

Connection

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George Acker is New College Commissioner

George Acker, Duke Energy’s southern region director for government and community relations, has been appointed to the College Commission, the governing board of the College.

Upon the recommendation of the Pickens County Council, Governor Mark Sanford appointed Mr. Acker to the Commission. His appointment is through April 2012. He takes the seat occupied by Dr. Mendel Stewart, who stepped down this spring after 32 years on the Commission.

“All of my adult life, I have been passionately supportive of education in general, and higher education in particular. I also understand first hand, from family experience, the value that Tri-County brings to the educational experience for the citizens of Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson counties,” said Mr. Acker, who has been with Duke Energy since 1981 and has held positions in Greenville, Anderson, Columbia, and Spartanburg, in addition to Charlotte, NC.

“In today’s changing economy, advanced and enhanced education is the building block for success for our citizens. My service on the Commission of Tri-County Technical College is nothing more than an acknowledgment of my core belief that all of us need to become better educated in order to compete and be successful in a world economy.”

His professional and civic affiliations include serving as a board member for Cannon Memorial Hospital, the Metropolitan Arts Council in Greenville, and the Clemson Research Foundation. He is a member of the Spartanburg Rotary Club and the Spartanburg Chamber Economic Advisory Board, as well as the S.C. State Energy Advisory Committee.

He serves as Vice Chairman of Upstate Alliance and is currently active in the Spartanburg Chamber Board and the S.C. State Chamber Board.

He is former Chairman of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, Greenville Convention and Visitors Bureau, and South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities. He previously served on the boards of the Anderson Chamber of Commerce, Anderson Economic Partnership Executive Committee, the Greenville Symphony, and the Better Business Bureau of the Foothills. He is past Chair and President of Pickens County United Way.

Mr. Acker is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned a master’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

He and his wife, Susan, live in Pickens and have three adult children.



George Acker

UPCOMING EVENTS

Benefits Fair and
Insurance Meetings Oct. 7
Annual Report Luncheon Nov. 10

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

Connection

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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

In my most recent CONNECTION column, I talked about how much we have grown and changed during the six years I have been president of Tri-County Technical College. We have embarked on several exciting new initiatives and experienced significant growth in enrollment and facilities. The Learning Excellence Initiative, Gateway to College, and Bridge to Clemson programs, all enormously successful in their own right, have changed the face of our institution. We have progressed from a one-campus college to a multi-campus institution, which impacts how we serve our customers and manage our day-to-day operations. Our enrollment has skyrocketed in recent years, with the most significant growth to date – 18.3% – occurring this semester.

In light of all that has happened during the last six years, I believe now is the time to pause and think critically and deliberately about what we want for the future of Tri-County Technical College. Fortunately, the timing is perfect because soon we are scheduled to begin working on the next cycle of our rolling three-year strategic plan. This year, our first step is to spend time developing a long-term vision for what we want Tri-County Technical College to be like in ten years. How do we want to be different from who we are today? What do we want our students to experience? What role should we play in the community? What kind of work environment do we want to have? What do we want our facilities to look like?

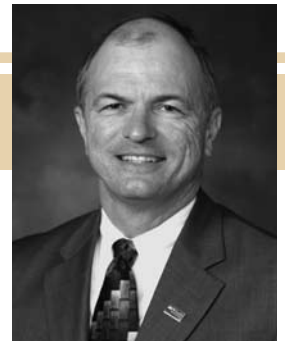
This first step is already underway. On September 23, the Vice Presidents, their direct reports, and the chairs of the Faculty Senate, Staff Advisory Board, and Title III Planning Team met to begin painting a picture of the future of Tri-County Technical College. We started the day by describing the characteristics and attributes of an ideal community college, which helped us to begin envisioning what is possible for our future. Next, we talked about our stakeholder groups – who they are, what they say about us now, and what we want them to say about us in ten years. Finally, we examined our responses to the stakeholder questions and began developing broad strategies to close the gaps between where we are at present and our desired future state.

The retreat was only the beginning of our journey to develop a long-term vision for Tri-County Technical College – and a plan to achieve it. Our next step is to share that information with the larger College community through focus groups and seek their input. We also will seek guidance from our governing board, the Tri-County Technical College Commission. After we have obtained broad-based feedback, we will be ready to begin articulating our ten-year vision and formulating a strategic plan to achieve it.

The September 23 retreat was exhausting, yet exhilarating. After hours of energetic discussion and debate captured on more than fifty sheets of flip-chart paper, it was obvious that everyone in the room shared one common aspiration – for Tri-County Technical College to be the best community college in the nation – even the world. No one seemed at all interested in mediocrity or even in being second-best. I believe that feeling reflects the sentiments of the larger College family. As we undertake the next level of feedback, I feel confident we will see that same level of enthusiasm reflected in each of you.

This is the start of a journey. Let's follow the path together to see where it leads us.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President



Ronnie L. Booth
President

Golden OPPORTUNITIES *to shape the future*

Cheryl Bauknight Contributes to “PAWS for a Cause”

Cheryl Bauknight is a true animal advocate who demonstrates her love for animals in her contributions to the Pickens County community and the College.

“I want people to be aware of Tri-County’s Veterinary Technology program and to see its value to the community,” said Bauknight, who serves as an active member of both the Veterinary Technology advisory committee and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), which oversee all animal care for the USDA.

In addition to her service on the committees, Cheryl has donated to the “PAWS for a Cause” campaign, which allows individuals to purchase a dog paw, a cat paw, or a horseshoe in memory or in honor of a beloved pet. Each one is personalized with the pet’s name, the donor’s name, and a brief message and is displayed in Halbert Hall. The cost is \$50 per paw, and proceeds go to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation to support the Veterinary Technology program.

At a recent advisory committee meeting, Cheryl added a second paw to the wall, this time in memory of Sylvester, her family members’ cat. She also sponsored a paw for a good friend in Tennessee.

She says “PAWS for a Cause” is a wonderful way to honor the animals and their owners. “The memorial fund is a way to help the program which I hope to see expanding in coming years.”

The monies raised through “PAWS for a Cause” will one day be used toward the cost of expanding Halbert Hall to better serve



Cheryl Bauknight

the animals that come to the Veterinary Technology Department through local animal shelters. This addition will include a new dog kennel with 20 indoor/outdoor runs, 12 additional outdoor runs, a new cat ward, and a new isolation ward, as well as additional storage space.

I support Tri-County and its Veterinary Technology program because I believe in their mission with all my heart,” said Cheryl. “Their mission is providing quality education and training of students, as well as aiding our community by interacting with all

(continued on page 8)

Jennifer Cape Receives Shining Star Alumni Award

Jennifer Cape, of Seneca, a 2006 graduate of our associate degree Nursing program, is the first recipient of the College’s Shining Star Alumni Award. A new honor instituted this year, this recognition is given by the College’s Alumni Association to a recent graduate who has excelled in his or her occupation.

Jennifer was on duty at Oconee Medical Center’s ER December 27, 2008, when Officer Ken Kirby was brought in after suffering a massive heart attack. She was the one who felt a faint pulse on Officer Kirby who, after repeated attempts to revive him, had flatlined twice. Kirby was transported to Greenville, where he underwent surgery on the main artery to his heart, which had a 93 percent blockage. Just one hour after surgery, the man who had been pronounced dead was sitting up in his hospital bed, talking with his family members.

People all over the world read and heard about this miracle patient, dubbed Officer Lazarus, and featured on The Today Show



and every major television news show.

Pictured, above, with **Jennifer** are **Jimmy Edmonds**, a longtime member of the Alumni Association board of directors, left, and **John Lummus**, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement.

Our College Family

excellence through service



Deborah Brock

Deborah Brock was elected president of the SC Society of Clinical Lab Science and will represent the state at the national and regional levels. She previously held position of Area I Director and Student Forum Chair for the organization.

The College has partnered with Siemens AG, to make Mechatronics certification available to local industries.



Jay Sloan



Shan Smith

Two instructors recently returned from a month-long stay at the Siemens Technik Akademie in Berlin, Germany. **Jay Sloan**, an instructor in the Corporate and Community Education Division (CCE), and **Shan Smith**, an Industrial Electronics

Technology instructor, both received their internationally recognized Level Two Mechatronics Instructor's certification.

The Siemens Mechatronic Systems Certification Program (SMSCP) is the international, industry-standard comprehensive skills certification in mechatronic systems, which is the combination of electrical, mechanical and computer engineering.

Jay implemented the "Systems Approach" method of training into the Mechatronic Systems Program for CCE. Currently, there are more than 80 students in the program. Shan will teach Mechatronics courses next fall when the Industrial Maintenance program becomes the Mechatronics program.

in transition

STUDENT AFFAIRS DIVISION



Amber Mulkey

Amber Allen Mulkey is the new Coordinator of Student Life for the Bridge to Clemson program. Her office is housed at Highpointe of Clemson. Amber was the Residence Hall Director at Georgia Tech from 2008 - 09 and began her career as a Resident Director and Student Activities Director at Young Harris College. She holds a B. S. in

Sociology from Lander University and an M. Ed. in Student Affairs from Clemson University. She and her husband, Clyde, live in Seneca.

Candice (Candy) Raines is working in Students Records as an Administrative Specialist. From 1989 - 2009, she was Head of Acquisitions for Presbyterian College's library. She has worked as an Administrative Assistant for Residence Life at Presbyterian. She holds a B. S. in Microbiology from Clemson University and a Medical Technologist (ASCP) certification from Anderson Memorial Hospital (now AnMed). She worked as a Medical Technologist at Oconee Medical Center from 1987 - 89.



Candy Raines

She is a former Girl Scout leader and trainer for 16 years and is Assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scouts Troop 130. She is a member of All Saints Episcopal Church where she was Youth Group Leader for five years. She is a member of the Altar Guild and a Vestry member. Candy and her husband, Charles, live in Clinton, and have two children, Jennifer, 23, and Christopher, 18.

ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

Keri Catalfomo is teaching in the Mathematics Department full time after two years as an adjunct instructor. Her experience includes teaching at Anderson University, Bryant University, and the Community College of Rhode Island. She began her career as an engineer at Raytheon Company and later worked for Texas Instruments as an Engineer.



Keri Catalfomo

She holds a B.S. in Industrial Management Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a master's in Mathematics from Providence College.

She is a member of the South Carolina Association of Two-Year Colleges and is a parishioner at St. Joseph Catholic Church. She and her husband, Tony, have three children, Kasey, 16; Domenic, 14; and Lucas, 11. They live in Anderson.

Beverly Thompson joined the Science Department as a Biology instructor this semester. She taught as an adjunct instructor from 1989 - 1995 and later from 1999 - 2005. Other work experience includes teaching at Anderson



Beverly Thompson

University in 2005, Laboratory Manager at Clemson University Lab from 1990 – 96, and Program Coordinator for the Horticulture program at Trident Technical College from 1996 – 98.

She holds a B.S. in Horticulture and a master of Science in Agriculture from Clemson University. She served as the Secretary for the National Association of Women in Horticulture from 1984 – 86 and as Membership Chair of the South Carolina Greenhouse Growers Association from 1984 – 88.

She and her husband, Donnie, have two children, Billy, 4, and Conner, 3. They live in Anderson.

Catherine (Cathy) Saidat joined the Anderson Campus faculty full time this semester as a Sociology instructor. She has taught as an adjunct there since 2006. She has worked as a self-employed Housing Policy Researcher from 2004 - present and as a Production Coordinator for Chapter House in Downers Grove, IL, from 1997 – 2000. For 10 years prior to that, she was a dance instructor at Elk Grove Park District.

She holds an A.A.S. in Facility Management at the College of Dupage in Glen Ellyn, IL, a B.S. in Business Management and Urban Studies at Elmhurst College in IL, and an M.A. in Sociology from George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Cathy lives in Anderson and has a son, Alec, 27.

The English Department welcomes two new instructors – **Amelia (Amy) Burrell** and **Mary Geren** – this semester. Since 2007, Amy has worked as an adjunct English instructor and as a tutor in the Writing Center last year. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Clemson University. She was a Teaching Assistant at Clemson from 2003 – 05 and an Administrative Assistant at a venture capital corporation from 2005 – 07. Amy lives in Clemson.



Mary Geren

Mary has been a lecturer for Clemson University's English Department since 2003. She holds a bachelor and master's degrees in English from Clemson, where she graduated summa cum laude and in the top five percent of her class. She is the recipient of an Abney Foundation scholarship and was nominated for the Excellence in Teaching Award at Clemson in 2005. She is a member and



Cathy Saidat



Amy Burrell

volunteer at New Spring Church.

She and her husband, Shawn, have a daughter, Madilyn, 3. They live in Belton.

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Elisabeth Newberry Gadd joined the Foundation Office as its Director of Development.

She has seven years of non-profit fundraising experience, beginning with working as the Director of Development for the Collins Home & Families Ministries in Seneca and later as Executive Director of the Joe and Kristina Crosby Education Foundation. From 1999 – 2002, she worked in political fundraising, as Scheduling and Finance Director for the Gresham Barrett for Congress campaign and as a Staff Aide for the Lindsey Graham for Congress campaign.

She holds an A.A. from Florida Community College, a B.A. in Political Science from Arizona State University, and master's degree in Non-Profit Management from the University of Central Florida. She began her career as a paralegal for law firms.

Her professional affiliations include serving as the 2009 – 2010 vice president of marketing for ABWA Golden Corner Express Network. She is a member of Oconee Alliance, the Oconee County Business Education Partnership, and the Seneca Junior Woman's Club. She attends Crosspoint Church in Clemson.

She and her husband, Jim, live in Seneca. She has two sons, Kyle, 9, and Tyler, a freshman at The Citadel.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS

Bob White is working as an Application Analyst in the Information Technology department. He has been working as a Programmer/Analyst since 1979 when he began his career at Carolina Leaf Tobacco. Other work experience includes Glen Raven (1997 – 2009) and Suitt Construction (1982 – 97). Bob earned a B.S. in Business from East Carolina University. He also has an associate in Business degree from Pitt Community College.

He is a member of Georges Creek Baptist Church. He and his wife, Nancy, have a daughter, Katie, 17. They live in Easley.



Elisabeth Gadd



Bob White



Suzie Hill, the mother of a student enrolled in a dual credit class with Daniel High School in Clemson wrote this note to

Amanda Blanton, our dean of Enrollment Management:

"I want to tell you how incredibly kind and helpful everyone at Tri-County Technical College was to me and my son as we finalized his enrollment in the dual credit math class at Daniel High School. We were having problems with online payment, so we called Roxanne Hibbs in the STEP office and someone (I wish I knew who!) in the business office on Late Registration Day, which I am sure was one of the busiest days of the year! They were both kind and patient with us as we worked through what was ultimately "operator error." (That means me and my son!). I love TCTC – no wonder you have record-breaking enrollment!"

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.

ADN Major Among Those Who Give Blood



Chris Lyon, of Anderson, was among the faculty, staff, and students who participated in the College's Future Laboratory Professionals/AnMed Health-sponsored blood drive. Lyon, an associate degree Nursing major, is pictured with **Cindy Payne**, a phlebotomist at AnMed. Fifty-nine units of blood were collected.

Our College Family con't.

retirement



Rick Bethea, fifth from left, retired in August after 23 years as a Student Aid Counselor/Veterans' Coordinator. Pictured with him are his colleagues in the Financial Aid Office, from left, **Karen Garrett**, **Cathy Cole**, **Mary Heyer**, **Mark Tannery**, **Dot Bradley**, also a recent retiree, and **Bill Whitlock**.

sympathy extended

Former colleague **Harrison "Harry" Williams**, 73, died September 3 at his residence. Harrison was employed as our HVAC supervisor in the Maintenance Department for 14 years.

United Way Campaign kicks off this fall. Check eTC for additional details.

Faculty/Staff Join Learning College Conversation

A full house registered for the first session of Learning College 101, the first of three interactive sessions focusing on faculty and staff engaging in dialogue and activities steered by Learning College Guiding Principles. The session on September 17 was facilitated by Galen DeHay and Jackie Blakley, who led conversations and group sessions about fostering an environment focused on learning and service excellence.



Planners/Facilitators for these workshops are Sue Andrus, Jackie Blakley, Deborah Brock, Galen DeHay, Penny Edwards, Rebecca Eidson, Katy Goforth, Lou Ann Martin, and Gwen Owens. Additional workshops are set for October 14 and November 10.

Gregg Stapleton Joins College as Vice President for Business Affairs

Working in higher education in Upstate South Carolina is a dream come true for Gregg Stapleton, who accepted the job of Vice President of Business Affairs earlier this summer.

As Chief Business Officer for the College, Gregg plans, directs, and administers comprehensive business affairs programs in the areas of administrative services, facilities, fiscal affairs, information technology, personnel, physical plant, and security.

Looking to the future, Gregg and his family bought a house on Lake Keowee in 2006 and felt more drawn to the area every time they vacationed there. “We knew it’s where we wanted to live the rest of our lives after retirement,” said Gregg, who, at the time, was beginning a job as Vice President of Financial Operations at Houston Baptist University in Texas.

He was anticipating the move to South Carolina was years away – he didn’t know they would relocate quite this soon. His son was accepted at Clemson University last year, and his family moved to the Salem home soon after. He commuted every week to Houston, where he was the Chief Financial Officer of the 2,400-student private university. While in the position, he oversaw a \$100 million endowment, \$50 million operating budget, and \$40 million of construction projects annually.

Then he saw the job at Tri-County posted. “It sounded like a good fit. I am drawn to higher education and the mission of Tri-County – making a difference in people’s lives. Tri-County is in a unique position to serve the community and plays a vital role in helping our neighbors to find jobs and in keeping local business and industry competitive,” said Gregg, who has nearly three decades of diverse financial, administrative, information technology, and commercial leadership experience in higher education and the corporate world.

He spent 27 years working around the globe for Houston-based Marathon Oil Company, where he held various management positions in finance, administration, and information technology.

“I like the scope of my responsibilities here at Tri-County. I’ve been responsible for most of these functions over the course of my career. I wanted to translate my experience into benefit for the not-for-profit world.”

He holds a bachelor’s degree in Finance from the University of Notre Dame and an MBA from Houston Baptist University.

He published an article titled “Change Management Underpins a Successful ERP Implementation at Marathon Oil” in the fall 2004 *Journal of Organizational Excellence* and presented “Communicating a Renaissance, Gaining Employee Commitment to Process Improvement, Technology, and Change” to the Association for Quality and Productivity at its national meeting in New Orleans in 2003.

He and his wife, Kathy, have four children, Michelle, 24; Eileen, 21; Patrick, 19; and Phillip, 8.



Gregg Stapleton

Students Get Connected at Annual Event



Get Connected, an annual student activities event sponsored by the Student Government Association, was the College’s first fall semester event. The event gives students an opportunity to meet other students, sign-up for clubs/organizations, and enjoy free pizza, drinks, giveaways, and more. Here, **Travis Jackson**, of Honea Path, front, and **Isaiah Bell**, of Anderson, middle, talk with **Glenda Waters** of the Career Services Office. Travis is a Computer Technology major, and Isaiah is a University Transfer major.

Executive Staff Updates

- **Visioning Process and Strategic Planning:** First steps were taken to develop a long-term vision for the College during a planning retreat attended by the president, vice presidents and their direct reports, and the chairpersons of the Faculty Senate, the Staff Advisory Board, and the Title III planning committee. The session kicked off the next cycle of strategic planning and budgeting for the College. Next steps will include gaining input from the College community.
- **Institutional Effectiveness:** The Executive Staff discussed and further refined the institutional effectiveness component of the College as part of the work of the Committee on Committees.
- **Pandemic Flu Preparation:** A workgroup has been appointed to recommend procedures and protocols for the TCTC Pandemic Flu Plan. The group will coordinate, collect, monitor, and report to the Emergency Management Team (EMT) all information and data needed to make informed decisions for the health and welfare of the TCTC community.

PAWS for a Cause

(continued from page 3)

the local animal shelters, helping get their animals adopted, and providing care as well as socialization. This attracts above-average students who will go out into their communities as ambassadors and leaders in their profession.”

“Cheryl is very helpful in keeping us abreast of what the community is interested in,” said Vet Tech Department Head Dr. Peggy Champion, adding that she also assists with getting the word out about the department’s adoption days. “Most of the committee is comprised of veterinarians and veterinary technicians, and Cheryl brings a fresh community view to the table. She listens to the issues and then gives great feedback.”

A pharmacist at the Free Medical Clinic in Easley, Cheryl began her education at Tri-County in 1972 in the Medical Assisting program, alongside fellow Medical Assisting major and good friend, Dr. Lynn Lewis. “When the public member for our IACUC committee (which regulates animal safety within USDA guidelines) and a spot on our Veterinary Technology advisory committee opened, I could not think of a better representative than Cheryl. I knew her instincts and interest in animal care/welfare would be great assets to the program. She is always a faithful attendee who contributes to the work of our animal care from a community perspective.”

“I want to thank Cheryl and others who have contributed to the Foundation for the care of our dogs and cats,” said Dr. Champion. “It’s a way of turning a negative experience into something positive and a way to show you care for fellow faculty and staff, family, and friends.

For more information about “PAWS for a Cause”, contact Elisabeth Gadd, director of Development, at 646-1812 or egadd@tctc.edu.

First Energy Summit and Expo Draws 150

Dr. Booth welcomed the crowd at the Tri-County Energy Summit and Expo by telling them that together we can be better.

The event, held September 18 at the Anderson Sports and Entertainment Center, brought together industry and policy experts for an interactive day of engaging discussions and presentations that will help educate and equip tomorrow’s energy leaders. During the Energy Summit & Expo, various sessions addressed and explored ways to reduce energy costs and provide tools and resources to help transform Upstate industry into energy efficient, role models for South Carolina.

“Today’s seminars focus on how to minimize energy consumption and maximize the output – in short, how to be more efficient and effective in what we do,” said Dr. Booth. “It is about finding ways to learn best practices and how to be more efficient. We believe it is important to help businesses be better at what they do and we are committed to training them through our Corporate and Community Education Division. Today is about how we can be better together.”

Anderson County sponsored the all-day event, in partnership with Pickens County, Oconee County, Tri-County Technical College, Blue Ridge Electric Co-op, SYS Constructors, South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Piedmont Natural Gas, Fort Hill Natural Gas, Oconee Alliance, Alliance Pickens, WorkLink, Anderson Chamber of Commerce, and Duke Energy.



Dr. Booth, middle, talks with **Tim Mays**, left, and **Terry Ballenger**, both of Blue Ridge Electric Co-op, prior to the beginning of the Energy Summit and Expo.

College Takes First Steps in Developing New Vision at All-Day Retreat

Developing a ten-year vision was the topic of a day-long retreat involving Dr. Booth, the Vice Presidents and their direct reports, and the chairpersons of the Faculty Senate, the Staff Advisory Board, and the Title III Planning Team. Participants spent much of the day working in small groups, including this workgroup comprised of (left to right) Lisa Poore, administrative assistant in the President’s Office and chair of the Staff Advisory Board; Lee Tennent, Information Technology director; Dr. Chris Marino, director of Research and Evaluation; Dr. Gwen Owens, dean of the Arts and Sciences Division; and Dr. Thwanda Davidson, director of TRiO programs. See Dr. Booth’s column on page two for more information about the retreat.

