

Connection

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RN, LPN Grads' NCLEX Exam Scores Exceed State, National Pass Rates

Our RN and LPN graduates' performance on state board exams exceed both State and national pass rates, according to a year-to-date report released by the SC Board of Nursing.

The College's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program reports a 90.91 percent pass rate for first-time candidates licensure exam takers between the period of January 1 and December 20, 2015. The College had 121 graduates who took the exam during that period and became licensed.

According to reports, the State average is 89.27 percent, and the national average is 84.51 percent.

Practical Nursing graduates scored a 92.54 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-PN exam, with the State average being 91.79 percent and the national average 81.89 percent.

The NCLEX exams for both Practical Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing programs are computerized exams that test a graduate's basic nursing knowledge and decision-making ability on commonly encountered health-care situations. Graduates of both programs must pass the exam to work as registered nurses and/or LPNs in the State.

Both Nursing Department Head Jackie Rutledge and Practical Nursing Program Coordinator Julie Vernon credit an engaged team of dedicated faculty, intense review sessions, and practice testing as departmental strategies for students' success.

Practical Nursing students take classes at the College's Easley and Oconee campuses, and Julie credits the small campuses and one-on-one interaction with long-standing faculty members as contributors to students' academic success.

"I'm proud of our high scores," said Julie. "Over the years, we've built a good track record with our NCLEX-PN scores. I'm proud of our faculty who have experience as both nurses and instructors."

"Our scores reflect our dedication to student success," added Jackie. "Faculty work with individual students to help them to be successful."

The ADN faculty's decision to incorporate ATI Nursing Education assessment tools and standardized testing in all Nursing classes is a way to familiarize students

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Wireless human patient simulators are among the various teaching tools that help students like **Kayleen Hamilton**, a freshman associate degree Nursing student, be successful on the state board exams by honing their clinical and critical-thinking skills.

Connection

is published ten times each year by the
Office of the President and the Public
Relations Department.

Mailing Address (All Campuses)

P. O. Box 587, Pendleton, SC 29670

Pendleton Campus

7900 Highway 76, Pendleton, SC

Anderson Campus

511 Michelin Blvd., Anderson, SC

Easley Campus

1774 Powdersville Rd., Easley, SC

Oconee Campus

Hamilton Career Center

100 Vocational Dr., Seneca, SC

Main Number

(864) 646-TCTC (8282)

Toll-free

1-866-269-5677

TDD/Voice

1-800-735-2905

Website

www.tctc.edu



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

Funding for QuickJobs Training Helps Address Workforce Shortages



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

"There are jobs out there, good jobs, but there are not enough qualified people to fill them."

During a recent luncheon for community leaders in Oconee County, Anthony Tosti, CFO and managing director of Greenfield Industries and TDC Cutting Tools, reinforced what we know to be true and work every day to overcome.

There is no "one size fits all" solution to this issue. At Tri-County, we are attacking the problem from every angle using every tool at our disposal, as well as new and creative strategies. Technical Career Pathways for high school students, stackable credentials, and non-traditional student recruitment efforts were all designed with workforce needs in mind.

Our Corporate and Community Education (CCE) Division also is part of the solution to workforce shortages. CCE QuickJobs programs address workforce development through short-term, non-credit training opportunities for jobs in demand by local businesses and industries. We have a large population well-suited for this option who are, at this point in their lives, unprepared for college-level work, ill-equipped to afford it, and/or unable to make the time commitment necessary to earn a degree.

Recently we received a special one-time allocation from the S.C. General Assembly to fund scholarships of up to \$2,000 for QuickJobs training. As soon as we began promoting this opportunity, the public quickly responded. During a QuickJobs Career Fair in January, more than 200 people applied for training funds. Now, all are either enrolled or scheduled to enroll in training this spring.

SC Manufacturing Certification (SCMC) is among the QuickJobs program offerings in high demand by local industry and funded through this special allocation. SCMC also provides a laddering opportunity to gain additional credentials to achieve a higher skill level, such as those needed by employers like Anthony Tosti at Greenfield Industries.

The one-time allocation of State funding for QuickJobs training was a boost to the program and a great investment of taxpayer dollars—one that will pay off this year and in years to come. We are fortunate to have legislators and manufacturing executives like Anthony Tosti who understand we are dealing with multi-faceted, complex workforce training challenges and are willing to be a part of the solution.

In order to continue to provide these types of training opportunities to the unemployed and underemployed and have a meaningful, lasting impact on workforce needs, we need continued support and funding.

Educators, employers, and community leaders need to continue to come to the table to create additional strategies to deliver what we need—a trained, skilled, and educated workforce to promote economic development and quality of life in our communities.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ron Booth".

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D., President



Spotlight on General Engineering's Hexapod

General Engineering Technology (GET) Program Coordinator Dorian McIntire believes the best way to spotlight a curriculum is to show prospective students what they could be learning about and designing in classrooms and labs.

Last semester students in his senior Hydraulics and Pneumatics class explored pneumatics and PLCs (Programmable Logic Controllers) by building a six-legged walking machine (Hexapod) powered by pneumatics and controlled by a PLC.

"Multi-disciplinary projects like this one are an ideal way to teach and engage students while solving complex system integration problems," said Dorian.

"It serves as an interesting application for pneumatics. In the past, students only have used trainers they built, but trainers only go so far and aren't as fun and challenging as building complex, multi-disciplinary machines, like a Hexapod, that walks and is controlled by a PLC. It's a real-world application of pneumatics that is interesting and fun," he said. "Also, being able to show prospective students what they will do and learn in the GET program is worth a thousand words."

Initially, the class built the Hexapod as a senior project and later decided it would serve as a permanent mascot for the program.

Dorian took it one step further. He posted a video on YouTube (view the video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ge8ML7_GZ8) of the students testing their creation. He sent the link to an automation distributor, the online industrial supplier of the materials.

The distributor was so impressed by the project that they offered to donate parts to build another unit to be used for public outreach via photographs on the company's website. The next version of the Hexapod will be more sophisticated. It will have an aluminum tubing body to give it more capability to maneuver and act more lifelike. "We will add sensors to the Hexapod next semester so it can interact with the environment (avoid obstacles)," he said.

"We will put the name of the distributor on the next Hexapod and will be able to keep it in our program as a marketing tool," he said.

The company also requested that the GET students to help them create a pneumatics solution and project manual.



Last semester General Engineering Technology students in a senior Hydraulics and Pneumatics class explored pneumatics and PLCs (Programmable Logic Controllers) by building a six-legged walking machine (Hexapod), pictured here, powered by pneumatics and controlled by a PLC.

Students will assist in writing a booklet on pneumatics that will be available to the donor company's customers. This application manual for pneumatics will give students some experience in writing a technical manual.

The GET program regularly uses projects like this to facilitate learning in the program, said Dorian.

"Students learned a lot about pneumatic principles and produced a great marketing tool for the GET program," said Dorian, who says he expected good work from the students but admits he was beyond impressed with the final product. "The students really surprise you sometimes. I was floored by the caliber of the final product."

Faculty Excel Outside the Classroom



Penny Edwards

Social Sciences Department Head Penny Edwards has been selected from faculty across the country to serve on the American Association of Community Colleges' (AACC) Faculty Advisory Council.

Penny, who was nominated by our faculty, will serve a three-year term.

"Dedicated leadership is essential to the continued success of community colleges and to our association," said

Dr. Walter G. Bumphus, president and CEO of AACC, the primary advocacy organization for community colleges at the national level. Founded in 1920, the AACC has become the leading proponent and the national "voice for community colleges."

"We are sure that Penny's insights and leadership will significantly contribute to the association staff's decision-making process and its ability to serve the interests of all AACC member institutions."

Headquartered in the National Center for Higher Education in Washington, D.C., AACC works closely with directors of State offices to inform and affect state policy. In addition, AACC is a member of "The Six" large, presidentially-based associations and collaborates with a wide range of entities within the higher education community to monitor and influence federal policy and to collaborate on issues of common interest. The association has ongoing interaction with key federal departments and agencies including the U.S. departments of Labor, Education, Energy, Homeland Security, and Commerce, and the National Science Foundation.

AACC supports and promotes its member colleges through policy initiatives, innovative programs, research and information and strategic outreach to business and industry and the national news media. The association's efforts are guided by the AACC 2013-2016 Strategic Plan.

Early Childhood Development Program Coordinator Meredith McClure has been selected

as the College's nominee for the S.C. Commission on Higher Education's (CHE) Service Learning Competition. The annual competition recognizes three of the most commendable service learning projects from those nominated—one award is presented to a public four-year college or university project, one to a public two-year college, and one to an independent college or university.

Called Meeting Early Needs through Oral Reading (MENTOR), the project involves a partnership with La France Elementary School where each ECD 131 student is paired with a kindergartener who is at risk in his or her language development skills. The TCTC students were tasked with creating activities to engage these "At-Risk" children using strategies that had been introduced and studied during the lecture portion of the ECD 131 class. After creating active learning plans, the ECD students engaged with the children through planned activities that strengthened their language arts, as well as their social skills. Through these active learning plans, our students learned about stages of development, and the children benefited from interaction with an adult who cares and gives them personal attention to help them to succeed.

The S.C. CHE will announce the winning institution in each category at its May 2016 meeting.

Presented since 2001, this award recognizes the extensive contributions made by the service learning efforts of our colleges and universities and their students. Service learning is a meaningful opportunity for students to apply acquired knowledge and skills in solving real-world problems in their communities. The criteria used to select the winners include the ability to resolve community concerns or address community issues; the degree to which the project enhances students' learning; the impact of the project on campus; and the integration of the project's activities into academics.



Meredith McClure

English instructor **Amy Borders**, left, advisor for Alpha Zeta Beta, our chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, was recognized for her five years of service recently. **Dr. Booth**, right, presented her with the organization's gift for her service and time given to further the ideals of Phi Theta Kappa at Tri-County. Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, interim executive director of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, writes, "Advisors are truly the lifeblood of our organization, and we are proud to recognize Amy Borders for five years of service as an advisor for the Alpha Zeta Beta chapter."



Public Services Department Head **Tom Lawrence** is serving as a Peer Reviewer for the 76th Annual Academy of Management (AOM) Conference in the Public Non-profit and International Management Divisions. AOM is the largest professional association for management and organization scholars with more than 20,000 members in 115 countries.

(continued on page 7)

Bosch Sponsors Seventh Annual FLL Regional Qualifying Tournament

The Engineering and Industrial Technology Division hosted the Seventh Annual Tri-County Technical College FLL Regional Qualifying Tournament January 30 on the Pendleton Campus.

This event was made possible through a generous donation from Robert Bosch LLC. Dr. Trish Hayner, Bosch Production Systems (BPS) manager, served as the emcee.

Fifteen teams, representing students from Upstate public middle schools, home schools, and private schools competed in a regional qualifying event for FIRST LEGO League teams. The Tornado of Ideas from the independent youth organization Due West Robotics, took home the Champions Award for overall performance.

FIRST LEGO League (FLL) is a program created by the FIRST organization. It introduces younger students to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. FLL teams, guided by their imaginations and adult coaches, discover exciting career possibilities and, through the process, learn to make positive contributions to society.

In this year's "Trash Trek" challenge, FLL teams were charged with identifying a problem with the way we make or handle trash. Next, they developed an innovative solution to address garbage and its environmental impact. The final part of the project was to share their findings with others.

The event was comprised of the robot game and team judging in the categories of robot design, research project, and core values. The FLL Core Values are the fundamental elements that

distinguish FLL from other programs of its kind. Core Values emphasize contributions of others, friendly sportsmanship, learning, and community involvement.

Awards were given in five core areas: Champions Award (overall performance), Robot Performance, Robot Design, Project, and Core Values. This year two supplemental awards were given: a Rising Star Award and an Against All Odds Award.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an organization that seeks to create a world where science and technology are celebrated similar to a sports environment.



Members of The U Bots from Midway Elementary School compete in the tournament.



Event Manager **Scott Jaescke**, left, is pictured with volunteers **Siva Dasetty**, **Apoorv Balwani**, **Adam Klett**, and **Ryan DeFever**, all Clemson University Biochemistry/Bioengineering graduate students.



The Tornado of Ideas team, from the independent youth organization Due West Robotics, is pictured with **Dr. Trish Hayner**, Bosch Production Systems (BPS) manager and emcee, in the foreground, and **Tim Nafziger**, head referee, in the background.



The Fork Shoals Masterminds from Fork Shoals Elementary demonstrate their project to judges, from left, **Gregg Corley**, General Engineering Technology instructor, and **Bobby Watt**, Mechatronics instructor, both in our Engineering and Industrial Technology Division.

Our College Family

excellence through service

Dan Cooper, director of government relations and economic development, is a recipient of a 15 over 50 award presented to longstanding leaders in the community at a February 16 dinner. The Anderson Independent-Mail recognized 15 inspirational individuals who have been positively influencing the Upstate through both personal and professional endeavors.

For her passion and commitment to helping Upstate women of all backgrounds to achieve success, 107.3 JAMZ proudly saluted Grants Director **Laneika Musalini** February 8 as a 2016 Upstate Black History Maker.



Dan Cooper

in transition

Cathy Payne is our Applications Analyst for the Student Records Department. Cathy spent the last two years at Piedmont Technical College working as an Applications Analyst for the IT department. Prior to that, she worked for nine years for our IT Department as an Applications Analyst. She earned a Computer Technology degree from Piedmont Technical College and a B.S. in Database Technology from Strayer University. She and her husband, Fred, live in Calhoun Falls.



Cathy Payne

of Maryland. She also worked as an Investigative Clerk for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management for three years. She and her husband, Jonathan, have a daughter and live in Anderson.

Jenai Brown is Coordinator of Community Outreach and serves as a recruiter of non-traditional students in the Office of Admissions. Since 2014, Jenai worked as a Generalist in the Career Services Office. She holds a B.S. in Political Science from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. Prior to coming to Tri-County, she was a College Life Coach at Florida State University for three years. She and her husband, DeOnte, have two children, Zach, 5, and Eli, 9 months. They live in Central.



Jenai Brown



Jackye Murphy

Jackye Murphy is an instructor in the Early Childhood Development (ECD) program. Many of you know Jackye, who has been an adjunct for three years and received the College's Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award last May.

A Hartwell, Georgia, resident, Jackye is a former elementary education teacher in Anderson County School District Four as well as Hart County Head Start (pre-K). She serves as the Co-Facilitator of the ECD student group, Inspiring Futures, and assists in planning meetings and fundraising.

She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Georgia and a master's from Southern Wesleyan University. She and her husband, Patrick, have two adult daughters.

Katie Walsh is the Administrative Assistant for the Health Education Division. She holds a General Studies degree from Anne Arundel Community College. Katie spent five years as a Case Worker for the Department of Social Services for the State



Crystal McLaughlin

Crystal McLaughlin joined us January 25 as our new Advising Director. She has extensive experience in all aspects of student development, including advising, orientation, coaching, counseling, service learning, and residence life. Some of her past positions include Assistant Dean of Students/ Director of Counseling Services at Lander University (1996-2002), Director of Student Development and Assistant Dean of Campus Life at Oxford College of Emory University (2002-15), and most recently, as Volunteer Coordinator for Meals on Wheels in Greenville.

Crystal holds a bachelor's degree in Behavioral Science with a minor in Business Administration from Erskine College and a master's degree in Education, Student Personnel in Higher

Education, from the University of Georgia. She also holds a certificate in Non-Profit Administration from the Georgia Center for Non-Profits in Atlanta. Crystal lives in Greenville.

Dr. Elizabeth Bryan is the Veterinarian for the Veterinary Technology program. She joined us in January after four years as an adjunct Instructor and Lecturer. Elizabeth earned a B.S. in Biochemistry from Western Kentucky University and a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Auburn University. She worked as a staff veterinarian on a full- and later a part-time basis with The Animal Hospital at Liberty Highway for the past eight years. Elizabeth is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, as well as the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians. She and her husband, Michael, have two children, Robert, 9, and Aubrey, 7. They live in Easley.



Dr. Elizabeth Bryan



Angela Lane

Our Associate Degree Nursing Program welcomes new instructors.

Angela Lane worked as a Flight Nurse in the Critical Care Transport Unit for Eagle Med for the last five years. Prior to that, she worked in the Pediatric ICU at Greenville Memorial Hospital for 15 years. Currently, she is a Clinical Educator for Teleflex PRN. Angela is a member of the Air and Surface

Transport Nurses Association (ASTNA) and the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA). She holds an associate degree in Nursing from Greenville Technical College and received BSN and MSN degrees from Chamberlain College of Nursing. She and her husband, Mike, live in Easley. They have three children, Kaitlyn, 16, Justin, 23, and Houston, 19.

Ashley Alvarez worked as an RN at Palmetto Health Richland from 2011–13 and at Lexington Medical Center from 2013–15. She also served as an adjunct instructor for Greenville Technical College's Associate Degree Nursing program.

Ashley earned a BSN from the University of South Carolina and an MSN with an emphasis on nursing education from Walden University. She is an MCNCB-certified Medical Surgical nurse. Ashley is a member of the Sigma Theta Tau Honor Society of Nursing and received the Daisy Award for service excellence in 2012 and 2013 while at Palmetto Health. She and her husband, Carlos, live in Anderson.



Ashley Alvarez

Faculty Excel

(continued from page 4)

Pharmacy Tech Program Coordinator **Dr. Ann Barnes** will be a speaker at two upcoming conferences. She will address the S.C. Society of Health System Pharmacists at its conference March 14. She will update the group about the Drug Supply Chain Security Act. The audience will consist of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and students at the Hilton Head conference.

In July, Ann also will deliver information about the same topic to the Pharmacy Technical Educators Council in Charlotte.



Dr. Ann Barnes

A poster by Psychology instructor **Dr. Sheryl Attig** has been selected for presentation at the Southeastern Conference on the Teaching of Psychology to be held in Atlanta, Georgia, March 4-5. Her poster is on the use of storytelling in teaching as a way of keeping student interest and enhancing memory. Sheryl included information about the research that has been done, as well as how to actually use storytelling while teaching. She will provide summary papers to interested viewers.

Sociology instructor **Dr. Aristide Sechandice** wrote and presented an article at the South Carolina Sociological Association annual conference in Charleston February 19-20. His presentation, titled "Theorizing the Sexual Premium," proposes a new sociological concept in the area of cultural demography.

In addition, Aristide was selected as President-Elect of the South Carolina Sociological Association. His term will begin in February of 2017.



After a recent meeting about financial aid, **Chloe Watts**, a student in Comprehensive Studies Department Head **Jennifer Hulehan's** classes, sent this note about **Cathy Cole**:

"I was extremely pleased with how encouraging, and optimistic Mrs. Cole was towards me. She encouraged me not to stress myself out about the situation and to simply concentrate on completing my studies to the best of my abilities. Not only did I receive the information needed to file my appeal in the appropriate steps, I added another encouraging member to my college support system."

Getting To Know You

Dr. Lynn Lewis

Dean of the Health Education Division

1. What is the best part of your job?

Helping to make a difference in the quality of our community's health is the best part of my job. I also have a great affinity and empathy for our local first-time, post-secondary students, who remain resilient and succeed in our rigorous programs. You'll see me cry at most every graduation without apology.



Dr. Lynn Lewis

2. How would your best friends describe you?

Trustworthy, strong, and loyal—and I don't take myself seriously in general. Therefore, if you're my friend, you're laughing at this sentence.

3. What sound do you love?

The laughter of a baby or a small child.

4. Would you rather read a novel from a hard-cover book or on a Kindle?

A hard-cover book for sure—I like the sensory nature of the read.

5. What has been your biggest challenge?

I'm an introvert at heart. And to be effective, my work life has always required me to be extroverted. For a decade, I worked for a Fortune 500 pharmaceutical firm. And to survive and thrive, I had to get out of my comfort zone and become an extrovert in my work in that highly competitive environment. Relationship skills are just that—skills—but, keeping relationships requires authenticity of purpose and self. That's why I have enjoyed my work life at TCTC so much. I've continued to learn and grow authentically in my role while working with good people who are focused on students. It's joyful.

Shallin Williams

Management Instructor in Business and Public Services Division

1. What is the best part of your job?

Teaching. I love being in the classroom. I also enjoy continuously learning new things to share with my students.

2. How would your best friends describe you?

I am very dependable. I'm also the life of the party. I have a fun personality and say whatever is on my mind.



Shallin Williams

3. What sound do you love?

I have always loved the sound of the ocean. The sound of the waves lapping over the sand is so soothing. I could stay at the beach forever.

4. Would you rather read a novel from a hard-cover book or on a Kindle?

Both. I like the portability of my Kindle, but I also still like being able to hold and turn the pages of a real book. I frequently buy both formats. I probably should completely switch to digital books because all the bookshelves at my house are full.

5. What has been your biggest challenge?

Finding time to juggle getting things done at home, with getting things done at work. I have a two year old who wants my attention all the time, and I have a 14-year-old teenager, whom I have to keep in line. Before I was married, I had all the time in the world to get things done. Now I have to work with whatever time I can find.

Donald White

Student Success Coach, College Transitions Division

1. What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is being able to communicate with students, faculty, and staff. I enjoy seeing a student, especially a non-traditional, who may start his or her coursework at the O31 level of Math and English, achieve a two-year degree or more that makes a difference in their earning potential and their lives.



Donald White

2. How would your best friends describe you?

He would be there for them in any situation. Great father and fun to be around.

3. What sound do you love?

A fishing boat riding down the lake with me in it.

4. Would you rather read a novel from a hard-cover book or on a Kindle?

I guess I would have to say hard-cover book. Being a little old fashioned, when I learned to read, computers were the size of a large room.

5. What has been your biggest challenge?

In a two-month period, I lost my wife to sickness and the company I had worked at for over twenty years went bankrupt and out of business. After two years of searching for employment, Tri-County gave me an opportunity that allowed me to raise my beautiful daughter.

Foundation News



U.S. Engine Valve/Nittan Valve Donates to Mechatronics Program

U.S. Engine Valve/Nittan Valve made a \$20,000 donation to the Foundation to purchase two DEPCO ER-2U robots for the Corporate and Community Education Division's Mechatronics program.

The DEPCO ER-2U robot is specially developed for education and assists instructors in creating a fast learning environment in a robotics curriculum. The robots allow faculty to instruct students on STEM topics, including programming, mechanical engineering, and process controls. This equipment will be specifically used in hands-on labs to enhance skills that support the efficient operation of production equipment.

*Pictured from left to right are **Myra Morant**, human resources manager at U.S. Engine Valve; **Hiro Akutagawa**, assistant plant manager; **Bobby Dover**, plant manager, Westminster U.S. Engine Valve plant; and **Courtney White**, director of development at the College.*

Clemson Downs Supports Nursing Program

Clemson Downs made a \$1,000 donation to the College's Foundation to establish a scholarship for an Associate Degree Nursing student in Anderson, Oconee, and/or Pickens counties.

Dr. John LeHeup, executive director of Clemson Downs, fourth from left, presented **Dr. Booth**, third from left, with the check. Also pictured are, from left, **Debbie Nelms**, manager of fiscal affairs for Tri-County's Foundation; **Barbara Huss**, administrator at Clemson Downs; **Grayson Kelly**, executive director of our Foundation; **Dr. Lynn Lewis**, dean of our Health Education Division; and **Courtney White**, director of development at the College.



RN, LPN Scores

(continued from page 1)

with the NCLEX format and to enhance and fine tune their critical-thinking skills, said Jackie. ATI Nursing Education is an assessment tool training program to prepare students to take the NCLEX exam.

"We've always used ATI, but in 2014 we began to incorporate additional assessment tools which really prepared our senior students for the exam," said Jackie.

She said in the final class, Nursing 221, students must take a comprehensive predictor test which encompasses material from the past two years. "It's our first look at how prepared they are to pass the NCLEX on their first attempt. It also indicates areas students need to work on to be successful," she said.

Julie says her department also uses ATI strategies, in addition to a semester-long course that focuses on board review and practice testing.

"Practical Nursing remains a popular, strong program," said Julie, adding that graduates are employed in long-term care facilities, doctor's offices, medical personnel pools, schools, and flu clinics. More than half of her graduates transition to Tri-County's RN program, she said.

The majority of ADN grads are employed in acute care settings in the tri-county area, Jackie said. "We have a good relationship with the facilities in the area. After students complete their clinicals in hospitals, many seniors are offered jobs there after graduation. Others transfer to a four-year university to earn a BSN. At our last advisory committee meeting in December, we received nothing but positive comments and feedback from members, including a faculty member from Clemson University who complimented our graduates on being well prepared when they enter Clemson."

Tri-County's Nursing Departments are fully accredited by the State Board of Nursing in South Carolina and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

Daniel High ETS Students Participate in Leadership Conference

Three Daniel High School students, Takiya Peppers, William Bradley, and Essence Hamilton, were selected from our Educational Talent Search Program to participate in the 2016 Wanda Hendricks-Bellamy Student Leadership Conference in Myrtle Beach, January 8-10. This year's theme was G.L.O.W. (GO LEAD Our World).

The leadership conference was established in 1998 by co-founders Dr. Anita Davis-Defoe, the late Wanda Hendricks-Bellamy, and Greenville City Council member Lottie B. Gibson, as an opportunity for TRiO students to enhance leadership skills, engage in civic opportunities, develop themselves professionally, and network with other TRiO students and professionals. The three-day student leadership conference provided more than 400 students from SC, NC, and GA the opportunity to attend workshops, engage in various learning activities, and hear a number of dynamic speakers.

Takiya was selected as one of fifteen students to participate in the Emerging Student Leadership Institute (ESLI). Students were required to submit an essay sharing, "Where Am I Glowing?" As a member of the Institute, She was selected to give words of thanksgiving during the Alumni Luncheon.

Dr. Thwanda L. Davidson, TRiO director, commented following the conference, "We are truly proud of our Educational Talent

Search students at Daniel High School. Takiya, William, and Essence represented Daniel High School, their families, and our program very well."

*Pictured are **Takiya Peppers, William Bradley, and Essence Hamilton.***



Companies Recruit Students at Career Fair

The College's Annual Career Fair is an opportunity for students and soon-to-be graduates who are looking for employment to talk about job opportunities with recruiters and managers and to develop a network of career contacts.



Mac Dickard, systems application technician at JR Automation and a 2015 Industrial Electronics Technology graduate, middle, talks to **Shon Tilson**, an IET major from Seneca, about his job and the company.



Scott Cantrell, supervisor of transmission substation lines at Duke Energy and a 1983 IET alumnus, right, shows **Cardosia Johnson**, an IET major from Seneca, how to download the online app.



Former Mechatronics instructor **Danny Stovall**, right, reconnected with former students like **Tom Peden**, of Pelzer, as he talked to them about opportunities with Voith, where Danny is now a Technical Trainer.



Reliable Sprinkler was among the businesses who participated in recruiting at the career fair. **Nathan Deshong**, manufacturing engineering manager, left, talks with **Malachi Gibson**, who is pursuing a CNC certificate.



David Drake, of La France, a Practical Nursing major, talks to **Lauren McNalley**, staffing specialist at MAU Workforce Solutions.

Businesses/Industries at Career Fair

- Action Staffing
- AFCO
- Baptist Easley Hospital
- BMW MC
- Duke Energy
- Greenville Health System
- Hill Electric Co.
- Home Instead Senior Care
- Human Technologies (HTI)
- JR Automation Technologies
- MAU Workforce Solutions
- Michelin
- Ortec
- Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Co., Inc.
- SC Dept. of Corrections–Perry Correctional Institution
- Schneider Electric USA, Inc.
- Sealed Air
- The Timken Company
- United States Marine Corps
- Vital Care EMS
- Voith Industrial Services

SGA Honored for Community Involvement Project by SCTEA



Our Student Government Association's project, "Captivating Lives with Literacy," received third-place honors in the 2015-2016 South Carolina Technical Education Association (SCTEA) Community Involvement Project competition. The winners were announced at the SCTEA Awards Luncheon held Friday, February 19. Officers posed with **Dr. Eric Brown**, associate vice president for student affairs for the S.C. Technical College System, middle. From left are **Samuel Hill**, SGA vice president; **Caleb Allen**, SGA president; **Jimmy Knott**, SGA treasurer; and **Rebecca Griebno**, SGA secretary.



Celebrating Black History

The College recognized the achievements, contributions, and culture of African Americans through documentaries and presentations during Black History Month. Author and educator **Bryant Smith**, far right, led a lively game of Black History Jeopardy at the Pendleton Campus February 24 in the Marshall Parker Auditorium. Prizes were awarded to all participants, and a grand prize went to the winning team.

Executive Staff Summary

- SACS REAFFIRMATION TIMELINE:** The College's SACS report was submitted on February 19. It will be reviewed by the offsite team in May, and results will be submitted to us during the summer. At that time, a focus report response will be written (if required) and our Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) will be submitted. The on-site review team will be on campus October 11-13, 2016. We will receive the results from the onsite report in December. If a response is required, it will be submitted in May, 2017, and the SACS Board of Trustees will review it in June, 2017.
- COMPLIANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PERFORMANCE:** Chris Marino, director of Research and Evaluation, reviewed a timeline of upcoming compliance reports; accountability measures and outcomes; and progress we are making on improving performance indicators.
- DIGITAL CONTENT INCLUSIVE ACCESS:** Penny Edwards, Social Sciences department head, presented a proposal to increase student success and retention in courses currently using digital content from Cengage by shifting access to course materials from the point of purchase after a semester begins to the point of registration/payment before the term begins. Enrolled students will automatically have immediate access to all Cengage digital content through Blackboard.
- REVISED GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES PROJECT REPORT:** Dr. Della Van Huss, department head for Humanities, presented the results of a project to revise the College's General Education Outcomes. The scope of the project included the adoption of a College-wide philosophy statement on General Education Outcomes, as well as locating, rewriting, and, in some cases, creating rubrics to use in the assessment of General Education Outcomes. The change represents a shift in general education outcomes from the domain of the Arts and Sciences Division to the responsibility of every division at the College. The College Catalog will be revised to reflect the new philosophy statement.
- PUBLIC WEBSITE UPDATE:** Gayle Arries, director of Marketing, presented a progress update on development of a new public website for the College. The new site will integrate credit and non-credit program information to provide a seamless, career-focused exploration of all Tri-County offerings, resources, and services.
- OTHER:** College-wide Professional Development Day; revised committee charter for the Academic Calendar Committee; policy and procedure reviews.