

Connection

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Rachel Campbell Receives Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence

In her 25 years at the College, Rachel Campbell has served in various student support roles, where she was always known and respected for her tireless work ethic and commitment to going the extra mile for students.

Her commitment to excellence and her devotion to student success earned her the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence. Dr. Booth presented her the medallion at the fall convocation held August 17.

“Throughout the years I’ve worked at Tri-County Technical College, I have thoroughly enjoyed having the opportunity to help students reach their educational and personal goals. It has been a privilege to interact with many wonderful students and colleagues,” said Rachel.

Rachel, who is a Success Coach in the College Transitions Division, joined the College in 1992 as an Admissions Counselor and over the years has served as International Student Advisor, Health Education Admissions Counselor, Enrollment Counselor, and Director of Admissions.

Nominations in support of Rachel praised her significant contributions to improving student learning and success. Said one colleague, “She exemplifies the philosophy of the College—passionate people transforming lives and building strong communities one student at a time. She has always worked to transform lives.”

Another noted her rapport with students, “As a Success Coach, she wholeheartedly invests in her students, builds lasting relationships, and maintains significant contact with them beyond the first semester.”

“Rachel has consistently provided students with initial advising and information needed to get them on the right track toward their goal,” said a fellow staff member. “Long before it was a requirement of the job of the ‘Success Coach’ to serve as a ‘safety net’ for students, she served in that role. She always has followed alongside her students and ensured they were successful each semester through graduation, and often after. Throughout her career, Rachel could often be found standing outside a classroom to catch a student after class to check in and make sure he or she stayed on track.”

During her time as International Student Advisor, Rachel often became the American “parent” of her international students. Co-workers often received requests to ride with her to the airport to pick up a student who had gone home to visit or had returned after a semester

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Dr. Booth presents **Rachel Campbell** with the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence, along with the coveted year-long parking space.

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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

Partnerships Define New Academic Year



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

There is no better way to begin a new academic year than gathering faculty and staff for Fall Convocation. I sensed excitement and high expectations among all of you. We have a dedicated, talented group of people here who are ready to tackle new challenges. I extend my appreciation to everyone for the tremendous amount of hard work that went into getting ready for Fall Semester and for the warm welcome you gave to students when they arrived on campus for the first day of classes. Everything went as smoothly as could be expected, especially considering we were in the midst of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view the Great Eclipse.

During Convocation, I spoke about our priorities for the upcoming academic year. A clear theme emerges as we look ahead to the goals we hope to accomplish: Partnerships. Partnerships with local companies; partnerships with community organizations; partnerships with each other and with our students.

This year we will expand our highly-successful I-BEST program by developing a healthcare pathway. Designed to address the needs of non-traditional, unemployed, and underemployed citizens in our community, our I-BEST partnership with Adult Education prepares students for entry-level positions in one semester. Most importantly, I-BEST is not a quick fix; it is a pathway. Our goal is for every student who completes the program to fill a much-needed position in the job market and eventually earn an associate degree.

This fall we are launching the first I-BEST program customized for a local manufacturing company—the Michelin Manufacturing Scholars program. We plan to expand the model to include more manufacturing companies during the coming year.

The implementation of High Impact Practices (HIPs) throughout the curriculum is well underway. Our objective is to provide every student with the opportunity to participate in at least two high impact educational experiences, including work-based learning, service learning, learning communities, and capstone projects. HIPs, which are proven to improve learning, engagement, and completion, require strong partnerships within and amongst the academic and student development components of the College, as well as with the community we serve.

This year we plan to fully implement what we term the Leading Edge Experience for students. Predicated on an extra-curricular and co-curricular framework for student involvement outside the classroom, the Leading Edge Experience provides an opportunity for students to fully engage their educational goals and to develop a portfolio of learning experiences that connects to and complements the knowledge they obtain in their coursework. Spearheaded by the Student Development Office, all areas of the College have partnered together to create these unique experiences for students.

Other strategic initiatives in our 2017-18 Strategic Plan outline additional partnership opportunities we have identified for the coming year. You can download the plan in its entirety from the eTC intranet portal.

The beginning of a new academic year is an opportune time to remember our most important partnership: Our partnership with our students. By its very definition, a partnership requires cooperation among all parties to advance their mutual interests.

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Spotlight on Michelin Manufacturing Scholars

Representatives from Greenville and Midlands technical colleges and Spartanburg Community College gathered on our campus in August to hear presentations by our folks and our Michelin partners for how to replicate the new, innovative Michelin Manufacturing Scholars program.

The goal of the day was for our visitors to leave with a written draft of how to implement and replicate this Michelin Manufacturing Scholars program at their home colleges (where there is a Michelin plant in their service area).

Earlier this year Michelin North America and the College partnered to launch a first-of-its-kind and first-in-the-State Manufacturing Scholars Program designed to build and grow the workforce of the future.

“We are excited to launch our pilot Michelin Manufacturing Scholars Program alongside our Tri-County Technical College partners,” said Melanie McLane, facility personnel manager for Michelin’s manufacturing facilities in Anderson County. “Anderson is a great place to start this program. We all have a need for operators, but this program goes deeper than just recruiting operators—we are looking for manufacturing professionals.”

“It is the first of its kind in the State and will serve as a model for the other Michelin plants and technical colleges in South Carolina,” added Dr. Booth. Our program began Fall Semester 2017.

Michelin’s goal is to expand this program to sites in S.C. where there are needs.

“This is not a job training program,” said Galen DeHay, senior vice president at Tri-County. “It’s a program that helps students to transition from low-wage jobs or unemployment into a manufacturing career with a company that cares for them and their future.”

The Michelin Manufacturing Scholars program is designed for entry-level manufacturing professionals and is a pathway leading to manufacturing careers with Michelin. The one-semester program is customized to meet the needs Michelin has for qualified entry-level manufacturing professionals at their two plants in the College’s service area—US 2 in Sandy Springs and US 8 in Starr.



*Seven individuals (all seated) were chosen for the new Michelin Manufacturing Scholars program which is designed for entry-level manufacturing professionals and is a pathway leading to manufacturing careers with Michelin. The one-semester program is customized to meet the needs Michelin has for qualified entry-level manufacturing professionals at their two plants in the College’s service area—US 2 in Sandy Springs and US 8 in Starr. Pictured with them are Michelin Team Members from the Sandy Springs facility (standing from left,) **Matt Cole**, area personnel manager; **Tim Fowler**, RFS training manager; and **Melanie McLane**, facilities personnel manager, and (at right) Tri-County Team Members, **Cheryl Garrison**, employability programs coordinator; **Diana Walter**, director of Technical Skills for Success; **Julianne Diccico-Wiles**, I-BEST coordinator; and **Jenna McCullough**, admissions recruiter.*

It includes a thirteen-credit-hour Manufacturing Operator I certificate and paid work hours each week for extensive hands-on training at Michelin. A cohort of students who began classes in August will earn a College certificate and two industry-recognized national certifications. Upon successful completion of all program and employment requirements, participants will receive an offer of full-time employment and may have the opportunity to continue their education toward an associate degree.

Nearly a year ago, Michelin and Tri-County officials began working together to address a skills gap Michelin faced in hiring employees for manufacturing professional positions. Initial conversations regarding the general concept of a Manufacturing Scholars program and the potential benefits for Michelin, Tri-County and future student-employees quickly paved the way for more substantive work. Over the next eleven months, development teams worked diligently to analyze curriculum needs, design classroom and in-plant learning plans, and to enhance support structures needed to help ensure student success throughout all phases of the program.

“It is about broadening the concept of our current Michelin Technical Scholars program by expanding it and doing something new and different for manufacturing professionals while facilitating growth within our company and the community,” said Melanie.

“This is the Cadillac of partnerships,” said Galen. “We have a shared set of values for building a strong community.”

Dr. Booth Highlights Five Best Reasons to Choose Tri-County

Dr. Booth highlighted the five best reasons students are making Tri-County their college of choice in his remarks to the Class of 2017 at the College's summer commencement.

349 students received degrees, diplomas, and/or certificates at summer commencement held August 7 at Littlejohn Coliseum in Clemson.

Dr. Booth led with the number-one reason to attend Tri-County:

1. You chose Tri-County because your best friend's tuition bill at another college is more than you paid for your first house—or more than your parents paid for theirs.

"While we must charge tuition in order to pay our bills, our Commission works tirelessly to keep costs in line in order to ensure that an education at Tri-County is affordable and accessible. The end result is an affordable education that does not saddle our students with an inordinate amount of debt. The fact that you chose Tri-County tells me that you can do math and that you understand value," said Dr. Booth.

2. You chose Tri-County because you would rather take classes with 18 new friends than with 200 of your best friends.

"At Tri-County, our typical class size is around 18 to 19. We believe by having small classes, students get the attention they want and need," said Dr. Booth. "Truth is, most all of us learn better in a smaller and more connected environment. We learn best when there is opportunity for continual give and take, instruction then conversation, theory then practice. This can only happen in a consistent manner in smaller classes."

3. You chose Tri-County because you understand the importance of taking classes from a fully-qualified faculty member instead of a new graduate assistant.



Dr. Booth addressed the summer graduates of the Class of 2017.

"At Tri-County, most of our faculty have many years of work and teaching experience. Most of our adjunct, part-time, faculty members still work in the field in which they teach. We see this as a significant strength. It is important to us that our students have the opportunity to learn from those who actually practice in their field. Technology and knowledge grow at such a speed today that what was learned a dozen, or even five, years ago is out of date. Our students are taught by both full- and part-time faculty who are both subject matter experts and have 'walked the talk'."

4. You chose Tri-County because you realize that a certificate, diploma, or associate degree can lead to a career path that will reward you financially just as much as, if not more so, than a four-year degree.

"Many of you who are graduating tonight are now in a position to move ahead in your current job. Others of you are seeking your first job or a promotion, and you are positioned to find one with significant financial and life rewards. Others of you who plan to pursue additional education have seen the wisdom of obtaining a credential now to position yourself for the next step in life. Whatever the case, the statistics paint a clear picture of the significant opportunities available to those who graduate from a two-year college. Newspapers and other news sources daily highlight the 'skills gap' in the job market. Our graduates are in demand."

The fifth and final reason students choose Tri-County is: You chose Tri-County because you are more concerned with your future earnings than with the winning record of your college football team.

"I'd wager a bet that many of you enjoyed a lot of great college football a stone's throw away from where you are sitting right now—That's a win-win!"



LEFT: A proud Gary Garland, of Belton, walks across stage to receive his Manufacturing Management and Leadership degree.



CENTER: Mike King, center, state director of the Office of Adult Education (SC Department of Education), traveled from Columbia to attend the graduation ceremony where 12 I-Best students received Manufacturing Production I certificates. Also pictured with graduates is Mary Gaston, director of the



School District of Pickens County's Adult Learning Center, far right. Designed to address the needs of non-traditional, unemployed, and underemployed citizens in our community, our I-BEST partnership with Adult Education prepares students for entry-level positions in one semester.

RIGHT: Nicole Southerlin, of Marietta, a Veterinar y Technology graduate, displays her creative mortarboard.

Renovations Wrapping Up at Anderson Campus

By Tim Bowen

Director of the Anderson Campus

This summer the Anderson Campus underwent a \$300,000 renovation project with the expansion of the Library, Student Lounge, Computer Lab, and Campus Police.

The most exciting thing is how we are embracing the learning commons model with our renovations. We renovated the area that was the former Student Lounge, enlarged that space and relocated the Library there, along with our tutoring services—combining the two into a Learning Commons—complete with new furniture, laptop computers and a technology-enhanced student collaboration area.

Another important move relocated the Campus Police office to be forward-facing onto the main lobby so that all service areas, the main entrance, and even part of the parking lot are all in full view of Campus Police. When someone enters our building now, this enhanced police presence is apparent, but not in-your-face. So it's assuring without being alarming. It's the right balance.

The Campus also now has a permanent IT Help Desk positioned within the computer lab, yet easily seen and accessed from the main lobby. We needed some dedicated space for that critical service, but also wanted it to be highly visible to students and employees, while also enabling the IT Technician and the Lab Assistant to back each other up. From all appearances, those goals were met.



Students gather in the new Learning Commons area.

The Student Lounge has been relocated just off the lobby, between the Information Desk and a renovated student services area, and now connects the two into one enlarged student engagement and activity space. The spaces still can be used separately if needed, but also flow seamlessly into one another to create an open, relaxed atmosphere for students to gather, study, eat, and just hang out between classes. The overarching goal was to open these spaces up, make them more inviting and usable to students, thereby encouraging them to engage one another in learning outside the classroom.

Finally, all student services (Student Success Coach and Student Development Services) have been co-located in an area just off the lobby that's more accessible to students. Plus, a renovated work space and storage areas have increased staff efficiency in providing our services and completing our daily work. All the way around, we have made much better use of our space, gained tremendous ground in student support services, and made the campus environment even friendlier and more appealing. It's been a win-win for everyone, and we so appreciate the support of our College leadership to get this done.

Although there are still some glass panels and doors to be installed, and some furniture yet to arrive, all areas were open, and all services were functioning on the first day of class. Student and employee response has been immediate and positive as evidenced by how all the spaces are being fully utilized. All employees are invited to stop in and have a look at the "new" Anderson Campus.



Officer **Teresa Summers** is pictured in front of the newly renovated Campus Police office.

HVAC Named Advisory Committee of the Year

The College's Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Advisory Committee was recognized for its achievements this year at the fall convocation.

Committee members and Program Director Justin Herndon accepted the Advisory Committee of the Year award for 2017.

Justin said the Advisory Committee has been instrumental in advancing the program through its involvement in and support of a cooperative work experience for all students in the HVAC program.

"Over the past two years, the Advisory Committee has been committed to new initiatives that give the students more real-world work experience to prepare them for the industry," said Justin.

For the past two summers, the College partnered with local HVAC companies to offer work-based learning opportunities designed to give students real-world experience while supplying companies with the additional manpower needed during their busiest season.

HVAC students work during the day for local companies and attend evening classes at the Pendleton Campus. These are paid co-ops and students get college credit as a technical elective toward their degree.

"We are combining classroom and laboratory experiences with working alongside a company mentor on installations, preparatory maintenance, ductwork, and diagnostics, as well as interacting with customers and supervisors. Students are helping companies during their high volume times while getting exposure to the different parts of the job, including customer service," said Justin.

"Instructors can tell when they come to classes at night that they are applying knowledge learned during the previous two semesters. We hear back from the employers about how beneficial the students were to them during the summer, and it has led to some getting full-time employment. Without the support of the Advisory Committee, who created these opportunities and pipelines of employment, the co-op program would not have gotten off the ground," he said.

The HVAC Advisory Committee also is committed to supporting service learning projects, which include servicing HVAC systems for individuals and organizations in the community.

The College purchased a 14-passenger minibus last summer to help support the service-learning projects the HVAC program



The Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Advisory Committee was recognized for its achievements this year at the College's fall convocation.

Committee Chair **Charlie Dickerson**, director of facilities at Anderson University, second from left, and committee member **Travis Pantalion**, service manager at McGee Heating and Air Conditioning, third from left, joined **Mandy Orzechowski**, dean of the College's Engineering and Technology Division, left, and HVAC Program Director **Justin Herndon**, far right, to accept the Advisory Committee of the Year award for 2017.

completes. "This has given us the freedom to take on projects without worrying about transportation issues. We have used the bus to take students to different job sites because of a partnership with Rebuild Upstate. It also has allowed the program's students to attend functions at local HVAC distributor stores to meet and network with companies and others within the HVAC industry," said Justin.

Conversations at Advisory Committee meetings are centered on building stackable certificates for the program. This enables students to obtain industry-recognized certifications and credentials that would lead directly to employment. Stackable credentials is a national model that offers ladder pathways toward an associate degree. Courses are sequenced so certificates build on one another. They are matched with individually-recognized certifications.

"With the committee's input, we were able to break the two-year curriculum down into two different significant certificates that would be valuable to them as hiring managers," said Justin.



Donald White received this note:

Thank you again for helping a concerned mom and her son through a hectic orientation two years ago. It meant so much to both of us to receive your assistance that day and neither of us will ever forget your kindness. Also, thank you for being a wonderful success coach for Matthew. It was always reassuring for us that we knew that you would continue to watch out for him as you have done so well.

Carrie and Matthew Cochran

Surgical Technology Graduates Report Perfect Pass Rate on National Certification Exam

For the second consecutive year, our Surgical Technology graduates report a perfect pass rate on the National Certification Exam. The six August 2017 graduates who took the National Board Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting Certification Exam received passing scores and now are designated as Certified Surgical Technologists (C.S.T.).

The national pass rate for the exam is 79 percent.

Graduates who obtain national certification as a C.S.T. demonstrate an understanding of the basic competencies for safe patient care in the operating room.

The Surgical Technology program prepares students to serve as members of the surgical team through classroom and clinical experiences. Graduates work in hospital operating rooms, in labor and delivery, endoscopy, ambulatory centers and doctor's offices, said Surgical Technology Program Director Denelle White.

Recent graduate Christa Brown is Tri-County's first Surgical Technology student to scrub in on open heart surgeries during clinicals and now is working on the AnMed Cardiac Team.

Katie McConnell, another 2017 graduate, is working on the cardiac team at Greenville Memorial Hospital, another first for a Tri-County Surgical Technology grad.

"This success is a true testament that hard work and perseverance pay off," said Denelle.

In October of 2010, the Surgical Technology department received a 10-year continuing accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Accreditation evaluators complimented the department on its clinical procedures and state-of-the-art equipment.



Recent graduate **Christa Brown** is Tri-County's first Surgical Technology student to scrub in on open heart surgeries during clinicals and now is working on the AnMed Cardiac Team.

MLT Continues Perfect Pass Rate on ASCP Exam; Program Receives 10-Year Reaccreditation

The College's Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) graduates continue to maintain excellent pass rates on the board of certification exam.

MLT Program Director Deborah Brock recently learned that all 13 of the 2017 graduates received a perfect pass rate on the National American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) exam.

Only once since 2008 has a graduating class not achieved a 100 percent pass rate, and program scores never have dipped below 93 percent.

The exam is a computerized, competency-based exam. Students are tested on seven areas: chemistry, microbiology, hematology, immunohematology, urinalysis and other body fluids, immunology, and laboratory operations. There are 100 multiple-choice questions to cover these seven major areas of clinical laboratory science. Medical laboratory technicians analyze blood and other bodily fluids for disease processes in hospitals and doctors' offices.

"Our graduates go on to work in local medical facilities, and many of our graduates work with and train our current students. There is a real sense of community and pride among Tri-County and our health care partners."

—Deborah Brock

Deborah attributes the department's record of success to the partnership between the College's faculty and the hospital's clinical instructors. "We work well together, with our common goal being student success," she said.

"Our graduates go on to work in local medical facilities, and many of our graduates work with and train our current students. There is a real sense of community and pride among Tri-County and our health care partners."

Tri-County's seven hospital affiliates are AnMed Health, Bon Secours Saint Francis, Baptist Easley Hospital, Self Regional Health Care, Oconee Memorial Hospital (GHS), Stephens County Hospital and St. Mary's Sacred Heart Hospital.

Our MLT program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS). Deborah reports that the program's accreditation been extended for another 10 years following a successful self-study and site visit. The program had no deficiencies or recommendations. The next self-study is due in 2026, followed by another site visit in 2027.

Our College Family



Dr. Tanya Walker

in transition

Dr. Tanya Walker is the new Assistant Director of the Learning Commons. Tanya recently earned a Ph.D. in Social Foundations of Education and comes to us from the School District of Oconee County, where she provided literacy instruction in the Adult Education

Program. Her classroom teaching experience includes middle grades Social Studies, Language Arts, and Earth Science. She has been Faculty Sponsor for BETA Club and Student Council and supervised student teacher candidates on best practices of teaching. She and her husband, Matthew, have two children and live in Seneca.

After five months in a part-time position, **Denisha Ward** is now the full-time Customer Service Specialist for the Corporate and Community Education Division. She is a senior at Anderson University, where she is pursuing a Business Administration degree online. She will graduate May 2018. Denisha is a volunteer with the Development Center for Exceptional Children in Anderson. She lives in Anderson.



Denisha Ward



Morgan Pew

Morgan Pew is the Human Resources Specialist in the Human Resources office. She entered the Bridge to Clemson program in 2012 and transferred to Clemson where she earned a B.S. in Business Management with an emphasis in Human Resources. Throughout college she worked at Bi-Lo and after graduation served as Customer Service Manager. She and her husband, Harrison, live in Anderson.

Grace Breed is the Administrative Specialist for TC Central. For the past two years, she was a sales associate for the Campus Bookstore. A member of the 2013–14 Bridge to Clemson class, she went on to serve as one of its Ambassadors from 2015–16.

Grace earned a B.S. in Psychology with a minor in Education from Clemson. She lives in Anderson.



Grace Breed

Robin McNeill is a Student Success Coach in TC Central. She comes to us from Richmond Community College where she worked as an Administrative Assistant/Receptionist. Prior to that, she was an Administrative Support Specialist in the Registrar's office for the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. From 2010–11, she was a Call Center Counselor at Fayetteville State University.



Robin McNeill

Robin holds a B.A. in Psychology and Sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a master's in Higher Education Administration from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is a member of Kappa Delta Pi International Honors Society in Education, and is a member of ACPA College Student Educators International as well as the North Carolina College Personnel Association. Robin lives in Anderson.

Cindy Gantt is the Administrative Specialist in the Assessment Center. Cindy spent most of her career in the textile industry—24 years and one day at Mayfair Mills and later at Alice Manufacturing as Weave Room Clerk and Warehouse Foreman and later in the management program. She also worked two years in quality assurance at Southern Weaving. For a short period of time, she was a Team Driver with her husband. William, for Swift Transportation. Cindy and her husband live in Liberty. They have two adult children and three grandchildren.



Cindy Gantt

Mary Roldan is the new Chemistry instructor. She taught Chemistry at Greenville Technical College for 21 years and later at Warren Wilson College for a year, and most recently at Western Carolina University for a year. She earned a B.S. in Biochemistry from Clemson University, an M.S. in Chemistry from Furman University, and did her post-M.S. work in Nutrition at Clemson.



Mary Roldan

She is a member of the American Chemical Society and is an ultra runner—she runs 100-mile races. Mary lives in Marietta.

Kathleen Hardy is a History instructor in the Arts and Sciences Division. She has taught at community colleges in the Southeast for years, most recently at Nashville State

Community College for three years. Prior to that, she was at Volunteer State Community College and Tri-County Community College. She began her career teaching at the University of Akron.

She holds a B.A. in History and master's degrees in History and Higher Education Administration, all from the University of Akron. Kathleen lives in Greenville.



Kathleen Hardy



Teresa Adkins

Teresa Adkins is the Executive Administrative Assistant for the Business Affairs Division. She comes to us from JPS Composite Materials in Anderson where she was a Special Projects Accountant for 25 years. Teresa earned a B.S. in Accounting from Troy University and an M.B.A. from Clemson University. She and her husband, Rick, have three children, Bailey, 20,

and twins, Mason and Erin, 18. They live in Anderson.

Mike Hall joined our Campus Police this summer. Mike was a Deputy for the Anderson County Sheriff's Office, working as a School Resource Officer for the last 13 years. He and his wife, Shandi, live in Anderson.



Mike Hall

College, Anderson Library Offer STEM Experiences

This summer the College partnered with the Anderson County Library to provide free programs for school-aged children to learn basic construction skills using KEVA planks (safe and reusable building materials that allow children to build a wide variety of structures).

In partnership with Tri-County, the Library held Construction 101, a hands-on building and engineering program using Keva Planks, wooden blocks that stack—a modern version of the Lincoln logs of the past. Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Program Director Justin Herndon, and folks from the Student Support and Engagement Division and Anderson County Library employees, led the class of participants, ages 8–12, through

various phases of construction, showing them how buildings are built from the ground up.

Children explored basic concepts of building and construction and then were challenged to work in small groups of two or three to build structures.

The Anderson County Library offered this STEM programming through a federal grant from the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the South Carolina State Library.

*BELOW: Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Program Director **Justin Herndon**, left, and **Mark Dougherty**, dean of student development, right, led the class of participants, ages 8–12, through various phases of construction, showing them how building are built from the ground up.*



Rachel Campbell Receives Presidential Medallion

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break. “She would run out and pick up medicine or groceries for students who were home sick. She never missed a chance to provide superior service for her students (or as she called them, her ‘international children’),” said another colleague.

In addition to directly supporting students, she serves on project charters and work teams and contributes to the enhancement of support services that impact student learning and success.

This year, she was instrumental in developing the Early Alert Response Protocol to outline how Success Coaches respond to StarFish alerts. She worked closely with others to update system access and screens to provide a more efficient process for coaches to manage their assigned caseloads. She identified new reporting needs and worked with appropriate departments and staff to provide report enhancements that are used College-wide. She manages the communication plan and contact strategy for the department and regularly sends out iContact messages to all students reminding them of important dates and upcoming deadlines. This year she served on the Advising Steering Committee, Strategic Enrollment Management Project Team, Honors Leadership Committee, Leading Edge Advisory Team, Proactive Academic Support (Project Charter), and the HIPs Communication and Engagement Workgroup.

Another co-worker noted, “Rachel is known for her integrity. She always does what is right, even when it’s not the popular thing to do. She’s respected by not only her students, but her peers,

and administration of the College. Rachel is always looking at ways to connect her students to the College community. During her entire tenure, she has been committed to excellence, even when it requires her to work many extra hours and wear many hats.”

According to one colleague, “Rachel’s engaging personality, genuine care for her students and colleagues, attention to detail, impeccable follow up and follow-through, institutional memory, leadership courage, integrity, and even her quirky humor make her an outstanding candidate for the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence. She truly embodies our vision. She is very passionate about impacting positive change, in big ways and small ways, for each student, one at a time, and one after another for the last 25 years.”

Rachel holds a B.A. in Elementary Education and an M. Ed. in Counseling from Clemson University. She and her husband, Terry Filippo, have two children, Isaac and Ella. They reside in Clemson.



Rachel Campbell poses with her family, husband, Terry Filippo, and one of their children, daughter, Ella, after receiving the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence.

Executive Staff Summary

- **LEAN UPDATE:** LEAN process training took place last year throughout the College, and we have several employee coaches who are trained to assist offices in applying LEAN principles to their processes. Additional details about this resource will be shared with Faculty Senate, the Banner 9 Implementation Team, and through Division meetings.
- **CLASSROOM DESIGN STANDARDS:** In order to provide the best possible physical classroom spaces to support student learning, a project team has been charged with creating and establishing design standards that will take infrastructure, furnishings, and technology into consideration as existing facilities are updated and new facilities are built.
- **CRJ FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT:** The Criminal Justice (CRJ) program offices, labs, and classrooms will be consolidated in to one location in Pickens Hall enabling all students to have the same experiences and opportunities to train on available equipment. The current IT Service Desk, which will be moved to the new Student Success Center, will be allocated to CRJ and house simulation equipment.
- **INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY FRAMEWORK PROJECT REPORT:** A framework for instructional delivery has been finalized, adopted, and will be used to assess when and how program offerings will be delivered. The goal of this framework is to provide for operational delivery modes that will match student attributes and institutional capability to program methodology in an effort to ensure student success and enhance student accessibility. The framework is a comprehensive summation of characteristic program factors that will assist the faculty in determining the delivery mode for their program.
- **OTHER:** Truck Driver Training program truck pad improvements; IBDC power and HVAC redundancy project; transition plan for Student Success Center and swing space for Ruby Hicks Hall; I-BEST program for Michelin North America; capital projects updates; Fall Semester enrollment; community leadership program participation; and review and approval of official policies and procedures.

Campuses Come to Life During the First Week of Classes



Pat Vatakis answers questions for students on the first day of classes at the Anderson Campus.



As of August 31, fall semester enrollment was 6,087 students taking classes at the Pendleton, Easley, and Anderson Campuses and the ITC.



Welcome Week activities included designing Frisbees.



Students also enjoyed free pizza.



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 22. **Dr. Booth** was on hand to get to know our veterans and to distribute book bags to veterans.

Partnerships Define Year

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It is our mission to provide the education, training, and resources students need to be successful. They, in return, must commit to embracing the educational pathway they have chosen to help them reach their goals.

The passion each of you brings to your work makes the difference between an ordinary and an extraordinary educational experience for each and every student. I consider it a privilege to partner with you in the great work of transforming lives and building strong communities—one student at a time.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

Campuses Gather to Witness Total Solar Eclipse

Solar Eclipse • August 21, 2017

On this historic day, Tri-County students, faculty and staff gathered on all community campuses to witness the first total solar eclipse in the continental U.S. in 38 years.

At approximately 2:37 p.m., the moon passed in front of the Sun, casting a shadow on the planet for two-and-one-half minutes.



Southwestern Community College's weather balloon team

Anderson Campus

Southwestern Community College's high-altitude weather balloon team traveled to the Anderson Campus from Sylva, NC, to launch payloads on the day of the eclipse to capture images and video from the edge of space for NASA.

At approximately 1:10 p.m., the team from Southwestern Community College (SCC) launched their payloads into the air to capture live images and video from the edge of space that will go straight to NASA's website. The college's eclipse balloon team will launch the balloon 90,000 feet in the air to capture images and video of the Earth's shadow during the eclipse.

SCC is the only community college out of the 50 eclipse teams. This was NASA's first-ever attempt at live streaming an eclipse.



Anderson Campus students look at the eclipse.

Pendleton and Easley Campus Events

Tri-County's Student Development and Science Departments hosted Solar Eclipse parties at the Pendleton and Easley campuses from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Students received free eclipse glasses and chatted with Science faculty about the significance of the solar eclipse.



Students gather on Fulp Plaza on the Pendleton Campus.

C2C and I-BEST Programs Merge

Over the summer, we merged two programs, I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training) program and Connect to College (C2C), and created a new, integrated Office of I-BEST Programs as part of the Comprehensive Studies Department within the College Transitions Division.

Since 2006, C2C has enabled academically capable youth between the ages of 17-20 to simultaneously earn their high school diploma through sponsorship from their high school while enrolled at Tri-County and earning college credit, up to and including a postsecondary credential. Similar to C2C, I-BEST was designed in close partnership

with each of our local Adult Education Centers as a pathway to a better life for adults who need a second chance through education. In evaluating the mission and purpose of C2C and I-BEST, as well as the staffing and support resources required to effectively support all students, we realized the integration of both programs into an evolved I-BEST model was the most appropriate next step. In doing so, we are better positioned to meet students where they are and help them achieve their goals in education and in the workforce.

The I-BEST programs are led by Coordinators Julianne DiCicco-Wiles and Cindy Mobley (formerly the Director of C2C).