

Connection

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Team Tells Conference Attendees Collaboration with Industry Is Key

With Industry Is Key to Producing Work-Ready Graduates

Most of the 200 attendees at the recent international Automation Conference 2014 are facing the same day-to-day challenge – finding and hiring individuals with 21st century workplace skills. They were eager to hear how Tri-County’s collaboration with industry leaders on curriculum changes and developing work-based learning opportunities, like scholars programs, co-ops, internships and apprenticeships, have been the key to producing work-ready graduates.

Cheryl Garrison, job placement coordinator in Career Services, joined Industrial Electronics Technology (IET) faculty member Shan Smith, Schneider Electric Engineering Manager Ted Stokes and Doug Wilson, senior associate development specialist at Bosch, as presenters at the Automation

Conference 2014 May 20 – 22 in Chicago, Illinois. The team’s topic was “Bridging the Skills Gap: Enhancing the Talent Pipeline through Local Technical College Collaboration.” They shared best practices for creating a pipeline of highly skilled employees through collaboration with local industry.

Since 2012 Cheryl has seen a 365 percent increase in the number of companies participating in work-based learning opportunities at Tri-County.

In October of 2012, there were 26 Tri-County students involved in work-based learning experiences at six companies in the College’s service area. Just 18 months later, there are nearly 100 students this year placed at 28 companies and growing. “Every co-op is different, and the companies direct us in what they want,” she said.

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Summit Media Group selected Tri-County as the recipient of the 2014 David A. Harvey Memorial Scholarship. Representatives from the College accepted the \$4,500 check at the May 20 – 21 Automation Conference in Chicago, Illinois. **Cheryl Garrison**, job placement coordinator in Career Services, middle, is pictured with **Joe Angel**, president/publisher, Summit Media Group, Inc. (left), and **Jim Chrzan**, vice president/publisher, Automation World (right). The scholarship money will help students fund summer classes and books.

“We’re pleased to acknowledge Tri-County’s innovation and success and hope this scholarship makes the journey to a career in manufacturing a little easier for deserving students,” said Chrzan.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Commencement – July 31

Partnership Breakfast – September 10 (Easley) and September 11 (Pendleton)

Business and Industry Showcase (Littlejohn) – October 1 and 2

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

Connection

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Connecting

We Have the Power to Change Lives



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

Throughout the past academic year, many of our discussions have revolved around what we call the transformative student experience.

For many students, the TCTC experience is far more powerful than gaining the skills and knowledge they need to enter the workforce or transfer to a four-year college or university. We literally transform their lives in ways they never expected. When students are transformed, they go out into the world with an edge that helps them stand apart from graduates of other colleges.

Our goal is to create an environment and culture that will support this type of experience for all TCTC students.

As part of our Strategic Plan, teams of employees have been working on several projects to identify the human elements that create this type of environment. These projects include the development of a new College vision, values, service standards, and competencies. This work is now finished, and the big picture is starting to take shape.

Our new vision, introduced to you earlier this spring, sets the tone: "Passionate people transforming lives and building strong communities one student at a time." It clearly communicates what we are looking for in our employees – passionate team players with a "can-do" attitude and willingness to put student success first. Preliminary work on this vision statement started almost two years ago using feedback from employee focus group discussions.

Just weeks ago, we finalized new institutional values: Integrity, Respect, Community Minded, and Commitment to Excellence. These values guide how we act as individuals. Like the vision statement, they were developed by using your input from facilitated group discussions on Professional Development Day during the spring.

Identifying and establishing standards of service also is a part of this effort and sets the expectation for how we interact with others, as well as the competencies needed to deliver that level of service. As part of our talent management effort, two project teams have developed new service standards and competencies using input from employees who interact regularly with prospective students, current students, and the public.

Together, our vision, values, service standards, and competencies will guide us in creating an environment and culture that supports a transformative experience for all students. It will become the TCTC way of doing business.

During late July and August, key players from each project team will attend division and department meetings throughout the College to share specific information about our vision, values, service standards, and competencies and talk about next steps. Please welcome their efforts and embrace what we are trying to achieve.

Our success depends on you – each and every one of you, from the business office

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"Together, our vision, values, service standards, and competencies will guide us in creating an environment and culture that supports a transformative experience for all students. It will become the TCTC way of doing business."

~Dr. Ronnie Booth



Spotlight on Leadership Projects

Gayle Arries and Stephanie Winkler spent the last academic year working on projects through the S.C. Technical College Leadership Academy that were important to them both personally and professionally. During the year-long leadership development program, both focused on projects that make the transition to college easier for groups with individual needs.

In 2009 Gayle, our director of Marketing, and her husband, Chris, adopted four children through the Department of Social Services foster care unit. As I began my project, I thought about our oldest approaching college in a few years and then about her former cottage mates at Tamassee DAR School and what are they doing to secure a great future. Our children have a home where they are loved and encouraged, but those without a forever family face challenges as they age out of foster care. I want to make sure college can be a possibility for them as they figure out their pathways. As they transition into adulthood, limited funding is available for some of these displaced youth through the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program, so building a bridge between a life of disruption and uncertainty to planning for a better future was the focus of my project," said Gayle.

She researched and developed "4 C-Able Futures," a two-week summer camp for displaced youth in foster care or privately placed in group homes. Its primary focus is to develop career and personal goals, confidence, and self esteem.

The Four C's for success are Core Skills, Career Planning, College Preparation, and Community Support.

Participants, who are rising high school seniors, will be chosen by committee through an application process.

Stephanie is equally as passionate about her project, which was to design and create a veterans resource center on the Pendleton Campus that serves as a one-stop for enrollment processes, resources and a place to hang out and talk with fellow veterans. Tri-County celebrated the opening of a new veterans center, Patriots' Place, November 11, 2013, in the Student Center, Suite 155.

Her brother is an Army veteran. She says "a strong and independent man went overseas and returned home with physical and emotional issues, like Post Traumatic Stress



Gayle Arries, second from left, and Stephanie Winkler are pictured with their mentors, Dr. Brian Swords, left, and Kevin Steele.

Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)." As Coordinator of Disabilities Services, she sees veterans struggling with these issues as they pursue an education. "In our conversations, I see and hear their struggles and how it's tough to readjust to civilian life," said Stephanie. "For veterans who have PTSD and TBI, it's hard to find a quiet place on campus. Patriots' Place is a quiet place where they can feel safe and relax," said Stephanie.

"There is more we can do as an institution than allow them to tape record class lectures. From the beginning I said, let's help student veterans, not just build Patriot Place," she said.

Now that the year-long classes are over, Gayle and Stephanie are continuing their work to make their projects accessible and successful.

Gayle is planning the itinerary for the camp which will launch next summer. She is reviewing textbooks and other resources that will cover setting and achieving goals, budgeting and nutrition, and teamwork. She is lining up guest speakers to talk about career planning, financial planning, and networking.

Gayle selected Dr. Brian Swords to be her internal mentor and Cynthia Padgett, after-care coordinator with the Tamassee DAR School to be her external mentor. "The two of them, along

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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

Congratulations to **Danny West**, adjunct faculty in our Pre-Pharmacy program, who recently was named an Outstanding Mentor for 2013-14 by the South Carolina College of Pharmacy, University of South Carolina.

"We are fortunate to have Danny as an active member of our Pre-Pharmacy advisory committee and on the faculty here at Tri-County," said Bill Stevenson, chair of the College's Pre-Pharmacy program Advisory Committee and director of Pharmacy Services at Oconee Medical Center. "He is an outstanding mentor to students and completely committed to their success."

"My students make me very proud, and I truly have been blessed to have the opportunity to teach and act as preceptor during their educational journey," said Danny. "I have learned far more from them than they ever did from me."

He has served on the Pre-Pharmacy Advisory committee at Tri-County since its inception in 2008. Each pharmacy school in South Carolina is represented on the committee and members provide guidance on how best to instruct the students, especially with regard to progress toward admission to a pharmacy school.

Jonathan Finch, director of Campus Safety, recently completed the six-week 'Special Basic Academy' at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. Attending the Academy is a State requirement for a law enforcement officers who are transferring from out of state. The Academy was a mixture of physical training, academics, law enforcement driving, and firearms training.

John Woodson, program coordinator for Media Technology and Arts, recently graduated from Leadership Anderson. He wrote the following:

"I want to thank those who chose me to attend Leadership Anderson this year. This was class 30 so we were called LA XXX: somehow appropriate. I understand the Executive Staff make the final decision, so I wanted to thank you all.

I have been elected to serve on the Board for the Leadership Anderson Alumni Association.



Danny West



Jonathan Finch

Our community project is building a playground for the Developmental Center for Exceptional Children at the Westside Community Center. This exceptional organization cares for Anderson County children with disabilities and special needs, or those who are at risk of developing delays, in a therapeutic setting designed to meet their individual needs. Their playground is simply inadequate.

So far we have raised \$17,000, cleared the playground and poured concrete. We are now waiting for the playground equipment to arrive and to pour more concrete for a tricycle path. I created PSA's (with the help of recent graduate Josh Borm) to run on area radio and TV stations.

Again, thank you for this opportunity."

Comprehensive financial reporting and superb accounting standards have earned the Division of Business Affairs the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

For the 14th consecutive year, 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 (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

Pictured from left are **Linda Brown, Matt Whitten, Cathy Strasser, Cara Hamilton, Ana Interiano, Ann Hall, Debbie Norris, Lynn Shook, and Krystal Doherty.**



Congratulations to **Joan Kalley**, English instructor, who recently was recognized by the Town of Pendleton in a town proclamation designating July 8, 2014, as Joan Kalley Day in recognition of her many accomplishments, including being awarded the 2014 Tri-County Technical College Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence.



Joan Kalley

in transition

BRIDGE TO CLEMSON

Timothy Jared is the new Coordinator of Student Life for the Bridge to Clemson Program. He holds a B.A. in Psychology and an M. Ed. in College Student Affairs from Azusa Pacific University. Since 2006, he has worked as Associate Director of Residence Life at Anderson University. He and his wife, Amy, have three children, Jordyn, 2, and twins, Carter and Camden, four months. They live in Seneca.



Timothy Jared

BUSINESS AFFAIRS DIVISION

Brian Gaines is working as the Multimedia Web Design Specialist in the Marketing Department. He holds a B.A. in Graphic Design from Anderson University and an M.A. in Professional Communication from Clemson University.

Brian served six years in the U.S. Navy. During his service, he received three Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medals: one for Pacific Partnership 2008, a humanitarian relief mission in Central and South America and two for the rescue of Captain Richard Phillips from Somali pirates. He also received a Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal, three Sea Service Ribbons, and two national Defense Medals.

For the past two years, he worked as a Graduate Research Assistant at Clemson University in the following areas: The Multimedia Authoring Teaching and Research Facility, The Usability Testing Facility, and in the School of Computing within the Human-Centered Computing Lab.

He is a member and vice president of Clemson University's Chapter of the Society for Technical Communication and was the recipient of the organization's Ernie Mazzatenta STC Scholarship for 2013-2014.

He is a member of the User Experience Professionals Association, the International Association of Business Communicators, and the University and College Designers Association.

Brian lives in Anderson.



Brian Gaines



Ross Hughes

Ross Hughes is the new Quality

Assurance/Work Study Coordinator in the Financial Aid Office. He has an associate in Arts Degree from Piedmont Technical College and in May 2014 graduated from Lander University with a bachelor of science in Psychology. While earning his bachelor's degree, he worked in retail management, as well as in banking as a teller with Wells Fargo. Ross lives in Abbeville.

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

Evans Coleman
Linda Driggers
Kelli Harrison
Mark Monson

In Memoriam

Kay Alexander

April 4, 1953 - July 9, 2014

We were saddened by the July 9 passing of Kay Alexander, an Admissions Generalist in the Student Affairs Division. She had been out of work the past few weeks with a recent diagnosis of cancer and passed away at St. Francis Hospital.

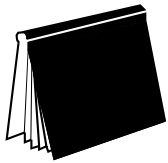
Kay joined the Student Affairs Division in 2008 after spending 30 years in the textile industry, working at Mayfair Mills until 2002. She entered Tri-County and graduated from our Office Systems Technology Department in 2006.

"Kay's passion was to earn her degree and to work in an administrative specialist role, and she did that well," said Renae Frazier, director of Admissions and Recruitment. "She loved her job and was a hard worker. Kay didn't meet a stranger. She helped guide and direct so many students through her conversations with them," said Renae.

"We're all having a tough time because this is unexpected and sudden. It's tough not to see her every day. We are a family, and it hits home when you lose someone you love. She is definitely missed. I always admired her passion and dedication to her job and her love of people. She always had a smile, even at the end."

Kay is survived by her husband, Virgil, four adult children, and eight grandchildren.





Dr. Booth received this note from Rhett Keaton, one of our student veterans:

“I hope you will understand the huge difference **Mrs. Stephanie Winkler** is making for student veterans at TCTC. Thanks to Mrs. Winkler, an 82nd Airborne veteran who has served 5 combat tours as an infantryman and is the father of two children now is enrolled at TCTC. He ran into challenges completing the enrollment process, and Mrs. Winkler provided him with assistance. He is now well on his way to being a solid contributor to the TCTC student body.

She also helped me after I learned I would not receive a book stipend from my GI Bill. I couldn't afford them and had basically given up on the idea of taking my four summer classes. I called on Mrs. Winkler before giving up and she responded to me with nothing but positive hope. By noon that day, she had connected me with a Foundation scholarship. Not only did she seek out this information for me, she facilitated the entire transaction. Where can you find people like that? In my experience, they are few and far between.”



Stephanie Winkler and Rhett Keaton

Dr. Booth received this note from Carol Burdette, president of United Way – Anderson:

“Thank you so much for your participation in the 2013-14 United Way of Anderson County Campaign. I am pleased to inform you that Tri-County Technical College employees contributed \$4,637 to Anderson County in this year's campaign. We realize that it takes a mixture of local businesses and individuals working together to see our community rise above everyday challenges. Your dollars blended with others helps us reach this goal.” Many thanks to **Emily Danuser** and **Greg Toney** for spearheading the TCTC United Way campaign, which

raised more than \$6,000 for the three-county service area.

Doug Allen sent this note of thanks to those who were instrumental in making a Job Fair at the ITC a success:

“A big thank you goes out to **Kevin Steele, Cheryl Garrison,** and **Emma Campbell** for helping us get the word out to our students and former graduates regarding the job fair at the ITC. DZ Atlantic tested and interviewed 75 - 80 of our folks and hired 35 while they were there. Welding instructors **Paul Phelps, Scott Brabham, Matt Woodall,** and **Jamie Black** were on hand to tour the group and help out with logistics to make the event a success. This success has strengthened our relationship with DZ and talks have already begun regarding future testing at our site for new hires from our Welding program, as well as from Industrial Electronics and Mechatronics. This facility (and our faculty/staff) continue to pay big dividends to our students, our college, and our community.”

Amanda Blanton, director of High School Engagement and Outreach, received this note from Sharon Huff, assistant superintendent for the School District of Pickens County, regarding her daughter who took several courses this past year as dual enrollment:

“From a parent's perspective, taking the TCTC dual credit courses was such a good experience for Rachael. Not only will she head into USC with a great head start on credits, she learned some very valuable lessons about managing time, studying daily, advocating for herself, and being responsible. Just wanted to let you know!”

Jennifer Hulehan, Comprehensive Studies department head, shared a complimentary note about **Jonathan Warnock**, adjunct faculty member in Developmental English. John also works in the Tutoring Center and is a former TCTC student himself. Below are excerpts from the note:

“Mr. Warnock is one of the best teachers I have ever had. He said some simple little words at the end of every class that shocked me and at the same time made me want to cry; he said, ‘I believe in you.’ I grew up in a household where my dreams were laughed at and scrutinized until I wanted no part of them, and a place where I was called stupid by nearly everyone (except my mom, but she was always working or at school). Hearing those words at the end of every class got me through a lot, and I miss hearing them. He is the reason I got through my first semester. He still encourages me when I go to see him at the Tutoring Center, and I look up to him very much.”

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.

Four Students Graduate from BMW Scholars Program

Twenty-eight students from Tri-County and Greenville technical colleges and Spartanburg Community College graduated from the BMW Scholars program in a ceremony held June 5 at the company's Greer plant. This is the third and largest class of scholars to graduate since BMW launched this workforce development program in 2011 for technical college students enrolled in various career paths related to manufacturing technology. The BMW Scholars Program offers the workplace benefits of a traditional apprentice program found in Germany with the additional advantage of tuition and book assistance.

Four Tri-County grads, Jacob Burgess (Mechatronics), Hampton Davenport (Mechatronics), Jeremy Davies (Automotive Technology), and Brian Ordonez (Mechatronics), were offered full-time employment.

Jeremy chose to further his education and will pursue an automotive engineering technology degree at Ferris State University in Michigan.

The scholars program allows selected students to attend class full time while working part time at BMW. The program allows students a chance to pursue their education, gain necessary hands-on experience, and become viable candidates for positions at BMW. During this process, BMW assists with students' tuition, books, and supplies. Students must be full time and maintain a minimum 2.8 GPA.

"The graduates are very highly skilled and ready for the next step," said Ryan Childers, section manager, training and



Four Tri-County graduates completed the BMW Scholars Program and were recognized in a ceremony held June 5 at the company's Greer plant. From left, are **Cheryl Garrison**, job placement coordinator at Tri-County; **Brian Ordonez**, of Easley (Mechatronics graduate); **Jeremy Davies**, of Seneca (Automotive Technology graduate); **Jacob Burgess**, of Easley (Mechatronics graduate); **Hampton Davenport**, of Anderson (Mechatronics graduate); and **Dr. Booth**.

development at BMW. Overall, the group maintained a 3.46 GPA; the average number of work hours was 2081; their average training hours was 335; their on-the-job training evaluation score was 3.59 out of 5; and their average training score was 4.5 out five.

As Scholar Brad Peoples told the crowd in his speech, "This was more than a co-op, more than a paycheck. The BMW scholars program was an opportunity."

Bridge to Clemson Admits 700+



The Bridge to Clemson program held orientations over the summer for the more than 700 students who will join us this fall. This is the Bridge program's largest class to date. Bridge to Clemson, a first of its kind in South Carolina, is an invitation-only program that blends the traditional academic experience at Tri-County with the social and cultural experiences of being a Clemson University student. The program offers select Tri-County students a university experience and seamless transition to Clemson for their sophomore year. Bridge students must earn 30 transfer credits at Tri-County during their two semesters and transfer to Clemson with a 2.5 or higher GPA. From left, standing, **Sean Davis**, of Bowie MD, observes **Kristopher Cooley**, of Belton, seated, register for classes. Assisting him is **Erin McDaris**, Bridge ambassador, right.

Campers Create Light & Laser Show



Twenty-six area students, ages 10–12, attended the Light and Laser Camp hosted by the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division in June. Campers spent four days learning about the amazing properties of light and lasers while having a great time. General Engineering Technology Program Coordinator Dorian McIntire works with students to prepare for a light and laser show they presented on the last day of camp.

Many thanks to Robert Bosch, LLC, and LASER-TEC, who provided funding for the camp.

Collaboration

(continued from page 1)

“We presented proven ways to fill the skills gaps, which is a national problem,” said Shan, who is program coordinator for IET. “We don’t have all the solutions but collaboration and direct communication with industry partners, such as BMW, Bosch, and Schneider Electric, inform us as to what they need, so we can create a program of study and produce job candidates who can go out and fill these positions,” he said.

“Co-ops help students to develop a realistic expectation of industry,” added Shan, who takes students on tours of local industries so they can observe operations on the plant floor. “It gives them a goal to aspire to while dispelling the myths about the work in industry being a dirty job. They see that the work is challenging and that associates are learning and growing every day. Working in advanced manufacturing requires highly skilled individuals.”

“Don’t wait for your community college to come to you,” Cheryl advised the conference attendees. “Get engaged. Serve on your local college’s advisory committees, teach as an adjunct instructor. Make an investment in your community college.”

To be successful in finding and growing new technical employees, a college must have a symbiotic relationship with industry, both agreed.

“Everybody is struggling to find technicians,” said Doug, who last year worked with Tri-County to design, launch, and lead the Bosch Technical Scholars program.

He spent the past year implementing a scholars program targeting Tri-County students enrolled in their last semester of Industrial Electronics or Mechatronics Technology. The program helps students to adapt to their workplaces more quickly by getting hands-on experience in various areas of the manufacturing process, introducing them to departmental colleagues and their job functions, and providing an overview of policies and procedures, as well as an understanding of plant protocol.

“Usually, it takes five to six weeks to fill a technician job at Bosch,” said Doug. “This co-op program decreases the time it takes for us to hire because it creates a pipeline of qualified persons already pursuing a degree at Tri-County. This also ensures that we have multi-skilled candidates for the technician openings.”

“We’re getting ready-made technicians who will feel engaged right from the beginning, and therefore have a personal and professional investment in the company,” said Doug.

Ted has taught evening classes in the IET program for 17 years and has served on the IET Advisory Committee for more than 15 years. He believes there is no better learning model than on-the-job training. Co-op students at the Seneca company maintain a full-time academic schedule while working 20 hours per week in this paid internship. Applicants must have a

minimum 2.75 GPA and must have completed 12 credit hours of study.

Students gain the theoretical knowledge in the classroom and then come here and apply that knowledge on the job, he said. For Ted, teaching evening classes is a way to give back – to help students discover their talents and hone their skills, as former instructors and colleagues did for him when he started his career.

He says he’s always looking for talent when teaching. Many of his former students are now Schneider Electric employees. “I see how they perform in class and recognize their potential. Some of our best technicians and specialists are Tri-County grads.”

Following the presentation, the team spent the afternoon fielding questions from attendees. “We told them to work with their local technical and community colleges to design a model that fits the companies’ workforce needs,” said Cheryl.

“It’s do-able for everyone,” said Cheryl, “if you are willing to engage with your partners and work to make it happen. “You also have to be willing to listen to industry feedback,” said Shan, who met with Bosch associates to discuss curriculum changes that would benefit students and employers. “We sat in on company interviews with potential technicians and began to adjust our curricula, as well as the way we teach and test. We are working toward smaller labs so students receive as much hands-on experience as possible,” he said.

“We will continue to grow our work-based learning opportunities for students in the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division and have been expanding opportunities for students in the Business and Public Services Division,” said Cheryl.

Dr. Booth

(continued from page 2)

to the library, to the classroom, to the maintenance department. It takes what you do as individuals to move us forward in this effort

When we deliver this experience, we are doing something more impactful than what is written in our job descriptions. We set the stage to ignite transformation not only in our students, but in ourselves.



Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

On-Campus Supplemental Instruction Sessions Set This Fall

This fall students who are struggling in Biology 101 and Math 102, two gateway courses that traditionally have been academically difficult for college freshmen, will have the opportunity to attend on-campus supplemental instruction sessions to help them be successful.

Supplemental Instruction (SI) is a best practice to improve retention, persistence, and grades in traditionally difficult courses that have high rates of D's, F's, and WF's as final grades, said Rob Massey, director of advising and tutoring. National statistics show that on average, students who participate in the SI sessions earn a higher final grade than students who do not participate.

"We are piloting these two courses because of their large enrollments and history of low success rates," said Rob. Data shows that more than 40 percent of Tri-County students who take these classes make a D, F, or WF. For fall 2012, Math 102 had an enrollment of 324 with an unsuccessful rate of 55.2 percent. Bio 101 had an enrollment of 812 with an unsuccessful rate of 52 percent. For spring semester 2013, Math 102 had an enrollment of 311 students with an unsuccessful rate of 51 percent, and Bio 101 had an enrollment of 500 students with an unsuccessful rate of 47 percent. "Providing SI for these two courses can have a significant impact on grades, retention, and persistence at Tri-County," said Rob.

"Our goal is to increase the success rate (improved grades and reduced attrition) and persistence toward graduation by 10 percent in these courses by the end of the Spring 2015 semester," he said.

Since Fall 2012 the College has offered SI for Bridge students off campus through Clemson University. The program was available to other Tri-County students, but few attended. This Fall SI will be available for all students in our two pilot classes, Math and Biology. Most sessions will be held in the Tutoring Center and in available classrooms in the afternoons and evenings.

SI leaders will be Clemson students who will be trained this summer. During the first couple of weeks of the Fall Semester, SI leaders will speak to classes and tell students how to sign up for these no-cost sessions.

"SI is not tutoring – it is students working together. SI leaders act as models and mentors working together to improve academic achievement through collaborative learning," said Rob.



Rob Massey

"It's a non-threatening learning environment with no stigma of tutoring."

The peer connection is appealing to students, added Rob.

"SI is for all students who want to perform better academically. The national data is there – SI is clearly making a difference on campuses across the United States."

SI Facts at a Glance

- Pilot program to be offered on Pendleton Campus Fall Semester 2014
- Designed to improve success rates in courses with high rates of Ds, Fs, and WFs
- Pilot will include Biology 101 and Math 102
- Modeled after program developed by Clemson's nationally recognized Academic Success Center
- Taught by SI leaders from Clemson University who completed the classes with a grade of "A."
- SI leaders act as models and mentors helping students achieve through collaborative learning.

Area Manufacturers Conduct Interviews at Job Fair

Area manufacturers were on campus June 3 to conduct on-site interviews during a job fair hosted by SCWorks. AFCO, BorgWarner, First Quality, Plastic Omnium, Orian Rugs, and U.S. Engine Valve were looking for candidates with manufacturing



experience. Some of the available jobs include assembly operators, material handlers, production technicians, injection mold operators, process operators, maintenance technicians, machinists, and bagging line operators.

Here, **Lauren McGarry**, of Pendleton left, talks with **Ben Heinz**, a recruiter for BorgWarner. Lauren is a 2013 Industrial Electronics Technology graduate, who is enrolled in SMC classes to gain an MSSC credential. She also is pursuing a Mechatronics degree.

Foundation News

Foundation Honors Two Longtime Board Members

The Foundation Board honored two longtime members, Suzanne Morse and Jim Smith, who rotated off the Board effective June 30.



Mr. Smith, pictured above with Foundation Board Chair **Peggy Deane**, has represented Anderson County on the Foundation Board since July 1, 1996. During his 18 years of service, Mr. Smith has willingly served on committees, has helped in the identification of potential donors, and has been a faithful donor himself. He and his wife, Marjorie, are considered two of the Foundation's major donors and are recognized on the Foundation's Wall of Honor for gifts they have made since 1989. Their largest gifts have come in the form of four scholarship endowments - one in honor of their five daughters and two in memory of their parents. Most recently, Jim endowed a scholarship in honor of Marjorie. Jim and Marjorie were also instrumental in the establishment of another scholarship endowment - the Joe F. Mason Memorial Scholarship. This endowment was created by Mr. Smith's aunt in memory of her husband.

Mrs. Morse, pictured at right served on the Foundation Board since July 1, 2002, representing Anderson County. She brought to the Board experience and knowledge from serving on the Board of her family's foundation



- the W. C. English Foundation. Because of her vast knowledge of investments, she was appointed to the Foundation's Finance Committee in August of 2004. She has been particularly helpful in her role as a member of this committee and her presence on this committee and on the Board will be missed. As a trustee of the W. C. English Foundation, Mrs. Morse has been instrumental in gifts from that Foundation totaling more than \$150,000. These funds have been used to support mini-grants for employee development and international trips for students who enroll in study abroad courses. Because of her and her family's generous support, the W. C. English Foundation is recognized on the College's Wall of Honor.

W.C. English Foundation Supports Professional Development, Study Abroad

Since 2003 the W.C. English Foundation has impacted students, faculty, and staff at Tri-County through funding professional development opportunities and a study abroad experience in Mexico.

Suzanne Morse, of Pendleton, a trustee of the Foundation and a member of the College's Foundation Board, middle, made a \$15,000 donation to the College's Foundation. She is pictured with **Courtney White**, director of development for the College's Foundation, right, and **Mary Geren**, English instructor.



Over the last 14 years, the W.C. English Professional Development Mini-Grant Program has donated \$172,000 to the College's Foundation. These monies have enabled faculty and staff to attend seminars, conferences and workshops and to participate in professional development activities.

Spotlight

(continued from page 3)

with numerous other people, both on and off campus, helped me tremendously. From making introductions, to being a sounding board for ideas to encouraging me along the way, they showed with words and actions how much they care for others," she said.

Participants will take WorkKeys® career readiness assessments. They will tour campuses of Tri-County, Southern Wesleyan University, and Clemson University to learn about applying to and paying for college. Each will be aligned with a mentor to guide them through their senior year.

Extra-curricular events will consist of Greenville Drive games, tours of manufacturing plants, and team-building activities.

Participants will be housed at SWU.

"This is a calling and passion for me. It has been my privilege to work with others in the community, like Cyndi, to create what could be a game changer for many of our area's youth," said Gayle. "Research shows that only three percent of displaced youth complete a college education. I really want to help change that statistic."

Another goal is to acquire funding for the project which has a projected cost of \$30,000. Gayle says she and College officials will work with legislators, Foundation sponsors, and community agencies to secure funding for the camp.

Stephanie also credits her mentor, Kevin Steele, with teaching her that when dealing with projects of this magnitude, you have to ask for help and celebrate small changes and victories. Her wish list includes additional office space, mentors, and a textbook assistance program. She says Dean of Student Development Dan Holland helped to find space for Patriots' Place in the Student Center and provided a small budget for new furniture. "Any school can do this without dollars and resources," she said. "And you don't have to hire a full-time person. You just have to get started and grow from there," she said.

"I want to change the campus culture and how we think about student veterans. Veterans persist, but maybe not as quickly because of their challenges. Their educational pathways here are typically Criminal Justice, Arts and Sciences, and Business Technology. Most receive the GI Bill. At Tri-County, in the fall of 2013, 224 were on GI Bill and in spring there were 216. Only 32 veterans applied for student loans," she said.

In an effort to connect with groups in the community, Stephanie has partnered with veterans' community groups and arranged for Sheila Stone-Gray, a social worker, to visit once a week. She planned a Get Connected Veterans event last fall and another is set for September 3. Events such as the golf tournament and the Patriot Run 5K served as fundraisers.

She also formed the Veterans and Advocates Leadership Team (VALT) which is comprised of leaders in the veterans' community. With VALT assistance, our students can get immediate help and are connected to resources quickly and easily.

"VALT allows us to give veterans services that an educational institution can't provide to students. No matter what the issue, if we can't take care of it, it's just a phone call away. Camaraderie is the ultimate goal," Stephanie said.

"We also hope to educate our faculty more about PTSD and other veterans' issues in general and the special struggles they face," she added.

More fall initiatives include Backpacks for the Brave where she will give out 50 backpacks filled with school supplies and a veterans' job fair on November 11. The Vet Center and Upstate Warrior Solutions will hold regular hours at least two days a week in the fall.

With each Academy, six projects are selected to present at the South Carolina Technical Education Association conference held annually in February. Stephanie and Gayle's projects were selected – and were voted the top two projects of the year by the 2014 Leadership class.

SC Film Commission Manager Tours Media Technology and Arts Classrooms, Studios



*Dan Rogers, senior project manager of the South Carolina Film Commission, right, discussed the economic impact the film industry has and could have in Anderson County, as well as how to attract more film business to our area, at the Anderson Area Chamber's Toast and Topics session. Afterward he visited the Pendleton Campus where he toured the Media Technology and Arts classrooms and studio with Program Coordinator **John Woodson**, left.*

Student Groups Tour Nation's Capital

A group of students, among them club and organization leaders, made a weekend trip to Washington, DC, earlier this year. For many of them, it was the first time visiting our Nation's capital. "It's a way to learn about history and government and to honor our veterans," said English instructor Mary Geren, who serves as Faculty Advisor for the Student Democrats.



The group, pictured here at The Marine Corps War Memorial (also called the Iwo Jima Memorial) outside the walls of Arlington National Cemetery.

Students visited Ford's Theatre and the Peterson House, visited Mount Vernon and various Smithsonian Museums, monuments and memorials, and witnessed The Changing of the Guard at Arlington Cemetery. The group also visited The Marine Corps War Memorial (also called the Iwo Jima Memorial) outside the walls of Arlington National Cemetery and viewed the 9-11 Memorial. "It gave us a greater appreciation for our defense team and the men and women in the Armed Forces and the sacrifices they make daily for our freedom that we often take for granted," said Mary.

A highlight of the trip; was a personal private tour of the Pentagon by Lt. Col. Carl Young, son of College Commissioner Al Young. "I expected a regular tour, but he took us to the lower levels, and we saw the President's private entry, the think tank room and press conference room. We were so humbled," she said.

"I love history and patriotism, and this trip just doesn't get old. Each trip is unique. For many it's the first opportunity to experience our Nation's Capital. I believe all students should have the opportunity to experience this and see how government functions and to pay homage to our veterans. The Washington trip is another example of how important learning beyond the classroom is."

A total of \$7,600 was generated by the Student Leadership Development Endowment to fund student activities, including the Washington, D.C. trips. This money was distributed to various student organizations, Student Development money and fundraising from clubs.

The Criminal Justice Technology program faculty took 12 students to Washington, D.C., June 1-4 for an experiential

learning trip. Funding for the trip was made possible through generous donations from the TCTC Foundation, student development, and the Henry Harrison Endowment. The group was able to tour the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial, The Pentagon, National Crime and Punishment Museum, International Spy Museum, U.S. Supreme Court, National Archives, and Ford's Theater, among other area attractions.



Criminal Justice Students

This was a great experience for both faculty and students alike, said Tom Lawrence, public services department head. As one student wrote, "I want you to know that the trip is something I will never forget. It was fun, even with the faculty presence. And, when the original plan for the day did not work you guys adapted and found something else just as interesting to have us do. My favorite place was The Pentagon. It was the guided tour and he was an excellent guide. The faculty's work throughout the duration of this trip was truly exceptional."

ECD Hosts Family Literacy Event

The Early Childhood Development (ECD) program hosted a family literacy event with interactive learning and play stations at the Anderson Campus.

"Once Upon a Time Book Ball" was designed for children ages 2 – 6 and their families. Admission was free and guests dressed as their favorite book character. Prizes were awarded for best costumes. Parents received suggested reading lists in their information packets. The event was sponsored by Inspiring Futures, the ECD student organization, and was designed, created and staffed by ECD students and Program Coordinator Meredith McClure. Pictured here are **Tamara** and **Alicia Whitfield**.



Tri-County's ECD program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Patriot Run Supports Scholarships, Services for Student Veterans

With a new name and a refocused purpose, the College's annual road race drew around 200 participants and raised funds to support scholarships and services for student veterans.

Renamed the Tri-County Patriot Run, the College's 5K Race and One-Mile Run/Walk was held at the Anderson Campus on Armed Forces Day, May 17.

"The Patriot Run/Walk was a phenomenal success, and I want to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all those who volunteered and assisted at our event," said Sue Bladzick. "Thank you so much for your hard work, willingness and dedication to help make this event in support of all our veterans



such a great achievement! We could not have done this without your gift of time, energy, and enthusiasm for the cause. It was a pleasure and a privilege to work with such a great group of volunteers. I look forward to working with you again next year at our Patriot Run on Saturday, May 16," said Sue.

Race Director Tim Bowen also expressed his gratitude for faculty and staff's support in making Patriot Run a success. "People went away feeling appreciated and well treated – that's what it's all about! Plus, we were able to honor our veterans and active service personnel in a most fitting and memorable way."

Tim added that the committee has conducted a debriefing to identify opportunities for improvement, and he welcomes suggestions. "Please know how deeply grateful I am for your service. We simply could not have done it without you."



Overall race winner **Matt Shock** crosses the finish line with a time of 15:42.69.



Brandt Thompson was the winner of Best Costume



Runners take off on the course that starts and ends at the Anderson Campus.



Spanish instructor **Trini Tumlin** was among the faculty and staff who participated in the race. She won first place in her age category with a time of 28:37.34.



The team known as **Happy Feet** won the Faculty Staff team award. They dedicated the award and presented it to Disabilities Services Coordinator **Stephanie Winkler**, who, as part of her S.C. Leadership Academy project, designed and created a veterans resource center on the Pendleton Campus that serves as a one-stop shop for enrollment processes, resources and a place to hang out and talk.

Send Us Photos With the TCTC Pennant



Whether you are taking a vacation, staycation, or attending a conference, don't forget to send us a photo of you holding a TCTC pennant. We want to showcase the photos at the beginning of Fall Convocation in August. **Marisa Shook**, Spanish Instructor, recently enjoyed a trip out west and shared this photo overlooking the north rim of the Grand Canyon.

Please email your photos and the location they were taken to reidson@tctc.edu or pr@tctc.edu. If you did not receive a pennant at Spring Convocation, we have a few left to distribute. Call Rebecca Eidson at Ext. 1507.

Veterinary Technology Degree Paves Way For Entrance to Veterinary School

Jessica Comolli, a 2009 Veterinary Technology graduate, is now a successful veterinary medicine student at the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary Medicine. In addition, she is a DVM Candidate Class of 2016, Feline Club (sCAAFP) Vice-President, VOICE Events Coordinator, Wildlife Treatment Crew Supervisor, and SCAVMA Senator. She sent this letter and talks about how her Veterinary Technology degree paved the way for entrance to Veterinary School.

"I have wanted to be a veterinarian since I was a little girl. That dream never changed. I knew that veterinary school was extremely difficult to get into and while grades would be an important factor, veterinary experience would be taken into consideration. I had little veterinary experience going into my undergraduate studies at Clemson University. I knew that some of my peers had been working in veterinary clinics, and had moved up from kennel attendants to working along-side technicians. After completing my second year of college, I knew I would not have enough experience to get into veterinary school. I needed to work in a veterinary hospital, but I wanted to be able to do more than work in a kennel. I had heard about the Veterinary Technology program at TCTC and made the all-important decision to take a break from the university and pursue a degree in Veterinary Technology. While this was a longer route to take towards my ultimate goal of becoming a veterinarian, it was probably one of the single most important decisions I have made in my life.

Becoming a Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) has given me a strong foundation for my veterinary studies. There are things that we are taught in veterinary school that many people are learning for the first time. For instance classes such as parasitology, bacteriology, virology, clinical pathology, and anesthesiology are a few of the courses that I have taken in veterinary school that brought into greater detail some of the courses that I took at TCTC. Also, during summer breaks, being an LVT has made it much easier for me to find jobs and externships.

But the biggest thing that I think my degree will help me with is still yet to come - in my clinical rotations that I will be entering next year. My degree in Veterinary Technology allowed me to gain an extensive knowledge of several techniques that I will take with me into my rotations. I already have experience inducing, intubating, and monitoring anesthesia. I know how to correctly place IV catheters, perform venipuncture, and take radiographs. I can also perform urinalyses, differentials, and fecal examinations. While some of my peers may have prior experience working as assistants, many will be entering clinics with little to no technical skills.

The program at Tri-County was very challenging but very rewarding. My work there taught me how to study so that when I returned to Clemson University to complete my bachelor's degree and my pre-requisites for veterinary school, I was able to get the grades that I needed. The care and dedication of my teachers at TCTC was exceptional, and during my time there I made a lifetime mentor and friend in Dr. Champion, the department head."



Jessica Comolli

Let @AuntFAE Answer Your Financial Aid Questions Via Twitter

With fall semester just five weeks away, the phones in the Financial Aid office are ringing off the hook with returning, prospective, and current students, along with parents and the general public, calling with questions about FAFSA deadlines, scholarship requirements, and debt management.



The Financial Aid team, from left, **Ross Hughes**, **Catherine DuRant**, **Jessica Hollifield**, and **Sharetta Bufford**.

Instead of waiting on hold or e-mailing your questions, you can get instant answers via social media through a new Tri-County Twitter Account called @AuntFAE (Financial Aid Expert). Financial Aid Coordinator Catherine DuRant and Ross Hughes, quality assurance/work study coordinator, and Jessica Hollifield, part-time administrative specialist, are giving instant feedback through @AuntFAE, an expert in financial aid and literacy, who advocates making smart choices as a student “so your post-graduation paycheck belongs to you, not Uncle Sam.”

In addition to a high volume of daily phone calls about every aspect of financial aid, the Financial Aid office has 30 – 35 e-mails waiting for answers when they come to work every morning. Over the weekend, that number is higher. By tweeting @Aunt FAE, you can have immediate answers during the week and over the weekend through Twitter. Twitter questions usually have an answer within 10 minutes.

“We are promoting spending wisely and making the most of your resources,” said Catherine. “We’ve been getting lots of promotion this summer through the Bridge to Clemson office, said Catherine. “Parents are following us on Twitter and are receiving consumer information about deadlines, loans, and appeals. Our big focus is on loan repayment and default management,” said Catherine. “We are assisting students in staying on top of their borrowing habits. We want them to have the information to make wise choices.”

All TCTC students have free access to Inceptia, a non-profit organization providing premier expertise in higher education access, student loan repayment, analytics, default prevention and financial education.

“We encourage all students and the community to reference @AuntFAE by using our hashtags—#BudgetWisely and #BuckSave. We would love to see your money saving tips and financial success stories,” said Catherine.

Alumni Night Is August 8 at Frankie’s Fun Park

Tri-County Alumni Night at Frankie’s Fun Park in Greenville is Friday, August 8. Join TC grads for a fun time at 6 p.m. Alumni are eligible for a greatly discounted rate of \$20, which includes five attraction passes (choose from go-karts, bumper boats, mini golf, drop zone, fun slide, and laser tag) plus \$5 in arcade fun money. You must notify the Alumni Office of your attendance before August 6 to be eligible for this rate. For more information, contact Mary Johnston at 646-1808 or alumni@tctc.edu.

Cold Water Challenge Benefits Foundation



Shan Smith, program coordinator for Industrial Electronics Technology, recently accepted the “Cold Water Challenge” and donated \$10 to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation.

A new trend on social media, the Cold Water Challenge offers two choices: (1) accept the challenge and pay \$10 to the charity of your choice, or (2) choose not to accept the challenge and pay \$100 to a charity selected by the person who challenged you. If you choose to accept the challenge, you then verbally challenge at least three other people right before being doused with cold water. The dousing is captured on video and posted to Facebook and other social media sites.

Also participating in the initial challenge were Cara Hamilton, director of Fiscal Affairs; **B.J. Ellis**, Campus Safety Officer; **Courtney White**, director of Development for the Foundation; and **Scott Harvey**, registrar. They joined Shan in challenging students, faculty, staff, and Foundation Board members to accept the Cold Water Challenge and donate \$10 to the TCTC Foundation.

Farmer's Market On Campus Every Thursday



From left, **Tonia McClain**, **Gloria Littleton**, and **Michael Hunter** buy fresh fruits and vegetables at the Denver Downs Farmers Market that will be on the Pendleton Campus this summer, every Thursday from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m., to sell to our employees and students. They will be located on the brick patio area between Ruby Hicks and Miller Hall and in the grassy area at Oconee Hall.

Tri-County Goes Tobacco Free August 1

As a reminder, Tri-County is making a “fresh start” to create and promote a healthier environment

for students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Effective Aug. 1, tobacco use will be prohibited on all Tri-County Technical College campuses and learning centers, including all buildings, parking lots, automobiles, and outdoor areas. “Tobacco” refers to any and all tobacco products, whether inhaled or ingested, as well as electronic cigarettes.

Our “Fresh Start” website shares FAQs about the new policy, as well as links to resources and information about overcoming tobacco addiction. For more information, visit www.tctc.edu/FreshStart.



Executive Staff Summary

- **Work-based Learning:** The College has made significant progress in expanding work-based learning opportunities for students. The number of students participating in work-based learning has increased from 26 in 2012 to more than 100 today. The number of companies that provide work-based learning experiences has increased from six to 27 during the same period.
- **Learning College 101 for Faculty:** The first LC 101 class for new faculty was deemed a success by participants and facilitators and will be continued during the next academic year. This semester-long program focuses on teaching and learning strategies that foster student success.
- **Veterinary Technology Kennel Project:** Construction plans for a new kennel are moving forward should be completed by March 2016. Construction will begin this year, along with improvements to Halbert Hall. The new facilities will improve students' clinical experiences and meet all accreditation standards.
- **Fall Enrollment Marketing Plan:** The Marketing Department presented the marketing plan for Fall Semester, which includes a variety of strategies, including radio, television commercials, videos, mailings, and follow-up with prospective students.
- **Twenty/20 Update:** A report on the Twenty/20 pilot program was presented and included positive testimonials and examples of mentor/mentee activities. The program will continue in the next academic year.
- **SC ACCELERATE:** Two staff members serve as a resource for unemployed, underemployed, and dislocated adult workers as part of the SCACCELERATE program housed at the Industrial Technology Center. The staff works closely with Career Services and other College offices to ensure services complement and expand rather than duplicate existing services.
- **SC Technical College System Leadership Program:** Gayle Arries, marketing director, and Stephanie Winkler, disabilities services coordinator, reported on their leadership projects: Gayle's project will be a 2015 summer camp focused on career planning and preparation for foster children approaching high school graduation. Stephanie's project was the development and opening of Patriot's Place on the Pendleton Campus for student veterans. (See related article on page 3.)
- **Miller Hall Space Allocation Study:** The Executive Staff approved a proposal for limited renovations and space reallocation in Miller Hall to more efficiently serve students going through the enrollment process.
- **Oconee County Campus:** Tri-County continues to work with community partners to explore options for an Oconee Campus that will allow us to expand our current presence beyond the Hamilton Career Center.
- **Science Lab Feasibility Study:** Biology labs are running at capacity and no additional lab classes can be offered due to space constraints. A plan is being developed to convert the existing Physics lab into a Biology lab and relocate the Physics lab to another location in Fulp Hall.
- **Other:** Pre-design study for a new Student Success Center on the Pendleton Campus; Arts and Sciences Division advising pilot; enrollment update for Fall Semester (tracking higher than same time last year); policies and procedures.