

# Connection

## In this Issue ...



Spotlight on QuickJobs Training Certified Nurse Aide ..... 3



SGA Assists Community Agencies ..... 5



Foundation's Philanthropist of the Year Award.....6



Community Leaders Invest in Easley Campus.....8-9

## New Easley Campus Brings College Closer to Pickens County Residents



**Dr. Booth**, third from left, joined legislators, College officials, and community leaders as they gathered December 10 to cut the ribbon for the new Tri-County Technical College Easley Campus. Pictured from left are The Reverend **Julie C. Schaaf**, chaplain, Foothills Presbyterian Retirement Community in Easley; **Helen Rosemond-Saunders**, chair of the College's Commission; Pickens County Council Chair **Neil Smith**; **Rep. Phil Owens**; **Sen. Larry Martin**; and **Bonnie Ammons**, assistant director, S.C. Department of Commerce.

Thirty-five years ago Pickens County Council Chair Neil Smith began his career by teaching college courses in an evening program that Tri-County Technical College operated at Easley Junior High School.

Smith recalled the dire economic circumstances of the late 1970s – high unemployment, high interest rates, and fuel shortages – very similar to today's world. Addressing the crowd at a dedication ceremony for the College's new Easley Campus, Smith compared those days to 2010. "Back then, I saw in people's eyes the hope and anticipation they get from a fresh start at education. I'll never forget what individuals can do when they get a second chance. This new facility in Easley gives the people of Pickens County another chance."

Smith was among those who joined Dr. Booth, the faculty and staff, community members, and State and local leaders in dedicating the Easley Campus located on Powdersville Road. Following the ceremony, an open house was held for guests to tour the Academic Building, which houses classrooms, offices, a multi-purpose room, student lounge, and science labs, as well as the QuickJobs Development Center, a 4,600-square-foot building used for employee and workforce training.

The Easley Campus gives the College a presence in each of the three counties. The campus will better serve the citizens of Pickens County by offering credit and continuing education courses to residents.

In May 2009, legislators, county council members, and local business leaders joined College officials

*(continued on page 11)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Late Registration ..... Jan. 6  
Spring Semester Begins ..... Jan. 10  
Rally at State Capital for  
Lottery Tuition Assistance..... Jan. 25  
Tri-County FLL  
Regional Tournament..... Jan. 29

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



**Ronnie L. Booth**  
President

# Connecting

*W*e are midway through the academic year – a perfect checkpoint to gauge the progress we are making during the first year of our College Three-Year Strategic plan (2010-2013).

You may recall that last year we completely changed our approach to planning. We started in the fall of 2009 with the development of a comprehensive ten-year vision for the College. More than 125 employees and students had input into developing the vision through a kick-off workshop and a series of feedback sessions over a two-month period. Shortly thereafter, work began at the grass-roots level in each division to develop activities tied directly to the vision and key strategic objectives. Work continued in the early months of 2010 as the division plans began to take shape, including a workshop involving more than thirty key College leaders to share strategic planning ideas. Once the division plans were finalized, the Executive Staff organized and prioritized the output, adding activities where gaps existed.

Those activities became the substance of our Three-Year Strategic Plan (2010-2013), which set us on a course to achieve our newly-adopted ten-year vision.

Just a few weeks ago, the same group of College leaders who shared ideas last winter came together again to discuss the progress we are making in achieving the priorities we set for ourselves and completing critical activities identified for the first year of the plan. We have made great progress on many of these activities, but others still need attention.

Examples of our major accomplishments include opening the Easley Campus and developing a plan to institutionalize our highly successful Learning Excellence Initiative (LEI), which will be accomplished through our new Title III Grant. Examples of areas still needing attention are the need to develop specific strategies to improve student retention and identifying all of the issues associated with offering complete online programs.

We've come a long way in implementing an effective planning process this first year and we have learned some important lessons on the journey. While we would all prefer simplicity, strategic planning can at times be somewhat complex and requires attention to timelines and details. We have more work ahead of us, particularly the need to tie the process more closely to the Employee Planning and Evaluation System (EPMS).

In January, the same group of College leaders will once again come together to determine what modifications and new activities should be considered for the second year of the three-year plan. The January timeline will allow us to more closely align with the EMPS process for the coming year. It is critical that we each "own" part of our plan moving forward. That is the only way we will attain our goals.

Additionally, we have determined that it is time to revisit our College mission statement, as well as our vision and values, which haven't been reviewed in more than five years. We will spend time working on these as we update our strategic plan in preparation for year two.

I am pleased with where we are in the process and with the direction we are taking as we move toward the second year of the plan. We have the right team in place to make great things happen, and I look forward to tackling these challenges with you. Let's continue our journey in earnest.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.  
President

## 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

### 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)



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.



# Spotlight on QuickJobs Training Certified Nurse Aide

Five months into his new career as a Certified Nurse Aide (C.N.A.) at Clemson Downs, 51-year old Rodney Hollingsworth found himself accepting two awards for his quick action in saving a choking resident's life.

"I get emotional just thinking about this," said Hollingsworth, who was honored for his heroic actions by his employer and later by Goodwill Industries. "I was just doing my job," he said of the August incident where he performed the Heimlich maneuver on a resident who was choking on a barbecue sandwich while eating in the dining facility.

The lady was revived, and one month later Hollingsworth was there to help her and her family celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. "The family has been saying I'm their hero, but I'm not a hero. I was just doing the job I was trained to do. It feels great to accomplish something and help others. It touches your heart," said Hollingsworth, who resides in Anderson.

"There are many others who deserve this award. If not for Goodwill and Tri-County working together, I would still be looking for a job," said Hollingsworth, who, in addition to receiving the Clemson Downs accolades, was among the five South Carolina residents that Goodwill Industries of the Upstate/Midlands SC, Inc., honored at its Inaugural Champions Tribute held in Greenville at the Carolina One Center October 22.

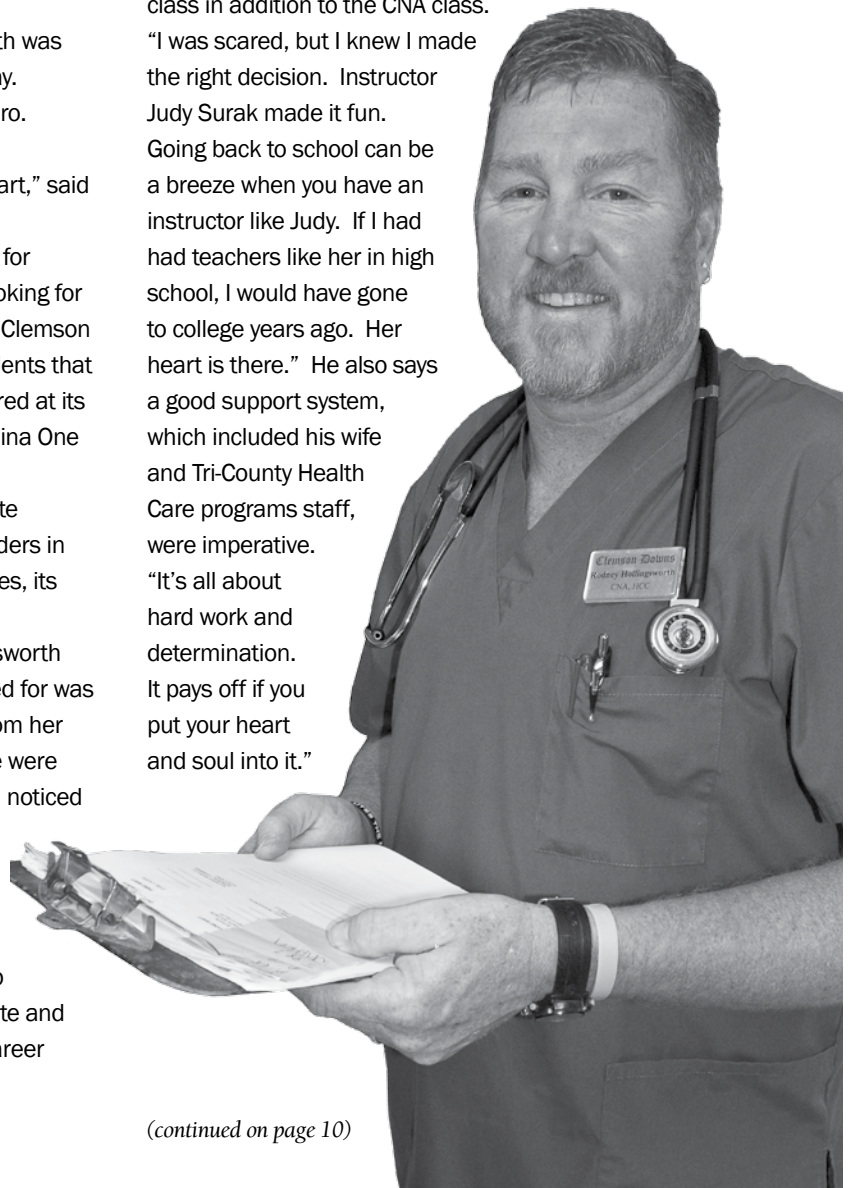
Broadcast journalist Dan Rather was the event's keynote speaker, with more than 600 community and business leaders in attendance to celebrate the successes of Goodwill Industries, its team members, partners, and supporters.

After three decades of working in construction, Hollingsworth found himself unemployed because the company he worked for was closing. Just one week prior to that, his wife was laid off from her job at a medical office. "I was trying to find work, but there were just no leads. I went to the Job Connection at Goodwill and noticed a brochure about Goodwill and Tri-County's certified nurse aide program. I'm so grateful I was accepted into the program," he said. Goodwill Industries helps unemployed individuals to gain new skills for today's workforce through education, training, and employment leading to job placement. Goodwill has teamed with Tri-County's Corporate and Community Education (CCE) Division's programs to offer career training.

Hollingsworth had cared for his father and mother-in-law who both had lost their battles with cancer years ago. "It has always been in my heart to do this work, but if I hadn't been laid off, I probably would still be trying to find work in construction. The door opened for a reason. It was a blessing," he said.

He registered for the five-week QuickJobs nurse aide training class at Tri-County and began his journey. The class was 92 hours of training – 40 hours in an approved long-term health care facility and 52 classroom hours and lab. Goodwill also requested a CPR class in addition to the CNA class.

"I was scared, but I knew I made the right decision. Instructor Judy Surak made it fun. Going back to school can be a breeze when you have an instructor like Judy. If I had had teachers like her in high school, I would have gone to college years ago. Her heart is there." He also says a good support system, which included his wife and Tri-County Health Care programs staff, were imperative. "It's all about hard work and determination. It pays off if you put your heart and soul into it."



*(continued on page 10)*

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!





**Janelle Hicks** received this e-mail from **Gretta Harrison**, a graduate of the Pharmacy Technician program.

"I am so glad I took Tri-County's Pharmacy Technician course. Who would have thought that at 50 years of age I risked a career change? I did and with the help of your staff, my new career is real. In August of 2007, I started a very new path, and today I am a nationally-and state-certified Pharmacy Technician. I am working at Baptist Easley Hospital in the evenings and working four days at Ken's Thrift Pharmacy. I wanted to thank you and **Jerry Hausler** (former instructor) for your close involvement with me and my classmates. That's what made our academic achievements a success. Thanks so much for all you do."

**Kim Strickland**, secretary for the Anderson County Firefighters for Burned Children, wrote Welding Program Coordinator **Paul Phelps** this letter of appreciation:

"On behalf of the Anderson County Firefighters for Burned Children, I would like to thank you and your students for the fabrication and welding of the four 'can' trailers. Two of these trailers have been painted and placed at the designated sites. One is at Williford Fire Department on Highway 187 South, and the other is at the Milliken Plant in Pendleton. The two remaining trailers will be painted soon and placed in service. Our organization depends on these trailers to collect aluminum cans that will be taken to a scrap yard for money. This money is then used to help any child, under the age of 18, who lives in Anderson County and who has been burned. We make quarterly donations to the Southeastern Firefighters' Burn Foundation in Augusta. This facility provides housing and meals to the families of burn victims. We also provide assistance, such as bandages,

(continued on page 6)

# Our College Family

## excellence through service

Dean of Corporate and Community Education **Rick Cothran** received the Outstanding Continuing Education Professional Award from the South Carolina Association of Higher Continuing Education (SCAHCE) at its annual conference. SCAHCE is the statewide association that promotes Corporate & Community Education and professional development for both two- and four-year colleges.



Rick Cothran



Dr. Brian Swords

**Dr. Brian Swords**, acting director of the Easley Campus and operations director for the Corporate and Community Education Division was inducted as president of SCAHAE.

Congratulations to **Denise Day**, graphic designer, and **Lisa Garrett**, public relations associate, for their work on the 2008-09 annual report titled More Valuable Than Ever. The publication received a Silver Medallion award from District Two of the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR). District Two is comprised of eleven southeastern states, as well as the Bahamas and Bermuda.

**Janelle Hicks**, director of Health Care programs for our Corporate and Community Education Division, alerted us that our Oconee Nurse Aide program has been approved again for the maximum time period of 24 months by the S.C. Department of Health and Human Services. There were no deficiencies. Congratulations to **Elaine Foster**, training coordinator of this program, and to our RN instructors who made this no deficiencies survey possible.

## in transition

**Missy Gray** is on board as the Receptionist and Administrative Assistant for the Easley Campus. She served as the Administrative Assistant for New Prospect Baptist Church for a year and half and prior to that was a Hartwell Lake Properties business owner for 15 years. She is a member of Mt. Tabor Baptist Church in Anderson. She and her husband, James, have two children, a son, Quinton, and a daughter, Jamie. They live in Sandy Springs.



Missy Gray



Nathan Geary

**Nathan Geary** joined us November 1 as a Systems Programmer. He earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Clemson University and in 2003 began working at the University as a Systems Programmer and later as Information Technology Systems Architect. Nathan lives in Clemson.

**Karen Garrett** recently departed the College. We wish her well in her new endeavors.

## Executive Staff Updates

### SGA Assists Community Agencies



Our Student Government Association (SGA) and other student organizations assisted community agencies this season through the Benevolence in November campaign (November 1 – December 12). Student representatives from SGA, Alpha Zeta Beta, Campus Crusade, Inspiring Futures, Spanish Club, Student Democrats, Student Republicans, and the TCTC Book Discussion Group collected around 3,500 items at Bi-Lo in Pendleton and Wal-Mart in Anderson. They collected food and clothing for these county agencies: AIM, SHARE, Clemson Community Care, Salvation Army, Safe Harbor 2, and Lions Club.

Pictured above at the entrance of Bi-Lo in Pendleton are SGA President **Wendy Sutton**, **Paul Watson**, left, and **Clark Gurley**, both of Anderson and Business Management majors.

Many thanks to those who supported the annual Angel Tree project whereby faculty and staff from Anderson and Pendleton campuses sponsor gifts for children in Pendleton and Clemson HeadStarts. This year 52 Angels were sponsored at Pendleton and 35 Angels at Anderson.

Pictured at right with the gifts are, left to right, **Stephanie Hudson**, SGA secretary; SGA President **Wendy Sutton**, standing; and **Croslena Johnson**, director of Student Life and Counseling.



- **Title III:** The Executive Staff appointed a steering committee, task force, and program evaluation team to begin work on the Title III Grant.
  - **Key Strategic Objectives:** The Executive Staff reviewed progress made to date on the key strategic objectives connected to the College's three-year strategic plan.
  - **Capital Projects Update:** Ken Kopera, facilities director, provided an update on recent and current capital projects, including the Easley Campus, Pickens Hall HVAC, IBDC renovations, Halbert Hall improvements, the Mechanic Street parking facility, and more.
  - **Multi-Campus Strategy Charter:** The Executive Staff approved a charter and work team for the development of a multi-campus strategy. The College community will be updated on progress through the eTC Special Initiatives channel.
  - **Operational Budget Amendment:** The Executive Staff reviewed a revised budget that will be presented to the College Commission for approval at its December meeting. The budget reflects an eight percent cut to operational funds resulting from the recent tuition roll-back.
  - **Project Work Team Recommendations Regarding New Student Life Center:** Dr. Vinson Burdette, dean of Student Development, presented recommendations for services and amenities for a proposed Student Life Center on the Pendleton Campus. (The College hopes to identify funding for the facility and begin construction by 2014.)
  - **Pendleton Master Planning Process:** Individuals and groups from
- (continued on page 6)

## Executive Staff

(continued from page 5)

across the College will be contacted to provide feedback to inform the development of a new master plan for the Pendleton Campus.

- **Other:** Changes to the Fall 2011 Academic Calendar; added July 1, 2011 as a holiday; policies and procedures; and a potential collaborative project between the I&ET Division, Anderson Campus, and the Anderson County Historical Society.

## Brag & Share

(continued from page 4)

wheelchairs, gas for travel to doctor's appointments and various other items that the burn victims may need.

We appreciate so much the valuable contribution you have made to our program. It enables us to provide these services to those who may need them. Please accept this donation of \$1,000 so that your students may continue to gain this valuable experience. Thank you once again for your contributions."

Several days after former Commissioner **Ben Childress** was inducted into the Order of Merit at the Annual report Luncheon, his wife, **Lucille**, sent this note to Dr. Booth and the Commissioners.

"It was an honor for Ben and his family for him to receive the Order of Merit award. Ben volunteered many years because of his interest in education. We thank you for a special day, one that we will always cherish."

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.

## Schneider Electric Honored with Foundation's Philanthropist of the Year Award

Schneider Electric, known in the area by its brand name Square D Company, and Tri-County Technical College have had a long-standing partnership for the past 22 years.

Since 1988, the Seneca company has supported the College's Foundation through annual gifts, all devoted to advancing educational opportunities and instruction. Because of the company's generosity, through its teaching chair, faculty in the Industrial and Engineering Technology Division have grown professionally through participation in and presentations at seminars and conferences, along with enrollment in advanced course work.

In addition, Tri-County graduates fill many jobs in vital plant functions at the Seneca plant. "Tri-County graduates are major contributors to the success of our operation. Many graduates are key members of our quality and engineering teams. Several have continued on into supervisory and management positions," said Larry Smith, plant manager at Schneider Electric.

The company was honored November 18 with the College Foundation's Philanthropist of the Year award at a meeting of its board. This award is the Foundation's highest and most prestigious honor. The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals, foundations, companies, trusts, organizations, or other entities that have made a significant financial contribution, either cash or non-cash, to the Foundation to support the work of the College.

Schneider Electric has been a loyal donor to the Foundation for the past 22 years. The company's first gift came in January of 1988 to support the purchase of equipment. Since that time, the majority of the company's gifts have been used to establish the Square D Teaching Chair. Earnings from this endowed chair are used each year to support the professional development of faculty who teach in the Industrial and Engineering Technology Division. Including a pledge of \$50,000 to the College's major gifts campaign earlier this year, the Company has given more than \$112,000 to the teaching chair and a total of \$124,750 to the Foundation. The company is also a member of the College's prestigious Benefactors of Honor Wall, which is reserved for donors who have contributed \$100,000 or more cumulatively. Another check for \$10,000 was given at the Philanthropist of the Year presentation.



Schneider Electric was honored November 18 with the Tri-County Technical College Foundation's Philanthropist of the Year award at a meeting of its Board. This award is the Foundation's highest and most prestigious honor. The purpose of this award is to recognize individuals, foundations, companies, trusts, organizations, or other entities that have made a significant financial contribution, either cash or non-cash, to the Foundation to support the work of the College. Pictured here are **Larry Smith**, plant manager of Schneider Electric, left, and **Dr. Booth**.

(continued on page 7)



## Nearly 275 Participate in Professional Development Day



Faculty and staff enjoyed lunch and participating in an “Are You Smarter than a TCTC Freshman?” quiz, as well as a hands-on team project during Professional Development Day November 2. For the team project, participants used a variety of materials to build a model that symbolizes the role of Tri-County Technical College in the community. Members of the winning team, based on scores for the quiz and the project, were **Luke Black** and **Amanda Blanton** from the Student Affairs Division, **Polly Kay** and **Chris Worthy** from the Academic Affairs Division, **Lynn Shook**, Business Affairs Division, and **June Osborne**, Corporate and Community Education Division. Their project is pictured at left.

Tai-Chi was one of the most popular offerings during Professional Development Day held November 2. This form of gentle exercise and body movement is literally hundreds of years old but is finding increasing popularity among people of all ages, backgrounds, and levels of fitness because of its relaxing approach to fitness, body sculpting, and stress reduction.



**Lou Ann Martin** spoke to a full house about our receiving nearly \$2 million in U.S. Department of Education (DOE) Title III Strengthening Institutions grant funds. Lou Ann, who served as chair of the grant’s design team, reported that Tri-County was among the 48 institutions nationwide and the only applicant from South Carolina to receive funding for the proposed five-year plan to more powerfully focus on student learning and success for first-time postsecondary students.

## Thanks for Supporting the Foundation

The end of the year is quickly approaching. For many of us, this is a time to review, reflect, and plan for the future. It is also a time to think about our gift-giving plans. If you have not made a contribution to the Foundation this year, and you would like to do so, it is not too late. Please contact the Foundation Office and a gift form will be sent to you. Contributions must be received before December 31 for a tax deduction this year. For those of you who have already contributed, we thank you for your commitment and support of Tri-County.

## Schneider Electric

(continued from page 6)

“Tri-County plays a crucial role as we see the importance of education in this global economy. We can’t depend on the simple jobs to be there anymore. Today’s jobs are higher tech and require more knowledge and training. Tri-County fills that valuable role for us,” said Smith.

“I’ve been impressed with the College’s willingness to ask for input from its customers (in our case, industry) and with its flexibility. The College is always willing to adapt to meet the needs of its customers. They are always willing to work with us,” he said.

“It’s all about partnerships,” said Dr. Booth. “It’s nice to see our community members step up and recognize the critical role that we play in economic development, job creation, and job sustenance. It helps us in a major way. We just appreciate the role model way that Square D has been there with us over the years.”

# Golden OPPORTUNITIES to shape the future

## Community Leaders Make Permanent Investment in Tri-County's New Easley Campus through Room-Naming Opportunities

Pickens County business and industry leaders are making a permanent investment in our new Easley Campus through room-naming opportunities.

To date, six companies and/or individuals have named rooms in the Academic Building at the College's third and newest community campus located on Powdersville Road.

"Through their generous donations, companies and individuals are making a long-term investment in the community for generations to come," said Elisabeth Gadd, director of Development at Tri-County. "People are enthusiastic and excited about the College's presence in the Easley area. They are aware of the large population it will serve and the needs it will meet."

"Community-based education is so important," said Dr. Booth. "We are thrilled to have a campus where Pickens County residents live and work."

"The heart and soul of this College is student success," said Dr. Booth. "Helping students to go from where they are to where they need to be has been a priority of former College Commissioner Ben Childress of Easley. In honor of Ben and Lucille Childress's dedication to education, an anonymous community donor made a generous contribution to name the lobby of the new Easley Campus."

Other Easley businesses and companies also feel that being accessible and available to Pickens County residents is a priority and have named rooms at the campus.

Randy Bowers, CEO of Bowers Emergency Services, a family-owned business in Easley, says "Tri-County is the key to our company training quality emergency medical technicians (EMTs). Over the past few years, Tri-County has been a valued partner and we wanted to show our support of the College by naming the Bowers Family Conference Room at the new campus."



*Bowers Emergency Services, a family-owned business in Easley, named the Bowers Family Conference Room. Pictured here are **Randy** and **Marilyn Bowers**. "Tri-County is a perfect fit for our company," said Mr. Bowers. "We are proud to be a part of Tri-County."*

"Tri-County officials have listened to both our business and employee needs and always ask what they can do to make it happen," he said. Several years ago, Bowers Emergency Services entered into an apprenticeship program that helps employees to raise their skill levels and earn a nationally recognized credential from the Department of Labor.

Dr. Dan Pasui, an Easley dentist whose practice is located just down the road from the campus, is excited to call Tri-County a neighbor at long last. "I've driven by and observed the campus construction site on my way to work every day, and I'm so excited the opening day is finally here," he said. A first time donor to the College, Dr. Pasui is showing his support by naming the biology and chemistry labs. "Educating the community means a lot to us here. We want the community and the campus to continue to grow. This is a great area with many resources, and the campus is centrally located for many residents. I know it will take off and be successful," he said.

"We believe Tri-County is a tremendous asset to the community," said Linda Bacigalupo, vice president of Tri-Tech, USA in Liberty. The company has made a pledge to name a conference room on the first floor. "From the outset, the



College has been supportive of Tri-Tech and our relocation to this area,” said Mrs. Bacigalupo. “They have been influential in assisting us with improving the training of our workforce. Our contribution to this campus gives us the opportunity to show our support back to Tri-County,” added Mrs. Bacigalupo.

Cornell Dubilier President Jim Kaplan said he and his employees welcome a campus closer to their business located on Highway 178 in Liberty. “Reduced travel time makes it easier for employees to continue their education through Tri-County’s degree and/or continuing education programs. A big plus is that our associates won’t lose time traveling to the Pendleton Campus as they have done for years. It’s a 35-minute drive to Pendleton and now it will be 15 minutes to the Easley Campus. That makes a huge difference.”

Kaplan says the company supports the Easley Campus by naming the library and by hiring graduates. “We employ Tri-County grads from maintenance, electronics, and computer programs – across all disciplines. We are very pleased with their knowledge/performance level which I would say is comparable to the four-year college graduates.”

Easley Combined Utilities General Manager Joel Ledbetter says when he presented the room-naming opportunity to his company’s elected commission, it was a unanimous decision to support education by naming the Student Lounge at the campus. “Making college accessible and convenient to Pickens County residents is important to our company and to the county,” he said. “We have a tuition reimbursement plan for our associates and we are hoping that folks will take advantage of that by enrolling in classes at the new Easley Campus.”

“This is a campus for the Pickens County community,” said Elisabeth. “Whether you are just beginning your education, retraining for a new career, or looking for personal interest classes, there is something for everyone here,” she said, adding that there are many complete degree programs offered at the campus.

The business community is excited about the Bowers Family Conference Room, which offers adequate space to host events for a crowd of up to 300, she said. “In the past, the community has struggled when attempting to organize large groups for civic and non-profit meetings.”



*In appreciation of **Ben and Lucille Childress's** dedication to education, an anonymous community donor made a generous contribution to name the lobby of the new Easley Campus in their honor. **Dr. Booth** made the announcement as he presented Mr. Childress a gift from the Commission to honor his years of service on the board. Also pictured is **Helen Rosemond-Saunders**, chair of the College Commission.*



*Easley Combined Utilities is among the six companies and/or individuals who have named rooms in the Academic Building. Pictured here are **Joel Ledbetter**, general manager of Easley Combined Utilities, left, and **Dr. Booth**.*

“We encourage the community to stop by and tour the campus and to see this wonderful asset that is for all Pickens County residents to use and enjoy,” she said.

## Spotlight

(continued from page 3)

He did his clinical rotation at Clemson Downs, and on the last day of class, he was asked by the head nurse for an interview. He passed his CNA state certification exam that is used in 38 other states. "They told me the job was mine if I wanted it," he said. He started PRN (as needed) work and within three months was working full time.

He loves his second-shift job at Clemson Downs. "This is the best job I've ever had. I love the residents and seeing their faces and making them smile. I enjoy taking care of them and talking to them about their families. I get a lot of joy out of listening to them. If you just spend extra time with them – maybe 10 or 15 minutes a day – it changes their life and makes them smile."

"Rodney is a very caring individual, and this field is an outstanding fit for him," said Janelle Hicks, director of Health Care programs for our Corporate and Community Education Division. "He displays the personal characteristics of compassion and caring which make for an outstanding health care professional. He also has an intuitive sense that allows him to meet the psychosocial needs of the people he cares for," Janelle said. In the classroom, Hollingsworth demonstrated responsibility not only for his own academic success but also many times spent extra time assisting classmates who needed encouragement, she added.

"He saved a life using the Heimlich maneuver. People made a big fuss over it, but he says, 'I was just doing my job'," said Surak. "When it comes to people, Rodney has no watch. He just leads with his heart and does whatever needs to be done."

## Foundation Hosts Easley Preview Party

**Dr. C.J. Edens** of Easley, middle, pictured here with **Dr. Booth**, right, and Foundation Board Chair **David Wakefield**, attended the Easley Campus Preview Party held November 18 for donors and community leaders. "Dr. Edens's family had a longtime commitment to education and because of that, you made this happen," Dr. Booth said to Dr. Edens, who sold his family property on Powdersville Road to the College to build the Easley Campus.

Ray Youngblood, a member of our Foundation Board and retired Alice Manufacturing executive, is also an accomplished artist. He donated one of his paintings that now hangs in the library of the Easley Campus. Standing in front of it are Mr. Youngblood's wife, **Rachel**, and **Dr. Brian Swords**, acting director of the Easley Campus.



## Faculty/Staff Celebrate at Holiday Drop-in



**Gloria Littleton**, human resource specialist, left, and **Cathy Strasser**, accounts payable technician, were among the faculty and staff who celebrated the holiday season at the annual holiday dessert drop-in hosted by the Staff Advisory Board. The festivities included delicious desserts and great door prizes.

# Easley Dedication (continued from page 1)



New House of Representatives member **Eric Bikas**, who represents S.C.'s 26th District (Pickens and Greenville), left, shakes hands with **George B. (Bud) Nalley**, managing partner of Nalley Commercial Properties and chairman of Nalley Construction Company, Inc., and Town 'n Country Realty of Easley, Inc. Mr. Nalley also is chairman of the board for Peoples Bancorporation, Inc., Easley. Pictured with them is **Senator Larry Martin**.



**Joe and Linda Bacigalupo**, owners of Tri-Tech, USA in Liberty, left and right, named a conference room on the first floor of the Academic Building. They are pictured here with Pickens County Councilman **Sam Wyche**.



From left, **Dr. Mendel Stewart**, of Sunset, former chair of the College's Commission; **Ben Childress**, of Easley, former Commissioner; **Dr. Brian Swords**, acting director of the Easley Campus; and **Sen. Larry Martin**, talk following the event.

in breaking ground on a 37.51-acre piece of property on Powdersville Road that is the site of the College's third community campus. Construction began that summer on the first two buildings – a QuickJobs Development Center and the Academic Building.

The QuickJobs Development Center, which opened September 20 with a class for United Tool and Mold, is designed to assist in workforce training and skills development for the College and for Pickens County. The QuickJobs Training Center is funded through a \$986,364 grant from the State Department of Commerce to Pickens County. Instructors from the CCE Division teach training courses specifically based on locally identified needs and shortages.

The Academic Building is a 40,000-square-foot facility funded through State capital reserves of nearly \$6 million.

"We are making college more accessible and available to the citizens of our service area," said Helen Rosemond-Saunders, chair of the College's Commission. "The time has come to be here where you live and work." "It's all about bringing what we do closer to the people we serve," said Dr. Booth. "Dedicating this campus today is a big deal."

He expressed gratitude to those who helped to make the process a smooth one, including Dr. Mendel Stewart, former chair of the College's Commission; former Commissioner Ben Childress, who chaired the Building Committee; Rep. Dan Cooper, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee; and Neil Smith and the Pickens County Council "who jumped through hoops to make this happen.

"It has been a pleasure to work with Neil and his entire council. Many thanks for their understanding of what this means to the community," added Dr. Booth

"The name of Tri-County takes on a new meaning today," said Rep. Phil Owens, adding that local citizens are excited about the campus's



*The Easley High School Chamber Singers, led by Emma Talley, sang the National Anthem. Not pictured is the Easley High School Pep Band, who played for the event.*



*The Wren High School ROTC performed the presentation of colors before the ceremony began.*

accessibility and convenience. "The key factor in this project's success is community support," he said. "This is a splendid addition to the Easley community."

Senator Larry Martin, also a student at Tri-County in 1970's, said, "When thinking about the opportunities and challenges we face today, this facility helps us to rise to the occasion. We are looking for brighter and better days ahead. We only dedicate this campus one time, but this facility is the gift that keeps on giving to our community. It will help us in a great way in bringing greater growth and opportunity for the people of our area. We all have a role in supporting Tri-County and our area."

"Having this grand opening today at the Christmas season was a very appropriate time to celebrate," said Bonnie Ammons, assistant director of Federal grant programs for the S.C. Department of Commerce. "Congratulations to you on a job well done. Everyone involved is to be highly commended. This project has shown vision and commitment to Pickens County. We (the Department of Commerce) played a small role in this project. You had the vision and commitment to get it done. Today's economy is different – it's more global. It's scary and it's challenging. The QuickJobs Center is our investment in your becoming the most capable, qualified workforce in the world. That's what this represents. Our investment in connecting business and industry, along with creating partnerships, is what the Department of Commerce is all about."



## Annual State of Pendleton Luncheon Held on Campus



For the second year, Tri-County was the host site for the State of the Pendleton Community Luncheon held December 9. Nearly 60 business, industry, and community members attended the event sponsored by the Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce and Pendleton Area Council. In addition to **Mayor Randy Hayes**, right, guest speakers included Dr. Booth and Dr. Lee D'Andrea, superintendent of Anderson County School District Four. Mayor Hayes is pictured with Anderson County Councilman **Tom Allen**.



**Ruthie Millar**, membership director for the Clemson Chamber of Commerce, standing, talks with **Amanda Long**, branch manager of Carolina First, and **Luke Woodruff**, branch manager of the bank's Anderson office.



Among the attendees were **Lawrence Nichols**, retired chief human resource officer at Clemson University, left, **Ethel Pettigrew**, of Whitener, Pettigrew & Company, C.P.A. in Clemson, and **Jeff Martin**, executive director of the Conference Center and Inn at Clemson University (Madren Center) and a member of the Pickens County Council.

## Bank of America/Merrill Lynch Supports Gateway Program



Bank of America/Merrill Lynch made a \$2,500 donation to the Gateway to College program. The funds are designated for textbooks for students in the program that 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.

Here, **Stacy Brandon**, senior vice president for Bank of America and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner, and Smith, Inc., second from left, presented the check. Also pictured from left are **John Lummus**, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement; **Susan Allen**, associate vice president for Academic Affairs; **Jessica Bellamy**, a graduate of the Gateway program and now a student in our University Transfer program; and **Gary Duncan**, a member of the Foundation Board. Jessica, of Westminster, who graduated from West Oak High School in August 2010, earned 44 college credits at Tri-County and maintained a GPA of 2.6.

## Faculty and Staff Celebrate LC<sup>2</sup> Kick-Off



A faculty/staff kick-off celebration for the new Learning through Community and Connections (LC<sup>2</sup>) initiative funded by Title III was held November 15. Here, **Dr. Phil Buckhiester**, vice president for Academic Affairs, far right, recognizes those who were involved in writing the Title III proposal, particularly Lou Ann Martin, math instructor, along with other groups who contributed to its development. Susan Allen, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, will serve as the project coordinator and Katy Goforth, lead English instructor & coordinator of instructional activities for Comprehensive Studies, will serve as Activity Director. Both shared a brief overview of planned project activities, as well as details about how to get involved. Participants were invited to join the LC<sup>2</sup> group portal available through eTC.

## College Joins in Pendleton “Town Takeover”



Nearly 100 students, faculty, and staff represented the College at the Pendleton “Town Takeover” hosted by WHNS Fox 21 November 11. **Eugene Grant**, dean of the Industrial and Engineering Technology Division, was interviewed in a live segment that showcased various student projects, including the t-shirt cannon, moon buggy, hovercraft, and motorcycle.



Also featured were our Veterinary Technology students who promoted their November 18 Pet Adoption Day. Pictured here with the Fox 21 News Team are, (kneeling) left to right, **Ashley Brady**, Veterinary Technology instructor; students **Jordan Gray** and **Melissa Hanley**, and Fox, one of the dogs available for adoption. Not pictured is student Kathie Fricks and Chimp, one of the other dogs available for adoption. Six animals, including both cats and dogs, were adopted as a result of the 30-second segment. Additional Town Takeover segments featured the SGA Benevolence in November activities and I & ET students doing project demonstrations.

## Dr. Darrel Staat Visits Campus



**Dr. Darrel Staat**, the new president of the South Carolina Technical College System, left, pictured here with **Dr. Booth**, visited our Pendleton Campus on November 15. Dr. Staat was given a tour of the campus and met with Dr. Booth and Executive Staff members for a luncheon.

## Enrolling at Easley



**Alison Callaham**, of Piedmont, left, was among those who attended the November 9 Easley Campus Enrollment Event/Open House. She was able to plan her schedule with **Heidi Freidel**, program coordinator for Early Childhood Development. Alison, who has been attending the Pendleton Campus for a year, will major in Early Childhood Development. To date, 382 students have registered for spring semester classes that begin January 10.



## LEI Ceremony Recognizes Student Success



**Tori McCowan**, right, was one of eleven students recognized with an Outstanding Student award at the annual Learning Excellence Initiative (LEI) Award Ceremony December 6. Presenting the certificate is **Jennifer Beattie**, English instructor, who also serves as our lead Freshman Seminar and College Skills instructor.



LEI students presented their Success Team projects at the conclusion of the annual LEI Awards Ceremony December 6. Pictured here are members of the College 105 and Biology 101 learning community, from left to right, **Ty Strickland, Alex Goulet, Tori McCowan, Bailey Pittard, Brittney Dominguez, and Loren Lenz**.

LEI, which stands for Learning Excellence Initiative, 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.

## Mechanic Street Parking Lot Will Provide 400 spaces



When we return from the Christmas break, the parking lot on Mechanic Street in Pendleton will be completed and a shuttle service will be available for students and employees to get to and from campus. Nearly 400 spaces will be available in the parking lot that is located across from Subway between Dollar General and The Palmetto Bank.

The gated parking lot will be open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. A continuous shuttle service will make regular rotations at approximately 10-minute intervals during open hours. The campus drop-off/pick-up location will be below Miller Hall. The parking lot will be regularly patrolled by Campus Safety during open hours. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Campus Safety at 646-1800.

## Superintendents Meet to Discuss Ways to Collaborate



From left, **Leigh Colombo**, coordinator of Secondary Transition Programs, **Amanda Blanton**, dean of Enrollment Management, **Dan Holland**, vice president for Student Affairs, **Dr. Mike Lucas**, superintendent, Oconee County Schools, **Dr. Henry Hunt**, superintendent, Pickens County Schools, and **Dr. Phil Buckheister**, vice president for Academic Affairs (not pictured here) met at Tri-County's Pendleton Campus to discuss COMPASS Placement Test data, Secondary Transition Programs, including dual enrollment (STEP), and more ways to collaborate in the coming year.