

Connection

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Tri-County Receives Scholarship Money for QuickJobs Training

More than 200 area residents have the opportunity to enroll in short-term job training programs through our Corporate and Community Education (CCE) Division, thanks to scholarship money provided by the S.C. General Assembly.

The S.C. General Assembly allotted the State's 16 technical colleges funding to award scholarship money. Tri-County received \$335,000 earmarked for in-demand, QuickJobs training in the areas of manufacturing, health care (both clinic and office related), transportation and logistics (i.e., truck driving, IT, computer, business, and highway construction).

The funding will help individuals who are unemployed, as well as underemployed, to prepare for in-demand jobs that lead to a sustainable wage.

Scholarships of up to \$2,000 per student were granted to successful applicants who attended the January 8 Career Expo in the Industrial and Business Development Center.

"The response was overwhelming," said Teresa Young, operations manager for CCE. "These scholarships broke the barrier for those individuals to enter QuickJobs training programs. Without the scholarships, many say they never could have done it. Now they will have the knowledge to do the jobs which will improve their financial stability, personal satisfaction, and self confidence."

Although the scholarship money is limited at this point, we anticipate

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Alicia Brown, director of the Acceleration Learning Center for the Corporate and Community Education Division, left, talks to Alaina Alderman, of Walhalla, about Bookkeeping classes.

Tri-County Among Top Community Colleges To Compete for 2017 Aspen Prize

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named Tri-County Technical College as one of the nation's top 150 community colleges, making us eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, \$1 million dollars in prize funds, and Siemens Technical Scholars Program student scholarships.

The College has been chosen to compete for the nation's preeminent recognition of high achievement and performance in America's community colleges—The Aspen Prize.

Tri-County is one of 150 colleges selected from more than 1,000 community colleges across the nation to compete for this honor. In March, the field will be narrowed down

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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

Eye on the Prize

In January I announced that Tri-County Technical College was chosen to compete for The Aspen Prize—the nation's most prestigious award in recognition of high achievement and performance in America's community colleges.

Tri-County is one of 150 colleges selected from among more than 1,000 community colleges across the nation to compete for this honor. This isn't a competition we can enter ourselves. It is a privilege to be invited to compete. In March, the field will be narrowed down to ten finalists, and the winner will be named early in 2017. More details about this notable honor are included in a front page article in this newsletter.

The data examined by the Aspen Institute as part of the evaluation process prove we are doing the right things right. According to nationally reported statistics, we award more associate degrees, spend less on administrative costs, and spend more on student support than the average of our cohort. Our job placement rate is steadily climbing. We have the highest student success rate among all technical colleges in South Carolina. We are ranked in the top five percent nationally for successful student transfers to four-year colleges and universities.

How do we achieve these results? One could argue the framework to support these outcomes was established more than a decade ago when we adopted the Learning College principles initially developed by Terry O'Banion, former president of the League for Innovation in the Community College. Since that time we have achieved several significant milestones—implementing the Learning Excellence Initiative (2006), establishing Learning Communities (2006), developing our Ten-Year Vision (2010), and defining the Transformative Student Experience (2014). The next major milestone will be the implementation of High Impact Practices (HIPs), which we are in the process of developing as our Quality Enhancement Plan for SACS reaffirmation.

Underpinning each milestone is an array of initiatives to improve student learning and outcomes, a testament to the creativity, dedication, and hard work of each of you whose role it is to help our students achieve their goals by creating a challenging, caring, and supportive learning environment. It takes all of us to create this environment, and our outcomes and accomplishments prove we are providing exactly what our students and our communities need.

At the end of the day, our goal is to help our students be successful. Doing that is a reward in itself. Any external recognition we may receive is validation that we are serving our students, and therefore, this community well. Thank you for personifying our vision to be "Passionate people transforming lives and building strong communities one student at a time."



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D., President



Spotlight on Community Paramedic Program

Tri-County First in State to Offer Community Paramedic Training

The first Community Paramedic Training program in the State will be offered by the College beginning February 9 at our Easley Campus.

The course will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6–9:30. Participants must have been employed as a paramedic with an agency for two years or more on a full- or part-time basis.

The 300-hour program exceeds the 225-hour minimum required by State guidelines, which calls for 100 instructive and 125 clinical hours of training. Tri-County's program offers 100 hours of classroom training, 150 clinical hours, and an additional 50 lab hours. The classes conclude May 26. The cost is \$1795 plus books and test fee.

The College's Community Paramedic Program (CPP) was approved by the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Advisory Board of the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control at its December 10 meeting. "Communities are expanding the role of paramedics to provide better, more cost-effective healthcare," said Andrela Riley, healthcare director for Healthcare Excellence in the Corporate and Community Education Division. "Our role is to provide the training they need to make this possible."

According to Steven McDade, 911 director for Anderson County and a member of the CPP advisory consortium, "Community Paramedic Training is a valuable, advanced credential for a paramedic whose role as a health-care professional is to provide emergency treatment, including advanced life support, to patients in life-threatening situations. A community paramedic extends primary care and public health services back into the home and approaches each case holistically by educating the patient on his or her condition with the goal of reducing re-admittance to the hospital," he explained.

According to Andrela, paramedics are trained to provide emergency services, but many times the calls they respond to are not true emergencies. Training EMTs in community paramedicine helps to fill the gaps in community health care and reduce the use of expensive emergency services for non-emergent conditions.

"This training takes the EMT beyond responding to emergency calls and utilizes their talents and services for preventative and follow-up care. Doing so helps to lessen patients' reliance on



*Community Paramedic Program Advisory Consortium members discuss the program and its curriculum at a recent meeting. From left are **Randy Bowers**, owner of Bowers Emergency Services; **Lynn Addis**, Certified Nurse Aide training coordinator for the Corporate and Community Education Division; **Steven McDade**, 911 director for Anderson County; **Dan Cooper**, director of economic development and government relations; **Andrela Riley**, director for Healthcare Excellence in the Corporate and Community Education Division; and **Chris Bowers**, who is over the operations unit and a paramedic at Bowers Emergency Services.*

emergency services," added Andrela.

Studies have shown that the most frequent users of emergency room and emergency medical services include those with multiple chronic health conditions who also have issues surrounding transportation, understanding communications, or maintaining their independence. "They often have low income, cultural or language barriers, and medication dependencies," said Andrela. "More attention to their transition back into the home helps to decrease follow-up calls to emergency services."

"Community Paramedic Training puts the paramedic in a preventative role as opposed to a reactionary role," said Chris Bowers, who is over the Operations Unit and a paramedic at Bowers Emergency Services in Easley. "It changes and expands the mindset of the paramedic," he added.

"The need for community paramedics is huge in the tri-county area because we are losing paramedics to upward mobility. Many are going back to school for advanced degrees to work as RNs and physicians' assistants so the need is ongoing," said Bowers.

"A healthy community is our collective goal—maintaining folks' chronic conditions at home before they get out of hand. This can be a life-changing event, which leads to healthier communities," he said. He added that community-based health takes the stress away from the health care system, with regard to ambulances, the emergency room, and family physicians.

But he says it takes the combined efforts of those who have a stake in maintaining the health and well-being of community residents for this to succeed. "It involves collaboration among EMS, hospitals, physicians, nurses, home health agencies, and pharmacies. We are all looking for ways

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Ashley Isreal Meets One-On-One with Bill Gates

Ashley Isreal, student development generalist and Ph.D. student in Educational Leadership at Clemson University, had the rare opportunity to meet personally with Microsoft Co-Founder and Philanthropist Bill Gates November 2.

Ashley is one of eight Gates Millennium Scholars attending Clemson. During the 15-minute visit, Ashley discussed her background and career goals with Mr. Gates. She also used the visit as an opportunity to thank him personally and express how this 10-year prestigious scholarship has impacted her life.

The other purpose of Mr. Gates's visit to Clemson was to host "A Conversation with Bill Gates: The Future Generation's Role in Addressing the World's Greatest Challenges," a Q & A with students, which took place at Tillman Hall.



Ashley Isreal, student development generalist and Ph.D. student in Educational Leadership at Clemson University, fourth from left, was among the eight Gates Millennium Scholars attending Clemson University who met with Senator **Lindsey Graham**, **Bill Gates**, and Clemson University President **James Clements** November 2. Also in the photo is Gates Scholar **Antonio Harrison**, front row, orange jacket, who is the son of Grants Director **Laneika Musalini**.

SGA Hosts iConnect Events

The Student Government Association hosted iConnect events on all campuses to connect students with clubs, organizations, and services. Participants learned what the college has to offer and had the opportunity to expand their connections.

*RIGHT: **Houston Kelly**, of Central, a Welding major; middle, gets scholarship information from **Courtney White**, director of development, at the iConnect event held at the Industrial Technology Center. **Dallas Ueckert**, of Belton, also a Welding major, is seen at left filling out an application.*



*The League of Women Voters set up a voter registration table at the event. **Andre Jarboe**, of Clemson, a University Transfer major, third from left, was among the students who registered to vote. Here, he talks to **Linda Gahan**, of the League for Women Voters.*



*Student leaders were on hand to answer questions and talk about upcoming activities. Pictured from left are **Daniel Averette**, a Student Ambassador; **Brooks Young**, a member of the Student Republicans Club; **Jimmy Knott**, treasurer of the Student Government Association (SGA); and **Rebecca Griebno**, secretary of the SGA.*

C2C Students Receive High School Diplomas



Six graduates show off their high school diplomas following the Connect to College (C2C) graduation ceremony December 17. Pictured left to right are **Brentley J. Capps**, Seneca High School; **Linsey E. Farr**, Crescent High School; **DaVaughn T. Dawson**, T.L. Hanna High School; **Cristian J. Orellana**, Westside High School; **Garris D. Breazeale**, West-Oak High School; and **Laina N. Neal**, West-Oak High School. Not pictured is **Brooke E. Turner**, Easley High School, who was unable to attend the ceremony.

Connect to College enables academically capable youth between the ages of 17-20 to simultaneously earn their high school diploma and college credit, up to and including a postsecondary credential. The first of its kind in South Carolina, C2C is a “second chance” program for students who, for a variety of reasons, have not been successful in a traditional high school setting. The program provides students with intensive support services that build confidence and foster success in a collegiate learning environment.



College Hosts “State of Pendleton” Event

Tri-County Technical College hosted the annual “State of Pendleton” event featuring presentations by **Dr. Booth**, **Mayor Frank Crenshaw**, and **Dr. Joanne Avery**, superintendent of Anderson School District Four. This year’s event featured a “Taste of Pendleton” with food and beverages provided by nine area restaurants and food purveyors. An estimated 100 people attended the event, which was coordinated by the Clemson Area Chamber of Commerce.

Celebrate Black History Through Film

These informative and inspirational documentary films will be shown on all campuses during February.

The March @ 50

Fifty years after the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, has America delivered on the marchers’ demands for jobs, freedom, equal education, and voting rights?

This documentary looks at how far we’ve come and how far we still have to go to address the major issues of the Civil Rights Era all these decades later.

February 9—Anderson Campus, 12:30 p.m.

February 10—Easley Campus, 11 a.m.

February 10—Pendleton Campus, PK 146, 1:20 p.m.

Freedom Riders

From May until November 1961, more than 400 black and white Americans risked their lives for simply traveling together on buses and trains as they journeyed through the Deep South.

This saga features testimony from a fascinating cast of central characters: the Freedom Riders themselves, State and federal government officials, and journalists who witnessed the Rides firsthand.

February 17—Anderson Campus—12:30 p.m.

February 17—Pendleton Campus PK 146—1:20 p.m.

February 18—Easley Campus—11 a.m.

Not in Our Town

This documentary chronicles three different stories of students as they stand together against hate and bullying in their communities. It was shown February 2, 3, and 4 at the Anderson, Easley, and Pendleton Campuses.

Other Events Planned During February:

Black History All Campus Jeopardy with author and educator Bryant Smith will be held Wednesday, February 24, 1:20–2:20 p.m. in the Marshall Parker Auditorium.

Contact: Croslena Johnson, Student Life & Counseling; cjohnso5@tctc.edu, or Ext. 1568 for further information.

Our College Family



Amanda Blanton

excellence through service

Amanda Blanton Is A. Wade Martin Nominee

Amanda Blanton, director of high school engagement and outreach, is our nominee for the A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year Award.

This award, to be given at the SCTEA Conference, recognizes individuals in the technical college system who employ innovative approaches to meet the ever-changing needs in the technical education arena and whose achievements assist in Statewide economic development and the education of students.

Amanda's work with public school officials and industry leaders for more than two years led to the development of a unique technical career pathways pilot program with school districts to provide students with the employer-defined skills needed in advanced manufacturing and other STEM-related careers.

Each program is unique to each district and includes pathways for Mechatronics, Industrial Electronics, and HVAC.

A \$1 million state-funded proviso is making it possible for these high school students to take college courses in career pathways with little or no out-of-pocket cost. The Career Pathways to Success program enables students to achieve a Tri-County credential by the time they graduate from high school. It gives them a head start on college, allowing them

to complete an associate degree within one year of full time study after high school.

This spring, 154 are enrolled in Technical Operations I certificate (Mechatronics, IET), Welding certificate, Automotive certificate, GET, and HVAC.

In addition to developing pathways to support advanced manufacturing, this year Amanda expanded pathways in health, business, and public services programs. Like the technical pathways, students may be awarded TAP credit for articulated high school courses and also begin taking college courses that give students a head start toward their associate degree. All pathways show a clear road map for each program and include stackable credentials, job outlook, and salary information. As a result of these newly developed pathways, school districts have reconsidered their dual (high school) credit policies and are now offering high school credit for many college courses in the applied sciences, not just traditional University Transfer courses. As a result, dual enrollment opportunities have been opened to many more high school students who would have never considered taking college courses.

The A. Wade Martin "Innovator of the Year" Award reflects the foresight and ambitious standards of excellence exemplified by A. Wade Martin, who was the first executive director of the technical and industrial training program in South Carolina. The State winner will be announced at the annual SCTEA conference in February.



Scott Harvey

Congratulations to **Scott Harvey**, our registrar, who was elected to serve as President of the Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (CACRAO). CACRAO is dedicated to the advancement of higher education; the promotion of professional development of its members; and

the fostering of a spirit of unity, cooperation and exchange of ideas through annual meetings, committee activities, and workshops. He assumes his new responsibilities this month.

Dan Cooper, director of Economic Development and Government Relations, recently completed the 2015 South Carolina Economic Development Institute. The year-long program met quarterly for two-day sessions in different

areas of the State that have been successful in community development and attracting and expanding their business and industrial base. Attendees gained insight into issues relating to water and wastewater infrastructure, available industrial or business buildings, and the importance of other community development components necessary to attract investment.

The Institute is a partnership between the South Carolina Department of Commerce and the South Carolina Economic Developers' Association (SCEDA). The program emphasizes elements necessary to be competitive in today's global economy and educates supporters of economic development on emerging trends.



Dan Cooper



Jessica Johnson

in transition

Jessica Johnson is the Assistant Manager of the Café. For the last three years, she served as Kitchen Manager. She is a graduate of Westside High School and worked in the food industry for more than nine years. She and her daughter, Jalayah, 2, live in Anderson.

Shanette Hampton (photo not available) is the Acquisitions and Cataloguing Coordinator in the Library. She holds a B.S. in Computer Science from South Carolina State University and an M.B.A. from Keller University. She comes to us from Clemson University, where she spent 15 years a Cataloger for the Cooper Library. Shanette lives in Central.

Sharon Richards (photo not available) joined us this semester as a Psychology instructor. She earned a B.A. in Psychology from Southern Adventist University and an M.S. in Psychology from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. She is working on her

Ph.D. in Educational Psychology through Capella University. She spent the last seven years teaching as an adjunct at Southern Adventist University. Prior to that she was an online faculty Associate at Ashford University for two years. Sharon resides in Seneca.



Aida Laham

Aida Laham is the Marketing Coordinator for the Marketing Department and will be handling social media. She graduated from the American University of Sharjah in Dubai with a bachelor's degree in Marketing in 2013. While in college, she was Activities Coordinator for American University's Marketing Club. Following graduation she accepted an internship with Bosch Middle East in Dubai, where she was the Assistant to the Regional Communications Coordinator. Her focus was on social media. She and her family moved to South Carolina in 2013, and they reside in Anderson.

Three Faculty/Staff Members Honored as Tri-County's Educators of the Year



Cara Hamilton

Three faculty/staff members have been honored as Tri-County Technical College's Educators of the Year and will be recognized at the South Carolina Technical Education Association (SCTEA) meeting in February.

Cara Hamilton, vice president for business affairs, is the College's outstanding administrator;

Ashley Brady, Veterinary Technology department head, is the outstanding instructor; and **Melinda Zeigler**, administrative assistant for the Business and Public Services Division, is the outstanding staff nominee.

SCTEA is a professional association of technical education personnel and others interested in post-secondary technical education.

Cara joined Tri-County in May 2013, as Director of Fiscal Affairs, and in October of 2015 she accepted her current leadership role. She



Ashley Brady

provides leadership to Fiscal Affairs, Campus Safety, Information Technology, Physical Plant, Financial Aid, and Auxiliary Services.

A 2000 alumna of the College's Veterinary Technology program, Ashley worked in veterinary practices as a Licensed Veterinary Technician (L.V.T.) before she joined the teaching staff at the College in 2007 as Director of the Evening Program. She assumed the Department Head role following the retirement of Dr. Peggy Champion in 2014.

Ashley was named Licensed Veterinary Technician of the Year last October at the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians (SCAV) Southeast Veterinary Conference.

Melinda joined the College in 1991 after graduating from the Secretarial Science program (now Administrative Office Technology). She worked as the Secretary for the Faculty/Staff Development Office from 1991-1995. Since that time, she has served as the Division Secretary for the Business and Public Services Division.



Melinda Zeigler

Getting To Know You

This month we feature three married couples who are employed at the College.

Lara Wrightson

*Instructor of Political Science,
Coordinator of Instructional
Activities for Social Sciences*

Josh Wrightson

Campus Store Manager

1. What is the best part of your job?

LARA: I have always enjoyed being in the classroom. I am fascinated with my subject and have loved teaching since the first day I walked into a classroom.

JOSH: I really enjoy being a part of a valuable public service. Selling goods based on an academic need is much more rewarding than the typical retail experience that I came from.

2. Pros of sharing the same workplace?

LARA: It makes the inconveniences of life less inconvenient. I forgot my phone one day, but it was easy to contact Josh and let him know so that he wouldn't worry. When his car was being repaired, he didn't have to set up a ride or a rental.

JOSH: Even though we are only a building away from one another on most days, we rarely see each other at work. But when we are not at work, we are usually both not at work, which was not typical with my last job. Being able to spend weekends and holidays together is an experience that many married couples probably take for granted or at the very least as a given. But we are getting to experience that for the first time.

3. Cons of sharing the same workplace?

LARA: I was hopeful that Josh and I would be able to get to have lunch together once in a while. But, as we both tend to work through lunch, that just hasn't happened yet. I think we've run into each other three times on campus since he started working here in October.

JOSH: We do not really get to see each other at work. We have not had a chance to eat lunch together outside of the holiday drop-ins.

4. Do you carpool to work?

LARA: No. I wish we could! The hours we each work are too different for us to make that happen.

JOSH: We initially had plans to try and carpool together, but our schedules are not similar enough for it to work out. Lara teaches at the Easley Campus as well as the Pendleton Campus. But when I had some car trouble, she and I were able to make carpooling work for us for a day or two.



5. How often do you talk Tri-County at home?

LARA: Regularly. We've always checked in with each other on how our day went and what's going on in our lives. Now we just have more names and situations in common.

JOSH: Pretty regularly, I think. In the context of, "How was your day, honey?" Things like that.

Jennifer Hulehan

*Comprehensive Studies Department
Head*

Trent Hulehan

*Automotive Technology Program
Coordinator/Instructor*

1. What is the best part of your job?

JENNIFER: Facilitating change in other people's lives in an intentional way: being a part of the College Transitions Division allows me to work with amazing people in ways that make a real difference for our students, our College, and our community. Also, CT leadership meetings are filled with laughter. I mean, we laugh A LOT. In the last few years, my favorite part of working at Tri-County has been the freedom to think outside the box and try new things. It's nice outside the box. I like it here.

TRENT: Watching our students succeed in life after graduation.

2. Pros of sharing the same workplace?

JENNIFER: He "feels my pain" now, and vice-versa. This makes it easier to support one another during times of work stress. There's nothing like knowing someone really gets your frustration...or excitement...because he's actually been there, done that.

TRENT: We have the same vacation days, and who else gets to kiss a co-worker?

3. Cons of sharing the same workplace?

JENNIFER: More people than ever before talk to me about cars and car problems as if I have any clue about what they're saying. Spoiler alert: I don't. I can totally tell you when you're using commas wrong, though.

TRENT: There are a lot of people who know my name and face, but I can't remember their names. It can be awkward sometimes.

4. Do you carpool to work?

JENNIFER: No. Because I have a sports car, and a good mechanic who keeps it in top shape. Have you seen what Trent drives?

TRENT: No, that would be too easy.



5. *How often do you talk Tri-County at home?*

JENNIFER: More often than before. Now Trent knows the secret #TriCountyLife language, so he actually knows what I'm talking about when I say things like "HIPS are part of the QEP for SACS-COC (Cee-Oh-Cee) and are an important part of delivering the TSE. They grew out of the last QEP, which was the LEI, which became the LC^2 that was part of T3. This is unrelated to TSS." Just kidding. We don't talk like that at home. That would be lame.

TRENT: Whenever appropriate or something really good or bad happens. Just like you would with any place of employment.

Stephanie Winkler

Disabilities Coordinator

Donny Winkler

Science Instructor



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

STEPHANIE: I love working with students and helping them get through challenges. I'm passionate about helping people improve their lives. The best way to do that is through education and employment so working at TCTC is the perfect fit. Also, I love that I am able to use my law degree and legal background in a unique and non-traditional way.

DONNY: I really enjoy teaching Physics and sharing my passion for science. I've always been fascinated with how the world works, and I enjoy introducing these concepts to students and

challenging them to think about the world in a new way. My favorite part of teaching is when former students return and tell me about their careers and life after TCTC.

Stephanie and Donny combined their answers for the remainder of the questions.

2. *Pros of sharing the same workplace?*

We like to bounce ideas off of each other. It's convenient to be able to get a faculty/staff member's perspective anytime you need it.

3. *Cons of sharing the same workplace?*

Annual leave is very different for faculty and staff so planning a family vacation is always a challenge. Christmas break is the only time we can take a long trip.

4. *Do you carpool to work?*

We wish! We have very busy and different schedules. Each semester we have to adjust and figure out how to get Lauren to and from preschool, gymnastics, church, etc. We always have to divide and conquer!

5. *How often do you talk Tri-County at home?*

At home, we are very focused on our family, and we try to leave work at work. We really don't talk about TCTC very often unless one of us needs a different perspective on an issue or there is a funny story to share. However, Lauren likes to play school and pretend she is working at TCTC so maybe we discuss it more than we realize!



Rachel Campbell received this note from an appreciative parent, **Susan Hagins:**

"You may not remember me, but three years ago my daughter, Sadie, and I visited you and the campus of TCTC. Because of the time that you took with us and the counsel that you gave us on that day, Sadie is starting her final semester of the Vet Tech program today. She has fallen in love with this career path and already has a job lined up to start May 11. She has flourished by being a part of this program, growing as a person of character and faith, as well as one of knowledge. I wanted you to know that you were a pivotal influence in her life, and there is no greater joy than watching your child find and run down her chosen path with such joy in her heart.

I know that she is not the only one that you have touched

with your patient, personal care, but I wanted to thank you because she is MY one."

Ken Kopera sent this note to highlight the good work of several employees:

"On Saturday, January 2, 2016, while Officer **Dana Miles** of Campus Safety was making her building inspections, she noticed water on the 4th and 5th floors of the Fulp building. She contacted the Physical Plant, and **Terry Heg** responded. Turns out an emergency eye wash station was leaking. Terry contacted David Kreft of the Budd Group, and his folks, along with Terry, helped to clean up the mess and ensure there was minimal impact to employees upon their return on January 4. Many thanks to Dana for doing her job so thoroughly and to Terry, David, and his folks for responding and minimizing the impact of this situation. It's good to know we have employees and business partners we can count on any day of the year."

Foundation News

Nix Supports Foundation with Memorial Gift



Ralph Nix, owner of Ralph's Trophy Shop in Seneca and a longtime friend of the College, third from left, presented a check for \$1,500 to the Foundation in support of the scholarship he established in memory of his wife, the late Brenda B. Nix. Pictured with him are, from left, **Debbie Nelms**, fiscal analyst, **Courtney White**, director of development, and **Grayson Kelly**, executive director of the Foundation.



McGee Donation Supports ITC

Representatives of McGee Heating and Air presented a check for \$5,000 to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation for their final payment to be applied to the pledge they made to name a room at the Industrial Technology Center. Pictured from left to right are **Chad Ankerich**, manager of the Georgia Division; **Robert Kesler**, manager of the South Carolina Division; **Walter McGee**, owner; **Dr. Booth**; and **Grayson Kelly**, executive director of the Foundation.

Mary Johnston Departs College

The Institutional Advancement team hosted a reception January 29 for longtime Tri-County staff member and ambassador Mary Johnston, who, after 23 years, departed the College to spend more time with her family. Mary joined the College in 1993, five years after earning a degree in Secretarial Science (now Administrative Office Technology). After working as a Secretary in industry, she was hired as the Secretary for the Institutional Development Division (Foundation) and later became Alumni Relations Director, a position she held until her departure and one that was near and dear to her. Working with the Alumni Board and promoting the Alumni Association were Mary's passions, and she devoted many hours to fundraising activities, such as the annual Alumni Golf Tournament.

Mary says Tri-County will always be important to her because it's where she met her husband, Danny, a 2006 graduate of our Practical Nursing program, and where she spent most of her career. Mary always challenged graduates to join her in the commitment to making Tri-County a role-model college. As she once said, "As graduates, we are living, breathing, first-hand examples of the success that Tri-County generates. I want to be part of cultivating success in the lives of others who are just beginning their educational journey." Her dedication was exemplified at the reception when she made a contribution to support the Alumni Association.



ABOVE: **Mary Johnston**, center, poses with co-workers, pictured from left, (front row) **Beth Byars**, **Laneika Musalini**, and **Grayson Kelly**, and (back row) **Tammy Fiske**, **Courtney White**, and **Debbie Nelms**.

INSET: On display at the reception was a collage of photos dating back to when **Mary Johnston** (pictured here) was a student.

Fall Semester Professional Development Day



ABOVE: **Scott Jaeschke**, coordinator of Community Standards, reviewed campus policies and procedures that regulate student conduct and employee responses during a session, titled “Successfully Navigating Campus Conduct: Student and Employee Rights and Responsibilities.” Participants learned about Title IX, the administrators who handle conduct matters, how the Campus Safety Department fits into the picture, how to refer situations to the conduct process, and what to expect during a conduct investigation.

TOP LEFT: **Deborah Brock**, instructor in the Medical Laboratory Technology program and coordinator of faculty development, facilitated a session titled “TSE and the QEP: Joined at the HIP” for faculty and staff during Professional Development Day December 14. The session gave participants an overview of the importance of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) requirement for Tri-County’s re-accreditation process and the role we all play in creating and delivering the Transformative Student Experience (TSE). Deborah is holding a model that represents the different elements of High Impact Practices (HIPs).



Bob White, applications analyst in the Information Technology (IT) Department, and **Dr. Jerry Marshall**, mathematics instructor, enjoy sharing information about high-impact practices during the “TSE and the QEP: Joined at the HIP” session.



Matt Edwards, director of the Information Technology (IT) Department, gave an overview of IT Resources, including the new Office 365 cloud services that provide new ways to collaborate and work using Skype, One Drive, and more.

Mark your calendars for Spring Professional Day set for Tuesday, March 1.

Dr. Booth Hosts President's List Reception

Dr. Booth, center, hosted a reception January 27 for students named to the President's List for Fall Semester. He is pictured above, center with those who attended the event. To be named to the President's List, one must earn at least 12 credit hours and attain a 4.0 GPA for the semester. To view all of the photos from the event, visit the College's public website at tctc.edu and click on the Flickr link.



Dr. Booth and Health Education Division Dean **Dr. Lynn Lewis**, both standing, get acquainted with students who attended the reception.



Cara Hamilton, vice president for business affairs, left, gets to know **Matthew Charles Cothran** and **Nyah Az Mitchell**.



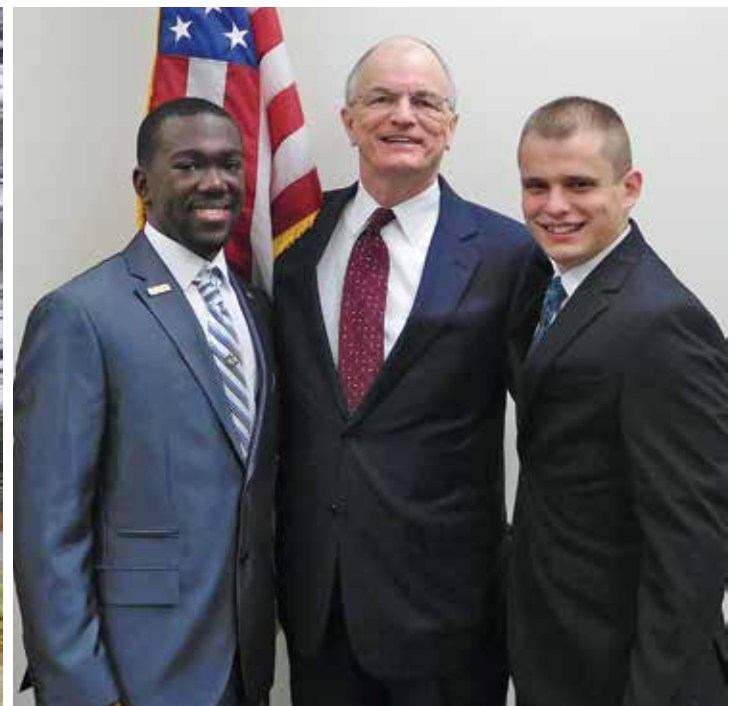
Spring Semester Gets Underway

Spring semester got off to a great start with 5,535 students enrolled as of the end of the first week of classes. Here, friends reunite and catch up after the holiday break.

Students Share TCTC Experience with Legislators



Samuel Hill, SGA vice president, (second from left), and **Caleb Allen**, SGA president, (third from left), pose with their respective representatives in the South Carolina General Assembly during the College's annual legislative delegation breakfast with representatives of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties in Columbia January 26. Samuel, an Associate in Science major from Townville, is represented by his brother, **Rep. Jonathan Hill**, District 8 (far left). Caleb, a Mechatronics major from Starr, is represented by **Rep. Mike Gambrell**, District 7, (far right). Both students traveled to Columbia with Dr. Booth to share their TCTC experiences and thank the legislators for supporting the College.



LEFT: TCTC students **Samuel Hill** and **Caleb Allen** pose in front of the State Capitol following a meeting with legislators from Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. Caleb, a Mechatronics major and SGA president, works as an intern at E & I Engineering in Anderson. Samuel, an Associate in Science major and SGA vice president, aspires to enroll at the United States Naval Academy.

ABOVE: **Dr. Booth** thanks **Caleb Allen** (left) and **Samuel Hill** (right) for accompanying him to Columbia to meet with members of the S.C. General Assembly. Both young men spoke with legislators about their experiences as students and how Tri-County is helping them to reach their goals.

Crowd Learns about Job Training and Scholarships At Expo



Marshall Bowman of Anderson, who has taken some general education classes, talks with **Susan Mason**, employment coordinator at Reliable Sprinkler, about job opportunities at the plant in Liberty.

Around 100 individuals turned out to learn about short-term job training programs and scholarships that can fund them at the College's Career Expo held January 8.

The scholarships are for short-term training that is linked to jobs in our community.

Attendees interviewed with companies, learned about the QuickJobs career training programs, and how the training can impact their lives. Ninety percent of the attendants completed QuickJobs training scholarship applications.



Lenora Williams, of Belton, front, and **Janie Massey**, in background, fill out paperwork at the Career Expo. Lenora, who has worked in social services, is looking for a career change.

QuickJobs Scholarship

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more funding to be available. We urge folks to check our Facebook page facebook.com/tctc.cce for updates," she added.

"We offer classes that help you obtain the skills that you need to enter the workforce. Individuals can obtain these basic skills in as little as one week or up to 30 weeks based on the technical skills needed in each career," said Rick Cothran, dean of our CCE Division. He added that QuickJobs classes are designed to upgrade one's skills and can be completed in less than a year (before summer 2016). For a list of programs, go to tctc.edu/Learn.

"We have 90 approved applications in health care classes alone, courtesy of the scholarships. Despite high interest, in the past, there weren't scholarships available for programs like Certified Nursing Assistant, EMT, Medical Coding, and Phlebotomy. The interest was always there, but many couldn't afford the tuition," she explained.

Another in-demand program that continues to attract applicants is the South Carolina Manufacturing Certification (SCMC), a quick, yet comprehensive training route for individuals seeking to enhance their skills and to secure full-time employment as operators in manufacturing or other organizations. "Our SCMC training provides individuals the opportunity to earn national credentials that manufacturing employers understand. It shows that you have the skills sets to fill those in-demand jobs," said Rick.

Truck Driving is another high-interest program that can qualify individuals for employment in just five weeks. "Our classes feature a maximum class size of four students so individuals receive considerable attention from instructors, in addition to drive time. Currently, we have 10 students approved to start the Class A Truck Driving CDL class," said Teresa.

Another popular class is the A+ Computer Service Technician Certificate program. This training is in great demand with industry and is targeted to anyone with basic computer user skills who is interested in obtaining a job as an IT professional or PC technician.

"These QuickJobs training programs are designed to build technical skills that can help move you to the front of the line when competing for employment in the areas of administration, healthcare, highway construction, manufacturing, and truck driving. Soft skills development is often just as important; therefore, soft skills are integrated into each of our training programs." Rick added.

"This training can put the unemployed to work, as well as the underemployed, who are in entry-level jobs but have the capabilities to handle a more sophisticated job or to move from part time to full time. We are working with the economic developers and employers in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties, and all training programs are tied to open jobs in our service area," said Rick.

Student Veterans Deliver Gifts to Veterans Nursing Home

The TCTC Student Veterans' Association (SVA) on December 9 delivered more than 40 gift bags of personal care products, hats, gloves, treats, and more to the residents of the Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home in Anderson.

The gifts were collected via the Angel Tree benevolence project at the Anderson Campus during the month of November. Students, staff, faculty, and community members participated by donating.

*Student Veterans' Association (SVA) members **Michael Holden** and **Brandon Stockton** (far left and far right), **Stacey Frank**, veteran and social sciences faculty member, and **Julio Salazar**, SVA president, surround the gift bags they delivered to the Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home December 9.*



Tri-County Competes for Aspen Prize

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to ten finalists, and the winner will be named early in 2017.

Awarded every two years, the Aspen Prize recognizes institutions for outstanding achievement and performance in four areas: student learning; certificate and degree completion; employment and earnings; and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students.

"We are honored to be chosen to compete for the nation's preeminent award recognizing the highest levels of achievement and performance among community colleges. This isn't a competition we can enter ourselves. It's a privilege to be invited to compete," said Dr. Booth.

"We have the highest student success rate among all sixteen technical colleges in South Carolina. We also rank in the top five percent nationally for successful student transfer to four-year colleges and universities. These outcomes are part of our proven track record of student success and a testament to the creativity and hard work of our faculty, staff, and students," he said.

"Our vision says it all—'Passionate people transforming lives

and building strong communities one student at a time.' We do that by creating a challenging, caring, and supportive learning environment where every student has the opportunity to succeed. We are proud to be recognized nationally for our excellent work."

Nearly half of America's college students attend community college, with more than seven million students—youth and adult learners—working towards certificates and degrees in these institutions across the country.

"Community colleges have tremendous power to change lives, and their success will increasingly define our nation's economic strength and the potential for social mobility in our country," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "This competition is designed to spotlight the excellent work being done in the most effective community colleges, those that best help students obtain meaningful, high-quality education and training for competitive-wage jobs after college. We hope it will raise the bar and provide a roadmap to better student outcomes for community colleges nationwide."

Spotlight on Community Paramedic Program

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to be more efficient and keep our residents out of the hospitals."

Echoed Randy Bowers, owner of Bowers Emergency Services, "This training will revitalize and change the profession for the better."

Until now, community paramedic training was unavailable anywhere in the State. "Communities were having to send EMTs out of state to places like Texas to get the training they needed to become certified," said Andrela. "We are pleased to be able to provide this training in close proximity to meet their needs."

According to Andrela, Abbeville County has been a trailblazer in the field of community paramedicine, and assisted Tri-County in developing its training program. "We have been fortunate to have representatives from the county to help us develop the curriculum. We are pleased to be part of the solution and helping to make our community better," she added.

For more information, contact Andrela Riley at 646-1724 or ariley@tctc.edu.

Students Learn about Häring's Apprenticeship Program

Andreas Lehnhofer, president and CEO of Häring USA, spoke to students about training and career opportunities that will be available at the company's new U.S. facility set to open in Georgia in 2017. Häring USA is a leading global manufacturer of precision components and subassemblies for the automotive industry.

Last year, two Industrial Electronics Technology seniors were accepted into the Häring Apprentice Program and departed for Germany January 2 to embark on this incredible opportunity. Devan Cheek and Ian McCraw will train for three years at the company's Bubsheim, Germany, facility.

Lehnhofer told the students assembled at the presentation that those accepted into the training program will receive:

- Training and an academic foundation in Häring's state-of-the-art production processes and environments, with rotations and cross-training to learn all areas of manufacturing;
- A special coach to work with participants and a detailed training plan to help determine the best track of training for individuals' skills and aptitudes; and
- Language training to learn German.



- Other benefits include:
- A salary, insurance, paid vacation/holidays, and one annual economy round-trip airplane ticket to the United States;
- An apartment within walking distance of the training academy and lunch and dinner at Häring's on-site cafeteria, at no expense to participants; and
- Assistance with relocation to the United State after training in Germany is complete.

Executive Staff Summary

- **STRATEGIC PLANNING:** Reviewed and synthesized the body of work developed by the President's Advisory Council to identify FY 2017 strategic initiatives. Initiatives will align with the College's four strategic directions, which were validated at the beginning of the planning process: Driving Organizational Success through Our People; Reinventing Our Offerings to Adapt to Changing Realities; Positioning and Equipping Students for Success; and Embracing Personal Accountability for Students' Learning.
- **LEARNING COLLEGE 101 FOR STAFF:** The inaugural LC 101 class for new staff began in January. LC 101 is designed to provide employees with an opportunity to integrate into the TCTC culture, discover their role in helping students to reach their goals, and learn College processes, procedures, and other information that will help them to be successful employees. The staff

component is new this semester and will integrate with the LC 101 faculty component to cover common topics throughout the semester.

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY:** College-wide professional development is scheduled for March 1. The morning will include sessions for all employees, and the afternoon will be used for division-specific development activities.
- **COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN:** Reviewed the updated Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, which is now posted on the Campus Safety channel in eTC, as well as a mock-up for a desktop and classroom/lab "at a glance" reference guide that includes safety information.
- **OTHER:** SACS visit preparations; College One-Stop; Spring Semester enrollment; and policy and procedure reviews.