

Connection

In this Issue ...



Spotlight on Weatherization 3



First Quality Job Fair..... 4



Fall Classic.....9



Annual Report Luncheon..... 10-11

Tri-County Is Only SC Applicant Awarded DOE Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant

Tri-County Technical College plans to vitalize the first-year student experience with nearly \$2 million in U.S. Department of Education (DOE) Title III Strengthening Institutions grant funds.

Tri-County was among the 48 institutions nationwide and the only applicant from South Carolina to receive funding for the proposed five-year plan to more powerfully focus on student learning and success for first-time postsecondary students.

The proposal's two key components are expanded options for learning communities and a web-based comprehensive academic support network to connect students with resources for goal planning, advising, and support services.

Over the next five years, the grant will provide funding for the College to address the need to provide more fully integrated systems to support student persistence, achievement, and program completion. Currently, 30 percent of Tri-County's population is first-generation college students, and 21% indicate uncertainty about their educational goals.

"With dramatic increases in enrollment (up 18% with 6,758 students for fall 2009 and a 19% increase with 6,409 students in spring 2010), the College recognizes a need to intensify its support for students who are in the college learning environment for the first time," said Susan Allen, associate vice president for Academic Affairs and administrator of the grant.

"The grant isn't awarded to create something entirely new but is intended to build on successful efforts and initiatives a college has had in providing meaningful learning experiences, and to make them even stronger," said Katy Goforth, an English faculty member and activity director for the grant.

The College's commitment to making students' learning experiences the best that they can be, and to doing things better and in more engaging ways, reflect President Ronnie Booth's focus on the Learning College philosophy which "places learning first and provides educational experiences for learners any way, any place, any time."

(continued on page 7)



A \$2 million DOE Strengthening Institutions grant will enable the College to expand its current Learning Excellence Initiative, or LEI, which focuses on meeting first-time college students' needs for connection and community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

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Connecting



Ronnie L. Booth
President

Few things make me prouder than welcoming business, industry, and community leaders to campus each fall for our Annual Report Luncheon. This event gives me the opportunity to share our many successes from the previous year and thank them for their support and partnership.

The theme of this year's luncheon was "A Smart Investment," and the Annual Report publication shares stories and highlights about students, companies, and donors who believe Tri-County Technical College is a smart investment of their time and resources – with a payoff that lasts a lifetime.

After sharing our report, I directed the attention of our luncheon guests to the future – the opportunities, challenges, and priorities that lie ahead for Tri-County Technical College. Not surprisingly, in most cases, the future is now. This is certainly the case with the Easley Campus.

It's difficult to believe that in a matter of days our Easley Campus will be officially open for business. Note I say "officially" open for business because the QuickJobs Center has been up and running since September. The Academic Building will officially open to the public on November 9 when we hold our Easley Campus Enrollment Event/Open House for prospective students. On that day, faculty and staff will be available to share information about all of the Easley Campus programs and services and provide opportunities for students to apply for admission, learn about financial aid, take the placement test, speak to an academic advisor, and more. This day also marks the beginning of ongoing enrollment services that will continue throughout the remaining weeks of fall in preparation for Spring Semester.

On the heels of the enrollment day, our Foundation will host a special "preview party" November 18 for Board members, donors, and other invited guests. Guests will be able to tour the facility and learn about the many ways they can show their support for the new campus. I am pleased to report that we have already received several generous donations and will announce those gifts in the near future.

Finally, on December 10, we will hold our official dedication ceremony for the new campus. Business, industry, and community leaders, as well as the general public, are invited to join with us as we cut the ribbon and celebrate this milestone in the history of Tri-County Technical College.

None of this would have happened without the hard work of many of you who have been involved in the careful planning and execution of this enormous undertaking. We all can be proud that the long-awaited day is nearly here when we can finally say that we have an official presence in all three counties in our service area.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President



Spotlight on Weatherization Program

Tri-County is set to begin a new Weatherization certification program in January designed to put people back to work by retraining them for home energy improvement and inspection jobs.

The Weatherization program will be located at the Easley Campus, also the site of the new QuickJobs Development Center.

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

Classes will focus on caulking and sealing, glass replacements, drywall, and patching, insulation and roof vent installation. Courses will be offered by the Corporate and Community Education Division (CCE).

Collaborating with CCE on this new program are the Industrial and Engineering Technology Division's Construction Management students, who currently are building a small house (12' x 20') for students to get hands-on experience in these weatherization classes. They also will retrofit a mobile home to fit the training needs of the students. The grant money is used to set up the program and pay for instructor training and to purchase tools and construction materials for building the house. It also will cover the purchase of the mobile home and its retrofitting, along with the appliances for both.

Building Construction/Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Program Coordinator Franklin Smith just returned from completing a Building Product Institute (BPI)-certified heating professional and proctor class. CCE Training and Development Director Ron Humphries completed BPI Certification Insulation and Air Sealing earlier this year. Adjunct instructors have been actively training as well. Randy King completed Combustible Appliance Safety and Site Built Weatherization 101; and Tim Strickland completed BPI Certification Insulation and Air Sealing, Combustible Appliance Safety, and Site Built Weatherization 101.

Plans are to move the test house to the Easley Campus by early December, said Ron, who also serves as administrator of the grant. "We hope to be up and running with classes in January, when the new



Pictured above and below: Students in the Construction Management class build a small house for the Weatherization program.



Easley Campus opens. The program will train contractors and future technicians in retrofitting homes for better energy efficiency," he said.

"These classes will teach students to treat a house as a system, to troubleshoot it as a system," said Franklin. "This goes above an energy audit – it's an energy audit with solutions. These solutions will lead to the creation of jobs. We will be training future technicians, auditors, and inspectors to carry out these solutions."

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!

S.C. State President, VPs Visit College



Dr. George Cooper, president of South Carolina State University, left, pictured here with **Dr. Booth**, and two of the University's vice presidents visited Tri-County to learn more about the Bridge to Clemson program and other articulation agreements we have with area colleges.

More than 750 Attend First Quality Job Fair



A total of 750 residents attended First Quality's Job Fair held at the Anderson Campus in September. First Quality is building a tissue-manufacturing plant on Masters Boulevard and was accepting applications for the lead operator of converting and the lead operator of a paper machine. The company also will accept applications for distributed control systems operators, general maintenance workers, and maintenance specialists. Here, **Bobby Brothers**, area director for readySC, standing, assists **Allen Slaton**, of Townville, with the application process.

Our College Family

excellence through service

Sarah Shumpert, director of instructional support, and **Margaret Burdette**, coordinator of SACS compliance and assessment, presented at the Worldwide Instructional Design System (WIDS) annual meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, October 21. The presentation, titled "WIDS Reconsidered: Developing Program Outcomes for Student Services," described the facilitation process used to assist the Student Development Department in the creation of student developmental and learning outcomes using the WIDS model. Following the presentation, a faculty member in the Community College Leadership Doctoral Program at Ferris State University asked to use the process, which is based largely in the art of Appreciative Inquiry, as a case study for how to make transformative changes in an organization.

in transition

BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

Ed Heberling, who joined us last September as Men's and Women's Soccer Coach, also is working as an Academic Resource Specialist for the Business and Public Services Division.

Before joining Tri-County last September, for the last seven years, he was Soccer Coach and Admissions Counselor, as well as Residence Hall Director and Intramural Director at Iowa Wesleyan College.

He earned a B.A. in Sports Management from Iowa Wesleyan College and is currently pursuing a master's of Coaching and Athletic Administration through Concordia University in California.

He is a member of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America. He and his wife, Laura, live in Pendleton.



Ed Heberling

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Matt Whitten is the new Purchasing Specialist in our Business Office. He has nine years of bookkeeping experience. He spent eight years at Southern Homes of the Upstate as a bookkeeper and the last year as full-charge bookkeeper at Crafttown Homes. He earned a B.A. in Business Economics at Wofford College. He and his wife, Kitty, have a daughter, Jane, age 2. They live in Central.



Matt Whitten

INDUSTRIAL AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Stephanie Evans is back on staff this semester as the Academic Advisor for the Industrial and Engineering Technology Division. Many of you know Stephanie, who previously worked in this position from 2005 - 2008. Prior to that she was an engineer for Denso Manufacturing from 1999 - 2004. She holds a B.S. in Industrial and Systems Engineering from Auburn University.

Stephanie and her husband, Jarrad, have two children, Carter, 6, and Savannah, 2. They live in Anderson.



Stephanie Evans

Executive Staff Updates

STUDENT AFFAIRS DIVISION

Another familiar face back on campus is **Tequisha Whitener**, who is our new Upward Bound Counselor for TRiO. She previously worked as the Administrative Assistant for the TRiO programs from 2007 until 2009 when she left to pursue her master's degree in Counseling from Webster University. Tequisha also holds a B.A. in Psychology from Anderson University. She lives in Anderson.



Tequisha Whitener

ARTS AND SCIENCES

After a year of adjunct teaching for the English Department and serving as the Writing Center Tutor, **Ember Smith** is now a full-time English instructor.

She holds a B.A. in English from USC Upstate, where she was named Outstanding English major, and an M.A. in English from Clemson University, where she taught English from 2007 – 2009. She also taught English at Spartanburg Community College for a year. Her article, *From Gutenberg to Google*, was published in the [South Carolina Review](#), and she has written numerous feature stories for the [Spartanburg Herald Journal](#). Ember was a guardian ad litem for the Governor's Office of SC from 1998 – 2007. She lives in Cowpens.



Ember Smith



Dennis Lee

Dennis Lee is our new Science instructor. Dennis earned B.A. and M.S. degrees in Bacteriology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. He and his wife, Amy, have two children, Ethan, 5, and Christa, 3. They live in Anderson.



Vinson Burdette, dean of Student Development, wrote this note:

On behalf of staff in Student Development, and I'm sure many other areas of the College, an expression of appreciation is in order for **Lisa Garrett**. Over the years she has steadily provided excellent coverage through photos and articles of many newsworthy topics.

Although Lisa's stories and photos often appear in print, her byline usually does not. We appreciate Lisa's expertise in documenting TCTC success stories.

Galen Dehay, science department head, sent congratulations to **Suzanne Ellenberger**, our new full-time chemistry instructor, who recently earned her 3rd degree black belt in Choi Kwang Do.

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.

- **Learning College Update:** A group representing faculty and staff who have attended the national Learning College Summit provided an update on recent initiatives that have been influenced by learning college principles. These include our new orientation/advising process, faculty/staff development activities, and the Title III grant development process.

- **Business and Public Services Division Update:** Jackie Blakley provided an update on staffing, program accreditation, new courses, and new certificates.

- **Professional Development Day:** A College-wide professional development day is scheduled for Tuesday, November 2.

- **Arts and Sciences Division Update:** Dr. Gwen Owens provided an update on enrollment growth, collaborations both internally and externally, and involvement in STEM, Bridge to Clemson, the Arts & Sciences Enrichment Series, and other initiatives.

- **Institutional Research Department Update:** Dr. Chris Marino provided an update on the types of surveys and reports that are generated by his unit and how the data is used College-wide for planning and decision-making. He also provided information about ongoing tasks related to SACS compliance.

(continued on page 13)

Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month



In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, the SGA/Student Life, the Enrichment Series Committee, and the Spanish Club hosted a Hispanic Fest September 29 in the Amphitheater. In addition to salsa dancing lessons, participants enjoyed live entertainment, music, and refreshments.

Annual Benefits Fair Attracts Large Crowd



The 2010 Benefits Fair held October 6 was a great time for faculty and staff to get answers to questions from the representatives of our insurance carriers. Here, **Melinda Zeigler**, division secretary for Business and Public Services, talks with **Harold Nash**, of Eye Med Vision Care.

Third Congressional Candidates Debate



Tri-County Technical College's Student Democrats and Student Republicans clubs hosted the Third Congressional District candidates during a town hall forum. Democratic nominee Jane Dyer, left, Republican nominee Jeff Duncan, and Jon Dalen, the Constitution party nominee, were invited to this town hall event where candidates answered questions collected from the student body. Students from the Student Democrats and Student Republicans clubs posed the questions. Duncan was unable to attend the event and sent William Boylston from his campaign. **Mary Geren**, English instructor and faculty advisor for Student Democrats, is seen here opening the debate.

Tri-County Campuses Are Sites For QuickJobs Training Fairs



Tri-County's campuses were the sites for three pre-employment training fairs held for job seekers looking for work in advanced manufacturing or truck driving. These QuickJobs Training Fairs provided persons with information about certifications for MSSC production technician, mechatronics technician, CNC operator, and CDL truck drivers. Attendees participated in a screening interview with potential employers and met with representatives from area agencies that can provide financial assistance for the QuickJobs training programs. Here, **Denise Loggins**, career counselor with the Anderson One Stop, right, assists **La Quecha Edwards**, of Anderson.

Title III *(continued from page 1)*

The grant proposal, named Learning through Community and Connections (LC²), outlines a plan for providing students opportunities to become part of focused learning communities within the College and to connect to a web-based academic support network linking them to resources that can help them to succeed at Tri-County.

Lou Ann Martin, a mathematics instructor and chair of the grant's design team, says the team looked at the College's strengths and weaknesses when preparing the grant proposal. "Our strengths include a faculty and staff who have the students' best interests at heart and an administration committed to the Learning College principles. We have a strong technology infrastructure, as well as a new 10-year vision and strategic plan," she said.

"One of the challenges we face includes helping students to successfully make the transition from high school to the academic environment of college," Lou Ann said.

"College students often struggle with adjusting to the expectations of college coursework," said Katy.

This funding will pay for resources to help Tri-County expand its current Learning Excellence Initiative, or LEI, that focuses on meeting first-time college students' needs for connection and community. Piloted in 2007, LEI focuses on developing key learning skills needed for academic success throughout college. It enhances students' involvement in the campus community and provides support for first semester courses through Smart Start orientation, Learning Communities, and a freshman seminar class.

"LEI develops a sense of community and provides an academic support network but it affects only a small percentage of students (15 percent who sign up for the classes)," said Katy, an instructor in the program. Currently, there are 11 communities with approximately 25 students per class. "Title III funding will help us to reach more students," added Katy.

"Through a learning community experience and online access to support services, we hope to increase achievement, retention, and degree completion," said Lou Ann.

The Academic Support Network will include a readiness assessment, electronic educational plans, and an early alert system delivered on site and online.

The readiness assessment allows students to answer online questions about their work schedule, academic preparation, and potential obstacles to academic success.

Electronic educational plans will provide students with the capability to build an academic plan of action with input from advisors. "They can set realistic goals that fit their objectives and skills," said Katy. It's also a way to build on the advising students have already received and to keep connected with advisors after orientation sessions.

"The early alert system will provide an online platform for faculty to identify students experiencing academic trouble and to more efficiently direct them to available resources that can provide timely, accessible support," explained Susan.

The academic support network will enhance academic support services in Tri-County's multi-campus environment. "It will be online and will connect important components of the academic experience from admission to graduation. Title III funding allows us, in these austere budget times, to move forward in creating an integrated, robust support system," said Susan.

"Students can come in and feel connected," said Lou Ann.

"We are figuratively and physically merging services that are working together. All students will feel it and see it," said Katy.

In addition to funding equipment and resources, the grant will fund three new permanent positions. They are a Learning Communities Coordinator, Academic Support Network Coordinator, and an Administrative Assistant.

"When we learned we received the funding, we were ecstatic," said Susan. "This is a very competitive grant year, and we are so grateful the DOE was willing to invest in Tri-County's future."

Work to Begin On Industrial Technology Center



This recently-acquired facility in Sandy Springs will eventually house the College's Welding, HVAC, and Construction programs.

As communicated earlier, the College recently purchased approximately five acres of land and a 43,000-square-foot building formerly occupied by Virginia Carolina Tobacco Company. Located in Sandy Springs, just five miles from the Pendleton Campus, this building will be named the Industrial Technology Center and will be retrofitted to serve as the new location for the College's Welding, HVAC, and Construction programs.

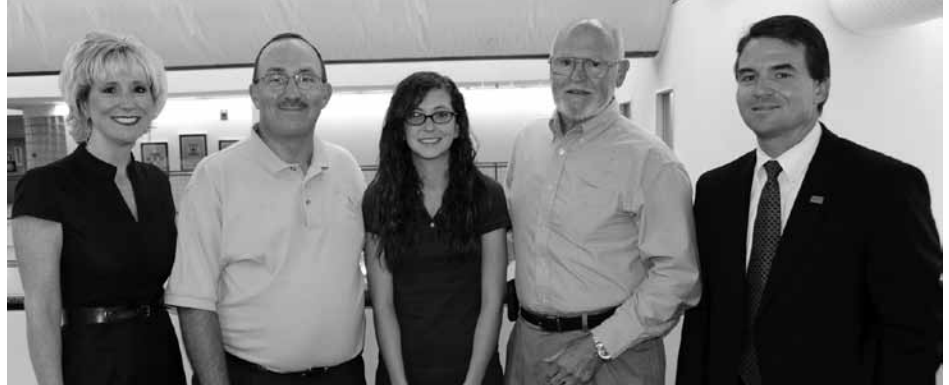
Enrollment in the Industrial and Engineering Technology Division grew twenty-six percent over a three-year period between Fall Semester 2007 and 2009. Welding enrollment tripled, and HVAC enrollment doubled during the same period.

The targeted completion date is Fall Semester 2011. The renovated building will house up-to-date equipment and provide much-needed additional space for instruction. It also allows us to keep these industry training programs centrally located in the service area, which is important to our students who enroll from all three counties. Additionally, moving these programs will allow us to expand our general classroom and laboratory spaces on the Pendleton Campus to accommodate greater numbers of students.

Golden OPPORTUNITIES to shape the future

Liberty Masons Meet Scholarship Recipient

Erika Wallace, of Liberty, a Medical Assisting major, middle, is the recipient of the Liberty Masons Scholarship at the College. Pictured with her are Liberty Masons **Dwight Yates**, second from left, and **Michael Sheriff**, fourth from left, along with **Elisabeth Gadd**, director of Development, and **John Lummus**, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement.



New Workforce Initiative Designed to Engage Young People into High Skills Manufacturing Careers

Local business and education leaders joined Jennifer McNelly, senior vice president of The Manufacturing Institute/ National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), at an October 13 meeting to outline details of a new Upstate workforce initiative designed to engage people into high skills careers in manufacturing.

McNelly discussed the success and importance of the Dream It. Do It. (DIDI) programs in other regions of the country. Specifically, Dream It. Do It. is a national manufacturing careers recruitment strategy developed to let students know about valuable opportunities in manufacturing. It promotes a modern image of manufacturing and is aimed at 16 - 26 year olds, their parents, and educators. DIDI was developed by NAM and the Manufacturing Institute.

Joining McNelly were Dr. Booth, Todd Bennington, vice president of operations for BorgWarner; Rep. Bill Sandifer, chairman of the South Carolina House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee; and Rick Murphy, director of the Pendleton Regional Education Center.

TechReadySC™, a collaboration of five Upstate South Carolina technical and community colleges (Greenville, Piedmont, Tri-County, and York technical colleges, Spartanburg Community College), the South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance, and the South Carolina Technical College System office are part of the Dream It. Do It. Program. Developed with funding from the Duke Energy Foundation and AdvanceSC, DIDI helps young kids get excited about careers in manufacturing.

TechReadySC™'s core mission is to build a more competitive workforce in the Upstate by providing innovative services to meet the economy's existing and emerging human performance



Jennifer McNelly, senior vice president of The Manufacturing Institute/ National Association of Manufacturers, talks with **Rick Murphy**, director of the Pendleton Regional Education Center, before the session began.

needs. In 2005, the group developed a standardized curriculum among the five Upstate partner colleges leading to specialty certificates and an associate degree in the area of mechatronics technology.

"Dream It. Do it. is an example of folks going in the same direction and of the five technical colleges and NAM pulling together to make something happen," said Corporate and Community Education Dean Rick Cothran.

"Manufacturing is driven by skills requirements and the infusion of technology," said McNelly. "Yet, 32 percent of our manufacturers have challenges finding qualified workers. Where are our qualified workers coming from? Fifty percent of workers

(continued on page 15)

Sixth Annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament Raises \$32,230

The Sixth Annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament, held October 1 at Smithfields Country Club in Easley, raised \$32,230. This invitation-only golf tournament attracted 116 players this year. Since 2005, the Tri-County Technical College Foundation has hosted this tournament and has raised nearly \$184,000 to support special initiatives at the College.

Money raised for this year's tournament will provide funding for our nursing clinical lab at the Easley Campus. We will be locating the LPN program to the Easley Campus in Fall 2011, and an accelerated RN program will follow at a later date. It

is estimated that it will cost \$175,000 to equip a nursing lab with patient simulators and realistic settings for the practice of nursing skills. A well-trained healthcare workforce is crucial, and Tri-County soon will be the only technical college offering a Practical Nursing program in the Upstate.

Many thanks to American Services, who was the gold sponsor for the event. Another group who made this tournament a success was its Planning Committee – Doug Allen, Mike Cannon, Ham Hudson, John Lummus, Tony Saad, Kevin Steele, Courtney White, and Clint Wright.



For the second consecutive year, the Michelin team won first place with a score of 53. From left are **Courtney White**, director of donor relations, **Todd Cox**, **Donnie Fredericks**, **David Bibb**, from Michelin, and **Mike Cannon**, planning committee member. Not pictured is Joel Heard.



American Services, who sponsored two teams, was the gold sponsor for the event. Pictured in front of the Gold Sponsor sign are Sandvik team members, from left, **Eric Speed**, **Jerry Barger**, **Kristoffer Kreese**, and **Angie Hanvey**.



Dr. Valerie Ramsey, a College commissioner, third from left, played in the tournament, along with **Peggy Deane**, former Foundation Board member, second from left. Joining them were **Bobby Brothers**, area director for readySC™, left, and **Hal Johnson**.



Dr. Booth, second from left, was a member of the Goodwyn Mills Cawood team. Pictured with him, from left, are **Michael Allen**, former Greenville County Sheriff **Johnny Mack Brown**, and **Kevin Laird**.

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Annual Report Luncheon

An Investment in Tri-County Is an Investment in Our Community

An investment in Tri-County Technical College is an investment in our community, Dr. Booth told a crowd of business, industrial, education, government, and political leaders at the College's Annual Report Luncheon.

Guests received a 44-page annual report, titled *A Smart Investment*, that features students, donors, companies, community partners and alumni telling how Tri-County is a wise investment of time and resources in meeting their educational and training needs.

"We had a record-breaking number of students to enroll last fall – 18 percent more than the previous fall, totaling nearly 7,000 students. That helped to make us the fastest growing technical college in the system. We have had a 79 percent cumulative percentage enrollment increase since 2001, well above the state average of 40 percent," said Dr. Booth.

"Students are making Tri-County their college of choice because we are a wise and marketable investment in their futures and themselves," he added.

Among those who chose Tri-County for their first two years of study are Lea Betsill and Cameron Brice, members of the 2005 inaugural Bridge to Clemson class. "Both saw Tri-County as a worthwhile investment and a smart way to start," said Dr. Booth.

In addition, area industries invest in their current and future associates and the College by supporting their education through credit and continuing education programs at the College's four campuses (Pendleton, Anderson, Seneca and soon



From left, **Senator Thomas Alexander**, **Rep. Phil Owens**, and **Senator Larry Martin** look over the 2009 - 2010 Annual Report publication that was distributed to guests at the luncheon.



Former Tri-County Dean of Students **Al Norris**, left, and Pickens County Sheriff **C. David Stone** are both faithful attendees of the luncheon.



Senator Billy O'Dell, left, and **John Lummus**, vice president for economic and institutional advancement, discuss the progress made by the College during the past year.



Lea Betsill, a member of the inaugural Bridge to Clemson class, is featured in our Annual Report publication and attended the luncheon with her parents, **Dave** and **Kathy Betsill**. Lea, who received an Education degree from Clemson in May, was one of nine chosen for Project Select, and is pursuing a master's in Special Education at Clemson.

to be Easley) and two new QuickJobs Centers in Seneca and Easley.

Companies like Tri-Tech USA, Inc., decided it would be a smart investment to relocate their manufacturing facility from Vermont to Pickens County to take advantage of free training services available through readySC™.

“Donors like Jane and Bob Harris of Seneca, who were this year’s philanthropists of the year, have made significant investments in the College and support our Major Gifts Campaign because they believe what we do is important,” said Dr. Booth. “They are two of many, many individuals who have contributed to our major gifts campaign, helping us to raise \$4.3 million of our goal to raise seven to nine million dollars by the time we celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2012,” he said.

Dr. Booth concluded with a look at what’s happening in coming months and early 2011. He said the primary focus for 2011 will be the successful launch of the new campus in Easley in January.

The College also will begin to up-fit a 43,000-square-foot building formerly occupied by Virginia Carolina Tobacco Company. Federal stimulus money will pay for the majority of the improvements. Located in Sandy Springs, just five miles from the Pendleton Campus, this building will be named the Industrial Technology Center and will be retrofitted to serve as the new location for the College’s Welding, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning, and Building Construction programs.

“We have a busy year ahead. This is a great place to be and to work. Thanks to all of you for the investments you make in our College and to the people who live and work here. Just like we say in the theme of our Annual Report, we want to be the smartest investment you make in yourselves and your community.”

Broadband Grant Extends Computer Access to Community



A grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to the S.C. Technical College System allows **Brandon Gibson**, of Pendleton, to have access to library computers to complete his online assignments for the Art Institute of Atlanta.

At least three times a week, you'll see Brandon Gibson seated at one of the new computer workstations in Tri-County Technical College's library, working on assignments for his online classes at the Art Institute of Atlanta.

He's often accompanied by his sister, Ashley, who also is working on her college studies.

Although they aren't Tri-County students, the Pendleton residents, who do not have Internet access at home, take advantage of the computer workstations in the library (Ruby Hicks Building, Pendleton Campus) that are open to students and the public during the week Monday - Thursday from 7:45 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fridays from 7:45 a.m. - 2 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Earlier this year, Tri-County received a portion of a \$5.9 million federal National Telecommunications and Information Administration grant awarded to the S.C. Technical College System to expand

(continued on page 13)

Ben Childress Honored with Order of Merit



The College honored former Commission member and Easley resident **Ben R. Childress**, right, with the highest award given by the College's nine-member Commission. **Dr. Booth**, left, presented Mr. Childress with the Order of Merit at the College's October 28 Annual Report luncheon. The Order of Merit is an honorary society that recognizes community and state leaders who have contributed to the development of Tri-County Technical College and the State Technical College System.

The College honored former Commission member and Easley resident Ben R. Childress with the highest award given by the College's nine-member Commission. Dr. Booth presented Mr. Childress with the Order of Merit at the College's October 28 Annual Report luncheon.

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

"Ben served a long and distinguished term, representing Pickens County on the governing board since 1987," said Dr. Booth. "He has been solidly committed to the community college philosophy and in every way has pursued the mission and purpose of the College, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience and strengthening the College's already strong ties with industry."

"I appreciate the Commission and the College," said Mr. Childress. "It makes volunteer work easier if the community is behind what you do, and Tri-County truly is the community's college. There are a lot of good years ahead for the College, especially with the opening of the Easley Campus in January," he said.

Mr. Childress served as chair of the Buildings Committee, was an active member and former chair of the Finance Committee and a former ex-officio member of the Foundation Board. As Chairman of the Building Committee, he was instrumental in moving the Easley Campus project forward and was a leader in bringing Tri-County Technical College to where the Pickens County community lives and works. Tri-County's Easley Campus, located on Powdersville Road, will open in January 2011.

He was a charter member and past chair of the Textile Management Advisory Board. Mr. Childress served first as general manager and later as vice president of manufacturing for Alice Manufacturing Company during his distinguished 30-year career at the Easley textile company.

In 1997, he and his wife, Lucille, endowed the Weston and Ruth Reeves Memorial Scholarship in 1997 in memory of her mother and father. As long-time supporters of the College, they also have served as community sponsors for the College's annual Bluegrass under the Stars concert.

BorgWarner Selects Six Co-Ops



Six Machine Tool Technology students have been selected for six CNC operator/machinist positions at BorgWarner through a cooperative education venture recently established with the College. Launched this semester, the BorgWarner Education and Skills Training, or BEST program, is a partnership with Tri-County to recruit potential candidates for employment. Pictured from left are **Rex Yeagley**, of Seneca; **Cody Lee**, of Westminster; **Hunter Compton**, of Westminster; **James Cape**, of Starr; and **Matt Wilbanks** of Mountain Rest. Not pictured is Marquita George.

BorgWarner has filled six CNC operator/machinist positions at its Seneca plant through a cooperative education venture recently established with the College.

Launched this semester, the BorgWarner Education and Skills Training, or BEST program, is a partnership with Tri-County to recruit potential candidates for employment, said Dave Baker, the company's human resource manager, who held several information workshops on campus for Machine Tool Technology (MTT) students to learn about potential co-op opportunities. The event was hosted by the Career Services Office.

"We're looking for MTT majors who can work up to 20 hours a week while they are students. Your work schedule would accommodate your class schedule," Baker told the students at a meeting.

"We are challenged to fill CNC positions at our facility," he said. "The co-op experience gives us the opportunity to identify people we may want to offer full-time employment to in the future. It's an opportunity to get connected."

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. Currently the College has three active co-op education programs with Michelin, Duke Energy, and now BorgWarner.

(continued on page 14)

Broadband

(continued from page 12)

broadband access in the State. Tri-County will receive \$204,260 over two years to add computer workstations and to expand wireless service to cover the entire Pendleton Campus and to add computers at our Anderson Campus. Currently, there are 25 PCs at Anderson and 31 in the Pendleton library.

"This is great," said Brandon, who, in the past, completed his class work at the local library, which he said at times can be crowded and users are limited to 45 minutes at a time. "At Tri-County, I can complete my work in a stress-free, nice environment," he said.

"I have no complaints. There are very few distractions, and I can stay as long as I need to and take advantage of the library's resources, as well. How long I stay depends on my workload for the day," said Brandon, who completes his Video Production degree in December and will begin Photography classes at Tri-County in January to better prepare himself for a career in freelance photography. "This couldn't have worked out any better," he said.

Executive Staff Updates

(continued from page 5)

- **Tuition Roll-Back:** Executive Staff discussed ways to cut operational spending to absorb a decrease in revenue caused by the recent tuition roll-back.
- **Other:** Policies and procedures; organizational structure; tuition and fee structure; strategic planning; Title III Grant; A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year; the Ruby Hicks Learning and Collaboration Center project; and a career training grant opportunity.

BorgWarner

(continued from page 13)

Internships and co-op positions are becoming much more important both to students and to employers looking for a trial run with potential hires, said Glenn Hellenga, director of the College's Career Services Office. "Every manufacturer's dream is a highly skilled, motivated technician with customized work experience and a ready-made appreciation of the company's goals and needs. Work-based learning options match the company's staffing requirements to individual students' training needs, producing benefits for both," he added.

"Co-ops give companies a chance to grow their own," said Glenn. "Students are able to augment their classroom experiences with real-world experience and receive a paycheck for this valuable work experience."

Successful applicants for the BEST program must be full-time students in a technical program at Tri-County and have completed one semester of college work. They also must maintain an overall 2.5 GPA. They must work a minimum of four hours, but not required to work more than 20 hours per week at BorgWarner, working in his/her major course of study while attending school.

"Our challenge is to meet the needs of our employers in the tri-county area. The co-op is a way to help increase the enrollment so we can meet industry's increased demand," said Glenn.

"We frequently get calls from employers looking for MTT grads. Through this program and others, we are dedicated to attracting and training new students to create a pool of qualified CNC operators/programmers for employers."

"To increase your chance of getting a good job when you graduate, you need solid work experience in college," said Alison Reynolds, job placement coordinator. "Those selected for this program will graduate with that kind of experience which is very valuable for you and your resume," she said.

Tri-County Offers DOT Training



Cliff Selkinghaus, the State asphalt materials manager with SC DOT, teaches several of the SC DOT Technician Certification program classes offered through the Corporate and Community Education Division.

In September the College began its first semester of offering courses in the South Carolina Department of Transportation's (DOT) statewide technician certification program.

The SC DOT Technician Certification program, previously administered by Clemson University, has been transferred to Tri-County's Corporate and Community Education Division. This program provides the requirements an individual needs to seek certification as an SC DOT-certified inspector for work performed on construction projects.

"Contractors who are working on DOT projects must have technicians who are certified in various types of inspection and sometimes at multiple levels within these types. This is a certification program, not a training course," said Mary Corley, who spent much of the summer rewriting course manuals and preparing presentations, and will be teaching some of the courses this fall. Mary served as Program Coordinator for the SC DOT Technician Certification Program at Clemson University and an instructor for some of the courses in that program from 2005 – 2010. Any contractor or consultant on a DOT project must have a certified technician for the type of construction they are performing on that project. These certifications expire after five years, so technicians wishing to maintain their certifications must periodically attend a re-certification course for each type of certification that they hold. The key is to make sure that construction projects funded by the DOT are constructed in a quality manner with quality materials. "It's a cornerstone of the program," said Mary, who is assisted by longtime administrative assistant Myrtle Mraovich. "The classes are vital to the DOT for quality construction."

Classes are offered in the Industrial and Business Development Center and may be offered at the Easley Campus later in the year. Classes run from 2 – 5 days each.

Students Meet Tri-County's Athletes

A Meet the Athletes event was held to introduce the student body to our men's and women's soccer teams, women's basketball team, and men's golf team. Coaches and players gathered in the Café to get to know students and talk about upcoming games. (Women's basketball begins November 6.) "It meant a lot to our athletes to get this kind of support from the students, faculty, and staff," said Angie Abraham, athletic director.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



Women's Basketball team members are pictured here from left (seated) **Monique Johnson**, team manager, **Shemicka Smith**, and **Jessica Epps**, and (standing) **Alishia Kahan**, **Suzie Ashford**, **Allison Moore**, **Shakina Harris**, **Coach Alesia Smith**, **Dani Henderson**, **Coach Tammy White**, **Kourtney Patterson**, **Athletic Director Angie Abraham**, and **Cassandra Heyward**.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SOCCER



Several players from Men's and Women's soccer teams posed for a group photo. Pictured here are from left (front row, crouched) **Murphy Carter**, **Assistant Coach Sebastian Salazar**, **Molly Loch**, **Jordan Jeffcoat**, **Sterling Shytle**, and **Julia Campbell** and (back row) **Alex Flores**, **Kristina Brown**, **William Gilberry**, and **Drew Barbee**.

Workforce Initiative

(continued from page 8)

are eligible for retirement. Compounding this challenge is the reality that today's young students do not pursue careers in manufacturing. How do we get our next generation of workers excited about careers in manufacturing?" she asked. "We need a higher skilled workforce in general. Jobs require a new set of basic skills, including critical thinking and strong math and science. How do we capture the best and the brightest? The answer sits in this room. Colleges can serve as the supply chain that delivers your workers," she said.

"Manufacturing is the bedrock of our economy, and I see our manufacturers here engaging with the educational system. All players impact the success of manufacturing. You guys have got it right," said McNelly.



Dr. Booth, center, seen here talking with **Rep. Bill Sandifer**, left, and **Rep. Phil Owens**, delivered the opening remarks. Rep. Sandifer, chairman of the South Carolina House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee, also was on the program.



David Bowers, of JMMS in Easley, left, and **Glem Hellenka**, director of the College's Career Services Office, were among the attendees.

Pendleton Mayor Presented With Campus Aerial



Dr. Booth, center, and **John Lummus**, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement, right, recently presented Pendleton Mayor **Randy Hayes** with a framed aerial portrait of the Pendleton Campus which will hang in Pendleton's Town Hall. "The Town of Pendleton is most appreciative that you all took time out of your busy schedules to present us with such a wonderful gift. The Town is so very fortunate to have Tri-County Technical College as a partner," said Mayor Hayes.

BMW Reps Tour CNC Lab



BMW representatives toured the CNC lab recently to take a look at equipment. Pictured from left are **Lawrence Rosman**, section leader, **Thomas Knight**, production associate, **Jim Noble**, equipment and services associate, and **Will Artman**, of Anderson, an Engineering Graphics Technology major.

Women's Basketball Kicks Off November 6

The following is a listing of games through 2010. Check out tctcsports.com for a full schedule of the season.

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Nov. 6	Catawba CC	Central	2 p.m.
Nov. 14	Louisburg	Central	1 p.m.
Nov. 18	Mid Georgia Coll.	Cochran, GA	5:30 p.m.
Nov. 19	Denmark	Denmark	5 p.m.
Nov. 29	Clinton Jr. Coll.	Rock Hill	6 p.m.
Dec. 1	Middle Georgia	Central	5 p.m.
Dec. 3 & 4	Lady Cougar Classic Tournament		
Dec. 6	Cent Georgia Coll.	Macon, GA	6 p.m.
Dec. 9	Clinton Jr. Coll.	Central	7 p.m.
Dec. 11	Clinton Jr. Coll.	Rock Hill	2 p.m.

Nov. 14 game will be played at Central/
Clemson Recreation Center

Games noted as Central will be played at
Southern Wesleyan University

Easley Campus Open House Is November 9



General operations of our new Easley Campus are soon to be up and running, including student enrollment services, by November 9. Credit classes will begin at the campus, located on Powdersville Road, in January 2011. "Beginning November 9, we will have our employees settled into the Academic Building ready to help prospective Spring Semester students to begin the enrollment process right there in Easley," said Dr. Brian Swords, acting director of the Easley Campus. Also on November 9 there will be a special Easley Campus Enrollment Event/Open House for prospective students. Faculty and staff will share information about all of the Easley Campus programs and services and provide opportunities for students to apply for admission, learn about financial aid, take the placement test, talk with an academic advisor, and more.