

Connection

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The College kicked off its first-ever major gifts campaign aimed at moving the College toward achieving role-model status among community colleges in the United States.

The announcement was made by Dr. Booth at the College's annual report luncheon, which attracts approximately 250 community, business, industrial, government and political leaders from Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties. Guests received a 50-page annual report, whose theme is "More Valuable than Ever" and highlights the major College and Foundation accomplishments of 2008 - 2009.

"The demand for community colleges has never been greater," said Dr. Booth. "Conversely, the cuts in our traditional sources of funding have never been more significant. Therefore, we must look beyond these traditional sources of funding to remain viable. We owe it to this community to find alternative ways to thrive. For this reason, we have embarked upon a journey to seek private funding through our \$9-million Golden Opportunities Campaign," he said.

Tri-County will observe its 50th anniversary in 2012. In celebration of this golden anniversary, and in recognition of the financial needs of the College, the Tri-County Technical College Foundation Board voted in 2007

to conduct its first-ever major gifts campaign. Over the last year and a half, the College conducted the 'quiet' phase of the campaign with faculty and staff participation reaching 99 percent, the highest level of employee giving in the history of the College. In addition, Dr. Booth met with business and industry leaders and discussed what the College offers the community and how donations can help to meet training needs.

By 2012, the College hopes to raise \$9 million and has developed four initiatives to address community demands. They include: expanding educational opportunities, improving technology and equipment, enhancing opportunities for student success, and promoting economic and community development.

"Your gift may directly or indirectly provide funding for a scholarship, change a life for the better,

(continued on page 9)



Three community/business leaders are serving as co-chairs for our Golden Opportunities to Shape the Future Major Gifts Campaign. The College officially launched on November 10 its first-ever major gifts campaign to raise \$9 million in cash and pledges over the next five years to position the College to be more responsive to community needs. Spearheading the campaign are, pictured here, **Neal Workman, Jr.**, of Seneca, chairman of the board of Trehel Corporation, standing; **D. Kirk Oglesby, Jr.**, of Anderson, president emeritus of AnMed Health, seated; and **Jane S. Sosebee**, of Clemson, director of external affairs for AT&T South Carolina. Mr. Oglesby and Mrs. Sosebee also serve on the College's Foundation Board.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday
Break..... Dec. 24, 2009 – Jan. 1, 2010
Blood DriveJan. 27
First LEGO Regional Qualifying
TournamentJan.. 30

**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.

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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

There are few things that make me prouder than inviting
business, industry, and community leaders to the
College to see and hear about our progress during the
previous academic year.

As in the past, we had great things to share during the Annual Report Luncheon held on
our Pendleton Campus in mid-November. We presented our Annual Report for 2008-09 and
launched the public phase of our Major Gifts Campaign, which you will read about in the cover
story of this newsletter.

The unprecedented challenges brought about by the recent economic downturn revealed
the theme of our Annual Report – MORE VALUABLE THAN EVER. Each story illustrates the value
Tri-County represents for a wide variety of individuals, companies, and others who chose us as
their partner for education, training, and other services.

For example, we highlighted Cindy Story, who recognized the value of turning to Tri-County
to be retrained for a new career. Cindy, who lost her job after 27 years as a textile designer for
a major local company, was able to parlay her design skills into a new career by enrolling in our
Corporate and Community Education Division in the Interior Design program.

We also told the story of Mark Franks, who, like Cindy, trained for a new career after losing
his job in the textile industry. He turned what could have been a downward spiral in a new
direction by enrolling in our Industrial Electronics program. Mark graduated this past spring and
is now one of our adjunct instructors. Three of his sons also have enrolled at Tri-County, thanks
to his encouragement.

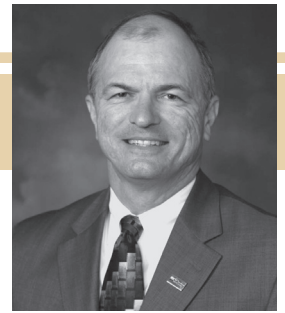
The report also features local businesses and industries that recognized the value of
starting apprenticeship training to improve their competitiveness in the marketplace. Plastic
Omnium, Peoples Bancorporation, Bowers Emergency Services, Johnson Controls, and
U.S. Engine Valve are featured in the report, along with our own Corporate and Community
Education Division, which also has started a customer service apprenticeship program.

The value of strong partnerships is also prominently featured in the report. We could not have
broken ground on our new Easley campus without the help of our friends in Easley and Pickens
County. The same is true for our presence in Honea Path at the Watkins Community Center.
Without the partnership of Senator Billy O'Dell, we would not have been able to open the learning
center named in his honor and offer classes for personal and professional development.

By now everyone is familiar with the partnership that resulted in our Bridge to Clemson
program. But less well known is the unique collaboration between our Welding Department and
Clemson University's Architecture program. Working together, students were able to convert a
huge shipping container that might have otherwise ended up in a scrap yard into a hurricane-
resistant housing unit for residents of hurricane-ravaged island countries. Their work is being
used as a prototype to expand the project. Not only did the students from both colleges learn
practical, hands-on skills and valuable lessons in teamwork, they also had the opportunity to
work on a project that will make a long-term difference for many living in areas traditionally hit
hard by hurricanes.

We also shared the value of learning experiences beyond the borders of Anderson, Oconee,
and Pickens counties. We told the story of Maine Dawkins who, along with eleven other
students, had the opportunity to participate in a combined history and English class that took a
trip to New England to study and see the birthplace of our Nation. While this type of experience
is common at four-year colleges and universities, it is a step in a new direction for community
colleges like Tri-County.

While some outside the College cannot be expected to understand all that it means to
(continued on page 12)



Ronnie L. Booth
President



Spotlight on Gateway to College

Four days into the fall semester, George Fiori got an e-mail from a CPT 270 Advanced Microcomputer Applications student saying she had finished the online class. The average student takes the entire 15 weeks to complete the course that focuses on Microsoft Office and the more advanced features of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, along with an introduction to Access.

George admits he was taken aback – “It’s a record for completion, but it’s doable if someone really buckles down,” he said. He also remembers thinking, “I hope this is a CPT student. I checked the class roll and saw that she was a Gateway to College student, and it knocked my socks off.”

Kayla Nichols, of Belton, dropped out of high school twice before enrolling in the Gateway program. The first time was two weeks before she turned 17. She tried to go back in the eleventh grade, but it didn’t work out. “I just couldn’t be myself. I didn’t fit in. A friend told me about Gateway, and I came to Tri-County for orientation,” she said. She began the journey of earning her high school diploma while simultaneously earning college credit. She is being sponsored by Belton-Honea Path High School and is on track to graduate with her diploma in May 2010.

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.

“I love Gateway because I’m treated like an adult and I’m allowed to be myself. I always wanted to go to college. I want a better life,” said Kayla, who earned an A in George’s class.

“Kayla is representative of most Gateway students,” said Diana Walter, director of the Gateway to College program. “Their stories are incredible and diverse,” she said.

“We learned that these students can achieve academically – but usually there were social or motivational issues that prohibited them from doing well in the traditional high school setting,” said Diana.

The Gateway to College program is made possible by funding from participating local school districts and Tri-County Technical College, as well as the South Carolina Lottery Tuition Assistance program, the College’s Foundation, WorkLink/WIA Youth Services funding, and several other grants.

For more information about Gateway, please visit the College website: http://www.tctc.edu/gateway_to_college.htm



Valerie Aartun, instructional/testing specialist in the Gateway office, standing posts a weekly blog devoted to college skills and life learning. Check it out at www.gatewaytocollegeskills.blogspot.com.

“Other things just got in the way. They are not bad kids, but they may have made some bad choices and couldn’t get out of that downward spiral. But don’t assume they’re not capable. In fact, they’re really like many of the adult students Tri-County has served for years – they come to us underprepared and unsure of their abilities to perform in an academic environment.



Gateway student **Kayla Nichols**

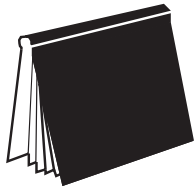
Through hard work and the encouragement they get from our faculty and others, they learn they can do it.”

That’s true, says Katy Goforth, lead English instructor and coordinator of instructional activities for Comprehensive Studies, who also teaches for Gateway. “My Gateway students are no different than my other students. They all have the same type of problems – they all struggle with family issues, balancing work and school, peer pressure, and health and financial problems. Gateway students just happened to drop out of school – and it’s rarely because of their academic levels. They just may not have had all of the successful behaviors needed to succeed in high school or college.”

Kayla says she taught herself computer skills and took CPT 170 (Microcomputer Applications) over the summer to get ready for the CPT 270 course. She is currently enrolled in Computers and Programming, U.S. History (high school course), and ECO 210. “Without Gateway, I would be working in a fast food restaurant. I hope others recognize what a great opportunity Gateway is. I will be jumping for joy next

(continued on page 7)

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!



Kevin Steele,
director of
Administrative Services,
submitted this note:

*“There are two
people who got us*

*through what could have been a significant
interruption to critical college services
when our Pendleton Campus telephone
system crashed in mid-November.*

***Matt Edwards** and **Brett Looper** in the
Information Technology Department had
been working for months to establish the
infrastructure for a new VOIP system and
were close to completion when the current
system went down. They accelerated their
efforts, working long hours and through
the weekend, to help us bring up the new
system. Thanks to Matt and Brett, when
everyone arrived at work on Monday,
November 23, the system was up and
running. We owe them our sincerest
appreciation for their hard work.”*

Susan Allen, associate VP for Academic
Affairs, writes:

*This fall’s record enrollment resulted
in 30,000 entries through the library’s
circulation gate before the Thanksgiving
holiday! Visitors included 2,664 students
for Information Literacy classes taught by
Sue Andrus and **Norman Hoyle**. Bragging
about our outstanding library staff comes
easily not just because of the variety of
outstanding services they provide but also
because of their commitment to service
excellence.”*

Two students, **Maegan Pitts**
and **Christina Gibson**, showed their
appreciation to **Renae Frazier**, director of
Admissions and Recruiting, for her service
and assistance by sending her a bouquet
of flowers.

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.

Our College Family

excellence through service

Deborah Brock and **Katy Goforth**
completed the USC Graduate School
Certificate in Higher Education Leadership.
The Certificate is a designation approved by
the South Carolina Commission on Higher
Education for the purpose of advancing
the knowledge and competencies of
professionals in South Carolina technical
colleges.



Deborah Brock

Katy Goforth

The certificate requires completion of six
graduate courses over a two-year period (one course per semester,
including summer) aimed at advanced learning specifically
relevant to professionals in two-year colleges. The University of
South Carolina is responsible for development and delivery of the
courses through its Higher Education and Student Affairs program
in the College of Education. Classes are offered through two-way
video and face-to-face in Columbia.



Sarah Shumpert

Sarah Shumpert, director of Instructional Support, recently
completed the training portion of an Appreciative Inquiry Facilitator
certification program at an international workshop in Vancouver.
Appreciative Inquiry is a philosophy, or strengths-based approach, that can be applied
in daily life or work whereby you focus on what is working well and grow successes, as
opposed to focusing on trying to fix problems. Appreciative Inquiry also can be used as a
formal, five-step process that groups may use for team building, managing change, and
planning processes.

Sarah added that Appreciative Inquiry matches the learning college philosophy
because it is collaborative in nature and many learning colleges have adopted this
positive approach. “Instructional Support is moving toward adding an area of facilitation
services,” she said. “For example, last year we began offering DACUM facilitation
services for curriculum development. Appreciative Inquiry is a service we now can
provide for faculty and staff. For example, if a group wants to try a strengths-based
approach to team building, managing change, or planning, I am available to facilitate
that process.” Also, faculty can use an Appreciative Inquiry approach to providing
feedback to students.

Sarah will complete the practicum portion of the Appreciative Inquiry training in the
next few weeks and will be a certified Appreciative Inquiry Facilitator.

The Marketing and Public Relations Office was honored with two Gold Medallion
Awards in the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) District Two
Conference. Winning publications were the new Viewbook and the 2007-08 Annual
Report “Access and Availability – Opportunities for All” report. **Denise Day** designed
both publications, **Lisa Garrett** was the writer/photographer for the Annual Report, and
Gayle Arries wrote the Viewbook.

in transition

STUDENT AFFAIRS DIVISION

Heather Vaughan is our new Financial Aid Counselor. She has nine years of experience as a financial aid officer at Weber & Associates, Inc. She also has worked as a counselor for Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Mental Health. Heather has a bachelor of Arts degree in Art Therapy from Converse College. She lives in Liberty.



Heather Vaughan



Susan Schwarz

ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

Susan Schwarz is our new Chemistry instructor. She comes to us from Central Carolina Community College, where she taught chemistry for six years. Susan has a bachelor's degree from Pace University and a master's degree in Chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She lives in Anderson.

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

Richard (Rick) Johnston

Tequisha Whitener

Longtime AOT Instructor Sue McLane Retires

One of our longest-standing employees, Sue McLane, will retire December 31 after 29 years of teaching in the Automated Office Technology (AOT) program.

"I look forward to spending more time with my husband and two grandchildren," she said.

"My time at Tri-County has been wonderful. I really will miss my co-workers and my students."

Her fellow AOT instructors share her sentiments. "Sue has been a good example for me. She really showed me the ropes when I joined Tri-County nine years ago as a first-time instructor. We're happy that she will be back in the spring to teach three classes as an adjunct," said Beth Marsh.

In 2001 Sue's dedication as a teacher, instructional developer, and advisor to students at Tri-County earned her two major awards – the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence and the S.C. Business Education Association's Post Secondary Teacher of the Year Award. In 2000, she was honored with a NISOD Excellence Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to teaching and learning.



Sue McLane and Beth Marsh

Jackson Among Inductees into AZB Honor Society



Travis Jackson, of Honea Path, was among the students inducted recently into Alpha Zeta Beta (AZB), a chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Presenting him with a certificate is **April Chandler**, AZB president at Tri-County. Dr. Booth was the speaker for the ceremony, and in his remarks he urged students to give back to their communities and to those who helped them to get where they wanted to go in life.

Tabitha, the Cat, Gets New Home



Lori Ann Selch, of Central, welcomed Tabitha, a female, part-Siamese cat, as a new addition to her family. She adopted her through the Veterinary Technology Department's Pet Adoption Day held November 19. Throughout the semester, the cats are handled constantly for socialization and enjoy play time together. Dogs are trained with basic commands on a gentle leader head collar and socialized with many people and animals. All animals have been spayed or neutered, received current vaccinations, wormed, and checked for heartworms or feline leukemia. All animals have been microchipped for permanent identification.

Community Leadership Group Visits Pendleton Campus



Participants in the Leadership Pickens County program visited the Pendleton Campus December 1 to learn more about the College and its programs and services. Here, **Jenni Evans**, director of the Bridge to Clemson program, gives a presentation highlighting the origins and success of our unique partnership with Clemson University.

Established in the fall of 2005, the Bridge to Clemson program is a competitive academic-enhancement transfer program available by invitation only from Clemson University. It begins with a strong first-year academic experience at Tri-County that includes targeted academic advising, student support services, and a student life component – all designed to facilitate a seamless transition to Clemson upon successful completion of academic requirements.

The Learning College Journey Continues

During Fall Semester, 113 employees attended three Learning College 101 workshops – a much greater response than anticipated and a real boost to our efforts to integrate learning college principles across the College community. Participants enjoyed learning what other departments do to promote learning and hearing examples of how we are all “learners” – faculty, staff, and students.

Watch the eTC College Activities Calendar for additional Learning College 101 sessions during Spring Semester!

College Hosts State of Pendleton Luncheon



Tri-County was the host site for the first annual State of the Pendleton Community Luncheon December 3. Nearly 80 business, industry, and community members attended the event sponsored by the Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce and Pendleton Area Council. Speaking at the event were **Dr. Rommie Booth**, left; **Randy Hayes**, the newly-elected mayor of Pendleton, middle; and **Dr. Lee D’Andrea**, superintendent of Anderson County School District Four.

Instructor Penny Edwards Leads Popular Five-Part Faculty Seminar



During Fall semester Psychology instructor **Penny Edwards**, standing, facilitated a popular five-part seminar (September 14 – November 23) designed to provide faculty with tools and suggestions on how to deal with issues they encounter with students. Entitled “Can You Believe It? My Students Just...” Penny’s session topics have dealt with Information Gathering: Student Issues; Discussion: Resources Available; Faculty Self Assessment: What Do You Bring To The Table?; Application: Identifying Skills Needed To Appropriately Relate To Students; and Time To Get Dirty: Role Plays. Pictured from left are **Dr. Amoena Norcross**, **Dr. Kathy Sparace**, **Shallin Suber**, **Galen DeHay**, **Nancy Chadwick**, **Kristen Hawkins**, **Dana Griffith**, and **Dr. Jerry Marshall**.

RTV Broadcasting Program Obtains \$1 Million in Equipment FOR FREE!



AFTER

BEFORE

Last spring, during the height of the budget crisis, RTV instructor **Amy Roberts** contacted a colleague at Greenville Technical College and learned that Greenville Tech's television station was going off the air. The two colleges worked together to transfer all the equipment to Tri-County to be used in its Radio and Television Broadcasting program. RTV Program

Coordinator John Woodson said, "This is a huge amount of equipment. It is wonderful that we could work together to turn the budget crisis into a benefit for our students." Installation of the new equipment was completed over the summer and was ready for students this fall.

Students Showcase Their Talents

Throughout the semester, Student Life and Counseling Services has sponsored Showcase Your Talent, an event that gives students an opportunity to share their talents via singing, music, dramatic readings, poetry, etc. Here, **Timothy Bell**, of the band, Timothy Bell and the Runaway Slaves, performs a song.

"Open Mic" sessions have been held in the Café from 1:20 - 2:20 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Check out the student activities calendar on eTC for next semester's events.



Gateway (continued from page 3)

spring when I run, not walk, across the graduation stage," she said.

"Kayla worked hard, applied herself, and earned an excellent grade (95) in my class," said George. "I can only hope that she will consider becoming one of our students in the Computer Technology program."

"In the first semester classes we try really hard to instill in our students a love of learning and excelling," said Diana. "Students excel due to a combination of factors that help them to get on track, including a change of environment, the College faculty, and the support of the Gateway resource specialists who serve as mentors and coaches, as well as liaisons with campus and community services. It's about making education relevant to your life and transferring that knowledge and the feelings of accomplishment from one situation to another. They are jazzed up about learning and become successful independent learners."

Students in Katy's English class participated in a discussion and class activity during Banned Book Week. "As part of a critical thinking exercise, I organized a class discussion and asked them to write to Librarian Marla Roberson, telling her why they did or did not support censorship," said Katy. Three Gateway students, Lewis Jones, Stephanie Harrison, and Krystal Morris, each wrote a formal letter in support of libraries' and citizens' rights to read all books. The exercise stimulated critical thinking skills and gave them the experience of expressing an opinion in a formally written format. "I stressed to students that we all have a voice, but if we can't convey our thoughts through formal language, people may not listen."

"Gateway is about achieving academic requirements, but it's also about getting students excited about learning and their ability to learn," said Diana. "We see the sense of pride they feel when they accomplish something, when they reach a goal that maybe they didn't think was possible. Once that light comes on, so to speak, we know they're on their way to a great future, and that's a win for all of us!"

Golden OPPORTUNITIES *to shape the future*

Jane and Bob Harris Named Philanthropists of the Year

Jane and Bob Harris know the value of encouragement. They understand the difficulties that working students experience these days when trying to juggle home and work life in addition to college studies. Since 2000, the Seneca couple has been financially assisting Tri-County students.

The couple, who formerly owned Harris Marine in Seneca, received the Foundation's Philanthropists of the Year award at a November 19 meeting of its Foundation Board. This award is the Foundation's highest and most prestigious honor reserved for those who make a substantial contribution to the Foundation in support of the College's programs and services.

"The Harrises are gracious and giving, and they understand the importance of giving back to their community," said Dr. Booth before making the presentation.

They made their first gift to the College in 2000 when they established the Robert A. and Jane R. Harris Endowed Scholarship that benefits older Oconee County residents who are trying to improve their lives and earning capability through education.

2008 – 2009 Scholarship recipient Robin Lay, of Seneca, an Accounting major, spoke about how their support allowed her to continue classes at Tri-County during a semester when her husband was laid off from his construction job and she was facing a five-day furlough from her job as a fiscal analyst at the IPTAY office at Clemson University. "The economy hit my family hard. The scholarship came at the right time and made my college classes that semester possible. I am privileged to receive the scholarship through Mr. and Mrs. Harris. They have shown me how important it is to give back to the community," said Lay, who, in the past, has volunteered her time at the Oconee Community Theatre and Habitat for Humanity. "I want to give back as they have. My life has changed through their kindness and generosity. I am so grateful for all they do for Oconee County." Mrs. Harris was named to the College's Foundation Board in 2001.

At the 2007 dedication ceremony of the Tri-County Technical College Oconee Campus at the Hamilton Career Center, they announced a gift, making them the first to name a room, the Jane and Bob Harris Science Laboratory, at the facility. This gift was the first to be received from a Board member in support of the Foundation's first-ever major gifts campaign. Since that time, they have made another significant commitment to the campaign in support of the scholarship they established



Bob and Jane Harris, of Seneca, pictured here seated, received the Philanthropists of the Year award at a November 19 meeting of Tri-County Technical College's Foundation Board. Mr. and Mrs. Harris are pictured here with **Robin Lay**, of Seneca, an Accounting major and their 2008 – 2009 scholarship recipient.

in 2000. Earlier this month, the College kicked off the public phase of its major gifts campaign aimed at moving the College toward achieving role-model status among community colleges in the United States. Through 2012, the College's fiftieth anniversary, the College is working toward a goal of raising \$9 million.

As former small business owners, their desire to help both small business owners and Tri-County led them to establish their second endowment in 2003. Earnings from this endowment are used to fund low-cost workshops on topics such as taxes, legal issues, and marketing.

The Harrises also are recognized on the College's prestigious Wall of Honor as a Partner of Honor.

Major Gifts Campaign *(continued from page 1)*

strengthen a business or industry, provide better local health care, or ensure a safer community. The choice of how your gift can make a difference is up to you. But one thing is certain. An educated community is the primary resource necessary to create and maintain a healthy, productive and prosperous community,” Dr. Booth said.

This fall Tri-County welcomed its largest class – 6,758 students - in its 47-year history. This double-digit enrollment translates into an 18% jump over last fall’s then-record-breaking enrollment of 5,730. Yet at the same time that enrollment is rising, the College has seen significant cuts in state funding. In 2001, Tri-County’s state funding level was at 54 percent, and today the College is funded at 21 percent. “We look toward the Foundation dollars to provide students with scholarships, travel abroad, and service learning opportunities; to keep faculty current in their fields; and to help keep pace with technology at all of our campuses,” said Dr. Booth.

“As we approach the 50th anniversary, we reflect on our accomplishments, but as we move toward the next 50 years, we see improvements that we must make if we are to achieve role-model status,” he said.

“We want to be the best community college in the nation and to do that we need additional resources,” said Dr. Booth. “An investment in Tri-County is an investment in the community – and that results in a stronger economic base due to a trained workforce. To be successful, we need the community’s support in reaching our goals.”



The Abney Foundation, a longtime supporter of the College, has pledged to the Golden Opportunities major gifts campaign. Pictured here, **David King**, associate director for The Abney Foundation, left, and **Carl Edwards**, executive director of the Abney Foundation, middle, talk with **John Lummus**, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement at the College.

Mark Baroni, facility business leader, Starr Glass, of Owens Corning, right, made a donation following the Annual Report Luncheon. Here, he presents **Dr. Ronnie Booth**, with an unrestricted gift.



\$100,000 Gift from Oconee Medical Center Announced

A \$100,000 gift from Oconee Medical Center was announced at the College’s annual report luncheon. Oconee Medical Center designated its funds to create an endowment for nursing excellence, which will support nursing faculty professional development activities, lab equipment for the program, and other priority needs.

“We could not fulfill our mission without the support and partnership of Tri-County Technical College, which plays such a vital role in preparing students to work in healthcare,” said Jeanne Ward, president and CEO of Oconee Medical Center. “With this gift, we are investing in the college and also in future generations of nurses who will serve the people of this community for years to come.”

“We are grateful that Oconee Medical Center has honored Tri-County with this major gift. The hospital joins a group of community members, philanthropists, and organizations who all share a common belief in our College,” said John Lummus, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement. “This

gift will significantly impact the professional development of our nursing faculty.”

The College has a long-standing relationship with Oconee Medical Center and continues its partnership through various ongoing alliances.

Six years ago, a \$1.2 million grant from the Duke Endowment enabled four area hospitals (AnMed Health, Cannon Memorial Hospital, Oconee Medical Center, and Palmetto Health Baptist – Easley) to join forces with Clemson University and Tri-County to address the future shortage of nurses in the workplace and nursing faculty within Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.

Three years ago, Tri-County partnered with Oconee Medical Center and the Oconee County School District to develop a collaborative agreement to expand nursing opportunities for Oconee County high school students. Evening classes also are offered for those who work full-time.

SCCAP Seeks to Better Align High School and College Courses



Videographers were on campus December 1 to record a math class taught by **Dr. Jerry Marshall**, mathematics department head, as part of the S.C. Course Alignment Project (SCCAP). This state program is aimed at better aligning certain high school exit and college entrance courses. The goal for the program is to help improve educational results in South Carolina by encouraging more students to pursue and complete a college education, thus enabling them to compete in a global economy for good jobs and earn good salaries. Here, Dr. Marshall passes out an exam to students enrolled in MAT 110, College Algebra, while being videotaped for the SCCAP pilot program.

Cultural Enrichment Series Continues



Dr. William (Bill) Griffith, staff physician at Clemson University's Redfern Health Center, standing, discussed what being a doctor is really like, as opposed to the way it is portrayed on TV shows such as "ER" and "Grey's Anatomy." The event was sponsored by the Arts and Sciences Enrichment Series Committee.

Dr. Mendel Stewart Receives Tri-County's Highest Award, the Order of Merit

The College honored Dr. Mendel H. Stewart for his 32 years of dedicated service as a faithful member and chair of the College's Commission.

Dr. Booth presented the Sunset resident with the Order of Merit, the highest award given by the College's nine-member Commission. The presentation was made at the College's November 10 Annual Report luncheon.



Dr. Mendel Stewart, left, and Dr. Booth

The Order of Merit is an honorary society that recognizes community and state leaders who have contributed to the development of Tri-County Technical College and the State Technical College System.

"It was a privilege and an honor to serve Tri-County," said Dr. Stewart, who remains the longest-standing Commission member in the College's 47-year history. "I've always been an advocate for the College and will continue to be. I still say Tri-County is the best deal for higher education in this state. I truly believe this."

"Since joining in 1977 as Pickens County's representative, he has been solidly committed to the community college philosophy and in every way has pursued the mission and purpose of the College," said Dr. Booth. Dr. Stewart devoted his entire career to education. Over 39 years, he coached, taught, and later served as District Superintendent of Education for Pickens County. He retired June 30, 2006, but returned to serve as Interim Superintendent from January to June of 2009.

"He remains one of those rare educators who shaped the lives of the students he taught and the thousands of teachers who served under his leadership," said Dr. Booth, reading from the Order of Merit resolution. "He always had the students and their access to an affordable education at the forefront of his thoughts, actions, and decisions." Dr. Stewart and his sister, Helen Singleton, broadened opportunities for more students to go to college by establishing the R. Clyde and Florence G. Stewart Scholarship at Tri-County in memory of their parents.

"Through a career of exceptional service and leadership, he had a profound influence on setting the course in the Pickens County School District, Tri-County Technical College, and the SC Technical College System and will always be among this area's most influential educators and leaders," said Dr. Booth.

OMC Certified Pharmacy Techs Speak to CCE Students About Jobs, Internships



Doris Paschal, left, and **Kellie Lione**, both certified pharmacy technicians at Oconee Medical Center, spoke to the Pharmacy Technician students in our Corporate and Community Education Division about internship and job opportunities in the field. Several weeks later, the class toured the new Oconee Medical Center Pharmacy.

Seven Area Residents Complete Mechatronics Certificate Program



Seven area residents recently completed a Mechatronics certificate program focusing on the integration of mechanical and electrical skills. Associates from area companies were enrolled in a 36-week training program taught by instructor **Jay Sloan**, pictured far right. Pictured from left are **Jeff Rymer**, of Seneca, who is employed by U.S. Engine Valve; **Greg Crooks**, of Seneca, who is employed by Johnson Controls; **James Phillips**, of Seneca, who is employed by Covidien; **Jack Norris**, of Seneca, who is currently not employed; **Harold Justice**, of Walhalla, who is employed by Covidien; **James Medlin**, of Salem, who is currently not employed; and **Tracy Amos**, of Walhalla, who is currently not employed.

Upstate Administrators Lead State Nursing Organizations



Five Upstate college nursing educators/administrators are serving in leadership positions for the state nursing organizations. **Dr. Rosanne Pruitt**, director of Clemson University's School of Nursing and associate dean of the College of Health, Education, and Human Development, left, serves as the president of the SC Deans and Directors of Nursing, while **Janet Fuller**, head of our Nursing Department, second from left, is the organization's president elect. **Dr. Lynn Lewis**, dean of the Health Education Division, third from left, is the current president of the SC State Board of Nursing and was recently appointed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to its Disciplinary Resources Committee. **Henry Stubbs**, senior director of patient care services at Oconee Medical Center, right, serves as the 2009 chapter leader for the SC Organization of Nurse Executives and Leaders.

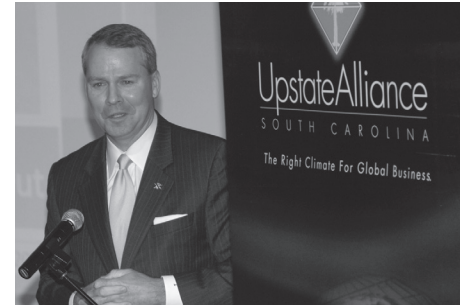
Please join us in wishing **Dr. Booth** a Merry Christmas by contributing to the **Hazel Strickland Booth Memorial Scholarship Fund**, established in memory of Dr. Booth's mother. Your Christmas gift will support the education of an outstanding student, and no gift we could purchase would be more meaningful to him. Your check should be made payable to the **Tri-County Technical College Foundation**. Please come by the **Foundation Office in Suite 200 of Ruby Hicks Hall**, and there will be a Christmas card ready for you to sign at the time you drop off your gift. Thank you for making **Dr. Booth's** Christmas extra special.

Executive Staff Updates

- **Anderson Campus Advisory Committee Bylaws:** Bylaws were approved for this external committee that will provide input for the purpose of developing the campus to meet community needs and interests.
- **Project Management Process:** The Executive Staff reviewed a new “project management process” that was proposed for college-wide use in managing large projects, particularly those that involve multiple operational units and/or involve significant funding.
- **Easley Campus:** A workgroup representing all major units of the College will be charged with developing a plan to assure a smooth and successful start-up of the Easley campus for Spring Semester, 2011. Additionally, a multi-campus strategy workgroup will be formed to develop a broader strategy for the development, organization, and operation of all College campuses.
- **Ten Year Vision:** The Executive Staff approved a final draft of the Ten Year Vision, which includes input from focus groups comprised of faculty, staff, and students. It also will be reviewed by an external community group and presented to the Commission for final approval later in December.
- **Parking Solutions:** The Executive staff adopted recommendations presented by an internal workgroup to address parking issues for Fall Semester 2010. Recommendations include reducing class seats during peak periods, acquiring off-site parking, and promoting carpooling and public transportation. Longer term solutions will be addressed separately.
- **Academic Calendars:** Minor changes were approved for the Spring 2010 Academic Calendar; the Summer 2010 calendar was approved.

Upstate Alliance Meets on Campus

Upstate Alliance met on the Pendleton campus in the Marshall J. Parker Auditorium to hear the results of a targeted marketing study. **Congressman Gresham Barrett**, pictured here, opened the meeting and applauded “the energy coming from the leadership in this room -- from people who are excited about the future. At the end of the day, it’s about breaking down barriers for a common goal -- making sure that our precious resources, our children, have the same opportunities in SC that are in NC and GA,” he said.



Easley Campus Construction Begins



Steel is beginning to rise from the ground as construction gets underway at the Easley Campus. This photo shows the beginning phases of construction on the classroom building, a 40,000 square-foot facility that is being funded through State capital reserves in the amount of approximately six million dollars. Construction also will begin on the QuickJobs Training Center in the near future. Noncredit classes likely will be offered during 2010 in the QuickJobs Center and the classroom building is slated to open in time for Spring Semester, 2011.

Connecting *(continued from page 2)*

become a true “learning college,” everyone can understand the value of unique programs like our Learning Excellence Initiative (LEI). We told the story of Kayla Swaney, who never considered herself more than an average student in high school yet found the opportunity to excel at Tri-County. Kayla recently received the Outstanding Student Award for her LEI “learning community” and is quick to attest to the value of what she has learned by participating in this experience.

These are only a few of the stories and highlights of the report. I often tell friends and colleagues that if they want to truly understand Tri-County and our role in the community, they need only to take time to read the report. I hope you will do the same.

Feel free to call the Public Relations and Marketing Office at 646-1503 for a copy. We also can make copies available for Advisory Committee meetings or for other community members you may come in contact with.

It is your good work reflected on the pages of the report, and I am thankful to be part of such a talented, hard-working team. As we approach the holiday season, I wish you and yours a time of rest, relaxation, and renewal. I am thankful for each of you and your unique contributions to Tri-County Technical College.

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

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President