

Connection

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College Develops 10-Year Vision/Strategy

In September, a team of College representatives assembled for an all-day, offsite retreat to begin developing a 10-year vision and strategy for Tri-County.

The group was asked to describe the ideal community college and to identify its stakeholders.

“What do we want

the stakeholders to say about us in 10 years and what do they say now? What are our strategies to close those gaps? In short, what will things look like by the year 2020 if we are successful at Tri-County?” asked Gregg Stapleton, our vice president for Business Affairs, who facilitated the retreat and who, with the rest of the Executive Staff, has developed a straw model that consolidates results from the retreat into a framework for integrating our vision and strategies.

The Commission reviewed the straw model in early October, and now Gregg is holding focus group sessions to obtain feedback from faculty/staff.

This past month, Gregg facilitated eight interactive sessions with employees. “We’re now asking faculty and staff to validate this plan. We’re asking them to tell us what they agree with, disagree with, and what is missing,” said Gregg.

Recent changes at the College, such as double-digit enrollment increases caused by the economic downturn, are driving the need to refresh our plans, said Gregg. This semester the College experienced a record enrollment – 6,758 students – an 18-percent increase over fall 2008 figures. “Where will we be in 10 years even if we return to historic growth rates?” asked Gregg. “We might conceivably double enrollment (16,000 students) in a decade. Combine this enrollment growth with the fact that our service area’s needs also have changed, and people are likely to have different needs 10 years from now. Are we prepared to serve our community in the future?” asked Gregg.

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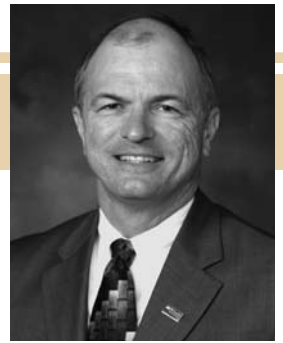


Gregg Stapleton, vice president for Business Affairs, standing, conducts a focus group session with faculty and staff to get input on the College’s 10-year vision and strategy model.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Report LuncheonNov. 10
Thanksgiving HolidaysNov. 26-27

**Check the College Activities Calendar
in eTC for updated postings on
upcoming events.**



**Ronnie L. Booth
President**

Connecting

I enjoyed seeing so many of you at the recent faculty/staff meeting. Many thanks to those of you who kept the offices open and answered the phones so that the rest of us could gather to talk about where we are at the midpoint of Fall Semester. I recognize not everyone can be present at these meetings and this newsletter goes to many friends outside the College, so I will recap some of the highlights of the discussion.

Last year, we had a record-breaking enrollment increase of nearly ten percent. This fall, we shattered that record with an 18 percent increase. The difference can be seen on all three campuses – students are everywhere. Incredibly, our cumulative percentage headcount enrollment growth since Fiscal Year 2001 is 79 percent, which is considerably higher than the State Technical College System and two-year colleges nationally. Equally important is our 21 percent increase in FTE this year over last, which means our students are taking more courses – an average of more than eleven credit hours.

We greatly increased the percentage of Anderson and Oconee county residents we serve, 21 and 13 percent respectively, but realized less than half that increase from Pickens County. Historically, we have underserved Pickens County and this speaks to the critical need for our Easley campus.

Our sagging economy tells the story of our fastest-growing age demographic, which is the 40-49 category. Workers who have lost their jobs recognize the value of enrolling at Tri-County to be prepared for new jobs. Our role in the lives of these individuals is not only important to them, but also to our community.

Economic conditions also have a direct impact on our level of State funding – and the trend is not good. In fiscal year 2001, 54 percent of our budget was State funded. Today, only 21 percent comes from the State. Unfortunately, our students have had to bear most of this burden created by the shrinkage in State funding. If it weren't for the Lottery Tuition Assistance (LTA) program, many would not be able to afford to pursue higher education at all.

This speaks to the critical role LTA plays in making college affordable to our students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college and often among the least able to afford it. When the legislature comes back in session in January, we will be prepared to once again advocate for the establishment of permanent funding for the LTA program. Each year we must lobby for funding and compete with other agencies for lottery funding, which takes valuable time and resources. We need to permanently implement the spirit and intent of the founding legislation and fund students in the Technical College System in South Carolina.

All of these trends – funding, enrollment, the economy – have serious implications for planning, which is one of the reasons we now are focusing on the development of a ten-year vision and accompanying strategies. Conservative estimates show we could enroll anywhere from nine to twelve-thousand students by Fall Semester 2020. If we

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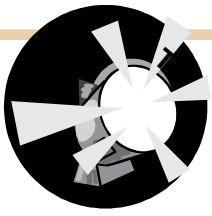
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Spotlight on Duke Energy Technical Co-ops

The six Tri-County students chosen by Duke Energy didn't have to think twice before accepting co-op positions at the company's Oconee Nuclear Station this semester.

They all agree it's a great learning experience that will stand out on their resumes. They also feel very lucky to get valuable work experience while earning a paycheck.

"I treat this co-op with the same respect that I would a full-time job – and then some," said Adam Sanders, of Pickens, an Industrial Electronics Technology (IET) major.

Selected from a group of 45 Tri-County applicants are John Cain of Anderson, an Industrial Maintenance Technology (IMT) major, who also holds an IET degree; Timothy Edwards, of Liberty, an IET major; Josh Garza, of Liberty, an IET major; Jason Rhodes, of Anderson, a Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning major, who also holds an IMT degree; Sanders; and Clint Hall, of Anderson, an IMT major, who also has a degree in Welding.

Tri-County's cooperative education program is designed to help meet the needs of local industries in their search for highly skilled technicians. The co-op experience blends classroom studies with real work experience.

Duke Energy technical co-ops must be full-time students at Tri-County and have completed one semester of college work. They also must maintain an overall 3.0 GPA.

Selection criteria included their educational backgrounds, instructor recommendations and references, work history, and achievements, said Doug Hayes, instrumentation and electrical manager for Duke Energy's Oconee Nuclear Station. "Co-ops must have a zest for learning and be energetic. In addition, all of these students have a positive attitude and confidence, which also played into the selection process. A real advantage of working as a co-op is that it solidifies their career decision," said Hayes.



Duke Energy technical co-ops are pictured here, from left, (seated) **John Cain, Josh Garza, and Jason Rhodes**, and (standing) **Timothy Edwards, Adam Sanders, and Clint Hall**.

Cain, who works in the predictive maintenance department and is working on a second degree in Industrial Supervision online, said, "Duke Energy is a great company to work for, and it's a way to get our foot in the door for future employment."

Duke Energy technical co-ops earn a paycheck, as well as part-time company benefits, including insurance and 401k retirement.

Although not promised employment after graduation, Hayes says in the past co-ops have been fortunate in securing full-time positions after graduation. "When you open up jobs for external hires, we receive hundreds of applications from across the Southeast. This experience gives them upfront exposure."

A co-op experience is mutually beneficial for the company and the students, Hayes said. "It solidifies their career choice and gives them money while in school. It benefits the company because we are looking for a blend of experience and academics, and this is a way to provide customized training for Duke Energy while allowing the students to focus on their college education."

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!



Congratulations to **Jenny Dean**, lead reading instructor for Comprehensive Studies, and her husband, Jacob. They welcomed a son, Harris Ballentine Dean, born October 11 at AnMed.

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

Vision

(continued from page 1)

Many of the changes that Tri-County is undergoing are transformational, he said. They include a multi-campus environment, new methods for delivering classes, stronger collaboration with Clemson University, and substantial reductions in State funding.

"The next steps will be to incorporate focus group session feedback into our planning and then use financial modeling to impose a 'reality check' on our outlook," said Gregg. A final version will be presented to the Commission for approval at its December 14 meeting. "Upon receiving Commission approval, we will be in a position to make the Vision and Strategy public and share it with all stakeholders."

"This is a process; not a one-time event, and it sets the stage for how we will do business in the future. Everyone has an opportunity to be engaged in this process and influence the long-term direction of the College. We wanted to hear what the College had to say, and the feedback has been outstanding. I appreciate all of the valuable input and that people really challenged our thinking," said Gregg. "It's about making Tri-County Technical College a better place, and we need everyone working together to realize our vision."

Our College Family

excellence through service

Dr. Lynn Lewis, of Easley, has been appointed by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing to its Disciplinary Resources Committee. Dr. Lewis is dean of the Health Education Division and currently serves as president of the State Board of Nursing. Her appointment to the Disciplinary Resources Committee is for a two-year term.



Dr. Lynn Lewis

Dr. Brian Swords

Dr. Brian Swords has been elected to the Easley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning January 2010. In addition, Brian has served on the Pickens County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and Liberty Recreation Board for more than ten years and is currently co-chair of Leadership Pickens County.

Whitt Honored for Teaching Excellence



Mae Whitt, a fifty-seven-year veteran of the nursing profession and an instructor in the Certified Nursing Assistant program in the Corporate and Community Education Division, was recently awarded the WYFF Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching. Mae was nominated by Andre and Heather Whiten, sisters who recently completed the CNA program. Mae's favorite saying is "There's only one way – Mae's way – the right way!" She uses this catch-phrase to emphasize the importance of being thorough and not cutting corners in the medical profession. The Golden Apple award is sponsored by Bi-Lo.

in transition

ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

Sheryl Buotte joined us this semester as a Psychology instructor. She has nine years of teaching experience, including eight years as a Teaching Assistant, Research Assistant, and instructor at the University of Arizona and as an adjunct instructor at Pima Community College in Tucson. She also worked as the Hospital Chaplain at University Medical Center in Tucson for a year. She has a bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Arizona,

a master's of Theology from Boston University, and a master's of Psychology from the University of Arizona. She is completing her doctoral degree in Psychology from the University of Arizona.

Sheryl is a member of the American Psychological Association and the Society for the Teaching of Psychology. She is a member of the Heart of the Healer Foundation. She and her husband, Don, live in Seneca with their two-year-old son, Skyler.



Sheryl Buotte

BUSINESS AFFAIRS DIVISION

Carmen Lehmann is our new Campus Safety Officer. She worked for the last 10 years at the Clemson University Police Department and the last year as Uniform Patrol Sergeant. She is a graduate of D.W. Daniel High School and the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.

She and her husband, Billy, have two children, Jacob, 12, and Zackery, 9. They live in Seneca.



Carmen Lehmann

STUDENT AFFAIRS DIVISION

Lisa Harris Robinson is the Coordinator of Orientation Services. She has more than 10 years of experience in creating and directing programs. For the last nine years, she was Assistant Dean and Director of the Arts and Sciences Career Services Department for Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. She also served as Program Supervisor for the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars in Washington, DC. Lisa has a B.A. from the College of Arts and Sciences at Cornell University and has completed work towards her master's degree.

She also is a graduate of Boston College Law School and worked as a Legal Associate for law offices in Maryland and Washington from 1993 – 96. She was the Legal Editor of the Bureau of National Affairs in Washington from 1992 – 93.

She is a member of the Eastern Association of Colleges and Employers, the National Association of Colleges and Employers, and the Northeastern Association of Pre-Law Advisors.

She received the Fraternity and Sorority Affairs Distinguished Alumni Service award in 2008, and was named the Outstanding Advisory Award Nominee for Cornell Student Organization Awards in 2005. She received the Women's Information Network Young Woman of Achievement Award in 1997.

She and her husband, Kenneth, live in Clemson.



Lisa Robinson

Chris Robinson Joins Tri-County's Foundation Board



Chris Robinson of Easley has been elected to serve on the College's Foundation Board of Directors.

Mr. Robinson manages Robinson Funeral Homes and Robinson Memorial Gardens in Easley.

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. Robinson is a member of the board of directors for the Palmetto Health Baptist Easley Foundation and is secretary of the South Carolina Funeral Directors Association. He is a member and past president of the Easley Rotary Club and a lifelong member of Easley Presbyterian Church, where he is an elder and former chairman of the Diaconate.

He is a cum laude graduate of Washington and Lee University, and he earned a master's degree in International Business Studies from the University of South Carolina. He is a 1994 graduate of the Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service.

He and his wife, Rebecca, live in Easley.

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

Patti Freedman

Rosalind Hammett

Dr. Lisa McWherter

LEI Instructors Attend Frank Warren Event



A group of LEI instructors (from left, **Katy Goforth**, **Lane Hudson**, **Jennifer Beattie**, **Kay Rhodes**, **Dr. Jerry Marshall**, and **Marianne Yohannan**) attended author Frank Warren's Post Secret event at the Peace Center October 1. Mr. Warren discussed his Post Secret concept, which advocates that when a person gives up a secret, it frees him or her to move on and therefore the secret is no longer holding the individual back.

"Often times students are bound by secrets," said Kay Rhodes, who plans to incorporate the concept into her Freshman Seminar (College 105) LEI class. "Letting go of a secret – for example, by sending an anonymous letter to a teacher or friend — can free someone. Once released, the secret no longer has power over their lives. It relieves stress and allows students to concentrate on what is at hand and empowers them to concentrate on their education."

"The objective is for students to see that they are not alone," added Katy. "What they may have thought was a deep, dark secret is shared with someone else, and it no longer feels like such a burden."

WorkLink WIB Holds Partnership Meeting



The WorkLink Workforce Investment Board held a partnership meeting October 20 on campus. Hosted by the OneStop Consortium, the forum provided an opportunity for partners to share ideas and resources. The discussion focused on streamlining services for those who receive employment and training funding. Several organizations shared information about their services and explained their unique roles in the workforce system. Here, **Jim Roser**, program director for the Workforce Investment Act office at Tri-County, standing, explains core, intensive, and training services offered by his office and stressed the importance of maximizing and leveraging partners' resources.

Sandvik is Silver Crescent Winner



The South Carolina Chamber of Commerce and Silver Crescent Foundation awarded Sandvik, located in Westminster; the 2009 Silver Crescent Manufacturer of the Year award in the medium-sized industry classification. Selections for the award are based on quality improvement efforts; quality of life programs; improvements in the environment; involvement in local community and economic development; education and workforce development; and overall effectiveness. Pictured from left are **Charles Hamrick** of Hamrick Mills, chair of the Manufacturing Committee for the S.C. Chamber of Commerce; **Jim Brogdon** of Santee Cooper, which sponsored the award; and **Anders Berg**, quality assurance and environmental health and safety manager, who accepted the award on behalf of Sandvik.

Enrichment Series Hosts Thomason



The College's Enrichment Series Committee hosted an Appalachian music and storytelling performance by dulcimer artist **Bob Thomason** (pictured here) and his wife, **Melody**.

Thomason has been delighting audiences with his stories and songs for almost thirty years. A native of Oconee County and a Clemson University graduate, he has been making and playing fine Appalachian dulcimers since 1981. He has performed at festivals and folk music gatherings all over the Southeast and led dulcimer-building workshops from Maine to Florida. An accomplished musician, storyteller and lecturer, Thomason has worked with Dalton State College and University in Dalton, Georgia, as an Elderhostel instructor in Appalachian music and culture since 1992.

Annual Benefits Fair A Success



The Benefits Fair, held October 7, is a great opportunity for all permanent employees to talk with representatives from insurance companies, companies that administer annuities, and the credit union, along with researching new policies, and registering for some great door prizes. Above from left, **Bethany Wiley**, **Jan Kempinski**, **Rachel Campbell**, and **Kishia Dinkins** get information about MoneyPlus.

Executive Staff Updates

- **IT Department Priorities:** The major focus of the IT Department during the 2009-10 academic year will be upgrading to Banner 8, which will be a large-scale, expensive project. Therefore, all are asked to consider this before making major IT requests because of the limited time and resources that can be allocated to other new projects.
- **Parking Expansion Strategy:** A workgroup has been chartered to bring forward recommendations to increase parking availability by a minimum of 500 spaces with an ideal goal of closing the gap between supply and demand of parking by 700 spaces. The solution must be in place by mid-August 2010. The work of this group will result in improved parking for Fall Semester 2010 and will play a role in longer-term strategies to address our parking situation.
- **10-Year Vision:** The results of the Visioning planning retreat have been compiled and were presented to the Executive Staff for validation. The College's governing board also has validated the results. College-wide focus groups are taking place in an effort to gain additional input and validation.
- **Pandemic Flu Plan:** A pandemic planning matrix has been completed by all major functional units. The Executive Staff approved the plan, which was then communicated to the College community.
- **Other topics:** United Way, WIA funding, and a first quarter budget status update.

Golden OPPORTUNITIES *to shape the future*

Fifth Annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament Raises Nearly \$35,000

The Fall Classic Golf Tournament, in its fifth year, has become a signature event in the community and this year raised nearly \$35,000. The invitation-only golf tournament attracted 92 players this year and was held at the Anderson County Club.

Since 2005 the Tri-County Technical College Foundation has hosted this event. For the second consecutive year, Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company was the gold sponsor for the event. Other generous sponsors were listed on the sign that was displayed at the tournament.

This year's proceeds go toward funding an initiative that community leaders have identified as one of most importance to the three-county area: Enhancing Opportunities for Student Success. This initiative provides scholarship assistance for hundreds of students and funding for the Gateway to College program. It also supports other programs aimed at providing our students with invaluable learning experiences, such as student government programs, regional internships, and educational travel abroad programs that help to make them better workers, better leaders, and better citizens.

Many thanks to the Planning Committee, who made this year's tournament a success: Mike Cannon, chair, Tony Saad, Ham Hudson, Doug Allen, Clint Wright, John Lummus, and Courtney White.



For the second consecutive year, Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company was the gold sponsor for the event. Other generous sponsors were listed on the sign that was displayed at the tournament.



S.C. Rep. **Bill Sandifer** puts as team member S.C. rep. **Rex Rice** watches.



Courtney White and **Mike Cannon** were among the committee members who worked for months planning and producing this year's tournament.



Longtime supporter **Congressman Gresham Barrett**, left, stopped by to talk with players before the tournament. Here, he talks with **Danny Youngblood**, of Easley, a Foundation board member and president of Youngblood Development Corporation in Easley.



The Michelin team won first place with a score of 56. From left are team members **Ken Neal**, **Joel Heard**, **Jason Burns**, and **Donnie Fredricks** with **Dr. Booth**.



Vice President of Business Affairs **Gregg Stapleton**, right, purchases a raffle ticket from tournament volunteer and Corporate and Community Education Division Dean **Rick Cothran**.



It was Commission member **Dr. Valerie Ramsey's** first time to play in a golf tournament. Here she poses with team members from left, **Bobby Brothers**, readySC area director; **Dr. Ralph Elliott**; and **Doug Allen**, department head for Industrial Technology.



Retired College Vice President **Linda Elliott**, whose husband, Ralph, played in the tournament, attended the reception. She is pictured with **Joe Hooper**, Foundation Board member and a sponsor of the tournament.



It takes dedicated volunteers like **Trudy Hooper**, left, and **Marion Roach**, a Foundation Board member, to make the tournament possible. Many thanks to these ladies who manned the registration table and a prize hole.

Connecting

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want to be the best community college in the Nation, it will take careful planning to ensure we are accessible and affordable, and deliver top-quality instruction, programs, and services.

Looking ahead to 2010, we are adding a variety of new certificates to meet local demand, including graphic communications, entrepreneurship and small business management, residential wiring, and residential plumbing. We also are partnering with the Hanna-Westside Extension Campus in Anderson to offer an Automotive Technology program using their facility and equipment. Our first step will be to offer several certificate options with the goal of building up to a full degree program. In addition, our Mechatronics certificate will be offered as an associate degree option beginning Fall Semester 2010, replacing our Industrial Maintenance program.

Several other topics were discussed at the Faculty/Staff meeting, including our newly finalized Pandemic Plan, the Higher Education Efficiencies Act, our committee structure, and parking issues on the Pendleton campus. We will continue to communicate about all of these topics.

Our students now begin the “home stretch” of the semester, and at the same time we are advising and registering for next semester. Thanks to all of you for your good work in making this semester go so smoothly, considering our overwhelming enrollment. I look forward to the continued work on our long-range plan and your involvement in developing that plan and bringing it to life.



Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

College is Site of Three-Day CRJ Seminar



Eighty-five law enforcement officers and investigators attended a three-day Narcotics Commanders School seminar held on the campus. It was sponsored by the Anderson Police Department, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the U.S. Attorney's Office. **Ed Mouery**, standing, a 30-year veteran of the Oregon State Police with more than 16 years of experience in drug enforcement, and **Bob Bushman**, statewide gang and drug task force coordinator at the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, seated, were the instructors. The training focused on narcotics investigations, current trends, and drug law investigations.

Seminar Focuses on Cultural Diversity



Idella Glenn, co-owner of Enduring Ties, standing, led Survival Skills 101 for a Culturally Diverse Environment, a fun, interactive workshop for students which gives tips on building relationships and understanding others from different cultural backgrounds. Each session provides insight on various aspects of culture (i.e., language and communication, dress and appearance, time management, etc.) to enhance students' confidence for working and living successfully in a global society.