor. “The College Goal Program promotes college access to all students in South Carolina. We are letting students and parents know that higher education can be such a reality—as long as you are willing to do the ground work. We are attempting to reduce or eliminate one major barrier to postsecondary education: applying for financial aid.”

Faculty and Staff Share Insights at Black History Month Event



Three of our faculty and staff shared their insights about thriving in college and in life during a February 10 Black History Month event at the Anderson Campus. They discussed with students what challenges they faced and how they persisted despite obstacles.

*Participating were **Herm Allen**, standing, right, an author, coach and educational professional with more than 20 years of student development experience and coordinator of Educational Talent Search at Tri-County; **Ashley Isreal**, seated right, a Clemson University doctoral student in Educational Leadership and a Student Development Generalist; and **Robert Newton**, standing, a Criminal Justice faculty member at Tri-County. Pictured with them are, from left, **Tytianna Hill**, of Williamston, an associate degree Nursing major; **Jessie Williams**, of Townville, a Criminal Justice major; and **Sam Silcox**, of Anderson, a University Transfer major.*

Students Connect with Employers at Annual Career Fair

“The Annual Career Fair is an opportunity for our students to connect with employers,” said Job Placement Coordinator Cheryl Garrison.

The event is a prime opportunity for students and soon-to-be graduates who are looking for employment to talk about job opportunities with recruiters and managers and to develop a network of career contacts.

“Students met with employers and were able to do important networking,” she said.

Employers, comprised of businesses and industry, were impressed with how well prepared our students were for the event, said Cheryl. “They were scouting for new hires, and one employer sent me an e-mail that said he met good prospects for future positions and placed the resumes in the hands of supervisors who will be doing the hiring. Students came dressed as if it was a job interview to make a good first impression that will hopefully lead to a job,” she said.

Employers were also looking to fill co-op positions, said Cheryl, adding that U.S. Engine Valve has established a new co-op for 6 – 10 Mechatronics and Industrial Electronics Technology students.



U.S. Engine Valve established a new co-op for 6 – 10 Mechatronics and Industrial Electronics Technology students and has hired eight students to date. Pictured from left ar **Philip Winchester**, of Seneca, an Industrial Electronics Technology major; **Cheryl Garrison**, job placement coordinator; **Janelle Chapman**, senior human resources generalist; and **Gayle Jenkins**, training coordinator.



AFCO was among the businesses/industries participating in the College's Annual Career Fair. Here, **Jimmy Cox**, technical training coordinator, left, looks over a resume given to him by **Caleb Dawkins**, of Anderson, right, an Industrial Electronics Technology (IET) major. Students beside Caleb are from top, **Junior Chupp**, of Westminster, an IET major, and **Preston Adams**, of Easley, a Mechatronics major. The event was sponsored by the Career Services department at the College.

Spotlight

(continued from page 3)

especially the information regarding campus resources, such as the Library, as well as the Tutoring Center and the Assessment Center. “Things have changed in the six years since I taught on campus. I didn’t know anyone when I came back because I had only online relationships. Now because of the class I have professional relationships with my cohorts,” Lara said.

“The sessions take the guess work out of the advising. You get the information in class,” said Dr. Renet Bender, who was an adjunct for a year and has taught mathematics as an Associate Professor at Truett-McConnell College in Georgia. “The class offered specific information about what Tri-County offers, as well as information about our students. I am teaching Math 102, which is a pilot class for Starfish for retention. What I learned in this class helped me to have another view of retention rates,” said Renet.

“People at Tri-County are so passionate about the College and student success. They care about what they do and that impressed me,” said Ashley Polasek, English instructor. “The class has been so helpful, and we all had questions each week. We were able to bounce ideas off of each other. Deborah brings a wonderful insight and perspective.”



Ashley Polasek

“People at Tri-County are so passionate about the College and student success. They care about what they do and that impressed me.”

~Ashley Polasek

Ashley, who has taught as an adjunct since 2010, spent last year working on her Ph.D in England and had moved back to the area to remotely continue that work when she was offered the full-time position. Already comfortable with teaching and with the campus and our students, Ashley says LC 101 broke down specifics and introduced her to faculty in other disciplines. “Our department tends to be rather insular, and it was nice to see how a faculty member runs a Biology lab or an education class. It was helpful because I got to see different approaches to teaching and have worked some of them into my classroom,” she said.

“We learn from our students each year and adjust our teaching style to reach them. The beauty of the class is the collaboration of eight different ideas instead of just one,” Ashley said.

Meredith says she is a better teacher because of the class. She saw the weekly gatherings as a way to build camaraderie. “It’s helpful to put names with faces. Many faculty have never

met, only conversed with through e-mail and the phone. This step-by-step learning is good to have when you are new. We felt free to ask questions and to comment. It’s nice to be supported in a group of your peers who are in a similar situation,” said Meredith.

“I was so glad to be invited to the class. It helps to not feel so overwhelmed the first year of teaching,” said Bethany. “We came in with questions, and Deborah knew the answers. We were able to get to know our peers – we worked together and formed bonds. I wanted to do a good job. This class prepared me to do what I was hired to do. Moving to a new area, new college, and with new colleagues. I’m more efficient at what I do because of this class. Students benefit from this knowledge, not just me,” said Bethany.

“The class is a retention builder for faculty. I feel connected, a part of the college,” she added.

All agree Deborah was the right person to teach the class.



Deborah Brock

“I’m impressed with our new faculty. They are an incredible group of people to work with.”

~Deborah Brock

“Everyone who teaches needs to be a student again,” said Deborah. “It was a privilege to teach this group. It’s rewarding to help faculty obtain the skills they need to do their jobs better. It helps faculty in the long run because helping students makes you more effective in the classroom.”

“I also gained a greater respect for the hiring process,” said Deborah. “I’m impressed with our new faculty. They are an incredible group of people to work with.”

Bluegrass Under the Stars Concert Slated for April 5

The College's Ninth Annual Bluegrass Under the Stars Concert is Saturday, April 5, at the Pendleton Campus.

The free concert and fireworks event for the community 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 College's Amphitheater. It will be held rain or shine. (Rain location is the College's Student Center.)

Named Male Vocalist of the Year for 2013 by the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA), Junior Sisk and his award-winning band, Junior Sisk and Ramblers Choice, will headline the show. The band's first single from their latest album, "The Story of the Day That I Died," reached number one on the Bluegrass Unlimited National Bluegrass Survey singles chart for July 2013, and the CD reached number three on the albums chart. Junior Sisk and Ramblers Choice's previous album, *The Heart of a Song*, won the 2012 IBMA and the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America (SPBGMA) 2013 Album of the Year award. Their single, "A Far Cry from Lester & Earl," received the 2012 IBMA & 2013 SPBGMA Song of the Year award.



Junior Sisk and Ramblers Choice

The Sweet Potato Pie Kids, part of Young Appalachian Musicians, will perform during a pre-concert appearance at 5:30 p.m., followed by (in order of appearance) Most Wanted Bluegrass, Tugalo Holler, and Mountain Faith.

Mountain Faith, a Sylva-based bluegrass gospel band, scored its first No. 1 song in January 2014. "It Could Happen in a Moment," the second single from the group's second major-label CD, "Battlefield," landed at the top spot of The Singing News chart. The group also has been nominated for eight awards—including Bluegrass Album of the Year, Song of the

Year, Bluegrass Band of the Year, and Gospel Group of the Year (Contemporary) – by the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America.

Many volunteers are needed to help make this family-friendly community event a success. If you would like to volunteer, contact Rebecca Eidson, director of Public Relations, at Ext. 1507 or e-mail reidson@tctc.edu. We can use your help for a couple of hours or the whole evening, whatever you can commit to.

Additional details can be found at www.tctc.edu/bluegrass.

Bluegrass
under the Stars

Bluegrass Concert and Fireworks
Saturday, April 5, 2014, 6-9:30 pm
Amphitheater, Pendleton Campus

FREE ADMISSION

Featured Bluegrass Bands
(in order of appearance)

Most Wanted Bluegrass
Tugalo Holler
Mountain Faith
Junior Sisk and Ramblers Choice

Also featuring a pre-concert performance by the Sweet Potato Pie Kids

Concert Ends with a Fireworks Extravaganza!

Concessions/Food Court Available
Rain or Shine (rain location: Student Center)
Bring a stadium seat or blanket!
No alcohol, coolers, or pets allowed
Smoking in designated parking lot areas only

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

This concert is offered in conjunction with the Historic Pendleton Spring Jubilee.

Alumni Association News

“Connections that Count” Career Forum Is April 9

A panel of successful Tri-County graduates will speak to students about their career paths and success tips at an upcoming career forum. Connections that Count will be held April 9 at 5:45 p.m. in the Pendleton Campus Café. The event will offer optional workshops on resume writing, interviewing skills, LinkedIn, and other networking. There will be free refreshments and door prizes. The event is co-hosted by the Alumni Association and Career Services. For more information, contact Mary Johnston at alumni@tctc.edu or 646-1808.

Spring Open Golf Tournament Is April 25

The Tri-County Technical College Alumni Association’s Spring Open golf tournament will be Friday, April 25, at Brookstone Meadows in Anderson. Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch. The captain’s choice shotgun start will be at 1 p.m. with an awards presentation at the end of the tournament. Your \$85 registration fee includes lunch, a bucket of practice balls, green fees, cart, red tee and mulligan, and an awards reception.

You may register online at www.tctc.edu/golf. For more information, contact the Alumni Office at 864-646-1808 or alumni@tctc.edu.

Last year’s event generated more than \$7,000, which was used for student scholarships and book/supply awards for many deserving students.



Runners line up for the start of the 2013 Tri-County 5K Road Race and One-Mile Fun Run.

5K Race to Support Student Veterans

Mark your calendars now for the College’s annual 5K Road Race and One-Mile Fun Run at the Anderson Campus. This year begins a new emphasis to honor our student veterans with all proceeds designated to support scholarships and services for TCTC veterans. The race will be held on U.S. Armed Forces Day, May 17, at 8 a.m.

Anyone can participate as an individual or form a team, including student and employee teams. Last year the “Happy Feet” team of faculty and staff from the Arts and Sciences Division won the Faculty/Staff Team Award. Cash prizes, medals, door prizes, and more are all part of the fun.

Open to runners and walkers of all ages, the closed-road course is a mixture of level terrain and low-rolling slopes through attractive rural countryside. Awards, giveaways, and activities make this event attractive to participants, families and friends alike.

Visit www.tctc.edu/race for more information. Registration will open soon.

Values Explored During Professional Development Day



College employees gathered February 25 for a full day of professional development opportunities that began with a joint session to introduce the newly approved College Mission and Vision and updates on major projects associated with the Strategic Plan. Following the update, employees gathered in small groups to brainstorm ideas for new College Values Statements. From left are **Cara Hamilton**, director of fiscal affairs; **Cynthia Carrillo-Perez**, Spanish instructor; **Matt Edwards**, operations manager for Information Technology; **Jonathan Finch**, director of Campus Safety, and **Rob Massey**, director of advising and tutoring.

Tri-County Technical College Vision Statement

Passionate people transforming lives and building strong communities one student at a time.

Tri-County Technical College Mission Statement

Tri-County Technical College, a public community college, focuses on teaching, learning, and helping students reach their goals. The College supports economic development for Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties in South Carolina by preparing a highly-skilled workforce.

Commissioners Visit Classes at Easley



The bi-monthly College Commission meeting was held at the Easley Campus in January. Prior to the meeting, Commissioners took the opportunity to visit classrooms to talk with students. Here, Commissioners **Thomas Strange**, left, and **George Acker**, middle, both representing Pickens County, talk with **Deven Hayes**, of Easley, an Industrial Electronics Technology major.

Executive Staff Summary

- **Technical Career Pathways Project Update:** Amanda Blanton, director of High School Engagement and Outreach, provided a mid-year update on the progress of the pilot pathway project with Crescent High School. Additional technical career pathways are planned for each school district beginning Fall Semester 2014.
- **Academic Program Management Strategy:** Executive Staff approved a project charter to develop a comprehensive academic program management strategy (formerly titled Academic Prioritization Plan) that calls for the creation of a strategy that employs market analysis, leverages internal and external constituents, prioritizes program development, and creates CCE and credit alignment in determining what programs the College will offer in the future.
- **Other:** Policy and procedure updates; strategic planning for 2014-15; recruiting video; Professional Development Day; and pre-advising tool developed by Career Services.

Foundation News

Welding Receives \$50,000 Grant from Duke Energy Foundation

Our Welding program is getting a boost from the shareholder-funded Duke Energy Foundation that will help give students a real-world advantage.

The \$50,000 grant will enable students to train and learn skills in a one-year training model that focuses on learning real-world applications used in local industries.

The accelerated training program allows students to complete welding training in one year versus the current two-year degree model. This program requires dedicated space as students spend more time in labs to achieve this one-year completion, according to Paul Phelps, welding program coordinator.

Our Welding program is located at the Industrial Technology Center (ITC) facility in Sandy Springs.

"This grant will help meet the training needs of our 120 welding students and the workforce needs of our manufacturing partners," said John Lummus, vice president of economic and institutional advancement. "Two new companies, McLaughlin Body Works and SMF, recently located in this area, giving our graduates more job placement opportunities. The companies have been very open about the ITC facility being the deciding factor in locating in Anderson County. We look forward to conducting training for them and a host of other manufacturers who need welders," he said.

"This is an opportunity for us to help with the human infrastructure," said George Acker, S.C. vice president of external relations for Duke Energy and a College Commissioner. "It's a perfect example of a good opportunity to invest in the future workforce."

"We are grateful to Duke Energy for assisting with this expansion project," said John. "Over the years, they have been one of the College's most valued community partners through their generosity and the hiring of our graduates. We appreciate their continued support of Tri-County and our students."



A \$50,000 grant from the shareholder-funded Duke Energy Foundation will help give welding students a real-world advantage.

Pictured from left are **Dr. Booth**; **Scott Miller**, district manager for Duke Energy; **George Acker**, S.C. vice president of external relations for Duke Energy; **Paul Phelps**, welding program coordinator; and **W.H. (Ham) Hudson**, chair of the College's Commission.



Late last year, a \$250,000 grant received from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) added 24 new welding booths and equipment at the College's Industrial Technology Center (ITC), allowing the College to expand enrollment in one of its fastest-growing technical

programs. **Jill Fransisco**, ARC program manager, SC Dept. of Commerce, fourth from left, was at the ITC to view the expansion and the plaque with ARC's name. Pictured with her from left are **John Lummus**, vice president for economic and institutional advancement, **Paul Phelps**, welding program coordinator; **Dr. Booth**; and **W.H. (Ham) Hudson**, College Commission chair.

Balloons Over Anderson Supports Student Scholarships

Balloons over Anderson, a non-profit corporation that encourages young people to consider careers in aviation and conducts various hot air balloons festivals and events in the Anderson area, made a \$1,200 contribution to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation to support student scholarships.



Members of the Balloons over Anderson team visited the College's Pendleton Campus to make the check presentation. From left are **Connie Lambert**, **Debby Porter**, who is a Tri-County graduate, **Mike Slane**, **Steve Lambert**, **Dale Sperry**, and **John Lummus**, vice president for economic and institutional advancement at the College.