

Connection

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Jenni Creamer Receives Presidential Medallion For Staff Excellence

Jenni Creamer, college transitions dean, was honored August 13 with the highest award given for staff excellence at the College.

Dr. Booth presented Jenni with the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence at the College’s fall convocation. The medallion, along with a cash award made possible by the Tri-County Technical College 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. Employees are invited to submit nominations, which are screened by a committee comprised of the four most recent medallion recipients. The committee selects a candidate for recommendation to Dr. Booth.

Jenni provides leadership to the College Transitions unit, which includes Admissions and Recruiting, High School Engagement, TRiO, Bridge to Clemson, Connect to College, and Comprehensive Studies.



Jenni Creamer

(continued on page 13)

Dr. Booth to Be Recognized Nationally with ACCT Southern Regional CEO Award

Congratulations to Dr. Booth, who is being recognized nationally for his commitment to advancing the community college movement. Earlier this month he was notified by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) that he has been chosen as the recipient of the ACCT 2015 Southern Regional Chief Executive Officer award. The award will be presented to him at the Regional Awards Luncheon during the 46th Annual ACCT Leadership Congress October 14-17.

Among the achievements cited in his nomination are College programs and services, such as Bridge to Clemson, Connect to College, career pathways, and stackable credentials, and our community campuses. In addition, the College’s student success rate is the highest among the 16 technical colleges in the State.

“This award is not just in recognition of Dr. Booth but also the hard work all of you have done,” said Commission Chairman Butch Harris at the fall convocation.

Dr. Booth echoed those sentiments and said, “This is a recognition of the work you do. Our students deserve the best, and you prove they are getting it.”

Dr. Booth is one of five community college presidents representing five geographic regions in the U.S. The national winner will be named at the ACCT Leadership Congress in October.

Passionate people TRANSFORMING LIVES
AND BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES ONE STUDENT AT A TIME.



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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

Reaching Out to Serve More Students

At Tri-County, we have the opportunity to change lives every day and, as a result, build stronger communities. In recent years, we have made tremendous progress in redesigning our educational programs to adapt to changing realities and expanding our support services to help more students be successful.

These improvements are paying off. Our student success rate is the highest in the S.C. Technical College System, and our transfer rate ranks in the 95th percentile nationally. Thanks to your hard work and creativity, students are enrolling in the right programs, persisting, and ultimately succeeding in reaching their goals. Employers win, too, because we are able to provide them with highly-skilled workers to help them compete in the global marketplace.

Those we serve, we serve well. But data show there are still thousands of people in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties whom we haven't reached yet who need our services.

This unmet need is the impetus for a new initiative that will help us expand and build on the success of our Career Pathways programs, which serves high school students interested in technical careers. Through Technical Skills for Success (TSS) and the work of many throughout the institution, we are expanding the Career Pathways programs and developing similar pathways for two additional student populations: first-time postsecondary developmental education students, and youth between the ages of 17-21 who are earning high school diplomas through Connect to College (C2C).

Our research shows in 2013, 8.38 percent of 16-19 year olds in our service area were not enrolled in school, not working, and not disabled. This represents nearly 2,500 youth in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. What are they doing? We aren't exactly sure, but I believe most would benefit by enrolling at Tri-County where we can teach them marketable skills so they can obtain good jobs with local companies.

In addition, our research shows there are upwards of 150,000 adults in the Tri-County service area who do not have a post-secondary credential of any sort and are, therefore, likely to be underemployed if not unemployed. If we served only a fraction of these individuals, we would change their lives for the better and improve the overall quality of life in our community. Manufacturers are building and expanding plants in the Upstate, creating more and more good-paying jobs. Many other sectors also are seeking skilled employees. Tri-County offers a pathway to reach those opportunities.

Our challenge is to find and enroll the people who need our services. Our people, programs, and services are second to none, and once they see and understand the possibilities that lie ahead, we will have helped them to make their first step to a better life.



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

"Our challenge is to find and enroll those who need our services."

~Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D., President

Veterinary Technology Named Advisory Committee of the Year

The contributions of the Veterinary Technology Advisory Committee members earned them the honor of 2015 advisory committee of the year.

This is the seventh time the committee has received the trophy. The board also was named the top advisory committee in 1990, 1992, 1994, 1998, 2002, and 2010.

“Tri-County’s Veterinary Technology graduates make a great contribution to the State and to our profession,” said Dr. James Mullikin, chair of the Advisory Committee and retired Easley veterinarian. “When individuals are searching for veterinary technology colleges, Tri-County comes to the top of the list.”

The Veterinary Technology Advisory Committee consists of veterinarians who are in private practice and institutional practice, as well as Veterinary Technology graduates who are employed as Licensed Veterinary Technicians (LVT’s).

Committee members meet regularly to evaluate and to develop the curriculum, to secure grants, to investigate scholarship opportunities, to promote the College, and to serve as consultants to the department head. They provide input on the skills and knowledge of the graduates to ensure that the College is current with veterinary medicine. They also encourage pharmaceutical companies and supply firms to donate to the College’s program.

They employ Tri-County graduates and provide externship

opportunities that give students positive learning experiences. “Every veterinarian on our committee hires and continues to hire our graduates as technicians in their practices. It’s the supreme vote of confidence,” said Ashley Brady, department head.

Ashley, who is in her first year as department head, commended the committee for being “supportive, creative, involved, dedicated, and receptive to change” during this year of transition. (Former Department Head Dr. Peggy Champion and instructor/L.V.T. Christee Williams retired in 2014.)

Throughout the year, the committee was instrumental in accomplishing the following:

This spring Dr. Keith Allen of Upstate Veterinary Specialists sponsored a continuing education event for more than 150 Veterinary Technicians. Dr. Allen was able to secure and provide this all-day event free to all those attending. In addition, Dr. Allen and his partner, Dr. Dermot Jevens, at Upstate Veterinary Specialists in Greenville, generously provide scholarships for Veterinary Technology students.

Dr. Allen also serves as Campaign Chair for the Veterinary Technology capital campaign. College officials broke ground May 21 on a new \$1.5 million veterinary technology expanded housing and learning facility that officials say will help the College reach a goal of being the best Veterinary Technology teaching facility in the nation.

Dr. Kyle Powell, veterinarian at Anderson PAWS, works closely with the Veterinary Technology Department to secure cats and dogs for students to care for during the semester as part of the program. Public pet adoptions are held twice at the end of the semesters.

Committee member Dr. John Parrish of Clemson University continues to provide facilities for the “hands-on” experience for lab animal, horse, and cattle lab rotations.

Committee member Dr. Mark Moore, of Seneca Animal Hospital, serves as chair of the department’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, which ensures compliance with the USDA and Animal Welfare Act.

Tri-County’s program is accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association and is endorsed by the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians.



The contributions of the Veterinary Technology Advisory Committee members earned them the honor of advisory committee of the year: Veterinary Technology Department Head **Ashley Brady**, fourth from left, and Advisory Committee Chair **Dr. James Mullikin**, of Easley, fifth from left, accepted the trophy and plaque on behalf of the committee. Pictured with them are, from left, **Joan Venet**, administrative specialist; advisory committee member **Laurel Varney**; **Dr. Elizabeth Bryan**, veterinarian and adjunct instructor; **Stephanie Brown**, L.V.T. and Veterinary Technology faculty member; and Health Education Division Dean **Dr. Lynn Lewis**.

Alumna Claire Pearson Says Tri-County Set Her up for Success

Claire Reid Pearson graduated from Tri-County with an associate degree in Science in 2010, then went on to pharmacy school at Presbyterian College. She graduated in May 2014. Shortly after taking her pharmacy board exams, she landed a job as a Pharmacy Manager with WalMart. Currently she is the Pharmacy Manager at the new WalMart Neighborhood Market store in Clemson. She spoke at the fall faculty staff convocation. Below is an excerpt from her speech.

“I can say that my story is a success story, and I can say that I worked really hard to get to this point in my life, but I cannot say that I got to where I am today all by myself. Of course, I had wonderful support from my family and friends, but I have to give MAJOR credit to all of my amazing teachers who taught me along the way, and to the school that helped me form the stable foundation of my college career from the very beginning.

When I started here at Tri-County eight years ago, I was a little terrified to come from a school filled with people I’ve known since the first grade to a school where I didn’t know anyone. My advisor, Mr. DeHay, decided to place me in Tri-County’s brand new Learning Excellence Initiative (LEI) program where I took several classes with the same group of students each week. This program helped me form that support system among my peers

that I needed to get my feet on the ground. We studied together, we worked on projects together, we encouraged each other ... but I not only made lifelong friends who continued to encourage and support me even after we all left the LEI, I also left with this intense drive to succeed and be a leader, thanks to my Smart Start LEI instructor / ENG 101 and 102 instructor, Mrs. Jennifer Hulehan, who made such a huge impact on my life that she will always be one of those teachers I’ll never forget.

I also have to give credit to ALL of my wonderful science teachers I had at Tri-County, but specifically Mrs. Karen Linscott, who was one of the toughest teachers I’ve ever had. But because she continued to challenge me and refused to let me take the easy route, she molded me into the student I needed to become in order to be successful in pharmacy school.

I was a different student coming out of Tri-County than I was coming in ... I was more focused, more driven, I had different, but better study habits, I had bigger goals ... I was exactly the student I needed to be to move on to my next chapter after my short time at Tri-County. I’m not going to say that pharmacy school was a breeze after that, because it definitely wasn’t, but Tri-County set me up for success, and I honestly don’t think I would have been successful if I hadn’t started out here. I am forever grateful for this school!”



Claire Reid Pearson, middle, poses with her mentors, from left, Jennifer Hulehan, Karen Culp Linscott, and Galen DeHay.

James Richey Awarded Pam Holland Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations to **James Richey**, of Belton, an Accounting major and 1988 Engineering Graphics Technology alumnus, who was chosen by the Alumni Association Board as the recipient of the Pam Holland Memorial Book/Supply Award for fall 2015. He is pictured with Alumni Relations Director **Mary Johnston**. The scholarship, established by employees, alumni, and family members, honors Pam, who worked for 27 years as manager of the Bookstore, and succumbed to her fight with cancer October 10, 2014.

After a 20-year career in industry, at JE Sirrine and Fluor in Greenville, James retired in 2011 and decided to return to Tri-County to pursue a Tax Accounting certificate. His goal is to provide free tax preparation assistance for the elderly when he completes the certificate in 2016. “I very much appreciate your selecting me for this scholarship,” said James. The scholarship will not only help me but in the future will help many elderly persons on low incomes with their tax preparation.”

For more information on how you can support the Pam Holland Memorial Fund, contact Mary Johnston at 864-646-1808.



Foundation News

Foundation Board Welcomes Three New Members

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

Joining the Board's current members are Curt Evatt, of Seneca, Kym Cleveland, of Anderson, and Tom O'Hanlan, of Liberty.



Curt Evatt

Curt Evatt

Evatt is President of Oconee Federal Savings and Loan Association, Oconee Federal Financial Corporation, and Oconee Federal MHC. He was appointed to this position in January of 2014 and has been employed by the company since 1988. Prior to his current position, he served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from 2010–

2014 and Senior Vice President and Assistant Secretary from 2007–2010. He also was elected to the Board of Directors in 2010. Currently he is President of the Oconee Federal Charitable Foundation and is a board member for Oconee Medical Holdings and the Seneca Rotary Club.

He is a past board member of Oconee Medical Center Foundation, Oconee County Education Foundation, Oconee County United Way, and Oconee Chamber of Commerce. He is a former trustee of the Tribble Center Foundation Trust. The Seneca native is a graduate of Clemson University, where he earned a B.S. in Accounting. He and his wife, Alice, have two children.



Kym Cleveland

Kym Cleveland

Cleveland was Vice President for Omnisource Corporation for 18 years until his retirement in 2014. Currently he owns and operates Liquid Properties, LLC, a contract consulting firm.

He attended Clemson University and North Harris College and later studied under ICAR International. He taught in the automotive industry for eight years

and earned master ASE certifications in all automotive repair fields. He attended the Bell Leadership institute in 2011 at N.C. State University.

He is a former member of CRA Recycling Association and Conference and has been a guest speaker at the annual convention. Cleveland has been a member of the Board of Directors for Meals on Wheels for seven years, with two years as Chair, and he is Co-Chair of the YMCA – Scholarship Funding Committee this year. He is a co-founder of S.C. Recyclers Association and served as its Vice President.

He is Chair of the Boy Scout Troop 215 Committee and was a member of the Building Committee for Central Presbyterian Church in 2009. He and his wife, Kelly, have two sons.



Thomas O'Hanlan

Thomas O'Hanlan

O'Hanlan is President of Sealevel Systems Inc., in Liberty. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State. He is Chair-Elect of the March of Dimes Committee for Pickens County.

He serves on the Board of Directors for Baptist Easley Hospital, Ten at the Top, Manufacturing Caring for Pickens

County, the Society of International Business Fellows, the PACE Board at Tri-County, and the Pickens County Business Education Alliance. He and his wife, Susan, live in Liberty.

Foundation Impacts College Significantly

Foundation Executive Director Grayson Kelly took a few moments at fall convocation to thank faculty and staff for their generosity this year and outlined how giving to the Foundation makes a difference.

Employee contributions of more than \$35,000 last year were an essential part of helping the Foundation exceed its goal of \$750,000.

“Employee participation makes a statement,” said Grayson. “Passionate support by our employees is a noticeable vote of confidence recognized by outside stakeholders.”

The Foundation was able to make a significant impact to the College in the following ways:

- For FY15, more than 400 scholarships, totaling \$416,206, were awarded.
 - \$162,186 in funds were made available to faculty and staff for mini-grants, teaching chairs, leadership training, and professional development.
 - Grant technology scholarships for equipment and upgrades totaled \$145,051.
 - \$333,000 was raised for college priority needs.
- “Your contributions are important,” Grayson said.

Volunteers and Events Welcome Students to Fall Semester



Parking lots and classrooms quickly filled as new and returning students arrived on campus August 17 for the first day of Fall Semester. Volunteers were posted at all three campuses to help students feel welcome, answer questions, and assist them in locating their classes. Welcome tents around the campuses gave students the opportunity to grab a bottle of water and a snack, chat with fellow students, get directions, and learn about upcoming events. The week also included “Welcome Back” parties at each campus and “Backpacks for the Brave” event (see page 15) for student veterans.

Appreciation is extended to the many faculty and staff who volunteered and assisted with the events this week, especially Croslena Johnson, Mary Dunkel, Ashley Isreal, and Stephanie Winkler, who planned and executed the activities, as well as Glenn Hellenga, Mary Johnston, Tim Bowen, and Brian Swords who led the volunteer recruitment efforts.

As of the first day of classes, 6,117 students were enrolled at the College.



ABOVE: In keeping with the College’s renewed emphasis on campus-wide service excellence this year, Student Support and Engagement (SSE) recruited volunteers to welcome new and returning students to campus for Fall Semester. **Glenn Hellenga**, career services director, and **Tiffany Blackwell**, admissions and recruiting director, are seen here sporting golf shirts with the “Take Charge. Own It!” logo, which is the theme adopted by the SSE for the new academic year.

LEFT: Students enjoy the welcome back event.



TOP, LEFT: Students started the semester in the library to work on assignments. ABOVE: **Ashley Isreal**, student development generalist, right, used a social media prop to promote the services on Facebook and Twitter. Here she poses with student, **Ashley Battles**. Check out Student Development on Facebook or on Twitter at [tctc_studev](#).



LEFT: New Student Government Association (SGA) officers and volunteers served hotdogs and manned the survey table during the welcome back party. Pictured from left are **Dylan McCullough**, of Anderson, a University Transfer major; **Caleb Allen**, of Belton, SGA president and Mechatronics major; and **Jimmy Knott**, of Liberty, SGA treasurer, an associate in Science major.



LEFT: **Dr. Thwanda Davidson**, director of TRiO programs, left, was among the staff guides who assisted students during the first week of classes.

Dr. Valerie Ramsey Shares Her Story with Graduates

Eighteen years ago Dr. Valerie Ramsey, then an Accountant/Fiscal Analyst at Clemson University, was asked to deliver the commencement address to summer graduates. She told the Class of 1997 her personal life story and how Tri-County helped her to overcome barriers and permitted her to achieve her goals—and transformed her life.

She returned to the stage again this year, as a College Commissioner and retired Chief Business Officer for the College of Health, Education, and Human Development at Clemson University. She emphasized to the 302 graduates of the Class of 2015 the power of education and the importance of sharing their stories. “You are the most powerful public service announcement Tri-County can have,” said Dr. Ramsey, now an adjunct professor at Southern Wesleyan University teaching adult and graduate studies courses in the School of Business and the School of Education.

“You are more than where you came from. Go out and make your mark,” said Dr. Ramsey, who was the first alumna in the history of the College to serve on Tri-County’s governing board and the first Tri-County Commissioner to serve on a national committee with the Association of Community College Trustees.

“Everyone has a story, but the power comes in sharing it,” said Dr. Ramsey, who, at the request of former President, the late Dr. Don C. Garrison, first told her story to the College Commission in 1997. “He once said that my story was the epitome of what

*It is customary at colleges’ and universities’ academic processions for the chief faculty marshal to carry a mace as a symbol of the power and authority of education. Faculty Senate President and Humanities instructor **Tom Hiebel** led the procession.*



*Commencement speaker and College Commissioner **Dr. Valerie Ramsey** poses with **Glenn Hellinga**, director of Career Services, before the ceremony began. Dr. Ramsey referenced Glenn in her remarks as one of the individuals who guided her when she began her educational journey at Tri-County.*

Tri-County Technical College was all about. He made me believe that I had a story and spoke to my destiny,” she said.

Back in 1975, a 21-year-old Ramsey entered Tri-County’s secretarial classes through the federally-funded Comprehensive Manpower Program. She was a single parent who was looking for a chance at a better life that would one day enable her to support herself and her five-year-old daughter.

“My family’s track record in higher education at the time that I came to Tri-County (1975) was non-existent. Going to college was never considered an option and really wasn’t even discussed,” said Dr. Ramsey, an Easley native and resident.

“Looking back, I realized there were some barriers, real or imagined, that needed to be reckoned with,” she said. She dropped out of school at age 16 to become a teenage mother. She did return, repeating the 10th grade and earning her diploma. “I consider that one of the

most difficult things I have ever had to do in my life,” she said. “Repeating the 10th grade was a pivotal moment in my life.”

College became an unexpected reality when friends told her about Tri-County’s Comprehensive Manpower program that provided financial assistance to eligible students.

“Our perception is our reality. The greatest barrier that I had was the one in my own mind that told me that I didn’t belong at college. It didn’t take a degree to change my life, but the degree to which my life was changed was huge,” she said.

After receiving a clerical certificate, she worked as a Secretary at Clemson University for the next 10 years, and then began taking University Transfer classes at Tri-County during her lunch hours and evenings.

“I knew I needed to further my education to advance in my career,” she said. She graduated in 1988 with an associate in Arts degree and later earned her bachelor’s degree in Human Resource Management from Southern Wesleyan University, followed by a master’s in Human Resource Development in 1995 from Clemson University. She earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership in Higher Education from Clemson in 2003 and a Master of Divinity degree at SWU in 2008.

“Share your story with others and let them know that it is never too late to find their place at Tri-County. It does not matter where you came from; from here, you can go anywhere.”



TOP, LEFT: Summer 2015 high school graduates through the Connect to College program at are pictured here, from left to right, (standing) **Victoria Ashley Southerland** (Crescent High School); **Katelyn P. Crocker Rodriguez** (Westside High School); **Kelly M. Loooper** (Easley High School); **Ellen B. Epps** (T.L. Hanna High School); and **Joshua N. Tegen** (Pendleton High School); and (kneeling) **Justin R. Wallace** (Powdersville High School); **Zori A. Winn** (Westside High School); and **Reese H. Miller** (Easley High School).

TOP, RIGHT: One graduate decorated her mortarboard to express appreciation to her family who were her inspiration.



MIDDLE, LEFT: Tri-County retiree **Ensley Feemster**, who now serves on the Pickens County Council, and his wife **Dorothy**, attended graduation.

MIDDLE, RIGHT: Honor graduate **Selena Valdizon**, of Walhalla, pictured here with friend and mentor **Croslena Johnson**, director of student life and counseling, was among the 302 who received degrees, diplomas and certificates at summer graduation. Selena received an associate in Science degree and transferred to Clemson University where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Selena served as Tri-County's Student Government Association president, Secretary of our Alpha Zeta Beta chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and was involved as a Student Ambassador, a member of the Chorus, and the Spanish Club.



BOTTOM, LEFT: **Renee Braswell**, of Clemson, middle, participated in the pinning ceremony held July 24 for Medical Assisting graduates. Pictured with her are adjunct instructors **Jan Gibbs**, ST, CMA (AAMA), medical assisting lecturer, left, and **Melissa Hester**, CMA (AAMA), adjunct instructor. Renee also received the award for excellence in a clinical setting.

BOTTOM, RIGHT: Dental Assisting graduates **Theresa Colbert**, of Anderson, left, and **Sophia Mount**, of Mountain Rest, are pictured prior to graduation.

Our College Family

excellence through service

Dorian McEntire and **Mandy Orzechowski** will present at the STEMTech national conference in Phoenix Arizona in November. Mandy will deliver a presentation on Asynchronous Learning and Labs. Dorian will deliver three presentations with the following titles: Higher Impact Practices Using Free, Online Simulation Tools; Kinetic and Interactive Art With the Arduino; and High Impact, Low Expense STEM and STEAM Using the Arduino. STEMTech is part of the League for Innovation in the Community College League



Dorian McEntire and Mandy Orzechowski

in transition

ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

Penny Edwards is now Social Sciences Department Head.

Julia Seligson joined us as a full-time English instructor after teaching online classes last year as an adjunct. The year



Julia Seligson

before, she taught at the Benedictine Military School in Savannah, GA. Previously she was a full-time instructor in our English Department from 2004–2010.

Julia earned bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Clemson University. She and her husband, Brian, live in Central.



Penny Edwards

BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICES

Pam Goodman is an instructor in the Administrative Office Technology program. She began her career as an educator at Oconee County High School in Watkinsville, GA, where she taught from 1994–2002. She also taught at Banks County High School and the Georgia Virtual School from 2002–2007. She returned to Oconee County Schools again from 2007–13. She taught at Athens Technical College from 2005–2015.



Pam Goodman

Pam earned a Career Pathways Leadership Certification and holds an Honorary FHA Membership.

She was a cum laude honor graduate of the University of Georgia where she earned a B.S. in Business Education and an M.Ed. in Business Education.

She and her husband, Joe, live in Hartwell, GA. They have two adult children, Jimmy, 26, and Kaitlyn, 19.



Mara Jobin

COLLEGE TRANSITIONS

Mara Jobin is the new Reading and College Skills instructor for the Comprehensive Studies Department. She has been teaching as an adjunct since 2009 and was the department's nominee for the College's Adjunct Faculty award this year.

Mara holds an Associate in Arts from Broward Community College in Davie, FL, an A.B.S. in Education from Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, and an M.A. in Reading from Nova University, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

She is a Volunteer with the Pendleton District Commission Agricultural Museum. She and her husband, Ray, live in Westminster.

CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Vanessa Lynch is the new Health Care Training Coordinator. She spent the last year as a part-time Administrative Specialist in the CCE Division. Vanessa is a 2014 graduate of our Administrative Office Technology program. From 2010 until 2014, she was the Store Manager at Sally Beauty Supply. Vanessa and her husband, Kent, live in Pendleton.



Vanessa Lynch



Doug Wilson

ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Doug Wilson is the new Mechatronics instructor. A 1991 Electronics Engineering Technology (EET) graduate, Doug was Senior Associate Development Specialist at Bosch's Anderson plant, where he worked since 1999. He was responsible for the performance management and

technical development for all technicians at the Anderson plant, including training and teaching the Bosch Scholars.

Doug implemented a scholars program with Tri-County evening students in their last semester. Last year he joined Industrial Electronics Technology faculty members and career services staff as presenters at the Automation Conference 2014 in Chicago, Illinois. The team's topic was "Bridging the Skills Gap: Enhancing the Talent Pipeline through Local Technical College Collaboration."

He is the Men's Ministries Director at Varennes Heights Baptist Church, as well as a Sunday School teacher. Doug received the College's 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award. He and his wife, Cindy, live in Anderson.

Roger Burgess is back on campus full time as an instructor in the Engineering Graphics Technology program. Many of you will remember Roger when he served as Department Head for our Engineering Graphics Technology program from 2000 until his retirement in 2012.

He continued to teach as an adjunct instructor until returning full time this semester.

Roger holds a B.S. in Manufacturing Technology, a master's in Engineering Technology and a Specialist in College Teaching (SCT) degree from Murray State University. He taught in the Manufacturing Engineering Technical Group at his alma mater and served as the Interim Chair of the Engineering Technology Department.

He also spent 10 years as head of Greenville Technical College's Engineering Graphics Technology Department. Roger and his wife Joan, live in Abbeville.



Roger Burgess

Jenni Creamer

(continued from page 1)

Dr. Booth highlighted her leadership abilities, along with her dedication to putting students first. This year, she is leading and working with a team to develop a One-Stop Student Services model that crafts a flexible path to enrollment through improved processes.

The concept is to evolve with continuous improvements to the enrollment process, always making the student the focus of the experience. The result is integrated services for a better student experience, helping them become more prepared for success.

Jenni builds camaraderie and a consensus among the various departments and divisions at the College by bringing folks together to collaborate and embrace the various paths to academic success.

"She is a passionate individual who transforms lives, builds a stronger Tri-County community, and does it not only one student at a time, but one colleague at a time," said Dr. Booth.

"I am honored and sincerely humbled when there are so many deserving staff. Knowing that our work truly makes a difference in the lives of our students and our community is my greatest motivation," said Jenni. "I'm grateful for colleagues who genuinely care about students but also take time to invest in each other. Tri-County is a wonderful place with great people, and I look forward to where our unique combination of innovation, commitment, and passion will take us in the future."

Jenni has served in her current role since 2013, but joined the College in 2009 as Director of Tri-County's Bridge to Clemson program, a collaborative initiative between Tri-County and Clemson University that blends University Transfer classes at Tri-County with Clemson campus life.

She holds a B.A. in Sociology from the University of S.C. at Spartanburg and an M.Ed. in Counselors Education-Student Affairs from Clemson University. She received the Walter T. Cox New Professional of the Year Award in 2008 and is Treasurer and former Director of Member Services for the S.C. College Personnel Association. She is a member of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and a member of the Higher Education and Student Affairs advisory board for Clemson University's graduate program.

She and her husband, David, live in Anderson.

Getting To Know You

This month we're introducing a new column titled "Getting to Know You." Each month one member of our faculty, staff, and administration will answer five questions designed to spark a conversation or give insight into co-workers' likes and dislikes, hobbies, and more. Let us know what you think.

Dr. Ronnie L. Booth

President since July 1, 2003

What is the best part of your job?

Meeting former students who are now employed and hearing about their experience at our College.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

My earliest memory is that I wanted to have my own business. My Accounting degree set the stage for that, but I soon discovered that I could not sit still very long. Because of my background, I found my place in higher education, a place where I never have to sit still.

What is the best advice anyone has given to you?

When you get a job, prove to those who hired you that they cannot get by without you. Make yourself indispensable.

What makes you laugh?

Completely unexpected pleasures or surprises.

Most memorable moment in your career?

The night in April 2003 when Dr. Mendel Stewart, former Tri-County Commission chair, called and offered me the job as the third president of the College.



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth

Officer B.J. Ellis

Campus Safety Officer since January 1, 1989

What is the best part of your job?

I'm a people person—my interaction with students, faculty, staff, and guests.

Do you have a keepsake from your childhood?

Our family Bible.

What movie can you watch over and over?

The Bodyguard with Whitney Houston and Kevin Costner because of the storyline. He was willing to give up his life to protect another human being.

How do you relax?

I do crafts—knitting, crocheting, and cross stitching. My goal is to knit 100 hats and scarves to donate to those in need.

What is your favorite song?

"Love and Happiness" by Al Green



Officer B.J. Ellis

Hubert McClure

Mathematics instructor since 1995

What is the best part of your job?

Seeing different faces and meeting different people each semester!

How did you know you wanted to be a teacher?

Working in a help lab at Clemson helping students with Algebra. While I was a second-semester junior in Civil Engineering and working in that help lab, I found teaching to be my niche!

Who was your mentor?

My father (he passed in January 2014). He was my father, best friend, mentor, business partner, and biggest supporter! I can truly say I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for him!

What is your biggest pet peeve?

People who think they know everything. Nobody is perfect. The last few years have taught me a lot in the area of humility.

What makes you laugh?

Watching drunk people get tasered by law enforcement officers on YouTube.



Hubert McClure



Recent graduate **Timothy E. Macijewski** sent this e-mail to his instructors in the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division: Doug Allen, Shan Smith, Franklin Rackley, Ted Stokes, Jason Poole, Ron Talley, and Jack Myers:

"Hey Guys, on July 29 I walked across the stage and received my IET degree. While this may not seem like that big of a deal to some people, it was huge for me. I couldn't have accomplished this without the great instruction and guidance from you guys. I really appreciate all your patience and the time outside of class that many of you took to help me understand things better. Hope things are going well for you all and keep up the good work! Again I would like to say, THANK YOU!"

HIPs to Be Focus of Quality Enhancement Plan

You have heard a lot about High Impact Practices or HIPs, most recently at the fall convocation, where Senior Vice President Galen DeHay announced HIPs will be the focus of our Quality Enhancement Plan in preparation for our SACS ten-year reaccreditation.

HIPs is the next step in the natural progression of our Learning College Journey, which began a decade ago when we started the Learning Excellence Initiative (now called Learning Communities). HIPs include service learning, work-based learning, and other activities whereby learning extends beyond the classroom and is incorporated into students' personal and work lives. Students actively engage over a sustained period of time, pose and solve problems, work in teams with a community of peers, experience real-world application of knowledge and skills, and reflect on the learning processes.

At Tri-County, we currently have HIPs scattered in various courses, but not integrated into our curriculum. We reach a relatively small population and our efforts lack coordination, support, and comprehensive assessment.



The HIPs project team met August 11 to begin working on the College's Quality Enhancement plan for SACS reaffirmation.

Our project team is currently working on recommended support structures to provide coordination for the development, delivery, and assessment of High Impact Practices. As we move forward in developing the QEP, we will reach out to employees for input and offer professional development activities on HIPs topics.

Alumni Association Graduates' Breakfast Well Attended



*FAR LEFT: **Jesse Gordon**, of Seneca, received a Mechatronics degree and is employed as a Quality Technician at BorgWarner.*

*LEFT: Husband and wife **Christian and Erin Alfaro**, of Anderson, were among the 302 who received degrees, diplomas, and certificates at summer graduation. Erin graduated from the Administrative Office Technology program, and Christian received a Business Technology (Management) degree. They attended the Alumni Association-sponsored breakfast with their son, two-year-old Alexander.*

Thank You, Dr. Booth

Many thanks to Dr. Booth, who generously paid the annual SCTEA membership dues for all full-time faculty and staff for the upcoming year. Contact SCTEA President-Elect John Woodson, program coordinator for Media Technology and Arts, at Ext. 1313 or jwoodso1@tctc.edu for more information about the organization and upcoming conference in 2016.



Backpacks for the Brave Draws Crowd

A large crowd of student veterans and current members of the military attended this year's Backpacks for the Brave event, held August 20 in Patriots' Place (Anderson Hall 109).

President Booth handed out free backpacks, which were filled with school supplies, brochures, resources, and other information from local veteran organizations and the Tri-County community. Here, **Willie Harrison**, of Salem, an Army veteran and Media Technology and Arts major, left, gets to know Dr. Booth, right, and **Dr. Brian Swords**, interim dean of students.

College Sponsors Blood Drive

Scott Jaeschke, former resource specialist for the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division, who is now serving as the Coordinator of Community Standards in the Student Support and Engagement Division, right, was among the faculty, staff, and students who participated in the College's Future Laboratory Professionals/AnMed Health-sponsored blood drive. Scott is pictured with **Dalton Laugh**, of Anderson, a Mechatronics major, left.



Employees Staff Call Center

Several employees stepped outside their normal roles and volunteered to staff a Call Center during peak enrollment periods to answer questions from prospective students. **Betty Fant**, administrative specialist in Financial Aid, is pictured during one of her shifts in the Call Center.

STEM Conference Draws Local Teachers

Around twenty elementary school teachers from five schools in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties participated in a two-day institute on Integrative Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) teaching and learning seminar on our campus. The seminar was held July 27 and 28 in the IBDC with presentations focused on teaching STEM subjects using hands-on approaches.



New Honors Experience Attracts Top Students



Thirty high-performing students have been accepted into the College's new Honors Experience for the 2015-16 Academic Year. Todd Crisp-Simons, English instructor, discussed the program in detail during an orientation session held for students on the first day of classes.

Offered for the first time this fall, students must be enrolled in the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree program and meet specific eligibility requirements tied to GPA, SAT/ACT scores and high school class rank. Continuing students who wish to enroll must have a 3.5 GPA and twelve credit hours in university transfer classes. Before being accepted into the program, applicants also must write a series of thoughtful essays, be interviewed by the Honors

Committee, and submit recommendations from former teachers.

Honors courses offered this fall include Astronomy 101, English 101, History 202, Sociology 101, Biology 101 and Chemistry 110. Classes are capped at 15 students to ensure a highly interactive experience. Students will take one or two honors classes each semester and one to two colloquia per year as part of their regular schedule.

To graduate with the Honors Experience distinction, student must earn 18 credits in honors courses from at least four areas (English, humanities, mathematics, science, social science) and enroll in an honors colloquium during at least three semesters.

College Mourns Loss of Larry Miller, Former Commissioner

The College mourns the loss of former Commissioner and community leader Larry Miller, who passed away Friday, August 7, at the home of his son, Mark, in Amherst, Virginia. He was 89 years old.

Mr. Miller represented Anderson County on the governing board from 1987–2008 and served as Secretary of the Commission from 1999–2006. He was a former Chair of the Finance Committee and a former ex-officio member of the College's Foundation Board.

In addition to his wife of sixty-nine years, Margaret Beatrice Miller, he is survived by three children and eight grandchildren.

A devoted student advocate, Mr. Miller was committed to seeing that students have access to an affordable education.

Longtime supporters of the College, the Millers made their first contributions to the College's Foundation in 1987 and today are represented on the College's prestigious Wall of Honor, a distinction reserved for individuals, companies, and foundations who have contributed \$50,000–\$99,000 to the College.

In 2008 the College honored Mr. Miller with the Order of

Merit, the highest award given by the College's nine-member Commission.

The presentation was made at the College's Annual Report luncheon. The Order of Merit is an honorary society which recognizes community and State leaders who have contributed to the development of Tri-County Technical College and the State Technical College System.

Mr. Miller served as Manager of the Robert Bosch Corporation's Anderson plant from 1985 until his retirement in the early 1990's. In his leadership role at Bosch, he worked with the College to develop new programs, such as the apprenticeship, which offers three years of academic study in machine tool technology and associated work experience at Bosch.



The late *Larry Miller* and his wife, *Marge*

Executive Staff Summary

- **FALL ENROLLMENT:** Final Fall Semester enrollment numbers are expected to reach the goal set during the budgeting process (negative 3 percent), a trend that reflects enrollment at technical colleges around the State. Because there are still many citizens in our service area with no education beyond high school who would benefit greatly from our programs and services, we will make a renewed effort to reach that targeted population in the coming year.
- **SACS QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN:** A project plan to implement High Impact Practices (HIPs) across the curriculum is underway. The program will serve as Tri-County's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for SACS reaffirmation and include a schedule for design, pilot, and implementation of HIPs for each academic program over a five-year period. Professional development opportunities will be available.
- **TITLE IX PROGRAMMING:** The Student Support and Engagement Division is launching a campaign to raise awareness of sexual assault prevention through increased visibility, training, and resources.
- **OTHER:** Fall Convocation; policy and procedure changes; progress thus far on 2015-16 Strategic Plan.

Oconee Federal Savings and Loan Continues Support of Scholarship



Oconee Federal Savings and Loan Association made a \$10,000 contribution to the College's Foundation toward an existing scholarship established in 1996 for Oconee County residents. **Curt Evatt**, president of Oconee Federal Savings and Loan, middle, is pictured with **Grayson Kelly**, executive director of the Foundation, and **Courtney White**, director of development at the College. Evatt was appointed this fall to serve on the College's Foundation Board, following in the footsteps of his father, Rhett, who served on the board from 1997 until 2012.