

# Connection

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## Dr. Booth Reflects on 10-Year Anniversary As President

In the mid 1990's, Dr. Booth and his wife, Sara, were visiting relatives in Pickens County, and while driving home, passed by Tri-County Technical College. "I pointed to the College and said, 'That would be a great place to work,'" he remembers.

At the time the Booths were living in Georgia, and he was Vice President for Student Affairs at a four- year liberal arts college. "I had heard about the College because I had worked in student affairs at Aiken Technical College and knew Tri-County's reputation. But I never dreamed that years later I would have the opportunity to serve as its president," he said.

"It's hard to believe a decade has passed," said Dr. Booth, who on July 1, 2003, began the job as Tri-County's third president. "I distinctly remember the first time I entered my office." From day one, he says he made a list of plans for moving the College toward fulfilling its mission in terms of long-term accomplishments. Even today, the list is always nearby and remains a working document – a plan to make a difference.

He's proudly marked off some major project accomplishments like building the Anderson and Easley Campuses, but he's also adding to the list as well. "The list was written in 2003, and I have made additions that go through 2018. I'm a compulsive planner," he said.

"My vision, from the beginning, was for Tri-County Technical College to be viewed as *the* role model in community college education – a model that others strive to emulate. Achieving such an ambitious vision takes time and work, but achieving it is definitely possible," he said.

Over the last 10 years, Dr. Booth has led the College to such noteworthy accomplishments as being named one of the fastest-growing technical colleges among the 16 in the State; starting the Connect to College program for high school dropouts; establishing the extremely successful Bridge to Clemson program, a first of its kind in the State; and envisioning and opening three community campuses in just four years.

From the beginning, making college accessible, available, and affordable to residents across the tri-county region was a top priority for him and the Commission.

"One of the first questions I was asked in my interview with the Commission was if I had developed and/or opened new campuses, and I had," he said. It was among his final accomplishments at his previous job as Vice President for External Programs at Gainesville College in Georgia.

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Dr. Ronnie L. Booth

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Open House for  
Paralegal Certificate Program.... July 18  
Vet Tech Pet Adoption ..... July 25  
STEM Conference.....July 29 - 30  
Summer Commencement .....August 2  
Alumni Association Meeting .... August 13  
Faculty/Staff Convocation .... August 15  
First Day of Classes..... August 19

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

## Connection

is published ten times each year by the  
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### 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) 646-8361

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

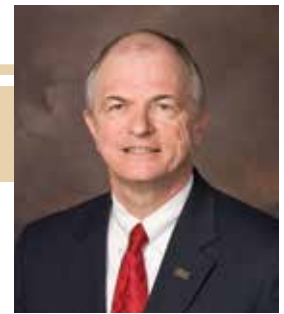
TDD/Voice: 1-800-735-2905

Website: [www.tctc.edu](http://www.tctc.edu)



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

# Connecting



**Dr. Ronnie L. Booth**  
President

During April and May, nearly 150 faculty and staff participated in workshops focused on our new three-year strategic plan. The purpose of these sessions was to give participants a shared sense of ownership in the plan and allow them to share their insights as we work toward achieving our practical vision. It also provided the opportunity for them to generate concrete actions for themselves – things they can do to help us support student success.

Participants were asked to write one key insight they gained from participating in the workshop. While the intention was not to use those insights beyond the sharing that took place during the workshop, the content was so insightful that the Executive Staff decided to group the feedback into themed categories in order to think about the information in a more systematic way.

One theme that came through loud and clear was how strongly participants have embraced a culture of student success. Many insights were shared about how students' needs must be first and foremost in our actions and goals.

Embracing personal accountability for student success was another emerging theme. One person commented, "Helping students achieve their goals is everyone's business and everyone's responsibility. It doesn't reside elsewhere. It takes every member of the organization taking responsibility for the vision to be realized."

It also was heartening to see a willingness to embrace change reflected in the feedback, as well as a sense that each person can make a difference in our success. Some of the comments included, "I am the only person who can change me; let's walk the talk; we are ALL IN; let's strive to be better; I can make a difference." An appreciation for diversity of thought, experience, and perspective also was evident in the feedback, which in and of itself can be a powerful tool to bring about change.

At the same time, we noted many opportunities for growth and development.

There is a clear desire for more transparency; more open communication from top to bottom, bottom to top, and side to side. One of the strongest themes by far was the need to engage more with each other - to have meaningful conversations with each other, spend time together, break down barriers, and work more in teams. We also saw the need for leadership to engage more with employees; not just Executive Staff, but all of the leadership of the College.

While we noted solid evidence of a strong, emerging culture of student success, we also saw the need for more clarity about what we are trying to accomplish with our strategic plan, including signs that we need to make a better case for our vision and why this is the direction we need to take. We need to have focused conversations about student success so that everyone feels connected to the plan and understands his/her role.

We have more work to do in the area of employee empowerment, too. Empowering employees doesn't happen just because we declare it is so. Employees have to feel it; believe it; trust it. They have to understand it is all right to make mistakes and to learn from them to move the institution forward. If we aren't taking risks, we will never get any better. We also need to do a better job of valuing each other and the contributions each of us make to student success. The only way to make students successful is through our people, not our infrastructure, so we need to do more to empower employees to make decisions and take action.

Driving organizational success through our people; reinventing our offerings to adapt to changing realities; positioning and equipping students for success; and embracing personal accountability for students' learning. These are the strategic directions we must follow in order to fulfill our ten-year vision to transform lives and shape the community. Doing so

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# Spotlight on Twenty20

## TRI-COUNTY TO KICK OFF TWENTY20 PROGRAM THIS FALL

Dan Holland remembers how disconnected he felt when he arrived as a nervous freshman on the campus of Southern Wesleyan University in 1986.

The first-generation college student athlete had never been on a college campus and needed help in acclimating to an academic environment. He says what could have been a dropout story turned into a rewarding college experience because of the university's mentoring program. "Freshmen were paired with faculty and staff members who served as 'adopted parents,' who guided them through their freshman year and beyond," said Dan, who today serves as our Dean of Student Development.

Dan was paired with the Assistant to the Vice President of Business Affairs, who is now 86 years old and who became like family to him. "To this day, she remains a close friend and confidante," he said.

Disabilities Coordinator Stephanie Winkler had a similar experience when she earned her undergraduate degree at Converse College. "When I arrived on campus at Converse, I was nervous and intimidated. I had always been a successful student in high school, but this was a totally new world and I felt in over my head from the first day."

During orientation week, she met with a group of about 10 new students and an orientation leader. "It was through this experience that I met one of my politics department professors, mentor, and eventual friend," she said.

Dan and Stephanie have teamed together to design a program for Tri-County that is similar to the positive experiences they had as college freshmen. Called Twenty20, it's a mentoring and personal relationship-building program set to kick off this fall.

Twenty members of Tri-County's faculty and staff each will serve as "Twenty20 coaches" for 20 students to improve student retention and success. This initiative will support the institutional goal of increasing student retention. A pilot program



The Pilot Coaches are: Amanda Blanton, Tim Bowen, Jeff Christmas, Glenn Hellenga, Dennis Lee, Dr. Gwen Owens, Shan Smith, Kevin Steele, Dr. Brian Swords, and Stephanie Winkler.

will start in the fall with 10 coaches teamed with 20 students each.

Twenty20 coaches will serve as a coach, support system, and friendly face for their students. Coaches also will act as a conduit to services and success. The program will encourage building relationships and fostering a more cordial atmosphere for faculty/staff and students so that students feel comfortable asking for help.

"We are promoting student engagement as part of our strategic plan at the College," said Dan. "Both Stephanie and I experienced a similar program that was helpful in our academic journeys. We hope the Twenty20 program will be a transformative opportunity for Tri-County students as well."

Stephanie said the program will be valuable because Tri-County students can feel disconnected without a residential component on campus. Also, for a student who isn't technologically inclined, college can be less personalized because they often communicate with a computer, not a person, about their goals, added Dan.

Prospective students are being identified via a questionnaire in which they indicate a need for a friend or mentor to guide them.

"We will recruit over the summer and begin calling students to invite them to join the program. We hope to fill 200 slots for fall," said Stephanie.

Often times Dan says he listens to students talk about their personal challenges which sound very much like his did in the 80's. "I often see myself in these students," he said. "That's why I know this program will work."

Based on their interest and enthusiasm, Tri-County faculty and staff believe it will work, also, said Winkler. "The program already has a waiting list for those interested in becoming coaches next year. Each time we talk to groups, we get more volunteers. They see the value of the program. They want to be a part of it," she said.

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!



**Tom Lawrence**, department head for the Public Services Division, sent this note of congratulations:

"Two Criminal Justice alumni were honored at the 2013 Anderson Police Awards Banquet. Officer Jasmine Deluna (Class of 2011) received Police Officer of the Year, and Officer Tony Duncan (Class of 2011) received Detention Rookie of the Year. Congratulations on your success, and thank you for your service to the community!"

**Ken Kopera**, director of the Physical Plant, expressed his thanks in this note:

"I would like to thank everyone in Miller and Pickens Halls who had to move their offices May 28 and 29. Everyone pitched in and got the job done despite receiving only a few days' notice. Through concentrated effort and cooperation, we were able to relocate over 35 individuals within two days. By doing so it allowed the College to keep two very important projects on track, Matriculation and the Pickens HVAC replacement. Job well done!"

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

## Transocean Talks To Students about Job Opportunities



**Kevin Kelly**, technical recruiter for Transocean, the world's largest offshore drilling contractor, left, was on campus to talk to students about job opportunities as entry-level electronics technicians. Here, **Joseph Mbi** a Mechatronics major set to graduate in December, talks with Kelly.

# Our College Family

## excellence through service

Congratulations to **Dr. Harriette Dudley** on her recent graduation from Leadership Anderson, Class XXIX. She was honored by her peers with the distinction of providing the graduating remarks. As a result of her commitment to excellence, selfless leadership, and ability to forge meaningful relationships, she was voted onto the Board of Regents where she will continue to serve Tri-County and its community partners.



Dr. Harriette Dudley

## in transition

**Dr. Dan Averette** joined the College June 1 as Dean of the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division. Dan, who has 27 years of teaching and administrative experience at the high school and college levels, says, "Tri-County is a progressive college, and I wanted to join this team of forward-looking individuals who are making a difference for students."

He and his family moved from Augusta, Georgia, where he had been a Physics and Astronomy teacher at Greenberg High School, Columbia County Board of Education, for two years. Prior to that, most of his career had been working at the administrative level. From 1986 - 99, he was Dean of the Engineering Technology, General Education, and Industrial Technology Divisions at Augusta Technical College. He also served as Associate Dean at Kansas State University, as well as Dean of the Engineering Technologies Division at Greenville Technical College for two years. From 2002 - 2005, he was Vice President of Instructional Services at Southern Crescent Technical College. For one year, he was Assistant Department Chair and Coordinator of Engineering Studies at Georgia Southern University.



Dr. Dan Averette

He has a B.S. in Physics from Augusta State University, as well as a doctor of Philosophy from Georgia Institute of Technology.

He is a member of the American Society of Engineering Education, American Society of Manufacturing Engineers, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He has done consulting work for Gates Rubber Company, DSM Chemical Company, the Georgia Department of Transportation, and E-Z-GO Division of Textron, Inc.

Dan has spent the last few weeks meeting people on campus and visiting area industries. "I'm in tune to helping attract new industry to the area. It's the hat I wore at Augusta and Kansas State. Economic development is an area of interest for me. It's wonderful to be here."

He and his wife, Anita, have two sons: Daniel, 18, who will attend Tri-County this fall, and Denver, 15. They live in Six Mile.

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## Mark Your Calendars Now! Fall Faculty/Staff Convocation is Thursday, August 15

Join us for the Fall Faculty/Staff Convocation on Thursday, August 15, at 8:15 a.m. in the Marshall Parker Auditorium in Oconee Hall on the Pendleton Campus. This event is a kick-off celebration of the new academic year for permanent employees. Dr. Booth will share his vision for the coming year and award the Advisory Committee of the Year and Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence. Breakfast will follow in the Café.

In an effort to be environmentally conscious and good stewards of the College's financial resources, we will no longer be sending printed invitations to this event.

Questions? Contact Rebecca Eidson at Ext. 1507 or reidson@tctc.edu.

## Booth *(continued from page 1)*

The timelines may have been altered for some projects and some took longer than he anticipated, but he takes great pride in opening the community campuses, the first being in Anderson. “I’m very pleased with what we’ve been able to do,” he said. One of the biggest pieces of building the Anderson Campus was to help the Foundation understand that there are ways to raise money other than for scholarships, he said. The Anderson Campus was made possible by the commitment of Dr. Booth, the College Commission, and the Foundation Board to find alternative sources of funding for the purchase of this land and for the construction of the first building. Once the approval process began, the College Foundation Finance Committee voted to establish a limited liability corporation (LLC) to purchase, develop, and lease property to the College.

“The Foundation formed an LLC — this was not typical — it wasn’t something a two-year college in South Carolina had done. That was very rewarding for me,” said Dr. Booth. “We got the Foundation engaged in a different way of meeting the needs of the College. I had seen that model work in Georgia and knew we could do it here. It was a home run, in my opinion.”

Creating pathways to success for students is another point of pride. The Bridge to Clemson program, now in its eighth year with a record 700 students enrolled for this fall, “is a huge success and has opened opportunities we never guessed for relationships between the College and other institutions. We have set the standard, and when I travel all over the country, people approach me and want to talk about Bridge.”

Other transfer opportunities include students being able to transfer through the 2 + 2 and transfer agreements with Presbyterian College, Clemson, Southern Wesleyan University, the University of South Carolina, and Anderson University. “We’ve raised the profile of our College and our academic standing. I attribute that to faculty who are doing really good work,” he added.

Opportunities are abundant for graduates of our terminal degree programs who leave Tri-County with a strong resume of education and direct exposure to today’s workplace, said Dr. Booth.

Our terminal degree programs in the Business and Public Services, Engineering and Industrial Technology, and Health Education Divisions prepare graduates to go directly into the workforce in two years or less and get good paying jobs, he added.

“Employers are always asking, ‘What can a person do for us? How can they meet our needs now?’ Our curricula gives students an introduction to their education, as well as allowing them to spend time in the field to understand what they are studying,” he said.

Other highlights include having the College’s accreditation reaffirmed by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools,



*During his 10 years at Tri-County, Dr. Booth opened the College’s first three community campuses. The first was the Anderson Campus located at 511 Michelin Boulevard, in 2007, pictured here. The Oconee Campus at the Hamilton Career Center in Seneca also opened in 2007, and the Easley Campus on Powdersville Road in Easley opened in 2011.*



**Commissioner Helen Rosemond-Saunders** welcomes **Dr. Booth** as the College’s third president at a reception held before he took office in July 2003.

our accrediting agency, he said. “We are seen by other colleges as a model, which is huge. We are fiscally sound. We made it through the financial downturn without taking a bullet. We survived it and have come out on the other side even better. I am very pleased with our fiscal stability,” he said.

“Our relationship with economic development leaders, as well as industry, is great. We are the go-to guys when they are courting an industrial prospect. We are a key player in the work they do. In addition, our relationship with the school districts in the three counties is superb.”

Dr. Booth said, “At the end of the day, the question is, ‘Are we meeting the needs of the community?’ The answer is yes, we are, in creative ways we didn’t know were possible.”

## Our College Family

(continued from page 4)

### Two Longtime CCE Members Retire



Trenna Metts

Barbara Hammond

This summer the Corporate and Community Education Division said goodbye to two longtime employees who retired after a collective 51 years of service.

**Trenna Metts**, career development program director since 2000, retired in June after 28 years of service at Tri-County and Horry Georgetown Technical College, and **Barbara Hammond**, director of the Office Skills Center, retired June 28 after 23 years.

"I'll miss the students and the people I've worked with over the years," said Barbara. "Teaching adults is so fulfilling because many come in with no computer skills and in a couple of weeks they make so much progress in their skills and their confidence. It's wonderful to find out later about the jobs they have landed," she said.

"You can literally see people's lives change. I love Tri-County, the people here, and our students. It's the best place I've ever worked."

Trenna, who has been enjoying the summer, has earned her insurance license in life, health, and annuity and is pursuing opportunities in the Anderson area.

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

**Katy Goforth**      **Janet Scott**  
**Mike McComas**    **Kevin Woods**  
**Maria Montesso**

The following have retired from the College:  
**Dr. Sheryl Donovan** and **Roger Kern**

## Clemson Class of '63 Endows Bridge To Clemson Program

The Clemson University Class of 1963 made a generous donation in support of the Bridge to Clemson Program as part of its Golden Anniversary celebration. To date, the group has raised \$744,000 toward a commitment of \$1 million to endow the Bridge program as part of Clemson's "The Will to Lead" capital campaign. "When each of you graduated fifty years ago, Tri-County was just getting started, thanks to a generous gift of land from Clemson University," said Dr. Booth, who was a guest speaker at a ceremony held June 7 outside Cooper Library on the Clemson Campus. "We built our Pendleton Campus on that land, and it serves as a symbol of a great partnership between Tri-County and Clemson – a partnership that continues to grow through programs like Bridge to Clemson."

Bridge to Clemson was launched in the fall of 2006 with 231 students. A first of its kind in South Carolina, this invitation-only program blends the traditional academic experience at Tri-County with the social and cultural experiences of being at Clemson University. Bridge students must earn 30 transfer credits at Tri-County during their Bridge year and maintain a 2.5 GPA in order to transition to Clemson for their sophomore year. They live together in a local apartment complex and have access to student life programs and services at Tri-County and Clemson. To date, the program has served 2,947 students, with an additional 700 planned for Fall 2013. The anniversary gift will help meet the Bridge program's funding needs in the years to come. In honor of the gift, the program will be named the Class of 1963 Bridge to Clemson University.



**Dr. Booth** addressed the Clemson University Class of 1963 at its Golden Anniversary celebration, thanking the group for their generous gift to endow the Bridge to Clemson Program. To date, the Class of '63 has raised \$744,000 toward a commitment of \$1 million to endow the Bridge program as part of Clemson's "The Will to Lead" capital campaign. The anniversary gift will help meet the Bridge program's funding needs in the years to come.



The new Bridge to Clemson logo was revealed as part of the Clemson University Class of 1963 Golden Anniversary celebration. In appreciation of this generous endowment, the program has been renamed the Class of '63 Bridge to Clemson Program. Holding signs thanking the class of '63 are former Bridge students who successfully transferred to Clemson University (left to right) **Bry Sidwell**, **Chris Patch**, **Tucker Wigington**, and **Kyle Cutler**.

# Three New Programs Set for Fall

## CNC PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONS DEGREE

The College will launch a new program this fall, the first in the State exclusively targeted to CNC programming and operations with an engineering graphics component.

Called Computer Numeric Control (CNC) Programming and Operations, the degree program will replace the Machine Tool Technology (MTT) curriculum that has been in existence at the College for 50 years.

"It's not just a name change," said Stan Compton, engineering technology department head in the College's Engineering and Industrial Technology Division. "To remain on the leading edge of computer numeric controlled manufacturing, our current MTT program has been replaced with a fresh new curriculum. Our advisory committees have communicated to us a desire for the College to deliver graduates with a greater array of skills than the existing MTT program currently offers. The degree will prepare people to work as CNC programmers and operators with manufacturers requiring high production volumes or short-run batches of discrete parts. In addition to writing CNC programs, students will learn CAD design and analysis applications, create precision set ups, select tooling and operate a variety of CNC milling and turning centers," he said.

"We've combined parts of Engineering Graphics Technology (CAD analysis) with advanced CNC programming and machine operation, along with lean manufacturing classes, to make our graduates more marketable in today's workplace," he said.

Stan added that current MTT majors have the option to finish the MTT degree coursework or change their major to the new CNC Programming and Operations.

## PARALEGAL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

When Criminal Justice program coordinator/instructor Chris McFarlin was practicing law in Arkansas, he says a paralegal was critical to the success of his practice.

"She was very valuable to me. The general consensus among attorneys is paralegals are critical to any practice because they administer support by performing research for attorneys, assisting with drafting legal documents, and managing the law office," he said.

"If you can find a paralegal who is responsible, mature, meticulous and loyal, he or she is worth their weight in gold because attorneys are so dependent on them," he added.

Chris spent the last year developing the curriculum for a Paralegal Certificate program that will be brand new at Tri-County this fall. Day and evening classes will be held on the Pendleton Campus. All courses will be taught by Chris, local practicing attorneys, and seasoned paralegals in the area.

The program is designed to give students an introduction to paralegal work, with classes in civil and criminal law, legal research, drafting legal memos, and legal ethics.

The 39-credit program will accept 25 students, with any associate degree being the prerequisite. There will be an Open House July 18 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. in Pickens Hall on the Pendleton Campus. Interested persons can meet with faculty, hear an overview of the program, and learn about job opportunities in the Upstate.

Chris says the College will seek American Bar Association accreditation, the gold standard for legal education, after a degree program has been in existence for two years.

## PRE-VETERINARY MEDICINE

There is a new addition to the Pre-Health Profession cluster this fall. The Pre-Veterinary Medicine degree gives students the core courses necessary to apply to identified Southeastern Veterinary Medicine Colleges. "A bachelor's degree is not required to go to veterinary school," said Science Department Head Suzanne Ellenberger. "What is required is a good GPA in your program of core classes and a good score on the program's entrance exam (the Veterinary College Admission Test or VCAT, a measurement device which helps to evaluate the knowledge and achievement of the student who is applying to the veterinary colleges)."

# Camp Xceleration Focuses on Robots



**Regan Orzechowski**, 11, daughter of General Engineering Technology instructor **Mandy Orzechowski**, right, and **Madison Scruggs**, also 11, were among the 26 participants, ages 10 – 12, who attended the four-day Camp Xceleration 2013. Participants explored LEGO® MINDSTORMS®'s NXT robots, focusing on robot construction and best practices, using gears, basics of programming, improving programs, sensors, and robot navigation.



**Elliott Wright**, 11, is seen working on a project with **Dorian McIntire**, program coordinator for General Engineering Technology.

*Many thanks to Robert Bosch, LLC, who again provided funding for the camp.*

## Executive Staff Updates

- **Strategic Plan Workshops:** Executive Staff received a debriefing on the Strategic Plan Workshops attended by employees in April and May. The feedback was grouped by theme, revealing several action items that will be addressed by Executive Staff.
- **Welding Expansion Project Charter:** Executive Staff approved a project charter that will address space utilization requirements for industry training in non-traditional formats and leverage the stackable credentials concept.
- **Fall Enrollment:** A program-specific predictive enrollment model is being used to drive enrollment activities for Fall Semester. Marketing and recruiting strategies have been developed and are underway to increase the number of new, continuing, and returning students.
- **QuickJobs Centers and SC Works Centers:** The SC Department of Employment and Workforce will relocate its SC Works Centers in each county to the QuickJobs Development Centers located at our Easley Campus, Oconee Campus at the Hamilton Career Center, and Anderson Campus, which is slated to open later this fall.
- **Other:** policy and procedure updates

## Connecting

(continued from page 2)

means we must always strive to be better, which requires us to do things in new and different ways. Your feedback from the strategic planning workshop shows that you understand that change is needed, change is good, and change starts with each individual.



Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.  
President

## Two Seminars Outlining Disabilities Services Set for September

This time of year, Disabilities Coordinator Stephanie Winkler spends much of her time on the telephone or in student meetings, educating new students and parents, along with high school groups, about the College's resources that are available to help students with disabilities.

"We are here to provide students who have a qualifying disability with equal access in their educational programs," said Stephanie. Those who receive services exhibit substantial limitations in major life activities, such as vision and hearing limitations, mobility and sensory impairments, in addition to difficulty with reading comprehension, focusing, and concentration, she said.

Many transition their Individualized Educational Plans (IEP) from high schools to postsecondary education, she added.

Accommodations can range from extended time to take a test in the Assessment Center or in a private environment to needing assistance with note taking in class or help for a wheelchair-bound student who needs specific assistive technology.

Stephanie will conduct two seminars in September for faculty and staff to let them know about the services provided by the Disabilities Services Office, as well as tips on how to assist a student who may need help. The seminars will be held September 4 from 1:30 – 3 p.m. and September 10 from 12:20 – 2 p.m. Both will be held in Ruby Hicks 245.

"Usually there is no way to know someone has a qualifying disability unless he or she self identifies," said Stephanie, meaning that the student presents the instructor with an accommodation letter or discloses the information in conversation.

"But I always ask faculty to listen and if they hear a student say the numbers 504 or the letters IEP, it's a pretty good indicator they need to come talk to me," she said.

The most common disability is Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or ADHD, she said. Learning disabilities such as dyslexia, reading comprehension and processing disorders are common, as well, she said. Each semester Stephanie works with 130 – 150 students.

The first step is to gather documentation for a qualifying disability, she said. She gathers a personal history, and with that information and recommendations by a licensed treating provider, she and the student establish a set of accommodations. The student takes these to instructors to implement this in the classroom.

"We have provisions at all of our community campuses," she added. "I tell students the College is full of resources, and we all want you to be successful. We are here to provide you with help and support while you earn your credential," she said.

"In the seminar, I will explain the processes in our office and make faculty aware of the obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you see a student struggling in class, talk to them as a concerned instructor. Make them aware of our office. You can begin by outlining our services in your syllabi. Get the information to them. Our office is here to help. Just point them in my direction."



Stephanie Winkler