

Connection

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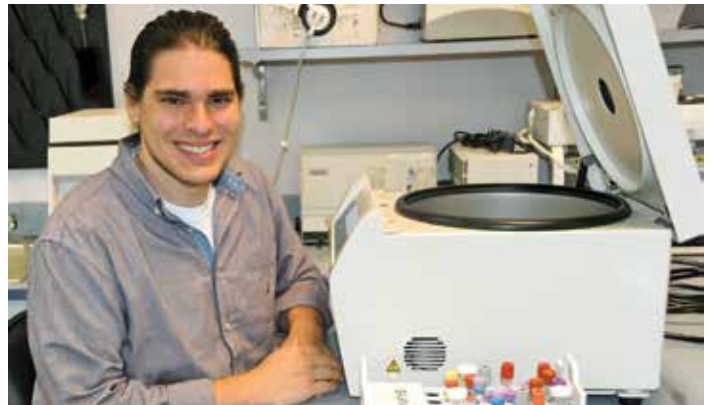
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MLT Senior Is Overall Winner in State Student Bowl

Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) senior Tyler Schnell said his goal was to make it through the first round of questions as a competitor in the S.C. Society of Clinical Laboratory Science (SCSCLS) State Student Bowl held April 14 at Midlands Technical College in Columbia.



Tyler Schnell

He says he felt more

confident as he progressed to the second round. "I thought maybe I can do this," he said. The third round left him tied for first place and following a series of five tiebreaker questions, he walked away with the first-place award. As the overall winner in the competition, Tyler received \$100.

Tyler, 25, of Anderson, and three other Tri-County MLT majors competed against 32 students representing seven technical colleges in the State that have MLT programs. It was the second time in one week when his academic skills were rewarded. Just three days before, he received the Outstanding Student Award for the MLT program at the College's annual Student Awards ceremony.

"The ultimate goal of the state student bowl is to allow students a group experience to review in preparation for the National Board of Certification (BOC) exam of the American (continued on page 6)

Top Students Honored at Awards Ceremony

"Be proud of these moments," Dr. Booth told the College's top students at the annual Outstanding Student Awards ceremony. He advised the students to take the passion for what they have done well academically and find other ways to apply it over the rest of their lives. Following his remarks, the Outstanding Student Awards were presented.



Pictured, **Melissa Davis Brown**, of Pendleton, middle, received the College's Outstanding Management Student Award at the annual awards ceremony recently. She also was honored with the Student Government Award. She is pictured with **Lori Morrissette**, manager of student development and involvement programs, left, and **Tracy Ethridge**, Management program director.

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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-TCTC (8282)

Toll-free

1-866-269-5677

TDD/Voice

1-800-735-2905

Website

www.tctc.edu



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

Site Prep Begins for Oconee Campus

Dirt is moving yet again as we prepare to build our third community campus—this time in Oconee County.

Our friends in Oconee County have begun the process of clearing a site at the Oconee Industry and Technology Park, located on Highway 11 in Westminster. We expect to have a formal groundbreaking ceremony early this summer and open the campus in time for Fall Semester, 2018.

More than a campus, our presence in Oconee County will be part of the planned Oconee County Workforce Development Center (OCWDC)—a unique complex for technical education, work-based learning, and economic development. OCWDC will be comprised of our Oconee Campus, a new Career Center for high school students to be built by the School District of Oconee County, and Adult Education.

Our building, the first to be constructed, will be approximately 37,000 square feet and is projected to cost an estimated \$5.5 million. Planned program offerings include CNC, Industrial Electronics, Mechatronics, and Logistics. Additional courses will be offered to support other educational needs in the area.

This model of collaboration not only benefits students, but also makes good economic sense. Generally speaking, Career Center students can use the facilities during the day, and Tri-County can use the equipment in the afternoons and evenings. Rather than purchase similar equipment for two locations, both can share some of the same equipment and labs.

Co-location with the Career Center also will enable us to expand our Technical Career Pathways program, which allows students to earn a Tri-County credential by the time they graduate from high school, matriculate at Tri-County the following fall, and complete an associate degree within one year of full-time study.

Equally important is the undeniable attraction this Center offers to industries being recruited to the park to create new jobs and spur economic growth. Companies will have the opportunity to groom future employees by providing internship and cooperative education experiences for high school and college students. Students literally can walk from the classroom to the workplace and immediately apply what they have learned in a real-world setting.

Stay tuned for the date of our Groundbreaking Ceremony. It will be a time of celebration and the first step in creating a dynamic center where education, economic development, workforce training, and industry come together in ways we have yet to imagine. Thanks to the great team we have working on this initiative, I have no doubt we will create a model of collaboration that others across the country will want to emulate.



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President



Spotlight on Steps to Success 2017

Students in the Business Technology programs got valuable real-life advice from local employers on the do's and don'ts of interviewing skills and workplace behavior at an annual seminar sponsored by the Business Technology Advisory Committee.

Billed as "Steps to Success 2017," the session topics included the importance of how you present yourself on social networking sites, interviewing guidelines, career search tips, how to succeed on the job, and today's multi-generational workforce.

Two groups participated in panel discussions titled "A Day in the Life of a Professional." One session featured Denise Bailey, director of accounting systems consulting, Elliot Davis in Greenville, and chair of our Business Technology Advisory Committee; John Powell, owner of Powell Real Estate and chair of the College's Commission; and Thom Deluccia, AAMS, Edward D. Jones investment advisor. Both Bailey and Powell are alumni of the College. She earned an Accounting degree in 2004, and he earned a Marketing degree in 1972.

Also participating in a second session were Brian Lyles, president of PVS Sensors; Cliff Powell, realtor, Powell Real Estate; and Stephanie Sandifer, division director, office team, Robert Half Company.

Participating in the Tri-County Graduate Success Stories panel discussion were Eddie Moser, Bailey Duncan, Danielle Queen, and Kera McGlothen. Eddie holds Computer Technology and Management degrees from Tri-County and is enrolled in the Mechatronics program. He works at BMW. Danielle is a Banking and Finance major, who works at Greenfield Industries. Bailey, an Administrative Office Technology graduate, joined the College's Business Office team in May 2016, and Kera, an Accounting major, works at Clemson University.

Another session featured professionals who work with non-profit organizations. They included Barb Baptista, executive director of the Anderson Free Clinic; Travis McNeal, executive director of Harvest Food Bank; Tracy Bowie, executive director of Foothills Alliance; and Kristi King Brock, executive director for AIM.

Career Services staff conducted sessions on finding the right career path, and panelists talked one-on-one with students about their career goals.

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A day in the life of a professional was moderated by **Cliff Powell**, far left, and featured, from left, **Denise Bailey**, director of accounting systems consulting, **Elliot Davis**, and chair of our Business Technology Advisory Committee; **John Powell**, owner of Powell Real Estate and chair of the College's Commission; and **Thom Deluccia** AAMS, Edward D. Jones investment advisor.



Career Services Staff conducted sessions on finding the right career. Here **Glenda Waters**, career counselor, standing, talks with **Caroline Trembly**, a Marketing major from Greenville.



Denise Bailey talks with Administrative Office Technology students from left, **Leslie Crocker**, of Seneca, **Carrie Alewine**, of Westminster, and **Carla Talley**, of Salem. "Tri-County is a good place to start. Your degree sets you apart and is the first step to continuing your education," said Bailey, who was the first student from Tri-County to transfer to Franklin University where she earned a bachelor's degree in Accounting and a master's in Business Administration.

Advice From The Professionals

Thom Deluccia—"Networking is important."

John Powell—"Have the right attitude."

Denise Bailey—"Always market yourself. And it's never too late to look for an internship."

AnMed Health Hosts Nursing Luncheon



Nedra Brown, RN, director of Nursing Services at AnMed Health, center, spoke to senior Nursing students at a luncheon. She is pictured with **Jackie Rutledge**, Nursing department head, left, and **Carlisle Baker**, HR specialist, AnMed.

excellence through service

An article written by Accounting Program Director **Brenda Mattison** was published in *The Communicator*, an American Accounting Association (AAA) newsletter for two-year college instructors. The article is titled “Getting Students to Use Their Brains.”



Brenda Mattison

Congratulations to the Robotics Team sponsored by Bosch and TCTC, who made it to the semifinals and won two awards at a regional event in Alabama. The team built the robot at our Industrial Technology Center. Many thanks to Justin Herndon, who mentors the team, along with Dr. Trish Hayner at Bosch and other folks.

GET Students Participate in Elementary School STEM Day

General Engineering Technology (GET) students participated in New Prospect Elementary School’s STEM Day by presenting demonstrations of projects designed to stimulate students’ interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

Tri-County senior GET students demonstrated their class projects to third, fourth, and fifth graders. Projects included a light beam communication system, a solar tracking machine, communicating sounds through a fiber optic cable, and clothing made of fiber optics.

Also on display was the student-made Hexapod, a six-legged walking machine powered by pneumatics and controlled by a PLC.

“This is a wonderful way to both engage college students and demonstrate to K-12 students the possibilities in a STEM-based career. From past experience, I’ve seen that college students love

to share what they’ve learned and know that it is appreciated,” said Dorian McIntire, program director for GET.



General Engineering Technology Program Director Dorian McIntire talks to third, fourth, and fifth graders at New Prospect Elementary School.



A student tests a solar tracking device with a flashlight.



After touching the hollow metal globe, known as a Van de Graaff (or electrostatic) generator, a New Prospect Elementary student gets an “electric charge.”



GET student Marshall Perry, left, demonstrates a laser alarm—when detecting a hand, an alarm is set off.

Students Fight Domestic Violence with The Clothesline Project

The Student Development and Wellness Department sponsored at community campuses on April 10 and 11. The Clothesline Project, an opportunity for individuals to design t-shirts against domestic violence and sexual assault, support a survivor, or honor anyone who may have been killed due to sexual or domestic violence.

The project is more than art; it allows survivors of violence, friends, and family members to decorate t-shirts to uniquely display their feelings through art to help our campus community to become aware of the issues surrounding domestic violence and sexual assault. It also empowers our campus community to prevent violence in our own lives or in the lives of others.



ABOVE: **Katherine Curnow** designs a t-shirt.



RIGHT: The t-shirts were hung on clotheslines on April 12 to be viewed by others as testimony to the problem of violence against women/men.

Students Inducted into AZB at Spring Ceremony

RIGHT: **Dina Altwan**, of Anderson, an Associate in Science major, right, was one of 24 students inducted recently into Alpha Zeta Beta (AZB), a chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Presenting her with a certificate is **Tiffany Oliver**, AZB president at Tri-County.

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.



ABOVE, FAR RIGHT: **Dr. Gwen Owens**, retired dean of our Arts and Sciences Division, second from left, was the keynote speaker at the spring induction ceremony. She told the group in order to be successful they need three things: self respect and integrity, a positive attitude, and a spirit of serving. She is pictured here with AZB Advisors **Amy Borders**, left, and **Jim DeLoache**, third from right, and AZB President **Tiffany Oliver**.



“Raise the Bar” on Alcohol And Other Drug Awareness

The Raise the Bar Alcohol and Drug Awareness Cook-out was held April 19. Students tried out the DUI Simulator, played Jeopardy, met the ‘Hot Dog Man’ a/k/a **Scott Jaeschke**, and enjoyed food, t-shirts, games, and much more.

Here, **Dennis Chesney**, of Westminster, and **Ashley Everette**, of Anderson, try out the DUI simulator. Dennis is an associate in Arts major, and Ashley is a Media Arts Production major.

Spotlight on Steps to Success

(continued from page 3)

All panelists emphasized that the interview is very important, as is dressing for the job you want. “Dress a step up for the position you interview for. Research the company where you are interviewing,” said Bailey.

Deluccia said, “Aptitude is important, but if you have the right attitude, we can teach you anything.”

Powell recalled words from an instructor that changed how he approached college. “He told us Tri-County has equipped you for the future. Nobody will do it for you. You must do it for yourself. I realized if I was going to get a good job, I needed to go to the front seat in the class and get focused.” He urged the students to “surround yourself with people who are knowledgeable. Give the extra time, stay longer, get there earlier. Give a little extra. Shoot



Another session featured professionals who work with non-profit organizations. From left are **Barb Baptista**, executive director of the Anderson Free Clinic; **Travis McNeal**, executive director of Harvest Food Bank; and **Tracy Bowie**, executive director of Foothills Alliance.

for the top. Most of all, do your best.”

Bailey added, “If you love what you do, it doesn’t feel like a job.”

“Students like to hear real-world experiences,” said Meg Allan, Business Technology department head. “It really hits home when professionals talk about their experiences. We appreciate all of our panelists, who provided good, realistic information.”

MLT Senior Wins

(continued from page 1)

Society of Clinical Pathology (ASCP).” said Deborah Brock, MLT program director. The MLT ASCP BOC is an important credential required by most clinical facilities for employment in their laboratories. Last year’s MLT graduates received a 100 percent passing score on the certification exam.

Tyler entered Tri-County in 2015, two years after earning a Microbiology degree from Clemson University. After receiving his bachelor’s degree, he applied for jobs, sending out about 50 resumes and applications –but received no offers. “Non-hospital labs wanted master’s-degreed persons and hospital labs wanted the MLT degree,” he said. He searched for area colleges that offer MLT degrees and found Tri-County. “After speaking with the department head, I quickly learned that a two-year MLT degree would specialize me and certify me to work in a hospital lab. It would quickly open doors for employment.”

As the semester is ending and graduation is drawing near, Tyler, who maintains a 4.0 GPA, says the job search is different this time. “I am interviewing and area hospitals see my multiple degrees as a plus. Because I have a four-year degree, I can become a Medical Lab Scientist after two years of work experience.”

Deborah commented, “I do not give out comments lightly. Tyler will be remembered as one of the most positive, polite, and respectful students I have had the pleasure of teaching.”



Stephanie Sandifer, division director, office team, Robert Half Company, talks with **Stephen Reeves**, a Business major from Six Mile.



Thom Deluccia talks with **Rick Schmidt**, a Marketing major from Seneca.

Seniors Showcase GET Projects

General Engineering Technology (GET) students showcased their projects for faculty, staff, and guests before the end of the semester. Students work in teams on projects that combine their electrical, mechanical, design, and troubleshooting skills honed during their two years of study



From left, **Ellison Stancil**, **Brady Morton**, and **Luke Martin** demonstrate their Companion Wheelbarrow to **Mandy Orzechowski**, dean of the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division, right. The wheelbarrow follows the operator—requiring no work for the owner, besides loading the wheelbarrow.



This Automated Card Scanner is designed to read an ID card, for example, to serve as an attendance tracker for classes. Students could swipe it when they enter class, said **Gregg Westmoreland**, of Westminster, who is demonstrating the project.



This Secured Laptop Cabinet serves to eliminate problems with accountability and security of individual laptops in classes. Pictured here are **Michael Holder**, of Anderson, left, and **Cedrick Smith**, of Central.

Student Veterans Host Open House for Appreciation Week

The Student Veterans Association (SVA) held an Open House as part of Military Appreciation Week. **Dr. Booth**, far right, stopped by to talk with veterans and staff, from left, **Lori Morrissette**, manager of student development and involvement programs; **Stacey Frank**, SVA advisor and Social Science instructor; alumnus **Alex Thompson**, an Army veteran who transferred to Clemson; and **Kurt Branson**, an Army veteran who is enrolled in the Associate Degree Nursing Program.



Davis Named Café Employee of the Month

Congratulations to **Demetrius Davis**, middle, the College Café's Employee of the Month for April. Demetrius is a work study for the Café and is a Bridge to Clemson student. He is pictured with **Sandra Dacus**, Café manager, left, and **Jessica Johnson**, Café shift manager.

United Way Campaign Raises Nearly \$7,000

Many thanks to everyone who made a contribution to the TCTC United Way Campaign for 2017. Because of your generosity, we raised \$6,909 for community service organizations in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties.

Contributions have been designated for specific counties, as well as certain charities, such as Habitat for Humanity, Safe Harbor II, Meals on Wheels, the African American Leadership Society, the Humane Society, and others. Your contributions will make a positive difference for these and other organizations in our local community.

Vet Tech Holds Pet Adoption

Jordan and Fletcher Abbott, of Central, adopted a cat at the Veterinary Technology Department's Pet Adoption Day held April 19.



Spring Concert Features Broadway Hits

The College's spring concert featured selections from current and modern Broadway hits. The Tri-County Technical College Chorus and Jazz Band presented its annual spring concert Friday, April 21, in the Marshall Parker Auditorium on the Pendleton Campus. The concert was free and open to the public.

Under the direction of Conductor and Music Instructor Julia West, the 14-member choir gave performances from Broadway musicals "Hamilton," "Dear Evan Hansen," and "Hairspray." The Jazz Band, directed by Cory Dodgens, performed jazz and funk songs.

*RIGHT, TOP: The Chorus warms up with Conductor/Music Instructor **Julia West** before the concert.*

*RIGHT: The Jazz Band, directed by **Cory Dodgens**, far left, performed jazz and funk songs.*



Executive Staff Summary

- **ANDERSON CAMPUS RENOVATION:** Existing space at the Anderson Campus will be renovated and reallocated to improve student success and safety. The project includes the relocation of the Campus Police office, establishing a permanent IT Service Desk, centralizing student support services, relocating and expanding the library to a new Learning Commons, and relocating the student lounge.
- **CAMPUS POLICY PROJECT REPORT:** Campus safety has addressed improvements in the areas of personnel, equipment and facilities, policies and procedures, College facilities, and emergency preparedness and response. The project was officially closed, and remaining tasks have been reclassified as operational.
- **COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES UPDATE:** A co-requisite model will be piloted for English 101 for students who have placement scores higher than required for ENG 100, yet did not place into ENG 101. Students will be allowed to take English 101 along with a new co-requisite ENG 150 class. The curriculum for ENG 101 does not change, and the instructors for both courses will collaborate using the linked learning communities model.
- **NEW PUBLIC WEBSITE UPDATE:** The new public website is in final phases of testing and integration. It is expected to launch later this spring.
- **OTHER:** Spring Commencement; academic program costs; review and approval of official College policies and procedures.