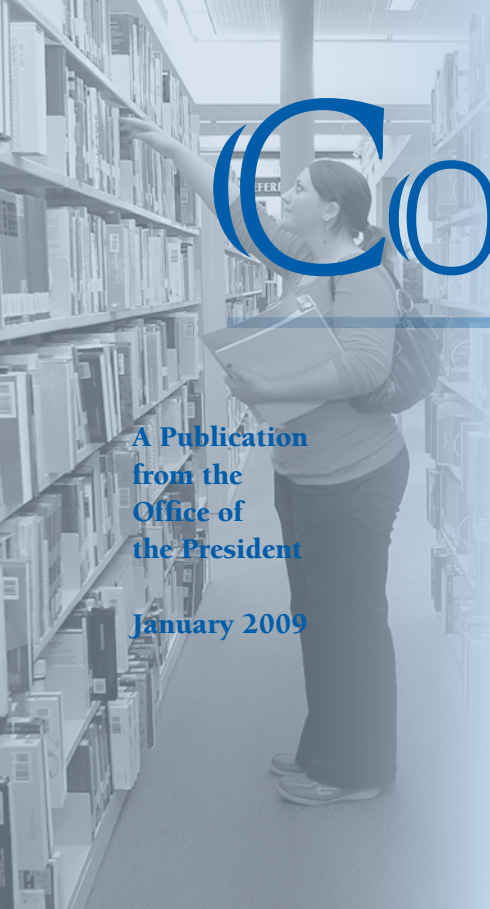


CONNECTION



A Publication
from the
Office of
the President

January 2009

Today's Economy is a Factor in 12.4% Enrollment Increase for Spring Semester

The bleak state of today's economy is one of the factors in the College's 12.4 percent increase in spring semester enrollment, said Dr. Booth. Accessibility and affordability also are playing key roles, he noted.

As of Tuesday, January 20, enrollment reached 5,413 students, as compared to 4,807 students in spring of 2008. In addition, the College's spring 2009 enrollment surpassed its fall 2007 enrollment of 5,223.

"Our surge in enrollment is definitely tied to the economy. Historically, when the national economy is weak, enrollment at two-year colleges increases," said Dr. Booth. "People are afraid of losing their jobs or they have lost their jobs. They understand that they need more education to stay competitive in today's workforce," he said.

As technology continues to transform the workplace, Tri-County is making its programs and offerings more responsive, accessible and diverse, said Dr. Booth. The College has campuses in Pendleton, Anderson, and Seneca, in addition to newly added classroom space at the Watkins Community Center in Honea Path. Tri-County officials plan to break ground on Phase I (QuickJobs Development Center) of the Easley campus this spring.

The value of Tri-County's tuition is definitely a factor in enrollment growth, Dr. Booth said. "Our students see the cost benefits of attending a two-year college." Tri-County's tuition is \$1,458 per semester for full-time students, but with a lottery tuition scholarship, valued at up to \$900 for eligible full-time students, a student would pay a balance of only \$558 for a semester, excluding fees.

"The irony is that when the demand is up, our state funding is down," said Dr. Booth. "Even though we have a 12-plus percent enrollment increase this spring, our state funding has been cut by more than 20 percent in recent months. Our increased enrollment revenue doesn't offset the budget cuts we took. We are still underwater in terms of the budget," he explained.

"The good news is that enrollment, and consequently revenue, are up. If we hadn't had this increase in enrollment, life would be very different at Tri-County," he said. "But it doesn't fill the hole we find ourselves in. The bottom line is we are doing more with less," he said.

Tri-County is the second fastest-growing College in the state's system of 16 technical colleges. Since 2002, Tri-County has experienced a cumulative growth rate of 27% and is the fifth largest College in the System.



Tri-County students had the opportunity January 27 to join students from the other 15 technical colleges in S.C. to voice their support for Lottery Tuition Assistance (LTA). The purpose of this event is to let State legislators know that funding for LTA needs to increase and continue. This event included a march to the State House followed by a rally and an opportunity for students to meet their legislators. Pictured from left are (back row) **Joseph Stephens**, of Easley; **Peter Greer**, of Belton; **Maine Dawkins**, of Central; and **Arsenio Walker**, **Andre Greer**, and **Janet Brdar**, all of Anderson; and (front row) **Croslena Johnson**, director of Student Life and Counseling Services; **April Chandler**, of Anderson; **Evea Sanford**, of Pendleton; **Brandi McCoy**, of Walhalla; and **David Westbrook**, of Anderson.

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CONNECTING

Call it wishful thinking, but I had hoped that when we rang in the new year, it would be accompanied by a more positive economic outlook.

Unfortunately, that didn't happen. We are still dealing with difficult issues and faced with hard decisions regarding the College's budget. However, thanks to the hard work of all of you, we have strong enrollment for Spring Semester, which will help us greatly during the remainder of this fiscal year. It won't solve all our problems by any means, particularly long term, but it does help.

In an effort to keep you as informed and involved as possible, I have made communications on this topic a high priority. I want everything to be as transparent as possible so that you don't have to wonder what is happening and what the impacts may be. To that end, we have established a Budget Cut Impacts channel on your message center tab in eTC. New information is being posted as it becomes available, including communications from me and updates on the progress of focus groups assigned to work on these issues. In addition, this channel also provides all employees with the opportunity to get involved and share ideas for saving money and/or generating revenue during these difficult times.

The ideas that have surfaced thus far range from the extremely complex, such as providing alternative program delivery models, to fairly simple, such as cutting back on printing. Our immediate priority is to identify strategies that can positively impact the current and/or next fiscal year. That doesn't mean longer-term strategies will be ignored. In fact, some of those ideas may need to be implemented in phases in order to be able to reap the financial benefits in the near term. That which can be changed immediately, will be; we will address the rest later. Our crisis is immediate and requires immediate action.

While some cost savings ideas may appear viable, we all know that often there is more below the surface that must be considered. Those other considerations may keep us from implementing the original idea. One of the ideas that quickly surfaced during the budget retreat was to place a moratorium on major capital projects, such as the Easley Campus. ***This is a high-profile, high-stakes project that I want to address directly with you now.***

During 2007, we signed a contract to purchase land for the Easley Campus. We finally closed on that purchase in late 2008. The first building will be a QuickJobs Center that the College will operate, funded by a grant to Pickens County from the S.C. Department of Commerce, not College funds. We hope to begin construction on that building this spring. The second building will be a multipurpose building funded by State resources that have already been appropriated, not College funds. Our plan is to begin work on this building sometime in late 2009 or early 2010.

(continued on page 12)



Ronnie L. Booth
President

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

2009 College Events

**Dedication Ceremony at
Watkins Community Center,
Honea PathJanuary 30**

**Groundbreaking Ceremony
Easley Campus..... March 27**

Bluegrass Under the Stars April 4

Spring Open April 24

Check the College Activities Calendar on eTC
for additional upcoming events.

CONNECTION

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

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 587, Pendleton, SC 29670

Pendleton Campus

7900 Highway 76, Pendleton, SC

Anderson Campus

511 Michelin Blvd., Anderson, SC

Oconee Campus

Hamilton Career Center
100 Vocational Dr., Seneca, SC

Phone Number: (864) 646-1500

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

TDD/Voice: 1-800-735-2905

Website: www.tctc.edu

Tri-County Technical College does not discriminate
in admission or employment on the basis of race,
color, religion, sex, qualifying disability, veteran's
status, or national origin. The College is a member
of South Carolina's nationally acclaimed system of
sixteen technical colleges.





SPOTLIGHT ON Call Me MISTER

When you ask most individuals, they can, without missing a beat, pinpoint the teacher from their elementary school years, usually from grades three, four, or five, who made a difference in their lives.

Most times it's a female teacher and rarely is the individual an African American male.

The educational landscape is similar today, but the Call Me MISTER program is looking to change the face of education in America by putting more African American males in the classroom as teachers and role models.

Nationally acclaimed and in its ninth year, Call Me MISTER is a scholarship teaching program developed by Clemson University to meet the shortage of teachers from underrepresented populations in South Carolina's elementary schools. The program is a collaborative effort between Clemson University and several other two- and four-year institutions across the state. Additionally, Call Me MISTER has national affiliates in Florida, Georgia, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

Cameron Brice, of Anderson, wants to be one of the change agents. In his entire 12 years of school, he had one male teacher, in the second grade, and he was white. "I want to change that. We have the power to change children's lives by becoming teachers. I want to see myself and others teaching at the elementary school level," said Brice, who maintains a 3.25 GPA and will graduate from Clemson in 2010.

Cameron began college at Tri-County in the Bridge to Clemson program. He joined the Tri-County MISTERS and immediately found his purpose and focus. "It connected me with like-minded individuals who also want to be teachers. We learn from each other and the program helps us to develop as men, not just as teachers," he said.

There are more than 80 school districts in South Carolina and among them are 200-plus elementary schools, said Winston Holton, field coordinator for the Call Me MISTER Program at Clemson University. There are 20,000 elementary school teachers and of those, less than 200 are African American males. "Nearly sixty-five percent of African American males drop out of school, leaving almost seven out of every 10 males in this community without so much as a high school diploma. We are looking for young men who want to be part of the solution, not the problem. We want to produce those teachers. We are looking for people like MISTER Brice, who want to own that responsibility," said Holton.



Cameron Brice, of Anderson, right, talks with **Dr. Booth** at a Call Me MISTER meeting held on our campus.

Cameron says the weekly meetings with Holton are ones he looks forward to. "He is so good at pulling out the best in me and helping me to work on areas where I am lacking. He coaches us in life skills. I take it very seriously. I am very focused," he said.

Call Me MISTER participants, like every teacher education candidate, must fulfill all of the requirements for South Carolina certification. However, unlike their fellow classmates, MISTERS also must submit to an intense co-curriculum designed to inspire personal growth, develop effective mentoring skills, and inculcate

the dispositions necessary for servant leadership.

"There is no greater place to be if you are serious about being a change agent," said Holton. "The Call Me MISTER program prepares you to do the work

that needs to be done in South Carolina. Many of our highest performing students traditionally have come from Tri-County Technical College, which truly has become a springboard to academic success. When they get to Clemson, we then connect them to children -- we connect them to their purpose. They will change the face of education in S.C."

"Call Me MISTER" is a reference to Sidney Poitier's famous line from the movie, "In the Heat of the Night." MISTER is an acronym for Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models.

"We have the power to change children's lives by becoming teachers. I want to see myself and others teaching at the elementary school level."

- Cameron Brice

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

in transition



Mark Tannery

Mark Tannery is our new Financial Aid Counselor in the Student Affairs Division. He comes to us from the Department of Health and Human Services, where he worked as a Regional Trainer for six years. Mark is a 1990 alumnus

of our associate in Science program and went on to earn a bachelor of Arts from North Greenville University in 1994 and later his master's from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1991.

He is a member of Return Baptist Church in Seneca. He and his wife, Mitzi, have four children, Caleb, 10; Emily, 9; and twins, Addie and Allie, 7. The Tannerys live in Seneca.



David Seamans

David Seamans is working as a Lab Facilitator/Instructor in the Gateway to College program. David worked for seven years as an assistant professor of Physical Education at Southern Wesleyan University, in addition to serving

as a softball coach. David holds a bachelor's in Recreation and Parks from The Pennsylvania State University and an M.Ed. in Health and Physical Education from East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Melinda, live in Seneca.

Amy Hart joined the Admissions team as an Admissions Specialist before the holidays. She worked at AnMed Health from 1996 – 2008, beginning as a Secretary/Registrar in the Emergency Business Office and her last position

was as Admissions Registrar in the Admitting Office.

Amy earned a Medical Business certificate in 1996 from Tri-County and a Medical Coding certificate in 2001. She holds a Business Technology (Management) degree from Greenville Technical College. Amy and her husband, Jamie, live in Iva.



Amy Hart

Alex Eaton, a counselor in the Workforce Investment Act office since 2004, has moved to the Arts and Sciences Division, where he is a full-time history instructor.

Amanda Litchfield Spacil is now the contact person for Perkins IV grant funding responsibilities. Contact Amanda at Ext. 1810 for information or if you have questions.

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

Matt Reid

in memoriam



We learned Friday, January 9, that longtime friend and retiree **Jack Mooneyhan** passed away at Willow Place in Easley. Jack joined our Continuing Education Division in 1977

as an instructor in the Management Development Department where he taught, designed, and managed those programs. He became the department head in 1985 and was recognized throughout the technical college system for his innovative response to management training needs.

He was a familiar face around the College even after his retirement in 1992. He continued to attend Annual Report luncheons and retirement celebrations of colleagues and supported the Foundation's fundraising drives. In 2000 he established the Martha K. Mooneyhan Endowment for Instructional/Staff Excellence for Continuing Education in memory of his wife. Several years later, Jack renamed the endowment the Jack L. Mooneyhan, Sr. and Martha K. Mooneyhan Instructional/Staff Excellence Endowment.

retirements

Two Longtime Employees Retire

RICK BISMACK

After 25 years of leading our Media Resources Department, **Rick Bismack** is retiring to pursue his freelance photography/videography business on a full-time basis.

Rick's last day as the College's first and only Media Resource Coordinator was Friday, January 9, and the following Monday he began operating his decade-old part-time business, VPS Video/Photography.

Friends and colleagues from past and present gathered on his last day to wish him well and to reminisce about old times. Retired Graphics Director and longtime friend Debbie Coyle said, "Rick is a jack-of-all-trades. He can fix anything. He's also a very compassionate friend. Good luck and I'll see you at Dunkin' Donuts."



Rick Bismack poses with longtime colleagues, from left, **Dianne Hiott** (retired); **Claudia Poore**, circulation manager in the Library; and **Debbie Coyle** (retired) on his last day.

Rick joined the College in 1983 as Audio Visual Specialist after graduating from the University of South Carolina with a degree in Media Arts. (He began college at Tri-County in the RTV program.) Back in those days, he was mostly handling AV equipment requests and using VCRs “that weighed about 150 pounds apiece,” he joked.

Today, the field has evolved. “Our media production techniques have changed considerably,” said Rick. “We still deliver instruction and information in a visual sense to our customers, just in an easier fashion.”

Many of his days have been spent installing, setting up, and overseeing video conferencing, distance learning, and closed circuit conferences and classes. Most of his work was done behind the scenes. He maintained Tri-County’s part of State TechNet network and USC closed-circuit classes, along with the incoming and outgoing classes for our credit and continuing education programs. You’ve seen him manning the soundboard in the auditorium for faculty/staff meetings and convocations and recording pinning and induction ceremonies.

Along the way, he has presented at numerous SCTEA conferences about the issues involved in adding multimedia to online and traditional classrooms. One of the greatest challenges in technical education is keeping up with rapid changes in technology, and Rick has been dedicated to staying current. He completed the certification in Convergent Network Technologies

through the Telecommunications Industry of America in 2002.

He’s also been available to photograph College events for the Public Relations and Foundation offices.

“I could always count on Rick to help document major events for the College,” said Lisa Garrett, public relations associate. “He never hesitated to stop by and ask if he could help out, especially if he knew that two events were happening simultaneously. He’s also a wizard with troubleshooting technical problems with printers, software, and digital cameras. I can’t count the times he has stepped in and saved the day. We’re really going to miss him.”

POLLY FEHLER

January 6 was a monumental and memorable day for **Polly Fehler** in more ways than one -- it was her 63rd birthday and the day she retired from the associate degree Nursing faculty after nearly 19 years of teaching.

“It was a wonderful present to myself,” said Polly, who joined Tri-County in 1990 and most recently was lead instructor in maternity nursing and pediatrics for the ADN program. She served as department head from 1998 until 2003.

“I decided to retire last August when our son’s family was involved in a frightening auto accident that they luckily escaped from

unharmred. It made me realize how strongly I desired to devote myself full time to my family and personal life. I haven’t even been to a Grandparents’ Day yet, and I have granddaughters who are 12, 5 and 1. I’ve missed a lot of things. It’s time to be ‘Granny.’ My husband, Gene (an author who just sold his 10th book), is retired, so there was no reason not to.”

“But leaving a career of teaching at Tri-County wasn’t emotionally easy,” she said.

“I adore teaching; it’s been a passion for me,” said Polly. “I will really miss the students. They have been so responsive and the faculty have been awesome colleagues. But I know I will come back to teach at Tri-County part time and hope to work PRN at Oconee Medical Center.”

“Polly is one of the kindest souls I have ever known,” said Dr. Lynn Lewis, dean of the Health Education Division. “She is a wonderfully spirited person whose energy and positive outlook translate to her students, who clearly love her and her supportive guidance. We’ll miss her.”

After serving on jury duty, Polly and Gene plan to visit with family in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Missouri. “We now have the ability to travel on our own time and rhythm and that is exciting,” she said.

“As I look back, I have proud and happy memories of my years at Tri-County. They are so rich. It was challenging time and more than I could ever imagine.”



Polly Fehler

Nursing Students Receive Pins



Crystal Wilson, of Pickens, left, participates in the pinning ceremony held December 11 for the first December graduating class for the College's Practical Nursing program at its Oconee Campus at the Hamilton Career Center. Pinning her is **Carol Henry**, Practical Nursing instructor.



Sarah Rae Valdivia, of Pickens, right, participates in the College's pinning ceremony for its December graduates of the associate degree Nursing (ADN) program. Pinning her is ADN instructor **Blythe Winburn**. Valdivia was among the six Tri-County students participating in the LPN to Professor initiative, a partnership between Tri-County, Clemson University, and local hospitals designed to encourage graduates to pursue advanced degrees. These six students achieved the required cumulative GPA and completed the general education classes required by Clemson for a bachelor's degree in Nursing. Once Valdivia has her license, she will begin the 12- to 15-month program at Clemson to earn a bachelor's degree.

our college family continued



Tim Bowen

Tim Bowen is our new Director of the Anderson Campus.

Tim says his first steps will be to establish a fresh vision and to map out an integrated strategic plan to grow the campus.

Tri-County opened its Anderson campus in 2007 to serve several of the College's goals by bringing its services closer to Anderson residents, increasing community involvement, and expanding educational opportunities. Both credit and non-credit programs are offered at the facility.

"It is a tremendous opportunity to come in at this stage of development and to be a part of the team to expand this campus and help shape the future of the College," said Tim, who spent the last 12 years at Clemson University, most recently as its Executive Director of Communications for Clemson Computing and Information Technology (CCIT).

Tim says his new job is a natural fit for him because the mission of the community college aligns with his personal mission.

"Working at Tri-County appeals to me because the College has a mission I can believe in and be passionate about – meeting the needs of the average citizens of the three counties," said the Seneca native. Among his goals are to grow enrollment and to expand the offerings on the credit side of the house, he said.

"My vision is to have a stand-alone campus with a full range of both academic and continuing education programs and to be an affordable and accessible resource for Anderson residents and all of the Tri-County area," he added.

He says his first challenge is to define and develop the mission of the campus in consultation with the Executive Staff of the College. "We will cast a vision and define the Anderson Campus story and how to best tell that story. Tri-County is about helping students fulfill their dreams. That's why we are here – we're really in the business of human development. And to fulfill that mission, we must discover what our residents and employers need in terms of education and training; then we must develop programs to meet those needs. We're just beginning those discussions."

He says he also looks forward to meeting and working with local business and industry leaders and developing relationships with them. "My role is to put them in touch with our Corporate and Community Education staff (formerly the Continuing Education Division) and to be a part of that relationship. While one component of my role is to be the 'face' of the College in Anderson County, my highest goal is to build collaborative partnerships that work."

Tim added, "I also want to ensure that we build our student life programming as well so that our Anderson County students are invested in their campus and become part of the team that grows this educational community. My experience has shown me that people support what they help to create – I want our students, faculty and staff to be 'bought in' at the Anderson campus."

Tim has more than 24 years of professional experience in multiple areas of higher education, communications, public relations and ministry. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Winthrop University and a Master of Divinity degree from Erskine Theological Seminary. Prior to working as Executive Director of Communications for Clemson's IT Division, he was Associate Director for University Housing.

He also has served as Minister of Music and Education for First Baptist Church in Westminster and in corporate communications for Duke Power Company in Charlotte, NC.

Tim and his wife, Pam, live in Seneca.

Two Earn High School Diplomas Through Gateway to College Program

Two students earned their high school diplomas in December through the College's Gateway to College program. Kimberly R. Banks, of Seneca, received her diploma from the School District of Oconee County and Seneca High School, and Karilee A. Rogers, of Anderson, received her diploma from Anderson County School District Five and Westside High School.

The Gateway to College initiative serves at-risk students and recent high school dropouts in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties. The program enables students to earn a high school diploma (awarded by participating area high schools) while achieving college success. Students earn both high school and college credit, up to and including an associate degree, awarded by Tri-County Technical College.

The Gateway to College scholarship program is funded by the South Carolina Lottery Tuition Assistance and other College and grant programs, the College's Foundation, local school district contributions, the Appalachian Regional Commission, Citi Financial, and a Workforce Investment Act grant.



Kimberly R. Banks and Karilee A. Rogers

LEI Students Honored



Nika Hanis and Marianne Yohannan

Nika Hanis, of Taylors, was one of 10 students chosen by peers as an outstanding Learning Excellence Initiative (LEI) participant at an awards ceremony held at the end of fall semester in December. Biology instructor Marianne Yohannan presented the award for an outstanding student in the Biology/Chemistry Learning Community.

LEI participants evaluated their peers on the eight behaviors outlined in the OnCourse book: personal responsibility, self motivation, self awareness, self management, interdependence, lifelong learning, emotional intelligence, and believing in yourself.

The LEI initiative is designed to improve students' learning through examining and refining their first-year college experience. This is Tri-County's first step in creating learning communities that foster academic success but integrate students socially. This one-semester experience is designed to give participants the toolbox needed to be successful in college.

Exploring the Tri-County Experience



Last semester **Vinson Burdette**, dean of Student Development, seated, worked as a research mentor for two Clemson University senior psychology majors, **Corey McCarthy**, middle, and **Kali Brown**, right. They are working on Clemson's Creative Inquiry project, titled "Exploring the Community College Student Experience" whereby they examined in detail the experiences of students attending Tri-County and met with Vinson every two weeks beginning in June. They are working on the qualitative aspects of research, and one of their projects was to conduct a Tri-County survey to explore the community college student experience. They receive academic credit at Clemson and will use this experience to prepare for graduate school.

Bluegrass Under The Stars is April 4

Mark your calendars for the fourth annual Bluegrass Under the Stars scheduled for Saturday, April 4. This community event is made possible by the generosity of our community sponsors. Details forthcoming in future issues of CONNECTION and on eTC.

Foundation News

Abney Foundation Makes Generous Donation



The Abney Foundation made a generous \$100,000 donation in December to support the Hayden Abney Fulp Scholarship Endowment. To date, that specific endowment totals \$1.8 million. Since 1989, The Abney Foundation has contributed a total of \$3,630,000 to the Foundation and is the largest overall contributor to the College Foundation and a strong supporter of the mission and purpose of the College. Pictured here are **Carl Edwards**, executive director of the Abney Foundation, seated, and **David King**, associate director. The Abney Foundation was named the Philanthropist of the Year by the Tri-County's Foundation Board in 1998.

\$150,000 AdvanceSC Grant Will Upfit Robotics Labs for CARS Program

A \$150,000 grant from AdvanceSC will allow the College to upfit its robotics labs with industry-specific equipment to train students to work in highly computerized automated robotics work cells.

The grant funds the purchase of four FANUC robots that will be used in the upcoming Computerized Automation and Robotics Systems (CARS) program, said Eugene Grant, dean of the Industrial and Engineering Technology Division. The money also will fund CARS curriculum development and a summer camp for 20 middle school students who will use robots to control an ice cream sundae manufacturing process.

“This training is designed to serve many area industries that have manufacturing groups who have robotics within the assembly process,” Eugene said.

The General Engineering Technology program primarily will use the robots, he said. “This funding comes at a time when that program’s enrollment has increased 27 percent. With more equipment, we can serve more students in labs,” he added.

“Without the continued funding from AdvanceSC, there is no way, due to the economic times, that we could provide training using today’s current technology. It allows us to teach what the students will see upon entry to into industry jobs,” he said.

In the last few years, AdvanceSC has funded Tri-County requests for its Welding, Mechatronics, and Machine Tool Technology programs. Last year, AdvanceSC awarded Tri-County a \$250,000 grant to create another career path by designing and implementing a program for qualified pipefitters (welders [MIG and TIG] and gas and arc welding).

In 2007, a \$250,000 grant enabled the College to establish a Center of Excellence where Upstate maintenance technicians can be trained on the most up-to-date fluid power equipment.

In 2006, a \$249,775 grant moved the College forward in being more responsive to addressing the shortage of skilled metal fabrication employees and machinists.

Over the last two years, AdvanceSC has awarded \$2.5 million in grants to five Upstate colleges, including Tri-County, to support the development of a common curriculum for the industrial maintenance occupations, ensuring that graduates working side by side in local industries will possess the same core competencies.

“AdvanceSC really supports the College in meeting the needs of our local manufacturing,” said Eugene.

Gignilliat Park Academy Students Visit Campus for a Day



Gignilliat Park Academy, an alternative school in Seneca that services our local Oconee County public high schools, brought their students (pictured here) to our campus on November 14. There were a mixture of juniors and seniors who had interests in our academic programs, dual enrollment opportunities, and other career opportunities. A day at Tri-County included the placement test, campus tour, information sessions, and lunch. Students had a one-on-one or group information session specific to their program of interest. **Luke Black**, admissions counselor, coordinated this event that included **Kay Rhodes**, **Glenn Hellenga**, **Glenda Waters**, **Lenna Young**, **Suzanne Konieczny**, **Robert Newton**, **Dr. Peggy Champion**, **Felicia Roberson**, **Heidi Tueber**, **Laura Hall**, and **Rena Frazier**.



CONNECTION Printed vs. Online!

In an effort to save funds during these difficult economic times, we will be reducing the number of printed copies of CONNECTION and putting the publication online. We'd love your feedback as we consider our options. Do you have a particular online format that you like? Do you have samples you can forward to us? Do you typically print newsletters you receive online? Share your thoughts with Rebecca Eidson at reidson@tctc.edu. Thank you!

Tri-County Will Partner with Hanna-Westside Extension Campus to Offer Evening Automotive Technology Program

The College is partnering with Anderson School District Five's Hanna-Westside Extension Campus to offer an evening Automotive Technology program.

Plans are in the works for the College to begin offering evening classes at the Extension Campus's auto mechanics facility, said Eugene Grant, dean of our Industrial and Engineering Technology Division. "If all goes well, we will begin offering classes leading toward either a certificate or an associate of applied science degree with a major in Automotive Technology in the fall of 2009," said Eugene.

"We average about 80 requests each semester for automotive classes," said Eugene. "It's a very expensive program to start, and I knew that Hanna-Westside offered day classes to its high school students, but the facility is unused at

night." Eugene met with District Five Superintendent Betty Bagley and Rick Mascaro, director of the Hanna-Westside Extension Campus late last year and presented the proposal. "We all agreed it would be a good use of tax dollars. If this model works, we can take the program to the other career centers in the tri-county area," he said.

Tri-County's adjunct instructors would teach at the Anderson facility, and the College would upgrade equipment through grant funding, he said.

High school students already taking automotive classes at the Extension Campus could enter the curriculum as second-year students, Grant said, and in addition to a certificate or degree, could earn a certification from the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation.

New Certificate Based on MSSC Begins in February

The College's Corporate and Community Education Division is offering a new Manufacturing Production Technician Certificate program that will enable workers to build the core knowledge and skills needed in today's advanced manufacturing workplace. The certificate program is based on the Manufacturing Skills Standard Council (MSSC) standards and can be delivered in an instructor-led environment and/or through computer-based simulations of actual production applications.

"The program's goal is to make future associates more employable," said Rick Cothran, dean of the Corporate and Community Education Division.

Rick says many times managers tell him they would hire new associates if they could just find them. "This program can help get people into manufacturing jobs by making them more employable with basic skill sets related to manufacturing. It can help increase the skill sets or aid in developing a pool of qualified applicants. It's a perfect fit for entry-level operators, for example. They are more employable if they have a strong, basic foundation."

The new Manufacturing Production Technician certificate will be offered as a training tool to develop skills for entry-level employees. Offered through MSSC, the course has four modules: Safety (work area safety, working in manufacturing, communication, and teams, etc.); Quality and Continuous Improvement (blueprint reading, precision measurement, quality improvement, etc.); Manufacturing Processes and Production (mechanical principles, machine tooling, production components, etc.), and Maintenance Awareness (basic electrical, pneumatics, general mechanical maintenance, etc.). In addition, the training also helps enhance basic computer, problem-solving and analytical skills, and one's ability to apply knowledge to specific situations. A person can choose to pursue four certificates or just one. Upon completion, students in the program will sit for the MSSC Certified Production Technician exam, resulting in a nationally recognized CPT credential.

The first program begins in February. The Manufacturing Production Technician Certificate program totals 140 hours.

Continuing Education is Now Corporate And Community Education Division

Its name is different but its mission is still the same. The College's Continuing Education Division is now the Corporate and Community Education Division.

"Our focus is to be market driven and to teach what our corporate and community customers want and need. Our new name reflects that," said Rick Cothran, dean of the Division.

"As trends change, we will address the changes in the marketplace and meet those market demands," he added.

For example, Rick says the number-one training request from industry representatives has been for entry-level skills. In response, the Division now offers a new manufacturing Certified Production Technician program that enables workers to build the core knowledge and skills needed in today's advanced manufacturing workplace. The certificate program is based on the Manufacturing Skills Standard Council (MSSC) standards and can be delivered in an instructor-led environment and/or through computer-based simulations of actual production applications.

"The program's goal is to make future associates more employable," said Rick.

Another request was for higher-level technician training, he said. Beginning next month his staff will begin offering Mechatronics training (classes that integrate electronics and mechanical competencies). Via a new trailer provided by TechReadySC, instructors can transport training equipment to off-campus locations, such as worksites for employee training or community locations for recruitment services.

The first class will begin in February, he said.

Another big focus is on QuickJobs training -- classes that offer quick and affordable training for displaced and under-employed workers in a series of in-demand jobs. These courses include MSSC, CNC operator, and HVAC, along with Certified Nurse Aide, Medical Transcription, Deli Technician, and more. QuickJobs training classes can be completed in 90 days or less.

"We continue to offer flexible offerings that cater to all of our customers' needs," said Rick.

Watching History Being Made



This photo shows just a small sampling of the faculty, staff, and students who gathered in the cafeteria to watch the inauguration of Barack Obama, the nation's 44th and first African American president. Held during the Get Connected hour, the Student Life and Counseling office provided a big screen television and free Firehouse subs for the crowd during this historic event.

TechReadySC™ Provides Equipment to Upstate Colleges



Jay Sloan, an instructor in the Corporate and Community Education Division, is pictured with the utility trailer provided by TechReadySC™. This trailer will enable Jay and other instructors to transport training equipment to off-campus locations such as worksites for employee training.

TechReadySC™, a collaborative partnership of five Upstate colleges that is funded by AdvanceSC, has provided each of the colleges with state-of-the-art laboratory equipment to support the new courses required by today's advanced manufacturing sector. This equipment provides students with "hands-on" training opportunities in the interdisciplinary field of Mechatronics Technology (electronic systems, mechanical systems, control systems, and computer systems).

TechReadySC™ includes Greenville Technical College, Piedmont Technical College, Spartanburg Community College, Tri-County, and York Technical College.

Instructors from each college have received training and certifications from vendors such as Festo, Kuka Robotics, Siemens and others. All Upstate colleges are using a "standardized curriculum" for Mechatronics.

Another key piece of equipment that TechReadySC™ provided to each college is a utility trailer with which to transport equipment to training sites off campus. With this new mobility, each college will be able to take these programs to worksites to train a company's workers in the latest advanced manufacturing techniques. The trailers also can be used to take the new equipment to the high school career centers to supplement their advanced manufacturing programs.

"In addition to industry, this gives us the versatility and mobility to teach at our branch campuses," said Rick Cothran, dean of the Corporate and Community Education Division. "It helps us to meet the needs of the marketplace and provide flexible, on-site technical training."

Funding for TechReadySC™ has been provided by AdvanceSC, a foundation which awards grants to support education programs related to manufacturing-based economic development efforts. "AdvanceSC is proud to serve the needs of our community and recognizes this collaboration as a necessary approach for our state to produce a skilled and proficient workforce," said Carol Burdette, AdvanceSC president.

Executive Staff Meetings Update

- **State Budget Cuts:** Focus groups formed during the December 11 budget retreat will continue their work by following up on the many ideas submitted to cut costs and increase revenue. This work will be used to inform decision-making as the College deals with the current budget crisis.
- **Fee Changes:** Recommendations for changes to various College fees were approved.
- **Electronic Communications with Students:** The College is moving toward paperless communications with students, which places additional importance on using the electronic communications tools available through eTC, such as announcements and e-mails. All College offices need to consider what they are mailing to current students and look at ways to handle these communications electronically.
- **SACS Accreditation Audit Process:** The Executive Staff approved an audit process to ensure that the College is in continuous compliance with SACS accreditation requirements and standards.
- **Legacy Computer Systems:** In order to save funds, legacy computer systems will be discontinued. Data from those systems will be extracted prior to shutting them down.
- **Anderson Campus Staffing:** Efforts are underway to analyze staffing needs at the Anderson Campus to ensure that we are providing the services needed by credit and non-credit students.

Connecting

(continued from page 2)

If we place a moratorium on the development of the Easley campus, we will lose both sources of funds for bricks and mortar. The only College funds we need to expend at this time are for infrastructure (land preparation) from our capital reserve fund, and we plan to make an appeal for federal funds to offset those costs.

The timing of this project isn't ideal, but it would be irresponsible to stop now and forfeit funds that we may never be able to get back. As we continue the construction process, we will develop plans for how we will staff and operate this campus. I have no doubt that our growth in the Easley and Powdersville area will ultimately provide the resources necessary to run the campus. We have underserved that part of our service area since we have been in existence, and it is important that we continue to move forward on this project.

Again, thank you for all you are doing to help us address this budget crisis. We are not alone in being forced to do more with less. Strong institutions will survive, and we are fundamentally sound. In order to remain fiscally sound, however, we must and will take a rather bullish approach to our budgeting process as we prepare for the next fiscal year. With your help, we will get through this difficult time and emerge a stronger and more focused college.



Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

Principals Meet for Annual Breakfast



Every year Dr. Booth hosts a breakfast meeting with area high school principals and career center directors to discuss ways we can better serve the students in our community. Dr. Booth commended the group for the role they played in our record enrollment (5,732 students) last fall. Pictured here, at left, are **Evie Hughes**, principal of Walhalla High School; talking with **Dan Holland**, our vice president for Student Affairs; and **Steve Moore**, principal of Tamassee-Salem High School, talking with **Scott Smith**, West-Oak High School principal.

Building Bridges



Students in EGR 269, an engineering transfer class, designed and built a bridge that connects, or provides passage from the Pendleton campus to adjoining property recently bought by the College. Taught by Dr. Ross Wagenseil, this class project incorporated applied engineering principles, such as design and material selection, learned in class. Many thanks to Dr. Knight Cox of Clemson University's Forestry Department for the bamboo supplies. Pictured from left are **Dan Fleetwood**, of Central; **Mark Cothran**, of Clemson; **Nathaniel Holbrooks**, of Seneca; **Tim Duskin**, of Central; **Travis Huskey**, of Pelzer; **A. J. Brown**, of Greenville; and **Brandin Kaeser**, of Anderson.