

Connection

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General Education Classes to Be Offered at Watkins Center This Fall

Forty-five Belton-Honea Path (BHP) seniors attended a special enrollment day at the Watkins Center April 10 and registered for their freshman classes. For the first time this fall, general education credit courses will be offered at the Senator Billy O'Dell Learning Center in downtown Honea Path's community center.

"After gathering the names of students who had applied last fall at our high school application days, we scheduled this event at the Watkins Center, especially for BHP seniors. They were amazed they could meet with an advisor to plan their schedules, go to a lab and register for fall classes, and leave with their class schedule in hand," said Renae Frazier, director of recruitment and admissions.

"It was an awesome day for these BHP seniors," she added.

In 2009 community leaders, residents, and College officials gathered at the Watkins Community Center in Honea Path to celebrate the dedication of the College's new Learning Center named in honor of Senator Billy O'Dell. At the dedication ceremony, Dr. Booth said, "This is a foundation piece for us and a way to bring college to your community. We will do all that we can to meet community needs."

Earlier this year, several members of the College's President's Advisory Council (Dr. Brian Swords, Kevin Steele, Rick Cothran, Renae, and Gayle Arries) gathered to brainstorm about ways to grow our presence in Honea Path. They also discussed assessing the community's educational needs and how to offer a slate of classes at the Watkins Center. This group later met with Anderson School District 2 administrators, guidance counselors, and community leaders, including Tri-County Commissioner Al Young, who is president and CEO of The Commercial Bank in Honea Path, to determine course offerings. "We learned that the community wants credit and non-credit classes, along with dual enrollment classes for high school junior and seniors, which have never been taught there before," said Renae.

"The excitement displayed during the recent planning meetings with Anderson School District 2's leadership and the leadership from Tri-County made me believe that we had finally found the "sweet spot" for higher education for a variety of ages in our area. I truly believe that these classes can only be the beginning of something that will continue to grow. This is going to be a winner!"

This fall Honea Path residents will be able to take the following core courses: English 101 (dual enrollment), History 102 (dual enrollment), English 101, CPT 170, Math 101/102 (Fast Track), English

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BHP senior **Ashley Farmer**, left, plans her fall schedule with Enrollment Counselor **Tasheka Johnson**. She is among those who will take general education classes at the Watkins Center this fall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Convocation May 8
Spring Commencement May 10
Vet Tech Pinning Ceremony May 10
Summer Term Begins May 16
5K Road Race May 18

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.

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Connecting



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

The development of our new three-year Strategic Plan has been a lengthy process spanning several months, but the result is well worth the effort. We have put forth an ambitious plan that strengthens our focus on student success and embraces our ten-year vision to “transform lives and shape the community.”

I focused almost entirely on the strategic planning process and the elements of the new plan in recent issues of CONNECTION and during our Spring Faculty and Staff meeting at the end of March. To me, one of the most exciting aspects of the plan is the work of the President’s Advisory Council (PAC), a group comprised of 30 deans and directors. Once the Executive Staff set the direction, the PAC developed 41 initiatives that we need to engage in this year in order to make substantial progress in achieving our mission and vision. The majority of these initiatives will be formally established through project charters (some already are), and teams will be assigned to carry the projects forward.

Boiled down to its most common elements, the focus of our new three-year plan can be described in four simple statements:

- We must change how, when, and where we offer our programs.
- We must redesign our students’ educational experience.
- We must change our organizational structure to deliver this experience effectively.
- We must focus on leadership development and talent management.

How will we know if our activities are having a positive impact on student success? Can our success be measured? Absolutely. Each initiative in the plan relates to a key strategic objective that can be measured using key performance indicators. The plan, as well as the supporting documentation, will be posted on the eTC Employee tab in the “How the College Works” channel in the near future.

Now that the plan has been completed, it is time to move to the next level, which is to get everyone involved in bringing the initiatives in the plan to life. The plan is more than a series of activities that must be accomplished; it represents a comprehensive institutional focus on student success, and it will take all of us working together to implement the plan.

If you haven’t already signed up for the workshop titled “Three-Year Strategic Plan: Connect to the Vision,” please do so – several offerings are still available. It’s a highly interactive workshop that gives you and your co-workers a chance to talk about the challenges we face, what needs to change, and what individual contributions we each can make to ensure we are successful. The sessions are scheduled on the eTC College Activities Calendar – look for an announcement on eTC with all the details.

Our strategic plan is only the beginning; we need each and every one of you to engage with the plan, make it your own, and take us to the next level as an institution focused on student success.

As the academic year draws to a close, I hope those of you who take time off this summer enjoy a time of rest and relaxation. I look forward to seeing you in the coming academic year.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President



Spotlight on BOSCH Scholars Program

Michael Langer, a Mechatronics major, and Tyler Watkins, an Industrial Electronics Technology major, are the first two students selected for Bosch's new Scholars Program.

The company is targeting Tri-County evening students in their last semester to join its new program. In addition to Michael and Tyler, the Anderson company has selected two current Bosch associates, Rodney Johnson and David Gilstrap, both machine operators, to join the program. Rodney is an evening Industrial Electronics Technology student who will graduate in the summer, and David, a Mechatronics major, will graduate in May.

Scholars will work 40 hours a week, in addition to their coursework at Tri-County. They are full-time Bosch associates when they begin their training, which includes more than 300 hours of mentor training and 200 hours of classroom/lab training, said Doug Wilson, senior associate development specialist at Bosch. After completion of the four-month program and graduation from Tri-County, they will be assigned to a production department as an entry-level technician.

"Usually, it takes five to six weeks to fill a technician job at Bosch," said Wilson. "This co-op program will decrease the time it takes for us to hire because it creates a pipeline of qualified persons already pursuing a degree at Tri-County. This also ensures that we have multi-skilled candidates for the technician openings."

Michael is grateful for the opportunity. "Bosch is my choice of places to work," said Michael, who graduates in May.

"This is a huge opportunity for me, in terms of career growth, meeting new people, and learning something new every day on the job. I'll be proud to work for Bosch," said Tyler, who will graduate in August.

"May 6 will be their start date. I'm excited for them," said Wilson, who says both excelled in the interview process. "There were five of us on the interview team. The interview is a mix of gauging soft skills and very technical skills. It's meant to be rigorous. Applicants must be quick learners, work well under pressure, be able to work in teams, communicate well, and know how to resolve conflict, if necessary. Michael and Tyler impressed us in all categories."

"Both David and Rodney have a great work history with Bosch and have demonstrated a strong commitment by working full time and attending Tri-County simultaneously," said Wilson.



Doug Wilson, senior associate development specialist at Bosch, left, and **Michael Langer**



Rodney Johnson, left, and **David Gilstrap**, both machine operators at Bosch



Tyler Watkins

"David did very well during the interview concerning mechanical aspects such as hand tools, bearings, and pneumatics. Rodney demonstrated his strengths on the electrical side of the interview. He knew how to use Ohm's Law as well as accurately measuring 3 phase high voltages."

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!

Our College Family

excellence through service



Dr. Brian Swords, left, was honored by the Easley Chamber of Commerce for his service as Chairman of the Board of Directors during the Easley Chamber's Annual Gala that was held in mid-March. In addition, Brian was voted Board Member of the Year by the Chamber membership. Pictured with him are **Ms. Pickens County**, and **Cody Alcorn**, FOX News anchor/master of ceremonies for the Chamber Gala.

Janelle Hicks, Pharmacy Technician program director, recently presented at the annual meeting of the South Carolina Society for Health-System Pharmacists (SCSHP) in Charleston. Two afternoons were dedicated to professional development for pharmacy technicians. Janelle's presentation was Speed Networking, and topics included: Medication Safety; Innovative Practices; Dealing with Drug Shortages/Inventory Management; and Professional Issues of Concern to Technicians. Janelle served on the Education Committee of the SCSHP this year.



Janelle Hicks

personal notes

Sue Dacus will receive a Bachelor of Human Services degree May 4 from Anderson University.



Sue Dacus

Earlier this year Tri-County was the only South Carolina technical college chosen in the latest round of grants for the Plus 50 Encore Completion Program, a national effort to train 10,000 baby boomers for new jobs in healthcare, education, and social services. **Teresa Young**, operations manager for our CCE Division, attended the "Plus 50 Conference: From Credentials to Careers," held in conjunction with the 93rd Annual American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Convention. During the conference, the attendees learned how to identify resources, apply best practices for helping students age 50 and older and mobilize support. They also learned how the initiative will be monitored and evaluated, so other colleges throughout the country can learn from it and replicate it.



Teresa Young

in transition

BUSINESS AFFAIRS DIVISION

After several years of working as Manager of our Cafe and Catering Services through a temp agency, **Sandra McCarroll** is now serving in that capacity as a permanent Tri-County employee. Sandra is a 2008 graduate of our Accounting program and earned a certificate in Marketing. While a student, she worked part-time in the Business Office as an Accounting Clerk.

Sandra lives in Anderson and has three adult children, Vince, 25, also a 2008 Tri-County graduate; Christopher, 22; and Nilayjia, 19.



Sandra McCarroll

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION DIVISION

Susan Blankenship joined us April 1 as an Administrative Specialist in CCE. She has more than 20 years of professional administrative experience in health care and finance. For the last five years, she served as the Administrative Assistant for Oconee Medical Center's Foundation. Prior to that, she worked in statistical analysis and reporting at Georgia Wellstar Health

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Susan Blankenship

Memorial Service for Jill English Celebrates Service Above Self

Jill English's life embodied the simple principle of putting others before yourself, Anderson Campus Director Tim Bowen said at a memorial service to honor Jill, 52, who passed away unexpectedly March 27 after a brief hospitalization.

Jill joined the English faculty at the Anderson Campus in 2010. She taught Public Speaking classes on a full-time basis after two years as an adjunct. Previously she had taught Public Speaking, Communications, and Journalism at Greenville Technical College, Public Speaking classes at Asheville-Buncombe Tech, and Journalism and Communications classes at Brevard College.

"Jill was a cherished member of this campus family and our community. Your presence here means she was part of your family, too," Tim said to a crowded room of family, friends, co-workers, and students.

"We feel a great sense of loss for her family, but this community feels a profound sense of loss, too. This is a celebration of a wonderful life lived well within our presence," he said.

"Her energy and spirit made us better. We are richer for having known her and for having been taught, mentored, encouraged, and befriended by her," he said.

"Jill meant a lot to us," said Robin McFall, acting dean of the Arts and Sciences Division and English Department Head who hired her. "She made us laugh a lot. She cared about students and wanted them to succeed. She wanted them to be better public speakers and to be better members of their communities."

Jill was passionate about the American Heart Association project she was co-chairing and about service-learning projects in her Public Speaking classes.

Stacy Frank, adjunct psychology instructor, talked about the importance of those service-learning projects. What started out as a class project focusing on "Bettering Your Community" turned into a real passion for many students last year. Jill

Faculty and staff paid tribute to Jill English at a memorial service held at the Anderson Campus.



Jill English

didn't give them ideas – just one criterion: students' projects must make a better world. It was one of her favorite assignments because she saw students become civically engaged in life.

"She showed students how to make a difference in their communities. She was an educator out to change the lives of the people she touched. I believe she touched every one of us here today," said Stacy.

"Service above self is our highest calling, and I saw that lived out in Jill," said Tim.

"I've seen few take teaching as personally as Jill did," said fellow Anderson Campus English instructor Art Scheck. "She couldn't understand people who were content not to know – those who didn't do their best all of the time. We colleagues, comrades, and teachers can honor her by resolving to do better and to be better. It would be a good memorial to her."

"It's easy to see how a life well lived gets expressed in other's lives," said Tim. "Jill had the gift of inspiring people to work harder than they ever intended to."

Services for the North Carolina native were held March 30 in Henderson County, NC. She is survived by her daughter, Jenna Elizabeth Hughes; grandson, Jacobi Brown; her son, Joshua A. English; his wife, Heather, and their children, Ethan Wiggen and Rayne English; her father, Alvin Rusty Jones, and his wife, Hannah; her sister, Julie Jones; her brother, Jeffrey Jones, his wife, Donna, and their children, Jeffrey S. Jones and Kimberly Fullerton. She was predeceased by her husband, Rick English.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be directed to the American Heart Association.



RTV Celebrates Second Annual Media Mash-Up

The Radio and Television Broadcasting (RTV) program celebrated its second annual RTV Media Mash-Up March 28 on the Pendleton Campus. This media festival and exhibition of student excellence was hosted by RTV students Matthew Jordan, Stephanie Johnson, and Kelsey Galloway. RTV students entered 250 projects including Audio, Video Editing, Animation, and Photography.

Student entries were judged by RTV Advisory Committee members and community leaders, including WYFF-TV, WHNS-TV, and Georgia Carolina Radio. Charter Media donated the grand prizes of two iPad Mini Tablets.



RTV student **Samantha Donna** was the winner of Best News Package/Interview Award, and **Matthew Jordan** won the Best Audio Award.



Program Coordinator **John Woodson** and RTV Instructor **Amy Roberts**, left, presented the Grand Prize to the RTV Student of the Year **Tiffany Hatcher**.

Ashley Lowie Among AZB Inductees

Ashley Lowie, of Seneca, right, was one of 59 Tri-County students inducted recently into Alpha Zeta Beta (AZB), a chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. Presenting her with a certificate is **Melina Guerra-Rodelo**, 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.



Truck Driving Job Fair and Training Expo Held at Anderson Campus



Wayne Edwall, field recruiter for Averitt, left, talks with **Dale Gambrell**, of Belton, who already has his Commercial Drivers License, about job opportunities with Averitt. The company became a new partner with Tri-County through this event.

The Corporate and Community Education (CCE) Division reached out to individuals interested in a career in truck driving by hosting a Job Fair and Training Expo Tuesday, April 9. The event was held from 9 a.m. – noon at the College's Anderson Campus.

Participants were given the opportunity to meet and interview with area truck driving employers and/or to find out about training options available to start a career in this field. "This was a great opportunity for them to talk with potential employers about their career choices and to take the first steps toward a new career path in truck driving," said Sandra Strickland, program manager for the CCE Division.

The expo included a tour of the facility and information on the Truck Driver Training program, admission requirements, and financial assistance options.

Tri-County's Commercial Truck Driving Program is classified as Quick Jobs – quick, affordable and in-demand training that can be completed in 90 days or less. The program provides both Class A and Class B training and provides students with required training (50 hours of classroom, 50 hours of range, 32 hours of observation, and 16 hours of behind-the-wheel driving per student) and licensure to be able to enter the work force. "It appeals to those who are looking for a career change, have been unemployed for a while and looking to get back into the workforce or simply know that commercial driving is what they want to pursue as their life work," said Strickland.

"You can train for four weeks and if you pass the licensure exam, you are eligible to compete for the 930 jobs available in S.C. alone," she said. Persons must be 18 years of age with a good driving record to enroll.

VA Approves 10 Certificate-Based Training Courses Through CCE

The U.S. Veterans Administration has approved 10 certificate-based training courses through Tri-County Technical College's Corporate and Community Education Division (CCE).

These programs are designed to offer U.S. veterans quick training in a series of in-demand jobs. U.S. Veterans Affairs benefits cover the following courses:

- 160-hour Truck Driving Class A and Class B
- 50-hour Computer Technician CompTIA A+ Certification
- 40-hour CompTIA Network+ Certification
- 40-hour Certified Logistics Associate (Manufacturing Skills Standards Council [MSSC] certificate)
- 40-hour Certified Logistics Technicians (Manufacturing Skills Standards Council [MSSC] certificate)
- 160-hour Certified Production Technician (Manufacturing Skills Standards Council [MSSC] certificate)
- 225.5-hour Heavy Equipment Operator (National Center for Construction Education and Research, and Occupational Safety and Health Administration certificate)
- 110-hour Certified Nurse Aide (National Nurse Aide Assessment Program and SC Department of Health and Environmental Control)
- 240-hour Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification (national certificate regulated by the SC Emergency Medical Services Department of the Division of Health and Environmental Control)
- 96-hour Core Introductory Craft Skills (National Center for Construction Education and Research certificate).

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Foundation News

Three RTV Students Receive SC Broadcasters Association Scholarship



Three Radio and Television Broadcasting students are the recipients of the S.C. Broadcasters Association Scholarships. Pictured from left are **Blake Jennings**, of Mountain Rest; **Dr. Booth**; **Rich O'Dell**, president of the S.C. Broadcasters Association Educational Foundation and station manager at WLTX-TV in Columbia; **John Woodson**, program coordinator for our RTV department; **Cody Crooks**, of Seneca; and **Morisa Fant**, of Anderson.



College Achieves LEED Silver Certificate for Easley Campus

The College has been awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certification for the Easley Campus. The LEED rating system, developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, is the foremost program for buildings, homes, and communities that are designed, constructed, maintained and operated for improved environmental and human health performance.

According to Physical Plant Director **Ken Kopera**, pictured at right with Easley Campus Director **Dr. Brian Swords** in front of the LEED plaque, LEED silver status is achieved by implementing practical and measurable strategies and solutions aimed at achieving high performance in sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

First Annual Heart Association Walk Raises \$8,487.75

Tri-County's first annual American Heart Association walk raised \$8,487.75 for the Upstate organization and paid tribute to English faculty member Jill English, who passed away in March.

The Heart Walk, held April 12 at the College's Pendleton Campus, attracted 61 walkers (nine teams) which included faculty, staff, students, friends, and their family members who walked three 1-mile tracks with varying intensity levels. The Anderson Campus team, headed by Pat Vatakis, carried a banner in memory of Jill, who passed away unexpectedly March 27 after a brief hospitalization.

Jill's son, Josh English, who works at Wachovia Bank in Hendersonville, NC, sent a \$1,100 donation from him and his co-workers in honor of his mother who was passionate about the American Heart Association. She was serving as co-chair of the walk at the time of her death.

The Business Affairs team walked in honor of Larry Stalnaker, a postal services employee who suffered a heart attack about a month ago. Larry is recuperating at home, but he and his wife were among the walkers that day.

"Our goal was \$5,000," said event organizer and College benefits coordinator Lisa Anderson, "and we definitely exceeded our expectations. It was a community event, not just a campus event, and a great day for a great cause."

The nine teams were:

- Anderson Campus Team, headed by Pat Vatakis
- Corporate and Community Education, led by Janelle Hicks and Sandra Strickland
- Easley Campus headed by Missy Gray
- Engineering and Industrial Technology Division, led by Mandy Orzechowski
- Love-A-Heart (Library), led by Claudia Poore
- TCTC Hawks for Health (Business and Public Services), led by Jackie Blakley
- The Blister Sisters (Ruby Hicks Hall), led by Lisa Poore
- The Hawks of Business Affairs, led by Gloria Littleton
- The Lub-Duppers (Science Department), led by David Little

Trophies were awarded to the Anderson Campus Team, who raised \$3,278, and who had the most miles walked -19 walkers or 19 miles. All names of the winning teams were placed in a drawing for an Acer Netbook donated by our Campus Store. Sue Bladzick was the winner.

In addition to teams gathering members and soliciting donations, they held fundraising events, such as spaghetti dinners, an auction for an Easter basket, and they sold red hearts for \$1 each.



The Anderson Campus Team carried a banner in memory of English instructor Jill English, who passed away unexpectedly March 27 after a brief hospitalization.

Lisa added that the Tri-County Technical College American Heart Association Walk not only supports a great cause, it also is a great way to get in shape for the Tri-County 5K Road Race scheduled for Saturday, May 18, at the Anderson Campus. Runners and walkers are welcome, and we've added a one-mile "fun run" this year. You can participate as an individual or join/start a team. Last year we had three teams comprised of faculty and staff from throughout the College, and the "Science Geeks" won the coveted Faculty/Staff team award. For more information, visit www.tctc.edu/race.



David Little and his wife, Mandy



Debbie Norris and Ann Hall

Executive Staff Updates

- **Library Furniture Project:** An assessment of the library furnishings and overall physical environment has been completed, and recommendations for improvements that support student success were presented by Marla Roberson, head librarian. The plan was approved and updates/improvements will be made during the summer months.
- **Stackable Credentials:** The CCE and Credit Deans have identified specific programs to pilot the development of a stackable credentials model. The concept recently was presented to advisory committees in the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division and received a favorable response.
- **Program Review Update:** Seven programs are entering the final phase of the academic program review process, a continuous improvement strategy that involves three levels of review. During Fall Semester, the departments will begin implementing their improvement strategies.
- **Other:** College reorganization; strategic planning; F-1 Visa Admission; policy and procedure updates; Bridge to Clemson enrollment update; FY 14 operational budget; and conceptual study approval for Student Success Center/Central Plaza.

Tri-County Co-Hosts Regional TYCA-SE Conference

By Dr. Amoena Norcross



Pictured from left are TYCA presenters **Dr. Chad Gregory, Alex Eaton, Jennifer Hulehan, and Todd Crisp-Simons**

The College's English Department co-hosted, along with Greenville Technical College's English Department, the 48th Annual Two-Year College English Association—Southeast (TYCA-SE) Conference at the Greenville Hyatt Regency, February 28-March 2. TYCA-SE is one of the regional organizations of the National Two-Year College English Association and serves a 10-state region. This year's conference theme, "Education: The Bridge to Freedom," commemorated the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Greenville's library.

In addition to the English Department's presence as the conference co-host, the College was well represented in other ways. Dr. Booth welcomed conference attendees at the opening plenary session and impressed the audience with his love of reading "more than 12,000" pages a year. Dr. Booth's welcoming remarks were followed by a reading by author Ron Rash, former faculty member of our English Department and now Distinguished Professor of English at Western Carolina University.

Jennifer Hulehan and Tracy Kilgore, both of the Comprehensive Studies department, facilitated a pre-conference workshop titled "It's WAC! It's WTL! It's WID! No, It's...Learning Communities!" This workshop focused on the learning community planning process as it applies to linking English courses to other courses.

Todd Crisp-Simons, English department faculty member, and Alex Eaton and Dr. Chad Gregory, both faculty members in the Humanities Department, delivered a presentation titled "Learning Beyond Campus: Expanding Student Learning Experiences to Achieve Success." This presentation spotlighted the partnership between the English and Humanities Departments' delivery of course content augmented by travel to the Boston area so that students can connect with the content learned in the classroom setting. Finally, Jeanne Otey, of the Information Technology Division, provided invaluable IT support for conference participants and presenters.

Tri-County has been closely involved with TYCA-SE and its Regional Executive Committee (REC) since 2006. Dr. Amoena Norcross, English department instructor, has served as TYCA-SE's Director of the Institute in Technical Communication, which TCTC hosted in 2007 at the College; as the South Carolina representative to TYCA-SE; and as one of the editors of the TYCA-Southeast Journal. Matt Simon, also of the English department, has served as the South Carolina representative to TYCA-SE and most recently was elected to an officer position on the REC and is currently serving as the organization's treasurer.

Health Fair Hailed As One of the Best Yet

Participants said the 2013 Health Fair, held April 16, was one of the best yet with lots of variety and new vendors. Employees had the opportunity to get introduced to the services in our area, as well as take advantage of mini massages, blood pressure checks, and skin cancer detection. After attending the fair, Lynn Shook sent a message to Lisa Anderson: "I think this was one of the best health fairs we have had since I have been here. Thank you for all your effort to showcase so many different vendors."



LPN students were on hand to check blood pressure of employees. Here, **Ruby Polas**, of Mauldin, checks **Ana Interiano**, right, a cashier in our Business Office.



Here, **Stephanie Solazzo** talks with Purchasing Specialist **Matt Whitten** about the benefits of the total body vibration machine that can transform your health and fitness with just a few minutes a day.



Sharon Colcolough, director of personnel, middle, uses a PFT machine to measure her breathing capacity. **Linda Harouff**, certified medical assistant, is pictured at left, and **Lisa Anderson**, benefits coordinator, is at right.

Our College Family

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System. She also has worked as the Executive Assistant for the CEO and CFO of Pennsylvania Daou Systems.

She is a graduate of Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, CA, and earned a Professional Human Resources Management certificate from Villanova University in 2001. She and her husband, Frank, live in Seneca.

VA Courses

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These QuickJobs training certificate programs can be completed in four – 24 weeks. A student who successfully completes a program will be awarded a certificate and will be eligible to take an exam to earn additional national/state certifications and/or licenses.

“We want to train our veterans so they can get back to work as quickly as possible,” said Teresa Young, operations manager for Tri-County’s CCE Division. “It’s easy to apply – veterans can work with our customer service staff to get the application and check list completed.”

She added that veterans interested in taking a degree program should contact Wanda Pickens, Tri-County’s veterans coordinator, at 646-2026. Some of the CCE QuickJobs courses may qualify for credit toward an associate degree.

“We’ve received lots of calls and visits from veterans who are looking to retool for today’s jobs,” said Young. “We want our vets to come home and look to Tri-County for retraining through our credit and non-credit classes.”

For more information, contact 646-1700.

Tri-County Partners with Blanchard Machinery to Offer Heavy Equipment Operator Classes



The College’s Corporate and Community Education (CCE) Division launched its first Heavy Equipment Operator class since partnering with Blanchard Machinery, the exclusive Caterpillar dealer for South Carolina. The first students are set to complete the courses and enter the job market this month.

As the equipment technology in this industry improves, there is also a need for increased training, said Mary Corley, CCE’s highway construction program director. “The control mechanisms on today’s equipment are completely different than on older versions – instead of steering wheels, many now use joysticks. However, as a result of the agreement between Blanchard Machinery and Tri-County, students receive training on the most technologically advanced equipment on the market to ensure that they receive the skills they need in today’s workforce.”

Students in the program learn equipment applications, attachments, operating controls, preventive maintenance requirements and basic operating techniques through a combination of classroom and hands-on training. Upon successful completion of the testing requirements for all modules, students receive NCCER certification in Core Curriculum and Level 1 Heavy Equipment Operations, as well as a 10-hour certification in OSHA Construction Standards.

“Operator training and safety is priority number one,” says Mark Greene, vice president of Blanchard Machinery. “By training students on current technology and equipment, they are better served to further their careers, meet the challenging demands of the marketplace and to support our customers in South Carolina. We’re proud to partner with Tri-County Technical College and to contribute to the development of local students.”

The Heavy Equipment training program was developed to meet the need in the highway and heavy construction industry as workforce growth in the area of construction has been experiencing some improvement. Individuals completing the program will be able to serve multiple industry segments, such as industry construction, highway construction, general construction and complementary industries, such as aggregate mining and asphalt production. According to data from the U.S. Department of Labor, the outlook for jobs operating construction equipment is bright with a 24 percent growth predicted during the 2010 - 2020 decade. For more details concerning these careers, go to www.onetonline.org.

Adex Machining Technologies Tours EIT classes



Representatives from Adex Machining Technologies in Greenville toured the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division. Here, **Trey Hendricks**, of Greenville, an Engineering Graphics Technology major, seated, shows **Thomas Prince**, value stream leader, middle, and **Charles Anthony**, engineering leader, a prototype he made. Following the visit, John Norris received an e-mail from Prince, who stated, “It was a pleasure to see your program, as well as meet your staff and students. The direction you are taking your program is definitely what Adex needs to see and will benefit us as well as others in the industry that are having a tough time finding qualified applicants.”

Students Connect with Employers at Annual Career Fair



Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company was among the businesses/industries participating in the College's Annual Career Fair. Here, **Bryan Taylor**, of Anderson, right, an Industrial Electronics Technology major who will graduate in May, talks with **Chris Hart**, plant engineering manager. The event was sponsored by the Career Services department at the College.

Watkins Center

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032/100 (Fast Track), Reading 100, and Math 120.

“This is very fulfilling,” said Renae, who is BHP graduate herself, as well as a first-generation college student. “The fact that classes are five to ten minutes from BHP High School is great. The seniors are excited. This is a wonderful opportunity for them. We may not have every class they want, but this is a great first step for fall semester.”

“This has been a long time coming,” said Easley Campus Director Dr. Brian Swords, who also oversees the Watkins Center. He sought Renae’s help when he assembled the group for the planning process. “I remember back in the 1990’s when Renae and I worked together in Admissions. We had several spirited discussions about high school sports over those years, and there was no question that Renae was a proud BHP alum,” joked Brian. “She has such a strong connection to the school and community, and she was more than willing to work on this project. Once she came on board, I knew my job was to simply support her in any way, but get out of the way and let her work. She has done an outstanding job of working closely with BHP, as well as District 2 and Adult Education officials, to sew it all together.”

“Renae and I looked at the placement test scores and the applications and intended majors of our BHP seniors who had been accepted to Tri-County this fall. We made data-based decisions on what courses to offer. Students are really excited about this,” added Gayle Arries, director of Marketing.

After the enrollment session ended and students were bused back to BHP, their parents had the opportunity between 3 – 6 p.m. to meet with Tri-County admissions and financial aid counselors to ask questions.

“Parents commented to me how glad they are that Tri-County is in their community. One student’s mother talked to me about returning to school herself. I told her she has no excuse now. She can take college classes in Honea Path near her home. She walked away with an application,” said Renae.

Anderson Mayor to Address Grads

Anderson Mayor Terence V. Roberts will deliver the College's spring commencement address Friday, May 10, at 6 p.m. at the Anderson Civic Center.



Mayor Terence Roberts

Approximately 559 students will be awarded degrees, diplomas, and/or certificates during the College's commencement. In addition to families and guests of the graduates, alumni and other friends of the College are invited to attend the ceremony.

Mayor Roberts became the first African American mayor of Anderson when he was elected in 2006. A lifelong resident of Anderson, he has owned his insurance agency for more than 21 years. He has been recognized for his leadership, community service, and a passion for education, particularly during the school readiness years.

He served as former chairman of the Anderson Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Anderson YMCA. Additionally, he was the former chairman for New Foundation Children and Family Services, a non-profit organization, and the Montessori School in Anderson.

Currently, he is working again with the Anderson Chamber of Commerce, in addition to the Salvation Army, Innovate Anderson, Imagine Anderson, United Way Community Impact, Appalachian Council of Governments, Ten at the Top Board, Anderson School District Five Business and Industry Board, Municipal Association of South Carolina, and Anderson Mayor's Committee on Disability. Explaining his reason for involvement, he refers to a passage in a Vernon Jordan book that says, "If you are not at the table, then you are not represented."

Jennifer Eades Named Outstanding Math and Humanities Student at Awards Ceremony



Jennifer Elizabeth Eades, of Pickens, right, was honored as the College's Outstanding Math Student at the College's annual awards ceremony recently. Presenting the award is Keri Catalfomo, math department head. Jennifer also was honored with the Outstanding Humanities Student award.

Administrative Professionals Day Held



Catherine Vinson, administrative specialist for the Corporate and Community Education Division, pictured at right, talks with life coach Ruth Witty, one of the presenters at the Administrative Professionals Day Conference held April 24 and hosted by the Corporate and Community Education Division on our Pendleton Campus.

The conference is presented in observance of Administrative Professionals Week, and office assistants, executive assistants, office managers, clerks, coordinators, secretaries and supervisors are invited. The conference helps participants to focus on new ideas and techniques to stay motivated, effective, and successful in today's work environment. Participants had the opportunity to network, make new acquaintances, and interact with experts during the conference and luncheon.

Alumni Spring Open Golf Tournament Raises \$6,500



A low score of 53 won the Falcon's Lair team the first-place honor. From left are **Kevin Gasque, Jim McCoy, William Madden, and James McCoy.**



TCTC team member and Vice President for Business Affairs **Gregg Stapleton** is seen putting as team members **Dr. Booth, Rep. Bill Sandifer, and Anderson Mayor Terence Roberts** look on.



Alumni volunteers included **Nancy Ratliff, Tina Burton, and Sandra Sandifer.**



Courtney White, right, who managed the tournament, poses with volunteers **Evette Moss, Sandra Sandifer, and Sue Rogers.**



Danny Brothers, left, and **Bobby Brothers**, right, who are brothers and graduates of Tri-County, pose with **Evette Moss.**



Scenes from Bluegrass Under the Stars Concert



An estimated 2,000 people turned out for the concert held April 5.



Lou Reid and Carolina



Humanities instructor **Cathy Saidat** enjoyed the evening with her family.



Dr. Booth, left, and Pendleton Mayor **Frank Crenshaw**



Linda Brown and friend **Becky Atkins**



Stephanie and **Donny Winkler** with their two-year-old daughter, **Lauren**.