

# Connection

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## Spring Semester Gets Underway

Parking lots and classrooms quickly filled as Spring Semester got underway on January 13. As of the end of the second week of classes, enrollment was 6,084 compared with 5,094 in Spring Semester 2013.

To alleviate parking problems, Pendleton Campus students and employees have had the opportunity to use the College’s Mechanic Street parking lot, located approximately one-half mile from campus across from Subway. Hours are Monday-Thursday from 7 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Fridays. The parking lot is patrolled by Campus Safety, and a continuous shuttle service transports students and employees to and from the Pendleton Campus.



## College Kicks Off Black History Month

The College will recognize the achievements, contributions, and culture of African Americans, as well as celebrate diversity through relevant workshops and presentations during Black History Month.

### ANDERSON CAMPUS:

A dedication and grand opening of our Rosenwald School at the Anderson Campus is set for Friday, February 28, at 11 am. Anderson Mayor Terrence Roberts will be the keynote speaker.

### PENDLETON CAMPUS:

The Office of Student Life and Counseling Services (SLCS) will host four events at the Pendleton Campus during the month of February. Faculty, staff, students, and the community are welcome to attend any or all of the events, which are free. Events include:

**February 5** – “The Gifted Hand,” a life-changing movie based on the true story of Dr. Ben Carson, played by Cuba Gooding, Jr., will be shown from 1:20 - 3:20 p.m. in the Marshall Parker Auditorium.

**February 12** – The Clemson University Black Graduate Student Association will participate in a panel discussion titled “Empowerment Zone” from 1:20 - 2:20 p.m. in the Marshall Parker

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Commission Meeting – Feb. 3, Easley Campus  
Vet. Tech Continuing Education Seminar – Feb. 9  
Career Fair – Feb. 19  
SCTEA Conference – Feb. 20 – 22  
Professional Development Day – Feb. 25  
Faculty/Staff Meeting – Feb. 27  
Rosenwald School Dedication – Feb. 28, Anderson Campus  
REC/PACE Board event – March 6

Check the College Activities Calendar in eTC for additional activities and events.

## Connection

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### Mailing Address (All Campuses)

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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

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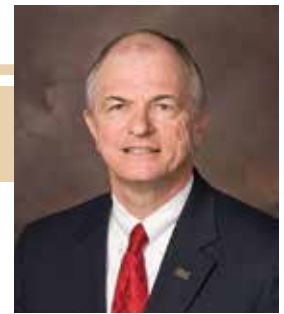
Website: [www.tctc.edu](http://www.tctc.edu)



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

## Challenge and Support Can Ignite Transformation



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth  
President

Our hard work is paying off.

For the first time in three years, we saw a significant increase in persistence and retention rates, and our graduation rate jumped 5 percent over last year. The strategies we have put into place – SmarterMeasure, success coaches, learning communities, DegreeWorks, online course evaluation, academic program review, and many others—are starting to show results. Other new strategies are underway, so we fully expect to see even more gains in the not-so-distant future.

For example, last fall we conducted hundreds of interviews with students, employees, and alumni to help us define the transformative student experience, which we are in the process of refining. Now it is time to determine next steps to ensure we can deliver on that promise.

We asked people to describe a significant transformative experience that changed the way they saw the world, and what made that experience so impactful. Over and over we heard these words: Someone cared. Cared enough to reach out, spend time with them, direct them to helpful resources, and encourage them when they were ready to give up.

A central theme emerged from these interviews and student survey responses. Students are looking for a challenging and supportive environment, and the elements necessary to create that environment include high standards, open and authentic communication, a sense of belonging, and personal responsibility. We do this quite well at certain times and/or in specific areas.

For example, our learning communities give students a sense of belonging, which is particularly important to the traditional college-age student. However, we have the opportunity to make improvements.

To deliver a transformative student experience, we have to develop and nurture a culture of service and find ways to address service problems. For example, we all have heard about a student that gets “ping-ponged” from office to office. What in our processes creates that type of problem? What do we need to do to deliver better service? The answer is a “Service Management Strategy,” which will provide us a way to work through those types of issues.

Currently, we have a team working on a “Service Management Strategy.” They will identify the workplace values, competencies, and behaviors that ensure we can deliver superior services to our students. Ultimately, their work will help us to create a culture that supports a transformative experience for all students.

Once we finalize and understand the TCTC definition of a transformative student experience, everyone will be aware of how his or her interactions with students impact their overall College experience.

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*“Students are looking for a challenging and supportive environment, and the elements necessary to create that environment include high standards, open and authentic communication, a sense of belonging, and personal responsibility.”*

~Dr. Ronnie Booth



# Spotlight on Employee Giving Campaign

## Your Gift, Your Choice

As a mother of two college graduates, Spanish instructor Marisa Shook knows first hand about the cost of college – and the value of scholarships to aid in tuition assistance.

“My oldest graduated from North Carolina State University and my youngest from Duke. Both of my daughters benefited tremendously from scholarships and grants,” Marisa said. Although she has contributed to the Hazel Booth Memorial Scholarship and to the United Way in the three years she’s been teaching here, this year she signed up for payroll deduction for the Foundation’s Annual Employee Giving Campaign, and designated her gift for general scholarships. She says an e-mail sent from Tammy Stout, manager of annual giving, prior to the holidays prompted her to do so.

Tammy sent the e-mail to all employees, asking them to consider giving to the 2013 campaign and outlined some ways to make specific gifts to the College, for example in the areas of health sciences, scholarships, computer technology, early childhood development, employee professional development, and veterinary technology.

“My brother always says it’s so much easier for people to pull money from your account than for you to push it to that person,” Marisa said, laughing. “Tammy’s e-mail reminded me how much our students really need scholarships for tuition and books. Most are taking full class loads, and many are working full-time jobs, sometimes on third shift. Some are married, some have children, some don’t have parental financial support. Many want to transfer to four-year colleges and universities. I think whenever you can help, you should.”

“We know your choices for community giving are numerous. That is why our goal is to help you to identify the area that best fits your passion and allows you to choose from dozens of funds,” said Tammy. “Honestly, there are many methods to support your college. Choose to name a gift in honor of your favorite pet, or honor a family member who was a nurse or electrician. Some employees have chosen to launch a scholarship fund with an



*Many thanks to the faculty and staff who contributed more than \$1,139 to the Hazel Strickland Booth Scholarship fund, established in memory of Dr. Booth’s mother. As in years past, all gifts will be matched by **Dr. Booth**, far right, for the scholarship fund, and will go toward the Employee Annual Campaign.*

*“The scholarship has been in existence since I first came to Tri-County in 2003, and I have always been amazed at the generosity of faculty and staff who give to it each year at Christmas,” said Dr. Booth. “Because of your donations, students are receiving the scholarship assistance they so desperately need to remain enrolled, and I thank you for making this possible.”*

***John Lummus**, vice president for economic and institutional advancement, left, accompanied Hazel’s Helpers, aka from left, **Beth Byars**, **Tammy Stout**, and **Courtney White**, to present Dr. Booth with the gift prior to the holidays.*

annuity or life insurance gift. Many give to specific departments.”

Tammy said she heard from Marisa the day after the e-mail was sent and she requested payroll deduction. “It’s the easy method of giving and spreads your commitment over the course of the year,” said Tammy.

“All contributions make a difference, and we understand that giving is a choice, so know that our door is always open to discuss your personal giving,” said Tammy.

The campaign closes February 7.

SPOTLIGHT is a regular feature of CONNECTION that highlights College instructional programs, activities, and support services. Surveys show that our own faculty and staff play a significant role in influencing potential students to apply to the College. We’re all ambassadors – so stay informed and keep doing a great job spreading the word that Tri-County is a great place to learn and grow!



# Our College Family

## excellence through service

**Paul Phelps**, Welding program coordinator, is our nominee for the A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year Award. This honor 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.



Paul Phelps

In the eight years that Paul has served as Program Coordinator, the Welding program's enrollment steadily has increased—from 60 to 105 students. In addition to teaching and advising, Paul assists local companies with pre-hire assessment, fabrication training, weld testing, quality improvement, and in writing procedures.

He was instrumental in shaping the design of the 43,000-square-foot Industrial Technology Center that houses the Welding and Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) programs.

Paul is often described as a gifted instructor, and industry partners compliment the welding skills, work ethic, safety, work habits, and workplace cleanliness of the students they hire.

Paul was honored with the highest award presented to the faculty, the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence, at the College's 2010 spring commencement.

The winner of the A. Wade Martin Award will be named at the annual South Carolina Technical Educators Conference February 20-22 at the Myrtle Beach Hilton Resort. The College's "Educators of the Year" also will be recognized at this event. (See related article on page 8.) Our own **Kevin Steele, Lou Ann Martin, Sarah Dowd, Amanda Nelson, Dr. Brian Swords, and George Fiori** will be making presentations at the conference.

The theme is SCTEA@40: The Future is NOW." Participants will learn what their colleagues from other colleges in the SC Technical Education System are doing NOW to create student and personal success. For additional information about the conference, visit [sctea.org](http://sctea.org).

**Jenni Creamer**, dean of the Transition to College unit, will be a session presenter at the 14th Annual International Conference of the Community College Baccalaureate Association to be held



Jenni Creamer

February 28-March 2 in Anaheim, California. Titled "Partnering for Success: Intentional Transfer Pathways," her session will focus on the elements and design of the Bridge to Clemson partnership between Tri-County and Clemson University.

**Dr. Brian Swords**, Easley Campus director and administrator of the College's QuickJobs Development Centers, has been reappointed to a second term on the Easley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Brian served as the Board Chairman during 2012, and was named Director of the Year in 2013.

## in transition

### ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

We welcome **Dr. Alfred P. "Hap" Wheeler** as the new Dean of the Arts and Sciences Division. Dr. Wheeler comes to us from Clemson University, where he spent much of his 32-year academic career as a professor and the last 10 years serving as chair of the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Life Sciences.



Dr. "Hap" Wheeler

As Chair he had the administrative responsibility for approximately 1500 undergraduates (the largest for any department on campus), about 90 graduate students (not including more than 100 enrollees in the on-line MS program), approximately 50 faculty, over 15 non-grant staff, greenhouses, the herbarium (plant museum) and the vertebrate museum, an imaging facility (now a university core facility), and several aquatic animal facilities.

Prior to taking on the duties as Chair, he was a regular faculty member in the Biological Sciences Department (previously the Department of Zoology), since 1976.

Dr. Wheeler says the Arts and Sciences Dean position interested him "because Tri-County is an institution for which an interest in student goals and success pervades all levels and areas. This is an ideal that most institutions aspire to, but relatively few achieve," he said.

He says he's composed a list of goals for the division. "They include increasing morale in all sectors by building relationships, listening, and then acting on what I hear. I have an interest in exploring ideas to enhance the success of all students while at the same time establishing opportunities for our most gifted students. As this division houses the majority of transfer students, I will be looking to increase the number of articulation

programs with four-year institutions.”

While at Clemson, he led the development of articulation programs with local technical colleges, including our Biological Sciences and our Microbiology degree programs. He arranged for the department to host laboratories for the Tri-County Vertebrate Biology course, which is part of the 2+2 program with Clemson.

He also maintained direct contact with students, serving as the Co-Coordinator of Undergraduate Programs. He also served as the Graduate Student Organization Faculty Sponsor and managed the Undergraduate Intern Program, which has grown to about 60 students.

He maintained a funded basic and applied research program with both graduate and undergraduate students involved in the projects. In addition to authoring journal articles, including three in Science, book chapters and edited volumes, he was a co-author on a number of patents. The applications work led to start-up companies. He was a Consultant for Donlar Corp. from 1991 – 99, and a Research Coordinator/Consultant, Board Member, Corporate Secretary, and Chairman of the Board for Biotechtronix, Inc. from 1993 – 95.

His honors and awards include 2010 Douglas W. Bradbury Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Honors College, Class of '39 Award for Excellence in 2002 – 03, Sigma Xi Research of the Year, 1997, Board of Trustee Award for Faculty Excellence, 1997, and the EPA Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award in conjunction with Donlar Corp, 1996.

Dr. Wheeler earned a Ph.D. in Zoology (minor Biochemistry) from Duke University and a B. S. in Chemistry and Zoology from Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana.

He and his wife, Carolyn Sue Lehr, reside in Clemson and are the parents of four adult children.

**Kevin Foley** is our new Lab Coordinator in the Science Department. Since August of 2013, he's been working as a member of our Chemistry Prep staff. For two years, he worked as a Lab Technician for Greenville Technical College's Biotechnology Department and served as a General, Organic, and Biochemistry Tutor for three years for its Physical Science Department.

He is a senior working on a B.S. in Biochemistry at Clemson University. He also holds an A.S. degree in Biotechnology from Greenville Tech. Kevin serves on the Chemical and Biological Waste Disposal Facility and Chemistry Hygiene Plan Project and Charter



*Kevin Foley*

Committee at Tri-County. He and his wife, Erin, live in Easley.

## HEALTH EDUCATION DIVISION

**Laura McClain** is the new Medical Assisting Program Coordinator. She comes to us with 25 years of experience working as a Certified Medical Assistant in OB-GYN and Family Practice, along with eight years as an RN in the Medical/Surgical Unit, Labor and Delivery, Long-Term Care, and in hospitals. She also served as an adjunct instructor for the Allied Health and Medical Assisting courses at Piedmont Technical College. She is a 1989 alumna and outstanding graduate of Piedmont Tech's Medical Assisting program and in 2006 earned an associate degree in Nursing.



*Laura McClain*

She is a member of the American Association of Medical Assistants and a past member of Piedmont Technical College's Medical Assisting advisory board. She is a member of Little River Baptist Church in Honea Path. She and her husband, Bryan, have two children, Hailey, 21, and Jacob, 20. They live in Iva.

**Kristen Karasek**, coordinator of Student Life for the Bridge Program, has accepted the position of Director of Bridge and Educational Partnerships and will begin transitioning immediately. Given that the coordinator duties will still need to be performed, she will split her time between her current Highpointe office and her office on the Pendleton Campus. A search for the Coordinator of Student Life will begin very soon.



*Kristen Karasek*

**Matt Edwards**, our IT Operations Manager since March of 2008, is serving as Interim Director for the Information Technology Division effective January 13. A search is underway for a new IT Director.

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The following have left the College to pursue other opportunities. We wish them well in their new endeavors.

**Dr. Harriette Dudley**  
**Stephanie Evans**  
**Frank Garland**

**Doris Simpson**  
**Lee Tennent**  
**Pat Vatakis**

# Connecting

(continued from page 2)

There is no “one size fits all” approach to helping students be successful. If we really want to transform lives, it is going to take each and every one of us, from the business office to the library to the classroom to make it happen. By focusing on the things we know make a difference to our students—challenge, support, high standards, a sense of belonging, caring attitudes, open and authentic communication, and personal responsibility—we can create a culture that ignites transformation.

Thank you for being a part of this next step in our ten-year vision to “transform lives and shape the community.”



Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.  
President

## New “Vanity” Number Is 646-TCTC

Our main number, 646-8361 is still active, but the College now has a new, easy-to-remember telephone number: 646-TCTC (8282). Both numbers will take callers to the automated directory.



**Laura Thompson**, administrative specialist for Nursing and Veterinary Technology and a 2005 alumna of our associate in Arts program, graduated with a 4.0 with a Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management from Limestone College December 14.



Laura Thompson

Jennifer Beattie Hulehan, department head for Comprehensive Studies, shared this excerpt from an end-of-the-year project by one of her students:

“My Success Coach, **Mrs. Rachel Campbell**, has been encouraging from the start. When I came for orientation, I was a nervous wreck. She was so enthusiastic and thorough in making sure I was placed in the right classes with instructors I would like. I know any time I have a question or concern, all I have to do is e-mail her for a solution. As far as my school life goes, she’s invaluable for questions about courses, schedule questions, and just talking about school in general.”

Feedback shows the new Course Scheduler program is a hit with students. Registrar **Scott Harvey** received this note from student, James Jackson:

“Hey, just wanted to say that I absolutely love the new course scheduler. Last semester I spent at least five hours planning my schedule and trying to figure it all out. I was constantly flipping through pages and going back and forth to figure out which class would work best for my schedule. With the new system I spent maybe 10 minutes at the maximum, and the day that we were allowed to sign up, I just logged in and clicked a button, and I was done with my schedule. It is really easy to use and makes finding classes much easier. Again, thanks so much!”

Congratulations to **Marianne Yohannan**, science instructor, who recently welcomed daughter Anna Grace, born December 3, 2013. Weighing 6 pounds, 14 ounces, and measuring 19 inches long, Marianne reports Anna Grace is doing well and is a wonderful blessing and addition to the family.



Marianne Yohannan

Henry Gordon, president of the Oconee County Veterans Council, Inc., sent this note, praising the work **Stephanie Winkler, Tammy Lollis**, and others dedicated to the opening of Patriots’ Place, the new Veterans Center located in the Student Center:

“The purpose of this letter is to follow up on a conversation Mr. Rick Bethea had with members of the Oconee County Veterans Council concerning your announcement of the grand opening of the new Veterans Center. The Oconee County Veterans Council, representing the local interests of the 7,500 veterans throughout Oconee County, salutes your efforts in getting this new center up and running. Anything any of us can do to help make life a little more pleasant for our great veterans is something well deserved. Rest assured our organization is behind you all the way.”

If you wish to thank someone publicly, share personal news, brag about a recent accomplishment in your unit, or any other highlight, send it in for our “Brag & Share” column. E-mail your submission (65 words or less) with “Brag & Share” in the subject line to Lisa Garrett at lgarrett@tctc.edu.



## Pat Vatakis Retires



Longtime staffer **Pat Vatakis** (center) recently retired from the College after 28 years of service. The faculty and staff of the Anderson Campus, where she has served as receptionist since 2005, honored her with a reception, but not total freedom from work. Pat is continuing to work part time, giving our students the same great service they are accustomed to receiving from Anderson's "Ambassador of Good Will."

## Easley Campus Hosts Young Leaders



The College is again helping to sponsor the Junior Leadership Pickens County (JLPC) program. Participants in the program must be nominated by their high school guidance counselors, complete a rigorous written application process, then participate in interview sessions conducted by area business and community leaders. The program invites 25 high school juniors from Pickens County's four high schools to participate in the semester-long program. The program is in its second year and is operated by the Board of Regents of the Leadership Pickens program. Pictured here, participants of this year's program, along with **Dr. Brian Swords**, Easley Campus director and JLPC Board Member, far right, go through a leadership development activity during their orientation session.

## Black History

*(continued from page 1)*

Auditorium. The discussion will bring insight and encouragement on the importance of pursuing graduate studies, tips for success as a graduate student, etc., to students who are interested in (or just curious) pursuing an advanced degree.

**February 19** – Clemson resident Bryant Smith will present "Revisiting Racism; Teaching Differences In Post-Racial America" from 1:20 - 2:20 p.m. in the Marshall Parker Auditorium. The presentation will focus on and analyze recent events that have sparked controversy in today's society with the intention of teaching attendees the valuable skill of working with and through differences in what has been dubbed "Post-Racial" America.

**February 26** – Bryant Smith will return to present "A Museum, A Lecture, A Story" from 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the College Café. He will focus on G.I. Joe, the first action figure ever created and how one toy helped to remove racial barriers, fight gender stereotypes, and create an entirely new category within the toy industry.

For more information contact Croslena Johnson at Ext. 1568 or [cjohnso5@tctc.edu](mailto:cjohnso5@tctc.edu).

# Three Faculty/Staff Members Honored as Educators of the Year

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

Dr. Brian Swords, director of the Easley Campus and QuickJobs Development Centers, is the College's outstanding administrator; Deborah Brock, instructor in Medical Laboratory Technology and Faculty Development Liaison, is the outstanding instructor; and Stephanie Winkler, coordinator of Disabilities Services; is the outstanding staff nominee.

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

A 20-year employee of the College, Brian currently serves as director of the Easley Campus, as well as the QuickJobs Development Centers in Anderson, Seneca, and Easley and the Watkins Center classroom/lab facilities in Honea Path.

In addition, much of last year he spent coordinating and overseeing a new matriculation (enrollment) process that focuses on student success and student engagement. Those efforts helped to earn him the College's 2013 Staff Excellence award.

He continues to work with team members to implement processes and facilities changes and to expand engagement opportunities with students through fall 2014.

He is among the 10 pilot student mentors for the new Twenty20 program that launched last fall. He recently was named to the Leadership SC Class of 2014.

Deborah joined the College in 2006 as an instructor for the Medical Laboratory Technology (MLT) department. She also serves as the faculty advisor to the student chapter of the Future Laboratory Professionals Organization and is a regular presenter at state and national conferences focusing on topics that promote student success in the field of medical laboratory technology.

Last May she was honored with the highest award presented to the faculty. She received the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence at the College's spring commencement. Deborah is a finalist for the S.C. Governor's Professor of the Year award. The winner will be named in the spring.



*Dr. Brian Swords*



*Deborah Brock*

Working as Disabilities Coordinator since 2011, Stephanie spends much of her time on the telephone or in student meetings, educating new students and parents, along with high school groups, about the College's resources that are available to help students with disabilities. She provides students who have a qualifying disability with equal access in their educational programs.

She's taken the lead on two major College projects this year—opening the new veterans center and co-designing and implementing the new Twenty20 mentoring program that kicked off last fall.

Stephanie teamed with Dean of Students Dan Holland to design a Twenty20 program for Tri-County that is similar to the positive experiences they had as college freshmen. This initiative supports the institutional goal of increasing student retention. She also worked to create a veterans center that offers assistance with enrollment processes, resources, and is a place to hang out and talk. Patriots' Place opened on Veterans Day 2013 on Tri-County's Pendleton Campus.



*Stephanie Winkler*

## Comen Graduates from Pharmacy Technician Program



**Benjamin A. Comen**, of Anderson, left, is among the graduates of the Corporate and Community Education Division's Pharmacy Technician program. Here, he receives his certificate from instructor **Karen Togel**, middle, with **Jennifer Grimes**, also an instructor, at right.

The pharmacy technician is a specialist working under the direction of a licensed pharmacist. Duties are assigned by the pharmacist and are related to preparing and dispensing medication in accordance with standard procedures and laws.



## C2C Grads Receive Diplomas

Seven participants in the College's Connect to College (C2C) program received their high school diplomas during a December ceremony. C2C offers academically capable youth between the ages of 17 and 20 the opportunity to simultaneously earn their high school diploma and college credit, up to and including a postsecondary credential. The first of its kind in South Carolina, C2C is a program for students who, for a variety of reasons, have had difficulties in traditional high school environments. The program provides students with intensive support services that build confidence and foster their success in a collegiate learning environment. The program is a collaborative offering of the school districts of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties and Tri-County.



Two faculty/staff members had family members to graduate in the C2C ceremony. Graduates are asked to recognize the individual who most influenced their journey through C2C and honor him or her with a Wings Award at the luncheon. Industrial Electronics Technology instructor **Robert Ellenberg's** niece, **Megan Moss**, honored him, top left, and Library Technical Assistant **Alydia Sims's** son, **Eric**, presented his mother with his award, bottom left.



December 2013 high school graduates through the Connect to College (C2C) program at Tri-County Technical College are pictured here, from left to right: **Addie L. Carter** (T.L. Hanna High School); **Kenneth R. Miller** (T.L. Hanna High School); **Annaliza M. Tucker** (T.L. Hanna High School); **Eric M. Sims, Jr.** (Westside High School); **Courtney J. T. Brown** (Pendleton High School); **Chelsea N. Hanna** (Liberty High School); and **Megan K. Moss** (West-Oak High School).

## Pendleton Campus Holds Gets Connected Event

Student Life and Counseling Services holds Get Connected events at the beginning of each semester for students to come out and enjoy free pizza, drinks, and freebies. It's a great time to meet other students, check out student clubs/organizations, and more. "Get Connected" on the Pendleton Campus was held for day and evening students January 22. Look for photos from the



**Mary Geren**, English instructor; middle, mans a voter registration table and shares information about a student trip to Washington, D.C., set for May 2-5.

Easley and Anderson Campus Get Connected events in the next Connection.

Mary Geren, English instructor at the Anderson Campus and advisor for the Student Democrats, manned a voter registration table. She also talked to students about an upcoming trip to Washington, D.C., set for May 2 -5, 2014. It is open to all students, but Mary says primarily Student Democrats, SGA, Student Veterans, and Student Ambassadors have signed up so far. The group will tour the monuments/memorials and the Smithsonians, visit Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery, Ford's Theater, The Peterson House, and hopefully, the White House. They also will take a Potomac River cruise.

The trip is being funded through a Student Development grant, fundraising efforts, small deposits made by the students, and club funds. "The purpose of the trip is to enlighten our students about their Nation's history and government. We also plan to highlight the sacrifices of our veterans while visiting the WWII, Vietnam, and Korean Memorials. For many of the student participants, this will be their first glimpse of our Nation's Capitol. Such an experience will certainly prove both educational and transformative for TCTC students," she said. For more information, contact Mary at Ext. 1418 or mgeren@tctc.edu.

## Alumni Association News

- Save the Date: The Alumni Association Spring Open Golf Tournament is Friday, April 25, at Brookstone in Anderson. Tee time is 1 p.m. For more information, go to [www.tctc.edu/golf](http://www.tctc.edu/golf).
- Do you know a Tri-County grad who has excelled in his/her field or made an outstanding contribution to the community or College? Then consider nominating that grad for the Distinguished Alumni award. Contact Mary Johnston at [alumni@tctc.edu](mailto:alumni@tctc.edu) for a nomination form and eligibility criteria. The deadline for submissions is March 14.
- The Alumni Association is proud of our graduates and will host a spring graduation breakfast at Tucker's in Anderson on May 8, 2014.
- The Alumni Association has discount Biltmore Estate tickets for only \$40—a \$19 savings off the gate price. Tickets do not expire and can be used for any daytime visit. Profits from ticket sales benefit the Alumni Association's scholarship fund. For more info, email [alumni@tctc.edu](mailto:alumni@tctc.edu) or call Mary Johnston at Ext. 1808.
- To stay current on Alumni Association news, like us on Facebook at [facebook.com/tctcalumni](https://www.facebook.com/tctcalumni).

## CCE Division, local SC Works Centers Host Job Fair/Training Expo



*Chomarar North America was among the companies who participated in a job fair and training expo held in the College's IBDC January 10. Participants were given the opportunity to meet and interview with area employers and to find out about short-term training options in the fields of health care, business, heavy equipment operator, industrial/manufacturing, and trucking driving. Here, **Susan Gray**, of Anderson, left, talks with **Fred Lloyd**, human resource manager at Chomarar.*



***Joseph Elgazar**, of Anderson, right, talks with **Scott Johnson**, lead technician at Bosch, about employment opportunities.*

# Executive Staff Summary

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- **Educational Goals:** Scott Harvey, registrar, provided an update on the Educational Goals program, which tracks students' goals beginning with enrollment and continuing through their academic career, pointing out that the College could benefit from a comprehensive customer relationship management (CRM) system to integrate all of the online resources and information we currently have in Degree Works, Smarter Measure, Educational Goals, etc.
- **Early Alert:** The new Early Alert System (often referred to as Starfish, the name of the software) is being piloted Spring Semester with a limited number of classes. Early Alert offers early warning and tracking tools, enabling the College to take a more holistic approach to student success.
- **Student Reaction to Instruction:** The College has completed full-scale implementation of online course evaluation, also called Student Reaction to Instruction. The new system allows evaluation data to be easily accessible and queried in various formats to help instructors and their supervisors identify strengths and opportunities for improvement. We have experienced a high rate of survey completion, including by students who withdraw from courses.
- **Service Management:** The development of a service management strategy is underway and will parallel our effort to refine the new enrollment management process.
- **Pharmacy Technician:** Plans are underway to transition the CCE Pharmacy Tech program to become a credit program offering. Currently the timeline for implementation is Spring Semester 2015.
- **Distance Learning:** Charged with developing a strategic plan, the Distance Learning Project Team presented three strategic directions: redesigning distance learning infrastructure; assessing and requiring student and faculty readiness for distance learning; and strengthening College support for distance learning. Teams will be created to address each direction. More than 50 percent of TCTC students take distance learning courses.
- **Title III Year End Report (Year Three):** The College has made progress in key areas: increased the number of thematic learning communities and increased the achievement and persistence of FTPS students through participation in learning communities. The program also has enabled the College to implement resources like Starfish, DegreeWorks, SmarterMeasure, and Early Alert.
- **Other:** Policy and procedure updates; State approval process for new programs; enrollment; strategic planning for 2014-15; legislative priorities; and science lab expansion needs.

## Professional Development Day Is February 25

February 25 is Professional Development Day. There will be no classes, clinicals, or labs, and the day will be devoted to professional development activities at the Pendleton Campus for full-time employees. Personnel Director Sharon Colcolough says the morning session of the in-service day will be an institutional professional development session focusing on updates on project charters and the strategic plan. The afternoon session is intended for individual departments and divisions to focus on individual units' activities.

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## Chat with the President

Dr. Booth has set aside some time to get to know our growing College family. Whether you have been here 20 years or two months, mark your calendar to join the President and your colleagues for some casual conversation.

**Brown Bag Lunch:** Grab your lunch and join Dr. Booth at noon in the Faculty/Staff Dining Room on the Pendleton Campus. He has plans to be there Tuesday, March 4, Thursday, April 24, and Thursday, May 20, at noon.

**Open Forum Discussion:** Join Dr. Booth and your colleagues for informal discussions about topics that interest all of us—new things happening at the College, issues in higher education, and whatever you may want to bring up for discussion. Light refreshments will be served. Dates for Spring Semester are: Friday, March 7, at 9:30 a.m. (Anderson Campus); Monday, March 24, at 3 p.m. (Ruby Hicks Room 248); Wednesday, April 23, at 2 p.m. (Easley Campus).

These events and others scheduled in the future will be posted on the College Activities Calendar in eTC.



# Foundation News

You still can contribute to the Employee Giving Campaign through February 7. Contact Tammy Stout at Ext. 1812 or [tstout1@tctc.edu](mailto:tstout1@tctc.edu).

## Schneider Electric Donates to Technology Endowment



Schneider Electric in Seneca made a \$5,000 contribution to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation's Technology Endowment. The College's Technology Endowment provides a perpetual source of funding that the College uses to update equipment, software and technical infrastructure across its community campuses. Rapidly changing technology is redefining the skills needed for fast-growing and high-paying careers, making it imperative for Tri-County to keep pace with training students for today's sophisticated workplace.

Pictured, from left to right, are **Ted Stokes**, engineering manager at Schneider and an evening adjunct instructor for Tri-County's Industrial Electronics Technology program; **Courtney White**, director of development at the College; **Larry Smith**, Schneider Electric plant manager; and **Bill Keene**, quality manager at Schneider.

## Laura Thompson Wins Reserved Parking Space

**Dr. Brian Swords**, right, 2013 recipient of the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence, donated his Pendleton Campus reserved parking space as a fundraising opportunity for the Foundation.

**Laura Thompson**, administrative specialist for Nursing and Veterinary Technology, left, was the winner of the reserved parking space. Proceeds benefitted the Alumni Association's scholarship fund.



A big thanks to alumnus **Christopher Cobb** (Nursing 2010,) who recently donated a 1999 Dodge Dakota to the College's Automotive Technology Program. Are you making year-end giving decisions? Consider a tax-deductible gift to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation. If you would like more information on making a cash donation, in-kind gift, or planned giving, contact Tammy Stout at 864-646-1812.

## U.S. Engine Valve Supports CCE Division



U.S. Engine Valve/Nittan Valve made a \$20,000 donation to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation to purchase equipment for the Corporate and Community Education Division. Pictured from left to right are **Rick Cothran**, dean of our Corporate and Community Education Division; **Courtney White**, our director of development; Keizo Harada, technical manager for U.S. Engine Valve; **Dr. Booth**; **Mary Ann Craft**, manager of human resources at U.S. Engine Valve; **Bobby Dover**, plant manager, Westminster U.S. Engine Valve plant; and **John Lummus**, vice president of economic and institutional advancement at the College;

U.S. Engine Valve has been a member of the College's Center for Workforce Excellence (formerly the World Class Training Center) since 1989 and has been a strong supporter of the College Foundation, having endowed a scholarship and provided funding for professional development and equipment.