

Connection

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Oconee Campus Opens—A Big Day for the College and the Community



Dr. Booth, middle, was joined by Commissioners, Foundation Board members, County Council members, legislators, and business and community partners as they gathered August 17 to cut the ribbon for the College’s new Oconee Campus.

A standing-room-only crowd broke into applause as representatives from Oconee County’s government and school district and Tri-County Technical College cut the ceremonial ribbon and dedicated the long-awaited Oconee Campus in Westminster.

“This is a big day—to open a full-fledged campus in Oconee County,” said Dr. Booth. “This is for everyone. It is the culmination of a lot of hard work.”

The Oconee Campus is the first building to be constructed on the site of the Oconee County Workforce Development Center, located at 552 Education Way in Westminster. The Oconee Industry and Technology Park will co-locate the Oconee Campus, a new Career Center servicing the Oconee County School District, and industry. The result will be a unique center for technical education, work-based learning, and economic development. The project is a partnership between the College, the School District of Oconee County, and Oconee County.

“It’s about people working together, doing what’s best for Oconee County and the community,” said Dr. Michael Thorsland, superintendent for the School District of Oconee County. “In a few short days, we’ll have high school students walking these floors, taking college-level courses and expanding their horizons and educational careers.

“We’ve got more high school students from Oconee County enrolled at Tri-County than ever before,” Dr. Thorsland said. “It has already paid off. We are proud to be a partner.”

(continued on pages 14–15)

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



Connection

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Tri-County Technical College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the associate degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Tri-County Technical College.

Tri-County Technical College does not discriminate in admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, qualifying disability, veteran's status, or national origin.

Connecting

Milestone Achieved— A New Oconee Campus



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

A palpable air of excitement filled the room when more than 200 people joined us for the ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for our new Oconee Campus on August 17. Three days later more than 150 students joined us for the first day of classes for Fall Semester 2018.

The Oconee Campus project exemplifies the true power of partnership at its very best. Years of careful planning and painstaking work went into making this campus a reality. Oconee County, the School District of Oconee County, and local industry leaders were at the table working with us the entire time—first to identify programs to meet their need for a highly skilled workforce and later to plan and execute the construction of the facility.

The hero of the dedication event was Senator Thomas Alexander, whom we recognized with the naming of the Learning Commons in his honor. No single person did more to help us bring our vision to reality. As stated on the plaque signifying this honor, “His ongoing leadership and steadfast commitment to this effort were inspirational to all and key factors in making the dream of an Oconee Campus a reality for the citizens of Oconee County.”

“The Oconee Campus project exemplifies the true power of partnership at its very best.”

—Dr. Ronnie L. Booth

Already we have seen an exponential increase in the number of high school students in Oconee County enrolled in University Transfer and Technical Career Pathways classes. Now that we have a full-service campus centrally located between all three high schools, we fully expect these programs to continue to grow. By fall 2020, a new career center for high school students will open adjacent to the campus, expanding these opportunities even further.

I am grateful for the unfailing support of our friends in the S.C. General Assembly, Oconee County Council, and School District of Oconee County. Thanks to their partnership and support, we have achieved an historic milestone—a campus in every county in our service area and a unique center for technical education, work-based learning, industry, and economic development.

I owe a debt of gratitude to the core planning team who spent untold hours determining which programs to offer to meet workplace demands, designing a facility to meet current and projected needs, and seeing it through the construction phases. Similarly, I extend my appreciation to the project team that planned the operational aspects and opening of the new campus. Finally, I offer heartfelt thanks to all TCTC employees, many of whom shouldered additional responsibilities to free up these teams to focus on accomplishing the important work of getting our newest campus up and running.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D., President



Spotlight on Jackye Kiser Murphy Scholarship

A Fitting Tribute: The Jackye Kiser Murphy Scholarship

Early Care and Education Program Director Meredith Dickens and other faculty and staff have been looking for a meaningful way to honor their colleague and friend, instructor Jackye Murphy, who for the past several years has been bravely battling a recurrence of cancer.

“She has been fighting really hard,” said Meredith. After spending the summer semester participating in a clinical trial at Duke University, Jackye’s medical team told her and the family they have reached the end of her medical treatment options, Meredith added.

“Her friends, family, and school family are all left trying to find ways to pay homage and to honor her life’s mission,” said Meredith, who consulted with folks in the Business and Public Services Division, Sarah Shumpert, Dr. Chris McFarlin, and Dr. Jackie Blakley to discuss ideas.

They decided that establishing an endowed scholarship in her honor would be a fitting tribute to a lady who has served as a role model for them and for the students, always inspiring everyone to do their best.

“This scholarship embodies Jackye’s passion for improving lives through education,” said Meredith.

“A legacy scholarship is a fitting tribute to let Jackye know how much she means to us,” said Meredith. The group worked with Tammy Fiske in the College’s Foundation to set up a scholarship in honor of Jackye Kiser Murphy, Early Care and Education instructor. This scholarship will be managed by the Foundation Office. It will be awarded to a deserving Early Childhood Education Student enrolling at the College.

Within two weeks of announcing the scholarship through e-mails and on social media, \$5,500 has been raised.

“When Jackye learned about the scholarship she was deeply moved, touched, honored, and humbled,” said Meredith. “Jackye believes in building relationships with students and it’s obvious

by their comments on the Facebook page how much she means to them and how she has inspired them to pursue their passions. People love her. She is spunky and witty and you just feel good when you are around her,” said Meredith.

“Jackye is a brave example of excellence in education. She is truly one of a kind, and her passion for Tri-County is unsurpassed,” said Meredith.

“Thank you from the deepest parts of our hearts for supporting the scholarship effort. Everything great takes a team of people, and all of you making a gift will be a life-changing gift in the future to a student or students,” she said.

Jackye’s Story (as told by Meredith Dickens)

Jackye is blessed to have influenced so many. This is her story and how her friends and family wish to continue her dream.

Jackye Murphy’s passion for education is as contagious as her laughter. She has dedicated her life to empowering others through the power of education. Jackye knows she was blessed to have found teaching as a second career. She first taught in Hart County before landing in Anderson School District 4. Jackye spent many years teaching children at Pendleton Elementary and Mount Lebanon Elementary schools.

In 2010 when the war with cancer surfaced, she fearlessly accepted rounds of chemo and radiation, all while she continued to teach at Mount Lebanon. Jackye defeated cancer and won this round. This fueled her passion for teaching even more so she decided to take on a new challenge and share her enthusiasm for education with college students at Tri-County *(continued on page 5)*



How To Support The Scholarship That Honors Jackye Murphy’s Lifelong Dedication To Teaching and Helping Others:

Go to <https://www.tctc.edu/about-us/tctc-foundation/jackye-kiser-murphy-scholarship-fund>.

Please choose the amount for a donation to support the Jackye Kiser Murphy Scholarship on this page. Select SCHOLARSHIPS as the gift DESIGNATION. Select “This gift is

in Honor of” and then enter Jackye’s name. The designated family member will be notified that a gift has been made.

If you wish to send Jackye a message, please visit Facebook and search Jewels for Jackye, a Facebook group created by friends.

Dr. Booth Asks Summer Grads, “What Drives You Every Day?”

Three hundred and twenty-two students were awarded degrees, diplomas, and/or certificates during the College’s summer commencement held August 4 at the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts in Clemson.

“By earning a certificate, diploma, or degree, you are walking out with affirmation that our faculty and, therefore, the College, believe that you have the ‘How’ of your major figured out. We believe that you can do the technical aspects of your major, but you also have had the opportunity to develop some of those all-important skills and traits required in the workplace today, such as being on time, being thorough in your work, being able to work in a team environment, being able to stretch yourself mentally, and continue to learn. All of those are essential in the world of work. Ultimately, you proved that you can do it,” he said.

But he urged them to address one more question—‘Why do you do what you do each day?’

“Trust me, having a ‘Why’ in life makes all of life more meaningful for you and others with whom you are associated,”

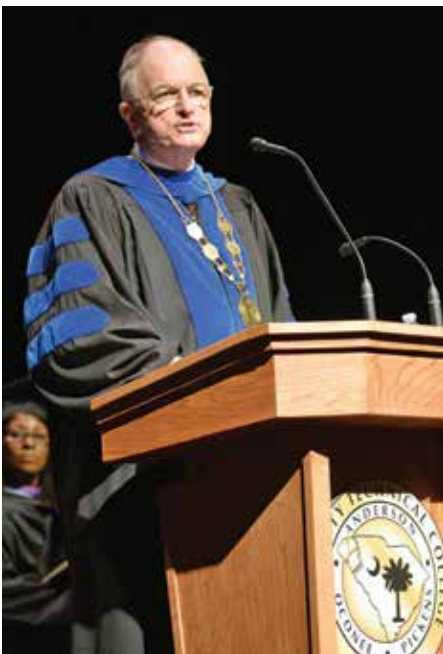
he explained. “We all are driven by something. Just what is it that drives you? Why do you do what you do each day? We need to know the answer to that question. We need to understand what motivates us each day. Life takes on a completely different outlook when we can articulate ‘Why,’” he said.

“What we do at the College each day is driven by our Vision Statement, “Passionate people transforming lives and building strong communities one student at a time.” This is our Why. This is Why we do What we do. Our goal is to transform lives by assisting our students in finding their respective places in the world of work. When we do that, we ultimately change the community in which our students live and work,” he said.

“Are you determined to make the life of everyone with whom you come into contact better? Is your goal to help every child, patient, offender, client, or customer you come into contact with understand that he or she is of value and that each can live a better life? Whatever the case, your ‘Why’ will make a difference,” he said.

“Are you determined to make the life of everyone with whom you come into contact better? Is your goal to help every child, patient, offender, client, or customer you come into contact with understand that he or she is of value and that each can live a better life? Whatever the case, your ‘Why’ will make a difference.”

—Dr. Ronnie L. Booth



Dr. Booth addresses the graduates.



Following the speech, **Dr. Booth** and other College officials presented degrees, diplomas and certificates to the graduates. Here, **Crystal Smith** receives her Associate in Science degree.

MLT Named Advisory Committee of the Year

The Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) advisory committee's devotion to student success and its attention to shaping the curriculum to meet workforce needs earned it the Advisory Committee of the Year award. The committee was recognized for its achievements this year at the College's Fall Convocation.

Committee members Amanda Locotosh, blood bank supervisor at Saint Francis Hospital, Dr. Vincent Gallicchio, professor of Biological Sciences, Microbiology and Public Health Sciences Director, Clemson University International Program in Global Health, and MLT Program Director Deborah Brock accepted the award. One of the committee's objectives this year was to ensure and provide microbiology clinical training for MLT students.

The MLT program faculty asked advisory committee members to reach out to microbiology technologists at their institutions and to determine skills that entry-level techs need and to be willing to be flexible in delivering microbiology training. The end result was restructuring the scheduling for all clinical rotations.

"This is where the committee could have easily said, 'we don't want to change,' or 'we have always done it this way.' The committee members, however, had an extremely open mind and worked to encourage others at their institutions to be willing to make changes," said Deborah. "The committee members do not just let things be; they are willing to look at new ways of doing things," she added.

In addition, the committee participated in bringing the MLT program to full re-accreditation status. Consequently, the MLT program's accreditation has been extended by the National



*The Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) Advisory Committee received the Advisory Committee of the Year award. Pictured from left are **Donna Palmer**, allied health department head; **Jennifer Porter**, MLT instructor; advisory committee member **Amanda Locotosh**, blood bank supervisor at Saint Francis Hospital; MLT Program Director **Deborah Brock**; and **Dr. Lynn Lewis**, dean of the health education division at Tri-County.*

Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) for another 10 years following a successful self-study and site visit. The program had no deficiencies or recommendations.

The College's MLT graduates continue to maintain excellent pass rates on a national certification exam. All 13 of the 2017 graduates received a perfect pass rate on the National American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) exam. The program has a 10-year board of certification pass rate of 99.2%; only one student has not passed the exam in 10 years.

The MLT Advisory Committee consists of longstanding professionals in the medical lab profession. Members have been supporting the MLT program by training students at their clinical sites and by hiring graduates for more than 20 years.

Spotlight on Jackye Kiser Murphy Scholarship

(continued from page 3)

Technical College. She started as a part-time instructor in the Department of Early Childhood Development in 2013.

Unfortunately, Jackye's cancer returned for the second time in January of 2015, and she found herself going further rounds with chemotherapy and radiation, fighting daily with grace and dignity. Complaining and wallowing were not allowed; instead, she continued to invest her best into her students. The celebration came again, and round two was a success. Jackye was honored by Tri-County with the Adjunct

Faculty Presidential Award in 2015 in recognition of her dedication to her students and innovative teaching. Jackye launched into full-time teaching in 2016, which she called her dream job. Jackye actively participated in program accreditation projects, curriculum design, and creation, as well as multiple student activities including trips to Dallas and Atlanta. She always made time for student outreach offering advice and support. She made time to be the difference!

Welding Graduate Served as Example for Other Students

The very day that he received his GED, Dustin David headed to Tri-County Technical College to enroll in Welding courses.

“Every day since I was 21 years old, I said to myself, ‘I wish I had graduated from high school and gone to college.’ Then I wouldn’t have to play catch up,” said Dustin, now 31.

He made up for lost time this past year by taking full-time evening classes while maintaining a 40-hour a week paid co-op position at Duke Energy through its Power Careers Program. Duke Energy offers high school graduates and first-year community college students the opportunity to gain experience in power plant operations.

“It’s a great opportunity,” said Dustin, who for the past year, has been working at Duke Energy’s Lee Steam plant in Belton during the day and he has been taking evening Welding classes at Tri-County’s Industrial Technology Center in Sandy Springs. He credits Welding Department Head Paul Phelps and other Welding instructors with helping him to succeed.

“Dustin has been what we expect of an adult learner and have seen over the years—dedicated, focused, hardworking, high expectations, and critical of his work,” said Paul. “Dustin has been an example to those around him, always with a smile and an encouraging word for others. Even when tired after a full day’s work, he would be here ready and prepared for class. Dustin has a bright future, and I look forward to seeing all that he will accomplish moving forward in his career.”

David walked across the Brooks Center stage at Tri-County’s August 4 summer graduation ceremony and received his Welding degree, with honors—he maintained a 3.95 GPA.

His family—fiancé, Jessica Cullen, who is an officer on our Campus Safety team, and their three children—were in the audience to celebrate with him. “This is a big deal. I wanted my children to see this—how important this is,” he said.

Dustin says he dropped out of high school in the eleventh grade. “I was young and stupid and made bad decisions. I wish I had known years ago to stay focused and motivated.”

He worked jobs in construction through the last decade, jobs that paid the bills and as a result, reinforced delaying college.



Dustin David, of Sandy Springs, received his Welding degree at the summer graduation ceremony August 4. His family—fiancé, **Jessica Cullen**, and their three children, **Brayden**, 12, **Coleson**, 9, and **Bonnie Lea**, 1, are pictured with him.

But after meeting Jessica and starting his own family, he began to set goals, a college degree being one of them.

Juggling family, work, and a demanding school schedule was tough, he said. “I missed out on the kids’ lives. But if they see what I’ve accomplished, they will take it through life. Kids watch, learn, and listen to us. What I saw in me wasn’t a good example for them. I took the wrong path. I paid for it with the consequences. But I strive to be the best father, husband, and employee I can be. That’s what this degree is about. It will allow me to provide for my family.”

In the future, Dustin says he plans to pursue our Manufacturing Management and Leadership degree online.

University Transfer major **Leah Medlin** sang the National Anthem at the 2018 Summer Commencement Ceremony August 4 at the Brooks Center at Clemson University. Leah has performed the National Anthem at several official College events, including the ribbon cutting and dedication ceremonies for the Student Success Center and the Oconee Campus.



Donald White Honored with Presidential Staff Medallion

A willingness to go above and beyond expectations, a role model attitude, and a genuine investment in student success are just a few of the attributes that earned Donald White the highest award given to staff at the College.

Donald, who serves as a Senior Success Coach for the College's community campuses, received the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence. Dr. Booth made the presentation at the Fall Convocation held August 16.

In his role, Donald provides enrollment counseling and proactive academic advising to prospective and current students to ensure a strong foundation for success. In doing so, he actively supports a large caseload of students to facilitate successful transition to the College, actively connects students with a variety of campus offices and resources, and provides continuing support throughout their enrollment at Tri-County.

Comments from a written nomination include, "Donald works tirelessly to ensure that students have the tools, perspective, and resilience needed to be successful in college, and, quite honestly, in all aspects of life. Donald finds a way to connect with each student, and his care and genuine investment in the individual are readily apparent. He happily adjusts his schedule and is on campus early morning and late evenings to meet with students as needed."

Another nomination read, "He never hesitates to meet students where or when it is most convenient for them. It is common for students to address him by name as he crosses campus and he, in turn, knows his students by name."

One commented that he is selfless when it comes to helping students on their path to success. "He feels it is imperative that students start their higher education career on the right foot with intensive one-on-one time spent in initial counseling sessions. The groundwork laid in these sessions begins a relationship that carries through to graduation."

Selection Committee members say his commitment to student success and his staunch support of students in all phases of their lives make him a role model for his colleagues.

"A new employee of five days said of Donald, 'He really cares about his students.' That statement sums up the essence of Donald and what he means to the College and to the students with whom he works," another nomination read.

In addition to service as a student advocate, he also focuses on strategic initiatives and facilitates change at the institutional level.

Donald spent countless hours ensuring comparable student services were offered at Tri-County's campus at the Hamilton Career Center.

That dedication continued as he served on the implementation team for the new Oconee Campus which



*Donald White, of Anderson, who serves as a senior success coach for the College's community campuses, received the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence August 16. He is pictured with his daughter, **Jordan**, left, and his sister-in-law, **Nancy Cartee**.*

opened August 20 in Westminster.

"Donald has been instrumental in developing the systems and protocols for services at that location and serving as the champion for students who would not otherwise have access to many of our programs and services."

When asked what it takes to be a great student success coach, White's philosophy is "You have to treat people right and let them know that you genuinely care about them and you're willing to help them reach their goals. They have to walk away knowing that you are there to help them."

Donald joined the College in 2009 as the new Technology Programs Specialist in the Admissions Office. He had spent 30 years in the textile industry, beginning as a Shift Supervisor at Milliken & Co., then as a Department Manager for JP Stevens (1978-85) and Springs Industries (1985-89). In 1989 he joined Delta Woodside, where he rose from Superintendent to Plant Manager.

Donald holds a B.S. in Textile Science from Clemson University.

He has a daughter, Jordan, and a son, Austin. He lives in Anderson.

Scenes From First Day of Classes at New Oconee Campus



Jim DeLoache teaches dual enrollment English 101 classes at the Oconee Campus.



Students enrolled in a Psychology class use Polycom technology at the Oconee Campus.



Oconee Campus Coordinator **Tim Jared**, standing, talks with **Kyle Beiler**, left, and **Cameron Kauffman** both of Westminster.



Longtime adjunct instructor **Marty Lee**, standing, teaches Industrial Electronics classes.

Patriot's Place Reception Honors Student Veterans

A reception for our students who are military service veterans was held in Patriot's Place (Anderson Hall 109), Pendleton Campus. Dr. Booth presented student veterans with backpacks which were pre-stocked with school supplies.

Dr. Booth talks with (from left) **Justin Roberts** of Easley, a Marine Corps veteran; **Michael Mosley**, of Clemson, a welding major and Army veteran; **Chad Sommers**, of Williamston, a Criminal Justice major and Marine Corps veteran; and **Roger Deagostino**, of Piedmont, a Mechatronics major and Marine Corps veteran.



College Welcomes Students Back to Class



ABOVE: We kicked off fall semester at all campuses with Welcome Back Week activities offering food, and festivities for students.

BELOW: **Sarah McNeely** of Easley, is pictured studying in the new Student Success Center.



ABOVE: As of August 29, fall semester enrollment was 6,113 students taking classes at the Pendleton, Easley, Anderson, and Oconee Campuses and the Industrial Technology Center.



Student Employment Fair Highlights Opportunities

A Student Employment Fair was held August 29 to showcase work-study and part-time jobs available for current students. It was a great opportunity for employers to advertise their jobs, accept resumes, meet candidates in person, and even hold on-the-spot job interviews. Representatives from campus offices were on hand to talk about employment opportunities on campus.

Here, **Kellie Boone**, JTEKT HR analyst and Tri-County alumna, and **Keith Holbrooks**, machine shop supervisor at JTEKT in West Union, talk with **Josiah Johnson** of Seneca, right.

Foundation News

AT&T Supports I-BEST Youth Program

AT&T awarded the College \$7,500 to support the I-BEST Youth High School Diploma Pathway program (formerly Connect to College). **Terrance Ford**, regional director of external affairs for Upstate AT&T, middle, is pictured with **Dr. Booth**, left, and **Grayson Kelly**, vice president for Institutional Advancement and Business Relations.

This program offers 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. Participants must have a goal to pursue a Tri-County credential.



Abney Scholars Day 2018

The Abney Foundation was originally formed in 1957 by Mrs. Susie Mathews Abney, widow of Mr. John Pope Abney, the founder of Abney Mills in Greenwood, SC. At that time, five trustees, including Mrs. Abney, were appointed to govern the trust. The principal office was located in Greenwood. At her death in 1969, Mrs. Abney left a sizeable bequest to The Abney Foundation.

The mission of The Abney Foundation is to aid organizations that are operated exclusively for educational, religious, charitable, scientific, and literary purposes. The highest priority is placed on higher education.

There are Abney Foundation Scholarship endowments at fourteen colleges and universities across the state of South Carolina. The Abney Foundation has contributed more than \$4 million to the Foundation since 1989.

RIGHT, TOP: Abney Foundation Scholarship recipients, past and present, are seen with Executive Director Emeritus and Trustee **Carl Edwards** (front, right) and Executive Director **Dr. Lisa McWherter** (front, left).

RIGHT, BOTTOM: Students from left, **Precious Vandiver**, **Maxwell Jeffers**, and **Charity Martin**, who are the recipients of Abney Foundation Scholarships, told trustees Carl Edwards and Dr. Lisa McWherter what the scholarship means to them individually. Precious graduated in Summer 2018 and is pursuing an Information Technology degree, Maxwell is active in SGA and is a Criminal Justice major; and Charity is an Early Care and Education major.



Alumni Say Thank You to Abney Foundation

No other foundation, individual, or company has contributed so generously to the TCTC Foundation. The Foundation sponsored the Fourth Annual Abney Day on August 30. The event was designed to show appreciation for the College's largest contributor to date.

The Abney Foundation's Executive Director Emeritus and Trustee Carl Edwards and Executive Director Dr. Lisa McWherter were on campus to meet with Abney Scholars, past and present.

Prior to the luncheon, alumni who were Abney Scholars expressed their gratitude about how the scholarship helped them to achieve their goals.

Here are their stories:

Lindsey Morris

In 2009 National Merit Scholar Lindsey Morris was awarded full academic and athletic scholarships and headed to the University of Delaware to begin her freshman year in college. The goal was to study equine medicine and compete as a member of the university's rowing team.

Then life—and circumstances beyond her control that she never saw coming—happened. One year later, she was living independently, with no source of income or financial aid to pay the next year's tuition. "Without parental support, I couldn't get private loans, and federal grants didn't cover the out-of-state tuition," said Lindsey.

She moved to Clemson, got a job, and enrolled in the College's Associate Degree Nursing program. "It saved my life," said Lindsey.

Through her job and scholarships from the Abney Foundation and the College's Alumni Association, along with federal grants, Lindsey was back on her feet and looking forward.

"These scholarships made it possible. I appreciate all of the people who helped to make it happen."

She credits the scholarships and instructors with helping her to achieve her goals. She graduated in 2015 with an associate degree in Nursing and went on to graduate summa cum laude from Anderson University. She is employed by the Greenville Mental Health Center. "I am financially secure now," she said. "I can't say how grateful I am."

Laneika Musalini

Laneika Musalini planned to go to law school upon graduating from T.L. Hanna High School in 1997. Then life

happened, she said. "As an 18-year-old single mother, I couldn't afford a four-year college so Tri-County was the only place I applied. It was close to home, and I could work part time, take care of my son, and maintain my grades. But I had goals. I was determined," she said.

Receiving an Abney scholarship was life changing for Laneika, she said.

With the Abney scholarship and a vocational business school scholarship from the Hanna-Westside Extension Campus, she completed the Office Systems Technology (OST) degree at Tri-County. She joined Clemson in 2000 as an Administrative Assistant for the Anderson Extension Office and returned in our University Transfer program, taking classes on her lunch hour. "I left Tri-County with no student debt," she said.

"The Abney scholarship has led me to so many opportunities," said Laneika, now married and the mother of four. She transferred to Anderson University, where she graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Resources. She earned a master's degree from Clemson University where she graduated with highest honors from the Human Resource Development program. After working in Clemson's College of Business and Behavioral Sciences where she was Grants Manager from 2008–2012, she joined Tri-County as Director of Grants.

"I can't put into words how much the Abney Scholarship meant to me," she said. Laneika currently is enrolled in Wingate University's doctoral program.

"I am a lifelong learner," she said. "Your financial support helped me to continue my education and to be the person I am."

Dr. Lyn Lazar

Lyn entered Tri-County Technical College—two years after graduating from Pendleton High School in 1988. She said the financial support provided by the Abney scholarship, along with caring instructors who served as mentors, contributed to her "great experience at Tri-County." She earned an Associate in 1991 and transferred to Lander University where she earned an Elementary Education degree and later a master's in Library Science at the University of South Carolina. After teaching in the public schools for years, she earned her Ph.D. in Industrial Management from Clemson University. For the last 10 years she has taught at Clemson, Lander, and Western Carolina. Most recently she teaches online for several universities. She is an active Rotarian and works as a volunteer with veterans.



Dr. Lyn Lazar



Laneika Musalini

(continued on page 13)

Our College Family



Luke VanWingerden

in transition

Luke VanWingerden joined us in August as our Chief Information Officer. He brings more than 12 years of experience in higher education Information Technology where he was responsible for establishing partnerships and driving complex business, academic, and technical

initiatives that focused on the student and faculty experiences.

He comes to us from the University of South Carolina Upstate, where he served as Interim Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and Data Services and Chief Information Officer for the past two years. Prior to that he was Director of Client Services for five years.

While at USC he also served as an adjunct Management instructor and as a contributor to a new Digital Studies course within Fine Arts and Communication Studies.

He began his career at Liberty University, where he was IT Project and Business Relationships Manager and later Manager of Business Relationships and IT Marketing.

He holds a bachelor's in Communication Studies from Liberty University and an MBA from the University of South Carolina.

He is a member of EDUCAUSE, the South Carolina Information Technology Directors Association, and he serves on the Information Security Advisory Committee for the University of South Carolina System. He has authored articles that appeared in EdTech Magazine and blogs.vmware.com

Luke and his wife, Laura, live in Simpsonville with their three children, Jack, 8, Brady, 6, and Wesley. 4.

Molly Collins is an English instructor in our Arts and Sciences Division. She served as a lecturer for the last two years and was an adjunct English instructor in 2015. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Clemson University, where she was a Writing Tutor and a graduate Teaching Assistant. Molly lives in Abbeville.



Molly Collins

Sheryl Cox is the Customer Resource Specialist in the Corporate and Community Education Division. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business from Texas

A & M University. She has more than 10 years of experience as a high school registrar and guidance office Administrative Assistant. She also has several years of experience in sales and customer service. She and her husband, Greg, live in Salem.



Sheryl Cox

Manikya Rajakaruna is an instructor in our Mathematics Department. She comes to us from Columbus Technical College in Georgia where she taught mathematics for the Division of General Studies for a year. Prior to that she was Assistant Professor of Mathematics and online adjunct instructor for the Department of Natural Sciences at Union College in Kentucky from 2011–2018.



Manikya Rajakaruna

She also worked as a Lecturer in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka and for two years was Director of Sri Lanka Olympiad of Math Foundation from 2006–2008

She was honored twice at Union College commencements. She received the Excellence in Research Award in 2016 and the Excellence in Teaching Award in 2015. She was awarded the Faculty Research Fellowship by the Research and Lecture Committee of Union College in 2012.

She holds a BSc in Mathematics (honors) from the University of Colombo in Sri Lanka and an MSc in Mathematical Sciences from New Mexico State University

She lives in Pendleton with her husband, Jim.

Emilyann Pittman is the new Admissions Recruiter. She is a May 2018 graduate of Young Harris College where she earned a bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies. The four years she was at Young Harris, she participated in an internship as Coordinator of Student Employment through the Student Success Center office located on campus. She is the past president of Sigma Beta Sigma sorority. Emilyann lives in Seneca.



Emilyann Pittman

Lori Mulzer is the Accounts Receivable Accountant in our Business Office. She spent the last 11 years working in the Accounts Receivable Department at Erskine College. From 1991–2007, she worked as a travel agent and managed Greenwood Travel Agency. She holds bachelor’s degree in Commercial Recreation and Facilities Management from Central Michigan University. She is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church. Lori lives in Donalds with her husband, Tom.



Lori Mulzer

Abney Foundation

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Caleb Allen

Caleb Allen graduated debt free in August 2016, thanks to an Abney Scholarship, along with Lottery Tuition Assistance and a LIFE Scholarship.

A Starr native, Caleb entered Tri-County after graduating from Crescent High School, where he served as Class President his senior and sophomore years and as Class Treasurer during his junior year. He was active in the Future Business Leaders of America club and in Palmetto Boys State.



Caleb Allen

He combined his networking and communication skills by immersing himself in Tri-County life by serving as president of the Student Government Association and as a Student Ambassador. He also served an intern in Dr. Booth’s office and traveled to Columbia with him to address the Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties legislative delegations, telling them about his Tri-County experience.

After earning a Mechatronics degree and a certificate in Human Resources, he transferred to Anderson University to pursue a bachelor’s in Human Resources. Currently he is working a full time co-op position at BorgWarner as a Health and Safety Specialist.

“Thank you, Abney Foundation, for helping me to be successful,” said Caleb.



Irene Bigby, AARP BTW 50+ participant, sent this note to **Sandra Strickland**:

“I wanted to write to thank you and all who are involved with the AARP Back to Work 50+ introduction and coaching classes with Joyce Peebles. I am a 62 year old who has found herself “out in the world” again after 17 years at a very involved and defining job. I let myself get over the grief of the loss of that job and the first thing I did was come to the Smart Strategies for 50+ Jobseekers Workshop in May. I could tell right away it was the right step. The materials were very informative and very easy to utilize. The “jewel in the crown,” though, was the three-week coaching classes and Joyce. She taught with such experience and warmth that you were inspired to do your best and push yourself to get back into job searching. I was even so inspired that I am currently applying for several jobs with the skills I learned in the classes. I am going to look into some of the computer classes offered by Abby Heid. I hope that AARP knows how valuable these classes are and how they give people who are older HOPE that they can still be vibrant and can still offer a lot to workplaces and to society.”

Amanda Blanton sent this note:

“A T.L. Hanna student (and her mom) brought Debbie Powell some flowers because Debbie was so helpful and persistent in getting the student get enrolled in BIO 101. They were so thankful to Debbie for all her work and the time she spent looking for a seat in the section the student needed! This is just one example of Debbie’s passion for helping our dual enrollment students!!!”

Oconee Campus Opens

(continued from page 1)

Credit program offerings include the first two semesters of Industrial Electronics Technology, Mechatronics, Technical Operator 1 and 2 (Certificate), CNC Programming and Operations (Degree), Manufacturing Management and Leadership (Degree), Business Administration (first year-core curriculum), and University Studies (Certificate). Corporate and Community Education offerings include South Carolina Manufacturing Certification, CNC Machine Operator Training, Mechatronics, and other career certificates such as ISO 9001, Lean Manufacturing, and OSHA.

In addition, high school students can enroll in technical career pathways classes, as well as dual enrollment (University Transfer) courses.

"There are many benefits to co-locating with the Career Center and industry," said Dr. Booth. "It supports our highly successful Technical Career Pathways program that enables students to earn a Tri-County credential by the time they graduate from high school. The program gives them a head start on college, allowing them to complete an associate degree within one year of full-time study after high school. That's good for the students and good for industry," he said.

Co-location also makes good economic sense, said Dr. Booth. "Rather than purchase similar equipment at two locations, we can share some of the same equipment and labs with the Career Center when they join us in 2020. Also, industry will have the opportunity to groom future employees by providing internships and co-ops on site for high school and college students."

"The Career Center is planned for the site in 2020. We can't find an example of these three entities in the same location anywhere," said Dr. Brian Swords, director of Tri-County's community campuses. "This is a new model which has opened the doors for discussions on partnerships, operational pieces, and pathways," he said.

Oconee Alliance Chair Chris Tedesco called it "a model for all communities across South Carolina."

Oconee County Council Chair Edda Cammick said she receives calls from employers looking for qualified welders and machinists. "Graduates are needed today. Jobs await you, students," she said.

Program offerings were specifically selected based on jobs that are available in Oconee County, said Mandy Elmore, dean of the College's Engineering and Industrial Technology Division. "Our curriculum offerings are industry driven. We engaged with members of our advisory committees, as well as our community partners in economic development and manufacturing in the area. It was a collaborative team."

State Rep. Bill Sandifer and Rep. Bill Whitmire said the Oconee Campus will meet business and industry's need for a trained workforce.

"This campus provides opportunities for additional business and industry to locate here in Oconee County," added Senator Thomas Alexander. "We've waited a long time for this day," Tri-County Commission Chairman John Powell said. "It's taken all of us working together to make it a reality. As an alumnus and a Commissioner, I couldn't be prouder."

Learning Commons Named for Senator Thomas Alexander

Tri-County Technical College acknowledged Senator Thomas Alexander's unwavering support of its new Oconee Campus by naming the Learning Commons in his honor.

The Senator Thomas Alexander Learning Commons was unveiled at the ribbon cutting/dedication ceremony August 17 at the new campus. The Learning Commons bears his name on both the exterior of the wall and on a plaque inside the Learning Commons.

"Many of you may not know that Senator Alexander played a tremendous role in helping to make this campus a reality," said Dr. Booth. "It would not be here today if not for him. He was determined to get State funding to support this dream to



Senator Thomas Alexander

have a campus of Tri-County Technical College in Oconee County."

An emotional Senator Alexander said, "I am overwhelmed and touched from the bottom of my heart. Thank you. It is a privilege and an honor to serve the folks of Oconee County. I believe in Tri-County and its mission and its impact over the decades."

He continued: "To my colleagues in the State House, had it not been for the overriding of the Governor's veto, we wouldn't be here today. Had it not been for the partnerships, we would not be here today. It was a team effort that got us to this day." He acknowledged his fellow legislators for their part in the project. "I am proud to be part of that team," he said.

Generosity of Donors Makes Oconee Campus Possible

Dr. Booth also acknowledged the generosity of donors who have provided financial support for the Oconee Campus. In 2017 Blue Ridge Electric Co-op made the first donation of \$100,000 to name the Robotics Laboratory. Other donations are featured below.



Duke Energy donated \$100,000 to the College to provide equipment funding for the Engineering and Industrial Technology programs at the new Oconee Campus. Pictured from left are **Grayson Kelly**, vice president for Institutional Advancement and Business Relations; **Dr. Booth**, **Kodwo Gharty-Tagoe**, state president for Duke Energy; and **Emily DeRoberts**, district manager for government and community relations in South Carolina for Duke Energy.



Sandvik Coromant donated \$75,000 to name a room, fund a scholarship for CNC students, and purchase CNC tooling equipment at the new Oconee Campus. From left are (front row) **Tony Munger**, production manager; **Arun Pattanaik**, PU director; **Grayson Kelly**, vice president for Institutional Advancement and Business Relations; and **Courtney White**, director of development; and (back row) **Billy Gillespie**, engineering manager; **Sergio Gonzalez**, quality manager; and **James Vetter**, finance controller.



BorgWarner donated \$50,000 to name the Hand Tools Laboratory at the new Oconee Campus. Pictured from left are **Nikole David**, training operator; **Grayson Kelly**, vice president for Institutional Advancement and Business Relations; **Rob Danenberger**, training coordinator; and **Jeff Chandler**, training specialist.



Schneider Electric donated \$50,000 to name the Motor Controls Laboratory and provide equipment at the new Oconee Campus. From left are **Zac Lawson**, maintenance technician; **Garvin Barker**, plant manager; **Grayson Kelly**, vice president for Institutional Advancement and Business Relations; **Katie White**, human resources business partner; and **Joseph Soler**, quality control analyst.

Executive Staff Summary

- **STUDENT SUPPORT:** Mark Dougherty, dean of Student Development, and Emma Robinson, coordinator of Student Resource Programs, gave an update on expanded support services to students through TC Cares, the emergency fund, SC Thrive, health care and Thrive events, a new community advisory committee, and plans for a food pantry.
- **OTHER:** Summer Commencement, Fall Convocation planning, policies and procedures, Fall Semester enrollment, Strategic Planning, outreach to promote the SC Palmetto Promise scholarship (pilot program; State proviso funding).

Celebrating Student Success at I-BEST Showcase



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

Westside High School Principal **Kory Roberts** congratulates I-BEST graduate **Brendan Barker**, who received his high school diploma at summer commencement.

Dr. Booth talks with I-BEST Manufacturing Pathway students **Yolanda Wideman** and **Teresa Moore**, who received Manufacturing Production I certificates.

Assistant Vice President for Human Resources **Marci Leake**, standing, third from left, and **Jenni Creamer**, dean of College Transitions, fourth from left, talk with Manufacturing Pathways student **Quinnton Taylor**, who received a Manufacturing Production I certificate.



Mary Roldan, Canine Handlers Give Presentation

Mary Roldan, chemistry instructor, fourth from left, presented *The Purpose-Driven Dogs: Scent Discrimination Work* August 29 as part of the Enrichment Series programs. Mary discussed her personal history with dogs and the attributes of a good working dog. She covered the chemical analysis of odor; aerodynamics of odor; canine learning and behavior; considerations of detection, for conservation of wildlife, human tracking, insect detection, and detection of diseases and more. After her presentation, there was a live K-9 demonstration by law enforcement officers, pictured from left, **Officer Jeff Burdette**, Greenville City Police Department, with his canine **Rocky**; **Lt. Mike Austin**, Greenville City Police Department; **Officer Eric Keopke**, Greenville City Police Department, with his canine **Valor**, and **Sgt. Brenda Link**, Clemson Police Department, with her canine. The event was sponsored by the TCTC Enrichment Committee and Student Involvement Programs.

