

Connection

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Michelin Executive VP Wayne Culbertson to Address Annual Report Audience October 30

We welcome Wayne Culbertson, executive vice president, personnel and chief human resources officer, Michelin North America, Inc., as our Annual Report Luncheon speaker this year.

The luncheon, set for October 30 at 11:30 a.m. at the College's Pendleton Campus, annually attracts approximately 250 community, business, industrial, government, and political leaders from Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.

Mr. Culbertson, who has been with Michelin since 1974, was appointed to his current position in 2008. He joined the company after earning an Engineering degree from Clemson University.

His 37-year career with Michelin has spanned three continents, including assignments in the United States, France, Northern Ireland, and Australia.

He has worked for Michelin in various manufacturing roles, including serving as plant manager of the Spartanburg, Sandy Springs, and Starr, S.C., facilities. He also has been the head of Michelin's marketing and sales offices for the South Pacific region and has served in positions in quality and zone management.

Mr. Culbertson currently serves on several boards and committees: the Clemson University Professional Advancement and Continuing Education Board, the Rubber Manufacturers Association HR Committee, and the Advisory Board of the Medical University of South Carolina's Hollings Cancer Center.



Wayne Culbertson

Cycling Event is October 13

There's still time to register for Attack on Sassafras Mountain, an all-day event for cyclists, set for Saturday, October 13, at the College's Easley Campus located on Powdersville Road. The event will begin at 7:30 a.m.

The College's Easley Campus has partnered with the Pickens County YMCA to sponsor this signature annual event for the community. Cyclists will ride through parts of the cities of Easley and Pickens and up through the beautiful foothills region of South Carolina, including a challenging climb to South Carolina's highest point – Sassafras Mountain (3,353 ft.). Cyclists will travel a distance of 70 miles (35 miles to the top of the mountain). The ride will start and end at the Easley Campus. The registration fee is \$45, and the deadline to register is Sunday, October 7.

Proceeds from this event will go toward the ChildWatch Center at the Easley YMCA and programming at Tri-County Technical College's Easley Campus. For more information, visit www.attackonsassafras.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Classic.....	Oct. 5
Attack on Sassafras Mountain.....	Oct. 13
Wine Tasting Event.....	Oct. 17
Time Capsule Burial.....	Oct. 24
Annual Report Luncheon.....	Oct. 30

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

Connection

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

Mailing Address (All Campuses)

P. O. Box 587, Pendleton, SC 29670

Pendleton Campus

7900 Highway 76, Pendleton, SC

Anderson Campus

511 Michelin Blvd., Anderson, SC

Easley Campus

1774 Powdersville Rd., Easley, SC

Oconee Campus

Hamilton Career Center
100 Vocational Dr., Seneca, SC

Main Number: (864) 646-8361

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

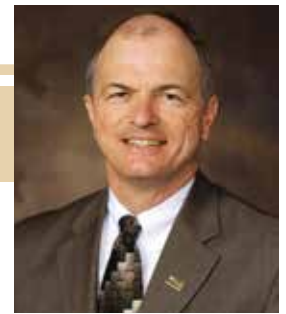
TDD/Voice: 1-800-735-2905

Website: www.tctc.edu



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qualifying disability, veteran's status, or
national origin.

Connecting



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

In a recent article in the Student Success Journey
electronic newsletter, we talked about improvements
we need to make in our course scheduling process

so students are able to take the classes they need when they need them in order to
successfully complete their program of study in a timely manner. We also must balance
this student success-oriented goal with the need to be financially responsible and
sustainable in terms of instructional costs in light of limited resources.

We've already achieved one notable victory that addresses financial sustainability
without an adverse impact on our student success agenda.

Last spring, projections showed we could once again anticipate a decrease in fall
enrollment despite any and all efforts we would make to retain current students and recruit
new ones. Revenue projections were extremely tight and, once again, we started looking
for ways to cut costs while still delivering the quality our students expect and deserve.

We asked our academic deans, department heads, and program coordinators to look at
their fall schedule of classes with fresh eyes and do all they could to eliminate empty seats
in classes when Fall Semester began. This challenge meant closing some sections and not
reopening them until other sections were filled, among other things. That may sound simple,
but it is actually more like balancing on a tightrope as you look at past trends, monitor seat
availability, juggle faculty schedules, and recruit adjunct faculty – all while ensuring students
have enough sections to choose from to create a complete schedule.

Were we successful? Indeed we were—at a level that surprised us all. We were able to
reduce the number of course sections by eight percent and the number of unfilled seats by
twenty-five percent when compared to Fall Semester, 2011.

*“This small victory shows we truly can balance our student success agenda
with our need to be fiscally responsible (and sustainable) - and everyone
comes out a winner.”*

- Dr. Ronnie L. Booth

While we are still deconstructing the enrollment data, we are confident this effort did
not undermine students' ability to enroll in the classes they needed to progress toward
meeting their goals. Granted, they may not have had as many scheduling options as in the
past, but we believe it was a successful endeavor.

This small victory shows we truly can balance our student success agenda with our
need to be fiscally responsible (and sustainable) – and everyone comes out a winner.
We now can focus on systemically improving our scheduling patterns and address other
scheduling challenges.

On a related note, we have more good news to share. Each year our Institutional Research
Office completes an annual accountability report based on nationally-acclaimed Baldrige
criteria. The complete report is available on the eTC Institutional Data link for everyone to view,
but I wanted to share some of the highlights that relate directly to student success.

Tri-County has achieved or exceeded the student success benchmark established
by the Commission on Higher Education consistently over the last five cohort years. This
benchmark defines success as the percentage of first-time, full-time degree-seeking

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Spotlight on Changes in Administrative Services

There have been lots of changes in the Auxiliary Services area over the summer – all implemented to support and encourage the success of our students, said Kevin Steele, manager of Administrative Services.

After 23 years of calling the basement of Ruby Hicks Hall home, Printing Services has relocated to the Student Center, Room 145.

The move, which took place about two months ago, went smoothly, said Printing and Postal Services Manager Denise Hall. “We’re more centrally located so faculty have more access to us. It’s also a big asset to adjunct faculty. Our delivery services remain the same so our customers can drop off materials to be copied and still have the option of picking them up or having them delivered by our part-time staff Larry Stalnaker and Glen Idell.”

One change you’ve noticed is the College has discontinued the use of the two-color press, operated for 20 years by pressman Barry Philips. “The two-color press was used for printing high-volume mail pieces, like [Connection](#), postcards, and marketing materials. Our volume decreased, and research showed that acquiring a new digital press was as cost effective as operating the offset press on campus,” said Denise.

“We acquired our own digital press which is capable of printing smaller jobs done on the old press,” said Denise. Manning the print shop is Carol Findley, who is operating the high-volume black and white copier, as well as the small production color unit. “We continue to provide a wide range of duplicating services for faculty and staff,” added Denise.

“The print shop relocation has changed how we do business,” said Denise. Due to the offset press going away, Barry is now working full time in mail services and shipping and receiving. Kelli Harrison, formerly in postal services, moved to the Bookstore as Assistant Manager when the position became open.

Barry now handles all postal operations (incoming and outgoing mail), including bulk mail, in addition to all shipping and receiving, which includes incoming and outgoing packages. He also tags inventory and is stationed in the shipping and receiving mail warehouse. Barry also completes the purchasing process through the Banner system.



Printing Services Manager **Denise Hall** trains work study **Will Tittle**, of Piedmont, to operate the new small production color copier. After 23 years of calling the basement of Ruby Hicks Hall home, Printing Services has relocated to the Student Center, Room 145.

The Food Services area also underwent changes. The Café, managed by Sandra McCarroll, now has two new convenient satellite coffee bars offering coffee, soft drinks, snacks, muffins, fruit bowls, chips, bagels, and sandwiches.

The coffee bars are located in the Library (in front of the Circulation Desk) and in the Student Center near the Tutoring Center. They are open 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

“It’s almost everything we sell in the Café,” said Sandra. “Just call in an order to the Café, and it can be delivered to the satellite station you choose at the time you want to pick it up,” she said. “We also have a healthy choice menu and a dollar menu that features 15 - 16 smaller-portion items, among them the Tech Burger.”

For those choosing to dine in the Café you’ll notice aesthetic renovations like paintings and photos by artist Will Parker, a 2009 graduate of our Radio and Television Broadcasting program.

“This is what the students have been asking for,” said Kevin.

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!



Wanda V. Pickens, financial aid counselor/veterans coordinator, sent this e-mail expressing her appreciation to two of our staff members:

"I would like to express a big "thank you" to **Sarah Dowd** and **Kevin Steele** for making life a little less stressful for one of our veteran students. Their acts of kindness and understanding truly gave this student a break that was really needed. We are grateful to ALL of our veteran students and service members for the sacrifices they have made for this country. We cannot repay them for what they have done. However, we want to do all that we can to ensure their student success during their time here at Tri-County."

Congratulations to **Debbie Nelms**, who became a first-time grandmother September 10 upon the birth of her granddaughter, Graelon Skye Nelms, daughter of Alan (Debbie's oldest son) and Torie Nelms, both Tri-County grads. Graelon weighed 7 lbs., 13 oz. and was 19¼ inches long.

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.

Showcase Spotlights Careers for Students



More than 50 colleges, businesses and industries, including Tri-County, set up booths at the Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Business and Industry Showcase. The event was held September 11-12 for middle and high school students to spotlight the careers available in manufacturing, health care, and engineering. Here, Mechatronics instructor **Mark Franks**, talks with Powdersville High ninth graders, from left, **Josh Scott**, **Corey Campbell**, and **Parker Monteith**.

Our College Family

excellence through service

Congratulations to our newly elected Tri-County Technical Education Association (TCTEA) officers for the 2012-13 academic year. **John Woodson**, program coordinator for Radio and Television Broadcasting, will serve his third term as President; **Lane Hudson**, instructor for Speech and English, will serve as Vice-President; and **Laura Thompson**, administrative specialist, Health Education Division, will serve as Secretary. Many thanks to these three individuals for their willingness to lead our TCTEA chapter of the SCTEA.

in transition



Mark Franks

ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

A familiar face around the EIT Division for several years, 2009 graduate and adjunct instructor **Mark Franks** is now a full-time instructor, teaching Mechatronics classes.

Mark has a industry background, working as a technician at Joseph Lyons for 20 years until the plant shut down and then at Santens for nine years until that plant also closed. Instead of re-entering the workforce, he made the choice to go back to school in 2007. He earned an Industrial Electronics Technology degree in 2009 and began teaching as an adjunct. Mark served on our Mechatronics Advisory Committee and for 17 years he coached Little League baseball, football and basketball in Anderson.

He and his wife, Barbara, have three sons, Neal, Shane, and Matthew, and a daughter, Kayla. They live in Anderson.



Teresa Young

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION DIVISION

Teresa Young joined the Division this month as Operations Manager. She is responsible for the financial and staff management for the Division, as well as program evaluation and program development.

She is an experienced business consultant, program developer, and manager. She also worked as a grant writer, researcher, and scientist. During last year, she was a senior technical writer working on a global software implementation team for the Department of State. The previous year, she was a senior associate for On Point Services, working as a business consultant, grant writer, and planning specialist. From 2008-11, she worked for Goldie & Associates in Seneca as a technical writer and senior scientist, assisting municipalities to secure funding for major projects and providing environmental compliance assistance.

Other work experience includes Director of Sales and Marketing for SolidTops, LLC, in Easton, MD, as well as Strategic Programs Manager and Consultant for the S.C. Manufacturing Extension Partnership where she developed programs and services for S.C. manufacturers.

Teresa holds a bachelor of science in Geology from the College of Charleston, as well as an Environmental Management certification from the U.S. Department of Energy Westinghouse. She and her husband, Ed, live in Central.

Executive Staff Updates

ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

Maria Francisco Monteso is our new Spanish instructor. She holds bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees in Translation and Interpreting Studies from the Universidad of Jaume I in Spain. The Fulbright scholar also holds a master's in Pedagogical Aptitude Training in Foreign Language Education from the Universidad of Barcelona. She was an adjunct Spanish instructor at Greenville Tech and USC-Upstate from 2010-12. She lives in Greenville.



Maria Francisco Monteso



Chesley Tench

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS DIVISION

Chesley Tench is working as a Program Resource Associate for the Connect to College program. Chesley's work experience includes Marketing Director for Locke Design from 2007 - 09, as well as owner of Ashley Chesley Design Company (a graphic design company). She also worked as Marketing and Office Manager for The Mommy Trainer. She has a bachelor of arts in Sociology from Furman University and is an Anderson Interfaith Ministries board member. She is a member of New Spring Church, where she is a Youth and Children Volunteer. She and her husband, Barron, live in Anderson.

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

Marie Diffie
Lynn Lollis

Amber Mulkey
Lisa Robinson

Franklin Smith

Guests Hear About WorkReady Initiative

South Carolina is one of eight states chosen to participate in the WorkReady Communities Initiative designed to match job seekers with businesses and industries looking for employees.

Representatives from our region's county councils, industry, business, and education gathered in the Industrial and Business Development Center to hear presentations about this State-wide initiative designed to bring education and workforce development together and to align them with their communities.

"It's about closing the gaps," said Rick Cothran, dean of our Corporate and Community Education Division and our WorkReady contact on campus. Leading the State team is Elisabeth Kovacs, state coordinator for the S.C. Department of Workforce Development.

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Dean of Corporate and Community Education **Rick Cothran** talks about WorkKeys scores in our area during his presentation.

- **Fall Enrollment:** A team will deconstruct our Fall Semester enrollment data to help us understand all the variables impacting enrollment, which will allow us to make outreach and process improvements where needed.
- **Career Coach:** Our students now have access to a robust online search tool that allows them to enter a career field of interest and access related programs offered at TCTC, as well as information about employment trends, salaries, and job openings in the immediate geographic area.
- **FY 13 Budget:** The FY 13 College budget is stable as a result of conservative budgeting. The College needs to begin focusing on spring enrollment to ensure revenue remains stable.
- **Empty Seat/Vacancy Rate:** Thanks to our department heads, program coordinators, and others involved in scheduling classes, the College was able to reduce the number of course sections by eight percent and reduced the empty seat/vacancy rate by 25 percent, all in an effort to conserve funds and increase efficiencies.
- **Professional Development Day:** The College will hold a Professional Development Day November 6 (Election Day). A variety of activities that focus on personal and professional development will be offered, as well as opportunities to network with colleagues.
- **Construction/Traffic Improvement Project:** Over the next several weeks, construction at the campus entrances will be well underway, and pedestrian and vehicular traffic will be re-routed as needed.
- **SACS update:** The College issued its fifth-year report, which will be reviewed at the annual SACS meeting in December.
- **Course Scheduling Project:** A workgroup is developing strategies to fix problems and issues associated with course scheduling. The initial focus will be on scheduling challenges at the community campuses, with the goal of enabling students to

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The Nineties



Each month throughout 2012, CONNECTION will devote two pages to celebrating the College's golden anniversary.

Through photos and articles, we will highlight the events which have shaped the College into the role model for community college education that it is today.



Crystal DeRosa, of Anderson, center, was the 1999 recipient of the Claude Moore Endowed Scholarship at the College. The 1997 T.L. Hanna High School graduate was an Accounting major and was president of the Alpha Zeta Beta honor society. She is pictured with the late **Steve Darby** and his wife, **Judy**, who endowed the scholarship in honor of an uncle, Claude Moore, of Pendleton. The late Mr. Moore served as head of the College's Automotive Mechanics program from the time the College opened in 1963 until his retirement in 1970. The Darbys have given benevolently to the educational programs at the College since 1994. In addition to the scholarship they endowed in honor of Mr. Moore, in November of 2001, they made a major gift to the Foundation to support former English instructor Ron Rash's writing. In addition, they contributed to the Don C. Garrison Instructional Excellence Endowment in 2002 and to the Linda Craven Elliott Endowment in 2005. In June of 2006, Mr. Darby established the Julia M. Darby Endowed Scholarship in honor of his beloved wife. Shortly after his death in January of 2007, contributions began pouring in to honor Mr. Darby with the establishment of the E. Steve Darby Memorial Scholarship. Mr. Darby was chair of the Foundation Board at the time of his death.

Betsy Brand, assistant secretary, U.S. Department of Education, right, presents the top national award for Tech Prep program excellence at the AACJC convention. Accepting the award for the Partnership for Academic and Career Education (PACE) are board member and Tri-County President **Dr. Don C. Garrison** and **Diana Walter**, then-PACE executive director.

In 1987, area school districts, Tri-County Technical College and other partners formed a partnership offering occupational focus for more than half of the high school students in the tri-county area. Tech Prep/School-to-Work links high school and two-year college programs by eliminating the gaps and overlaps between these two levels of education. Called the Partnership for Academic and Career Education (PACE), the consortium helps to facilitate the development of Tech Prep (PREPARation for TECHnologies)/School-to-Work programs in the tri-county area.



The College's World Class Training Center (WCTC), the first in South Carolina, was established in March of 1990 and has provided the additional training resources that companies need to survive and to stay in business in today's fiercely competitive global economy. The first member was Jacobs Chuck Manufacturing in Clemson, also the first industry in the State to participate in our Special Schools programs in 1961. Pictured from left are **Bob Asmus**, employee relations manager; **Brian Romero**, third shift set up technician; **Joanne Wisham**, cell manager; **Fred Flynn**, business manager of consumer products; **Mary McGaha**, a 30-year employee; and **Morris Keasler**, director of the WCTC.

Owens Family Receives National Black Family Of the Year Honor

In 1993, Gwen Owens, her husband, Bobby, and their three children were named the National Black Family of the Year. They were chosen from more than 100 families across the United States and were honored at the National Black Family Summit in Columbia.

James P. Johnson, Jr., who was principal at Wren High School, nominated them.

Dr. Augustus Rodgers, a professor at the University of South Carolina, was Director of the National Black Family Summit. "The selection committee felt that the Owens family would serve as a good family role model for other families around the country because they have overcome arduous challenges and have been able to maintain family integrity and the like," he said. The National Black Family Summit, sponsored by the USC College of Social Work and the Columbia Urban League, was started in 1986 to bring people from across the nation together to address vital issues impacting African Americans.

At the time, Gwen said, "There are so many wonderful families who are just as deserving, if not more. It makes us feel good because we have tried all of our lives to do good things, although not for recognition."

Dr. Owens joined the College in 1992 as Developmental Reading Department Head after 19 years of teaching at Wren and Powdersville middle schools in Anderson County School District One. Over the years she has served in the roles of instructor, department head, Comprehensive Studies Division Chair, and as Dean of the Arts and Sciences Division. In addition to her two administrative roles, Dr. Owens serves as academic coach for the Call Me MISTER initiative at Tri-County. Although she retired as dean June 30, she is back in the classroom full time this fall as a full-time reading instructor for the Comprehensive Studies Department.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Owens has distinguished herself in the classroom and the community.

In 2005 the South Carolina Association for Developmental Educators recognized her for outstanding service to students. In 1996 she received the Johnnie Ruth Clark Instructor Award for Excellence in Community Colleges. She was honored by the National Council on Black American Affairs (Southern Region), a Council of the American Association of Community Colleges. The same year, she was selected to receive a 1996 NISOD Excellence Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to teaching and learning.

In 1995 she received the highest award presented to faculty, the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence at the commencement. She has completed the Master Teacher Leadership Program through the College, as well as the President's Leadership Program.



*The 1993 Black Family of the Year Award went to the Owens Family of Pelzer. From left are **Kimberly, Henry**, father **Bobby**, mother **Gwen**, and **Pamela**.*

TCTEA Membership Drive Underway

Our Fall 2012 membership drive is underway for the Tri-County Technical Education Association (TCTEA), which is our College's local chapter of the South Carolina Technical Education Association (SCTEA). It's easy to join. Simply send an e-mail to John Woodson, our chapter president, at jwoodso1@tctc.edu, telling him you would like to join. John will process your membership, and the membership fee of \$5 will be covered for full-time faculty, staff, and administration by the College's professional development funds.

Also, mark your calendar now for the annual SCTEA Conference scheduled for February 21-23, 2013, in Myrtle Beach. The registration fee is \$70 for members, and accommodations are \$99 per night. More conference details will be available in the near future.

Later this fall, we will elect our TCTEA Educators of the Year in the Faculty, Staff, and Administration categories. The winners will be recognized at the annual SCTEA conference. Last year's winners were Dr. Harriette Dudley (faculty), Kevin Steele (staff), and Dr. Phil Buckhiester (administration, now retired).

For more information about SCTEA, visit the website at www.sctea.org.

College Participates in Veterans Job Fair



Above: Technology Programs Specialist **Donald White**, right, talks with attendees.

At Right: Truck Driving instructor **June Osborne** discusses careers with a veteran.



The College participated in a two-day veterans job fair held September 8. The event kicked off with workshops, tips on writing resumes, and free

haircuts for anyone who has served, or is serving, in the military. The event was hosted by Military-Transition Services, a new non-profit organization in Anderson. Tim Bowen, director of the Anderson Campus, sent this e-mail expressing his appreciation to those faculty and staff who worked at the event.

"Just wanted to take a moment to convey my deep personal gratitude for all you did to support our Veteran's Stand Down and Job Fair this past weekend. It was important that we were there and helped with this milestone event. We did see over 150 veterans come through and were able to advise a number of folks along the way. I think the Corporate and Community Education Division, in particular, picked up some good prospects. Our semi-truck inside the Civic Center was a huge hit and a great billboard for our presence at the event and work in our community."

Mary Geren Serves as S.C. Delegate at DNC

English instructor Mary Geren spent the week of September 3 - 7 in Charlotte, North Carolina, serving as one of 62 South Carolina delegates at the National Democratic Convention. She represented the Third Congressional District and spent her days in caucus meetings, voting on procedures that were on the platform. The evenings were filled with speeches by First Lady Michelle Obama, San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer, and dozens of other party leaders, along with entertainment by James Taylor, Foo Fighters and Mary J. Blige.

"As a passionate patriot, I was honored to participate in democracy and to see it at work," said Mary. In August, Mary, who serves as an advisor to the Student Democrats, drove to Rock Hill to obtain free community credentials (tickets) for 30 students who planned to travel to the convention to witness President Barack Obama officially accept his party's presidential nomination. The College-sponsored trip was open to everyone from all political parties.

The speech was originally to be held September 6 at the 73,000-seat Bank of America Stadium. But with a 30 percent chance of isolated thunderstorms in Charlotte that night, plans changed and instead the acceptance speech was moved to the Time Warner Cable Arena, which seats 20,000. Consequently, only the 21,000 official convention ticket holders were able to attend the president's acceptance speech in person.

"I was as disappointed as they were," Mary said. "The Student Democrats actually served as delegates in Columbia last May at the S.C. Democratic Convention. Their support was pivotal to my successful national delegation bid."

Despite the venue change, co-advisor Dana Griffith, English instructor, and Croslena Johnson, coordinator of Student Life and Counseling Services, worked out the details and arranged for 30 students, faculty, and staff to board a chartered bus Thursday to attend watch parties set up by the S.C. Democratic Party at the Courtyard Marriott hotel for all delegates' guests whose credentials were not honored due to the venue change.

Among the 30 faculty, staff, and students were Sidney Addison, Daisha Bates, Tomeika Bennett, Anita Brown, Emilia Cantaren, Christine Clarizio, Tyler J. Durham, Allison Ekwere, Ashley Ekwere, Jimmy Gore, Lane Hudson, Denise Hudson, Jamie Iffland, Brittney Johnson, Croslena Johnson, Leniah Johnson, Angie Lyons, Marshall Mahoney, Brian McGuinness, Autumn McLees, Amy Plummer, Naomi Plummer, Vickie Robinson, Stephanie Rogers, Ronald Rogers, Shan Smith,

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English instructor **Mary Geren**, who served as a S.C. delegate at the Democratic National Convention, is pictured with fellow S.C. delegate **John Giles**, of Columbia.



Thirty faculty, staff, and students traveled to a DNC watch party.

Executive Staff

(continued from page 5)

access all the courses needed in order to complete their programs in a timely manner. Later, the issue will be addressed College-wide and encompass broader objectives.

- **Catalog Format Change for 2013-14:** Registrar Scott Harvey will be working with the academic divisions to organize the curriculum requirements for each program in a semester-by-semester format in the College Catalog so students can more easily determine which courses should be taken each semester.
- **Academic Program Review:** A process is being put into place to conduct regular academic program reviews that will address the following: alignment with community needs; resource requirements; design and accessibility; and the learning experience of students in the classroom.
- **Provost Council:** The Academic Delivery Group has been replaced by a new Provost Council whose purpose, in part, will be to integrate academic programming, student development, and enrollment management to continuously improve student success. Additional details (purpose, scope, and membership) are described in the committee charter posted on the Message Center tab in eTC in the College Committees Channel.
- **Stackable Credentials Project Charter:** A project was approved to develop stop-out, stackable credentials that address the growing need for a skilled workforce. The project also will address the need for stronger connectivity between credit and non-credit programs and allow the College to be more nimble in responding to business and industry needs through a more progressive and sustainable curriculum model.
- **Other:** Emergency preparedness; continued steps in the development of the retention plan; fall faculty/staff meeting; mini-grants; United Way Campaign chair; policies and procedures updates; planning schedule for President's Advisory Council.

Golden OPPORTUNITIES to shape the future

Foundation Board Participates in First-Ever Retreat

The College Foundation on August 23 held its first-ever retreat, custom designed for all 35 board members, long-serving and new, to outline their roles and responsibilities.

Organized by Director of Development Elisabeth Gadd, the afternoon retreat featured presentations by Foundation staff and other College leaders about board members' importance to the College, the mission and purpose of the College, and an explanation of funding opportunities, as well as investments and disbursement of funds.

"We felt the board didn't understand the extent of their roles as board members," said Elisabeth. "We outlined their duties as members. In addition to fundraising, they serve as ambassadors in the community and are resources for identifying people they think may be interested in supporting our College. In doing so, they are assisting the College with implementing the vision and objectives established through the College's Ten-Year Vision," she said.

Dr. Booth spoke to the importance of raising funds, especially in today's world of dwindling State support.

He recalled a conversation he had 25 years ago with his then-boss, a college president, about one day pursuing a job himself as president of a college. "He said make sure you work at a two-year college — they don't have to raise money," Dr. Booth said, laughing. "It was a true statement back then, but we live in a different world now, funded at less than 15% by the State. In 1985, this College had the foresight to establish the Foundation, which today has \$18 million in assets. You are so important in your support of the College, in the form of scholarships for students, professional development for faculty and staff, and funding technical and equipment needs. Student success matters most. Our job here is to take someone from here to there without judgment. That's what a community college is about. A piece of our plan is a strong Foundation Board to help fund the things our students need to be successful," he said.

"Tri-County has 6,700 reasons to invest," guest speaker Debbie DuBose, executive director of the Oconee Medical Center Foundation, said, referring to the College's enrollment.

She talked to the crowd about appropriate methods for seeking donors and relationship building in the community. "Your job description is to raise funds and friends," she said. "People feel good about the concept of advancing or working together to achieve a mission and vision for the College."

"We had a fabulous response. The board walked away with great ideas and were very energized," said Elisabeth. "Our board is extremely important to our College. I'm not sure they realized just how important they are in the life of the College. They are the external arm of the Foundation, out in the community, where they can really make a difference for Tri-County. They are excited to play a greater role."

Wakefield Honored For Service



Tri-County Technical College's Foundation Board recently honored **David Wakefield**, pictured here, for his service as chairman for the past five years. "It's been a tremendous honor to serve," said Mr. Wakefield, who remains on the board and as a member of its Finance Committee. "You're a hard act to follow," said **Peggy Deane**, pictured at left, who assumed the chairman's post at the Board's August meeting.



"Tri-County has 6,700 reasons to invest," guest speaker **Debbie DuBose**, executive director of the Oconee Medical Center Foundation, told the board members, referring to the College's enrollment.



The board broke into small groups to discuss fundraising strategies. Here new board members, from left, **Hugh Burgess** and **Nancy Hedrick** talk with **Hamid Mohsseni**, who has served on the Foundation Board since 2008.

Schneider Electric Continues Commitment to College



Schneider Electric in Seneca made its final \$10,000 contribution towards its \$50,000 pledge to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation for the company's Teaching Chair Endowment in the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division. Pictured here, from left to right, are **Ted Stokes**, engineering manager at Schneider and an evening adjunct instructor for our Industrial Electronics Technology program; **Larry Smith**, Schneider Electric plant manager; **John Lummus**, vice president for economic and institutional advancement at the College; and **Christine Nacnodovitz**, human resources manager, global supply chain, Schneider Electric.

Since 1988, Schneider Electric has supported the Tri-County Technical College Foundation through annual gifts, all devoted to advancing educational opportunities and instruction. Because of the company's generosity, through its teaching chair, faculty in the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division have grown professionally through participation in and presentations at seminars and conferences, along with enrollment in advanced course work. Including a pledge of \$50,000 to the College's Major Gifts campaign in 2010, the company has given more than \$112,000 to its teaching chair for the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division and a total of \$124,750 to the Foundation.

Celebrating Constitution Day



Constitution Day 2012 was celebrated at all of our campuses with cake, free pocket Constitutions, and a voter registration drive. Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the U.S. Constitution. Pictured here are **Tammy Lollis**, administrative specialist, Counseling Center; **Croslena Johnson**, coordinator of Student Life and Counseling; and Student Government Association President **Donald Joslyn**.

CONNECTING

(continued from page 2)

students graduating within 150% (3 years) of normal program time, transferring to another South Carolina institution, or continuing to be enrolled either full- or part-time. We also rate well in faculty/student ratio in the classroom, which averaged 19-1, allowing for greater individualized attention and engagement between students and instructors.

Our graduates have averaged an 85.8% passing rate over the last five years on national certification exams, exceeding the national average by almost four percent. In addition, employers indicate extremely high levels of satisfaction with the general and technical program competencies of all our graduates.

We don't rate as highly as we would like in other areas, and show a definite need for improvement in still more. For example, our graduation rate has decreased since 2004, a trend we need to reverse as quickly as possible. And, while we can take pride in the success rate of our first-time, full-time students, we still face challenges with the success rate of our entire student population.

Our institutional commitment and focus on student success is yielding excellent outcomes, just like the efficiencies we were able to achieve by adjusting our course scheduling processes. We can expect to make additional progress as we continue our focus on the three strategic directions identified this past summer by our Retention Team – empowering students and employees for success, creating processes to become sustainable, and creating an infrastructure to support student learning.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

WorkReady

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Representatives from our region's county councils, industry, business, and education gathered in the Industrial and Business Development Center to hear presentations about the WorkReady Communities initiative. Leading the State team is **Elisabeth Kovacs**, state coordinator for the S.C. Department of Workforce Development.

American College Testing (ACT) serves as the initiative's "docking station," said Fred McConnell, of the ACT Workforce Development Division. ACT products, like the WorkKeys job skills assessment test, determine workers' skills. WorkKeys is an assessment system that measures real-world skills and is the basis for the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). WorkKeys has three primary assessments: applied math, reading for information, and locating information.

"It's a locally driven approach to connect job opportunities with job seekers. Specifically, it gives companies an idea how 'work ready' their community is; and for expanding industries, it tells them about the existing labor pool. It creates an inventory of skills sets and is a locally-driven approach," said Kovacs.

"The idea is to get the right people in the right jobs at the right place at the right time," said Rick. "We also need to involve high school students in this assessment process. Together we can do so much more. It's about working together to move our citizens forward."

Students Get Connected at Campuses



Get Connected, the College's first fall semester event, was held at all three campuses. Students were invited to come out and enjoy free pizza, drinks, and freebies. It was a great time to meet other students, check out student clubs/organizations, and more.

Janelle Hicks, director of health care, Corporate and Community Education Division, right, and Business Management student **Chase Kelley**, of Easley, man the Student Republicans table at the Easley Campus.



Mary Geren (continued from page 9)

Jeremy Stowers, Cindy Trimmier-Lee, Wanda White, and Robert Kevin Wilson.

"I wanted our students to have this possibly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and to realize that they, as students, can make a difference," said Mary. "They were able to witness an atmosphere of unity, diversity, and electricity, she added. "They were a part of a collective group of people so dedicated to something so positive," added Mary, a member of the Democratic party, but not a registered Democrat, who doesn't vote straight party ticket. "I vote on the individual person and what he or she stands for."

Christine Clarizio, of Anderson, a Computer Technology major, said it was "an amazing trip. We didn't see the President's speech live, but it felt like we were there."

"It was great to bring this opportunity to our students," said Croslena. "Diversity stood out for me. We were all in one place coming together."

"It was an absolute pleasure to meet everyone during the trip," said student Jeremy Stowers. "It was disappointing that we couldn't see the speech in person, but getting to know everyone and having the experience was worth the trip. I also learned that it's not what the president can do for us - instead, it's about us as a group of people that will keep this country going forward."

Mary says everyone came back energized. "My passion has always been education. Our students as individuals can make a difference. They, like we heard from many of the convention speakers, can rise above adversity in their lives and be successful," she said.

"I'm a geek about American History and patriotism. To be a participant was special. It was a highlight of my life - behind childbirth and marriage, of course."