

Connection

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Our College Family 6



With CMT To Promote Empowering Education Initiative

The College's 10th Annual Bluegrass under the Stars concert is set for Saturday, April 4, at the Pendleton Campus.

The free concert and fireworks event for the family is held annually in conjunction with the town of Pendleton's annual Spring Jubilee celebration. The event will be held from 6-10 p.m. in Parking Lot B adjacent to Fulp Hall. It will be held rain or shine (rain location is College's Student Center).

This annual concert continues to feature award-winning veteran performers, as well as up-and-coming bluegrass artists, but a new face for the 10th anniversary concert will be Country Music Television (CMT), who has partnered with the College to promote its Empowering Education initiative. CMT is providing the concert headliner, Nashville-based quintet Humming House, recently named as one of 14 Peak Musical Performers of 2014 by a Huffington Post reporter.

Promotional material describes them as "woven together from diverse backgrounds (Americana, classical composition, bluegrass, soul and traditional Irish music), Humming House's playground of musical exploration has something for every generation."

In addition to Humming House, the concert will feature fan favorites Mountain Faith, Volume Five, and Last Road.

Tri-County's academic departments and the Corporate and Community Education Division will showcase their programs through booths and interactive displays for concert-goers.

The concert will end with a fireworks extravaganza. Concessions will be sold during the event.

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Nashville-based quintet Humming House headlines Bluegrass under the Stars April 4.

PHOTO CREDIT: MELISSA MADSON FULLER



Mountain Faith returns to this year's event.

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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

A Place Where I Belong



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

Over the past decade, we have made significant capital investments in improving access to higher education by expanding our presence in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. The opening of our Anderson Campus in 2007 marked the beginning of this period of expansion, which was quickly followed by the Oconee Campus at the Hamilton Career Center later the same year, the Easley Campus in 2011, two QuickJobs Centers, and the Industrial Technology Center in 2011. Currently we are working on a plan to expand our presence in Oconee County.

Now we have the opportunity to address a need that had to be put on the back burner as we worked to expand our presence in the community. I am talking about the woeful lack of space for student support and engagement on our Pendleton Campus.

The Pendleton Campus was constructed like most other commuter campuses built in the late fifties and early sixties. Designed to get students on and off campus as quickly as possible, little thought was given to creating spaces for students outside classrooms and labs. No need to hang around.

We've learned a great deal about community college students since then, and what we have learned speaks volumes about the need for a new Student Success Center on the Pendleton Campus.

First, if we expect our students to develop 21st-Century workforce skills, such as teamwork, collaboration, communication, and social skills, we need to provide spaces where they can learn these skills. Our small student cafeteria, a few outdoor benches, and less than a half-dozen study rooms in the back of the Library are far from adequate.

Second, we now better understand the many factors impacting student success, and it's far more than what happens in the classroom. As we discovered during our year-long, College-wide discussions about the elements of a transformative student experience, a true sense of belonging is strongly tied to student success. Research supports this finding, including a study conducted at the University of Texas and Stanford that concluded the underperformance of academically-capable students from low-income backgrounds stemmed from students' belief they did not have the ability to be successful AND they did not feel a sense of belonging. Our students come predominantly from lower socio-economic backgrounds. We serve them best and increase their probability for success when we help them achieve a sense of belonging.

There are many other compelling reasons to build a student success center, including the need to provide space for a one-stop enrollment center to put an end to the building-to-building, office-to-office runaround our students currently experience. Additionally, a new Student Success Center will save six million dollars in avoided deferred maintenance costs that would need to be spent on inadequate and obsolete buildings. But none of those reasons is as compelling as what we can do to help our students reach their goals.

It is time to transform our institution from "a place I go to college" to a "place where I belong."

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D., President



Spotlight on...

Manufacturing Management and Leadership Program

The Engineering and Industrial Technology Division has renamed and revamped its manufacturing management program to offer students the technical expertise and the leadership training/skills required of today's industry team leaders.

The two-year Industrial Supervision program underwent a title change effective last month and is now called Manufacturing Management and Leadership to better reflect the skills of a first-line manager in today's modern manufacturing facilities, said Program Coordinator Stan Compton. Curriculum updates and customized technical courses are two changes to the program that make it more relevant for future team leaders in today's workplace.

"The Manufacturing Management and Leadership curriculum focuses on first-line management duties and responsibilities in a modern manufacturing facility," said Stan. "We've revised and added courses to ensure that students are learning the skills important to industry, such as lean manufacturing, quality assurance, manufacturing processes, and the leadership soft skills unique to industrial supervision," said Stan.

Importantly, students also must take 16 course hours in a technical field or fields of their choice. A Manufacturing Management and Leadership major can select from a variety of engineering and industrial technology concentrations that include Engineering Graphics, General Engineering, Industrial Electronics, Mechatronics, CNC Programming and Operations, and Welding.

"The student can choose which technical area to focus on in those 16 hours of coursework. That's the beauty of it," said Stan.

He says the expectations of first-line manufacturing managers have evolved so much in recent years that even the title "supervisor" is increasingly being replaced by "team leader," which better describes the leadership and coaching roles required for these positions.

"There is more employee engagement, giving the manager more empowerment to leverage employees' minds and skills toward the company's goals and mission. He or she spends more time on the floor instead of in the office, acting as the quarterback of the team and a direct participant in projects and goals."



Jim Beal, service advisor for parts and service at KIA of Anderson, left, will receive a Manufacturing Management and Leadership degree in May. He is pictured with Program Coordinator **Stan Compton**. "I'm a better employee because of what I've learned in the Manufacturing Management and Leadership curriculum, especially the Lean Manufacturing class," said Jim.

Alumni Association News

- The Spring Open Golf Tournament will be April 24 at 1 p.m. at Falcon's Lair in Walhalla. For more information, go to www.tctc.edu/golf.
- Discount Tickets are available: Biltmore Estate \$42, Georgia Aquarium \$35
- The Alumni Office is accepting nominations for 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award. To be eligible for this award, one must be a graduate of Tri-County (degree, diploma, or certificate), graduated at least one year ago, and made outstanding contributions to the College, community, or Alumni Association in the form of time, talent, or financial resources. If you would like to nominate someone for this award, contact Mary Johnston at Ext. 1808 for a nomination form.
- The next meeting of the Alumni Association Board of Directors is Friday, March 13, at noon in Pendleton Campus Café

For more information, contact Alumni Relations Director Mary Johnston at Ext. 1808.

Tri-County Places Second Overall at 2015 SCSTA Event

Tri-County placed second overall as a college, and all five team members placed in at least one event in the 2015 South Carolina Speech and Theater Association's College Festival. Tri-County's team finished just two points behind Limestone College in this year's competition.

Eight two- and four-year colleges from across the State competed January 31 at Newberry College.

Anna Fisher, an associate in Arts major from Clemson, placed first in both Persuasive and Informative Speaking.

Samantha Crowl, a Criminal Justice major from Central, and the team's only returnee from last year's team, placed second in Storytelling and third in Persuasive Speaking.

Tara Lenertz, an associate in Arts major from Fargo, North Dakota, but now calls Clemson home, took first place in the Storytelling category.

Chelsea Adams, an associate in Science major from Westminster, placed first in the Audition Monologues category.

Jarred Major, an associate in Science major from Anderson, brought home second place in the Informative Speaking category with his speech about the American Flag.

"We have been taking teams to this competition for seventeen years. This is a great opportunity for students to develop important communications skills and do it in a competitive environment," said Speech Instructor/Coach Greg Toney. "Everyone worked hard and was deserving of his/her success."

The Tri-County Technical College Speech and Drama Team is coached by Greg and fellow instructors Lane Hudson, Kim Harp, and Dana Griffith.



Tri-County placed second overall as a college and all five team members placed in at least one event in the 2015 South Carolina Speech and Theater Association's College Festival. Pictured from left to right are **Jarred Major**, an associate in Science major, who brought home second place in the Informative Speaking category; **Tara Lenertz**, an associate in Arts major, who took first place in the Storytelling category; **Anna Fisher**, an associate in Arts major, who placed first in both Persuasive and Informative Speaking; **Samantha Crowl**, a Criminal Justice major, who placed second in Storytelling and third in Persuasive Speaking; and **Chelsea Adams**, an associate in Science major, who placed first in the Audition Monologues category.



Student Government Association Wins Award

Congratulations to our Student Government Association for winning first place in the SC Technical Education Association (SCTEA) Community Involvement Project competition for its "Caring Beyond Campus" project. The award was presented February 20 during the annual SCTEA conference in Myrtle Beach. Accepting the award are **Selena Valdizon**, SGA president, left, and **Croslena Johnson**, director of Student Life and Counseling Services.

Veterans Connect to Resources at Hearts for Heroes Event

Patriots' Place, our veterans' resource center, and the Early Childhood Development (ECD) program co-sponsored a Valentine's event for military families to connect them with College and veterans' resources.

Hearts for Heroes was held Monday, February 9, in the College's Café on the Pendleton Campus. It included an information session and dinner for the families, as well as activities for the children. ECD students assisted children in making Valentine's Day cards to send to service members overseas.

"Our goal is to identify post-9-11 veterans in the community who need assistance, such as QuickJobs training programs (classes that offer quick and affordable training for displaced and under-employed workers in a series of in-demand jobs) through our Corporate and Community Education Division or are interested in enrolling in an academic program of study at one of our community campuses. We will connect these veterans to resources to help them get that training," said College's Disabilities Coordinator Stephanie Winkler, who worked to create Patriots' Place, a veterans center that serves as a resource center and a place for student veterans to study, have meetings, and socialize with each other.



The Foundation recently received a \$17,000 grant from America's Warrior Partnership (AWP). These funds will be used to employ a student veteran and to sponsor events and initiatives to assist our student veterans and other veterans in the area. **Derrick Popham**, from Upstate Warrior Solution, fourth from left, presents the check to **Grayson Kelly**, executive director of the Foundation. Pictured with them from left are **Ryan Hulan**, **Charlie Pannell**, Disabilities Coordinator **Stephanie Winkler**, and Senior Vice President **Galen DeHay**.



Koshier Dawson, of Anderson, an ECD major, assists six-year-old **James Cudd** in making Valentine's Day cards to send to service members overseas.

MLT Sponsors Successful Blood Drive

HVAC Specialist **Lee Perkins** and **Cindy Trimmier-Lee**, Educational Talent Search counselor, were among the faculty, staff, and students who participated in the College's Future Laboratory Professionals/AnMed Health-sponsored blood drive. Thirty-nine units of blood were collected.



Our College Family

excellence through service

Congratulations to **Dr. Chris McFarlin**, Criminal Justice program coordinator, who has been appointed to the bench in SC to serve as a summary court judge for the City of Easley.



Tri-County side since its inception, I am very excited to now work with it from the Clemson side,” Robin said. “Dr. Sue Whorton, Dr. Mary Von Kaenel, and Gretchen Waugaman have done an outstanding job building this program and creating opportunities for students,” she said.

“As we move forward on this solid foundation, my goal is to enhance collaborations between Clemson and Tri-County advisers and to enrich services for students who take summer classes to meet their Bridge requirements. In addition, I look forward to enhancing services for all transfer students to help them more quickly become part of the Clemson family,” said Robin.

“I’ll miss Tri-County, but my blood does run orange,” said Robin, who holds a B.A. and an M.Ed. in Secondary Education (English) from Clemson University.

“It is most difficult to lose her, as she has been an effective, creative, and spirited faculty member and department head for 24 years,” said Dr. Hap Wheeler, dean of our Arts and Sciences Division. “Personally, I have relied heavily on her expertise and experience. On the other hand, we all wish her well in a role for which she is ideally suited. Robin was a key member of the team that was instrumental in the implementation of Bridge. It is also some comfort in knowing that we are not losing her completely, as in her new position she will liaison with us frequently.”

“I’ll still be on the campus quite a bit so I’ll see everyone,” added Robin.

College Transitions Division

Tiffany Blackwell joined us last month as the Director of Recruitment. She served as Anderson University’s Transfer Coordinator for the past four years. Prior to that, she was an Admissions Counselor. Tiffany holds a B.A. in Mass

in transition

Colleagues Bid Farewell to Robin McFall

“She’s been our rock. She’s always been our go-to person,” Joan Kalley said of longtime English instructor/department head Robin McFall, who accepted a job as Director of Bridge to Clemson and Transfer programs at Clemson University. “We are really going to miss her,” said Joan, who now is serving as English Department Head.

Robin is a liaison between Clemson and Tri-County Technical College, along with other South Carolina technical colleges.

“I’m excited about the new opportunity and challenges,” said Robin, whose last day at Tri-County was January 30. “It’s a perfect fit, and I just couldn’t say no,” said Robin, who has worked with Clemson University to develop academic and advising components for the Bridge to Clemson program and has served as the academic liaison since the program began in 2006.

“Having worked with the Bridge to Clemson Program on the



Robin McFall, center, is pictured with colleagues **Robin Pepper**, left, and **Joan Kalley** on her last day at Tri-County.



Sue Andrus sent this e-mail, praising our Maintenance staff:

“The Library staff would like to thank the TCTC Maintenance Department for replacing the motor in the heating system for the Library offices. Since last winter there has been no heat in the corridor or in the staff offices behind the circulation desk, and on some mornings offices were below 60F.

We are so happy now that it’s warm in our offices! Thank you, Lee, Terry, and Eric and whoever else was involved in purchasing the new motor for our heating system!”

Communications from Lander University and a master's in Human Resource Development from Clemson University. She is Vice President of Admissions for the Carolina Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. She and her husband, Brandon, live in Anderson with their son, Timothy, age 4.



Tiffany Blackwell

Academic Affairs Division

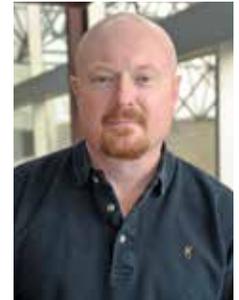
Lacey Torge is the Outreach and Social Media Librarian. She comes to us from the Anderson County Library where she was Adult Programming and Digital Services Librarian. Last year she she received the Library's 2014 Leading the Way Award.

She was the Education Coordinator for the Anderson County Museum from 2008–2009. Lacey moved to the Upstate from NY where she taught writing for six years at the New York

University's Tisch School of the Arts. In 2003 she received the Tisch School's award for outstanding service. Lacey holds an M.A. in Performance Studies from New York University, an M.S. in Library and Information Science from Florida State University, and a master's in Philosophy (ABD) in Performance Studies from NYU. She is a member of the American Library Association and the S.C. Library Association.

Engineering and Industrial Technology Division

Mark Oliver is the new CNC instructor. He spent the last four years working as a Machine Operator at GE Aviation. Prior to that, he worked at Lift Technologies as a CAD/CAM Programmer from 1989–2011. Mark is a graduate of our Machine Tool Technology program. He lives in Walhalla.



Mark Oliver

Vet Tech Readies for New Kennel

The College recently obtained all necessary State-level approvals to proceed with the construction of an Animal Housing and Learning Facility, a 5,500-square-foot structure that will replace the aging kennel next to Halbert Hall with an expanded housing and learning building. The new facility will give students and faculty more space to work with the animals and to conduct lab work without interrupting classroom work of other students. It also will provide spaces to quarantine animals with contagious conditions. Construction is expected to begin in April.



Student Success Center Survey Drawing Announces Winners

An Industrial Electronics Technology student, **Derrell Cape**, of Seneca, pictured here with Facilities Director **Ken Kopera**, and Library staff member **Jessica Scott** each won an iPad Air for participating in a



*Student **Derrell Cape**, right, with Facilities Director **Ken Kopera***

survey to help the College identify learning and engagement needs that should be addressed during the pre-design phase of a new Student Success Center on the Pendleton Campus. Last year, the College received approval from the Commission to



Jessica Scott

move forward with the study to design a complex to promote and improve student success. The project will include a new building, the renovation and repurposing of Ruby Hicks Hall, and a central chiller loop to drive down the College's energy consumption. Following the completion of the pre-design study, the College will make a decision regarding whether to seek funding for the project.

Bluegrass under the Stars

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Pre-Concert Event for High School Students

CMT also will participate in a pre-concert event (4–6 p.m.) for high school juniors and seniors who will learn how Tri-County can help them get started in a great career.

The event will include appearances by Humming House and Mountain Faith, along with video testimonials from our students and graduates who will talk about their educational journeys and participate in a panel discussion moderated by CMT.

Students and their parents will can obtain information about admissions, financial aid, career pathways, internships, and co-ops. Free food, giveaways, and an iPad drawing are included in the event.

Earlier this year, Tri-County was one of 14 community colleges nationwide selected to participate as a partner in Country Music Television (CMT)'s Empowering Education campaign. The comprehensive campaign provides an online resource, CMTEmpoweringEducation.com, to aid viewers in overcoming commonly perceived obstacles to furthering their education.

"We are honored to be selected to participate in the CMT Empowering Education Campaign," said Dr. Booth. "CMT understands there are people right here in the Upstate who don't truly understand that a college education is possible for them. CMT will help us to reach audiences we haven't been able to reach in the past," he said.

For more information, visit www.tctc.edu/bluegrass.



Volume Five, top, and Last Road, above, will perform at the Bluegrass under the Stars event.

Executive Staff Summary

- **PUBLIC WEBSITE REDESIGN:** Approved a project charter for a cross functional team to work with an outside vendor to develop a new public website for the College.
- **SUPPLEMENTAL INSTRUCTION PILOT:** The Fall Semester pilot showed significantly higher academic achievement (grades and completion rates) by students who participated in Supplemental Instruction in Biology 101 and Math 102. Two additional courses will be added Fall 2015: Accounting 101 and Chemistry 110. Additional marketing efforts will be implemented to increase the number of students participating in the program. Meeting space to conduct sessions is a major challenge for program expansion.
- **TITLE III YEAR-END REPORT:** The College now has twelve thematic, sixteen linked, and eleven integrated learning communities. We have revised the design workshops and involved more disciplines and instructors. An enrollment strategy has been created, and the assessment of outcomes has been streamlined. The Academic Support Network is seeing higher completion rates on Smarter Measure assessments and is better able to identify at-risk students. Educational plans are now developed using Degree Works as a standard part of the advising process.
- **SACS COMPLIANCE REPORT:** The College is preparing its compliance review of ninety standards and regulations in preparation for its ten-year reaccreditation. In addition, the College will develop a Quality Enhancement Plan to improve student learning.
- **FOUNDATION UPDATE:** The Foundation is undertaking a fundraising campaign for the new Animal Housing and Learning facility to replace the current kennel next to Halbert Hall. The new facility will expand learning and housing spaces, as well as meet new accreditation requirements.
- **EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION:** Approved a project charter to develop a standardized orientation program for all new full-time employees as part of the College's strategic objective to create a comprehensive Talent Management Program.
- **OTHER:** Review of College policies and procedures.