

Connection

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Three Presidential Finalists Visit Campus

The three candidates named as finalists to be the next President of Tri-County Technical College were on campus for final interviews and meet and greet sessions with faculty, staff, Commissioners, students, and community members.

Dr. William C. Brothers, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Southwestern Community College; D. Galen DeHay, Senior Vice President, Tri-County Technical College; and Dr. Shannon L. Kennedy, Executive Vice President, Cleveland Community College, are the three finalists for the position.

The finalists were announced by John Powell, chair of the Tri-County Technical College Commission, at a faculty/staff meeting March 12.

The finalists were selected by a screening committee that included Powell, Oconee County businessman; Anthony G. Barker, member of the S.C. Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education; and Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, president of Horry-Georgetown Technical College.

The Commission will select the next President. A final decision is expected by May, 2019. The new President will assume his/her responsibilities July 1, 2019.

"I speak on behalf of the entire Commission when I pledge to you that our highest priority is to select the right person to lead this College on its future path," said Powell.

After serving 16 years as President, Dr. Booth announced last fall that he will retire as the third President of Tri-County Technical College effective June 30, 2019.

The Finalists:

Dr. William C. Brothers serves as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Southwestern Community College in Sylva, NC. He is responsible for the business, human resources, and compliance functions of the college, including fiscal integrity, effective budget utilization, and adherence to applicable laws and regulations. His previous experience includes serving as Dean of Career Technologies, Accounting Program Coordinator, and Business Administration Instructor, also at Southwestern. His private sector experience includes Assistant Controller for Bank of Travelers Rest and Accountant for SC Telco Federal Credit Union. He holds a B.S. from Southern Wesleyan University, M.B.A. and M.E. degrees from Western Carolina University, Ed.S. and C.A.G.S. from Nova Southeastern University, and P.M.G.C. and C.A.G.S. from University of New England.

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Dr. William C. Brothers



D. Galen DeHay



Dr. Shannon L. Kennedy

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Tri-County Technical College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the associate degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Tri-County Technical College.

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

Living Our Values

During the spring of 2014, we, as a College, engaged in a discernment process to identify the core values that enable us to live out our vision to transform lives and build strong communities. All employees had the opportunity to provide input during Professional Development Day that spring, which resulted in lively discussions as we brainstormed ideas and came to consensus. The culmination of our work resulted in four institutional values: Integrity, Respect, Community Minded, and Commitment to Excellence. These values guide how we act as individual employees and collectively help us to create an environment and culture that supports a transformative experience for all students. It is the TCTC way of doing business.

We live out one of those four values—Community Minded—through our support of United Way, the world's largest privately-funded non-profit organization that works to support those in need in local communities.

Each spring at our Faculty/Staff meeting, we kick off the annual Tri-County Technical College United Way Fundraising Campaign as a way to assist those who need services in in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. Most of you are familiar with local agencies who receive funding through United Way. They include organizations like Ripple of One in Oconee County, Meals on Wheels in Anderson County, and Camp iRock in Pickens County.

As a College, we have committed ourselves to trying to help under-resourced, under-employed, and under-prepared students reach their goals through education. Some of our students are the very same people United Way is trying to help. Last year, our Student Development and Wellness program assisted more than 1,000 students to connect with services through many of the agencies funded through United Way.

Some of you may have personally benefited from resources and services supported by United Way. I know many who have, and I am grateful they were able to gain the support they needed during difficult times.

This year we also had the opportunity to demonstrate our value of community mindedness during Professional Development Days held during the fall and spring. Many of us volunteered at community agencies throughout the three-county area that are supported through United Way funds. I have heard many positive, heartwarming comments about the day from both the agencies involved and the employees who participated. Everyone spoke of how meaningful and rewarding it was to spend time with their co-workers helping agencies that support local community needs.

As we finalize our new Ten-Year Vision and Strategic Plan, one of our priorities is to expand our focus on student success to include improving the economic mobility of our students. Doing so will bring us a step closer to truly transforming lives and building strong communities – one student at a time. Our support of United Way complements this effort.

I hope you will consider giving generously to the TCTC United Way Campaign as a way to support many of the same agencies that provide assistance to our students. Our campaign has been extended to April 12. Please contact my office if you need a pledge form, and we will be happy to send it to you.



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D., President



Spotlight on Power Line Worker Training Program

Tri-County Technical College officials and community partner agencies gathered March 20 to announce details about a \$200,000 grant from the South Carolina Technical College Foundation made possible by Duke Energy. The purpose of the grant is to develop and implement a Power Line Worker Training program.

Representatives from the utility industry agreed the need is now for the program, which will serve as a pipeline to provide qualified applicants for these in-demand power line worker jobs.

The program curriculum includes American Heart Association/CPR First Aid training and courses in National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) core, Power Line Worker Levels I, II and III and the Power Line Curriculum with the option of adding Commercial Driver's License (CDL).

The grant will cover startup costs of the program, including equipment and faculty.

Community partners and future employers, Duke Energy, Blue Ridge Electric Co-operative, Easley Combined Utilities, Pike Electric, Seneca Light and Water and Sumter Utility, attended the meeting, all of whom wrote letters of support for the grant and will serve on the program's advisory committee to guide the curriculum in the future.



Representatives from power and electrical companies attended a meeting March 20 when Tri-County Technical College officials announced the details of a \$200,000 grant from Duke Energy to develop and implement a Power Line Worker Training program.



Pictured (seated) from left **Sam McMillan**, of Blue Ridge Electric; **Lee Adams** and **Tim McKinney**, of Pike Electric; and **Keitha Sherrill** and **Mike Fisher**, of Duke Energy; and (back) **Robert Lance**, of Seneca Light and Water; **Jonathan Langston**, of Easley Combined Utility; **Jason Dubose** of Sumter Utilities; and **Jon Evans** and **Sidney Echevarri**, both of Duke Energy.

All are looking for new hires—ranging from 4 to 111—over the next several years and agree this program is a great way to help meet that demand.

Graduates of the line worker program would come in with basic skills and would continue to build on them through the companies' apprenticeship programs.

"We are in a hiring boom," said Keitha Sherrill, of Duke Energy. "This program is a great entryway for us and could take six months of training off of our plate." She added they could hire 111 qualified line workers today.

Others noted they could hire between 5 and 40 today, depending on the number of impending retirements and turnover.

"We have 10 on our line crew, and some are near retirement age," said Robert Lance of Seneca Light and Water Company. "We need quality people at the utility level—individuals who will go the extra mile and give good quality customer service with safety always in mind."

Others added they are looking for applicants with a positive attitude, good work ethic, and a passion for the work.

Dr. Rick Cothran, dean of the College's Corporate and Community Education Division, said there is a critical need for workers to fill middle skills jobs—those that require more than a high school education but less than a four-year bachelor's degree. These jobs may require an associate degree, certification, occupational licensing, or apprenticeships.

Middle skills jobs, like the new certification power line worker program, are in high demand. Tri County Technical College offers multiple middle skill

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A True Leader and a Public Servant

Dr. Booth was awarded The Duke Energy Citizenship & Service Award by the Easley Chamber at its annual banquet. Emily DeRoberts, district manager for government and community relations in South Carolina for Duke Energy, presented the award. The award pays tribute to individuals who use their time, talent and compassion to positively affect the lives of others in their communities or in the workplace. Recipients foster a culture of citizenship and service that acts as a catalyst for others to become involved in civic and social activities.

“Our Easley Chamber selected Dr. Booth as our chamber’s recipient in honor of his 16 years of service to TCTC and the State of South Carolina, and most importantly, his leadership and contributions to education, workforce development, and economic development,” said Cindy Hopkins president of the Greater Easley Chamber of Commerce.

Emily DeRoberts presents Dr. Booth his award.



Jane Sosebee to Deliver Spring Commencement Address

Jane S. Sosebee, state president, AT&T South Carolina, will deliver the College’s spring commencement address.

The ceremony will be held Monday, May 6, at 6 p.m. at Clemson University’s Littlejohn Coliseum.

Mrs. Sosebee is responsible for the company’s regulatory, economic development, legislative, and community affairs activities in the State. She works closely with State and community leaders to help bring new technology and jobs to the State and improve the quality of life for South Carolinians.

She brings a diverse background to her position, having joined AT&T’s predecessor company, Southern Bell, in 1979. She initially served in the business marketing group, moving through positions of increasing responsibility over 11 years before becoming the Branch Manager for sales and service teams in the Upstate of South Carolina. She moved to the External Affairs organization in 1998 and was appointed Director of External Affairs for the State of SC in 2007. She was subsequently named Director-Legislative Affairs, where she worked directly with members of the S.C. General Assembly on public policy matters. She was named to her current position in October 2018.

Mrs. Sosebee’s numerous honors and awards include



Jane S. Sosebee

Clemson University’s Distinguished Service Award, Business Person of the Year by Greenville Magazine, and, in 2007, she was named a South Carolina Ambassador for Economic Development for Greenville County by the Governor.

She is a member of the Board of the SC Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Executive Committee of the Palmetto AgriBusiness Council, and a member of the Palmetto Business Forum. She is also a past Chair and board member of the Upstate Alliance, the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, and the Clemson University Foundation. Organizations for which she has previously served as a board member include, the Urban League of the Upstate,

the Tri-County Technical College Foundation, and the Anderson Chamber of Commerce.

She earned a bachelor’s degree in English from Clemson University, and she is an alumna of Leadership South Carolina and Leadership Anderson.

She is a member of Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, where she is an Elder.

She and her husband, Greg, an alumnus of Tri-County, live in Clemson. They have two adult daughters, one of whom, Laura Sosebee, works in our Foundation Office, and one grandson.

Manufacturing Works Gives High School Seniors an Edge

Landon Watt never had plans to enter college after he graduates from Wren High School this spring. The goal was always to go straight into the workforce—specifically in the manufacturing sector. That’s why the new Manufacturing Works certificate program designed to give high school seniors technical skills while exploring careers in manufacturing appealed to him.

But two months into the College 120 Career and College Readiness class he and five other high school students enrolled in as part of Manufacturing Works, he changed his mind. Now attending college is in his future.

“I’m really interested in what I am learning. I want to learn more,” said Landon, who will enroll at Tri-County after graduating from Wren.

This spring Tri-County partnered with Belton-Honea Path and Wren high schools to pilot Manufacturing Works, a program for high school seniors who want to gain exposure and skills to prepare for careers in manufacturing right out of high school.

“We want to help students understand that manufacturing careers offer great opportunities, challenging work, job stability and good salaries,” said Galen DeHay, senior vice president. “At the same time, our instructors teach them marketable skills to take with them when they enter the workforce.”

High school seniors enrolled in the Manufacturing Works program will complete three college courses at the College and have an opportunity for a paid summer work experience.

“Manufacturing Works offers ways for high school seniors to gain college credit, work experience and earn a college certificate,” said Galen.

Upon completion of the program, students will earn a certificate in Manufacturing Production I from Tri-County Technical College and be ready to enter full-time employment in manufacturing or continue their education to earn an associate degree in an engineering or industrial technology field.

Nicole Murray and Yaroslav Stalin from Belton-Honea Path High School and Jamon Henry, Johnathan Cobb, Carter Click and Landon from Wren High School all say they were interested



Students in the Manufacturing Works class are pictured from left, **Nicole Murray**, of Honea Path; **Jamon Henry**, of Williamston; **Johnathan Cobb** of Liberty; **Carter Click** of Williamston; **Landon Watt**, of Piedmont, and **Yaroslav Stalin**, of Belton.

in earning college credit while in high school. In addition to the three credit hours earned from completing College 120 and the OSHA 10 certification they will earn this semester, several will take two I-BEST manufacturing classes this summer.

This semester, after taking classes at their respective high schools, they are bused to Tri-County for an afternoon College 120 class taught by I-BEST instructor Melinda Hoover.

“They are learning skills that can be applied in the workforce as well as everyday life, such as teamwork and conflict management,” said Melinda.

“It’s challenging,” said Yaroslav. “Everything applies to what we will do in future jobs.”

“These students attend high school five days a week, college two days a week, and work part-time jobs,” said Hoover. “Often they sacrifice their weekends. They still remain focused on their studies and are making time for their future. They are an impressive group of students.”

“I never get bored in this class,” said Johnathan.

“I’m even more interested in manufacturing than before,” said Nicole.

“Even though they are high school students, my expectations are no different. I treat them like Tri-County students. They are all college students and they perform as such,” said Melinda.

Tri-County, SWU Sign Connect Agreement

Tri-County and Southern Wesleyan University (SWU) officials signed a Connect agreement which will enhance the transfer of credits as students work towards their bachelor’s degrees.

Students who complete any associate degree at TCTC will be guaranteed admission to SWU upon successfully completing all steps for enrollment. Students will have the option of completing their bachelor’s degree program at SWU

by taking courses fully online, on-campus, or a combination of online and on-campus. To support students in making progress towards both the associate and bachelor’s degrees, students will have support of both TCTC’s academic advisors and SWU’s academic advisors.

The Connect program will begin in the fall of 2019.

Our College Family

in transition



Bryan Manuel

Bryan Manuel Named Dean of Integrated Workforce Solutions

Bryan Manuel joined the College March 1 in the new position of Dean of Integrated Workforce Solutions.

He and the College's Integrated Workforce Solutions (IWS) team will collaborate to proactively provide effective solutions to meet the education and training needs of employers.

"Simply put, we are moving from service provider to solutions provider," said Dr. Booth.

Bryan will work with IWS team members to conduct comprehensive needs assessments to determine short- and long-term goals of a company and the possible obstacles to achieving those goals. Once an assessment is complete, the IWS team can deploy groups of content experts and curriculum developers from the academic and Corporate and Community Education divisions to design solutions—credit, non-credit, or both—to meet their specific needs.

Examples of College programs designed to yield economic development and meet workforce needs are the I-BEST Manufacturing and Healthcare Pathways and the Michelin Manufacturing Scholars program.

Bryan also oversees the Technical Skills for Success Department and will assist Senior Vice President Galen DeHay in carrying out the College's strategic planning process. Additional duties will include working with faculty and staff to conduct environmental scans to identify opportunities for new programs and services, as well as providing feedback regarding workforce solutions that cross division/departmental lines.

Bryan brings to the College more than fifteen years of educational and industry experience, most recently serving as Learning and Development Manager for Georgia-Pacific in Darlington, SC. He also held the positions of Lead Technical Trainer for Valero Energy in Houston, Texas, and Advanced Training Specialist, as well as Operations Supervisor for Marathon Petroleum Company. He holds bachelor of arts degrees and a master's degree in education, all from Louisiana State University. He and his wife, Tracy, have two children, Juliana, 20, and Isabella, 14.

Heidi Reeves is the Student Success Coordinator at our Oconee Campus. Since 2016 she has worked part time as a Generalist in Student Development.

She holds a B.A. in Elementary Education from Eastern Washington University and worked as a Title I Teacher in Des Moines, Iowa, and taught Kindergarten in Minnesota, and second grade in Wisconsin before her family moved to the Upstate.

At Tri-County, she is active on the Health Fair, Parking, and Gradfest committees.

Two years ago, she was the recipient of the Student Advocate Award at Tri-County Technical College.

Heidi volunteers as a mentor with Ripple of One. She attends Clemson New Spring Church.

She and her husband, Mark, live in Seneca. They have two sons, Nick who is 21 and served at Fort Myers Army base in the Old Guard, and Caleb, a senior in high school who will be entering the Army in July to train as a cyber warrior.



Heidi Reeves



Timia Hunter

Timia Hunter is the Division Recruiter for the Corporate and Community Education Division.

Most recently, she worked as Director of Career Development at Virginia College in Greenville. She earned an associate degree in Business from Greenville Technical College and transferred to Southern Wesleyan University where she earned a bachelor's in Business Administration

and an MBA. Timia lives in Greenville with her daughters, Sanyiah, 12, and Kamari, 9.

Jena Dunaway is the Administrative Specialist for High School Engagement and Outreach. She graduated from our Administrative Office Technology program last year and served as a work/study at the Campus Store. She and her husband, Michael, attend Suber Road Baptist Church in Greer. They live in Anderson. Jena's parents are Tina and Richard Burton, both employees and graduates of Tri-County.



Jena Dunaway

Patricia West—Longest-Standing CCE Member—Retires

With 28 years of service, Patricia West is the longest-standing employee and training coordinator in the Corporate and Community Education Division. March 29 was Patricia's last day on the job—she is thrilled about retirement but more excited about the impending arrival of her second granddaughter due April 2.

Patricia said now is a good time to retire after 28 years as an Administrative Assistant and later Training Coordinator for the SC DOT program. Patricia joined Tri-County in 1987 as evening Secretary for the Corporate and Community Education Division and over the years has made significant contributions to every department in the division.

"We are really going to miss Patricia," said Mary Corley, program director for Highway Construction, who has been her supervisor since 2013. "She is super organized, reliable, and calm in the face of crises. Patricia is not afraid of a challenge. There are so many moving pieces to our SC DOT classes, which are taught by industry representatives, consultants, and instructors. We run multiple classes almost every week of the year both here and in Columbia. Patricia coordinates all of the specifics. She is quick on her feet and calm with last-minute changes. She is wonderful. We will miss her very much."



Patricia West

Susan Womack, CCE customer service manager, and Patricia were in Business classes together in the mid-1980's and are both alumni of Tri-County. "My mother (Lurene Lee, who retired from CCE in 2000) also worked with Patricia in the CCE Division and loves her as if she were one of her own," said Susan.

"When I came to work at Tri-County, I worked evenings in the Bookstore, and Patricia worked during the evening in CCE (then located in Pickens Hall), so there were many occasions when we communicated about books that were required for the CCE courses that she managed," said Susan.

"When I became a part of CCE in the late 90's, Patricia was one of the CCE staff who trained me on how CCE registrations and payments were handled. We have served on the Student Manager User Group team since its inception and have continued to collaborate on processes and procedures and sharing knowledge to train new people. We are like a family in CCE. I am really going to miss her and her sincerity. What you see is what you get. She is pleasant and supportive. And genuinely cares about folks. Her retirement doesn't mark the end of our friendship. She won't be part of my daily work life but will always be a part of my personal life."

Ana Interiano Retires

Ana Interiano, accounts receivable manager for more than 11 years, retired at the end of the month. The Fiscal Affairs

Department hosted a drop-in reception to celebrate Ana's retirement and for faculty and staff to stop by and wish her well.

Ana says her retirement begins with a cruise to Cuba and she plans to continue to travel for the next several months, visiting with family and friends.

Pictured with Ana, pictured front row, center, are members of the Fiscal Affairs Department, (front row, left to right) Jessica Haning, Deborah Wardlaw, Teresa Adkins, Ruth Masters, and Lisa Butler and (back row, from left) Lori Mulzer, Kristal Doherty, Bailey Naylor, Tracy Wactor, Ann Hall, Matt Whitten, and Sara Simpson. Not pictured is Cara Hamilton, who was out of town.





Pet Adoption

Chris Marino, our director of Institutional Research and Evaluation, adopted Marvelous Miss Masiel at the Veterinary Technology adoption held March 14.

Students Named to All-State Academic Team

Amy Merritt and **Jeremy Catron** have been named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-State Academic Team and will be recognized at a special ceremony in Columbia on April 25.

Amy is a Business Administration major, and Jeremy is a CNC Programming and Operator major. Both are Anderson residents.

Alpha Zeta Beta (AZB) is the College's chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Initiates into the Alpha Zeta Beta chapter must have completed at least 12 hours of college work leading toward an associate degree and have attained a grade point ratio of 3.5 or better. Initiates also must be judged of good moral character and possess demonstrated qualities of good citizenship and service.



Amy Merritt



Jeremy Catron

Presidential Finalists

(continued from page 1)

D. Galen DeHay serves as Senior Vice President for Tri-County Technical College. He provides leadership for all academic, student support, enrollment, and workforce development functions of the College, including Academic Affairs, Student Support and Engagement, College Transitions, Marketing, Research and Evaluation, and Integrated Workforce Solutions. His previous experience includes serving as Assistant Vice President for Instruction and Institutional Effectiveness, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Director of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, Science Department Head, and Biology Instructor, all at Tri-County Technical College. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Clemson University and is a Dissertation Candidate (ABD) toward a Ph.D. from Clemson University.

Dr. Shannon L. Kennedy serves as Executive Vice President for Cleveland Community College in Shelby, NC. She is responsible for providing leadership to the Library, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, Business Office (CFO), Public Information, Marketing, and Physical Plant. Her previous experience includes serving as Executive Vice President of Instruction and Student Development, Dean of Community Relations and Institutional Advancement, Associate Dean of Community Relations and Development and Director of Public Information and Grants Development, all at Cleveland Community College. Previous experience includes serving as director of Foundation and Corporate Relations for Gardner Webb University and adjunct faculty teaching positions. She holds a B.A. from Millersville University; M.A. from Gardner-Webb University, and Ed.D. from North Carolina State University.

Spotlight on Power Line Worker Training Program

(continued from page 3)

development programs to obtain national certifications that can lead to employment, added Dr. Cothran.

Representatives agreed this is a lucrative field, with persons having the opportunity to make five- and six-figure salaries within a few years. "We are always looking for new ways to change the dynamics of persons' lives," said Dr. Cothran.

Classes will be held at the TTI building on Highway 28 in Anderson, which now serves as the Enterprise Campus for Tri-County and Anderson County's training needs.

Classes are tentatively scheduled to begin in April.

For more information, contact Amy Littleton, alittle6@tctc.edu; training coordinator, Corporate and Community Education Division at Tri-County Technical College.



MUSC Professor Discusses Moral Courage

Dr. Teresa Stephens, an associate professor in MUSC School of Nursing and faculty advisor for the State Student Nurses' Association, spoke with Associate Degree Nursing students about moral courage in the workplace.

Faculty Are Co-Presenters at National Innovations Conference

Humanities instructor Kathleen (Katie) Hardy and General Engineering Technology Program Director Dorian McIntire were co-presenters at the February 24–27 League of Innovations Conference in New York City.

Katie discussed a new class she is designing that will make humanities more relevant in STEM education. It will be piloted in the fall or spring.

Dorian led a session called Arduino Unleashed where he discussed the varied applications of arduinos.

The national conference drew educators from both two- and four-year colleges and universities.

Katie is in the design/developmental phase of restructuring HS 205, Technology and Culture, to HS 295, the new Leadership through the Humanities class.

"The course is updated with new ideas. It's an entirely different class," said Katie, who has collaborated with the Program Directors in the Industrial and Engineering Technology

Division, asking them what students need and what is relevant for their careers. "I worked with the Division and got their input and designed the class to meet their needs," she said.

"Katie has redesigned the course to make it more relevant and is highlighting the competencies needed in today's workplace," said Dorian.

"We got really good feedback at the conference," added Dorian. They also attended a presentation on integrated learning, and he says, "It highlighted the same concepts that we are working on—making classes more relevant through division collaboration."



Katie Hardy

Dorian McIntire



Employee Benefits/Health Fair Draws Crowd

The Employee Benefits/Health Fair was held March 28 in Anderson Hall. More than 30 vendors and businesses were on site, featuring various health and wellness offerings, including traditional health benefits, vision, financial wellness, and employee assistance.

American Heart Association volunteer **Terri Kirkpatrick**, left, instructs **Cathy Payne**, applications analyst for the Registrar's office, how to perform hands-only CPR on a manikin.

Commerce Grant Provides Funds to Create Inspire Lab

A \$100,000 grant from the Department of Commerce to Tri-County Technical College is providing funds to create Inspire Lab, a new business incubator program designed to give future business owners the proper resources and knowledge to create new businesses.

The program will launch later this spring with classes to begin in the fall.

A committee will look at the viability of each business proposal, as well as the practicality of each coming to fruition.

Funds are being used for the development of a business incubation program that blends online and classroom studies that provide personal coaching and counseling from seasoned business veterans to help individuals to further their business ideas.

The 12-week program will cover Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Leadership, Design Process, and Entrepreneurship.

Between 6 and 12 entrepreneurs will be selected to participate. They will meet two hours each week.

The main goals and objectives of the Project INSPIRE Lab are to build and launch programs that deliver real business skill sets, such as problem solving, critical thinking,



entrepreneurship, design thinking, and leadership. The industry areas which we are investigating and will build programs around are in Advanced Materials, Civil Infrastructure, and Educational Technology.

“Being an entrepreneur means creating and cultivating new business concepts. It is a daunting task with startup business owners being the sole risk takers and stakeholders. As such, they must assume the various roles within an organization. Performing multiple duties within the startup can be roller coaster ride of ups and downs. Without the proper resources and teams to assist in making it through the small business startup challenge, company founders can quickly find themselves in over their head,” said Craig Kinley, consultant for the project.

“Our goal is to build entrepreneurs within the Upstate, in our own

backyards,” said Kinley.

The Tri-County Technical College INSPIRE Lab is sponsored by Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. The INSPIRE Lab will be temporarily located at the Anderson Campus and then move to 1428 Pearman Dairy Rd. Anderson, in a 5,000-square-foot facility within the old TTI/Ryobi manufacturing facility.

Executive Staff Summary

- **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROJECT REPORT:** Members of the project team charged with developing a framework to create a network of diversity, inclusion, equity, and access throughout all levels of the College provided a report detailing the guiding principles for diversity and inclusion, as well as a plan for moving the institution forward. The plan includes strategies around institutional ownership/organizational structure; employee professional development and upward mobility; student learning outside the classrooms and economic mobility; and student learning inside the classroom. A project team will be formed to implement a roll-out strategy.
- **SCTCS LEGISLATIVE DAY:** The SC Technical College System will host a Legislative Day event at the State House during April. Each technical college will have a booth and display to highlight workforce education and training.
- **STRATEGIC PLANNING:** The Executive Staff is using the work of the President’s Advisory Council to develop a practical vision that will guide the final development phases of the College’s next ten-year vision and three-year strategic plan, including initiatives for FY20.
- **OTHER:** FY20 budgeting process; review of policies and procedures; EPMS planning phase, and county council budget presentations.