

# Connection

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## Board of Visitors Holds First Meeting



The Board of Visitors is a group of community leaders who will serve as an extension of the Institutional Advancement Division and work as advocates and ambassadors for Tri-County.

The College’s new Board of Visitors held its first meeting September 11 on the Pendleton Campus. This group of community leaders will serve as an extension of the College through the Institutional Advancement Division and work as advocates and ambassadors for Tri-County.

“You were nominated for your advocacy,” said Laneika Musalini, our director of grants who will manage the board’s activities, communications, and meetings.

“The Board is important because it is a way to get our community engaged with the College. That’s our

goal—to have interactive and engaged meetings and to obtain feedback that will help in our decision making,” said Laneika. “It’s also a way to connect and align with our vision and mission for the College.”

“Our meetings will be more than information sessions—they will be about dialogue and ideas,” she added.

Members were selected from nominations the College accepted from Commission members, the Foundation Board Chair, College Deans, Executive Staff members, County Council Chairs, and Legislative Delegation Chairs.

Currently there are

19 members who have committed to serving a two-year term on the Board of Visitors. “We are still accepting nominations—we can have up to 50 members,” said Laneika.

Members serve a two-year term, meet two times a year, and make a financial commitment to the College.

In addition to serving as advocates, they also are future employers for our students. “Many of our partners can help our students as far as co-op and work-based learning experiences and opportunities,” she said.

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# Connection

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## Mailing Address (All Campuses)

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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

## The “Why” of TCTC

Most organizations can tell you what they do and how they do it, but very few can articulate why. They are missing the most important point.

The “why” of what any organization does is obviously more important than “what” they do, yet it can be the most difficult to express in a meaningful way. Not only is it the most important, it is the most compelling.

This thought-provoking way of looking at who we are as an organization and why we exist is one I became familiar with through the work of Simon Sinek, author and organizational consultant.

Why does Tri-County Technical College exist? To deliver degrees, diplomas, and certificates to students who successfully complete our programs of study? To teach classes? To help people learn? To help people gain skills?

Not quite.

We believe that education has the power to transform the lives of our students so they are able to reach their goals and achieve their potential, ultimately shaping and building strong and thriving communities. That’s the “why” of our existence and the true definition of student success.

How do we do it? We deliver a student experience that ignites transformation in our students, helping them to realize their potential and reach their goals.

What do we do? Deliver educational programs and services that meet both the needs of the student and employers, and four-year colleges for those who transfer.

The reality is we can’t deliver a transformative student experience if we haven’t grasped and articulated the “why” of our existence. The “why” – our ability to transform lives and build strong communities through the power of education – is what must drive our decision-making and actions.

How does improving the economic mobility of our students and the community fit in? Through the direct role we play in economic development. Economic development is a process – a collaborative approach to strengthening a community by improving economic standards. Tri-County promotes economic development in many ways, including workforce development and working with companies and industrial prospects to meet industry training needs in a structured way.

Further, we can’t deliver on the “why” of our existence without the help of others. Our role, in great part, is to lead others in an effort to achieve our mission. Tri-County Technical College is best suited, and perhaps the only organization that can connect all the partners to effect change -- K-12, businesses and industries, non-profit organizations, community agencies, and State and federal governments. Those connections have to be true partnerships where everyone has common goals, actively participates, and benefits from the outcomes. This is what we



**Dr. Galen DeHay**  
President

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*“As we begin synthesizing the ideas and feedback generated by the President’s Advisory Council and multiple focus group meetings, we are careful to keep the “why” front and center in our discussions as we develop our new Ten-Year Vision and Strategic Plan. Similar to a compass, it keeps us moving in the right direction.”*

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—Dr. Galen DeHay

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# Foundation News

## Abney Foundation Helps Students to Meet Goals

The Foundation sponsored the Fifth Annual Abney Day on September 12 to give students the chance to personally express their appreciation to The Abney Foundation for its continued support of scholarships.

Since 1989 The Abney Foundation has given \$4.2 million to Tri-County, making it the single largest donor in the College's history.

"The Abney Foundation invests in the local community, and this helps these individuals to meet their dreams and goals," said President DeHay. "You help us to meet our goal of transforming lives in our community."

In addition, faculty have been the recipients of Abney Foundation professional development funds that help them to stay abreast through conferences and courses.

"We chose you because we believe in you," said Dr. Lisa McWherter, who serves as Executive Director of The Abney Foundation. She asked the group to be mindful of three objectives:

- Remember that education is a gift to yourself and your family.
- Give your best effort.
- Give back when you can—invest in others.



Students gathered September 12 to say thank you to The Abney Foundation's Executive Director Emeritus and Trustee **Carl Edwards** and Executive Director **Dr. Lisa McWherter** for providing funds for scholarships to help them to achieve their educational goals.



**Samuel Dodd**, of Williamston, a Mechatronics major and Abney scholarship recipient



The Abney Foundation's Executive Director Emeritus and Trustee Carl Edwards and Executive Director **Dr. Lisa McWherter** spoke one on one with current and former scholarship recipients prior to and after the luncheon.



**Sommer Smith**, a 2006 Business Management major, who works in accounts payable for Premier Restoration in Belton, talks with **Dr. Lisa McWherter**, executive director of The Abney Foundation.

## President's List Students Honored

**President DeHay** hosted a reception September 18 for students named to the President's List for spring and summer semesters. He is pictured (center) with those who attended the event. To be named to the President's List one must have a 4.0 GPA and 12 credit hours for the semester.



## Pathways Student Addresses Educators at Annual Partnership Appreciation Breakfast

David Resa, a Westside High School graduate/dual enrollment student who is now a Welding major, talked to high school counselors and others about the many benefits of the Technical Career Pathways (TCP) program at the annual Partnership Appreciation Breakfast held September 13.

He also works for Anderson District 5 (for a construction

company). "I take pride working for a place that I came from. Now I'm working from the shoulders down, but I'm at Tri-County so I can work from the shoulders up," he said.

Being a hands-on learner, he praised the TCP program and urged counselors to "make it known to open up opportunities to students."



**David Resa**, Welding major, spoke to high school counselors and other educators during the College's annual Partnership Appreciation Breakfast.



**Amanda Blanton** tells educators about the new CNC Pathways program during the annual Partnership Appreciation Breakfast. She also discussed the Manufacturing Works program designed for high school seniors who want to enter manufacturing jobs right out of high school.

# Our Communities Need Us Differently

Nearly twenty employees participated in a recent focus group with **Dr. Galen DeHay**, left, to discuss how changes in demographics, technology, industry, and other factors impact how we deliver services to students and the community. Faculty and staff who do not serve on the President's Advisory Council are invited to share their perspectives with Dr. DeHay during ten different focus groups scheduled throughout the fall semester on each campus.

During the "Our Communities Need Us Differently" focus groups, participants explore the things we do well, the things that hold us back, and what we can and should change as an institution dedicated to helping students succeed in life and work. For additional information or to register, review the Weekly EDGE newsletter or contact Public Relations at Ext. 1507 or PR@tctc.edu.



## Arthrex Donates Training Equipment

Many thanks to our community partner, Arthrex, for its continued support of the College. The company generously donated two milling machines, along with three lathes—all were delivered to the Workforce Training Center (located beside the ITC).

"Arthrex is proud to have donated nine machines to Tri-County Technical College to support the machining program," says Director of Operations Chris Johansen. He added that the machines are similar to what Arthrex currently uses in production, giving students real-world, industry experience and helping develop skills like those needed at Arthrex's Sandy Springs facility.

## Executive Staff Summary

- **TEN-YEAR VISION AND STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2020-2030:** Work continues to develop the new Ten-Year Vision and Strategic Plan. Next steps including establishing goals for each strategic direction and developing activities in support of those goals and directions.
- **PLEAT:** The PLEAT (Physical Learning Experiences Advisory Team) presented its final report. The team was assigned the task of mapping out each of the experiences we have/want moving forward in our physical learning spaces, including classrooms, labs, open labs, and open

spaces on all campuses. In addition, the team also will advise and serve as a resource to campus departments that will be responsible for implementing the standard learning experiences, such as the Physical Plant, Accessibility Resource Center, Information Technology, and the Registrar/Student Data Center. A survey was sent out to all employees to obtain feedback on the outcomes of the project.

- **OTHER:** Updates to policies and procedures; planning for Commission planning retreat and bi-monthly meeting.

# Board of Visitors Holds First Meeting

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The group's first call to action was to become social media influencers and spread the word about College initiatives and the newly-created Board of Visitors.

"That has already started to happen," said Laneika. After leaving the inaugural meeting, members immediately began to communicate on social media.

"We received good feedback about the meeting and our College initiatives. At the end of the meeting, everyone was energized and positive and ready to move forward," said Laneika.

"We got the best of the best in our Board of Visitors—our



**Laneika Musalini** outlines the Board's expectations.



**President DeHay**, standing beside the College's Vision Statement, told the group, "We focus on our vision every day and start every conversation with this in mind."



From left, **Jason Duncan**, **Dr. Darryl Morris**, and **Ken Hitchcock**

group is diverse in terms of race, gender, background, age, and occupations. We have representatives from all three counties, and some are alumni. Many are already in tune with Tri-County and are hiring our grads. Everyone wants to learn more about the College."

The next meeting is set for February 12.

## Board of Visitors

Dr. Darryl Morris, Jr., Family Vision Clemson

Mr. Keith Hudgins, Lecturer, College of Business, Clemson University

Dr. Beatrice Thompson, Anderson City Councilwoman and Executive Director of the Westside Community Center

Mr. Robert Halfacre, Senior Vice President and Relationship Manager, Carolina Alliance Bank

Mr. Gene Williams, Pastor of World Tabernacle Church, Anderson

Ms. Carol Burdette, Chief Professional Officer, United Way of Anderson County

Mr. Julio Hernandez, Chief of Staff for the Division for Inclusion and Equity, Clemson University

Dr. Gabrielle Cannick, MD, Ph. D, dentist and owner of Grand Oaks Dental and Grand Oaks Sleep Solutions

Mr. Phil Anderson, President, Hytech Machining, Inc.

Ms. Ruthie Millar, Director of Community Outreach, Clemson Downs

Ms. Denise Bailey, Principal, Accounting Systems Consulting Practice Leader, Elliott Davis, Greenville

Ms. Reene Gambrell, Nuclear Licensing Engineer, Gambrell Consulting Services

Mr. Michael Cunningham, Vice President for Community Relations and Engagement. AnMed Health

Mr. Ken Hitchcock, Director of the Pickens County Career & Technology Center

Ms. Stephanie Davis, Oconee County

Dr. Ken Campbell, Physician, AnMed Health

Mr. Cliff Powell, Realtor, Powell Real Estate

Mr. Jason Duncan, Owner and President, Oconee Machine and Tool

Mr. Dan Bracken, Co-Owner, Leonardi Bracken

Mr. Mike Cannon, President, Cannon Marketing, Anderson

# Our College Family



Robin McFall

## excellence through service

Congratulations to **Robin McFall**, English instructor, who was elected Faculty Senate President for 2019-2020. Robin fills the vacancy left by Julia Seligson, who stepped down after being named English Department Head. (Faculty Senate bylaws prohibit those who hold the position of Department Head from serving as Faculty Senate President.)

## in transition

**Jessica Hollifield** is the Financial Aid Advisor. For the last three years, Jessica served as the part-time Administrative Assistant for the Financial Aid Office while taking transfer classes here. In August, she graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. in Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Jessica lives in Central.



Jessica Hollifield



Tracie Johnson

**Tracie Johnson** and **Dr. Michelle Smoak** joined our Associate Degree Nursing Department as faculty members.

For the past 13 years, Tracie was an Oncology Nurse for Prisma Health. She also has worked as an Occupational Nurse for Milliken in Williamston for seven years. She is a 2001 graduate of our Associate Degree Nursing program and earned a BSN from Western Governor's University and MSN and FNP (Family Nurse Practitioner) degrees from Walden University.

She and her husband, Bryan, have two children, Kiley, 16, and Garrett, 13. They live in Westminster.

Michelle worked for nine years as an Emergency Nurse at Colleton Medical Center in Utah. She also has worked as an adjunct professor for USC and



Dr. Michelle Smoak

the University of Tennessee. Michelle holds a BSN from the University of South Carolina, an MSN from Western Governor's University, and a Ph.D. in Nursing Practice in Administration from Sanford University. She is a member of the Emergency Nurses Association and currently serves as Chapter President. She and her husband, Jody, live in Greer.

**Robin Weaver** is the Director of Applications Delivery and Business Intelligence in the Information Technology Division. Since 2008 she worked for UNC-Charlotte as Director of Content Management. Prior to that, she was Senior Delivery Manager for IBM for eight years. She holds bachelor's degrees in Business Management (University of Maryland) and Computer Science (Fitchburg State), along with a master's in System Management from the University of Southern California. She received the Excellence in Advising award while at UNC-Charlotte and is an IBM Certified Professional. Robin lives in Fair Play.



Robin Weaver



Stacey Frank

**Stacey Frank** is now serving as our Social Sciences Department Chair effective August. She joined the Psychology faculty in our Social Sciences Department in 2014 and has served as Faculty Advisor for the Student Veterans Association and as Faculty Senate President, Vice President, and Secretary.

## Constitution Day Celebrated

**Raigan Owen**, 18, of Easley, registered to vote when Tri-County observed Constitution Day to celebrate the US Constitution, its history, meaning, and importance in our lives. Raigan is a Practical Nursing major. Students could pick up a free pocket Constitution and register to vote in the Student Success Center.



## Elected Official Form Panel for TAPS

The Tri-County Association of Political Scientists (TAPS) hosted its annual “Pizza and Politics” forum Sept. 25 in Parker Auditorium on the Pendleton Campus. The annual event is designed to educate students about local issues and the political process. Four local elected officials participated in a panel discussion. From left, Rep. **Brian White**, SC House; **Tony Stewart**, Anderson City Council; **Tommy Dunn**, Anderson County Council; and **Craig Wooten**, Anderson County Council.

TAPS is an organization aimed at encouraging student involvement in the political process, government, and local community. The goals of this organization are to encourage students to register to vote, become involved in the election process, and learn about current political issues. Members of TAPS help coordinate annual voter registration drives, provide a forum for the discussion of political issues and events, and invite guest speakers to campus.



## PACE Board Meets to Set Goals, Priorities for 2019-20

The Partnership of Academic and Career Education (PACE) convened for its first meeting of the new academic year on Sept. 26 at the Pendleton Campus.



Board members include superintendents, TCTC officials, and representatives of business, industry, and community non-profit organizations in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. **Dr. Galen DeHay**, pictured far left at the head of the table, led the group in a discussion of their purpose, goals, and program of work for 2019-20.

The PACE Board provides a structure of AOP educators and business partners to work together, through collaboration on best practices and regional strategies, in support of career pathways that ensure students are prepared for the next level of education or to enter the workplace.

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## The “Why” of TCTC

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strive for in every partnership we undertake.

As we begin synthesizing the ideas and feedback generated by the President’s Advisory Council and multiple focus group meetings to inform our new Ten-Year Vision and Strategic Plan, we are careful to keep the “why” front and center in our discussions. Similar to a compass, it keeps us moving in the right direction.

Simon Sinek said it best, and it is certainly applicable to Tri-County Technical College if you think it through.

“People don’t buy what you do; they buy why you do it. And what you do simply proves what you believe.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Galen DeHay".

Galen DeHay, Ph.D.



## Surgical Tech Open House

In honor of National Surgical Technologist Week (September 15-21), the Surgical Technology program hosted an open house. In response to an e-mail Program Director Denelle White sent, TCTC received a shout out on the MASH Matters Podcast (<https://podcasts.google.com/?feed=aHR0cDovL21hc2htYXR0ZXJzLmxpYnN5bi5jb20vcnNz&episode=NTdjZTU2YjkwMTAxNDY2MTg3ZThmOTE3MjUyYTRhZmM&hl=en&ep=6&at=1568740610900>).