

Connection

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Ann Hall Receives Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence at Fall Convocation

Ann Hall, accounting manager for the Business Affairs Division, was honored August 14 with the highest award given for staff excellence at the College.

Dr. Booth presented Ann with the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence at the College’s fall convocation. The medallion, along with a cash award made possible by the College’s Foundation, goes to a person who best exemplifies the College philosophy and has contributed the most during the academic year to the development of the College and its students. Ann joined Tri-County in 2008.

“I very much appreciate the recognition since there are obviously so many deserving folks on staff here at the College,” said Ann. “I’ve been fortunate to work with a great team here and can’t thank them enough for their leadership and support.”

“Ann exemplifies going above and beyond and demonstrates the Tri-County Technical College service standards of being invested, competent, approachable, responsive and engaged and doing whatever it takes to get the job done accurately and timely each and every day,” Cara Hamilton, director of fiscal affairs, said in her nomination letter.

Prior to Cara being hired in 2013, Ann took on the extra responsibilities of serving as Interim Director of Fiscal Affairs. While performing these additional responsibilities, Ann improved processes and increased operational efficiencies by implementing the Banner GASB Statement Module and invested time in developing Access queries to help prepare and validate the financial data used in the Monthly Budget Variance report and other ad-hoc reports.

Ann’s job includes maintaining accounting financial records of all restricted funds, specifically grants. “She takes the lead in working with all grants to ensure they are handled according to the grant guidelines and in a way that will most benefit the College,” said Cara. “As a result of her knowledge, diligence, and research regarding grant compliance, the College receives clean audits from the DOE and our annual external audits.”

During the current year, Ann investigated the viability, tested, rolled out, trained staff, and executed a new budgeting tool called Budget Development Module, which was fully operational for the FY15 budget cycle.

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Ann Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS

Open Forum with Dr. Booth – Sept. 25

Fall Classic Golf Tournament – Oct. 3

Annual Report Luncheon – Oct. 30

Check the College Activities Calendar in eTC for additional activities and events.

Connection

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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



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Connecting

High Impact Practices Pay Off in Workplace Success



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

When it comes to success on the job, the overall student experience has a much stronger correlation to workplace success than does the type of educational institution an individual student attends.

A recent Gallup-Purdue study examines the links between college, work, and overall well-being. The results, while eye-opening to some, are not necessarily surprising to those of us in the business of community college education.

Whether enrolled at a large university, a prestigious private institution, a small public college, or anything in between, students who report having an instructor who cared about them as a person, spurred their enthusiasm for learning, and encouraged them to achieve their goals more than doubled their odds of being engaged and successful employees in the workplace.

The same is true for students who participate in work-based learning experiences, such as apprenticeships, co-ops, or internships and/or have other opportunities to apply what they are learning in the classroom.

Clearly, the overall student experience is an important contributor to future success.

This study confirms we are on the right track in our efforts to create an environment that supports the total student, in and out of the classroom. Many students have shared stories with me about how their lives were changed by instructors and staff who cared enough to invest extra time and effort in ensuring their success.

Likewise, for years we have had pockets of excellence in student engagement and applied learning activities, such as our learning communities, internships, and service learning. We want every student to have the benefit of these types of experiences.

Many of these learning activities, also called High Impact Practices (HIPs), are the result of initiative taken by individual faculty members who want to try new and different strategies to enrich the educational experience. Our challenge is to make these types of experiences a reality for all students, which means we must further develop, expand, integrate, and institutionalize these practices throughout our programs.

Our goal is for all students to participate in several High Impact Practices during their educational experience at Tri-County. A project team has been formed to begin this work, which won't happen overnight. But the time, effort, and energy we invest in making such practices a reality for all students will be well worth the payoff. These practices, along with our vision, values, service standards, and competencies, will create a culture and experience that transforms the lives of our students and gives them an edge—the TCTCedge—in the workplace.

We may not be the biggest or most expensive college in our service area; nor do we want to be. But I would argue that no other institution delivers greater value to their students or does more to ensure their future success in the workplace.

"Our goal is for all students to participate in several High Impact Practices during their educational experience at Tri-County."

~Dr. Ronnie Booth

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

College Welcomes Two New Commissioners

Two Pickens County residents have been appointed to the Commission, the nine-member governing board of the College.

Governor Nikki R. Haley appointed Dr. Valerie Ramsey, of Easley, and Tom Hendricks, of Liberty, to the Commission, effective April 2014. Their terms expire July 2017.

Dr. Valerie Ramsey

Dr. Ramsey retired in 2009 as the Chief Business Officer for the College of Health, Education, and Human Development at Clemson University. Since 2011 she has been an adjunct professor at Southern Wesleyan University teaching adult and graduate studies courses in the School of Business and the School of Education. She previously served on the Commission from 2005 – 2009. She was the first alumna in the history of the College to serve on its governing board and the first Tri-County Commissioner to serve on a national committee with the Association of Community College Trustees.

A 1988 graduate of our Arts and Sciences Division, she says her passion for her alma mater remains strong over the years. “I believe in the College and what it is doing. I always have and I always will. I am a strong advocate for the students. I can personally identify with the average, non-traditional Tri-County student. I believe in Tri-County, and I believe it is an awesome vehicle to transform lives. I’m a living example that anything can happen.”

Since Dr. Ramsey’s retirement, she chaired the Board of Directors of the Pickens County United Way from 2011 – 13. Previous appointments include Financial Aid Audit Committee for the Association of Community College Trustees (2010 – 11); Tri-County’s representative on the SC Association of Community College Trustees; and a member of the Board of Regents for Leadership Pickens County (2008 – 11). She also was dean of Oolenoy River Baptist Education and Missionary Association of Christian Education from 2011 – 13. In 2006 she received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Tri-County and in 2004 was named Clemson University’s recipient of the Board of Trustees Award for Staff Excellence.

Dr. Ramsey holds bachelor’s degree in Human Resource Management from Southern Wesleyan University (SWU), as well as a master’s in Human Resource Development from Clemson University. She earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership in Higher Education from Clemson in 2003. Dr. Ramsey earned a master of Ministry degree at SWU in 2008.

“I believe in Tri-County, and I believe it is an awesome vehicle to transform lives. I’m a living example that anything can happen.”

~Dr. Valerie Ramsey



Dr. Valerie Ramsey



Tom Hendricks

Mr. Tom Hendricks

Mr. Hendricks is a military veteran who after 20 years of service in the Army, retired and entered public service. He served as the Pickens County Administrator from 1989 - 99 and later Administrator for Oconee County from 2006 until his retirement in 2007.

“While serving as Administrator for Pickens County and later Oconee County, I worked closely with Tri County Technical College on annual budgets and building programs. The College prepares and equips individuals to make an immediate and positive impact with their employers,” said Mr. Hendricks.

During his tenure as Administrator, Pickens County built a new administration building, three new libraries, four EMS/rescue buildings, eight recycling stations and a Materials Recovery Facility. The Eighteen Mile Creek Sewer System was initiated and a water line from Greenville near Pickens brought safe, clean water to Liberty. Following 12 years of service with Pickens County, Mr. Hendricks was hired as the Planning Director for Oconee County and later became County Administrator. He has served on the Appalachian Council of Governments Board for the past four years.

“The College prepares and equips individuals to make an immediate and positive impact with their employers.”

~Tom Hendricks

A native of Six Mile, Mr. Hendricks was drafted into military service in 1966. He is a graduate of Infantry Officers Candidate School and was a member of Special Forces (5th SFGA SOG) in Vietnam. His duty assignments were with 8th SFGA in Panama, the 82nd Airborne Division, and Military Police in Virginia. He served in various staff positions, including a joint NATO Planning Staff. He graduated with honors from Fayetteville State University and the Army’s Command and General Staff College. He retired from the Army in 1986 with the rank of Major.

Our College Family

excellence through service

Dr. Suzanne Ellenberger, Brad Blake, and **Kevin Foley** recently completed a 16-hour HazMat certification course (Hazardous Materials Management).

Congratulations to **Jessica Scott**, library technical assistant, for earning a Certificate of Participation in online training for SCILS and for receiving the Award of Excellence for the highest participation.



Jessica Scott

in transition

Many new faculty and staff joined us this semester. We will continue to feature them in the next issue of Connection.

HEALTH EDUCATION DIVISION

Cindy Wright is a new faculty member for the Associate Degree Nursing program. She has been an adjunct for the department for the last year. During her career, she worked as a registered nurse for the Greenville Health System, as well as AnMed Health. She holds a BSN from Brenau College in Gainesville, Georgia, and a master's from Kaplan University. Cindy also is a graduate of our Veterinary Technology program. She and her husband, Steve, have a son, Grant, who is a Tri-County student. They are members of First Baptist Church of Pendleton. They live in Clemson.



Cindy Wright

Mandy Hanks, the College's 2014 Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award recipient, is teaching full time in our Expanded Duty Dental Assisting program.

Mandy, a licensed dental hygienist with a specialty in pediatric dentistry, served as a classroom lecturer, as well as a lab and clinical coordinator in the program since 2009.

Mandy also has assisted in community education projects for the program, including National Dental Health Month,



Mandy Hanks

Tri-County Dental Society meetings, and Dental Assisting Student Organization meetings, in addition to national and State meetings.

A Tri-County alumna, she graduated from the Expanded Duty Dental Assisting Program in 2002. While in the program, she received the award for academic excellence. She continued her education at Greenville Technical College and received her associate degree in Dental Hygiene. She graduated from the Medical University of South Carolina with a 4.0 GPA in Health Sciences and the highest honor in her class. She and her husband, Zack, live in Iva with their son, Creighton.

Dr. Nichole (Cole) Chavis is the new Veterinarian/Instructor for the Veterinary Technology program. The Walhalla native recently moved back to the Upstate after working in private practice in Beaufort and Charleston for the past eight years.

She earned a B.A. in English from Clemson University, where he was the Managing Editor of TAPS, the yearbook for Clemson. She also was a volunteer Tour Guide Association member, and in her fourth year of membership with the Association, she received the Tour Guide of the Year and was the first recipient of the award.

She later received a B.S. in Animal Science at Clemson in 2001, followed by a D.V.M. from Tuskegee University in 2005. In her first year of veterinary school, she was elected Secretary of the Class of 2005 and the student representative to the Student Association of Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA). In her sophomore year, she was elected Secretary of SAVMA, the governing board of the veterinary school. During her junior year, she was elected President of SAVMA for Tuskegee.

Cole is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and is a Licensed Veterinarian in North and South Carolina. She also is a member of the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians and the the Trident Veterinary Medical Association.

She and her children, Railey Kay, 5, and Sterling, 3, live in Central.

Ashley Brady, evening instructor for the Veterinary Technology program since 2007, is now Department Head/Day Instructor.



Dr. Nichole Chavis



Ashley Brady

Stephanie Brown, a licensed veterinary technician (L.V.T.) who taught as an adjunct for 12 years in the Veterinary Technology program, is now the full-time Evening Program Coordinator. Stephanie received the College's Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award in 2010.

She is a 1992 alumna of the program and worked as an L.V.T. in private practice for 13 years. She was named Veterinary Technician of the Year in 1998 by the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians.

She is a member of National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA), the Association of Veterinary Technician Educators, and the South Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians. She serves as the Faculty Advisor for the student NAVTA chapter and is a board member of the Pickens County Humane Society. She serves on the College's Veterinary Technology Advisory Committee and is a member of the IACUC Committee.

She is a member of Mt. Tabor Baptist Church in Easley. She lives in Pickens with her husband, Johnny, and their children, Cody and Kaylyn.



Stephanie Brown

ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

Bruce Herczogh is now teaching Chemistry full time in the Science Department after serving as an adjunct since 1982. He was a Chemist at Clemson University from 1977 – 2008. He holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Virginia Military Institute, an M.S. in Inorganic Chemistry and an M. Ed. from the University of South Carolina. He served in the U.S. Army from 1966 – 68 and was a Reservist from 1972 – 93.

He is a member of St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Clemson. He and his wife, Jan, live in Seneca.

Stephan Irwin is the new Anatomy and Physiology instructor. He was an adjunct Lecturer for a year before becoming full time.

From 2007 – 12, he was a Graduate Teaching Assistant at Clemson University, where he earned a B.S. in Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Wildlife in 1998, an M.S. in



Bruce Herczogh



Stephan Irwin

Wildlife and Fisheries Biology in 2009, and his Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Biology, with a certificate in Science Education in 2012.

His master's thesis is titled Life History Characteristics of the Turquoise Darter (*Etheostoma Inscriptum*) in the Upper Piedmont of South Carolina, and he delivered a presentation on the subject at the The Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society meeting in January 2014.

His doctoral dissertation is titled Mass Latex Balloon Releases and the Potential Effects on Wildlife. He has given presentations on the subject at The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry Annual meeting, The Southeastern Ecology and Evolution Conference, and The Waterbird Society Annual Meeting.

Stephan's previous work experience includes Supervisor at Falls Park in Greenville from 2004 – 2007 and a Zookeeper at Greenville Zoo from 1999 – 2004.

His professional memberships include Phi Kappa Phi, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, and the Waterbird Society.

Zach Vollrath is teaching Physics full time after a year as an adjunct instructor. Zach has a bachelor of Science degree from Clemson and a master's in Science from the University of Georgia, where he was a Teaching Assistant for the Physics and Astronomy departments for five years. Prior to coming to Tri-County, he worked as a Tutor for the University's Athletics Association for two years. Zach lives in Anderson.



Zach Vollrath

Stacey Frank is a new Psychology instructor in the Arts and Sciences Division. She is teaching at the Anderson Campus. She is a service-connected disabled Marine Corps veteran and is the Faculty Advisor for the Student Veterans of America TCTC Chapter. While in service, she earned a Meritorious Unit Citation.

Since then she has worked in Emergency Services in Bamberg County as a Coordinator, Trainer-the-Trainer, Planner, and County PIO. She has been a volunteer firefighter for the past seven years and is nationally certified in



Stacey Frank

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Our College Family

Anderson County, where she received an award for Outstanding Service. Stacey also is a Fire and Life Safety Educator. She has been a volunteer Guardian ad Litem for four counties in S.C., as well as a volunteer Victims' Advocate for sexual assault and domestic violence.

Stacey graduated Summa Cum Laude from Colorado Technical University with a B.S. in Criminal Justice. She earned an M.A. in Forensic Psychology from Argosy University, and is currently working on a Ph. D. in Psychology with a Forensic Specialization from Walden University and will be ABD in November.

She and her husband, Gene, and their three children moved to Pendleton in 2010. She began teaching as an adjunct in the Spring of 2011 in the Arts and Sciences Division, as well as the Transitions to College Division. This May she was a nominee for the Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award.

Laure He and **Bradley Blake** are two new Lab Specialists working in the Science Department.

Laura is a graduate of Shanxi Agricultural University (China) with a bachelor's degree in Agronomy and a master's in Biology. While there, she taught Plant Physiology at the University for 10 years. From 2006 - May 2014, she worked at Clemson University as a Research Associate in the Department of Biological Science.

She and her husband, Zhigang, have two daughters, Hua Li, who is a Clemson University student, and Karen Li, age seven.

Bradley begins his first job following graduation from Clemson University, where he earned a B.S. in Chemistry. Bradley lives in Clemson.

Valbona (Val) Cela is our new Economics instructor. She has been teaching in the Social Sciences Department as an Adjunct/Lecturer for the past eight years. Val holds a B.A. in Industrial Economics from the University of Tirana Albana and an M.S.



Laura He



Bradley Blake



Val Cela

in Agricultural and Natural Resources Economics from Colorado State University. Her teaching experience has been at Anderson University, Chattahoochee Technical College, and Southern New Hampshire University. She and her husband, Aleksander Stavre, have two children, Alba, 8, and Alexis, 6. They live in Clemson.

ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Scott Jaeschke joined the Division as its Academic Advisor. He comes to us from Centura College and the Aviation Institute of Maintenance, where he was a Student Advisor, as well as a Data Analyst and Policy Analyst. Scott holds a B.A. in German from Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia, and an M.S. Ed. from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. He and his wife, Sarah, live in Central.



Scott Jaeschke

Mandy Orzechowski is now Department Head for Engineering Technology.

BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

Debbie Vance is the new Accounting and Management instructor. Her work experience includes 13 years at ScanSource as an Accountant for five years and in Product Management for eight years. Debbie served on the company's Charitable Foundation Board and was its Treasurer.

She has a B.S. in Business Administration, along with an MBA from Southern Wesleyan University. She also earned a Taxation Graduate Certificate from Strayer University. She is one class shy of a master's in Accounting (in Comptrollership) from Strayer.

Debbie and her husband, Richard, have two adult children, Justin, and Lisa, who is a Business student here. They are members of West Gantt First Baptist Church in Greenville. They live in Anderson.



Mandy Orzechowski



Debbie Vance

The following have left the College to pursue other opportunities. We wish them well in their endeavors.

CherylIn Brown
John Cook
Sarah Dowd

John Price
Lori Ford
Kirk Parmenter

in transition

RETIREMENTS

In his 28 years as a Machine Tool/CNC instructor, **Dave Walker** always put students first.

“The CNC program, the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division, and the College will really miss Dave, who retired August 15,” said John Norris, CNC program coordinator and longtime friend. “Dave is devoted to his students and their education,” said John, who worked alongside Dave for many years. “He is a great instructor and is always accessible. He spent that extra time with students, and they love him. He will be hard to replace,” he said.

“Dave keeps in touch with students after they graduate and often gets e-mails from them giving him updates on their careers and families,” said John.

“When I go in industry today, I always run into people who were taught by Dave, and they always ask about him.”

Dave says his most memorable moments at the College have been “seeing students excel in their work and getting great jobs. I will miss the interaction with students and taking my knowledge from working in industry and incorporating it into my lectures in the classroom and labs. It’s been the best of both worlds,” said Dave.

Dave joined Tri-County in 1986 as an instructor and later served as Department Head. He holds a degree in Machine Tool Technology from Tri-County, and he continued his education by participating in professional development classes.

His industrial experience prior to coming to Tri-County included working as a Precision Machinist at Avco Lycoming in Greer, and as a Tool Maker, Supervisor, and CNC Programmer at K & M Tool and Die Company in Easley. He began his career as a Federal Apprentice Tool Maker for the Inland Manufacturing Division of General Motors Corporation in Dayton, Ohio. He went on to work as a Toolmaker for the company for a decade.



Dave Walker



Dr. Peggy Champion, center, and **Christee Williams**, second from left, both retired August 8. Pictured with them are, from left, **Stephanie Brown**, L.V.T. and instructor; **Ashley Brady**, evening instructor who now will serve as department head/instructor, and **Dr. Elizabeth Bryan**, adjunct instructor.

When **Dr. Peggy Champion** assumed the role of Department Head/Veterinarian in 2004, she and longtime instructor and Licensed Veterinary Technician (L.V.T.) **Christee Williams** made a pact—they agreed to retire at the same time. That moment has come—and it’s is bittersweet for both. Peggy, a University of Florida graduate, has been a practicing veterinarian for 32 years, and it’s been a lifelong career for Christee as well, who has a total of 32 years as an L.V.T. and instructor since graduating as the outstanding senior from Tri-County’s program in 1982.

Their last day was August 8.

“We will miss the students. Before final exams, every morning started with a call or a text or a conversation with a student about us not being here this fall,” said Christee.

The two began as a team in 1989 when Peggy joined the College as Department Head following Dr. Eddie Anderson’s retirement. She went back to private practice in south Georgia a year later, but they kept in touch over the years and in 2004 the Department Head position opened up, and Peggy came back.

They clicked from day one. “If you are really, really lucky as a veterinarian or a veterinary technician, you will work with someone in your career who complements your strengths. Christee complements me and vice versa. We realized that early on, and we used it to the program’s advantage and in our friendship,” said Peggy.

Christee was named the South Carolina Association of Veterinarian’s Technician of the Year in 1996 and received the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence in 2011. She also is a member of the South Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians (SCAVT) and serves as the Regional Representative

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Our College Family

on the SCAVT State Board. She served as Treasurer of the Board from 2001 – 2011.

Peggy, who received the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence in 2008, always has known that technicians are an integral part of the practice. “I’ve always worked with credentialed technicians since I graduated from vet school, so I understand their value.”

“We have had the same goal from the day we met – this could be the best program in the U.S., if not the world,” Peggy added.

Read more about Peggy and Christee on the College website (tctc.edu, About TCTC, Media).



Renae Frazier and the Admissions Office staff

Renae Frazier Departs College

She’s been a familiar face in the Student Affairs Division for almost 25 years, helping thousands of students through the enrollment process and proudly watching them achieve their goals as they walk across the stage to receive their diplomas.

As a first-generation college student herself, **Renae Frazier**, director of recruitment and admissions, understands that applying to college can be overwhelming and strives to make it as seamless as possible for students and their parents. Always with a smile and helping hand, she goes above and beyond to ensure that questions are answered and the needs of students are met.

“I’ve loved my time here. My goal was to retire from Tri-County. It’s where I started, and my career blossomed here, but a door opened and an opportunity presented itself,” said Renae, who departed the College August 13 to become Dean of Admissions at Piedmont Technical College.

She spent her entire career at Tri-County.

After serving as a work/study while a Secretarial Science (now Administrative Office Technology) major here in the late 1980’s, she was hired as Office Manager/Administrative Assistant for Admissions. She was promoted to Admissions Team Leader and later went on to become a Financial Aid Counselor.

In 2007 she assumed her position as Director of Recruiting and Admissions. Along the way, she earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Business Administration from Southern Wesleyan University.

“Tri-County offers something for everyone at any age. I enjoy helping students figure out what their path will be. It’s challenging and exciting,” Renae said.

Colleagues agree that she has always put students first.

Her longtime co-worker and Student Success Coach Rachel Campbell says Renae is always developing new processes and improving current operations to meet the needs of the community. “Renae is looking for ways to better serve our students and ensure they have a positive experience at Tri-County.” As a result, Renae often receives personally handwritten letters and notes from students and parents expressing their gratitude. She always goes the extra mile, and they know she cares,” said Rachel.

Renae has been instrumental in building good relationships with high schools, said Rachel. “They are such strong supporters of Renae, especially at her alma mater, Belton-Honea Path High School. Her departure will leave a huge hole here at the College, but this is a great opportunity for Renae, and we are very, very happy for her.”

“Renae’s departure is bittersweet not only for me but for those who have worked closely with her for twenty-plus years,” said Caroline Williams, administrative specialist. “Renae’s compassion for students’ success and her ability to think outside of the box and see the students’ needs, regardless of their circumstances, is one of her many strengths. Even though we all are elated for her new success, it’s a very sad day for Admissions.”

“I will miss the people. I’m proud to have worked 25 years at my alma mater. My staff has supported me, and they understand my decision. They will carry on and continue to do great work,” said Renae. “They understand that everyone who walks through the door—you can show them the way and you can change their lives.”

Ann Hall

(continued from page 1)

Ann holds a B. S. in Financial Management from Clemson University and an MBA from the University of Georgia. She is a Chartered Financial Analyst. She and her husband, Bill, live in Seneca.



Cathy Cole received a note from a parent, Roger Gray, who works for Horry County Schools as a Director in Human Resources. He commended **Jessica Hollifield**, part-time administrative specialist and a work study in the Financial Aid Office:

“Today, I called TCTC in regard to my son, Heath, who will be entering the Bridge to Clemson Program this fall. When I called the school and told the switchboard operator that I needed to speak to someone in Financial Aid, she connected me to Jessica in your department. Although I did not have all of the information that I needed in front of me, Jessica was very patient with me and was able to tell me exactly what I needed to do. I just wanted to send you a note to let you know how much I appreciated Jessica’s attitude and her commitment to good customer service.”

Donny Winkler received this note from Andrew Garmon, a physics adjunct instructor (and Clemson University physics graduate student):

“Thank you for all your help this summer! I really appreciate everything you did for me. I want to let you know I think you do a great job. I spoke to the students throughout the semester, and unanimously, they said “Physics is NOT my favorite class, but Mr. Winkler is one of my favorite professors.” I think that says a lot to dislike a subject, and maybe a class, and still have a lot of respect for the instructor. Clemson University needs more caring individuals like yourself.”

Curtis Skiles sent this note, thanking **Carol Watts** and the Assessment Center staff for their good work:

“I am a student at Piedmont Technical College, however, I take all of my proctored tests at Tri-County’s Assessment Center. I have had multiple issues both semesters with instructors at Piedmont Tech not sending the correct, or any, information to Tri-County’s Assessment Center. Carol Watts and her staff have been extremely helpful in aiding me with these issues. Carol and her staff have proved to be great representatives for Tri-County Technical College through these frustrating situations. Many people do not see college as a business, but students are the customers and the teachers are the suppliers of education. If all of Tri-County Technical College’s staff shows the level of professionalism and courtesy that I have seen with Carol and her staff, then local residents are truly fortunate to have this wonderful college at their back door! I hope this email will bring the Assessment Center a little recognition for their great work!”

If you wish to thank someone publicly, share personal news, brag about a recent accomplishment in your unit, or any other highlight, send it in for our “Brag & Share” column. E-mail your submission (65 words or less) with “Brag & Share” in the subject line to Lisa Garrett at lgarrett@tctc.edu.

Backpacks for the Brave



Veterans stopped by Patriots’ Place to meet, talk, and pick up their free backpack filled with supplies, information, and resources during a get together August 20. **Dr. Booth** was on hand to distribute book bags to veterans like **Amber McCurry**, of Newry, an Army National Guard veteran and Dental Assisting student.

Campus Safety Hosts Town Hall Meetings



Just prior to the start of the new academic year, the Campus Safety Department hosted two “town hall” meetings to provide departmental updates and to solicit ideas and insights from employees. **Jonathan Finch**, campus safety director, shared information about several topics, including officer training, classroom safety, new lighting and blue-light phones, and the College’s Incident Command Structure (ICS) for handling crisis events.

Foundation News

Foundation Board Welcomes Two New Members

Two Anderson County community leaders have been elected to serve on the College's Foundation Board of Directors.

Joining the Board's current members are Moyer Albergotti, of Anderson, and Tom Daniel, of Williamston.

Members of the Foundation Board raise money to supplement appropriations thereby helping the College to meet the educational needs of the citizens of the tri-county area.

Moyer Albergotti

Mrs. Albergotti is an Owner/Realtor with RBA Properties in Anderson. She received her BA in American Studies at Salem College and did post-graduate work at USC Applied History and Fellowship at Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts.

She serves on several boards, including the Anderson Area YMCA, Anderson Heritage, Friends of the Museum (President and Gala Chair), Anderson Free Clinic, Board of Architectural Review – City of Anderson, Parent-Teacher-Student Association boards at all levels and President at the elementary level. She is also past Chair of the Camellia Ball sponsored by AnMed Health to benefit Pediatric Therapy Works.

She and her husband, Sam, live in Anderson and have four children.



Moyer Albergotti

Tom Daniel

Mr. Daniel is a Broker for NAI Earle Furman, LLC, where he specializes in significant commercial real estate opportunities in the Upstate, along the I-85, I-385, and I-26 corridors, as well as corporate services for his clients. He received his BIE from Georgia Tech where he was captain of the football team, and his MBA is from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

He has more than 25 years of experience in commercial real estate in the Atlanta area, during which he worked with Kweli Moyo, a faith-based, non-profit charity serving in Kenya, as well as Swaziland, Africa. He served on the Board of Directors of Ed Isakson/Alpharetta YMCA and is a member emeritus of the Industrial Engineering Advisory Board at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is a past member of NAIOP Office Forum, the Alexander Tharpe Board of Trustees at Georgia Tech, and the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Daniel and his wife, Elaine, recently moved to Anderson County and live in Williamston. They have four grown children.



Tom Daniel

Wells Fargo Funds Equipment for Career Pathways Programs



Wells Fargo funded a \$22,500 grant to the College to purchase equipment for the career pathways programs. Here, **Scott Webber**, senior vice president, Anderson market president, for Wells Fargo Bank in Anderson, third from left, presents the check to **Dr. Booth**. Pictured with them are **Courtney White**, director of development at the College, and **Robert Halfacre**, Wells Fargo market president for Oconee and Pickens counties.

The College is engaged in career pathway programs with local school districts to provide students with the employer-defined skills needed in advanced manufacturing and other STEM-related careers. The pathways program is designed for students to achieve a Tri-County credential by the time they graduate from high school. Students receive Technical Advanced Placement credit for classes taken in high school; then dually enroll at the one of Tri-County's community campuses for classes during their senior year. The program culminates with students receiving a Tri-County certificate by the time they graduate from high school. They also accrue 20-plus hours of college credit towards an associate degree in one of Tri-County's four career pathways: Mechatronics, Basic Electronics, Automotive Technology, and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Technology.

Grainger Foundation Supports Welding



The Grainger Foundation, an independent, private foundation, donated \$5,000 to the College in support of its Welding program. Pictured from left are **Sarah Zigman**, government account manager at Grainger; **Paul Ellis**, branch manager of W.W. Grainger, Inc.'s, Greenville, SC, location; **Paul Phelps**, Welding program coordinator; and **Courtney White**, director of development.



Our thanks to Anderson businessman and Foundation Board member **Hugh Burgess**, who donated a watercolor painting by artist Tony Couch to the College's Anderson Campus. This original watercolor was auctioned off at the Anderson Rotary Club meeting with Anderson Campus Director Tim Bowen being outbid by Mr. Burgess, who turned around and gave the print to our College for display at the Anderson Campus. A winner of more than 70 exhibition awards, Couch's work has been included in three annual exhibitions of the National Academy of Design and he did work at the Pratt Institute in New York while an artist for the Associated Press, then for years free-lanced and studied with Edgar A. Whitney, ANA.

Graduates Gather at Alumni-Hosted Breakfast

The Alumni Association hosted graduation breakfast July 31 for the summer graduates. Soon-to-be graduates and their guests gathered at Tuckers in Anderson to celebrate and to hear about upcoming Alumni Association activities and how the College can continue to serve as a resource for them.



Mary Johnston, director of alumni relations, third from left, chats with graduates.



Dr. Booth gets to know **Tyler Howard**, of Atlanta, who received an Associate in Science degree. He plans to transfer to the University of Georgia, where he will study Computer Science.

Tri-County Faculty and Staff Receive Service Awards

Glenn Hellenga was recognized for four decades of service at the annual fall faculty/staff convocation. Glenn, director of career services, received a 40-year pin for his years of service to the College and the State.

Denise Hall, director of printing services, received a pin for 30 years of service to the College and the State.

Dr. Hap Wheeler, dean of the Arts and Sciences Division, received a pin for 30 years of service to the State.

Honored for 25 years of service to the College were Sue Dacus, office manager for Student Records; Robin Pepper, mathematics instructor in the Arts and Sciences Division; Lisa Poore, administrative assistant in the vice president for academic affairs office; and Phyllis Shealy, administrative specialist for orientation and advising.

Receiving 20-year pins for service to the State and College were Anne Bryan, administrative assistant to the vice president for Academic Affairs; Karen Culp-Linscott, science instructor in the Arts and Sciences Division; and Dr. Brian Swords, director of the Easley Campus and QuickJobs Development Centers.

Receiving 15-year pins for service to the College were Jackie Blakley, dean of the Business and Public Services Division, James Canty, campus safety officer; Beth Cheek, administrative assistant in the Bookstore; Phil Gilmour, science instructor for the Arts and Sciences Division; Tom Hiebel, humanities instructor for the Arts and Sciences Division; Greg Toney, speech instructor for the Arts and Sciences Division; and Dr. Della VanHuss, head of the Humanities Department in the Arts and Sciences Division.

Recognized for 10 years of service to College was Dr. Ronnie L. Booth, president of Tri-County.

Recognized for 10 years of service to College and State were Beth Byars, administrative assistant for the Institutional Advancement Division; Jan Clark, administrative assistant in the Bookstore; Stan Compton, Industrial Supervision instructor in the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division; Denise Day, graphic designer; Peggy Dermer, associate degree Nursing instructor; Lou Ann Martin, Title III activity director; June Osborne, truck driving instructor for the Corporate and Community Education Division; Roberta Sitton, administrative specialist for the Business Affairs Division; Trini Tumlin, Spanish instructor for the Arts and Sciences Division; Dr. Ross Wagenseil, General Engineering Technology instructor in the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division; Cyndy Watts, administrative specialist for Admissions; Carolyn White, administrative specialist for Admissions; and Blythe Winburn, associate degree Nursing instructor.

Julie Beard, instructor in the Practical Nursing program, Nathan Geary, systems administrator for the Information Technology Department; and Mary Geren, English instructor in the Arts and Sciences Division, all received pins for 10 years of service to the State.



*Glenn Hellenga
40 years TCTC and
State*



*Denise Hall
30 years TCTC and
State*



*Dr. Hap Wheeler
30 years TCTC and
State*



*Robin Pepper
25 years TCTC*



*Anne Bryan
20 years TCTC and
State*



*Karen Culp-Linscott
20 years TCTC and
State*



*Jackie Blakley
15 years College*



*Phil Gilmore
15 Years College*



*Tom Hiebel
15 Years Collegee*



*Greg Toney
15 Years College*



*Dr. Della VanHuss
15 Years College*



*Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
10 years College*



*Beth Byars
10 Years College and
State*



*Stan Compton
10 years TCTC and
State*



*Denise Day
10 years TCTC and
State*



*Peggy Dermer
10 years TCTC and
State*



*Lou Ann Martin
10 Years College and
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*Roberta Sitton
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*Trini Tumlin
10 years TCTC and
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*Dr. Ross Wagenseil
10 years TCTC and
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*Carolyn White
10 years TCTC and
State*



*Blythe Winburn
10 years TCTC and
State*



*Julie Beard
10 years State*



*Mary Geren
10 years State*

LPN Program Receives Continued Eight-Year Accreditation

Tri-County's Licensed Practical Nursing program received a continued eight-year accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) at its July meeting. This is the highest recommendation a program can receive from its accrediting body.

The ACEN is the entity that is responsible for the specialized accreditation of nursing education programs, both postsecondary and higher degree, which offer either a certificate, a diploma, or a recognized professional degree (clinical doctorate, master's/post-master's certificate, baccalaureate, associate, diploma, and practical).

The College's Practical Nursing program is in compliance with all six standards, which include mission and administrative capacity; faculty and staff; students; curriculum; resources; and outcomes. "The accreditation team acknowledged the strong support we receive from College administration and the community," said Practical Nursing Program Coordinator Julie Vernon. "They also commented favorably about our experienced faculty and consistently high student evaluations."

"Our faculty prepare our students for working as an LPN or a seamless progression for continuing their education in our associate degree Nursing program," said Dr. Lynn Lewis, dean of the College's Health Education Division. "Our physical and human resources are unmatched in LPN education," said Lynn.

Practical Nursing students take classes at the College's Easley and Oconee campuses. "We have three top-notch instructors at these campuses, but Julie Vernon really stands out," added Lynn. "She is the most inspiring educator I've watched in class and in presentations. She is cognizant of the different learning styles of our students and therefore her teaching techniques are very deliberate. The evidence of our outstanding faculty is the students' consistently high performance on their licensure exam and in the workplace."

This past year the Practical Nursing graduates reported a 97 percent pass rate on the National Council Licensing Exam (NCLEX-PN).

"Practical Nursing remains a popular, strong program," said Julie, adding that LPNs are needed in long-term care facilities, doctor's offices, medical personnel pools, schools, and flu clinics.

Tri-County's Practical Nursing department is fully accredited by the State Board of Nursing in South Carolina, as well as the ACEN.

Summer Commencement

President Booth Challenges Graduates to Set Goals



Achieving an important goal, like earning a college degree, requires developing a plan and setting goals, coupled with discipline, perseverance, and hard work, Dr. Booth told the College's graduates in his summer commencement address.

Three-hundred-and-twenty-five students were eligible to receive degrees, diplomas and/

or certificates during the College's 50th summer commencement held July 31 at the Anderson Civic Center.

The same plan and strategies they used to earn their Tri-County credentials can be applied in their personal and professional lives, he said. "Once you have decided what is important in life, you need to make your goal tangible, real and known," he said. "Develop a plan that is within your control to get to where you want to be. Be flexible with this because life will change and you will have to adjust along the way. It's helpful to develop concrete, clearly-defined short-term goals and adjust them as necessary", he said.

"When you enrolled at Tri-County, you had already decided one huge thing that was important in life—obtaining an education. And you achieved your goal. Your hard work got you here today because you decided this was important -- you developed a plan—you executed the plan—you gave up doing things that distracted you from your goal—you did not spend money on other things because you had to spend it on college—you persevered when you no longer thought you could—and you came to the celebration," he said.



Taylor Harper, who graduated with a Surgical Technology degree, looked at his 12-week clinical at AnMed Health as an opportunity to excel. It paid off because the Anderson resident was offered a full-time job prior to graduating.

"I worked twice as hard and saw it as an opportunity to make myself stand out," said Taylor, of Anderson. Toward the end of clinicals, his supervisor asked to speak with him and inquired of his plans after graduation. "I said AnMed has always been my first choice for employment. I applied for a job, and the next

day I was employed—before I graduated. I didn't think it would be this easy," he said, crediting the on-the-job training. He starts his job September 8.



Summer 2014 high school graduates through the Connect to College (C2C) program at the College are pictured here, from left to right, (front row) **Courtney N. Poore**, Liberty High School; **Angela V. Grassi**, T.L. Hanna High School; **Brenna Graham**, West-Oak High School; **Madison Mc"Kenzie" Harris**, Liberty High School; and (back row) **Tevarous D. Johnson**, Westside High School; **Timothy "Dalton" Carter**, West-Oak High School; and **Jacob R. Ramsey**, Easley High School.



Faculty Senate President **Marla Roberson** carried the ceremonial mace as she and Dr. Booth, front right, led the graduation procession.



Wanda White, who was featured in our Annual Report publication last year, received an associate in Arts degree. Wanda, who lives in Anderson, is the On-Call Chaplain for AnMed Health. She plans to transfer to Southern Wesleyan University.

The Connect to College program has evolved to meet the diverse needs of area students by offering academically capable youth between the ages of 17 and 20 the opportunity to simultaneously earn their high school diploma and college credit, up to and including a postsecondary credential. The first of its kind in South Carolina, C2C is a program for students who, for a variety of reasons, have faced difficult challenges in traditional high school environments.

Pre-Design Phase Begins for Proposed Student Success Center

Tri-County's student success agenda, double-digit enrollment growth over the last decade, and aging facilities have prompted the College's governing board to initiate a pre-design study for a Student Success Center (SSC) on the Pendleton Campus. In addition to construction of a new facility that houses a learning commons, Ruby Hicks Hall will be repurposed into a "one-stop" providing support for new and continuing students.

"Taking student success to the next level at Tri-County requires investing in facilities that house student support functions," said Dr. Booth. "The College has consistently invested to meet academic space needs, most notably with the addition of campuses in Anderson and Easley, but now we must focus on creating space for the enrollment and support services areas of the College."

According to Booth, new College facilities should be designed to help deliver a transformative experience to students. "We know transformative experiences give our students a competitive edge as they move into the workforce or transfer to a four-year college," said Booth.

Student support facilities on the Pendleton campus were built 25 or more years ago and are designed to accommodate about 3,500 students. The College now serves around 5,000 students at its Pendleton Campus.

The project also will enable the College to provide enrollment services from the point of inquiry to the point of graduation from the same centralized location, which reflects best practices in higher education. "We want to better support students during their time at Tri-County and we want these students to acquire the skills and aptitudes that will make them successful here and beyond their college experience" added Dr. Booth.

To be successful in the workplace also requires facilities where students can acquire 21st century workplace skills. Spaces such as a learning commons with appropriate technology and group study spaces help to facilitate the development of these skills.

In addition, studies show co-locating service functions and providing space to interact with other students, faculty, and staff promotes higher levels of success. "New and refurbished facilities will allow the College to address some of the major causes of student attrition," added Dr. Booth.

Ken Kopera, Facilities Director, has been designated as project manager for this effort. Employees and students will participate in the pre-design study, which will be conducted by LS3P, a South Carolina-based architecture and design firm. Several core teams of employees have been formed to help coordinate input from a wider group of stakeholders, learn more about success-driven student centers and learning commons facilities built by other colleges, and to ensure facility designs meet established needs and achieve the project's objectives.

The scope of the project also includes a central chiller plant and loop, as well as an energy-conscious retrofit of the Ruby Hicks Library/Administration Building to drive down the College's energy consumption.

Once the pre-design work is completed, a decision will be made as to whether the College will move forward and seek funding for the project. If approved and funded, the all phases of the project would likely be completed by December 2018.

Student Success Center/Central Plant Pre-Design Project Core Team Leaders

- **One-Stop/Student Support:** Jenni Creamer, College Transitions
- **Learning Commons:** Marla Roberson, Library Services
- **Auxiliary:** Kevin Steele, Administrative Services
- **Administrative Workspace:** Jeanell Hughes, Human Resources

Fall Semester Gets Underway



Parking lots and classrooms quickly filled as Fall Semester got underway on August 18. As of the end of the first week of classes, a total of 6,407 were enrolled at TCTC campuses in Pendleton, Anderson, Easley, Seneca, and online.

Pendleton Campus students and employees are encouraged to use the College's Mechanic Street parking lot, located approximately one-half mile from campus across from Subway. Hours are Monday-Thursday from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Fridays. The parking lot is patrolled by Campus Safety and a continuous shuttle service transports students and employees to and from the Pendleton Campus.

Media Technology and Arts Named Advisory Committee of the Year

The work of the College's Media Technology and Arts Advisory Committee in helping to redesign the program's curriculum as it moved in the direction of multimedia and content creation earned them the honor of Advisory Committee of the Year.

Advisory Committee members joined Program Coordinator John Woodson and instructor Amy Roberts in accepting the trophy and plaque.

Formerly the Radio and Television Broadcasting (RTV) department, the Media Technology and Arts (MTA) program began a rebranding process last year. The new name reflects that program offerings entail more than traditional broadcasting.

"For the last 11 years, no major decision on curriculum, equipment, or policy was made without the advice and counsel of the MTA Advisory Committee," said John. "They have ensured that we are teaching the skills and values they need in their employees. As working media professionals, they hire our graduates and are giving valuable input on what our students need in today's ever-changing field of communications. In addition to technology, the committee wants the curriculum to emphasize work ethic and project management," said John.

"As always our curriculum is a work in progress," he added.

Advisory Committee members support the College through providing internships, scholarships (through the SC Broadcasters Association) and serving as mentors.

"Many of the companies represented have offered internships and nearly all have hired our graduates. In fact, 55 percent of the committee is made up of MTA (RTV) graduates," said John. "They come to us from across media platforms: radio, television, non-profits, hospitals, industry, churches, print, and ad agencies. As our Mission Statement says, 'we create content across media platforms.'"

Since 2012 the department has hosted Media Mash-Up, a media festival and exhibition of student projects including audio, video editing, animation, and photography. Student entries are judged by advisory committee members and community leaders who often are looking for potential hires.



Advisory Committee members joined Program Coordinator **John Woodson**, sixth from left, and instructor **Amy Roberts**, fourth from left, in accepting the Advisory Committee of the Year trophy and plaque. Pictured from left are MTA instructor **Jeff Sams**; **Mark Hendrix**, program director, Classic Rock 101.1, The Planet and ESPN Upstate; MTA instructor **Steven Mathena**; **Heath Nodine**, media specialist, AnMed Health; **Michael Mance**, media specialist, Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce; **Clayton Gibson**, Charter Media; **John Burton**, Charter Media; and **Neil Paul**, Anderson Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Most recently, several committee members either participated in or sent representatives to the Digital Media Design a Curriculum (DACUM) workshop, which set the goals and established the blueprint for the department's future Digital Arts degree.

MTA students learn not only the technical aspects of work in radio and television but also develop their own personal talents and communications styles, said Woodson. Beyond the broadcasting basics, students also learn photography skills, digital editing, lighting, copywriting, and communication ethics.

For many years, graduates predominantly worked behind the camera and microphone, but today they are working in hospitals as videographers, at TV stations as cameramen and women, as producers and announcers at radio stations, and teaching as adjuncts for the department.

Executive Staff Summary

- High Impact Practices: A project group has been chartered to build upon the success of learning communities, workbased learning, and service learning by developing and imbedding High Impact Practices (HIPs) in all programs. Our goal is for all students to experience several HIPs while enrolled. See additional information on page 2.
- State Nursing Action Coalition Update: Dr. Lynn Lewis, Health Education

Division Dean, shared an update on improving educational pathways for nursing students across levels of education (LPN, ADN, BSN, and beyond).

- Predisign Study – Student Success Center: Several core teams of employees and students are being formed to participate in a pre-design study for a new Student Success Center on the Pendleton Campus. Once completed, a decision will be

made as to whether the College will move forward and seek funding for the project. The pre-design study follows the concepts established in the 2011 College Master Plan. For additional information, see related article on page 15.

- Other: FY 14 budget closeout; upcoming SACS decennial review; Foundation funding; enrollment updates; policies and procedures