

Connection

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College Mourns Loss of Rosemary Lindley

The College mourns the loss of Commissioner and community leader Rosemary Lindley, who passed away suddenly September 22 at Piedmont Hospital in Atlanta, GA. Mrs. Lindley served on our College Commission since 2001 and represented Anderson County.

In addition to her husband, Charles, Mrs. Lindley is survived by her daughter, Carrie Lindley Pruitt, and her husband, John; her son, James Harley Lindley, and his wife, Tamara; and five grandchildren, Jackson Lindley, Walker Lindley, Mary Pruitt, Elizabeth Pruitt, and Sarah Grace Pruitt.

Over the years, the Commission benefited from Mrs. Lindley's counsel, guidance, and leadership. She represented the Commission on the South Carolina Association of Technical College Commissioners and served on the College's Building Committee.

At the time Mrs. Lindley joined the Commission in 2001, Chair Helen Rosemond-Saunders was the only female serving on the board. "I was so excited when Rosemary joined me on a male-dominated board," said Mrs. Rosemond-Saunders. "From the beginning, she was a real asset to our Commission. She brought her experience as a former public school teacher, and she represented her constituents in Anderson County, and served as an advocate for technical college education for all citizens of South Carolina," she said.

"She was a stabilizer in promoting board policies. She was actively involved in all board meetings and workshops on the local, state, and national levels," said Mrs. Rosemond-Saunders. "Rosemary will definitely be missed."

"She understood the role of a board member, and she wanted Tri-County to be a great place," said Dr. Booth. "She did her homework, and she wasn't afraid to ask the hard questions. She got the big picture of what Tri-County Technical College is all about. She always looked at the implications of the Commission's decisions and prefaced many of our conversations with, 'You need to think about ...', he said.

"She was dedicated to her role with the South Carolina Association of Technical College Commissioners, and she was always informed and represented the College well. She was well respected among her peers and was seen as a leader," said Dr. Booth. Mrs. Lindley was a proponent of our Gateway to College program from its beginning and was among the three board members who traveled on site visits to observe other colleges' programs.

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Rosemary Lindley

EASLEY CAMPUS KEY DATES



September 20 – QuickJobs Center Opens – first class is United Tool & Mold

November 1 – Move-In Day for Academic Building

November 9 – Easley Campus Enrollment Event/Open House for prospective students

November 18 – Foundation Preview Party; Major Gifts Campaign Event (invitation only)

December 10 – Dedication Ceremony (open to public)

January 10, 2011 – Spring Semester Begins

Connecting



Ronnie L. Booth
President

*W*hile unemployment rates remain high, it is encouraging to see there are many jobs available and ready to be filled. If you read the newspaper

or listen to local news, you hear about companies like First Quality Tissue, BMW, and Timken, all of which are adding new jobs in the Upstate. Not only do they have jobs available, they pay competitive salaries. The catch is you must have the right skills set, like the skills we teach in our Mechatronics, Welding, Industrial Electronics, and other technical programs.

While no career is guaranteed to be recession-proof, these trends show that individuals armed with strong technical skills have a better chance of obtaining and keeping a job during difficult economic times. Part of our mission at Tri-County Technical College is not only to provide training, but also to raise awareness of these opportunities and attract students to our programs.

It's not always easy, particularly among young people, but we are fortunate to have talented, dedicated employees who continually engage in activities aimed at recruiting students into technical training programs aligned with career opportunities at local manufacturing companies. One example is the recent Business and Industry Showcase held at Clemson University's Littlejohn Coliseum September 29. Our College was well-represented and worked hand-in-glove with representatives of local companies and economic development organizations to help the public understand career options and opportunities, as well as related training requirements. The morning segment of the showcase was targeted to middle school students who are just beginning to engage in the career exploration process and later was opened up to parents and the community. Overall, the showcase was well-received and is just one of many similar events we have participated in during recent years.

These outreach activities have had a real payoff over time, most notably in some of our industrial programs where enrollment had been declining until a few years ago. Enrollment in the I&ET 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.

This growth means we are fast running out of space, which is why we recently purchased approximately five acres of land and a 43,000-square-foot building in Sandy Springs, located five miles from the Pendleton Campus. Formerly the Virginia Carolina Tobacco Co., the building will be retrofitted to serve as the new location for the College's Welding, HVAC, and Construction programs. With a purchase price far less than the cost of constructing a new building on our already-crowded Pendleton Campus, we feel we have made a wise investment for our College and the community.

Our 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 are enrolled 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.

It is encouraging to know that even in challenging economic times, good jobs are available to those who have the right skills – skills we teach at Tri-County Technical College. Our enrollment in these programs is growing, which is evidence that we are achieving our mission to serve as a catalyst for the economic development of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

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.

Our College Family

excellence through service

Galen DeHay, science department head, received an invitation to be a contributor at Pearson Publishing Company's Mastering Development Summit in San Francisco, October 15 – 16. The company asked Galen to help author some questions and work on the next Mastering Development Process. Our Science Department uses Mastering for online homework.



Galen DeHay

Janelle Hicks

Janelle Hicks, director of Healthcare Programs for the Corporate and Community Education Division, was recently appointed to the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) College of Health Professions Alumni Association Advisory Board. She graduated from MUSC with a master's degree in Health Services Administration.

in transition

ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

Elizabeth M. Cox joined us this summer as an Administrative Specialist for the Division. She has a wealth of experience, serving as an Administrative Secretary for colleges and school districts, as well as businesses.

She comes to us from Blue Ridge High School, where she was Secretary to the Principal for four years and prior to that was a Receptionist for seven years at the school. Other work experience includes Office Manager for the Financial Aid and Student Work Opportunity Office at Berry College in Rome, GA; Secretary for the Claimsman, Inc., an independent insurance adjustor in Rome; and Firms Administrator for Read, Martin, and Slickman Certified Public Accountants in Rome for five years. Early in her career, she worked as an Administrative Secretary for the Office of Development at Berry College and as an Office Secretary for the University of Georgia.

She earned an associate in Science (Secretarial Science) degree from Floyd Junior College (now Georgia Highlands College). She is a member of the Greater Greenville Association of Educational Office Professionals and a past member of the International Association of Administrative Professionals. Elizabeth is a notary public. She and her husband, Ray, have adult children and live in Seneca.

Kate Williams is our new Psychology instructor. She has been working as an adjunct for the last year while working as an instructor for the Psychology Department at Clemson University. From 2002 – 2009, she was Assistant Director at the Clemson



Elizabeth M. Cox



Kate Williams

Blood Drive is Most Successful to Date



The College's September 8 Blood Drive at its Pendleton Campus was the College's most successful to date – with 80 successful donations.

Jeremy McCracken, social science instructor, was among the College's faculty, staff, and students who donated blood at the drive sponsored by the Future Laboratory Professionals and AnMed Health. Pictured with Jeremy is **Brenda Turner**, phlebotomist.

Sprucing Up the Pendleton Campus



If you have walked around the mall area on the Pendleton Campus, you may have noticed some improvements to our campus amenities and services. Here, **Johnnie Manse**, a member of our College Café staff, spends the busy morning hours serving drinks, biscuits, fruit, and other snacks to students and employees from a new vending cart located near Oconee Hall. Another vending station is located between Miller and Hicks Halls. In addition, new tables and shade umbrellas have been placed outside the café, and the old ones have been painted and moved to other areas of the campus to provide more areas for students to gather to study and socialize. Several attractive new benches also have been placed under shade trees and along the walkways.

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This letter to the editor appeared in the Anderson Independent-Mail on September 9, 2010.

I'm writing to thank several people who teach at Tri-County Technical College. All had a huge part in my success. I had a learning disability, and math was not my cup of tea, but I had a team of motivated and intelligent teachers who gave me something: the will to survive in a cruel world.

Success is a journey. I am 45 years old. It was not easy for me to go back to school. I remember what **Cindy Trimmier-Lee** said to me; it was an old saying: "What doesn't kill you will make you stronger." **Herm Allen** told me, "Every man has a destiny. If you have the tools and you have the faith of God, you will be blessed."

I want to give a special thanks to my tutors, **Cynthia Faverty** and **Tiffany Rogers**. These ladies did not let me give up. Special thanks also to **Jimmy Walker**, **Sue Dickerson**, **Tonia Faulling** and **Chris Worthy**. They made time for me and that meant the world to me. A very special thanks is also given to **Dr. Jerry Marshall**, who is over the Math Department. He was the funniest instructor but, more important, it was a pleasure to learn from him. I took a fancy to the way he taught class.

I would also like to say something about **John Woodson**. He's over the Radio and Television courses. He told me that, while he was in college, math was his problem. But he stuck it out. He made a C, but he was proud of that C because he worked so hard for it. Mr. Woodson, like all of the people I mentioned, was my instructor but also my friend.

Calvin Walker
Liberty, SC

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

Our College Family

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University Career Center and served as the Director of Career Services at Oglethorpe University from 1998 - 2002.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration (Marketing) from Stetson University in Orlando, Florida, a master of Education in Student Affairs from the University of South Carolina, as well as a master of Science in Applied Psychology from Clemson. She is working on her Ph.D. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at Clemson.

She and her husband, Jamie, have two children, Matthew, 7; and Mason, 4. They live in Clemson.

Allison Andrew became a full-time instructor in our English Department this semester after teaching as an adjunct for the past year. She was a graduate teacher of record at Clemson University from 2008 - 09. She holds a bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies from USC Upstate and a master's in English from Clemson.

She authored Transgender Nation: TransAmerica and Crossing Borders, which was published in English Language Notes, as well as Collaborative Writing as an Autoethnographic Study of Co-Authorship in the USC Upstate Undergraduate Research Journal. Allison lives in Taylors.

After three years of teaching as an adjunct, **Dr. Rhonda Whitten** is now a full-time instructor for the Social Sciences Department. For the past 10 years, she was a Certified Addictions Counselor for the Anderson-Oconee Behavioral Health Services and was a part-time instructor at USC Upstate and Clemson in the late 1990's.

Rhonda holds a B.A. in Psychology from Gannon University in Erie, PA, an M.Ed. in Community Counseling from Clemson University, and a Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from the University of Georgia.

She and her husband, Barry, live in Central.

Marisa Shook is now a full-time Spanish instructor after teaching as an adjunct for a year. For 23 years (1985 - 2008), she was a Spanish teacher at Hendersonville High School in Hendersonville, NC. She earned a bachelor's degree in Education and Spanish from Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI, and spent her junior year abroad at Universidad de Madrid. She earned a master's in Spanish and Latin American Literature from the University of Colorado in Boulder. She and her husband, Danny, live in Seneca.

Alberta Reed is our new Mathematics instructor. She has been teaching mathematics at the college and high school levels since 1976. Most recently, she was a mathematics professor for 10 years at Eastern Illinois University, where she was the Distinguished Honors Faculty nominee in 2009. She holds a B.S. in Mathematics from Illinois State University and



Allison Andrew



Dr. Rhonda Whitten



Marisa Shook



Alberta Reed

an M.S. in Mathematics from Chicago State University. Alberta lives in Anderson.

Suzanne Ellenberger is the new instructor in our Chemistry Department. For the last five years, she has been a lecturer for Clemson University and prior to that she taught at Oklahoma State University. She holds a B.S. in Dietetics from San Jose University and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from Oregon Health Sciences University.



Suzanne Ellenberger

BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

Heidi Friedel is the new Program Coordinator for the Early Childhood Development program.

Heidi holds an associate degree in Child Care Worker from Washtenaw Community College, a bachelor's degree in Family Life Education from Spring Arbor University in Spring Arbor, MI, and a master's degree in Child Development from Michigan State University.



Heidi Friedel

She worked for nine years as an adjunct Early Childhood instructor at Jackson Community College, Baker College, and Concordia University in Ann Arbor, in addition to 13 years teaching in pre-schools and serving as the Center Director for the Children's Educational Center in Grass Lake, Michigan.

She is an active member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and over the past 15 years has served as the organization's Affiliate President, Affiliate Representative to Michigan AEYC, Public Policy Chair, and Accreditation Chair.

She and her husband, Mike, have a son, Justin, 12, and they live in Walhalla.

Criminal Justice alumnus **Dr. Larry Myers** returned this semester to teach in the program he graduated from in 1981. For the past 30 years, Larry has worked in law enforcement in a variety of capacities, beginning as a Police Officer for Belton and moving on to Beaufort County Sheriff's Department where he was a Deputy and later Detective. He supervised the Hilton Head Beach Patrol Shore Enterprise for two summers until accepting a job in 1989 as a Criminal Justice Information Technician at the Division of Criminal Justice Information Systems, Crime Information Bureau, Seal and Expunge Unit, for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement in Tallahassee. Several years later he was promoted to Senior Criminal Justice Information Technician. He began his teaching career in 1991 as an Assistant Professor for the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology for East Tennessee State University and later as a Criminal Justice Lecturer for the College of Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University in Texas. He spent the last five years as an Assistant Professor for the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Western Carolina University.



Dr. Larry Myers

Larry graduated cum laude with a bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of South Carolina in 1986. He also holds a master of science in

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Executive Staff Updates

- **Fall Start-up Debrief:** The Post-Registration Debriefing Ad-Hoc Committee will study and make recommendations to refine the registration/purge process, including timing of key dates and events. The group will report back to Executive Staff before the end of Fall Semester.
- **Traffic Patterns:** The Department of Transportation (DOT) has completed a study of traffic flow on the Pendleton Campus, including entry and exit points, peak traffic times, and safety issues. Additional research will be conducted to determine what improvements can be made in the near term, as well as what should be considered as part of the Pendleton Campus Master Planning project.
- **Grants Update:** Amanda Spacil, director of Grants, provided an update on the different types of grants received by the College, all of which help to fund staff, training, facilities, and equipment.
- **Strategic Planning:** Dates will be set for departments to provide a mid-year update to the College leadership on their progress in completing the first-year activities identified in the College's Three-Year Strategic Plan (FY 2011-13).
- **Drop/Add Period:** The Executive Staff reviewed a proposal to change the drop/add period. Additional research will be completed before a final decision is made.
- **Campus Nomenclature:** The Executive Staff reviewed a recommendation for naming conventions to use when referencing College campuses and other College locations. When a final decision is made, it will be communicated to the campuses.
- **Document Imaging Systems/Transfer Credit/CAPP Update:** Scott Harvey, director of Student Records, provided an update on improved efficiencies in the College's student record-keeping systems, including the automatic articulation of 17,684 college and

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Our College Family

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Criminology from Florida State University. His Ph.D. in Educational Human Resource Development is from Texas A & M University.

He has co-authored several books including CJUS: An Introduction to Criminal Justice (Student Edition) in 2009 and Active Learning in the Criminal Justice Classroom in 2007.

He has been published in various journals and publications. His most recent article, "The Creation of Regional Partnerships for Regional Emergency Planning," is set to appear in the Journal of Business Continuity and Emergency Planning later this year.

He and his wife, Laura, live in Greenwood, and have two sons, Ryan, 12, and Taylor, 9.

BUSINESS AFFAIRS DIVISION

Sara Crocker came on board July 27 as Assistant Manager of the Bookstore. She graduated summa cum laude from Anderson University in 2009 with a B.A. in Communications.



Sara Crocker

She received the University's Achievement Award for Excellence in Communications. She is a volunteer with the Anderson County Humane Society. Sara and her husband, Brent, are members of Boulevard Baptist Church and live in Anderson.

Sympathy is extended to the family of **John White**, procurement specialist for the College, who passed away September 1. John had been battling an inoperable brain tumor that was discovered only last May.

Students "GET CONNECTED"

Students enjoyed free pizza, drinks and freebies at "Get Connected," our first fall semester event. The "Get Connected" event gives students an opportunity to meet other students, sign-up for clubs/organizations, and much more. "Get Connected" was held on the Pendleton Campus September 1, from 12 - 2 p.m. for day students and from 5 - 6:15 p.m. for evening students. The Anderson Campus event was held September 8.



Several of the Women's Basketball team members manned an Athletics table at the event. Pictured here are **Alishia Kahan**, a Computer Technology major; **Monique Johnson**, of Ware Shoals, Early Childhood Development major and manager of the team, seated; **Suzia Ashford**, of Australia, a University Transfer major; **Dani Henderson**, of Simpsonville, a Criminal Justice major; **Jessica Epps**, an Automated Office Technology major; and **Shemicka Smith**, a University Transfer major.

LaKishia Dinkins, an admissions counselor and advisor for the International Students Association, left, talks with **Cerieda Jones**, of Seneca, a Business Management major.



Representatives from both Student Democrats and Student Republicans Clubs were on hand to distribute information about their clubs and voting pledge cards. Here, **Mary Geren**, the advisor for Student Democrats, talks with students.



Constitution Day Celebration

Students at the Pendleton and Anderson Campuses celebrated the signing of the United States Constitution by observing Constitution Day September 16. Pocket-sized copies of the U.S. Constitution were distributed on a first-come, first-served basis and the crowd enjoyed food and fellowship. Pictured here from left are **Wendy Sutton**, president of the Student Government Association; **Croslena Johnson**, director of Student Life and Counseling; and **James Werner**, a Radio and Television Broadcasting major.



Tri-County is Sears' First Choice for Recruiting

Sears Human Resources Lead Robyn Wilson says Tri-County was her first choice when deciding where to recruit for full- and part-time jobs at the company's Anderson Mall store.

"Over the years Sears has had the privilege of hiring many of Tri-County's students/graduates, including Assistant Store Manager Angel Witcher, who is a 2003 Business Management graduate," said Wilson. "We have had a wonderful experience with Angel, and we couldn't replace her. She is driven and knowledge based and a good reflection on the College," said Wilson.

Sears conducted its Employment Fair August 31 in the College's Career Services office with hopes of filling full- and part-time positions in sales, automotive technicians, management, loss prevention, and shipping and receiving, as well as commissioned sales positions. First- and second-year students attended the six information sessions conducted by Wilson, and later Witcher identified areas of interest and conducted brief interviews.

"At Sears we like for our associates to have a degree or to be working toward a degree," said Wilson.

"We are looking for persons who have good communication skills, are computer knowledgeable, team oriented, and who will provide good customer service."

"Growth is possible within our store," Wilson stressed, adding that she began at Sears three years ago as a holiday part-time cashier, and moved up to a full-time cashier lead. Six months later the Human Resource Manager retired and she was offered the position. Witcher also started out as an Office Assistant and a year-and-a half later was offered a Human Resource Assistant position. Two years later, she became Assistant Store Manager. "In five years, Angel went from part-time associate to Assistant Store Manager," said Wilson.

Mischelle Weidman of Easley, who lost her job as a Medical Receptionist two years ago, is back at Tri-County pursuing a Business degree. She attended the seminar in hopes of securing work. "It's so hard to find a job in today's economy. My business degree will help me to advance and to prepare for jobs," she said. Although she began her studies at the Pendleton campus, Weidman is looking forward to the spring 2011 opening of the Easley campus, located on Powdersville Road, just five miles from her home.

"We're very pleased with our students' response to this recruiting event," said Alison Reynolds, Tri-County's job placement coordinator. "Robyn and Angel provided a great opportunity for our students and they are hopeful they can fill the commissioned sales positions with Tri-County students. They also are looking to Tri-County grads to fill the assistant store manager positions in several Sears stores. They were very impressed with our students and want to come back again in the spring for another event in addition to attending our Career Fair in March," said Alison.



Mischelle Weidman, of Easley, left, talks with Sears Assistant Store Manager **Angel Witcher**, who is a 2003 Business Management graduate.



Mark Petersen, of Central, a University Transfer major, discusses career opportunities at Sears with Human Resources Lead **Robyn Wilson**.

Rosemary Lindley

(continued from page 1)

She was equally as committed to her community, where she was engaged and active in many organizations, he said. "She brought that knowledge to the table. Rosemary wasn't one-dimensional," he said. "She worked hard, she loved her family, and was always thinking about her grandchildren. I enjoyed the time I spent with her and her husband, Charles. There won't be another Rosemary Lindley."

She was a member of Central Presbyterian Church in Anderson, where she taught Sunday School, volunteered in Bible Schools, worked with youth programs, and was a member of the Koinonia Sunday School Class. She was a member of and served in leadership capacities in the Anderson Junior Assembly, Anderson Woman's Club, Anderson Cotillion Club, Anderson Debutante Club, and the Golden Girls Investment Club. She was a 20-year member and former president of the Anderson Garden Club. A former teacher, she was a graduate of Oklahoma State University where she received a B.S. in Fashion Merchandising. She also earned a teaching certification from Clemson University. Following a career in retail, she worked as an English and social studies teacher at McCants Middle School from 1985 - 92 and served a head of the school's English Department from 1986 - 90.

Executive Staff Updates

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university courses and the automatic purging of advisees who are no longer active students as defined by certain attributes. He expects to begin phasing in the ImageNOW document imaging system later this fall with a go-live date of March 2011.

- **Other:** Multi-Campus Strategy Charter Workgroup; policies and procedures; organizational structure; tuition and fee structure; mission/vision/values.

ARC Representatives Tour Easley QuickJobs Training Center

Just a few days before the start-up of the first class in Tri-County Technical College's new Easley QuickJobs Training Center, representatives from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) met with College officials for a tour and a progress update on the turning lane project the Commission generously funded for the new Easley Campus.

In May 2009 legislators, county council members, and local business leaders joined College officials in breaking ground on a 37.51-acre piece of property on Powdersville Road that is the site of the College's third campus. Construction began that summer on the first two buildings -- a QuickJobs Training Center and the Academic Building.

The focus of the College's third and newest community campus is to be a partner with the Pickens County community, said Dr. Ronnie L. Booth, president of Tri-County. "The collaboration of the College, ARC, the Appalachian Council of Governments, Pickens County, the Department of Commerce, and the Governor's Office is an example of the partnership we've developed. We can do a lot more together."

Designed to assist in workforce training and skills development for the College and for Pickens County, the QuickJobs Training Center is funded through a \$986,364 grant from the State Department of Commerce to Pickens County. Instructors from the Corporate and Community Education Division will teach training courses specifically based on locally identified needs and shortages.

The pre-engineered 4,600 square foot building houses three classrooms, one of which accommodates industrial classes and has a shop area, a computer lab, and offices.

ARC provided a \$500,000 grant to Pickens County for construction of an access road that will serve the QuickJobs Training Center and the Academic Building. With ARC assistance, the county will construct approximately 2,400 linear feet of road improvements including a turn lane, drainage systems, pavement, and traffic signals at the intersection of Cardinal Drive and Powdersville Road (the entrance to the campus). In addition to the ARC funds, the Pickens County Transportation Committee is providing \$250,000, and Tri-County has committed \$610,000. The total cost of the ARC road project will be \$1,360,400. Additional state and local investment in the campus will exceed several million dollars.



*Representatives from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) met with College officials for a tour and a progress update on the turning lane project the Commission generously funded for the new Easley Campus. After touring the QuickJobs Training Center, the group looked at blueprints for the access road that will serve the QuickJobs Training Center and the Academic Building. Pictured from left are **Guy Land**, chief of staff, Office of the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC); **Earl F. Gohl**, federal co-chair of the ARC; **John Lummus**, vice president for economic and institutional advancement; **Ken Kopera**, director of facilities; and **Bonnie Ammons**, assistant director of federal grant programs of the South Carolina Department of Commerce.*

"We are so grateful for the turn lane. We couldn't do it without the help of ARC," said Ken Kopera, Tri-County's director of facilities.

"These ARC dollars really do make a difference," said Dr. Booth.

"I can only say good things about what this facility will do for Pickens County," said Pickens County Administrator Chap Hurst. "This campus truly is part of the community. All of our industries are excited about this. We are thankful to you folks."

Workforce development is a key strategy at the Department of Commerce, and we value training the workforce close to home. We are glad we were able to partner with you for this great project," said Bonnie Ammons, assistant director of federal grant programs of the South Carolina Department of Commerce.

"The work you do at Tri-County is critical -- creating jobs and making the Appalachian region more competitive," said Earl F. Gohl, federal co-chair of the ARC. "It's important to provide opportunities for residents to get the skills necessary for today's workplace. This is why ARC is here."

"Community-based education is so important," said Dr. Booth. "There is a need for a campus where people live and work."