

# Connection

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## Adjunct Instructors Receive Awards at Spring Convocation

Dr. Paul Rathwell, who teaches Economics classes in the College’s Social Sciences Department, is the recipient of the College’s 2018 Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award.

This award is given annually at the spring faculty/staff convocation to the adjunct faculty member who is recognized for excellence in teaching, who has consistently high student evaluations, and who supports the philosophy and goals of the College.

Dr. Rathwell, who has taught at the College since 2004, is retired from Clemson University where he was a State Specialist for the Extension Service for 24 years.

“Rathwell’s vast experiences working with Clemson University, Texas A & M University, and the USDA are put to good use in the knowledge and life lessons he shares with his students,” said Penny Edwards, Social Sciences department head.

“He often goes out of his way to help a student understand course material,” said Penny. “In fact I have seen him stay behind after his often back-to-back classes to deliver one-on-one tutoring for his students.” One student commented, “He was very helpful in his lectures and provided us with great explanations of a rather confusing subject. He kept the class

*(continued on page 11)*



**Dr. Paul Rathwell**, who teaches Economics classes in the College’s Social Sciences Department, received the 2018 Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award. He is pictured with **Penny Edwards**, Social Sciences department head.



**Celeste Davis**, adjunct English instructor, middle, received the Student Advocate Award at spring convocation. She was chosen by the Student Government Association (pictured here) in recognition and appreciation of her outstanding vision, commitment to excellence, and dedication to student success.

# Connection

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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

## Telling Our Story

**O**ur story is best told by our students. I have said this many times, and it was never truer than during Spring Convocation on May 2.

We had the good fortune to have T.J. Earle, a recent graduate of our I-BEST Manufacturing Pathway, as our guest. T.J. learned about Tri-County's new I-BEST Manufacturing Pathway while working on his GED more than a year ago. He knew right away it was an opportunity he couldn't pass up.

T.J. spoke to us from a student's perspective, saying everyone has dreams, but not everyone has the determination to put forth the work needed to achieve those dreams. After learning about I-BEST, he decided it was time to put aside excuses and begin his own educational journey—and to become an example for the boys he mentors and coaches in basketball.

His decision paid off in a big way. Within three days of graduation, he had three job offers. He chose BorgWarner in Seneca.

My favorite quote from his speech was, "I was making \$8 an hour before enrolling in the Manufacturing Pathway at Tri-County. One year later, I am making \$18 an hour. That's the power of I-BEST."

T.J. now shares advice and lessons learned with others, particularly those enrolled in Adult Education who are on the cusp of determining their next steps in life. He provides encouragement, telling them if they want something badly enough, they will find time to work on it, no matter the challenges they face. He conveys his pride for his younger brother, whom he essentially raised, who will be graduating with a bachelor's degree this spring.

As President, I always share important statistics and facts at faculty/staff gatherings, touting our top rankings in student success, transfer, graduation, and the like. Faculty and staff always look interested and pleasant, but not the way they looked when T.J. Earle was speaking. All eyes were fixed on him, and you could have heard a pin drop in the room.

That's the power of storytelling. Stories engage us through emotions in ways facts and statistics never can accomplish. There is no shortage of stories on a community college campus where our students come from all walks of life and face challenges many of us will never know.

T.J.'s story showed us that success is a personal journey that requires self-discipline, perseverance, and commitment to gaining the education necessary to attain one's life goals.

I-BEST is only the beginning for T.J. He plans to enroll again in the near future—this time at our new Oconee Campus, which is closer to where he lives and works. Already he has been promoted twice during his brief time at BorgWarner, and they will fund his additional education.

T.J.'s story reminds us that our success is embodied in the success of our students and should be measured not just in student success, graduation, or transfer rates, but also in the way their lives are changed for the better and in how they have a positive, lasting impact on the communities we serve.



**Dr. Ronnie L. Booth**  
President

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D., President

# Anderson Campus Says Farewell to Mary Geren and Art Scheck

"We're going to need four instructors to replace the two of you," Social Science instructor Cathy Sadat said to colleagues Mary Geren and Art Scheck, both English instructors who are departing the College this month.

"You'll be succeeded but never replaced," added Anderson Campus Director Tim Bowen, who was among the Anderson Campus faculty and staff who gathered to say farewell to Art and Mary, both of whom have been teaching at the Anderson Campus since it opened more than a decade ago.

"It has been an amazing journey," said Mary, who joined Tri-County in 2009 and last year received the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence, the highest award given to a faculty member. A candidate in the 3rd Congressional District race, Mary resigned her teaching position to focus on her campaign full time.

For years she served as Faculty Advisor to the TCTC Association of Political Scientists (TAPS). One of the events she helped to organize is the annual trip to Washington, D.C., when she and other instructors take a group of student leaders to the



*Mary Geren and Art Scheck*

Nation's Capital. She also is a leader in service learning projects.

"As I have said many times, education saved my life. It has been a blessing working for Tri-County. It opened doors for me," she said.

Art is an original faculty member at the Anderson Campus. Before joining the College 14 years ago, he was Vice President/Editorial Director of Abenaki Publishers in Bennington, VT. During his career he served as a freelance contract Editor and Writer for Southern Anglers' Journal, a regional sporting publication based in Charlotte, NC. Prior to that, he was Editor of Saltwater Fly Fishing magazine. Art has written several books, including Fly Rod Building Made Easy

(2002), A Fishing Life is Hard Work (2003), Tying Better Flies, (2003), and Fly Fish Better (2005) and has written hundreds of magazine and journal articles.

He says he hasn't made up his mind about what his next steps will be, "but it will be something fun."

"Both of you helped us build this campus," said Tim. "The two of you shine brightly. You are an asset to this campus, this College, and our students."

## Mathematics Instructor Robin Pepper Retires

Robin Pepper, mathematics instructor since 1988, retired April 13 after more than 30 years of teaching in the Arts and Sciences Division (including her adjunct service). On her last day, she met

with longtime friends and colleagues before departing to Iowa, to be close to family.

Over the years Robin served as the Coordinator of Instructional Affairs for the Mathematics Department, as well as the Coordinator for new Math adjunct instructors. Over the years she has served on many committees, including Faculty Senate. In 2008 she was the College's nominee for outstanding instructor (South Carolina Technical Education Association), and in 1996 she was among eight Tri-County instructors selected to receive the NISOD Excellence Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to teaching and learning.

*Pictured from left, Dr. Mohammad Ghobadi, Angela Ward, retiree Robin Pepper, and Robin McFall.*



# Scenes from Professional Development Day



**Ross Hughes**, quality assurance coordinator for the Student Data Center, **Scott Jaeschke**, coordinator of community standards for Student Development, and **Margaret Burdette**, coordinator of SACSCOC Compliance and Assessment, are three staff members who have been working in open office environments since various offices were relocated during the renovation of Ruby Hicks.

They led a focused conversation about current strategies at the College for open office work and personal ways to effectively work in open office environments.



ABOVE: Longtime employees **Glenn Hellenga**, director of Career Services, and **Butch Merritt**, career counselor at the Anderson Campus, have been employed at the College since the 1970s. They led a seminar where they discussed, via photos and conversation, the creation of the SC Technical College System and the history of Tri-County Technical College. On the screen is a vintage Tri-County billboard which reads, "The Greatest Resource in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties Is PEOPLE."

RIGHT: **Mark Dougherty**, dean of student development, led a seminar where he discussed the challenges of student services employees to keep themselves mentally and physical balanced. During this interactive session, he, **Croslena Johnson**, **Emma Robinson**, and **Lauren McClellan** introduced some stress relief practices, discussed College support systems for students, and provided information about the Employee Assistance Program through REACH.

(More photos on page 5)



Registrar **Scott Harvey** and **Cathy Cole**, data coordinator for the Registrar's Office, were the facilitators for the "What's New with the Banner 9 Upgrade??" seminar.

They provided an overview of why the College is moving to Banner 9, giving details of the planned implementation process, and discussing the platform's impacts on the College. Tri-County relies on Banner as our enterprise software for Student Records, Financial Aid, Fiscal Affairs, Human Resources, etc. Banner has an impact on almost everyone that is a part of TCTC so it is important to understand the changes.



**Jeff Laws** and **Brandon Rice** from our Human Resources Office, were the facilitators for "When the Situation Calls for Situational Interviewing."





ABOVE, LEFT: Technical Support Manager **Jeanne Otey** led “Collaborating through Technology for Beginners and Advanced Users.”

ABOVE, RIGHT: Tri-County is using the Microsoft 360 platform, e-mail, Skype, cloud services, and other online tools to help us collaborate. Front row



participants, pictured from left, **Lou Mortiz**, **Julianna DiCicco-Wiles**, and **Rebecca Eidson** learned about some of the changes since we moved to Windows 10, Office 2016, Office 365, Skype for Business, Outlook, and OneDrive for collaboration.

## Concert Showcases Student Musical Talents

The Tri-County Technical College Choir and Jazz Band presented their final performance of the year at the April 20 annual Spring Concert

The concert showcased student talent through solos, as well as ensemble pieces by members of the Choir and the Jazz Band.

“Our performers are great as a group and shine as soloists,” said Julia West, Music instructor. The all-female choir presented songs by successful female singer/songwriters including “Fight Song” by Rachel Platten, “Cups” (Pitch Perfect’s “When I’m Gone”), and “How Far I’ll Go,” a song from Disney’s 2016 animated feature film “Moana.” Student soloists were selected to sing popular Broadway hits from shows like “Les Miserables,” “Ghost,” and “Hamilton.”

The concert also featured performances by the Jazz Band featuring three trumpets, one trombone, two guitars, one bass, and one drummer (Jason Poole, Industrial Electronics Technology instructor). They presented upbeat jazz pieces including Ornette Coleman’s “Chippie,” Eddie Harris’s “Cold Duck Time,” and even a piece co-written by the band’s pianist, Cory Dodgens.

*The Jazz Band performs with Pianist/Companionist **Cory Dodgens**.*



Music instructor **Julia West**, right, leads the all-female choir.



The Choir and Jazz Band pose for a group photo with **Julia West** and **Cory Dodgens**.



# Grad Fest a Success

Grad Fest, a celebratory class reunion event, was held April 6 on the Pendleton Campus.

You Rock!!! was the theme for Grad Fest, a celebration of all graduates, not just December 2017 and May 2018. The event was held in the new Student Success Center.

The drop-in party offered food, music, and games for the entire family.

ABOVE LEFT: **Stan Vandiver**, of Anderson, a 1994 Computer Technology graduate, right, caught up with his mentor and good friend, Career Services Director **Glenn Hellinga**, who served as Student Government Association



Advisor when Stan was a student SGA representative. Stan is self employed as a Systems Administrator and is currently working with Deloitte in Tennessee. He was featured recently in our newspaper ads which celebrated April as Community College Month.

ABOVE, RIGHT: **Hunter Parrington**, of Cateechee, and **Cameron Davis**, of Liberty, both Mechatronics majors, pick up their graduation regalia from Student Government Association President **Mar'Keese Rayton**.



I-BEST Manufacturing graduate **Eric Strasser**, second from left, brought his family to the celebration. From left are his father, **Steve**, his sister **Stephanie**, and his mother **Cathy**, who works as our I-BEST program resource associate.



**Aurora Palacios**, of Seneca, the outstanding student for the Administrative Office Technology program, and her daughter stopped by the Foundation table to pick up her free t-shirt.



**Kamille Tyson**, of Walhalla, left, outstanding student for the Media Arts Production program, and her mother **Celeste Hendrix**, of Walhalla, a 1992 Computer Technology graduate, attended the celebration with alumnus **Caleb Allen**. Celeste is Human Resource Manager at the Madren Center in Clemson, and Caleb is studying Human Resource Management at Anderson University.



**Jena Burton**, middle, who will receive her Administrative Office Technology (AOT) degree, joins her mother and father as a Tri-County graduate. She is pictured with her mother, **Tina**, a recruiting specialist here who is a 1994 AOT graduate, and her father, **Richard**, a 1993 Industrial Electronics Technology major, who teaches Mechatronics at the Anderson District Five Career Campus.



One of the gifts alumni received was a keychain made by students in the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division. **Ezequiel Elias Amador**, of Seneca, a Mechatronics major, is pictured with Student Success Coach **Katee Fletcher**.



**Hailey Galvee**, left, and **Ashley Luna**, both associate in Science majors from Walhalla, enjoyed the festivities. Hailey is transferring to Clemson University, and Ashley is headed to USC.



## CRJ Alumni Serve on Panel

Criminal Justice alumni **Jesus De Luna Soto**, left, and **Chyna Collins**, were among law enforcement professionals who participated in mock interviews (bottom photo) with Criminal Justice students who are preparing to enter the workforce. **Dr. Chris McFarlin**, department head for Business and Public Services, is pictured at right. Officer Collins, a 2014 alumna, is a member of the road patrol with the Greenville County Sheriff's Department, and Officer De Luna, of Westminster, a 2015 graduate, is a School Resource Officer with Oconee County.



# Our College Family



Ham Hudson

## excellence through service

The S.C. Association of Technical College Commissioners (SCATCC) selected College Commissioner **Ham Hudson** as the recipient of the Outstanding Commissioner Award and **Kathy Brand**, executive assistant to Dr. Booth, as recipient of the Outstanding Board Staff Award. Their awards will be presented to them at the SCATCC Academy in January 2019.

Both will be nominees for the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Southern Region Competition, which will be announced by August. Commissioner Helen Rosemond-Saunders won the regional award last year, and Dr. Booth was a recipient several years ago.



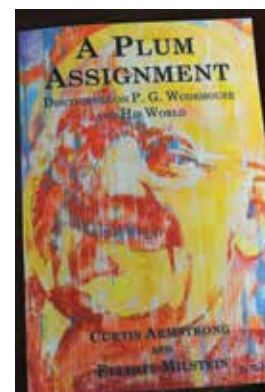
Kathy Brand

English instructor **Ashley Polasek** is the Editor and Designer of a new book titled [A Plum Assignment: Discourses on P. G. Wodehouse and His World](#). It is co-authored by actor and author Curtis Armstrong (“Revenge of the Nerds,” “Moonlighting,” “Supernatural”) and the former president of The Wodehouse Society (US), Elliott Milstein. “The book is a collection of essays on the English humorist P. G. Wodehouse, arguably the finest comic novelist of the 20th century. The essays are wrapped in the story of Armstrong and Milstein’s 45-year friendship, inspired and nurtured by their mutual love of books in general, and the works of Wodehouse in particular,” said Ashley.

RIGHT: [A Plum Assignment: Discourses on P. G. Wodehouse and His World](#)



Ashley Polasek



## Four Present at Innovations Conference

Four faculty and staff members presented at the Innovations 2018 Conference held at National Harbor, MD, in March. The Innovations Conference is the annual conference of the League for Innovation in the Community College

**Dr. Amoena Norcross**, curriculum consultant in our Curriculum and Instructional Support department, delivered a presentation entitled “Embedding High-Impact Practices into Associate Degree Programs.”

**Val Cela**, Economics instructor, and **Penny Edwards**, Social Sciences department head, facilitated a teaching strategies discussion titled “From Puzzles to Play-Doh, to Pinterest.” The roundtable discussion illustrated how each instructor uses similar methods to engage students in his or her respective courses.

**Linda Jameison**, assistant vice president for the Student Support and Engagement Division, and **Penny Edwards**, Social Sciences department head, gave a presentation titled “Organizational Structure and Strategic Planning: Developing our 21st-Century Backbone.” Their interactive presentation discussed the intersection of strategic planning, organizational structure, 21st-Century Skills, and the development of co-curricular programming between the Academic and Student Affairs areas of our campus.



Dr. Amoena Norcross



Val Cela



Linda Jameison



Penny Edwards





*Dr. Aristide Sechandice*

**Dr. Aristide Sechandice** is currently serving in his first year (of a two-year term) as President of the SC Sociological Association. This year he helped organize and deliver the State conference, as well as host the Clemson Undergraduate Social Sciences Symposium.

Congratulations to Social Sciences instructor **Sharon Richards**, who successfully defended her dissertation and has earned her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Capella University. She will graduate as a guest graduate May 6 at Southern Adventist University (where she also graduated with her undergraduate degree in Psychology). Her dissertation is entitled “Cognitive Differences in Academic Procrastination Types.”



*Dr. Sharon Richards*

Surgical Technology Program Director **Denelle White** is among a select group of educators chosen by the Association of Surgical Technologists to participate in a two-day summit to evaluate the program’s educational

processes and to develop a future course for surgical technology education.

This group of professionals will work toward achieving a consensus in establishing attained goals and overall direction, which includes advancing to the associate degree level. Their findings will be presented in a published document that will serve as a reference for the coming years.

The summit, to be held October 11 and 12 in Denver, is fully funded by AST and ARC/STSA.

**Meredith McClure Dickens**, program director/instructor for Early Care and Education, has been approved to become a National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Higher Education Accreditation Peer Reviewer.

She completed online Peer Reviewer training for the NAEYC Accreditation of Early Childhood Higher Education Programs system.

This training was held online in an asynchronous activity and discussion format in a private online community.



*Denelle White*



*Meredith McClure Dickens*



## Grants Director Presents at National Summit

Grants Director **Laneika Musalini** and her son, **Antonio Harrison**, were presenters at Clemson University’s Men of Color National Summit.

Held April 12 and 13, the mission of the Men of Color National Summit is to close the achievement gap for African-American and Hispanic males, from cradle to career. The Summit brought together approximately 2,000 high school and college students, including a group from Tri-County, business professionals, educators, government officials, and community leaders from around the country. Presenters emphasized the importance of education, best practices and choices to increase high school and college graduation rates. Laneika and Antonio’s session provided valuable information on community service and scholarships.

LEFT, TOP: **Laneika Musalini** and her son, **Antonio Harrison**

LEFT, BOTTOM: Presenter **Laneika Musalini**, **Lori Morrisette**, manager of Student Development and Involvement Programs, and students who attended the Men of Color National Summit

## in transition

**Steve Wallace** has accepted the position of Supply Specialist II in the Administrative Services Division. Steve is now working in the postal and shipping functions of the College. He comes to us with more than 18 years of experience in shipping and receiving at Michelin and Bed, Bath and Beyond.



Steve Wallace

**Krista Shockley** is working as a One Stop Specialist in TC Central. She is a graduate of our Business Management program and while a student worked in TC Central. She lives in Elberton, Georgia.



Krista Shockley



**Stephanie Brown, LVT**, academic program director for Veterinary Technology, sent this note of thanks, praising our Campus Police:

“Last night as I was waiting for my students to finish up with lab (at 8 p.m.), I thought I would use the time to clean off my desk. As I was moving some books, I unknowingly hit the panic button on my phone. It could have been only a minute or two before I realized it, and I hit exit right away. As I was deciding what I should do about hitting it, I looked up to see two officers at my door asking if everything was OK. I believe there might have been more in the hallway too! I am just writing to let you know how impressed I was at the response time of the officers. Not only were they super-fast at getting to Halbert Hall, but they were extremely gracious about me accidentally hitting the button. Their only concern was for the safety of the students and myself. I just wanted to say kudos to our Campus Police!”

## CCE Receives Donation

Sloan Construction Company donated two Troxler training density gauges to be used in Highway Construction classes offered by our Corporate and Community Education (CCE) Division. These gauges are used to determine the compacted density of soils, stone base course materials, and asphalt pavements. These converted training gauges will be utilized by CCE to train Highway Construction Quality Control Technicians how to measure the density of these materials in the field.



Pictured from left are **Rick Cothran**, dean of the CCE Division, **Mitchell Dodd**, quality control manager for Sloan Construction, and **Mary Corley**, director of the Highway Construction Program.

## Furry Friends Find New Homes



**Pistachio**, the tuxedo cat, and **Barney**, a four-month-old mixed breed dog, found new homes at the April 18 Vet Tech Pet Adoption Day. **Kasyn Blakely**, left, and **Karly Morris**, both associate in arts majors, adopted Pistachio, and **Abbie Kamia**, a Business major, and **Kyle Baker**, a Bridge to Clemson student, adopted Barney.

There will be another adoption event in July so check Facebook and employee announcements for pictures as the date approaches.

## Executive Staff Summary

### • TRANSFORMATIVE EMPLOYEE EXPERIENCE PROJECT

**UPDATE:** Employee interviews are wrapping up and the project team will begin analyzing the data to identify common themes, which will be used to define and create a vision for the Transformative Employee Experience, identify the values and behaviors that support the experience, and develop strategies to deliver on this promise.

• **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROJECT UPDATE:** In response to the changing demographics in the Tri-County service area, the Diversity and Inclusion project team was charged to define and set priorities to intentionally incorporate diversity and inclusion into the student and employee experiences, reflecting the College mission, values, and strategic plan. Guiding principles, definitions, and a road map for next steps have been completed. In addition, a campus climate survey has been conducted to inform future efforts including the use of resources, education, training and new initiatives. Results of the Climate Survey will be posted in eTC in the near future.

• **CAPITAL PROJECTS:** Renovations to Ruby Hicks Hall continue on schedule, and the building should re-open in December, 2018. Construction of the Oconee Campus will be completed early this summer in time to equip, furnish, and open the campus in time for Fall Semester.

• **I-BEST HEALTHCARE PATHWAY:** The Healthcare Pathway curriculum is being finalized, and the program will begin Fall Semester. Healthcare Pathway students will be exposed to a variety of career options in healthcare fields and complete the training needed to work as Personal Care Assistants.

• **OTHER:** Summer and Fall Enrollment; PLC Lab Retrofit; ImageNow software update; Updated policies and procedures; Strategic Planning; FY 19 budget planning.

## Students Register to Vote



**Matthew Lawrence** and **Sarah Strickland**, both Associate in Science majors, stopped by the voter registration table to talk with **Monica Rockwell**, right, a volunteer with the League of Women Voters. The event was sponsored by the Tri-County Association of Political Scientists.

## Outstanding Pre-Pharmacy Student Earns Early Admittance to USC

**Xiaoxia (Summer) Wang**, of Seneca, left, received the Outstanding Pre-Pharmacy Student Award at the annual awards ceremony recently. Presenting the plaque is **Karen Culp-Linscott**, program director. Summer, who Karen says has achieved a 100 average in all four chemistry classes she has taken, earned early admittance to the University of South Carolina's School of Pharmacy. Summer will graduate in August.



## Adjunct Instructors Receive Awards

(continued from page 1)

entertaining without sacrificing learning, an absolutely ideal scenario.”

Added Lara Wrightson, political science instructor, “Rathwell consistently captures the attention of his students with his acerbic wit and sharp sense of humor. He uses the art of storytelling to weave a tapestry that is styled to keep the focus of his students and to enhance learning. His teaching methods are memorable long after students have left the classroom. Tri-County benefits immensely from having an instructor of his caliber.”

“Paul’s understanding of economic theory is matched only by his years of research and application,” said Jeremy McCracken, Social Sciences instructor. “As a full-time faculty member, I am often made aware by students, whether in the classroom or through advising, how much they appreciate and enjoy having had the opportunity to have been part of Paul’s lecture.”

# Foundation News

## The Grainger Foundation Supports Welding Program

The Grainger Foundation, an independent, private foundation located in Lake Forest, Illinois, donated \$10,000 in support of equipment for the Welding program.

Pictured from left are **Ramona Brown**, operations manager for Grainger; **Grayson Kelly**, executive director for the Foundation; **Paul Phelps**, department head for CNC and Welding; **Kristen Hudson**, public sector account manager for Grainger; and **Courtney White**, director of Development.



## Two New Pathways Offered through Partnership with Columbia College



Columbia College President **Dr. Carol Moore** and **Dr. Booth** signed the agreement April 19.

Dr. Booth and Columbia College President Carol Moore signed an agreement April 19 for two new pathways that provide greater access to a private college education for graduates of our Business and Nursing associate degree programs.

Tri-County graduates who earn an associate degree in Business Administration can take classes toward a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration (from Columbia College). These classes will be offered on our campus.

Associate degree Nursing graduates can take classes toward a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. All of those classes will be offered online.

“We have made a concerted effort to create pathways that will allow graduates to go on and to earn a bachelor’s degree, should they choose to do so, without loss of time, credits or money,” said Dr. Booth.