

# Connection

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## The Power of Partnerships: Oconee Campus Becomes a Reality



College officials joined Oconee County partners from government, education, and economic development to break ground on the Oconee Campus, the first building to be constructed on the site of the future Oconee County Workforce Development Center.

Oconee County fulfilled a 150-year-old dream of having a college in the Golden Corner when partners from government, education, and economic development gathered to break ground on the future site of the long-awaited Oconee Campus of Tri-County Technical College.

“This is a milestone for the College and for Oconee County,” said John Powell, Oconee County native, businessman and chairman of the College’s Commission.

Dr. Booth joined Oconee County partners to break ground on the Oconee Campus, the first building to be constructed on the site of the future Oconee County Workforce Development Center. The Oconee Industry and Technology Park, located on Highway 11 in Westminster, will co-locate an Oconee Campus of Tri-County Technical College, a new Career Center for high school students, adult education, and industry. The result will be a unique center for technical education, work-based learning, and economic development. The project is a partnership between Tri-County Technical College, the School District of Oconee County, and Oconee County.

“We have waited a long time for this day. It took everyone working together to make this a reality,” said Powell, who recounted the history of Oconee’s pursuit of a college dating back to the late 1800s when Adger College was located in Walhalla for a decade, followed by the Walhalla Female College that opened and closed. Newberry College was located in Oconee County from 1868 until 1879 when it relocated back to Newberry to make way for Clemson College, which was later annexed into Pickens County.

“Since 1868 Oconee has tried to open and keep a college. Today it is a reality and has taken all of us working together. It is only possible because of the tremendous

*(continued on pages 10–11)*

# 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

## Planning for the Future

More than 150 people representing government, education, industry, and the community were in attendance at our long-awaited groundbreaking ceremony for the new Oconee Campus on July 14. The campus is slated to open Fall Semester, 2018. You will find a related story and photos on the front page of this newsletter. It was a grand celebration of an important milestone for the College and Oconee County.

On January 12, 2018, we will celebrate again by hosting a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony for the new Student Success Center on the Pendleton Campus. This, too, represents a significant milestone for the College. The new building will include a learning commons, flexible meeting spaces, computer labs, group study areas, tutoring spaces, the College Café, Campus Store, and much more. Once the building is open, we will begin the complete refurbishment of Ruby Hicks Hall to house a One-Stop Enrollment Center and other services, as well as administrative office space. This project is scheduled for completion in December 2018.

What's next? With a 55-year-old Pendleton Campus, three community campuses, and an Industrial Technology Center in Sandy Springs, our facilities work is never done. The time has come for us to create our next Facilities Master Plan.

Many of you have been through this process at Tri-County in past years. For those of you who are newer to the College, a Facilities Master Plan is an evolving document designed to develop and communicate an efficient process to ensure that the College's facilities accommodate and support current and future educational programs and services. It serves as a guide for assessing the need for facility improvements and capital investments to implement them, as well as repairs, modernization, upgrades, and/or new construction. The plan also assesses funding sources and financing options available to the College and provides a realistic view of the scope of projects that may reasonably be accomplished with available funds.

Our last master plan focused on the Pendleton Campus only and was completed in 2011. This plan gave us the roadmap to reconfigure the main campus entrance, build the new Student Success Center, and undertake the upcoming refurbishment of Ruby Hicks Hall. We also spent time exploring and envisioning other projects, such as how we might make use of our undeveloped acreage—often referred to as “The Back 40.”

This fall, we begin again, this time adding our three community campuses to the overall plan. We will ask questions and seek answers. Where do we see ourselves in the next decade? What are the priorities? In what order? These questions and more will be answered during the master planning process.

Importantly, your help is needed. Each of you has thoughts and ideas to share, and you will have the opportunity to do so during the coming year. Focus groups, design charrettes, and other opportunities for input will be available. Your contributions will be invaluable to the process and help to proactively plan for the future of Tri-County Technical College.



**Dr. Ronnie L. Booth**  
President

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.  
President



# Spotlight on PolyCom Videoconferencing Systems

At times there are courses that students wanted and needed at our community campuses, but classes couldn't be offered locally because the number of students enrolled was under the minimum number of students needed for the course to make. Students' options included driving to the Pendleton Campus or waiting until the course was offered again, which could delay their graduation.

This summer, class scheduling opened up with the use of class meetings via videoconferencing through PolyCom videoconferencing systems that allows instructors to teach synchronously across the network.

"The use of the videoconferencing systems allow us to maximize the use of our teaching resources, while combining low enrollment sections that may not have made at our community campuses as individual, stand-alone courses," said Dr. Brian Swords, senior director of community campuses.

Using Skype software and PolyCom videoconferencing allows students at all of our community campuses to engage live with an instructor on any campus.

This summer, Math instructor Hubert M<sup>c</sup>Clure and Speech instructor Christoph Kresse remain at their home campuses while teaching and interacting with students at other community campuses.

Hubert is teaching Math 103 from the Anderson Campus, and Christoph is teaching Speech 205 at the Anderson Campus. Christoph's schedule also has allowed for him to originate his class from the Easley and Pendleton Campuses as well, which has allowed him to be able to spend time with all of his students. For Speech 205, the combined section of four or five students at Easley, along with three students from Anderson, and students from Pendleton Campus, made a full class, said Brian. "This teaching method allows us to utilize one instructor for multiple campuses. It also helps us build cohesiveness between the three campuses."

Each PolyCom room is set up with two large 60" monitors, along with the videoconferencing system that has a 360-degree camera that is voice activated. When a student at a remote location speaks, you'll immediately see the camera pan over to them, and everyone at each campus will see and hear the student speaking on the screens as they interact with them. "Interaction is live, HD video, with no lag time," said Brian. "The investments the College has made over the last few years in our technical infrastructure have made this possible."

Feedback has been positive, said Brian. "Students are so receptive. Prior to the class, we phoned each one to explain how it



Math instructor Hubert M<sup>c</sup>Clure teaches Math 103 from the Anderson Campus via PolyCom Videoconferencing Systems.

works and to see if they would be comfortable with the format," he said. "Reaction from students has been great, and the instructors have done an outstanding job of thinking outside the box by incorporating technologies, such as electronic interactive white boards and touch screens, into the classes."

When a water leak at the Easley Campus cancelled classes earlier this summer, one student came to class anyway and used a lab computer to log into the class. "The flood didn't deter her from logging into her lab computer and participating in the class. These classes provide flexibility. It's using existing technology to teach in a different way," he explained.

"The convenience is that you can log in or Skype via your desktop and participate 100 percent. When you log in remotely, you may not have all of the functionality you would have in the PolyCom classroom, but you still can interact with the class. I give the instructors all of the credit for this success. They have done it. Hubert and Christoph are committed to seeing the students succeed in this format," he said.

"We also have utilized the videoconferencing systems for students at community campuses to meet with support services representatives, success coaches, and advisors who are located at different campuses than the student. The possibilities of this technology are limitless, and I am hopeful the pilot project of teaching over the systems will continue to yield positive results," said Brian.

"This partnership of technology and academics allows us to deliver the courses that have a low enrollment in a different way that is convenient for students to continue on their path to graduate at their respective campus. Not only is it positive for our students, it also allows us to maximize the use of our instructors and saves money on travel."

This fall, Val Cela will be added to the pilot project, as she will be teaching Economics 211 along with Hubert, who will teach Math 103.



# Retirees Will Be Missed

Indispensable, efficient, dependable, professional, and always willing to go the extra mile were words used repeatedly when colleagues talked about five staff members who retired during June and July.

## James Canty

'It's been an honor and a privilege to work with you for more than 23 years,' Officer B.J. Ellis wrote in a retirement card for friend and co-worker Officer James Canty. "He's like a brother to me. I'm really going to miss him," she said following a June 1 surprise retirement celebration for James, whose last day on the force was June 30.

Colleagues praised James's strong work ethic and his dedicated service as a team player over the last 23 years.

"It's been fun. I'll miss you guys, but I'm not coming back. It's the real deal," said James. After 23 years of getting up early for work, he said, "The sun will rise before I do from now on." James joined the College in 1995 as a Contract Security Officer. He became full time in 1998 and since has served as the College's Key Control Officer, in addition to everyday duties, such as responding to calls for service/assistance, patrolling the campuses, enforcing traffic and parking regulations, and investigating traffic accidents and handling incident reports. He also directed traffic and worked all major campus events, such as the Annual Report luncheon and Bridge to Clemson orientations.



*James Canty, middle, is pictured with Campus Safety from left, Jimmie Cobb, former officer Carmen Lehmann, Linda McEntire, B.J. Ellis, Mike Hall, Jessica Cullen, Lt. Tracy Lee, and Chief Eddie Aman.*

## Sandra Roddey

Sandra Roddey plans to devote the same drive and determination to her retirement that she did as Administrative Assistant for the Arts and Sciences Division since 1990.

"My retirement plans include catching up on home projects, gardening, and spending time with my husband, Don, and our two grandchildren, ages 9 and 10," she said.

"I have mixed feelings about leaving Tri-County," said Sandra, who joined the College in 1989 on part-time basis and became full



*Sandra Roddey, second from left, poses with longtime friends and colleagues Galen DeHay, Karen Culp-Linscott, and Dr. Della VanHuss.*

time the next year. "I look forward to having time and freedom to pursue my hobbies but will miss the people and good friends and the students. I really like helping faculty and students. I feel good when I help students, whether it's answering questions about advising or just college in general. It really makes a difference."

Over the years, she developed a successful plan to increase the number of division graduates by tracking students who are nearing graduating. Sandra prepared individual checklists and personally called students to tell them just what they needed to graduate. She also maintained the advising system for the College's University Transfer students. She received the Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence in 2003.

A graduate of Tri-County, she holds an associate degree in Business and was a member of the Alpha Zeta Beta, in addition to being on the Dean's List.

## Pat Seawright

"I have enjoyed all of the people and students here at Tri-County. This has been a fantastic job," said Pat Seawright, who retired June 23 as Tutor Coordinator for the Advising and Tutoring Department.



Pat joined us full time as a Tutor Coordinator after serving as an adjunct English instructor from 2000–2005. She received the Adjunct Faculty Presidential Medallion in 2005. She was Writing Center Coordinator from 2005–2012.

She plans to travel and garden—she is a master gardener—and enjoy life with her husband, Robbie.

*Pat Seawright and Justin Baggott, tutoring services coordinator*

## Gloria Littleton

Gloria Littleton joined the Human Resources Office as a Human Resources Specialist seven years ago, and Benefits Coordinator Lisa Anderson says she fit in from day one and quickly became one of the team. “Gloria has such a calm demeanor, and she is always so welcoming to applicants and customers. She always has a smile on her face and she makes everyone feel right at home. She is going to be hard to replace. We will definitely keep in touch,” she said.

Gloria says she plans to enjoy life on the farm with husband, James, and spend time with family and four grandchildren, and the newest member of the family, a three-month-old Sheltie named Izzy, a retirement gift from her family.



*Gloria Littleton, center, and Human Resources team from left, Lisa Anderson, Jeff Laws, Sharon Colcolough, and Brandon Rice.*

## Roberta Sitton

“Every day Roberta comes in and gives 100 percent,” said Cara Hamilton at a retirement reception for Roberta Sitton, who since 2003 has served as Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Business Affairs.

“She is so passionate about what we do here,” Cara added. “We are so thankful for what you have done for Tri-County, our students, and the Business Affairs Division. We will miss you a lot.”



*Roberta Sitton, middle, and the Business Affairs team posed for a group shot on her last day. From left are Kiya Alexander, Cara Hamilton, Krystal Doherty, Sara Simpson, Debbie Norris, Matt Whitten, Lynn Shook, and Lisa Butler.*

## Thanks from Dr. Booth

At its regular meeting during the week of June 12–16, the SACSCOC Board of Trustees voted to approve the ten-year reaccreditation of the College. Our multi-year journey, which included a comprehensive compliance report, the development of a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), and a successful on-site visit, has come to a successful conclusion. Thank you for your hard work in helping us to reach this important milestone in the life of the College.

Now that this step is complete, we have turned our full attention to the QEP, which is the implementation of High Impact Practices (HIPs). HIPs are an integral part of the TCTC Transformative Student Experience, and we are well underway in bringing these practices to scale across the institution. I appreciate the work of early adopters of this important strategy to improve student success through service learning, work-based learning, capstone courses, and more.

Once again, I wish to congratulate all of you for your outstanding work in helping the College to achieve successful reaccreditation.

## Solar Eclipse Parties Planned for August 21 At All Campuses

Our Student Development and Science Departments will host Solar Eclipse parties Monday, August 21, from 11 a.m.–3p.m. on ALL campuses. Stop by to pick up your FREE eclipse glasses, chat with our Science faculty about the significance of the Eclipse, and enjoy some fun activities.

The Eclipse should begin with first contact at approximately 1:08 p.m. as the Moon begins to move between the Earth and the Sun and last until final contact at approximately 4:02 p.m. The main event, totality, should begin at approximately 2:37 p.m. and last for about two-and-half minutes.

Our Eclipse party kicks off Welcome Week 2017. Be sure to check out the rest of our activities throughout the week.



# Our College Family



Dr. Tom Lawrence

## excellence through service

**Tom Lawrence**, dean of the Arts and Sciences Division, successfully defended his Ph.D dissertation at Indiana Institute of Technology in March. His study examined the relationship between Hofstede's national culture dimensions and

follower role orientation, including the moderating effects of considerate leadership, among Chinese adults living and working throughout mainland China.



Meredith McClure

Congratulations to the Early Childhood Development program, led by Program Director **Meredith McClure**. The program's accreditation has been extended through 2021 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This August, the program will get a new name: Early Care and Education. Students may pursue a two-year degree, as well as several certificates. Our new feature is that students can

choose from concentrations in three areas: Infant and Toddler Care, Child Care Management, and Special Needs.

Congratulations to College Commissioner **Helen Rosemond-Saunders**, who has been chosen as the recipient of the 2017 ACCT Trustee Leadership Award for the Southern Region.



Helen Rosemond-Saunders

The award will be presented to her at the Regional Awards Luncheon during the Annual ACCT Leadership Congress September 25-28 in Las Vegas, Nevada. As the winner of the Southern Region Award, she also is a candidate for the national award—the M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award—which will be announced during the conference.

Congratulations to **Timeko McFadden**, who has been selected as a member of the first Citizens Advisory Panel for the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. This 27-member panel will be instrumental in the process of improving and maintaining community relations with law enforcement.



Timeko McFadden

## Business Office Recognized for Excellence in Reporting

For the 17th consecutive year, the Business Affairs Division earned the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) awarded our College a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

*Pictured from left are (center) Tracy Wactor and Cara Hamilton and (back row, from left) Ann Hall, Lisa Butler, Teresa Adkins, Kristal Doherty, Matt Whitten, Sara Simpson, Lynn Shook, Linda Brown, Deborah Wardlaw, Ana Interiano, and Debbie Norris.*



## *in transition*

**Sarah Ward** is the Cataloging and Acquisitions Library Technical Assistant for the Library. Since 2015, she served as part-time Library Coordinator at our Anderson Campus. She holds a B.A. in English from Anderson University and worked part time at the Anderson County Public Library (main branch). She lives in Liberty.



*Sarah Ward*

**Brandon Rice** is the Human Resources Specialist. He spent the last four years at Human Technology, Inc. (HTI), where he was a Human Resources Assistant in the company's Seneca office. Brandon spent nine years in the U.S. Air Force (1998–2007),

followed by four years (2010–2014) as a Human Resources Assistant at Pope Army Air Field. He has three sons, twins Brandon and Collin, who are five years old, and Bryce, four months. He lives in Anderson.



*Brandon Rice*

Effective Fall 2017, **Dr. Chris McFarlin** will assume the role of Department Head for Public Services, and **Robert Newton** will be the Program Director for Criminal Justice.

**Billy Carson** will assume the role of Department Head for Computer and Information Technology, and **Suzanne Konieczny** will be the Coordinator of Instructional Activities for Computer and Information Technology.

## Nearly 800 Accepted into Bridge to Clemson This Fall



*Nearly 800 freshman have been accepted to the Bridge to Clemson program. In June and July, nine orientation sessions were held for students who will join us this fall. These students will attend Tri-County for one year, earning 30 transfer credits during their two semesters and must have a 2.5 GPA to transfer to Clemson. The Bridge transfer rate for 2015–16 was the program's highest ever, 80.8 percent.*



## Rev. Menyongar Donates Autobiography to Library

Author **D. Samuel Gardayea Menyongar**, right, autographs a copy of his autobiography, *Survive for Purpose*, that he donated to the College's Library. The book is edited by **Dr. Vinson Burdette**, vice president of Enrollment Management at Aiken Technical College and former dean and instructor at the College. Pictured with Rev. Menyongar is Library Director **Mary Orem**.



# Foundation News

## AT&T Supports C2C Program

AT&T awarded the College \$7,500 to support the Connect to College (C2C) program.

The Connect to College (C2C) program has evolved to meet the diverse needs of area students by offering 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 faced difficult challenges in traditional high school settings. The program provides students with intensive support services that build confidence and foster their success in a collegiate learning environment.



**Terrance Ford**, regional director of external affairs for Upstate AT&T, left, presents the check to **Grayson Kelly**, executive director of the College's Foundation.



## HVAC Receives Equipment Donation

Blossman Propane Gas and Appliance Company donated a Hydroject propane water heater to the Heating, Ventilation, and Air-Conditioning (HVAC) program to aid students in learning propane fundamentals and safety precautions when working with gas appliances.

Pictured left to right are **Justin Herndon**, HVAC program director; **Jake Allen**, branch manager for Blossman Company in Greenville; and **Doug Allen**, department head for Industrial Technology. Jake Allen is the son of Doug Allen and a graduate of our Industrial Supervision program.

## TC Central Celebrates Anniversary

TC Central kicked off its one-year anniversary celebration with snacks and giveaways for students. Since opening June 6, 2016, there have been 17,247 contacts with students. TC Central is the College's integrated, one-stop service center designed to streamline the student experience in the offices of Admissions, Financial Aid, and the Registrar/Student Data Center. The goal is to provide a transformative student experience by eliminating multiple visits and resolving concerns during the first point of contact. Here, **Kandice Dacus**, TC Central specialist, left, and **Cecila Shiflet**, an associate degree Nursing major, talk about financial aid.





# Kids Explore Information Technology at Expo Camp

A four-day IT Expo Camp was held for rising fifth–ninth graders to explore the diverse world of Information Technology. Participants built and programmed robots. The event was coordinated by the Computer and Information Technology Department.



Instructor **Kathy Metallo** talks to students **Hector Mustre-Arellano**, left, and **Nathaniel Hornbeck** about downloading an app to control the robot.



**Brian Mackey**, left, and **Blaise Morgan**, both rising eighth graders from Anderson, test their robot.

## College Hosts Summer Institute

The College partnered with the SC Technical College System to offer the 2nd Annual High School Counselor Summer Institute July 17–20. The Institute's purpose is to bring 21st-century programs and careers to life through hands-on activities and tours; provide an overview of Tri-County's mission and programs; and to provide relevant information regarding programs, careers, and salaries pertaining to each College program. Here, participants learn about the Engineering Design Technology program from **Roger Burgess**, program director.



## New Intranet Portal Development Gets Underway



Employees had the opportunity to provide ideas and feedback for the development of a new intranet portal to replace eTC, which has served as the College's online source of information and resources for students, faculty, and staff since 2007. CampusWorks has been engaged by the College to assist in the identification of the new portal platform. Management instructor **Shalin Williams** (seated, center) shares her thoughts on feature sets needed in a new portal platform.

# Oconee Campus

(continued from page 1)

partnership between the College, the county, and the school district. As an alumnus of Tri-County and as a Commissioner, I couldn't be prouder," said Powell.

"This is a big day in the life of the College," agreed Dr. Booth. "It's all about one goal—to serve the needs of Oconee County. This facility will help us take care of our industry partners and to recruit more like Baxter Industries (Hi-Tech Mold & Engineering and its subsidiary Baxter Industries, full-service suppliers to the plastics and tooling industries are first to locate in the park)," he said.

"A big piece of this is sharing the property and co-locating with the School District—sharing facilities to make the best use of your tax dollars. We envision students walking out of the classes down the sidewalk to an apprenticeship and finding a permanent working home. Oconee has a lot to be proud of," said Dr. Booth, who thanked Blue Ridge Electric Co-op for its early gift of \$100,000 in 2015 as seed money to get the project started.

Dr. Michael Thorsland, superintendent of the School District of Oconee County, echoed that collaboration is the key and thanked the "School Board who is willing to do what is best for the county and the children of the county."

"The future of Oconee County is bright and it is because of this Workforce Development Center," said Zachary Hinton, vice chair of the Oconee Economic Alliance Board and vice president of economic development and government relations for Blue Ridge Electric Co-op.

"The Oconee Economic Alliance Board talks about how this area is the geography of opportunity, and today we can see it—a BMW supplier (Baxter Industries) right inside this park and now we see a new home for a Tri-County Technical College Campus in Oconee County," said Hinton.



From left, **Dr. Booth** talks with **Paul Cain**, Oconee County Council member, and former Oconee Council members **Joel Thrift** and **Reg Dexter**.

Since 2012 the Alliance has ushered in 29 economic development projects that will yield more than \$335 million in new capital investments and more than 1,300 new jobs, said Hinton. "That is a great run of success that we are proud of but to continue this level of success this new campus is going to be one of the key ingredients. This is a game-changing moment for Oconee County's future and for the surrounding areas. Our future workforce will be trained here. Our future economic success begins here with Tri-County, the School District's new Career Center, Adult Education Center, and industry all coming together on the same piece of land. Nobody else is doing this in South Carolina."

The Oconee Economic Alliance and the county secured a \$500,000 grant from the SC Rural Infrastructure Authority to put into place new water and sewer lines. The Appalachian Regional Commission announced July 6 its approval of \$1,249,303 for Oconee County to fund the Oconee Industry and Technology Park Access Roads project. The funds will be used for improvements and construction of 1.37 miles of roadways which include

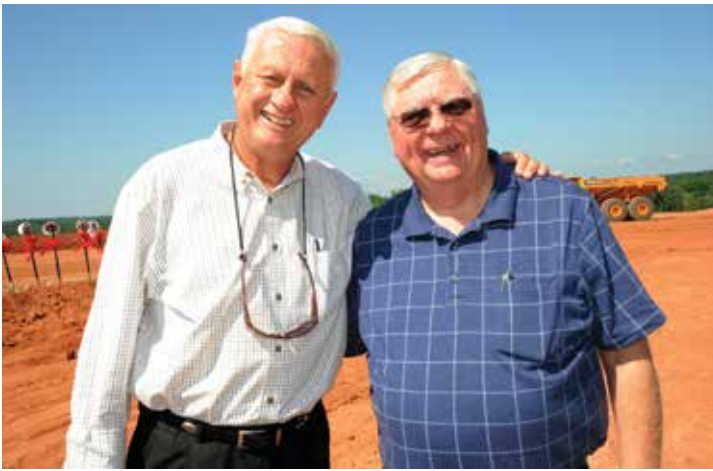


College Foundation Chair **Peggy Deane**, left, and Foundation Board member **Lorraine Harding** were among the guests who attended the groundbreaking ceremony.



"These buildings will go a long way to fulfill the need for job-ready employees," **Rep. Bill Sandifer**, right, told the crowd prior to the groundbreaking. He is pictured with **Ham Hudson**, College Commission member who represents Oconee County.





Commission Chairman **John Powell**, left, and **Fud Cater**, a retiree of the Oconee Nuclear Plant, are excited about having a campus in Oconee County. Both are graduates of Tri-County.



**Charles Dalton**, longtime president and CEO of Blue Ridge Electric Co-op, who will retire in January 2018, left, and **Larry Smith**, retired manager of Schneider Electric, were among the attendees.

widening 0.42 miles of SC Hwy. 11, paving 0.45 miles and 0.50 miles over two industrial park interior roads.

Oconee County Council Chair Edda Cammick praised the “excellent economic development team, who continues to bring industry to the county. I am looking forward to bringing much needed talent to our workforce.”

Program offerings at the campus will support manufacturing in the region and will include CNC Programming and Operations, Manufacturing Management and Leadership, Business Administration with an emphasis in Operations Management; Industrial Electronics Technology, and Mechatronics.

“These buildings will go a long way to fulfill the need for job-ready employees,” said Rep. Bill Sandifer.

The 37,000-square-foot Oconee Campus is estimated to cost \$7.25 million and will be paid for by State-appropriate funds. Oconee County provided land and site preparation valued at

\$2.75 million (TCTC campus portion only).

“Partnerships brought us to this point,” said Sen. Thomas Alexander, who thanked his colleagues in the House for supporting the appropriation in the State budget. “We were united every step of the way. Without that team effort we wouldn’t be here today. This campus will ensure that Oconee County has a bright economic future for its citizens.”

For former educator Rep. Bill Whitmire, the campus is a dream come true. He recalled a young man from Oconee he taught 25 years ago whose goal was to enroll at Tri-County, but finances, family obligations and mostly travel time to the Pendleton Campus got in the way of him pursuing his education. “He missed his chance, but his son will have that opportunity for what is happening here today,” he said.

The Oconee Campus will open fall semester, 2018.



LEFT: **Julian Davis III**, a member of Oconee County Council, talks with College Commissioner **Helen Rosemond-Saunders**, who recently was chosen as the recipient of the 2017 ACCT Trustee Leadership Award for the Southern Region (see details on Page 6).

ABOVE: Senator **Thomas Alexander**, right, talks with guests following the ceremony.

# Student Success Center Update

*RIGHT, TOP: Construction of the new 75,000-square-foot Student Success Center continues on schedule and is slated for completion during the latter part of Fall Semester. Opening day is the first day of classes on January 8, and we will celebrate by hosting a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony on January 12. The facility will include a learning commons, flexible meeting spaces, computer labs, group study areas, tutoring spaces, the College Café, Campus Store, and more.*

*RIGHT: Members of the Information Technology Division had the opportunity to tour the new Student Success Center construction site with **Ken Kopera**, director of Physical Plant. Over the last several weeks, Ken has been taking groups through the site to see where their offices will be located and how the overall space will be utilized.*



## Executive Staff Summary

- **CURRICULUM DESIGN AND APPROVAL PROCESS:** The Curriculum and Instructional Support Department will spearhead a project charter to develop a new curriculum design and approval process in an effort to make it more efficient and improve communications.
- **CHEMICAL HYGIENE:** A new Chemical Safety Committee was approved for the purpose of promoting and ensuring the safe operation of College laboratory facilities and to promote a culture of safety within the College. The updated Chemical Hygiene Plan has been posted in the portal.
- **BANNER 9 IMPLEMENTATION:** The current student information system, Banner 8, is approaching end-of-life and will be de-supported at the end of 2018. A project team has been chartered to develop an implementation plan to guide the transition to Banner 9. The transition will involve and impact all major administrative functions at the College.
- **FALL GRADUATION:** In December we will pilot a small Fall Commencement Ceremony in Marshall Parker Auditorium in Oconee Hall for graduates of our new Michelin Manufacturing Scholars and I-BEST programs. It will be combined with the existing Connect to College graduation program. All three programs are part of the College Transitions Division.
- **PUBLIC WEBSITE UPDATE:** The new public website is expected to be launched following the Fall Semester drop-add period to minimize any disruption to the enrollment process. Content owners are reviewing their content to ensure accuracy.
- **OTHER:** Capital projects; Fall Semester enrollment; Summer Commencement; S.C. Tech System and community leadership programs; review and approval of official policies and procedures.