

Connection

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Students “Better Their Communities”

Jeremy Stowers, Alexia Edmonds, Daisha Bates, and Cassandra Hoffman spent a portion of their fall break donating their time to the Anderson County Meals on Wheels.

What started out as a class project focusing on “Bettering Your Community” turned into a real passion for many students in the three Public Speaking classes taught this semester by Anderson Campus English/Public Speaking instructor Jill English.

She doesn’t give them ideas – just one criterion: students’ projects must make a better world.

After researching area community service agencies, the group chose Anderson County Meals on Wheels. Jeremy says he saw first hand and up close how important the organization is to Anderson County’s elderly and needy population. Research shows that 60 volunteers are needed daily to deliver the 600 meals provided by Anderson County Meals on Wheels. It costs \$2.92 per meal and \$770 a year for lunch for one person. Anderson County Meals on Wheels is short on drivers, Jeremy said, and receives no federal funding.

The group spent a total of six-and-one-half hours on November 5 and 6 packing and delivering meals to the elderly in the Homeland Park area of Anderson.

“Everyone was so appreciative,” said Jeremy, of Belton. “We got instant feedback. Whether you donate or volunteer, it’s inspiring. It benefits you and others.”

Annette Caldwell, Tomeika Bennett, Kenny Quijano, and Kevin Keck were equally as inspired as they learned about the homeless situation in Anderson County.

Their research shows that there are between five and seven thousand homeless persons in South Carolina. Studies show that 15 percent are veterans and between 15 and 20 percent are children. Sixty to 70 percent of them struggle with addictions.

At the Haven of Rest in Anderson, one of three homeless shelters in Anderson County, there are 300 beds. The group decided to make Blessing Bags, consisting of bottled water, soap, shampoo, deodorant – basic daily toiletries that we take for granted. Around 130 persons are housed daily at the Haven of Rest,

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*Pictured here are students in one of the three Public Speaking classes taught this semester by Anderson Campus English/Public Speaking instructor Jill English. From left are (seated) **Kassandra Hoffman**, of Williamston; **Jeremy Stowers**, of Belton; **Annette Caldwell**, of Townville; **Olga Kravchuk**, of Anderson; **Amanda Bolton**, of Pendleton; **Ashley Burdette**, of Honea Path; and **Daisha Bates**, of Anderson; and (standing) **Cynthia Wilson**, **Kenny Quijano**, **Morgan Kidd**, **Jennifer Standridge**, **Lakiesha Million**, **Kevin Keck**, and **Alexia Edmonds**, all of Anderson; **Amber King**, of Belton; **Tomeika Bennett**, of Anderson; and **Kenisha Scott**, of Starr.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

HolidaysDecember 24- January 1
CCE Job Fair & Training Expo.....January 7
Spring Semester BeginsJanuary 14
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Holiday (College Closed)January 21
Sixth Annual
FIRST Lego League
Tournament January 26

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

Connection

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Mailing Address (All Campuses)

P. O. Box 587, Pendleton, SC 29670

Pendleton Campus

7900 Highway 76, Pendleton, SC

Anderson Campus

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Easley Campus

1774 Powdersville Rd., Easley, SC

Oconee Campus

Hamilton Career Center

100 Vocational Dr., Seneca, SC

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discriminate in admission or employment
on the basis of race, color, religion, sex,
qualifying disability, veteran's status, or
national origin.

Connecting



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

Surprise me!

That's what I told the President's Advisory Council last week when they were developing activities for our new three-year strategic plan. Pulling ourselves away from day-to-day activities and directing our thoughts to the future is always a challenge, but the Council spent the better part of two days in December doing just that – and will spend at least one more day in January continuing that process.

We have identified a practical vision that includes three major areas: goal attainment for our students (student success), goal attainment for local business and industry (how are we helping them attain their goals?), and finally, one that has been less obvious – goal attainment for employees (how are we helping each of you attain your goals and maximizing your potential to make a greater contribution to student success?).

In the spirit of continuous improvement, we made several adjustments to the planning process that we believe will help connect our planning more deliberately to our 10-year vision and result in activities that are more strategic in nature.

We started by reviewing an environmental scan that provides a political, economic, social, and technology analysis of our environment. A better understanding of the world around us helps us to plan more appropriately, and we identified several emergent themes that I will share with you now.

The cost of operating the College is going up, and some of those costs are beyond our control. Additionally, we never will be restored to past levels of State funding and our current allocation will likely decrease.

“We have identified a practical vision that includes three major areas: Goal attainment for our students, goal attainment for local business and industry, and goal attainment for employees.”

- Dr. Ronnie L. Booth

It has been inherently difficult for us to measure and improve student learning, but we need to push ourselves to do more. We now have new tools available to help us, such as the Voluntary Framework of Accountability developed by American Association of Community Colleges.

We are facing a new reality in the world of manufacturing in our service area. In recent years, there has been a shift to advanced manufacturing processes. Our credit programs must be adapted to address this new reality. Industry hires our graduates for what they can do on the job, not for what degree they have. More and more we are being judged based on the value we deliver, not the educational credentials we award.

More than 80 percent of our student population relies on some form of free financial aid. Regulations governing financial aid awards have become increasingly

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Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative Honored with Foundation's Prestigious Philanthropist of the Year Award

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative was named the 2012 recipient of the Tri-County Technical College Foundation's Philanthropist of the Year award.

This is the Foundation's highest and most prestigious honor reserved for 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.

Alan Blackmon, manager of engineering at Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Pickens and a member of Tri-County's Foundation Board, accepted the award, along with Manager of Operations Sam McMillan and Manager of Finance David Collins. "On behalf of our board, Mr. Charles Dalton (Blue Ridge President and CEO), and our member-owners, we humbly accept this award," said Mr. Blackmon. "Tri-County is an invaluable asset to this area, and Blue Ridge is proud to offer its assistance to the College and its educational programs."

"You represent the best of our community," said Dr. Booth. "To recognize Blue Ridge for its generous support, the Tri-County Technical College Foundation is pleased to name Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative/Blue Ridge Security Systems its 2012 Philanthropist of the Year."

"Blue Ridge is a company that lives its values," said Peggy Deane, chair of the College's Foundation Board. "The Cooperative operates on the philosophy that quality service is at the heart of its organization, and it places a premium on providing dependable electric power to its members. It also realizes the importance of education in the communities it serves and is quick to support local school systems and higher education institutions such as Tri-County Technical College," she said.

Mrs. Deane quoted Blue Ridge CEO and President Dalton as saying, "Education is a critical factor in the success of our young people. A good education not only impacts the life of the student who receives it, it also impacts our economy and affects our standard of living."

Blue Ridge has a giving history to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation that dates back to 1986, when it made its first unrestricted pledge of \$5,000. In 1994, Blue Ridge Electric honored A. J. (Jud) Hurt, the Cooperative's original General Manager who was hired in 1940 and retired in 1982, by establishing a professional development endowment in his name. This endowment provides for the educational needs of faculty in the College's Engineering and Industrial Technology Division. Blue Ridge led the fundraising effort for the A. J. (Jud) Hurt Teaching Chair endowment, which now boasts more than \$42,000 in gifts, approximately half of which came from the Cooperative itself.



Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative was named the 2012 recipient of the Tri-County Technical College Foundation's Philanthropist of the Year award. Pictured from left are Tri-County President **Ronnie L. Booth**; **Alan Blackmon**, manager of engineering at Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Pickens and a member of Tri-County's Foundation Board; **David Collins**, manager of finance at Blue Ridge; and **Sam McMillan**, manager of operations at Blue Ridge.

In 2004, Blue Ridge continued its support by pledging \$25,000 to establish the Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative Technology Endowment. This endowment was fully funded in 2007, and it currently generates revenue used by the College to support its technological needs.

Blue Ridge Electric's largest gift to date came in the form of a \$100,000 pledge made in 2010 to name the two Engineering and Industrial Technology labs at the College's Easley Campus. The revenue from this endowment will help to underwrite the future needs of that campus as it supports the residents of Pickens County.

In addition, Blue Ridge Electric has been a faithful supporter of College and Foundation special events, including the Fall Classic Golf Tournament, the Spring Open Golf Tournament, and Bluegrass Under the Stars. The cooperative has also supported the naming of the Henry C. Harrison Criminal Justice Technology Program.

Blue Ridge Electric has given more than \$166,000 to the Foundation over the past 26 years, earning the Cooperative recognition on the College's Benefactors of Honor Wall.

Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative was established on August 14, 1940, starting its operations with 1,680 members inherited from the South Carolina Rural Electrification Authority. Today, Blue Ridge serves more than 63,000 members in Anderson, Greenville, Oconee, and Pickens counties, with a small number located in Spartanburg County.



Congratulations to **Dan Holland**, dean of Student Development, whose daughter, Kianna Holland, recently signed to play women's basketball at Duke University with a full scholarship. Kianna is ranked by ESPN as #22 in the nation for overall best female basketball player and #8 in the nation for best female guard. In addition, the SC Basketball Coaches Association recognized her as the #1 female basketball player in the State. Kianna is not only a star athlete, but also a star student, who has made the honor roll each semester during her high school career.

Congratulations to:

Kay Crocker, who is a grandmother. Her daughter gave birth to Emma, who weighed 1 lb., 12 oz. Emma, who now weighs 2 lbs., 13.9 oz., will remain in NICU at Greenville Hospital for a while.

Donna Shannon, department head for Allied Health programs, who became Donna Palmer November 10 when she married Evan Palmer. Best wishes to the newlyweds!

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.

Our College Family

excellence through service

Jennifer Beattie Hulehan was elected to a two-year term on the Board of the South Carolina Association of Developmental Education.

The Summer/Fall Welding classes received a big thank you from Bill Collins, executive director of the Wilderness Way Girls' Camp. The students constructed a new canoe trailer for the camp located in Fair Play.

Mr. Collins wrote:

"Wilderness Way Girls' Camp helps girls who are struggling with their emotions, behaviors, and decision making. Part of our program involves planning and taking extended trips to lakes and rivers. The trailer will greatly benefit us as we often have two groups seeking to use our one trailer over the same time period. We greatly appreciate all the time, thought, and work you put into this project."



New Canoe Trailer

Congratulations to **Gayle Arries**, marketing director, and **Renaë Frazier**, recruiting and admissions director, who were selected to be presenters at the Community College Enrollment Management and Student Marketing Symposium hosted by SEM Works March 5-7, 2013, in Raleigh, North Carolina. They were recruited to speak at this national conference by Dr. Jim Black, president and CEO of SEM Works, a nationally-known higher education consulting company specializing in enrollment management. Dr. Black, who has been consulting with the College over the last year as part of our matriculation improvement project, recruited Gayle and Renaë to be speakers based on what he described as their "impressive collaboration around student marketing and communications." The title of their presentation is "Marketing and Enrollment Management: Essential Collaboration."



Gayle Arries



Renaë Frazier

in transition

Lori Ford is our new Upward Bound counselor in the TRiO office. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in social work from Florida State University. She worked as the Shelter Counselor at Safe Harbor in 2012 and from 2007 - 09 served as a Treatment Counselor and later Human Services Professional at Generations Group Home. Lori lives in Belton.



Lori Ford

Executive Staff Updates



Debbie Sewell

Debbie Sewell is a Science Lab Coordinator for the Science Department. She earned a bachelor of Science degree in Entomology from Clemson University where she also did graduate studies in Entomology.

Debbie was a Research Technician for the USDA Agricultural Research Services at Clemson University from 1996 – 2012. She is a member of Trinity Baptist Church in Seneca. She and her husband, Mike, live in Salem.

Faye Allen Retires December 21



Faye Allen

Efficiency and effectiveness are the hallmarks of Faye Allen's successful 25-year career at Tri-County Technical College, colleagues agreed at a reception held December 4 to reminisce and to honor her contributions to the College.

Faye joined the College in 1988 as an Accountant/Business Office Manager in the Finance and Administrative Services Division (now Business Affairs Division). Within months, she was named Director of Fiscal Affairs for the Division. Since 1991, she also has worked as an adjunct instructor for the College's evening Accounting classes.

Although December 21 is her last day on the job, she will be back next year working as an adjunct Accounting instructor.

"It has been a privilege to have worked at Tri-County Technical College for 25 years," said Faye. "I have

seen and been a part of the growth of the College in terms of students and in the size of the College. I've also been fortunate to have worked within both sides of the College – academic and administrative. Being a part of both areas has given me a comprehensive understanding of how vital Tri-County is to our students, community, and State," she said.

"Some may not know this, but I am a product of Tri-County. In 1984, as an adult, I came to the College to seek guidance as to what my future could hold if I returned to school. I spoke to Glenn Hellenga, and he gave me so much encouragement that I enrolled that day! I have never looked back. All of my instructors at the College encouraged me and recommended that I continue my education by going for a bachelor's degree. Little did I know that after receiving my degree I would be employed by the very college that gave me a new lease on life," she said.

"It has been a wonderful, if sometimes bumpy, ride. I will miss my colleagues, but I hope to continue my service to the College by remaining an adjunct instructor for a few more years," she said.

"Faye has a tremendous amount of passion for the College, particularly for students," said

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- **Tobacco Use Policy:** Tri-County Technical College is dedicated to the health and well-being of all students, faculty, and staff. In an effort to provide the healthiest possible environment, the College would like to eliminate all tobacco use on all campuses. Before making a final decision, feedback will be collected from the Faculty Senate, Staff Advisory Board, and SGA officers regarding the costs, benefits, and risks associated with the implementation of a tobacco-free campus policy.

- **Athletics:** The College has been pleased to offer athletic opportunities for students over the last several years. At its height, the athletics program included Men's Golf, Men's Soccer, Women's Basketball, and Women's Soccer. Currently, Men's Golf and Women's Basketball remain, but both programs will close at the end of the current 2012-13 academic year for budgetary reasons.

- **Strategic Plan:** Galen DeHay, interim provost, has been meeting with all major functional areas to review our strategic direction and discuss next steps for developing activities for the new three-year strategic plan. In addition, the Executive Staff and President's Advisory Council launched the planning process with two work sessions in December, with plans to continue work in January.

- **Other:** Student employment/work study strategy; tuition waivers.

The 2000s



Each month throughout 2012, Connection has devoted two pages to celebrating the Colleges' golden anniversary. Through photos and articles, we have highlighted the events which have shaped the College into the role model for community college education that it is today. These pages spotlight the accomplishments of the last decade.

“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.”

- Dr. Ronnie Booth

Over the last nine years, since accepting the job as the third president, 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; 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.

Since 2005, he has launched three community campuses in Anderson, Seneca, and Easley. The Seneca and Easley campuses have QuickJobs Development Centers for workforce and industry training, and a center in Anderson is under construction.

In 2005 the College was authorized by the Commission to pursue negotiations to acquire a



Anderson Campus

piece of property in Anderson near 28 Bypass and Michelin Boulevard for the first community campus. The premier community 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

Campus opened its doors in March 2007.

A campus in Oconee followed later in 2007, and in 2011, the Easley Campus opened its doors. In addition, the Oconee and Easley Campuses have



Easley Campus

QuickJobs Development Centers for workforce and industry training funded by grants from the State Department of Commerce.

These campuses, along with the classrooms at the Watkins Community Center in Honea Path, serve several of the College's goals by bringing its services closer to residents, increasing community



Bionca Dunbar, pictured here with her mother, was a member of the inaugural class (2006) of the Bridge to Clemson program, a first of its kind in South Carolina.

involvement, and expanding educational opportunities.

The College expanded the educational opportunities for graduates through partnership programs over the years. Among them are Bridge to Clemson and Connect to College.

In 2005, the Bridge to Clemson program was created. It

is designed for recent high school graduates who narrowly missed admission to Clemson because of limited space and high demand. The program enrolled 607 students in the fall of 2011 - 12 – its largest class to date. In addition to the Bridge to Clemson program, the College has articulation agreements in place that allow graduates from several Tri-County career programs to be accepted with junior standing in specific majors at Clemson. Tri-County also has transfer agreements with Anderson University, Erskine College, Lander University, Limestone College, Southern Wesleyan University, USC College of Engineering, and USC Upstate.



Julius Gambrell and **Laura Mosher** were among the first Gateway to College graduates.

In 2005, Tri-County was among four community colleges in the United States to receive three-year implementation grants from Portland Community College (Oregon) to replicate their nationally recognized Gateway to College program. Funding for the grants was provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In January 2012, the program changed its name to Connect to College.

Tri-County received a \$300,000 grant to address needs of at-risk and dropout youth through a Gateway to College program. Its purpose is to serve high school dropouts age 17 - 20 who have demonstrated academic ability and meet specific eligibility criteria. 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. The Gateway program also has been funded through Lottery Tuition Assistance, College exemption, district flow-through funds, student-paid fees, and a partnership contract with Palmetto Youth Connections that provides financial support for WIA-eligible students.

Another goal was to meet the needs of business and industry training, which was achieved in 2005 with the opening of the



In 2005, College officials and industry leaders dedicated the Economic Development Center, a 7,500-square-foot facility dedicated to training projects for new and expanding industries through readySC™.

Economic Development Center on the Pendleton Campus. It was funded by Anderson, Oconee and Pickens county councils, readySC™, and the College. The Center, a one-of-a-kind facility on the Pendleton Campus, is used to train workers for new and



Industrial Technology Center

expanding industries through the readySC™ program.

The Industrial Technology Center (ITC), the new home to the Welding and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning programs, will open Spring Semester, 2013.

The 43,000-square-foot Center is located on Highway 76 in Sandy Springs. This state-of-the-art industrial training center is designed to mimic a real-world industrial setting. The structure used various types of construction techniques in the retrofitting process to be used later as teaching tools in the classroom.

The building, formerly the Virginia Products Tobacco Building, was purchased by the College in 2010.

The building is just four miles from the Pendleton Campus. The Sandy Springs location will allow the College to keep the industry training programs centrally located in the service area, which is important to our students who enroll from all three counties and for the local industries served by the College.

Golden OPPORTUNITIES *to shape the future*

Tri-County's Foundation Board Welcomes Five New Members

Five community leaders have been elected to serve on Tri-County Technical College's Foundation Board of Directors.

Joining the Board's current members are Hugh Burgess, representing Anderson County, Linda Bacigalupo, Dave Eldridge, and Larry Smith, all representing Oconee County, and Nancy Hedrick representing Pickens County.

Members of the Foundation Board raise money to supplement appropriations thereby helping the College to meet the educational needs of the citizens of the tri-county area.

Mr. Burgess is President and Managing Partner of Consolidated Southern Industries (CSI), a mechanical, electrical and general contractor services company located in Anderson. Prior to CSI, he spent 25 years in different engineering and management roles in manufacturing, including 11 as Plant Manager with Clark Schwebel in Anderson. His last position at Clark Schwebel was Corporate Director of Engineering for Hexcel Schwebel. He left in 2001 to enter into a partnership in 2002 with Anderson businessman Carey Jones, who owned CSI.

His board memberships include Anderson University Board of Trustees; Anderson Federal Credit Union, supervisors committee chair; AnMed Health Foundation (vice chair); Foothills Gala; and the Camellia Ball Sponsorship Committee supporting Pediatric Therapy Works. He is past chair of Anderson Interfaith Ministries Board and the Anderson Vocational Rehabilitation Board. He is a member of Welcome Baptist Church, where he is a deacon, treasurer, and Sunday School teacher. He is a former board member of Leadership South Carolina and a former chair of the Anderson Area YMCA board.

He is a 1977 graduate of Tri-County's Engineering Technology program and has attended Limestone College, as well as Southern Wesleyan University. At the spring 2011 commencement, he received Tri-County's Distinguished Alumni Award, which highlights his dedication to his alma mater.

Mr. Burgess is married to Rita Prater Burgess, and they live in Anderson.

Mrs. Bacigalupo is president of Tri Tech, USA in Liberty. She and her husband, Joe, own the custom manufacturing company that



Hugh Burgess



Dave Eldridge



Linda Bacigalupo



Larry Smith



Nancy Hedrick

specializes in fabricated metal and plastic products for industrial, government, and DOD customers in the United States and Canada. They relocated from Burlington, Vermont, to Liberty in 2009.

Mrs. Bacigalupo received a Paralegal/Accounting degree from Tunxis Community College in Farmington, CT, and an Accounting degree from Trinity College of Vermont. For two years she was a Litigation Administrator and Paralegal for Connecticut General Life Insurance in CT.

Currently she is Secretary/Treasurer of Waterstone Property Owners Association and she serves on Clemson University's outdoor lab advisory board. She and her husband live in West Union.

Mr. Eldridge serves as Director of Mountain Lakes Business Development Corporation which helps entrepreneurs to start businesses and create jobs in the tri-county area. He develops and coordinates training programs in association with Tri-County and Clemson University. He also serves as a SCORE

counselor to small businesses.

After graduating from college and military service as an Army Officer in the special forces, Mr. Eldridge began his career with BF Goodrich. After a move to South Carolina to head up Goodrich's manufacturing facilities in the Carolinas, he settled in Columbia where he worked with the State Development Board, now the Department of Commerce, as the Director of its International Division. He later became Director of Economic Development. After 12 years he was recruited by North Carolina to serve as Assistant Secretary of Commerce. Later he returned to

the private sector to lead marketing and economic development for a major electric utility. Most recently he retired as the CEO of a manufacturing company in Florida.

His awards include the Fulbright Award and the Order of the Palmetto. He and his wife, Margaret, live in Keowee Key.

Mr. Smith is Plant Operations Manager for Schneider Electric in Seneca. He holds B.S. and M.B.A. degrees from the University of Pittsburg. He is a member and President of the Oconee County Industrial Group, a member of SDOC Business Education Partnership

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Anderson County Woman's Club Members Meet Scholarship Recipients

Kelsey Mosley, of Starr; front row, left, and **Mary Ellen McIntire**, of Townville, front row, middle, are the two 2012-13 recipients of the Anderson County Woman's Club endowed scholarship at Tri-County. They are both Business majors. They are pictured with **Emily Fincher**, Anderson University's scholarship recipient and a Theatre major front row, right. Pictured with them are (back row, from left) **Robert Homer-Drummond**, associate professor of theater/acting and directing at AU; **Elisabeth Gadd**, director of development at Tri-County; **Susan Reed**, president of the Anderson County Woman's Club; and **Courtney White**, manager of donor relations at Tri-County. The Anderson County Woman's Club was among one of the first to establish an endowment at Tri-County and has contributed annually to the scholarship since 1989.



Board Members

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and the Clemson University Continuing Education Board.

Since 1988, Schneider Electric has supported the Tri-County Technical College Foundation through annual gifts, all devoted to advancing educational opportunities and instruction. The company was honored with the College Foundation's 2010 Philanthropist of the Year award. This award is the Foundation's highest and most prestigious honor.

Mr. Smith and his wife, Judith, live in Seneca.

Ms. Hedrick is the former President and CEO of Computer Software Innovations, Inc. (CSI Technology Outfitters in Easley). She co-founded CSI in 1989. She recently sold the company that has grown from two employees to 250 today.

She holds a B.S. from the University of Missouri and continued her education in Computer Information Systems at Western Carolina University. She is a member of the Pendleton Regional Education Center Advisory Board and has served on the board of CompTIA (computer technology industry association) since early 2011 and on the CSI Board of Directors since 2005. She lives in Greenville.

Campuses Sponsor Angel Trees

Faculty, staff, and students at the College's Pendleton, Anderson, and Easley Campuses sponsored an angel tree for children at the Pendleton and Seneca Head Start programs and New Foundations Group Home in Anderson. A total of 137 angels were adopted – 57 from the Pendleton Campus (56 for Pendleton Head Start and one for Clemson Head Start); 40 from the Easley Campus went to Seneca Head Start; and 40 from the Anderson Campus went to Anderson New Foundations Group Home. Pictured here with the Pendleton gifts are, from left, **Marquis Hall**, of Pendleton, a Criminal Justice Technology major and SGA treasurer; **Donald Joslyn**, of Pelzer, a Criminal Justice Technology major and SGA president; and **Croslena Johnson**, director of Student Life and Counseling Services.



Sparkles Finds a Home at Pet Adoption



Destini Petitt, of Central, a University Transfer student, adopted Sparkles, a year-old miniature pinscher at the Veterinary Technology Department's recent Adoption Day. Throughout each semester, the program sponsors adoption days where the public can adopt dogs who are leash trained and taught basic commands, and cats are socialized with people and other cats. All animals are spayed or neutered and vaccinated. There is a \$45 fee payable at the time of adoption. This fee includes a microchip and registration.

Anderson Campus Students Showcase Talent



The Enrichment Series Committee sponsored a Student Showcase at the Anderson Campus November 15. Students checked out their fellow classmate's talent and creativity. On display were art work, craft projects and baking ideas.

Easley Campus Employees, Student Community Service Group Help Needy

The Easley Campus Student Community Service Initiative Group sponsored several service projects during the months of October and November. They collected non-perishable food items in September. Several boxes were filled and donated to 5 Point Church Food Pantry in Easley (see inset). In addition, faculty, staff and students collected 60 coats for donation to the United Christian Ministries in Easley. The Student Community Service Initiative group collected approximately 60 new coats in October! They were donated to United Christian Ministries in Easley. Many thanks to **Missy Gray**, pictured here, top right, for her leadership in organizing these fundraisers.



Tri-County Chorus Presents Fall Concert



The Tri-County Chorus presented its annual Fall Concert November 30 in the Marshall Parker Auditorium on the Pendleton Campus. The concert featured solo performances by faculty and students, in addition to the performance of the Tri-County Chorus. Faculty pianist **Anita Brown** and violinist **Alice Shaar** presented a Mozart's Sonata in F major for Piano and Violin, K.376. Student soloists included **Turner Corbett** (mandolin), **Justin Birney** (bass-baritone), **Trent Loftis** (trumpet), **Julia Murray** (voice/guitar), and others. The choir presented a diverse program of songs ranging from contemporary choral works to sacred works of the Baroque period and even a bluegrass ballad.

The Chorus is led by Music instructor **Jeff Christmas**, far right. **Kindel Thomas**, front row, far left, is Accompanist.

Community *(continued from page 1)*

who prepared and served 2,800 meals on Thanksgiving. Students placed donation boxes on campus and at churches and collected items for more than 100 Blessing Bags that they delivered to Haven of Rest November 20. They also asked two dental offices, Cool Smiles and Bright Smiles, to donate toothbrushes. More than 100 were collected.

Another group, composed of Olga Kravchuk, Ashley Burdette, and Wanda White, prepared and hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for needy families at the Sunshine House, a homeless shelter in Anderson. They sold cakes, made by Wanda, for \$20 each and raised a total of \$120 to purchase the ingredients to cook the dinner and to make the goodie bags filled with crayons and coloring books for the kids.

Around 12 homeless families, consisting of 14 adults and 22 children, were present November 12 at the North Anderson Community Church in Anderson. The dinner was a great success. There was so much food that the families were able to take leftovers home with them.

A group consisting of Lakeisha Million, Kenisha Scott, Jennifer Standridge, and Morgan Kidd chose Anderson Interfaith Ministries (AIM) and discovered that 27 percent of the Anderson population is below poverty level. AIM is a non-profit organization that meets the needs of struggling individuals and families in Anderson County.

AIM assists 35 – 40 families each day on a first come, first served basis. This group placed flyers on campus and collected canned goods for AIM's Food Pantry.

They filled out applications at AIM to volunteer, toured the facility, and checked in, counted, and stocked items. They unloaded and separated bags as donations came in. "The need for help is year round at AIM," Jennifer said. "Their job has a powerful impact. There are so many who struggle with basic needs." Each member volunteered at the Food Pantry at various times.

Another group, Amber King, Cynthia Wilson, and Amanda Bolton created a memorable Halloween for kids at West Anderson Christian Academy who needed help with their annual Halloween festival. "We put smiles on their faces that afternoon," said Amber. The students placed donation boxes on the Anderson Campus and made 80 goodie bags filled with candy. "Many of their parents have hit hard financial times, and they were very thankful. There were 10 kids who wouldn't be able to go trick or treating because parents had to work, or they had no costumes or no gas money to drive them around. We also prepared trick or treat bags for them," said Amber.

Examples of other projects included collecting 50 unused cell phones for troops and delivering them to Piedmont Honda, who refurbished them for our military, and creating a How to Volunteer for Dummies booklet.

Many students said it was their first experience volunteering at community service agencies, but it most certainly won't be their last.

"There is such a need for volunteers in our community," said Amanda Bolton, of Pendleton. "I had no idea about the services of Haven of Rest and AIM. Hearing about them from my classmates really sparked my interest, and I plan to volunteer there. There is a huge need. Just a few hours make a great impact."

"I'm always looking for a place to help," said Annette Caldwell, of Townville.

"If you let them go, they are so creative," said Jill. "They get so excited about the difference they make in their communities. They are stunned at how much you can accomplish without a lot of time and money."

By observing the camaraderie among the group at the end of the semester, Jill says it's hard to believe they were strangers when the semester started. "By the end of the semester, they were meeting outside of class at each other's homes. Through these group projects, they bond and are friends for life. This is one of my favorite activities in the year but the hardest project I have to grade each year. They rise to the occasion and everybody wins."

CONNECTING

(continued from page 2)

more restrictive. Today's students are far more likely to lose their aid for lack of satisfactory progress toward degree completion, taking courses outside their major, and other factors than in years past.

These themes helped to shape our approach as we began to set our strategic directions and develop activities that will bring us closer to achieving our 10-year vision of transforming lives and shaping the community. Work will continue after the first of the year and we expect to publish a robust strategic plan for 2014-16 in early March.

As we approach the holiday season, I wish you and yours a time of well-deserved rest, relaxation, and renewal. Thank you for all you do each and every day to contribute to the success of Tri-County Technical College.



Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

WANT TO HELP?

havenofrest.cc

asunshinehouse.com

aimcharity.org

acmow.org

Employees Enjoy Holiday Fellowship



Staff in the Business Affairs Division enjoy food and fellowship during the Holiday Drop-In sponsored by the Staff Advisory Board December 7. Pictured left to right are **Cathy Strasser**, accounts payable technician; **Cathy Payne**, applications analyst; **Courtney Tillett**, systems programmer; and **Jan Kempinski**, web developer/programmer. During the event, holiday baskets were auctioned to raise money for United Way, and the Tri-County Chorus serenaded the guests with holiday songs.

Faye Allen *(continued from page 5)*

Gregg Stapleton, vice president for Business Affairs. “She breaks the mold of the typical accountant because although her technical skills are outstanding, she is really thought of more as a ‘people person.’ She is magnificent for the reputation of the College. Having our financial house in order is essential for our continued sustainability as an institution, but it’s also the reason we enjoy a great reputation among the technical colleges in the State. Faye will be hard to replace.”

Division Administrative Assistant Roberta Sitton recalls her first day of work and seeing the lady who interviewed her dressed as the late President Don C. Garrison for a skit in a faculty/staff breakfast.

“Imagine my shock when I reported for work that first day and Faye was dressed up like Dr. Garrison! I figured if she had the courage to come to work dressed like the College President, she wasn’t afraid of anything—and I was totally intimidated!” said Roberta.

“Since then, I’ve come to know Faye as someone who loves what she does and strives diligently to positively represent the College in everything she does. Faye cares deeply about others—especially those she works most closely with—and she always goes ‘the extra mile’ to help others succeed.”

Roberta says she also appreciates the “fun times and laughs, for the impromptu lunches you provided for the office (as thanks for a job well done), and for sometimes just being a sounding board. I’m really going to miss her.”

Accounting Technician Debbie Norris also appreciates the encouragement Faye extends to all of her co-workers.

“The thing I am most grateful for is Faye’s support when I decided to return to Anderson University to pursue my bachelor’s degree (at a ripe old age). Faye and my hubby, David, were my greatest encouragers and supporters and that kept me going when I got discouraged. School is hard on an old person! Our friendship has truly grown over the last few years and although I respect Faye as a boss, I will always consider her a great friend.”

Former Vice President of Business Affairs Howie Roesch welcomed her to the ranks of the retirees or as he calls them, “the gainfully unemployed.”

He said, “Congratulations on your career. Your expertise, diligence, and dedication to Tri-County have been a tremendous asset for the College and the Technical College System. You should be very proud of your accomplishments and the impact you’ve had on Tri-County and the people you’ve touched. It’s a better place because of your contributions.”

Over the years Faye has fully supported the philosophy and mission of the College and dedicated herself to providing the best service to faculty, staff, and students. As a result, she was honored in 2001 with the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence. The medallion goes to a person who has demonstrated over and over a strong belief in the purpose and mission of the College. That same year she was named the College’s Outstanding Support Staff for the Tri-County Technical Education Association. Again, in 2005, she was the College’s winner in the TCTEA Support Staff category. In 1994 – 95, she served as State Treasurer for the South Carolina Technical Education Association.



Faye Allen poses with **Dr. Booth**, left, and her bosses, vice presidents of Business Affairs, past and present. From left are **Howie Roesch**, retired; **Wayne Fogle**, retired; and **Gregg Stapleton**.

Faye is a member of the S.C. Association of Government Finance Officers. She served on the reaffirmation committee for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools for a decade.

She is always willing to respond to the changing needs or challenges of the institution. Over the years, she conducted How to Do Business at Tri-County classes for all employees to promote good business practices and to show how conservative budgetary practices benefit the College as a whole.

In 2000 she was among the 13 financial officers who successfully completed a 75-hour certification program through the Government and Finance Officers Association of South Carolina. She successfully completed all requirements of the program by passing all three exams and was designated a Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO). At the time, she was one of four CGFO’s in the State’s Technical College System.

This year, for the 12th consecutive year, the Business Affairs Office received the certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting. This is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). Faye prepared the College’s first comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR) in 2000. In 2002 she received a certificate of completion from the College Business Management Institute.

She has served on college committees including project leader for the implementation of Banner, a fully integrated site of administrative systems that is used by faculty, staff, and students. In 2005 – 2006 her office implemented a payment plan and online payments system for students.

Faye holds an associate degree in Business from Tri-County (1985), a bachelor’s degree in Accounting (1987), and a master’s in industrial education (1991), both from Clemson University. She and her husband, Harold, live in Pelzer.