

Connection

In this Issue ...



Welding Classes at Haven of Rest 3



Work-Ready Training Fair4-5



Barbara Hammond Receives SCAHCE Award..... 9



AT&T Named Philanthropist Of the Year12

Golden Anniversary Celebration Kicks Off in January

Next year marks the golden anniversary of Tri-County Technical College.

Fifty years ago Tri-County Technical College made South Carolina history by becoming the first multi-county technical institute in the State. Never before had several counties pooled their resources to create a postsecondary educational facility in South Carolina.

Tri-County Technical Education Center opened the doors of Pickens Hall September 10, 1963, with fewer than 500 students in seven disciplines and later attracted 919 students during its first year of operation. The curricula included Electronics Technology, Machine Tool, Welding, and other Engineering Technologies.

Since that time, Tri-County Technical College has grown from a technical education center with one building in Pendleton to a comprehensive community college with four campuses in its three-county service area. Academic offerings include technical and health education training, business and public services majors, university transfer offerings, and college credit courses for high school students. Around 12,000 residents enroll annually in non-credit courses in continuing education.

Throughout 2012, special events will unite faculty, staff, retirees, alumni, friends, and partners together to honor the past—and the future—of the College.

Celebrations and events are scheduled, beginning with a kick-off event January 26 in the library of Hicks Hall on the Pendleton Campus. Leaders from the three-county area will be present to talk about Tri-County’s important role in the community, and Dr. Booth will unveil a new historical display highlighting historic milestones, which will be located in the entrance to the library. In addition, he will present Tri-County Technical College, Five Decades of Distinction, a 100-page book written to commemorate the College’s five decades of service to the citizens of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. This book chronicles the events that have shaped the College into the role model for community college education that it is today and documents its history with business, industry, donors, local school districts, and colleges and universities.

Through stories accompanied by historic and present-day photographs, this commemorative book illustrates the College’s long-standing mission, the 1961 legislation which founded the Technical College System in our State, which states: “The greatest single resource that South Carolina has is its people.”



The campus in 1962



The campus in 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

Faculty/Staff Holiday Drop-in Dec. 9
Gateway to College
Graduation Luncheon December 15
HolidaysDec. 23– Jan. 2
Spring Semester BeginsJanuary 9
Get Connected.....January 18
Anniversary Kick-off Event.....Jan. 26
Lego Tournament January 28

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

Connection

is published ten times each year by the
Office of the President and the Public
Relations and Marketing Department.

Mailing Address (All Campuses)

P. O. Box 587, Pendleton, SC 29670

Pendleton Campus

7900 Highway 76, Pendleton, SC

Anderson Campus

511 Michelin Blvd., Anderson, SC

Easley Campus

1774 Powdersville Rd., Easley, SC

Oconee Campus

Hamilton Career Center
100 Vocational Dr., Seneca, SC

Main Number: (864) 646-8361

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

TDD/Voice: 1-800-735-2905

Website: www.tctc.edu



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

Connecting

Midway through the academic year is when we
take time to assess our progress in achieving
the objectives set forth in our strategic
plan. We also are beginning to look ahead to the next planning cycle. The Executive
Staff recently began updating the list of strategic objectives that will drive our planning
initiatives for the 2012-13 academic year.

If you have heard me speak in public during the past couple of years, you will know
that I speak more about student success than any other topic. As a College, we are
determined to improve student success through a variety of initiatives in our strategic
plan. Three of our strategic objectives get right to the heart of student success by
focusing on increasing the percentage of students who graduate, transfer, or are
retained at Tri-County by improving key measures of individual academic achievement.
We will see a lot of energy around these measures as divisions and departments begin
planning activities to address these objectives.

Protecting and improving academic quality are critical components of student
success. We have reaffirmed our goal to increase the percentage of classes taught by
full-time faculty, as well as to enhance placement, advising, and tutoring services.
We also plan to address success rates in traditional and online delivery formats to
ensure they are comparable.

Those of you who have been a part of the Tri-County family for a number of years can
probably sense a culture shift around the topic of enrollment. We have backed off the
"chase for headcount" that has driven our funding since the College was established.
We are no longer rewarded for headcount growth and could actually find ourselves in a
difficult spot by growing too fast without resources to support that growth. Instead we
are focusing our energy on increasing enrollment through improved year-to-year student
retention and strategic enrollment development. This approach to growth applies to all of
our campuses.

Last year the College engaged the services of a consulting group to assist us in
developing a new Pendleton Campus Master Plan. I expect our Commission to give the
plan its full approval when they meet in mid-December. By summer 2012, we hope to
begin executing improvements to traffic safety and flow as outlined in the plan, as well
as start the process to gain the approvals necessary to construct a new Student Success
Center. We also are on track to relocate the Welding and HVAC programs to the new
Industrial Technology Center by Fall 2012 and to build a QuickJobs Development Center
at the Anderson Campus by the end of 2012.

Recently we brought in a consulting firm to help us begin to understand the diversity
of our student body and workforce along multiple dimensions. Our goal is to create a
College-wide diversity program by this time next year that sets direction and establishes
benchmarks for our diversity efforts.

Finally, in recent years we have been paying closer attention to the topic of
sustainability in all its dimensions. Our first major step in this direction was our Easley
Campus where we constructed our Academic Building to meet Leadership in Energy and
Environmental Design (LEED) certification requirements established by the U.S. Green
Building Council.

Now it is time to take these efforts to the next level – to create a sustainability
strategy that sets direction and establishes goals for developing a more sustainable

(continued on page 14)



Ronnie L. Booth
President



Spotlight on Welding Classes at Haven of Rest Men's Training Center

The men living at the Haven of Rest Men's Training Center didn't have much hope the day they decided to commit themselves to the 18-month rehabilitative program designed to help them to rebuild their lives.

These residents began this life-changing journey by entering the Haven of Rest Rescue Mission in downtown Anderson. "Originating in 1960, the Haven of Rest exists to see those, bound by life domination issues, rescued, restored, and released while experiencing the love of Jesus Christ," said Eddie Capps, director of the Haven of Rest Men's Training Center.

"We present to men the option to enter our one-year, Christ-centered discipleship program," explained Capps. "We look at their long-term problems, and we present to them not a quick fix, but a one-year program that takes time and investment on both sides." It also provides life-skills training, career assessment, job placement, and steps toward their educational goals, he said.

After living at the Haven of Rest Mission for four to six months, men are chosen based on attitude and advancement to come and commit one year of their lives at the Men's Training Center, a 50-acre farm located on N. Major Road in Belton. "Fours hours of class each day begins to clear the cobwebs. Wonderful people with great personalities, talents, and interests begin to emerge. They are looking for answers they have been missing," said Capps.

For many, one of the answers is education.

A big boost for their futures is a welding training program established with Tri-County about three years ago. After Sid Stewart, executive director of the Haven of Rest, and others talked with President Booth and Engineering and Industrial Technology Dean Eugene Grant, they entered into the partnership. Led by Tri-County Welding instructor Scott Brabham, Welding students and instructors built a mobile classroom on site. The eight men in this semester's welding class are looking toward completing a certificate this month. The Haven of Rest partnership has been funded through financial aid programs and the tuition waiver process at Tri-County.

"Once the men have been at the farm for nine months, they are ready to enter 'work phase,' where they either go to work or get training for jobs," said Capps. "With the economy the way it is, school has been an appealing option for many. They get the

training that enables them to get more than a minimum-wage job. We are so excited that Tri-County is helping us with their training and preparation for the workforce."

Three of the eight who took Welding classes, Antwain Gentry, Chase Littlefield, and David Lane, are ready to enter the associate degree Welding program this spring. Another resident, Billy Surprenant, will enroll in the Industrial Electronics Technology degree program, and Lawson Boling will enter the University Transfer curriculum.



Donald White, our technology programs specialist, far left, poses with Welding students from the Haven of Rest Men's Training Center (from left): **Keith Shaw, Billy Hatcher, Antwain Gentry, Chase Littlefield, Shane Matthews, Chris Bracken, Adrian Oglesby, David Lane,** and **Joe Sholl**, adjunct welding instructor (far right).

Gentry said, "God has motivated me to continue my education. This is a new step in life for me that He put in my path." "God opened doors in my life. I have a passion for welding. It's interesting to see where it will take me," said Littlefield. Lane, who is a carpenter by trade, is making a career change. "I want to advance in my career, and there are endless job opportunities in welding."

Helping them every step of the way is Donald White, Tri-County's technology programs specialist in the Student Affairs Division. "Donald has made everything so easy. If you need something, you call Donald," said Gentry.

"Our goal is to encourage them to pursue a degree, not stop at the certificate," said Joe Sholl, adjunct welding instructor for Tri-County, who teaches the class at the farm.

(continued on page 4)

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!

Spotlight on Welding Classes at Haven of Rest Men's Training Center

(continued from page 3)

"At the end of this class, they will take a certification exam which will open the door to go to a job or to continue their education. We give them options. It's so great to give back and serve in this capacity," said Joe.

"I believe this program is yet another example of the College working closely with community agencies to support their work to ensure the best use of resources and the most positive outcomes for individuals and the community," said Dr. Booth.

"I'm so proud of these guys," said Donald. "They are so humbled about the opportunity to learn new skills, which, in turn, will change their lives. It takes a lot of us to make this program run. It will be a good day to see these guys graduate with an associate degree."

"They're starting over and they're different people than when they came here," said Capps. The longer they stay at the Men's Center, it's a win-win for them because they get more from us at the Haven and they get more from Tri-County. The Haven knows what these men need spiritually, and Tri County knows what they need educationally. It's a great partnership, said Capps.



Adjunct welding instructor **Joe Sholl**, right, discusses a class project with student **Shane Matthews**.

"I had no idea what would happen three years ago when we partnered with Tri-County to offer welding classes. School was not an option for these men, but doors started opening and options were out there for them. They now understand that with a lifestyle of drugs and alcohol, life passes you by," Capps said.

"I've been so impressed with how interested the Tri-County faculty and staff are in people. I know it's their job, but they have bent over backwards for our men. I'm so moved by their interest. It's a reflection of top-down leadership at the College. Folks like Scott Brabham, Joe Sholl, Donald White, and Butch Merritt have been carrying the banner well for Tri-County and have worked hard to make this program fit our men. They have really served us," said Capps.

"Right now, the men's job is to work on their education. They are different people than when they walked in our door. They had no hope. Now they are smiling and excited about life. The Haven of Rest partnership with Tri-County has been a big help to that end," said Capps.

Belton-Honea Path Leads Efforts in Workforce Readiness

A "Work-Ready" training fair focusing on how individuals can obtain the skills needed for area jobs was held November 15 at the Watkins Community Center in Honea Path. The Belton-Honea Path Area Work-Ready Training Fair was presented by the City of Belton and the Town of Honea Path.

A group of community leaders facilitated a "Work-Ready Community" fair in the Belton-Honea Path area by promoting services, training, and skills upgrades.

Being a Work-Ready Community means the workforce has the skills necessary to fill the needs of existing and potential employers. By becoming work ready, the community is asserting that individuals understand what skills are required by employers and they know how to gain access to the training that is necessary to obtain those skills.

The purpose of the fair was to help the community understand what skills are required by local employers, training opportunities available to upgrade their skills so they are qualified for area jobs, and the resources that are available to help pay for that training.



Daryl Williams, seated, left, and **Pearl Dotson**, seated, right, both of Belton, were among those who took a computer assessment test.

The following partners were on-site at the fair to provide information and to pre-screen an individual's eligibility to receive training assistance: Goodwill Job Connection, Job Corps, Palmetto Youth Connections, Project Hope and Worklink/SCWorks/WIA. Educational partners include: Anderson County Adult Education, S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation, Tri-County Technical College, and Gateway to College.

(continued on page 5)



Belton Mayor **Rufus Callahan**, left, and Honea Path Mayor **Lollis Meyers** were on hand to talk with the attendees.

Workforce Readiness

(continued from page 4)

“We expect economic growth, and we must begin to prepare for growth in the community by improving our skills to attract new and emerging industry. Our community involvement creates a win-win for the community, citizens, and industrial growth that is vital to a strong Belton-Honea Path area,” said Rep. Mike Gambrell.

In 1950, unskilled positions accounted for 80 percent of U.S. jobs, but today, nearly 70 percent of our country’s professions require skilled workers who have technical and critical-thinking skills.

Honea Path Mayor Earl Lollis Meyers said, “We are working to find a way to increase the ‘work readiness’ skills of individuals to meet the ever-changing technology in industry today. There is a national problem with skill gaps between the workforce and the employer that has left businesses and industry without a pipeline of skilled workers for our rapidly changing economy.”

In addition, a Benefits Fair conducted by the Benefit Bank of South Carolina was on-site. This is a counselor-assisted application process which allows individuals to complete a single application for multiple benefits or services, including food stamps (SNAP), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, Gap Assistance Pharmacy Program for Seniors (GAPS), Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), SC property tax exemption, and filing State and Federal income taxes.

This training fair was a follow-up to the Belton-Honea Path Area Work-Ready Community Luncheon on October 18, which hosted various community leaders, industry partners, and assistance resources partner agencies to launch the Tri-County Work-Ready Initiative. Additional Work-Ready Initiative events are being planned for other locations in the tri-county area.



Moira Ellis, of Honea Path, left, talks with **Rawewan Ross**, middle, and **Juanita Hawkins**, right, counselors with S.C. Vocational Rehabilitation.



CCE Program Coordinator **Trenna Metts** conducted orientation sessions when the participants arrived.



Christy Babb, of Honea Path, left, talks with **Doug Stephenson**, center coordinator for S.C. Works in Anderson.



Jennifer Beattie, Freshman Seminar coordinator and College Skills and English instructor, wrote:

“I never have been prouder to work at Tri-County than the other day when I had a student who came to me with a very serious problem. Two people that day really stepped up to help and made a very important difference in the life of this student. One was **Stephanie Winkler**, whom I thanked for her efforts by saying, ‘Thanks so much. I know this isn’t your job’ (and it wasn’t). Her response: ‘It’s my job today.’ What a great addition to Tri-County she is! The other was **Dan Holland**, who took a personal interest in the student and offered support that went above and beyond the call of duty.”

Medical Assisting Program Coordinator **Kaye Bathe** and students expressed their thanks to **Franklin Smith** and his students:

“The Medical Assisting Department would like to thank Franklin Smith (program coordinator for IM and HVAC) and his students for repairing our refrigerator. The refrigerator had been damaged, and I thought it would have to be replaced. Franklin and his students volunteered to repair it (free of charge), and it performs better than it did when it was purchased. We are so glad to have it working again and are very grateful to all who helped with the great repair job.”

Croslena Johnson sent this note, expressing her thanks to **Debra Nodine**:

“I received a request from one of our community members (Salvation Army) in late October asking for 5-10 students to volunteer their time in November to assist the Salvation Army with the Salvation Army Angel Tree this year as the organization was understaffed and needed a few extra volunteers for the preparation part of this event. I sent the request out to all the student organizations and almost immediately received a reply from Debra Nodine, Early Childhood Development

(continued on page 7)

Our College Family

excellence through service

Congratulations once again to Writer/Photographer **Lisa Garrett**, who received a MarCom Gold Award for photography (people/portrait category) for a photo taken of Practical Nursing graduate Halee Gamble at the Summer Commencement ceremony in August 2011. Lisa also received an Honorable Mention for writing excellence for the 2009-10 Annual Report. The MarCom Awards competition recognizes outstanding achievement by marketing and communication professionals across the country and internationally. Entries come from PR firms, corporate marketing and communications departments, ad agencies, free-lancers, and more. MarCom awards are administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals.



Lisa Garrett



Denise Day

Congratulations to Graphic Designer **Denise Day**, who received a Silver Medallion for the design of the Financial Aid deadlines banner and a Bronze Medallion for the design of the 2009-10 Annual Report 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.

in transition

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION

Wayne Frady is our Site Coordinator for the Oconee Campus located at the Hamilton Career Center in Seneca. Wayne is available on site from 3 – 6:30 p.m. Monday – Thursday and is serving as the point of contact for the campus. He is assisting current and prospective students as well as faculty in the university transfer and LPN programs.



Wayne Frady

Wayne also serves as coordinator of Business and Industry Services for the Oconee County School District.

ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Jamie Black is working as a Lab Specialist for the Welding and HVAC programs. He has worked in the position in a part-time capacity for the past year. The Pendleton High School graduate worked as a surveyor at No South Surveying in Anderson from 1994 – 2000 and at Taylor’s Design Group in Kansas from 2000 – 2009.



Jamie Black

He attends New Spring Church and lives in Liberty.

STUDENT AFFAIRS DIVISION

Azure Agnew is the new Resource Specialist / Graduation Coach in the Gateway to College office. She was a Speech and Debate teacher at Westside High School from 2006 – 2010 and taught Speech and Debate at Eau Claire High School in Columbia from 2004 – 2006.

She holds a B.A. in Speech and Communications from Clemson University. She and her husband, Marquis, have six children, Brandon, 17; Zarian, 16; Josiah, 10; Trinity, 7; Serenity, 4; and Nia, 2. They live in Anderson.

Lynn Smith is our new Career Counselor in the Career Services office. She began her career at Tri-County back in 1983 when she was an Admissions Counselor for three years. She spent the next nine years at Piedmont Technical College where she was a Career Counselor from 1986 – 92 and Director of Student Support Services from 1992 – 95. Lynn was Corporate Training Coordinator for VELUX Greenwood Inc. from 1995 – 2009. Lynn currently lives in Tryon, NC.

We welcome **Cindy Trimmier-Lee** back to campus. She again is working in TRiO, this time filling the position of Counselor for the Educational Talent Search program. Cindy joined Tri-County in 1989 as an Educational Talent Search Counselor and worked as Upward Bound Coordinator in 1991. She served as coordinator of Student Support Services from 1992 – 2011.

Cindy has a B.S. in Psychology from Southern Wesleyan University and an M.Ed. in Counseling from Clemson University. She is a former trustee for Straight Path Church, is an abortion recovery facilitator for Crisis Pregnancy, and a facilitator for The National Coalition Building Institute, as well as Global Career Development.

She and her husband, Curtis, have four children, Christian Trimmier, Ferris Grant, Kevin Lee, and Ponsi Grant. The Lees live in Seneca.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS DIVISION

Rachel Joye is our new Fiscal Technician in the Business Office. She spent last year working at USC Sumter in the Business Office and as Assistant Bookstore Manager. Rachel has a B.A. in English from the University of South Carolina. She and her husband, Jeremy, live in Piedmont.

Brag & Share

(continued from page 6)

program coordinator and advisor for the Inspiring Futures student Organization, asking how she and her students could help.

I wanted to share with you the feedback that I received from Debra in regards to the community service project that she and a group of students participated in this month. As you read Debra's e-mail to me, it is obvious that she is a true educator and did a great job connecting classroom learning to a "real world," positive, life-impacting experience (and opportunity) for our students."

Debra's email:

Thank you so much for sharing the opportunity about the Salvation Army outreach. The timing of this outreach event was perfect because we were studying Community Resources available to families. We had an amazing three hours! We spent time setting up tables, labeling bags for the gifts, sorted gifts by age, and even had conversations around toys that were developmentally appropriate. We created gift bags for teenage girls and boys. The students worked collaboratively, and TCTC would be so proud of the students who represented the school. The staff at the Salvation Army were impressed with how efficient we were, and they couldn't believe how much we were able to accomplish. It's a great feeling being able to give back to our local community. More than 800 children in Anderson County will be impacted by what Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army do this holiday season. Thanks again for sharing the opportunity.



Azure Agnew



Lynn Smith



Cindy Trimmier-Lee



Rachel Joye

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.

(continued on page 8)

Students Send Letters of Thanks To Armed Forces Members

Atlanta's 99.7 radio station morning show, The Bert Show, organized an effort to ensure that on Thanksgiving Day every member of our Armed Forces stationed anywhere overseas received a handwritten letter of thanks from folks all over the USA.

Our students participated in this event and hand wrote and sent 203 letters of thanks to our 400,000 military men and women overseas.

The Student Republicans and Student Veterans clubs sponsored the event with support from the Student Democrats Club.

Collection boxes were set up at each of our campuses. The Easley Campus gathered the most letters of all our boxes. A big thank you goes to Ashley Anderson, a university transfer major and part-time IT lab assistant in the open lab at the Easley Campus, for heading up the project at our Easley Campus.

Janelle Hicks, director of health care for CCE, expressed thanks to the student leaders and faculty and staff who devoted so much time to this important project. "Student Republicans Club President Josue' Montoya gave up so much of his time to prepare our boxes for distribution around the campuses. One of our advisors, Alison Reynolds, helped decorate and collected the letters for pick up. Robyn Hicks made sure they were put into the mail to get to the Atlanta distribution center on time. Thank you all."

Janelle added, "If you wrote a letter or invited your friends or family to contribute a note, we appreciate it so much. It meant so much to each soldier who received a letter this Thanksgiving!"

Our College Family

(continued from page 7)

BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

Esayas Araya is a new faculty member teaching Management and Accounting courses.

He has a Master of Professional Accounting (MPAcc) from the University of West Georgia, a Master of Business Administration from Albany State University, and a B.A. in Accounting from the University of Asmara. He has spent 13 years teaching and tutoring in a variety of subjects that include Accounting, Business, Management, and Economics.

Prior to coming to Tri-County, he taught Accounting classes at Eastfield College in Mesquite, Texas, for two years. From 2004 until 2011, he was an adjunct instructor for Accounting, Business, and Management classes at El Centro College in Dallas, Texas. He was the college's International Student Specialist from 2004 - 2007, and directed the International Office in its day-to-day activities.

In addition to online courses at Eastfield and El Centro Colleges, he taught dual credit and Business and Economics courses at several DISD high schools.

He spent three years as a manager and in the accounts receivable/accounts payable division in a private business.

He is a member (faculty associate) of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and is an educator member of the Institute of Management Accountants.

Esayas lives in Anderson.



Esayas Araya

Debbie Norris Adopts Crush at Pet Adoption Day

*Accounts Payable Technician **Debbie Norris** adopted Crush, an affectionate orange tabby, one of the pets that was available for adoption through our Veterinary Technology Department's Pet Adoption Day held November 17. All animals have been spayed or neutered, received current vaccinations, have been dewormed and checked for heartworms or feline leukemia. There is a \$45 fee, which includes a microchip and registration, payable at the time of adoption.*



Barbara Hammond Receives SCAHCE Outstanding Instructor Award

Barbara Hammond, director of the Office Skills Center for Corporate and Community Education (CCE), was awarded the Outstanding Continuing Education Non-Credit Instructor Award by the South Carolina Association for Higher Continuing Education (SCAHCE).

SCAHCE is the statewide association that promotes Corporate and Community Education and professional development for both two- and four-year colleges.

This award recognizes the faculty member or instructor (full- or part-time) employed by the institution to teach continuing education non-credit courses.

Since 1990, Barbara has served as the College's Continuing Education Office Skills instructor. In this position, she is responsible for teaching a variety of office skills and computer software packages. The Office Skills Center is unique in that instead of classes in a traditional classroom setting with one instructor teaching one course at a time, students take their classes in a lab setting during the day, evening, or weekend at two of the College's campuses (Anderson and Pendleton).

Barbara was the first person Diane Blackwell called when she landed a new job in a new field after two years of persistent searching, planning, networking, and finally retraining. "She was the one who told me to keep looking and not give up. She helped me to acclimate myself to retraining for a new career," said Blackwell, who was laid off from the banking industry in 2009 following the nation's economic crisis and consequent downsizing in the industry. "She knew I could even when I didn't," she said.

"Barbara is always willing to go that extra step so you don't feel alone," said Blackwell, who, after completing multiple certificates in the Office Skills Center at the Anderson Campus, was offered a job this past summer as a Patient Counselor at AnMed Health's main campus.

"I teach Office Skills to mostly older adults, dislocated workers, and people who desire a career change," said Barbara. "I can empathize with my students so well because, as an older student, I attended classes full time, worked full time, and managed a household and two children. I know how difficult it can be juggling so many responsibilities. Most of my students have lost their jobs due to plant closings and need new skills to change their careers. I feel such a sense of pride in seeing adults, who are so intimidated and apprehensive at first, complete their classroom training, and then obtain new positions in the workplace. I am very fortunate to be able to work at Tri-County Technical College, a place I love, doing a job that I truly enjoy."

"I have had the pleasure of working with Barbara for almost 20 years, during which time I have found her to be one of the



Former student **Diane Blackwell**, seated, is pictured in the Office Skills Center with Instructor/Director **Barbara Hammond**, who was awarded the Outstanding Continuing Education Non-Credit Instructor Award by the South Carolina Association for Higher Continuing Education (SCAHCE).

most dedicated and hard-working instructors that we have at Tri-County," said Dr. Brian Swords, who worked with Barbara in CCE for years before he was named Director of the Easley Campus. "She's always the first to lend a hand when anyone needs help. She is also the most encouraging person I've ever met. She never turns down a challenge or the opportunity to 'wear another hat.'"

"Barbara not only instructs, she serves as a mentor and encourager," said Barbara's supervisor, Sandra Strickland, who is director of business training for CCE. "The connection Barbara builds with her students is instrumental in her high student retention rate."

She added, "Barbara has made an impact on hundreds of students over the past 20 years. Recently, the College offered a series of basic computer classes for unemployed individuals through the WIA program. The students had no computer skills and were on a very limited income. At the end of the class, the students took up a collection so that they could purchase a thank-you card and flowers for Barbara. She touched their lives and made a difference in just three short weeks. They were forever grateful and wanted to make sure that she knew how much they appreciated her patience, encouragement, and for helping them to learn and not be afraid of continuing to learn."

"Barbara truly embodies the dedicated, caring, and nurturing attitude that is found in continuing education instructors," said Brian.

Barbara earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Limestone University and a master's in Education from Clemson University. She and her husband, Robert, live in Sandy Springs.

College's United Way Goal is \$8,500

Each year our Tri-County Family participates in the annual United Way Campaign designed to help those who are less fortunate than we are, often by supplying basic necessities such as food, clothing, and shelter. Lisa Poore is chairing our campaign this year.

Lisa sent donation forms via interoffice mail at the beginning of November. Once you have completed the form, please return to Lisa in RH 227. If you have any questions, or did not receive a donation form, please feel free to call her at Ext. 1776 or e-mail her at lpoores2@tctc.edu. If you have any part-time employees who would like to make a one-time donation, she can send them a form since they are unable to participate in payroll deduction.

Lisa asks that donation forms be returned to her by mid-December.

"Our goal for Tri-County is to raise \$8,500. With your support, I feel confident that we can reach this goal," she said.

Humanities Department Faculty Assist Clemson Community Care



The Humanities Department faculty who assisted Clemson Community Care with food distribution to local families in need are pictured from left to right: (front row) **Kari Carson**; (middle row) **Sheri Dickson**, **Corey Evans**, **Marisa Shook**, **Dr. Della Vanhuss**, **Trini Tumlin**, **Timeko McFadden**, and **Alex Eaton**; and (back row) **Dr. Chad Gregory**, **Jeff Christmas**, and **Dr. Tom Hiebel**.

The Humanities Department assisted Clemson Community Care Saturday, November 6, with food distribution to local families in need.

"Since Tri-County Technical College is about community, second chances, and contributing to society, the Humanities Department committed to participating in two community service activities a year. Our experience at Clemson Community Care reminded us that through the study of humanities, humans have achieved great things, but great personal achievements can be seen daily in just being human," said Dr. Della Vanhuss, department head.

Alice Black Wins Pendleton Campus Halloween Costume Contest



This year's Fall Bash had a Halloween theme and gave students a chance to gather in the cafeteria for food, fun, games, dancing, and a Halloween Costume Contest.

Alice Black (far left), of Seneca, an Administrative Office Technology major, received the first-place prize in the Halloween Costume Contest. She won a \$50 gift certificate to Fox Restaurant.

The Fall Bash was celebrated at the Easley Campus in late October, with a Halloween theme. Students participated in a large variety of activities, including a Pumpkin Decorating Contest (shown here).

Veterinary Technology Reports 90 Percent Pass Rate on VTNE

The Veterinary Technology program reports a 90 percent pass rate on the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE).

The ten 2011 graduates who elected to take the exam are now licensed veterinary technicians, a title held by individuals who earn an associate degree in Veterinary Technology from an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)-accredited program like Tri-County's and have passed national and state credentialing exams.

Tri-County graduates must pass this national credentialing exam before they are eligible to take the State licensure written exam.

Ten of the 11 graduates who elected to take the exam passed, said Dr. Peggy Champion, who has led Tri-County's Veterinary Technology program for the past seven years. Eighteen students graduated in May 2011. The national average for the VTNE is 68 percent, said Dr. Champion.

The VTNE, administered by the American Association of Veterinary State Boards, is a timed, computer-adaptive test consisting of 200 multiple-choice questions and 25 pilot questions that cover the graduates' knowledge about the following content areas or domains: Pharmacy and Pharmacology, Surgical Preparation and Assisting, Dentistry, Laboratory Procedures, Animal Care and Nursing, Diagnostic Imaging, and Anesthesia and Analgesia.

Dr. Champion credits the program's changing its method of teaching with the high pass rate. "We are teaching using a case-based method. We match the veterinary case to what the students are learning. Students also take mock exams on the computer, which has really helped. We found students had a fear of the test itself and were able to overcome this by taking lots of practice tests that mimic the real exam," she said.

"We also found a study guide that is excellent in all seven domains of the VTNE. I'd like to see a 100 percent pass rate on the VTNE year. That's my goal."

Licensed Veterinary Technicians (L.V.T.'s) work closely with veterinarians and other members of the veterinary team to deliver quality animal health care. Today's profession requires advanced knowledge and skills in the areas of animal nursing and critical care, inducing and monitoring anesthesia, assisting in surgery, postoperative care and recovery, diagnostic imaging, zoonotic disease, client education, hospital management, and laboratory duties.



Dr. Elizabeth Bryan, an adjunct instructor in the Veterinary Technology program, left, and second-year student Jessica Medford, of Seneca, perform a radiography on beagle-mix, Chipawa.

There are lots of job openings for licensed technicians, Dr. Champion said, adding that it is among the top five professions in the country now, as far as job stability. "Yet, we don't have enough to meet the demand. The need far outweighs the availability of licensed technicians."

"We are graduating excellent students who are receiving amazing job offers," said Dr. Champion. "One of our graduates is working at the Animal Medical Center of New York and two are at Angel Memorial in Boston. The two biggest referral clinics in the world hired our graduates and are very happy with them," she said.

Most recently, Jayne Hutcheson, a May 2011 grad, is among the three veterinary technology students, chosen nationwide from 20 applicants, to participate in a year-long paid internship program at the University of Tennessee (UT). The University's Veterinary Technician Internship Program is the only one of its kind in the country.

"Our graduates get more animal experience in our program than a lot of four-year veterinary technology programs," she said.

Tri-County's program is accredited by the AVMA and endorsed by the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians. The department now accepts 24 students in the fall day classes and 12 students in the evening classes.

Golden OPPORTUNITIES to shape the future

AT&T Honored with Foundation's Philanthropist of the Year Award

AT&T is the 2011 recipient of 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.

The company was honored November 17 at a meeting of the College's Foundation Board.

Jane Sosebee, AT&T's legislative director for the State of South Carolina and a former member of Tri-County's Foundation Board, accepted the award on behalf of the company.

Jim Evers, regional director for external affairs for AT&T, said, "To be included in the same company as past recipients of this award is a tremendous honor. The College has an extraordinary impact on the lives of its students and their families. We are pleased to have the opportunity to support those efforts and to join with the College and the Foundation in working to make a difference in the Tri-County region."

"AT&T has been a tremendous support to this Foundation over the years," said Foundation Chairman David Wakefield. "The company recognizes that an educated workforce is critical to the success of its company, but also to the success of our nation. As a proponent of students worldwide, AT&T has made education a priority through their philanthropic giving program. As a result, Tri-County and its students have benefited."

Historically, AT&T's focus has been to support projects and collaborative efforts designed to strengthen communities through the advancement of education.

This focus led AT&T to make its first gift to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation in 1996 to fund the AT&T Instructional Excellence Endowment, an endowment focused on supporting the professional development needs of faculty and staff through the College's mini-grant program.

In 2009, the AT&T Foundation, the philanthropic arm of AT&T Inc., awarded the College a \$100,000 grant to support the Gateway to College program — an initiative that is designed to serve at-risk students and recent high school dropouts in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. The purpose of Gateway to College is to serve the needs of students who have recently dropped out of high school or who have the academic capability but are struggling in a traditional high school environment.

The following year, AT&T made a \$50,000 donation to Tri-County in support of economic and community development,



*AT&T is the 2011 recipient of Foundation's Philanthropist of the Year award. The company was honored November 17 at a meeting of the College's Foundation Board. **Jane Sosebee**, AT&T's legislative director for the State of South Carolina and a former member of Tri-County's Foundation Board, accepted the award on behalf of the company. Presenting the award is **President Booth**.*

one of the four initiatives of the College Foundation's Major Gifts Campaign. The money supports small businesses through the College's Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development.

Most recently the company sponsored the College's 2011 Fall Classic Golf tournament.

Over the past 15 years, AT&T has made consistent gifts to the Foundation totaling more than \$211,000. The company is a member of the College's prestigious Wall of Honor, which is reserved for donors who have contributed \$100,000 or more cumulatively.

"AT&T is the kind of community citizen that sets an example for others," said Dr. Booth. "Further, AT&T understands the important role of technology in education. The company's gifts are a long-term investment in the lives of students in our community and ultimately, the community as a whole. We are grateful for their generosity and support."

Ralph Nix Establishes Scholarship in Memory of His Wife



Elisabeth Gadd, director of development, and Ralph Nix

Ralph Nix, owner of Ralph's Trophy Shop in Seneca and a longtime friend of the College, made a \$15,000 donation to the Foundation to establish the Brenda B. Nix Memorial Scholarship to honor his wife who passed away earlier this year.

Nix and his two adult daughters, Sherri White and Chandra Black, wanted the scholarship to be a tribute to their mother who retired from Seneca High School after 26 years of service. "Education was so important to Brenda and to our family," said Nix. "My daughters and I understand the importance of helping someone and giving back to the community." The scholarship will be awarded to a Seneca High School graduate in the Automated Office Technology or business curricula. "We wanted to give back to the College in a way that could help kids in our area," said Nix.

"Mr. Nix's decision to start a scholarship in memory of his precious wife is a loving and lasting tribute," said Elisabeth Gadd, director of development. "The scholarship will ensure that she has a lasting impact on the lives of Seneca

High School students whom she cared for so deeply. This scholarship will help students reach their educational goals."

Bank of America /Merrill Lynch Supports Gateway Program

Bank of America/Merrill Lynch made a \$3,000 donation to Tri-County Technical College's 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.



Please join us in wishing Dr. Booth a "Merry Christmas" by contributing to the Hazel Strickland Booth Memorial Scholarship Fund established in memory of Dr. Booth's mother. Your Christmas gift will support the education of an outstanding student, and no gift we could purchase would be more meaningful to him.

Your check should be made payable to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation.* Please come by the Foundation Office located in Ruby S. Hicks Hall, Suite 200, Pendleton Campus, and we will have a Christmas card ready for you to sign at the time you drop off your gift. Thank you for making Dr. Booth's Christmas extra special.

We wish you a wonderful Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year!

Tri-County Technical College Foundation

** All donations will be matched by Dr. Booth to support this scholarship fund.*

Here, **Stacy Brandon**, senior vice president for Bank of America and Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner, and Smith Inc., third from left, presents the check. Also pictured from left are **Kerri Myers**, Merrill Lynch assistant vice president; **John Lummus**, vice president for the Economic and Institutional Advancement Division; **Gary Duncan**, Tri-County Foundation board member; **Elisabeth Gadd**, director of development at the College; and **Kathryn Holbrooks**, vice president and mortgage loan officer for Merrill Lynch.

Connecting

(continued from page 2)

College in terms of academic programs, curriculum, operating practices, and facility investments.

Without a doubt, we have an ambitious slate of priorities to address. Our strategic plan provides us with the roadmap, but the energy and talent each of you brings to the table is what guarantees our success.

I am always thankful for my many blessings during this holiday season, but this year I am especially thankful to work with such an ambitious and hard-working team of people. You are what make us *the* role model for community college education in this nation.

Best wishes for a restful and enjoyable holiday season.



Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

Executive Staff Updates

- **Title III Year-End Update:** Sarah Shumpert provided an update on the progress made during the first year of the Title III project. We were successful in establishing five thematic learning communities and developed the infrastructure for the Academic Support Network.
- **Strategic Planning:** A planning calendar was established to begin work on the next three-year strategic plan (2013-15).
- **Enrollment Management:** New Fall Semester deadlines were established for admissions and financial aid. There will be no late registration day. A communications plan will be developed to help current and prospective students understand these important changes.
- **Academic Calendars:** Academic Calendars were approved for Fall 2012 and Spring 2013.
- **Other:** Review and update of official policies and procedures.

College Celebrates Successes in LC²

By Sarah Shumpert
Director of Instructional Support

The LC² team – which includes many, many of us here at Tri-County – not just those who have worked under grant compensation but also any one of you who has volunteered your time to participate in a focus group, serve on a committee, or design group – have good reason to celebrate during this time of year.

Our first reason to celebrate is that September 30 marked the completion of our first year of the five-year Title III grant period. Under the leadership of Katy Goforth, activity director for Learning Communities, and the leadership of Lou Ann Martin, activity director for the Academic Support Network, we can report to the U.S. Department of Education that we successfully met our two objectives for the year.

Under our first objective, we have added five thematic learning communities to the linked communities that were already running successfully under the LEI. You can learn more about these learning communities by joining the LC² group portal in eTC and by viewing the “Join a Learning Community” page under Academics on the public website.

Under our second objective, we launched the very first component of our new Academic Support Network. This component takes shape as an extended orientation delivered via the Get Ready tab in eTC and includes a readiness assessment tool, called SmarterMeasure. If you haven’t already, be sure to take a look at how the new and improved Get Ready tab guides students through the 8 Steps to Enrollment process.

Our second reason for celebration is that we received excellent feedback on our progress from our external evaluator, Dr. Kathe German, during a recent day and a half site visit she made to our

campus. Dr. German met with about 20 people, looked at our budget sheets, and even perused the files that Administrative Assistant Cheryl Enfinger keeps organized. While we haven’t received her official report yet, she was very complimentary throughout her visit, and especially noted how impressed she was by the collaborative spirit she found among the Tri-County folks. She commented how we were much farther along in our progress than most colleges are in their first year.

Those of us in the Title III office want to thank each of you for your part in these successes that we celebrate. It is truly and wholly through your commitment, support, and good work that we have come this far in such a short period of time.

Now, the third reason to celebrate is that we are just getting started! We have already begun year two of the five-year grant period....and it’s not too late for you to get involved. This year we will add more thematic learning communities AND some thematic linked communities. Also, opportunities will be announced soon for faculty to get involved in the second phase of the Academic Support Network, which is enhanced advising. This phase will include the bringing DegreeWorks online (for which we are very thankful for our partners in Student Records and IT!) and developing a pre-advising module to be added to the extended orientation. Lou Ann Martin will be posting messages in eTC and generally getting the word out about those opportunities.

So, you can see that there is much to celebrate. Often, we get caught up looking at the work that didn’t get done or is yet to be done. Thank you for taking this moment to recognize our collective successes we’ve experienced this year in LC².

Enrichment Series Sponsors Healthy Cooking Demo at Anderson Campus



Sixteen students met in the culinary lab on the Anderson Campus October 27, when Spanish instructor **Timeko McFadden** demonstrated how to cook delicious and healthy meals on a budget. Timeko has an associate degree in Culinary Arts and Food Service Management. She has worked as a pastry chef at The Cliffs in Landrum, Soby's on the Side in Greenville, and the Greenville Country Club. The event was sponsored by the Enrichment Series Committee.

Easley Campus is Site for Weatherization Classes

Last month the Easley Campus was the site for a weatherization class that focused on training contractors and future technicians in retrofitting homes for better energy efficiency.

Classes were taught by Corporate and Community Education Division (CCE) adjunct instructors Tim Strickland and Randy King.

The Weatherization certification program, which began in January, is designed to put people back to work by retraining them for home energy improvement and inspection jobs. Classes focus on caulking and sealing, glass replacements, drywall, and patching, insulation and roof vent installation.

Students train in a small house (12' x 20') built by Construction Management students.

The program's training and equipment are paid for through a \$165,477 energy efficiency grant from the S.C. Office of Economic Opportunity.



Student **Travis Skelton** sets up a blower door, which puts negative pressure on the house to detect air leaks. At left is student **Matt Ferguson**.

Easley Students Participate in Make A Difference Day



Easley Mayor **Larry Bagwell**, left, and Easley Campus Director **Dr. Brian Swords** were the kick-off speakers for this year's United Way "Make a Difference Day." The event, co-sponsored by Tri-County, allows volunteers in the community to spend a day working on community projects. This year, the participants worked on the Easley Community Garden, which will be used to produce fresh fruits and vegetables for local food banks and community organizations feeding hungry and needy people. More than 25 Easley Campus students participated in the event.

Lady Hawks Basketball Team Kicks Off Second Season

By Alesia Smith, Women's Basketball Coach

Head Coach Smith is in her second year and has been charged with building a successful basketball program at Tri-County Technical College.

Tri-County Women's Basketball team started its second season November 1, against powerhouse Guilford Technical College from Jamestown, NC.

Although the final score was 63-52 with Guilford Tech winning, it was a well-fought battle that was played close until the final minute of the game.

The 2011-12 season looks to be even more exciting than last year's. Assistant coaches are Tammy White, who played collegiate ball at Southern Wesleyan University, Shonna Peppers, who played for North Greenville College, and Ken Jones, who coached for the South Carolina Raptors AAU Basketball Team.

While the Lady Hawks may be short on experience, our crew has plenty of talent. The Lady Hawks return four players from last year's squad, Alishia Kahan, Shemicka Smith, Jessica Epps, and Tessa Lumpkin.

One of our players is not new to collegiate sports but is new to Tri-County. Maranda Ethridge transferred from Livingston College, where she was a member of the Women's Volleyball Team. She also played basketball for Greenwood High School in Greenwood. Maranda will

have to sit out for the Fall semester due to NJCAA transfer rules, so look for her to start action in January.

Seven freshmen, who were very competitive at their respective high schools, complete the Lady Hawks roster. Tasheka Mosley is from Greenwood and played her career at Greenwood High School.

While at Greenwood High School, Mosley was named All State, Defensive MVP, All Region, and All Star Team MVP.

Wenteka Lukie is also from Greenwood and played for Greenwood High School. She is one of our best defensive players and her energy is contagious.

Theodosis Battle is from Oglethrope, GA, and played for Macon County High School. Theo is tenacious on defense and is not afraid to take her opponent into the paint and finish strong at the rim.

Sheena Little is from Anderson and played for T.L. Hanna High School. She will be playing shooting guard but may also see some time at the point guard position. Jaquilla Lindsey is from Raleigh, NC, and she played for East Wake High School.



Lady Hawks team and coaches

Jaquilla is an explosive player and defends the ball very well.

Nakia Lowery is from Gaffney, and she played for Gaffney High School. She plays forward but can also play guard. Logan Davis is also from Gaffney and played shooting guard for Gaffney High School. Logan is a great outside shooter and will play guard for us. She has seen limited action due to an injury but is scheduled to return this month.

The Lady Hawks home games will be played at Tysinger Gymnasium, at Southern Wesleyan University in Central, with the exception of one game being held at the Central-Clemson Recreation Center (12/11).

All home games are free and schedules can be found at www.tctcsports.com.



Men's Golf Team Ranked 16th in NJCAA National Poll

Our Men's Golf Team is currently ranked 16th in the country among Division I junior colleges, according to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) national poll.

The team played four two-day tournaments this season, and finished third in the district preview, said Coach Clint Wright. The team also won the Junior College SC Cup Challenge at Lancaster, a first for the College.

"We're showing good improvement, and we have the opportunity to be a good team and to compete strongly in our district and in May at the National Junior College Championship.

The Men's Golf Team is pictured from left: (back row) **Mike Cabush, Bruce Micheals, Jonathan Whiting, Cole Mitchell, and Patrick Spinosa**; and (front row) **Geoffrey Ball, Mickey Lankford, Laurent Oudenne, Landon Garrett, Dalton Ward, and Andrew Harvey**. Not pictured is **Dominic Piccirillo**.