

Connection

In this Issue ...



Spotlight on Black History Month..... 3



Weight Watchers 7



Major Gifts Campaign ...8-9



New Alumni Board Members.....10

Spring Enrollment Exceeds 6,400

Tri-County is fastest-growing technical college among 16 in State

Tri-County Technical College saw another unprecedented enrollment boon this semester. As of Thursday, January 21, College officials report a preliminary spring semester enrollment figure of 6,471 (includes all three campuses), a 20.1 percent increase as compared to 5,388 students in spring of 2009.

Enrollment increases were across the board in age categories – from recent high school graduates to those seeking an affordable alternative to a four-year college to those seeking rapid retooling skills through certificates and diplomas.

Second-semester freshman Cassandra Ledford, 18, sees Tri-County as a way to ease into academic life at a larger four-year university. Her plan is to transfer to Clemson University and focus on ESL (English as a Second Language) students in her teaching career. “It was my first choice,” she says, adding that Tri-County’s smaller size helps with getting to know fellow classmates, as well as instructors. “The small classes of around 25 people allow us to have open discussions and other unique learning experiences that we could not have in a university class with 200 students. In only a few weeks, I knew everybody in my classes, and we’ve become a great resource for each other. It has really helped me to succeed at Tri-County,” she said. This semester there is an 11.6 percent increase in students ages 18 - 19 (1,931 this spring as compared to 1,730 last spring).

Another age category that shows an increase is the 30 – 34-year-olds. Preliminary College statistics for spring 2010 show an increase of 44 percent in that age category. Danielle Isleib, of Easley, 32, says that comments by her sister, currently a University Transfer major at Tri-County, about smaller classes and one-on-one interaction with instructors prompted her to head back to the classroom. “I registered the second day of classes,” she said. “I expected to wait a long time, but it was so simple and easy. I had my six year old with me, and I registered for classes, completed financial aid paperwork, and talked to an advisor in two hours. It was a great experience. I already feel part of the Tri-County community.”

Sharon Sims, a Medical Assisting major from Easley, is among one of the other fastest growing groups of students at Tri-County. Figures show a 36 percent jump over the previous spring for individuals ages 40 - 60 who have returned to college to reposition themselves for new careers.

(continued on page 6)



Students find time to study between classes in a lounge area outside the College Café.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Faculty/Staff Meeting..... February 2
Open House.....February 26
College and Career Fair March 3
Writing Contest..... March 8
Bluegrass under the Stars
ConcertApril 3

**Check the College Activities Calendar
in eTC for updated postings on
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

Main Number: (864) 646-8361

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

TDD/Voice: 1-800-735-2905

Website: www.tctc.edu



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

Connecting



Ronnie L. Booth
President

By now you have received our recently-completed 10-year vision publication for 2010-2020, *Transforming Lives ... Shaping the Community*. This marks our entry into a new decade during which we will continue to focus on making Tri-County Technical College the role model for community college education across our nation. Our vision also lays the groundwork for three-year strategic plans currently being developed by all divisions on campus. I will talk more about this process at our Spring Semester Faculty/Staff meeting February 2.

Our new vision was developed using information gained during a planning retreat and validation sessions with faculty, staff, students, and community leaders. In nearly every session, this question was raised: "What about our Learning College journey? Is that part of our vision?" Absolutely.

Learning College principles are integrated into the very fabric of our 10-year vision because those principles permeate all we desire to be as a College. When you read the vision document, you will see Learning College principles reflected in our aspirations and strategies. Because our ten-year vision is something we will communicate with our external stakeholders, we made every effort to use language that means something to us and is clear to others.

A simple example: One component of our 10-year vision is to "dramatically change the lives of our students for the better." This concept is reflected in the Learning College guiding principles adopted by Tri-County several years ago, which state that we will "create substantive change in learners."

In another part of our 10-year vision, we state that we will embrace a "culture of evidence" where data informs our decisions and transparent information drives continuous improvement. This is a central component of a true Learning College where we always should ask and answer key questions: Is this process working? Are students learning? Are we doing the right things? How do we know? Can we use what we've learned to improve?

Our role is to help students learn and change their lives for the better, which is central to all Learning Colleges. Imagine for a moment that you are an English teacher. (Some of you are!) You are teaching students to write an essay. Some may understand what you are teaching and others may not, but you don't really know until you grade the papers. Some instructors might simply mark the mistakes on the essay, assign and record a grade, and return the paper to the student. In a Learning College, the instructor goes several steps further, perhaps by giving more direction and asking the student to revise the paper – maybe several more times – until the student can write a good essay. After all, isn't that the whole point? Revision is a necessary step to demonstrate that learning has taken place and made an impact on quality.

In a true Learning College, learning happens everywhere, not just the classroom. Recently, one of our employees was able to teach good stewardship and citizenship to several Gateway to College students by having them help prepare United Way solicitation packets. This is one of countless real examples of how learning can and should happen in a variety of ways.

Becoming a Learning College is at the very core of our 10-year vision to transform lives and shape the community. I am thankful to have so many talented, hard-working, and committed faculty and staff members who will help us realize this vision on our journey to becoming the role model in community college education. I am convinced we have the right team in place. No one can do it better than you.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President



Spotlight on Black History Month

Tri-County Technical College will recognize the achievements, contributions, and culture of African Americans, as well as celebrate diversity through relevant workshops and presentations during Black History Month.

The Offices of Student Life and Counseling Services (SLCS) and Access and Equity will host six events during the month of February. Faculty, staff, students, and the community are welcome to attend any or all of the events.

Among the presenters will be LaKishia Dinkins, an admissions counselor in our Student Affairs Division. LaKishia will be exhibiting some of her African-American artwork Monday, **February 2**, from 5 - 6:15 p.m. and again on Tuesday, **February 3**, from 12:20 - 2:20 in the Café.

She's been painting for about 15 years and spends her off time creating artwork in various mediums. "My artwork is about life. It embodies life stories, culture, landscapes, and stills." She has exhibited at Denny's corporate office in Spartanburg and at the Kilgore-Lewis House in Greenville. "Happiness inspires me," she said, adding that she works on her craft every day. "My works are never finished," she said.

Other events include:

February 8 - Survival 101 Diversity Workshop for students will be held from 12:20 - 2:20 p.m. in the IBDC. Idella Glen, co-owner of Enduring Ties, will lead this fun, interactive workshop for

(continued on page 5)



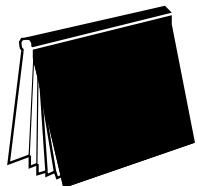
Idella Glen will lead a diversity workshop February 8.



"TJ. Loves Kelly" is one of the oil paintings that Admissions Counselor Lakishia Dinkins will exhibit February 2 and 3.

Lakishia Dinkins

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!



Jenni Evans, director of the Bridge to Clemson program, shared part of a recent note sent to **Amber**

Mulkey, coordinator of Student Life, for the Bridge Program. Jenni says the letter exemplifies the commitment Amber has to student success, both academically and personally. She went on to say that after Amber carefully and thoroughly addressed a difficult personal situation for several students, a parent expressed her appreciation by writing,

"I would just like to let you know how much you are admired, appreciated, and supported for all that you do to guide and encourage our children on a daily basis while away from home in a totally new and different environment."

Jan Kempinski, web developer in the IT Department, wrote this note about **Jessica Raymond**, graphic designer in the Public Relations and Marketing Office:

"I'd like to give a special thanks to Jessica for taking the time to work out a big problem with Americans with Disabilities (ADA) compliance for the website. A PDF file had 213 encode structure errors that I could not fix. It could only be fixed in the original software it was created in. It took her about a half a dozen attempts, but she was determined and finally fixed the problem. We are fortunate to have such a great graphic artist at TCTC!"

Laura Capell of Anderson Interfaith Ministries sent **Sue Bladzik** a note, thanking the Anderson Campus staff for its help with AIM's annual meeting in November. *"The space was perfect and everyone commented on how nice the facility is,"* wrote Laura.

(continued on page 6)

Our College Family

excellence through service

Congratulations to **Scott Harvey**, our registrar, who was recently elected Member at Large to the Executive Committee of the Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (CACRAO). Scott will represent two-year public community colleges on the Board.



Scott Harvey



Lou Ann Martin

Lou Ann Martin, mathematics instructor and recipient of the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence, and **Mary Rowell**, our 2009 Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award winner, are our 2010 NISOD Excellence Award recipients. The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD), a consortium of more than 700 community colleges and universities worldwide, has a 31-year history of recognizing faculty, staff, and administrators for outstanding contributions to teaching, leadership, and learning.



Mary Rowell



Dr. Brian Swords

Mary will attend the 32nd annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence in Austin, Texas, May 30 - June 2, 2010.

Dr. Brian Swords, director of operations for the Corporate and Community Education Division, was named President-Elect of the South Carolina Association of Higher Continuing Education for 2010. The Association was founded more than 30 years ago to promote continuing education in higher education throughout the State of South Carolina.



Dan Holland

Dan Holland, vice president for Student Affairs, was among the three new board members elected by members of the Oconee Medical Center Association January 21 during the group's annual meeting. He will serve as an at-large board member.

in transition

Corporate and Community Education Division

Jennifer Dent joined the Corporate and Community Education Division as a Training Coordinator before the holidays. She earned an associate degree in Business (Accounting) from Tri-County in 2009 and a Financial Accounting certificate in 2005. She worked as Office Manager for KIA of Anderson last year and Warranty Manager for Southern Homes of the Upstate prior to that. Jennifer has two sons, Braden, 10, and Jackson, 9. They live in Clemson.



Jennifer Dent

Black History Month

(continued from page 3)

Richard Parker is now the Director of the CCE Business and Industrial Training Department (World Class Training Center). Richard has been working in the position on an interim basis since the retirement of John Benson in 2008.



Richard Parker



Leigh Colombo

Student Affairs Division

Leigh Colombo is the Secondary Transition Programs Coordinator in the Enrollment Management office. She has worked as a substitute math teacher for Anderson School District I and for Anderson University (AU) as the grants program coordinator for Alcohol and DUI Safety and Prevention Education for the high schools and AU. She has a liberal arts degree from Broward Community College in Pompano Beach, FL, and a B. A. in Mathematics from Florida Atlantic University. She is a member of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church where she is a Sunday School teacher. She is a member of the Clemson Community Coalition, Anderson Community Coalition, and several public school associations. She and her husband, Michael, have two children, Cristina, 13, and Nicholas, 10. They live in Williamston.

After two years in a temporary position, **Carol Krider** joins us as the Administrative Assistant for the Bridge to Clemson program's Office of Residence Life. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Kearney where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in Education. She spent three years as an Administrative Assistant for the Office of the President at George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. She is a member of Clemson Presbyterian Church. She and her husband, Jim, have a son, Matthew, 15. They live in Clemson.



Carol Krider

Academic Affairs Division

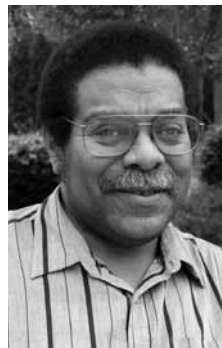
Kristine Coleman is working in the Gateway to College office as Office Manager. For the last year, she was the Front Desk Coordinator for the Cliffs Communities at Keowee Springs. Her experience includes working as Medical Front Desk Receptionist for Dr. Irmina Boulter and as a Medical Front Office Coordinator for Dr. Thomas Malone. She has a B.A. in Psychology from Christopher Newport College in Newport News, VA. She attends New Life Church in Central. She and her husband, Bruce, have two children, Jordan, 19, and Kaitlin, 16. They live in Clemson.



Kristine Coleman

Business Affairs Division

John White is our new Purchasing Specialist in the Business Office. He spent five years as a Commodities Specialist for Morris Communications in Augusta, GA, and prior to that was a buyer for Menard in Trenton, SC, for three years. He has a bachelor of arts from New York University. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Pendleton.



John White

students which gives tips on building relationships and understanding others from different cultural backgrounds. Each session provides insight on various aspects of culture (i.e., language and communication, dress and appearance, time management, etc.) to enhance students' confidence for working and living successfully in a global society.

February 9 – Diversity Exchange Chat Session will be held from 5 – 6 p.m. in the Faculty Staff Lounge. The chat session is open to all students who want to come together to exchange positive ideas, participate in discussion and share information that enhances personal growth and success. The topic will be communication.

February 17 – Clemson resident Bryant Smith will present "Toy Story" from 12:20 – 2:20 p.m. in the Auditorium. He will focus on G.I. Joe, the first action figure ever created. It was the first to accurately depict and document the African American soldiers' participation in the United States military. He will present his unique collection as he discusses history and pop culture.

February 24 – Students can test their knowledge of Black History Month. Quizzes will be available in the SLCS office (112 Miller Hall) on that day only. Prizes will be awarded.

The following recently have departed the College. We wish them well in their new endeavors.

Jacqueline Stewart • Karen Johnston • Anita Holder

Brag & Share

(continued from page 4)

Debbie Powell and **Leigh Colombo**, both in the Enrollment Management Division, were praised in a letter to Dan Holland, vice president for Student Affairs.

"I am writing to let you know I had a great experience working with Ms. Colombo and Ms. Powell as we were registering my daughter, Jessica, for her classes in the high school dual enrollment program. They made us feel very welcomed and were supportive and helpful. I left your school feeling that I have left my daughter in capable care. Ms. Colombo and Ms. Powell are truly assets to your organization."

Jennifer van Bergen, a new student for Spring Semester 2010, wrote this note on the Career Services Office feedback form after meeting with Job Placement Coordinator **Glenda Waters** to discuss enrollment options:

"Ms. Glenda Waters was very helpful to me. I was so lost and confused when I came to apply for college, and she sat with me for an hour answering each and every question. She is a great counselor, and I appreciate her graciousness and hospitality. I know I will have a great experience here at the College. Thank you so much for all your help, Ms. Glenda!"

Croslena Johnson writes that as a result of **Carol Miller** doing an excellent job of handling a complex situation, a very appreciative father and son sent a flower to thank her for assisting them.

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

Three Make Presentations At SCCGPA Conference

Dr. Jerry Marshall, middle, **Rick Murphy**, right, and **Dr. Bill Havice**, left, spoke to the attendees of the South Carolina Career Guidance and Placement Association (SCCGPA) conference held December 7 in Charleston, SC. They shared regarding the activities and vision of our Upstate "STEM Cluster: Best Practices." Rick, who serves as Pendleton Regional Education Center Coordinator, assured everyone that what we do in the Upstate regarding STEM education is done in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration. Jerry, our mathematics department head, expressed his strong desire to attract and retain more young people into a potentially life-changing field of education that holds great promise for their future and the economic welfare of South Carolina. Dr. Havice, associate dean for Health, Education and Human Development at Clemson University, noted that ALL students in South Carolina need to be "technologically literate."



Enrollment (continued from page 1)

Sims feared she wouldn't know a soul on her first day of classes. At 57, she's back in the classroom to retrain for a new career after a plant shutdown ended her 30-year career in textiles. Walking the halls to find her classes, she saw a lot of familiar faces – former co-workers and friends who also were forced to change careers after plant layoffs and closures. "There are so many people my age," she said. "I found myself stopping to talk with people I knew. It was like a reunion. It made me feel so much better. I know I'm not alone."

Tri-County is the fastest-growing technical college among the 16 in the State, according to data compiled over the last decade. Since 2002 Tri-County's spring enrollment has grown 77.9 percent (3,637 students in 2002 versus 6,471 in 2010).

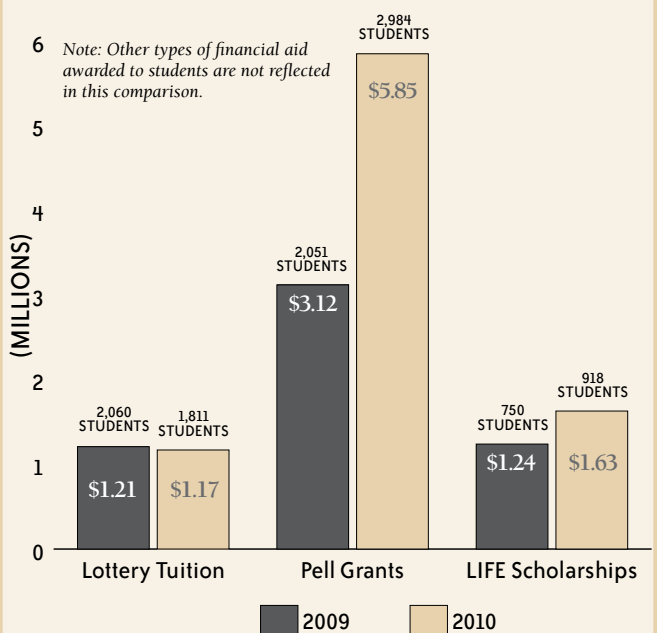
More than 1,000 more students enrolled at Tri-County this spring as compared to the previous spring, said Dr. Booth, citing affordability and accessibility as the top two reasons folks choose Tri-County.

"People understand our value proposition. A two-year degree at Tri-County costs roughly less than one semester at a four-year college or university," he said.

Dr. Booth also credits this semester's enrollment surge with the increased awareness that a college degree isn't a luxury but a necessity for acquiring and maintaining employment in today's competitive workforce.

Spring Semester Financial Aid Awards Comparisons 2009 and 2010

Total Dollars Awarded and Students Served



Lynn Shook Credits Weight Watchers, Support System with Losing More than 100 Pounds in Less than a Year

The only person Lynn Shook surprised when she stepped on the scales at the December 2009 Weight Watchers meeting and realized she had reached a major milestone – a 100-pound loss – was herself.

“If you had told me a year and a half ago that I would be 100 pounds slimmer, I would think it could only be because of an illness. I didn’t think it was possible for me to lose 100 pounds in less than a year,” said Lynn, who works as our Payroll Accounting Technician.

Co-workers and friends, on the other hand, never doubted she would be successful.

“I knew from the first day that Lynn would be a very successful member of Weight Watchers,” said Benefits Coordinator Lisa Anderson, who serves as our on-site coordinator and who is a lifetime member of Weight Watchers. “She is very determined and loves a good challenge. I have been so proud of her accomplishment and her willingness to help others meet their goals.”

Lynn began her weight loss journey last January 28 when she joined the first on-campus Weight Watchers class. In less than a year, she shed 104.2 pounds – basically an entire person – and counting. “I feel great, and it hasn’t been hard to stay with it,” she said.

Lynn decided to enroll in the class after listening to Lisa Anderson talk about her success with Michelin’s Weight Watchers class. (Lisa’s husband is an employee of Michelin.) “In the past I hadn’t been in the place where I was ready to commit, and you can’t lose weight until you are ready. I saw it work for Lisa, and I decided to try.”

“The program is very easy to use and the motivational talks are very interesting. Each weekly meeting begins with your private weigh-in and then we have our message for the week while we eat our lunches. These include hints and other helpful ideas for weight loss. Then we have an awards ceremony following the talk. This is when you show your support for your fellow losers. One of the nicest things about this program is that it has given me the opportunity to get to know other folks from all over the campus. We are always so busy doing our jobs we do not have time to mingle and get to know our neighbors. By having this program available to us here at work, we are able to use our time wisely, make new friends, and lose weight in the process. What a deal!”

She attributes her success to the program itself and to her “wonderful support systems at work and at home, who have been there from the first pound to the 104th.”

The Weight Watchers plan is not time consuming in regard to preparing meals, and the information on the website makes it simple, she said. “The weekly Wednesday meetings with the



Lynn Shook and Lisa Anderson

group are wonderful. Everyone is positive at the meetings. No one is ever embarrassed by weight gains. There’s a camaraderie; everyone is rooting for each other,” she said.

“You don’t have to give up the foods you love. You just have to eat them in moderation in accordance with the point system at Weight Watchers. You are in charge of what you eat and you can cheat, but you have to use your allotted points. Once you are in the mindset of the point system and its value, you don’t want to cheat. The beauty of the program is that you can have anything – even peanut butter. You just have to count the points and decide how valuable it is to you,” she said.

“To make the program work, you have to want it. You can’t go at it half hearted. None of it would be possible without God’s help and my phenomenal support system.”

She added, “It’s very liberating. I’ll use this knowledge throughout my life. Weight Watchers has changed my life forever.”

Golden OPPORTUNITIES *to shape the future*

Community Continues to Support Major Gifts Campaign

U.S. Engine Valve and its joint venture partner, Nittan Valve Company, Ltd., in Japan, recently made a \$15,000 donation to the College's Major Gifts Campaign. The \$7,500 from the Eaton Charitable Fund and the \$7,500 from Nittan Valve will support mechanical systems level-one trainers. Pictured here are, from left, **Rick Cothran**, dean of Corporate and Community Education; **Elisabeth Gadd**, director of Development; **Dr. Booth**; **Rob Griffin**, plant manager; **Mary Ann Craft**, human resource manager; and **John Lummus**, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement.

"We get a lot of value from Tri-County Technical College," said Mr. Griffin. "The power of knowledge makes people better."

U.S. Engine Valve is a member of the College's World Class Training Center and is a strong supporter of the College Foundation, having endowed a scholarship and provided funding for professional development and equipment.

Because of the company's generosity, it is recognized on the College's prestigious Wall of Honor, which recognizes donors who have cumulatively given \$50,000 or more to support the mission of the College.



Square D Schneider Electric Pledges \$50,000 To Major Gifts Campaign

Square D Schneider Electric in Seneca made a \$50,000 pledge to the Foundation's Major Gifts Campaign. Here, **Larry Smith**, plant manager, middle, presents a check to **Dr. Booth**, right, and **John Lummus**, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement.

Since 1988, Square D Schneider Electric has supported the Foundation through annual gifts, all devoted to advancing educational opportunities and instruction. The company is also a member of the College's Wall of Honor, which is reserved for donors who have contributed \$50,000 or more cumulatively.

Oconee FCL Establishes Scholarship Endowment

The Oconee Family Community Leaders (FCL) scholarship committee made a donation to establish a scholarship endowment. The scholarship will be awarded to an Oconee County resident.

In the past, the organization assisted children or members of the membership family to continue their education by attending a college of their choice. Members now feel they will best serve the students of Oconee County by establishing a scholarship at Tri-County.

Pictured from left are **Ethelin Stancil**, treasurer of Oconee FCL; **Marie Chatlos**, member and past president of Oconee FCL and past vice president of the State organization; **Dr. Booth**; and **Barbara Rhoads**, president of Oconee FCL.



Duke Energy Supports Major Gifts Campaign

Duke Energy recently made an unrestricted gift of \$5,000 to the College's Foundation. **Mike Wilson**, district manager for government and community relations for Duke Energy, left, presented a check to **Dr. Booth**, middle, and **John Lummus**, vice president for economic and institutional advancement.

Duke Energy has been a strong supporter of the College's Foundation and has donated more than \$88,000 since 1998. Because of Duke Energy's generosity, it is featured on the College's prestigious Wall of Honor, which recognizes donors who have cumulatively given \$50,000 or more to support the mission of the College.

In addition, since 2006, more than \$2 million in grants have been awarded by AdvanceSC, a limited liability company established by Duke Energy in 2004 to support communities in Duke Energy's South Carolina service area through grants for public assistance and economic development programs. In general, AdvanceSC concentrates on advancing education to support industry, assisting other economic development organizations to attract and retain industries in Duke Energy's service territory, and enhancing the competitive position of manufacturers in Duke Energy's service territory.



Executive Staff Updates

- **Enrollment Growth:** Discussed the need to include activities in each Division plan aimed at increasing enrollment through new programs, alternative delivery models, improved retention, expanded hours of operation, etc.
- **Key Strategic Objectives:** Developed strategic objectives related to student success, expanding academic programs, promoting growth at new campuses, expanding/improving major facilities, improving energy efficiency, improving diversity, and additional sources of funding. These objectives are to be used in developing three-year strategic plans.
- **Title III Update:** Discussed how the Title III vision and strategies can be integrated into College-wide strategic planning. Next steps include establishing a larger group of stakeholders and resource people to expand the Title III vision; creating buy-in for the process and plan; and refining the strategy and plan.
- **Admission Application Deadline:** Approved the establishment of an admissions application deadline. Details will be communicated as they are finalized.
- **Staff Reports:** Beginning immediately, leaders of various offices and initiatives will be scheduled to provide informational updates during Executive Staff meetings.
- **Other topics:** Several policies and procedures were reviewed and approved (details will be posted in eTC); QuickJobs Training Centers; SACS; and financial modeling (college budget).

Tri-County's Educators of the Year Named

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

Jackie Blakley is the College's outstanding administrator; Lou Ann

Martin is the outstanding instructor; and Sue Dacus is the outstanding staff member.

Jackie has served as dean of our Business and Public Services Division since January 2008 after serving as an instructor and department head for Business Technology for a decade. Lou Ann joined the College as a full-time math instructor in 2003 after serving as a math tutor and an adjunct math instructor since 1997. Sue joined the Student Records team in 1988 as an administrative specialist and over the years has worked as a data coordinator and currently as office manager.

SCTEA is a professional association of technical education personnel and others interested in postsecondary technical education.



Jackie Blakley

Lou Ann Martin

Sue Dacus

Five Named to Alumni Association Board



Five Tri-County Technical College graduates were named to the College's Alumni Association Board this month. Board members attend quarterly meetings, assist with Alumni Association activities and events, promote the Association, and recruit members. In addition, they assist with fundraisers, including the upcoming April 30 Spring Open, the annual golf tournament co-sponsored by the Alumni Association and the Athletics Department.

Pictured from left are **John Powell**, of West Union, a 1972 alumnus and owner of Powell Real Estate; **Bethany Wiley**, of Belton, a 2001 Business Management alumna and Human Resources Specialist in the Personnel Office at Tri-County; **Evette Moss**, of Anderson, a 2001 Computer Technology graduate and part-time Administrative Assistant for the Institutional Advancement Division at Tri-County; **Greg Sosebee**, of Clemson, a 1975 Civil Engineering Technology graduate and owner of Greg Sosebee and Associates Land Surveying and Land Planning in Seneca; and **Ed Sullivan**, of Central, a 2008 associate in Arts graduate who is currently pursuing an associate in Science degree. Ed plans to transfer to USC.

College Hosts Wastewater Conference



The College hosted a Wastewater Conference January 22 in the IBDC with around 40 business and industry representatives in attendance. Agenda topics included the apprenticeship and certification process, along with wastewater system and energy efficiency and decentralized systems. Presenters included **Elizabeth Williams**, director of the Environmental Training Center at Central Carolina Technical College in Sumter and a member of the SC Environmental Certification Board for LLR, pictured standing; Brad Neese, apprenticeship consultant, Apprenticeship Carolina Division of the SC Technical College System; Ken Tuck, water resources manager for Spartanburg Water; and Bob Freeman, environmental reviewer and decentralized wastewater treatment systems coordinator for U.S. EPA, Region 4, Georgia.

Kyle Swilling Graduates through Gateway to College Program



Kyle Swilling, of Williamston, middle, received his high school diploma this month from Wren High School through the College's Gateway to College Program. Congratulating him are **Robbie Binnicker**, principal of Wren High School, left, and **Dr. Phil Buckhiester**, vice president for Academic Affairs. Kyle plans to continue his college studies in the associate in Science program at Tri-County. After graduating from Tri-County, he plans to transfer to Coastal Carolina University and earn a bachelor's degree in Marine Science.

The Gateway to College program serves high school dropouts age 17 – 20 who meet specific eligibility criteria and live in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties. Using a dual credit model, students earn both high school and college credit, and may simultaneously complete both the high school diploma (meeting all requirements of the South Carolina Department of Education) and a postsecondary credential.

LEI Ceremony Recognizes Student Successes



Cassandra Ledford

Learning Excellence Initiative (LEI) students participated in the third annual awards ceremony December 7, which recognized their successes and celebrated the end of their first semester of college. Cassandra Ledford, a University Transfer student who lives in Clemson, was named "Outstanding LEI Student" for her learning community. Cassandra was one of 10 outstanding students representing 10 learning communities.

LEI is a program for first-time college students that focuses on improving learning and the transition to college. Participants take part in Smart Start, a pre-curriculum learning experience, and then take two or three classes together in a learning community during their first semester. All learning communities include Freshman Seminar (COL 105), a course designed to help students improve their learning and adjust to college life.

A Look Back at the Holiday Season

Food, Fellowship Enjoyed by All at Holiday Celebration



Cathy Payne, systems programmer in the Information Technology Department and member of the Staff Advisory Board, welcomes faculty and staff to the annual Holiday Celebration. Employees enjoyed fellowship, refreshments, games, and prizes during this annual event hosted by the Staff Advisory Board and funded by the College Foundation.



Faculty in the Business and Public Services Division compare notes after completing an icebreaker quiz designed to help employees get to know each other better during the annual Holiday Celebration hosted by the Staff Advisory Board. Pictured left to right are **Shallin Suber, Tracy Ethridge, Meg Allan, and Angel Luper**.

Spreading the Spirit of Christmas

The holiday season was a little brighter for local children residing in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties thanks to an Angel Tree sponsored by the Student Government Association. Here, **Allison Ekwere**, SGA president, sorts through gifts to be distributed by Head Start Programs in Clemson, Pendleton, and Seneca. More than 80 angels were adopted by students, faculty, and staff from the Anderson and Pendleton campuses. In all, more than 450 gifts were collected. Many thanks to everyone who supported the Angel Tree, particularly the Campus Safety Department and TRiO's Student Support Services (SSS) office. Both departments adopted a family, and SSS also sponsored 20 additional angels from Seneca Head Start and helped the children of fellow students.

