

# Connection

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## Topping Off Ceremony Held for Student Success Center

The College and Juneau Construction celebrated a milestone in the construction of the College’s \$42-million Student Success Center on February 2 with a topping off ceremony to commemorate the last piece of structural steel being put into place.

In building construction, a topping off ceremony is held to acknowledge when the last beam is placed atop a structure during its construction.

As part of the ceremony, Dr. Booth, College Commissioners, Royce Elliott, chief operating officer for Juneau Construction, and Davis Myers, vice president for business development for Juneau,



Dr. Booth signs the beam before the last piece of structural steel is placed.

signed the beam. Earlier, students, faculty, staff, and construction crew members signed the 20 x 14 ft. steel beam.

Both Dr. Booth and Elliott called the project a “model partnership” and acknowledged the “team approach and collaborative effort” among both parties, as well as the “excellent” work of the subcontractors and construction crew.

Targeted completion date for the Student Success Center is December 27, 2017. Opening day is the first day of classes in January 2018.

“We are on schedule, on budget, and right where we

*(continued on page 10)*

## Construction Projects on Track

The Student Success Center project is on track and under budget, Cara Hamilton reported to the Commission at its February 6 meeting. The anticipated completion date is December 27, 2017, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony planned for the first week of spring 2018 classes. Beginning in January 2018, renovations on Ruby Hicks Hall will begin and will be completed in December 2018.

The Oconee Workforce Development Center also is on track. The detail design phase is complete and next Oconee County will perform the prep work. Construction is set to begin June 1 with a groundbreaking ceremony set for June 2017.



# 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

## Once Again, TCTC Success Rate Ranks Highest in System



**Dr. Ronnie L. Booth**  
President

In recent years, we have made tremendous progress in redesigning our educational programs to adapt to changing realities and expanding our support services to help more students be successful.

These improvements continue to pay off. According to recently released figures, our student success rate once again ranks highest among all colleges in the State Technical College System, increasing to 70 percent for the 2013-2016 cohort—well above the SC Technical College System average of 47 percent.

Our transfer, graduation, and persistence rates also exceed the System averages, with the transfer rate being the highest in the System. Over a five-year period, our placement rate increased 29 percent, and our persistence rate increased seven percent. Our retention rate is steadily improving year over year; currently we are at 73 percent.

Thanks to your hard work and creativity, students are enrolling in the right programs, persisting, and ultimately succeeding in reaching their goals. Employers win, too, because we are able to provide them with highly-skilled employees to help them compete in the global marketplace.

Those we serve, we serve well. But data show there are still thousands of unemployed or underemployed people in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties who need our services. This is particularly true of the non-traditional student population, which, notably, is the only population subset in our region that is growing.

This unmet need is the impetus for many of the strategic initiatives we have worked on in recent years, such as stackable credentials and our new Smart Start Over and I-Best Manufacturing Pathway programs, both of which serve the non-traditional, unemployed/underemployed citizens of our communities. Our Strategic Plan for 2017-18, currently in the final stages of development, focuses on additional institutional actions to address the needs of this population. These include implementing our High Impact Practices (HIPs) plan, creating a work-based learning framework, designing an I-BEST healthcare pathway, and others.

We have proven success rates, and we have the capacity and desire to serve more students. Our challenge is to find and enroll those who need our services and to provide them with a challenging, caring, and supportive learning environment. It takes all of us to create this environment and to personify our vision to be “Passionate people transforming lives and building strong communities one student at a time.”

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*“According to recently released figures, our student success rate once again ranks highest among all colleges in the State Technical College System.”*

*~Dr. Booth*

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Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.  
President



# Spotlight on Competitive Speech

## College Places Second Overall In College Speech Festival

The College took second place honors overall in the 2017 South Carolina Speech and Theater Association's Annual College Festival Competition. Only two points separated Tri-County and Claflin University, the 2017 champion.

Our team members placed in six different events during the competition and earned top scores in two categories.

Colleges and universities from around South Carolina met on the campus of Claflin University February 11.

"This is our 20th year to bring a team to competition. This is a great opportunity for students to develop important communications skills and do it in a competitive environment," said Greg Toney, Speech instructor and team coach. "Everyone worked hard and was deserving of his or her success."

The College was represented by five students in the competition. This year's team included Joel McCann, Ella Hilliard, Lizzy Parnell, Amani Altwam, and Ricky Schmidt.

Joel McCann, a University Transfer/duel credit student from Anderson, placed first in Informative Speaking and Oral Interpretation of Poetry.

Lizzy Parnell, an associate in Arts major in Theater Design from Simpsonville, placed first in the Theatrical Design category.

Amani Altwam, an associate in Arts major from Anderson, placed second in Persuasive Speaking.

Ricky Schmidt, an associate in Arts major from Charleston, placed second in Informative Speaking.

Ella Hilliard, an associate in Arts major from Dahlonega, GA, placed third in Oral Interpretation of Prose.



*Pictured from left to right are **Ricky Schmidt**, an associate in Arts major from Charleston, who placed second in Informative Speaking; **Ella Hilliard**, an associate in Arts major from Dahlonega, GA, who placed third in Oral Interpretation of Prose; **Amani Altwam**, an associate in Arts major from Anderson, who placed second in Persuasive Speaking; **Lizzy Parnell**, an associate in Arts major from Simpsonville, who placed first in the Theatrical Design category; and **Joel McCann**, a university transfer/duel credit student from Anderson, who placed first in Informative Speaking and Oral Interpretation of Poetry.*

"My goal is to go to these competitions and be competitive," said Greg. "It's a challenge to compete every year against schools, such as Newberry College, Claflin University, or USC Upstate, that actually have four-year programs in Drama and Speech. However, we always have success, and this year was no different as we excelled in all of the categories that we participated in."

Participating colleges and universities in this year's competition included Tri-County, Claflin University, Midlands Technical College, Newberry College, USC Lancaster, and USC Upstate.

## Executive Staff Summary

- **NEW WEBSITE:** Gayle Arries, director of Marketing, gave a presentation and demonstration of the College's new public website, which will be in test mode by mid-March to ensure all components work as expected.
- **HONORS EXPERIENCE:** Timeko McFadden, Spanish instructor and coordinator of the Honors Experience, gave an update on the program, which began Fall Semester 2015. The program fosters a "community of scholars" where students share common aspirations, drive, and ambition and offers courses across disciplines, including Math, English, Biology, Sociology, Spanish, and History.

Goals include recruiting more qualified students, developing assessment tools, streamlining administrative processes, and continuing articulation efforts with other area institutions.

- **STRATEGIC PLANNING:** Executive Staff and the President's Advisory Committee (PAC) are engaged in strategic planning for 2017-18. The plan is being designed to ensure programs and services meet the needs of under-resourced students.
- **OTHER:** Hanover Regional Salary Benchmarking Study; Professional Development Day; Academic Calendar; Spring and Fall Convocation dates; and policies and procedures.

# RN, LPN NCLEX Scores Surpass State, National Averages

The College's RN and LPN graduates' National Council Licensing Exam (NCLEX) scores surpassed State and national averages in both year-to-date and quarterly reports for 2016.

This is the second consecutive year that our Nursing students' performances on state board exams exceeded both State and national pass rates.

The Associate Degree Nursing (ADN/RN) program reports a 90.80 percent pass rate for first-time candidates licensure exam takers between the period of January 1 and December 31, 2016. According to the National Council State Board of Nursing, the State average is 87.12 percent, and the national average is 84.56 percent.

Fourth quarter figures (October 1–December 31, 2016) show Tri-County RN grads scored 94.74 percent, while the State average is 85.64 percent, and the national is 77.30 percent.

Practical Nursing (PN) graduates scored a 95.45 percent pass rate on the NCLEX-PN exam between the period of January 1 and December 31, 2016, with the State average being 94.53 percent and the national average 87.30 percent.

During the fourth quarter, Tri-County LPN students scored a 100 percent pass rate while the State average is 98.88 percent, and national is 80.20 percent.

The NCLEX exams for both PN and ADN 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.

"We are thrilled and so proud of our graduates who exceeded our expectations for the second year in a row," said Nursing Department Head Jackie Rutledge.

Julie Vernon, PN program director, added "a thanks to our seasoned and experienced faculty, who have a 'growth' mindset and are willing to try new activities to engage students and promote learning. I feel that, for our Nursing faculty, teaching is a passion and choice, not just a job and a paycheck."

Said Jackie, "We are continuing to build on our strategies for success, which include the incorporation of ATI Nursing Education

assessment tools and standardized testing in all Nursing classes. This serves as a way to familiarize students with the NCLEX format and to enhance and fine tune their critical-thinking skills." ATI Nursing Education is an assessment tool training program to prepare students to take the NCLEX exams.

She said in the final capstone class of the associate degree program, Nursing 221, and Practical Nursing program, PNR 182, the students must take a comprehensive predictor test which encompasses material from the past one to two years. "It's our first look at how prepared they are to pass the NCLEX on their first attempt. It also indicates their weaknesses or areas students need to work on to be successful," she said.

"ATI meets students at their individual levels—at their own pace and commitment. It's not a one size fits all," said Jackie.

The predictor test is followed by three full days of live review, an intense 8 a.m.–5 p.m. review of content. "Student like the interaction which supplements classroom lectures and labs," said Jackie.

Their last semester of the ADN and PN programs is intense, Jackie says, with classes, a clinical preceptorship in the ADN program (at area hospitals for seven weeks), simulation labs, and the ATI review course.

"But students see the value," she added. "Often graduates stop by to say thank you. They say they were ready for the NCLEX after the capstone course and ATI review."

She said the Nursing Department is part of the College's first cohort of HIPS or high-impact practices. "Last semester several faculty began learning a lot of new ways to engage students in active learning. We've made a conscious effort to continue this in the classroom settings. We feel active learning is a contributor to our high NCLEX scores. It's not just about lecture; it's about actively engaging students. For example, in our simulation labs, for students, it's as close as they can get to real life. It's learning by doing. We are really seeing the benefits."

The College's Nursing departments are fully accredited by the State Board of Nursing in South Carolina and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing.

## Students Give the Gift of Life

*Jordan Lee, of Liberty, was among the faculty, staff and students who participated in the College's Future Laboratory Professionals/AnMed Health-sponsored blood drive. Jordan, an Industrial Electronics Technology major, is pictured with **Brenda Turner**, phlebotomist.*



# Students Make Connections at Career Fair

The College's 16th Annual College and Career Fair is a prime opportunity for soon-to-be grads, persons who are unemployed, and those transitioning from jobs to talk about employment opportunities with recruiters and managers and to develop a network of career contacts.

The February 15 event was sponsored by Career Services.

"We're always trying to help students make connections with business and industry partners, and one way is through our annual Career Fair," said Cheryl Garrison, job placement coordinator.

"There was something for everyone at this year's Career Fair. Hundreds of students networked with 56 vendors from business, industry, agencies, and health care, all of whom were looking for good employees who are well prepared for the workforce. Our students presented themselves well by being prepared, professional, and positive," she said.

"The Career Fair gives students an opportunity to meet



potential employers and to learn more than what is on the company's website," said Cheryl. Students learned first hand about opportunities at specific companies, and they explored their career options. "We encouraged them to ask questions about the hiring process because each agency has a different process. I tell students this is their time to introduce themselves and to ask questions and make a good impression. It's never too soon to make contact—even if you are two years away from your degree."



Students stopped by the BMW table at the College's Annual Career Fair to find out about career opportunities. Here, **Dmitry Kopytin**, talent program supervisor, left, talks with Welding students **Chylene Harper** and **Paige Johnson**, both of Seneca.



**Justin Clamp**, general manager for Advanced Labelworx, Inc., in Anderson, and a 2006 Associate in Arts graduate who now holds bachelor's and master's degrees, left, talks with **Elliott Smith**, of Walhalla, a Business Management major.



**Samantha Verdone**, purchasing assistant with JR Automation in Pickens, is pictured with **Parker Frost**, a Mechatronics major from Belton.



**Kenzie Driggers**, recruiter for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, right, and **Caleb Stamey**.

# Our College Family

## excellence through service



Laneika Musalini

Congratulations to Grants Director **Laneika Musalini**, who is the recipient of the first annual Community Trailblazer Award presented by the African American Leadership Society of United Way of Anderson County. She was honored February 3 at the Black History Black Tie Ball.

The Community Trailblazer Award celebrates and recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the community through his or her involvement in volunteer activities and/or special achievement in specific areas of community and professional life.

The recipient is a visionary and dedicated leader who is doing extraordinary work, addressing critical issues in the community, and exemplifies United Way's core mission of improving our community by providing leadership in identifying needs, and securing and leveraging resources.

In 2010, Laneika formed Women's Empowerment Inc., a group that seeks to help women of all races become strong, positive role models and community leaders.

Our **Business Technology Department** (Associate in Applied Sciences) programs, Accounting, Administrative Office Technology, and Management, are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). Every two years, the departments must submit a quality assurance report showing assessment of student outcomes in those three programs. Following a meeting of ACBSP, the Board of Commissioners identified Standard #4 Measurement and Analysis of Student Learning and Performance as a best practice.

They wrote: "Congratulations! The Board of Commissioners identified Standard #4 Measurement and Analysis of Student Learning and Performance as a best practice. It is clear the College has a high quality and effective assessment process. The sample assessments in Table 4 were displayed in a concise and professional manner."

Added Meg Allan, Business Technology department head/faculty member, "Brenda Mattison and Debbie Vance led the initiative, and the entire team participated in developing the final report. It was a great team effort."

## in transition

**Julie Pinkerton** (no photo available) is our Middle School Counselor for Educational Talent Search. She holds a B.S. in Education from Southern Wesleyan University and taught pre-K English in China for three and one half years. She also worked as a Supervisor/ Behavioral Health Counselor for the Pickens County School District. She and her husband, Robert, live in Westminster.



Yolanda Avidano

**Yolanda Avidano** is the Educational Talent Search Counselor for the TRiO programs. During her career, she has worked as an Educational Practitioner/ Holistic Life Coach with individuals and families at various educational communities, as well as in the non-profit sector. She holds a B.A. in Human Resources and Family Science with a minor in Education from the University

of Nebraska, Lincoln, and an M.Ed. in Education and Human Development from the University of Massachusetts in Boston. She is a member of the NAACP and the Family and Consumer Science Association. She currently serves as an Adjunct Instructor at Athens Technical College, where she teaches First-Year Seminar and Personal Development courses. Yolanda lives in Athens, GA.

**Tina Moss** is the Administrative Specialist in the Arts and Sciences Division. She holds a B. A. in Psychology from Anderson University and worked as an Administrative Assistant at St. Andrew United Methodist Church from 2014-16. She is a member of Eureka Baptist Church in Anderson. She and her husband, Jason, have three children, Noah, 16; Hannah, 13; and Mason, 6. They live in Anderson.



Tina Moss



Amanda Mason

**Amanda Mason** is an Instructor/ Training Coordinator of Transportation for the Corporate and Community Education Division. She has worked as a temporary Administrative Assistant since last May. She earned a B.S. in Human Services from Anderson University and currently is pursuing a master's in Higher Education Administration from Southern New Hampshire University. She served

one and one-half years at Newberry College as a Values-Based Learning Associate through AmeriCorps and one year at AIM as a Volunteer Coordinator, also through AmeriCorps. She is a member and Deacon at First Christian Church in Greenville. She and her children Gabi, 7, and Rose, 3, live in Easley.

**Billy Carson** is an Instructor in the Computer and Information Technology (CIT) program. Since 2010 Billy has served as an Adjunct Instructor in our CIT program and teaches A+ Certification classes in the Corporate and Communicate Education Division. He earned a Bachelor's in Business Administration (Computer Information Systems) from Anderson University and a Master of Science in Information Technology from Nova Southeastern University. Billy served six years in the U.S. Navy before joining Duke Energy, where he was a Network IT Architect from 1985–2017. From 2014–16 he worked as an Adjunct



Billy Carson



Christoph Kresse

Instructor teaching Computer Network and CISCO classes at Greenville Technical College. Billy lives in Easley.

**Christoph Kresse** is a Speech Instructor in the Arts and Sciences Division. His experience includes working as an Audio Engineer at Furman University for the last four years while teaching as an Adjunct Communications Instructor at A-B

Technical College. He also has worked as Assistant Creative Director for Entercom Radio and as Assistant Director of Production for the Greenville Symphony Orchestra. Christoph is a self-employed musician and sound designer.

He holds B.A. in Technology/Sound Design and an M.A. in Communication, Technology, and Society from Clemson University. He and his wife, Stephanie Pack, live in Greenville.

**Tonya Brock** is an Instructor in our Industrial Electronics Technology program. She is a graduate of Tri-County, earning a Computer Technology degree in 1992 and an Industrial Electronics Technology degree in 1995. Since graduating, she worked in Electrical Assembly and Electrical Maintenance Technician positions at area industries including Square D, Cryovac, Hartness International, EHD Technologies, and SDS Automation. She and her daughter, Georgia, 10, live in Piedmont.



Tonya Brock

## Geer Named Café Employee Of the Month

Congratulations to **Darius Geer**, middle, the College' Cafés Employee of the Month for February. Darius, a part-time Café employee and Management major from Belton, is pictured with **Sandra McCarroll**, Café manager, left, and **Jessica Johnson**, Café shift manager.



## Anderson Campus to Celebrate 10 Years

Mark your calendars! This year the College will recognize the 10th anniversary of the opening of its first community campus—the Anderson Campus. The ceremony will take place on **Monday, March 27, 2017**, at 11:30 a.m. in the multi-purpose room at the Anderson Campus. Please join us as we celebrate this milestone in the history of the College.

# Employee Wellness Challenge Begins

Our Human Resources Office kicked off 2017 with an Employee Wellness Challenge. Many of you may recall the Health and Wellness Challenge that Human Resources sponsored in the fall of 2013. In that 12-week challenge there were individual and team challenges. This challenge is similar with the addition of an Individual Challenge to Jumpstart Your New Year's Resolution. In this personal challenge, the goal was to use holiday time to focus on personal growth and health. Those who made and kept their resolutions over the semester break received a jump start on points for the overall Wellness Challenge that began in mid-January.

## New Year's Resolutions



**Kathy Brand**  
Executive Assistant,  
President's Office

*"My New Year's jump start resolution was to attend at least seven or more Jazzercise classes during my holiday time off and on alternate days walk one mile or more."*



**Emma Robinson**  
Coordinator of Student  
Resource Programs

*"My New Year's resolution was to be at 160 lbs. when I came back to work. I was 167 lbs. before Christmas break. I met my goal! I am 147 lbs.!"*



**Tasheka Johnson**  
Learning Support  
Coordinator,  
Comprehensive Studies

*"My resolution was to give up sweets... so far so good!"*



**Mark Dougherty**  
Dean of Student  
Development

*"My resolution was to not gain any additional weight during the holiday season. I lost four pounds during the break, which was great."*



# College, SC Thrive Event Focuses On Resources for Students

The College and SC Thrive partnered to host a "Get the EDGE and THRIVE" Fair designed to bring important resources and support to our students on our campuses. Students had access to various agencies, as well as to the SC Thrive Benefits Bank System.

SC Thrive is a non-profit agency providing innovative and efficient access to several quality community and government resources via completion of one application to help students when they need it most. Resources covered at this event included housing, rent and utilities assistance, Medicaid, SNAP benefits, family assistance, childcare, healthcare, emergency assistance, and more.

Here, Financial Aid Counselor **Carla Brewer**, right, assists **Sandra Eubanks**, of Honea Path, an Accounting major, with a Quick Check assessment.

# Mechatronics Student Addresses PACE Board

**Carter Fish**, a Mechatronics major and a 2016 graduate of Easley High School, spoke to the PACE board January 26. As a high school senior, Carter participated in the dual enrollment Mechatronics Technical Career Pathway at our Easley Campus and graduated with a Technical Operators I certificate in May 2016. This fall, he continued at Tri-County in the Associate in Applied Science degree in Mechatronics Technology and was selected as a BMW Scholar. This year, Carter works for BMW, gaining career-related skills while he continues his education.





# Getting To Know You

## Tom Lawrence

Dean of Arts and Sciences Division

### 1. What is the best part of your job?

Working with smart, motivated, and diverse colleagues. I feel a great sense of satisfaction when members of my team are successful.

### 2. What is your number one pet peeve?

Traffic! Ever hear anyone say, "Great, it's about time for a traffic jam?"

### 3. If you were going to splurge on one item, what would it be?

Definitely travel. I'm a global traveler at heart, although my passport says otherwise. I find it intrinsically rewarding to explore another culture, language, and way of seeing the world.

### 4. What is your favorite movie?

Any James Bond movie starring Sean Connery. My father and I shared only one cinematic interest, and this was it. Who doesn't love exotic locations, supervillains, over the top spy equipment and Aston Martin sports cars?

### 5. Are you a morning person or a night owl?

There is a time and a place for early wake-up. Never and in my nightmares.



Tom Lawrence

## Tiffany Carpenter

Support Specialist, Connect to College (C2C)

### 1. What is the best part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my career is that I am continuously able to make a difference in the lives of students. For 16 years, I have provided support for Tri-County students and, in Connect to College, I have found the most wonderful collaborative team effort with support in all directions. We support each other, enabling each of us to support students, to help them grow and navigate the world around them, and to help them transform from high school to college students and into adults. I continuously hear from students from long ago and it reminds me that what I do really does change lives.

### 2. What is your number-one pet peeve?

Dishonesty, whether it is a blatant lie, a façade, or manipulation. It is the quickest way to lose my respect. I work with youth who sometimes don't understand the value of honesty; I am much more patient with them. I work to help them realize that dishonesty never accomplishes anything. They learn.

### 3. If you were going to splurge on one item, what would it be?

Chocolate. Always.

### 4. What is your favorite movie?

A Beautiful Mind and Sweeny Todd (Depends on my mood, really!)

### 5. Are you a morning person or a night owl?

Night owl by nature, morning person when required. On vacation, my internal clock wants to stay up half the night and sleep the morning away.



Tiffany Carpenter

## Sandra McCarroll

Café Manager

### 1. What is the best part of your job?

Meeting people from all walks of life

### 2. What is your number one pet peeve?

When someone says "I can't." I believe if you try, you can do anything.

### 3. If you were going to splurge on one item, what would it be?

An exotic vacation

### 4. What is your favorite movie?

I have two favorites—"Coming to America" and "Sleepless in Seattle."

### 5. Are you a morning person or a night owl?

Definitely a morning person



Sandra McCarroll

# Student Success Center

(continued from page 1)

need to be,” said Elliott, adding that it has been an accident-free site since construction began last summer.

Dr. Booth also thanked the College’s Commission for its “unrelenting support for the Student Success Center which will help students we don’t even know to be successful for the next 50 years. I’m looking forward to December when we will be here cutting the ribbon for the grand opening.”

The College broke ground September 16, 2016, on the 75,000-square-foot Student Success Center, the first new building on the Pendleton Campus in two decades.

“This is a milestone day in the history of our College,” Dr. Booth told a crowd of county officials, legislators, community partners, faculty, staff, and students who crowded Fulp Plaza to witness this long-awaited day.

The project will include a new building that houses a learning commons, library collections; meeting spaces; computer labs; study areas; supplemental instruction and tutoring spaces; Student Development Offices; Information Technology Services; College Bookstore; Café, Printing Services; shipping and receiving; and a central chiller plant and chilled water loop. The project also includes a complete renovation of Ruby Hicks Hall.

The Student Success Center is a key component of the College’s strategy to increase student success, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and address double-digit enrollment growth. “Student support facilities were built 25 or more years ago and are designed to accommodate about 3,500 students. The College now serves around 5,000 students at the Pendleton Campus. Currently students sit in the halls to study and are cramped into nooks and crannies all over campus. Our current Café is woefully inadequate to meet students’ needs. There is very little place for them to work on team projects and study together. This Center will increase space allocated to students and their academic support,” Dr. Booth said.

“The Student Success Center is important to achieve our mission and fundamental to delivering a transformative student experience and an investment in our students’ success,” he said.



For several days prior to the topping off ceremony, students flocked to a tent set up on Fulp Plaza to sign the commemorative steel beam.



Dr. Booth, third from left, and Royce Elliott, chief operating officer for Juneau Construction, far right, pose with student leaders, from left, Kathryn Howard, National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) secretary; Sammy Griffith, Student Government Association treasurer; Candice Gillespie, NSLS president; and David Stephens, NSLS vice president.



Juneau Construction workers placed the last steel beam as part of the topping off ceremony for the Student Success Center.



IT staff members Bob White, Veronica Glanton, and Pam McWhorter add their names to the final beam that was placed on the structure.

## SNA Observes Heart Health Awareness Month

During Heart Health Awareness Month (February), Student Nurses Association (SNA) members kicked off the “Paint the Campus Red” by placing red dress symbols on windows across campus.

In support of heart health awareness, the Student Nurses Association on February 14 sponsored a “Grab-n-Go” breakfast and an Honor Roll to recognize and honor those who have been affected by heart disease.



Here, **Emily Washam** and **Brent Hutcheson** (inset), along with **Danielle Hicks**, post heart health facts on the windows of Ruby Hicks Hall.

## Student Data Center Gives Degree Works Demonstrations

**Sue Dacus**, senior Student Data Center analyst, demonstrates to **William Tester**, a Mechatronics major, how Degree Works can serve as a roadmap to graduation success. Sue and other members of the Student Data Center/Registrar's Office were available to students in all divisions.

Degree Works is a web-based tool that puts all of the students' curriculum information into a concise, consistent, easily accessible place and gives them a quick view of their educational progress. The tool allows students to see what courses they have taken and what they need to take to fulfill their degree requirements.



## Poet Showcases Black History Month



Poet and spoken word artist **Ashlee Haze**, third from left, performed February 22 as part of the College's Black History Month activities.

She is pictured with Student Government Association representatives, from left, **Sammy Griffith**, University Transfer major, treasurer; **Samuel Snipes**, University Transfer major, senator; **Briana White**, Bridge to Clemson, president; and **Angelica Goodson**, University Transfer major, senator.

## Students Explore Employment Opportunities at Fair

A Student Employment Fair was held January 25 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.

This event was sponsored by the Money Management Center, Career Services, and Student Development.

Here, **Ross Hughes** financial aid quality assurance coordinator, talks with **Mark Kravchuk**, of Anderson, a Mechatronics major, about part-time work-study opportunities.



## Forty Attend National Society of Leadership and Success Orientation

Tri-County's newest student organization, the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), held two orientation sessions with a total of 40 students in attendance.

Students who achieved GPAs of 2.75 or better and had completed at least 12 credit hours of full- and part-time college work received invitation letters.

NSLS is new this year on campus and is designed to identify and develop students' leadership skills with real-world applications.

During the semester, the group will participate in a leadership training day with group and individual exercises. Participants will form success networking teams and peer-to-peer networking groups focused on goal achievement.



NSLS is the first society that focuses solely on building leadership qualities, said **Scott Jaeschke**, coordinator of Community Standards, pictured here providing an overview of the semester's activities.

The group will meet every two weeks during academic term. They also will watch video presentations (pre-recorded and/or live) by three nationally-known public speakers. They will interact in three small group discussions and participate in a three-hour leadership retreat to focus on their personal leadership styles.

## Students Share TCTC Experience with Legislators



**Carter Fish** and **Briana White** (second and fourth from left) accompanied **Dr. Booth** and other College officials to meet with members of the legislative delegations from Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. They are pictured here with **Linda Jameison**, assistant vice president for Student Support and Engagement, and **Dr. Booth**. Carter entered Tri-County through the Technical Career Pathways program at the Easley Campus. He is majoring in Mechatronics and is a BMW Scholar. Briana is president of the Student Government Association and a Bridge to Clemson student. Both spoke with legislators about their experiences as students and how Tri-County is helping them to reach their goals.

## Leading EDGE Workshops Address Online Classes, Career Fair



Success Coach **Donald White** and Mathematics Department Head **Keri Catalfomo** are seen presenting a workshop titled "Virtually Speaking: Are You Ready to Take An Online Class?" Donald discussed how students can be successful in online classes and Keri spoke from the instructor's perspective, talking about instructors' expectations, time management, test taking, and assignments. Not pictured is **Justin Baggott**, who gave tips on how the Tutoring Center can be of service to online students.



Prior to the February 15 Career Fair, Job Placement Coordinator **Cheryl Garrison**, standing, led a workshop offering tips to students on how to make this face-to-face opportunity with potential employers work to their advantage. She presented ways to prepare, tips for the day of the career fair, and how to follow-up afterwards. See photos from Career Fair on page 5.

The Leading EDGE Experience is aligned with the Career Preparation series, supporting 21st-century learning outcomes of written and oral communication and collaboration.