

Connection

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Mary Geren Receives Presidential Medallion

Mary Geren, an instructor in our English department, was honored May 9 with the highest award presented to the faculty. She received the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence at the College's spring commencement.

Dr. Booth presented the medallion, which is awarded each year to the instructor who has contributed the most during the academic year to the profession of teaching, to the development of the College, and to the students. *(continued on page 18)*



Mary Geren, of Anderson, right, an instructor in the College's English department, was honored May 9 with the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence at the College's spring commencement. Dr. Booth presented the medallion.

Foundation Exceeds \$1 Million in Annual Contributions

This year is the first time, since FY 2011, that the Foundation has exceeded \$1 million in annual contributions, Foundation Executive Director Grayson Kelly reported at the Faculty/Staff Convocation.

As of May 4, contributions to the Foundation totaled \$977,026, exceeding the fundraising goal of \$950,000. Total contributions are now at \$1,097,156.

"This fiscal year has been very successful. Every day the staff of the TCTC Foundation gets up and thinks

(continued on page 19)



Representatives from Duke Energy presented the Tri-County Technical College Foundation with a \$75,000 check May 17 to support the I-BEST Manufacturing Pathways program. In 2015 the Duke Energy Foundation donated \$25,000 to support the creation of the College 120 class.

Here, Kodwo Ghartey-Tagoe, state president for Duke Energy, second from left, and Emily DeRoberts, district manager for government and community relations in South Carolina for Duke Energy, present the check to Tri-County President Ronnie L. Booth, third from left, and Grayson Kelly, executive director of the Foundation.

Passionate people TRANSFORMING LIVES
AND BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES ONE STUDENT AT A TIME.



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

A Job Well Done

Our vision statement truly reflects who we are: Passionate people transforming lives and building strong communities one student at a time. During Spring Convocation last month, I highlighted a number of impressive accomplishments tied to our Strategic Plan that showcase how the passion, creativity, and dedication of our employees positively impacts student success. Thank you for a job well done.

Among our many accomplishments, I want to reference three that stand out as making an immediate and positive impact on students and the community we serve.

First, our I-BEST program, which is quickly gaining a lot of attention at the local, State, and national level. Designed to address the needs of non-traditional, unemployed, and underemployed citizens in our community, we have partnered with Adult Education to prepare students in one semester for entry-level jobs in manufacturing. Most importantly, I-BEST is not a quick fix; it is a pathway. This spring, fifteen students started their pathways to success by enrolling in our first I-BEST cohort. Our goal is for every student who completes the program to fill a much-needed position in manufacturing and earn an associate degree over time.

Notably, the I-BEST model is customizable to meet the specific needs of individual companies. Michelin North America is the first company to work with us to design a program to train a pool of applicants for entry-level manufacturing professionals at their two plants in Tri-County's service area. The Michelin Manufacturing Scholars program debuts this fall.

My second example is our new one-stop enrollment center - TC Central. More than a place, TC Central is a philosophy of working together to place the student at the center of every interaction. By focusing on the "student lens" instead of the "office lens," we now offer an efficient, comfortable, first and ongoing connection point for students. This model particularly benefits under-resourced and non-traditional students by replacing what our people term "organized chaos" with exceptional service.

My third example is our new strategy to purposefully integrate 21st-Century work skills and co-curricular activities into our student engagement activities. Not just some of them—all of them. We offered an amazing 167 activities during Spring Semester, not just by our Student Support and Engagement Division. Offices all over our campuses are getting involved in offering activities that help students learn important skills and more actively engage in their educational experience.

It takes everyone working together with intense focus on student success to keep us moving in the right direction. We should be proud of all we have accomplished this year, and I look forward to building on our successes during the 2017-18 academic year.



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President



Spotlight on Annual Trip to Washington, D.C.

The annual trip to Washington DC is a chance for students—many of them for the first time—to see our Nation’s Capital up close, and the experience impacts them as individuals, says Lara Wrightson, social sciences instructor and a chaperone for the trip.

She says it is equally as rewarding for fellow instructors, who also serve as chaperones. Joining her this year were English instructor Mary Geren, English Department Head Allison Earley, Speech instructor Dana Griffith, History instructor Dr. Chad Gregory, and recent graduate Darius Geer. Mary, Lara, and Dana serve as Faculty Co-Advisors for Tri-County Association of Political Scientists (TAPS)

“Showing students around Washington is so important, so impactful in their lives. To share that with them is an emotional reward,” Lara said.

The group of 29—six chaperones and 23 students, departed Tri-County in a chartered bus the morning May 4 for a weekend that began with walking tours of the national monuments (FDR, Martin Luther King Jr., WWII, Korea, Lincoln, and Vietnam Memorials).

The next day included a tour of the U.S. Capitol, National Museum of the American Indian, National Museum of African American History and Culture which opened in 2016, the International Spy Museum, and American Art Museum.

It was University Transfer student Caleb Allen’s second trip to D.C. Caleb, who serves as TAPS president, said, “The most interesting experience I had this year was touring the



Students and faculty pose in front of the Capitol during their trip to Washington, D.C.

African American Museum. There was so much to see—collections of documentaries, famous posters from recent happenings, and sculptures of world-renowned influencers, such as Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, and Oprah Winfrey, and former President Barack Obama. This was by far my favorite museum.”

A powerful experience for all was witnessing the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery. Lara said one student met her family at the cemetery where her cousin, an Afghanistan veteran, is buried.

The last stop on Monday was a tour of the Supreme Court and a historian- led talk in the Courtroom. (The Court was not in session, but they enjoyed the exhibits dedicated to individual Justices.) Kamille

Tyson, a Media Arts Production major, says the highlight of the trip for her was when she and several others spotted Justice Sonya Sotomayor (in street clothes) walk through a personnel gate. “It was so exciting—she was just a few feet away from us,” said Kamille, who added this was her first trip to Washington. “I wanted to expand my knowledge of Washington and politics in general, and the trip was beyond my expectations.”

The group had passes to the House and Senate Galleries, but they were not in session. “We have tickets left that we can use at a later date. But it’s a fun souvenir,” Lara added.

“The great thing about this trip is you’re always learning, even when it’s not even intentional—through watching people and through conversations initiated by what you see,” said Mary.

(continued on page 19)



The group in front of the National Monument.

“You Are the Real Future of a Great America,” Abbott Exec Tom Strange Tells Class of 2017

You are the real future of a great America, and you join graduates from all across this country to begin creating the economy of tomorrow, Thomas Strange, senior director of Research and Development for Abbott (formerly St. Jude Medical) in Liberty, told the Class of 2017 at spring commencement May 9.

Six hundred and twenty eight received degrees, diplomas, and certificates at the spring commencement held at the T. Ed Garrison Arena.

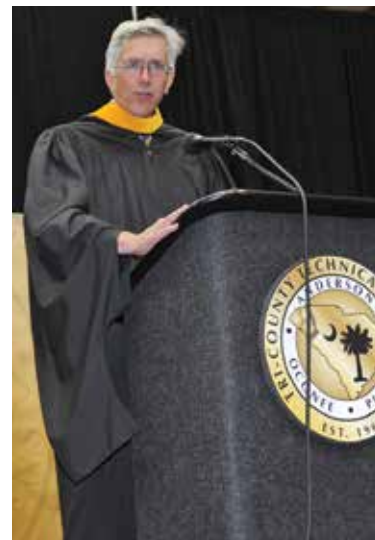
“I am particularly happy to talk to you tonight because this is a technical college, and you have all decided to devote some or all of your life to supporting and improving the lives of others by becoming practicing technologists,” said Mr. Strange, who describes himself as a practicing technologist, who “bridges the theoretical and the practical.”

Mr. Strange has an extensive background in materials science and is the author of 45 patents and numerous papers over the last three decades, covering all aspects of power component development. Over the last 20 years at Abbott, Mr. Strange and his team have been introducing new technologies that continue

to define state of the art in implantable medical devices for both pacing and arrhythmia correction.

“Mechanical, electrical and electronics, nursing, veterinary medicine, these are the things that make life as we love it work, and you are the real future of a great America,” he said.

“You went to Tri County Technical College for the knowledge you could gather from this great faculty, and with no less academic rigor than those big schools, you have driven yourselves to understand how your chosen technology works. Because you did this, because we can leverage your labor more effectively, you have said ‘wait, let me help create this new economy, let me help take us to the next level,’” he said.



Thomas Strange addresses Class of 2017.



*Under the direction of Music instructor **Julia West**, the Chorus entertained the crowd prior to the ceremony.*



***Duncan Ellenberg**, left, is pictured with his father, Industrial Electronics Technology (IET) Program Director **Robert Ellenberg**, right, prior to the ceremony. Duncan, who lives in Seneca, earned an IET degree.*

McElreath Graduates Debt-free, Transfers to Clemson



Glen McElreath

After a decade of working in the restaurant business, Glen McElreath, a married father of four, at age 28, entered Tri-County. While a student, Glen worked a 30-hour-a-week job at The Eating Place in Iva while maintaining a full academic course load. “After the kids were in bed, there were late-night study sessions,” he said. “I began to soak up the knowledge in all of my classes. Each instructor has a different teaching style, and classes are open to conversation. Instructors are passionate about what they do and it comes through. Tri-County is a great place to start my education. It’s affordable (he received a full Pell Grant), and it’s do-able.”

He graduated May 9—debt free—with an associate in Arts and has been accepted to Clemson University this fall. He will pursue a bachelor’s degree in Management with a focus on International Business. He transfers with a 3.73 GPA.



Taylor Thrasher Bell

Stacked Credentials Prepare Bell for Intensity of Nursing Program

Taylor Thrasher Bell is 24 years old, married, the mother of a three-year-old daughter, and worked two full-time L.P.N. jobs while completing her R.N. degree this past year. She received her fourth Tri-County degree May 9 at the College's spring graduation ceremony. Over the past seven years, she earned

Medical Assisting, LPN, and associate in Science degrees.

She already has landed a full-time position with AnMed's ER and will begin working in June pending the results of her NCLEX

licensure exam. During the month of May, Taylor didn't take a vacation with her husband and daughter; instead, she spent it gaining more skills by mastering the hospital's Epic Super User records system.

"I like a challenge and variety, and the health care field provides both," said the Belton resident who is the daughter of Debbie Thrasher, office manager at the Anderson Campus.

"I thought I would be at Tri-County for just two years and be done. Taking it credential by credential prepared me for the intensity of the RN program and allowed me to work while going to school. Although my path has zig zagged, I wouldn't be the nurse or the person I am if it had gone any other way," said Taylor.

School remains a priority for Taylor. She has been accepted into the online USC Nursing program and will begin this fall.

Hamilton Career Center Seniors Earn Certificates

Five Oconee seniors, all from Walhalla High School, are the first students in Oconee County to earn Mechatronics (Technical Operators) certification through a dual credit agreement with the College. These students participated in graduation, where they received their certificates. These students completed tuition-free dual credit courses at the Hamilton Career Center and graduated with a Technical Operators Certification while having earned college credit hours toward their associate degree in Mechatronics.



Pictured at graduation are (from left to right): **Chase Gagnon, Dylan Campbell, Chase Bentz, instructor Doug Allen, Michael Lefler, and Jacob Ledbetter.**



Heather and Brian Jones

Retraining Puts Couple Back to Work

Retraining at Tri-County Technical College put married couple Heather and Brian Jones back to work in jobs they love and provided the financial stability and benefits they need. Heather and Brian are quick to point out that it wouldn't be possible without scholarships provided to Tri-County by the SC General Assembly for short-term job training programs through the Corporate and Community Education Division (phlebotomy for Heather) and a VA scholarship for Brian.

Heather, who works as a Phlebotomist, received an associate in Arts degree at graduation, and Brian, a Computer Technology graduate, is employed as a Computer Technician and Webmaster for Spartanburg County School District 2. They were featured in the last year's Annual Report publication

2017 Distinguished Alumni Award Goes to Deanne Williams

Deanne Williams never knew her parents. Both died when she was an infant - their deaths just five months apart. When she was two months old, her father was killed by a drunk driver while on his way to visit her mother, who was in the hospital in Georgia, suffering from brain cancer and a stroke. When Deanne was about seven months old, her mother succumbed to the disease, and she was left in the care of her beloved maternal grandmother, who raised her in Okinawa, Japan.

Not a day goes by that she doesn't think of her parents, whose memory she honors in her work as a Family Nurse Practitioner at AnMed Health.

Her mission is to give back to the community. "Life is what you make of it, and you only live once. So live it well and contribute all you can to society," said Deanne.

She holds three degrees from Tri-County—Medical Assisting (2002) and Practical Nursing (2003), followed by an associate degree in Nursing in 2005.

Over the years, Deanne conquered hurdles, such as the language barrier (she began learning English at age 14), and academics (she didn't graduate from high school in Japan and earned her GED in the U.S. in 1995.) She lived at several foster homes in her teens. She says she battled self-esteem issues that formed during childhood and filtered into adulthood. Deanne acknowledges that these fears and insecurities initially stood in the way of her success.

"It would have been easy to give up and give in to self-pity but that doesn't produce anything. No one gave me hope except my maternal grandmother, who passed away in 2010 at the age of 82 after suffering from chronic illness, and my faith in Christ. I'm thankful she knew I fulfilled my dreams," said Deanne.

She married her husband, Chris, a former Marine she met in Japan, and in 1993 they moved to the United States, where she continues to care for his ailing father. She earned her GED and

The recipient of this award must have been awarded a degree, diploma, or certificate from Tri-County; must have graduated at least one year ago; and must have made significant contributions to the College, the Alumni Association, or the community.



Deanne Williams, of Anderson, was recognized by Tri-County Technical College's Alumni Association and presented its Distinguished Alumni of the Year award at the College's spring graduation. Pictured with her is **Dr. Booth**. Deanne is a Nurse Practitioner for AnMed Health's Oncology and Hematology Specialists. She holds three degrees from Tri-County—Medical Assisting (2002) and Practical Nursing (2003), followed by an associate degree in Nursing in 2005.

confidence and courage." During this time, she was named to Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges.

Deanne transitioned into the RN program and graduated in May 2005. She accepted a job as an RN on the Medical Surgical Intensive Care Unit at AnMed Health. Her three children were young at the time so she chose to complete her BSN online through Kaplan University, graduating summa cum laude in 2008. She enrolled in Walden University's online MSN program with a specialty in Leadership and Management and graduated with a 4.0 in 2011. She completed her MSN with a specialty in Family Nurse Practitioner online in August 2014, graduating again with a 4.0 through Walden.

She moved to a Case Manager role and for seven years was an RN/Care Coordinator. In 2012, she served as an adjunct clinical instructor for our associate degree Nursing program. Since January of this year, she has been in her current role as nurse practitioner for AnMed's Oncology and Hematology Specialists.

realized nursing was her calling.

"I wanted to become a nurse, but I was still learning the language and having three small children made things uncertain," she said. She enrolled in Tri-County's Medical Assisting program in 2001. She says this experience gave her a desire to challenge herself to provide better patient care by learning additional skills. She discovered she wanted to do more so she went straight into the Practical Nursing program and worked as a Patient Care Technician in the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit at AnMed Health. When she graduated, she worked as an LPN in the General Surgical Unit at AnMed Health. "The Tri-County instructors were phenomenal - so many mentors who encouraged me to pursue my dream and who contributed to my self-

Faculty and Staff Recognized for Years of Service



Debbie Nehms, fiscal analyst for the Foundation, was honored for 35 years of service to the College at the faculty/staff convocation. Congratulating her is Dr. Booth.

Service Pin Recipients

10 Years State Service



Crystal McLaughlin



Katie Reeves

10 Years TCTC Service



Deborah Brock



Julie Ellington

10 Years TCTC and State Service



Melissa Dover



Penny Edwards



Robert Ellenberg



Christy Lawless



Brett Looper



Angel Luper



John Peltier



Beverly Vickery



Marianne Yohannan

15 Years TCTC Service



Dr. Jerry Marshall



Jackie Rutledge



Donny Winkler

20 Years State Service



Frances Richmond



Scott Harvey

*Not pictured:
August Johnson*

20 Years TCTC and State Service



Rocky Ann Jablonski



Hubert McClure



Jeanne Otey

25 Years TCTC Service



Tonia McClain



Melinda Zeigler

*Not pictured:
Mary Heyer*

20 Years TCTC Service



Sharon Colcolough

30 Years TCTC and State Service



Lisa Garrett

Sandra Williams Receives Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award

Sandra Williams, a Certified Surgical Technician who teaches in the Surgical Technology program, received the 2017 Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award.

This award is given annually at the spring faculty/staff convocation to the adjunct faculty member who is recognized for excellence in teaching, who has consistently high student evaluations, and who supports the philosophy and goals of the College.

Sandra, who has taught at the College for six years, is a 1994 alumna of the Surgical Technology program and has worked as a Certified Surgical Technician for 23 years. Currently she works PRN at Oconee Memorial Hospital's Operating Room.

"Sometimes I still can't believe I'm teaching in the same program I graduated from 23 years ago and receiving an award for doing what I love to do," said Sandra. "I want all the students to succeed—to pass their certification exam and find a job—and I will try my best to help them do just that. I also wanted to give a special thanks to everyone in the Health Education Division and to Cheryl Brown, (former program director), who helped me tremendously anytime I needed her and is a true friend."

"Sandra is key to our students' success," Donna Palmer,



Dr. Booth presents Sandra Williams the 2017 Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award.

department head for health professions, said in her nomination letter. "She serves as the lecturer for this program and has maintained the excellence required in the classroom and the clinical externship experiences. She is well respected by her colleagues, peers, and hospital administration."

Last year Sandra helped students to prepare for the national certification exam, which resulted in a 100 percent pass rate.

The Surgical Technology program requires an enormous amount of

oversight, said Donna. Sandra is trained in My Clinical Exchange, a software program used by clinical agencies to submit student information so they may be approved for their clinical externships and assignments. "Sandra serves as the contact person for clinical agencies and is in constant communication with them to ensure that our students are getting the cases they need to meet the accreditation standards," said Donna.

"Sandra's hospital relations are vital to the success of our students," said Donna.

Sandra has managed students, assumed additional teaching assignments, helped with scheduling, provided student mentoring, assisted with job placement, and provided information for the accreditation annual report, added Donna.

"Her students are aware of her tireless efforts, and her student evaluations are an example of her excellence in the classroom."

She serves on the Adjunct Expo Committee to help provide insight on best practices for serving and recognizing Tri-County's adjunct faculty. She also is a member of the College's Surgical Technology Advisory Committee. She soon will complete the online teaching certification class.

"Sandra's cooperative spirit and loyalty, as well as her timeless and tireless service for the good of her students and Tri-County Technical College, make her deserving of this award," said Donna.

Sandra, her husband, Pat, and their daughter, Lindsey, reside in Walhalla.



Student Advocate Award Presented

Heidi Reeves, middle, is the recipient of the Student Advocate Award at the College. She was chosen by the Student Government Association in recognition and appreciation of her outstanding vision, commitment to excellence, and dedication to student success at Tri-County. Presenting the award is Briana White, president of SGA. Pictured with them are SGA officers, from left, Melissa Brown, Sammy Griffith, Savannah Plouet, Maxwell Jeffers, and Mar'Keese Rayton.

Adjunct Faculty Division Nominees:

- **Lawrence Fetterly**, Arts and Sciences
- **Craig Boyles**, Business and Public Services
- **Mourning Pace**, Comprehensive Studies
- **Lora Mae Whitt**, Corporate and Community Education
- **Michael Oates**, Engineering and Industrial Technology

Commissioner Helen Rosemond-Saunders Receives S.C. Association of Technical College Commissioners Award

College Commissioner Helen Rosemond-Saunders is the recipient of the S.C. Association of Technical College Commissioners award. She will be honored as the State's Commissioner of the Year later this year.

An Oconee County native and retired educator, Mrs. Rosemond Saunders was appointed to serve on the Commission in 1993. In 1997 she was elected Vice Chair, and later served as Chair from 2007-11. Currently she serves on the Curriculum Committee.

"Helen's record of longstanding advocacy and service to the College and higher education across South Carolina and the nation speaks for itself," said Dr. Booth.

"She is known throughout the tri-county area for her determined efforts to improve the community and postsecondary education, particularly for minority populations and first-generation college students. She is a woman of action, not words, and embodies the vision of the College—'Passionate people transforming lives and building strong communities one student at a time,'" he added.

"This award is long overdue," said Tri-County Commission Chair John Powell, who also represents Oconee County on the board. "Helen is one of our hard working, faithful board members. Her wisdom in making lives better is one of her great strengths. I am proud to serve with her."

At the State and national levels, Mrs. Rosemond-Saunders serves as Vice Chair for the S.C. Association of Technical College Commissioners (SCATCC) and is a member of the Governance and Bylaws Committee of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). She is past Chair of the ACCT Diversity Committee.

Mrs. Rosemond-Saunders is a charter member of the S.C. Association of Technical College Commissioners and a member of its Executive Board. She spearheaded the development of the first Commissioner Academy to educate new Commissioners about their role in community college governance and advocacy. The training includes the history of two-year colleges, the evolution of the Technical College System in South Carolina, the responsibilities and duties of an effective Trustee, and the role of the Trustee in advocating on the state level.

"Her tireless dedication to improving education at the local, State, and national levels is clearly shown in the countless hours she devotes to advocacy and special projects," said Dr. Booth.



Helen Rosemond-Saunders

She played a key role in spearheading the construction of a full-scale reproduction of a one-teacher Rosenwald School on the Anderson Campus of Tri-County Technical College. The Campus is the site of the Nation's only full-scale reproduction of a one-teacher Rosenwald School. These schools were built in the early 20th century for the education of African Americans in the rural South.

In addition to her work with the Rosenwald School replica, Mrs. Rosemond-Saunders chairs the Retreat Rosenwald School Renovation Project Committee to raise funds to renovate and preserve an original Rosenwald structure from the early 1900s.

Mrs. Rosemond-Saunders began her career in

1967 with the School District of Oconee County and worked as a Guidance Counselor and Home Economics and Biology teacher. Since retiring, she has served on two School Improvement Councils and the District Diversity Committee. As a volunteer, she participated in a school district initiative to notify students who completed high school but did not receive a diploma because they did not pass all areas of the exit exam. New regulations now enable them to petition their school for a diploma.

She is past President of Oconee County Education Association and served on the South Carolina Education Association Board of Directors.

She is a lifetime member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, the oldest black sorority in the nation, which is dedicated to community and service.

She previously served on the Oconee/Pickens Wachovia Bank Board; is a charter and past member of Tri-County Technical College's Access and Equity Advisory Board; is a member of the National Alumni Association of South Carolina State University; and is a past Board member of the Oconee County United Way.

"Helen has been an advocate for community and technical college education her entire career. She has worked quietly behind the scenes and publicly through her advocacy efforts on the S.C. Association of Technical College Commissioners. She has had countless conversations with elected officials and business and industry leaders about our mission and purpose, our ability to support their needs, our need for their support—the list is endless. We likely will never know the extent of her influence over the past twenty-two years, but there is no doubt that these conversations have opened doors to new opportunities," said Dr. Booth.

Our College Family



Laneika Musalini

excellence through service

Grants Director **Laneika Musalini** took on a new role as Philanthropy Coordinator for the National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA). At a recent conference, Laneika raised more than \$3,500 for

NCURA educational scholarships and the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Heart of Georgia in just three days. Laneika also serves on the NCURA Program Committee.

Lisa Garrett, public relations associate, recently was honored with a 2017 Hermes Gold Award in the People Portrait category for a photo she took of Briana White, Student Government Association president.

The international Hermes Creative Awards competition is for creative professionals involved in the concept, writing, and design of traditional and emerging media.

The 2015–16 Annual Report publication, titled Partnerships and Pathways, won an Honorable Mention in the Overall Publication category.

Earlier this year Lisa received a MarCom Gold Award in the writing category for the 2015-16 Annual Report publication. The MarCom Awards competition recognizes outstanding achievement by communication and marketing professionals across the country and internationally.

English instructor **Jim DeLoache**, right, co-advisor for Alpha Zeta Beta, our chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, was recognized for his five years of service recently. Dr. Booth presented him with the organization's gift for his service and time given to further the ideals of Phi Theta Kappa at Tri-County.

Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, interim executive director of the Phi Theta

Kappa Honor Society, writes, "Advisors are truly the lifeblood of our organization, and we are delighted to recognize Jim for five years of services as an advisor for the Alpha Zeta Beta chapter."



English instructor **Jim DeLoache**, right, with **Dr. Booth**.



Robin Long

in transition

Robin Long accepted the position of Curriculum Consultant in the Curriculum and Instructional Support Office. Since May 2015 she worked as Curriculum Developer for the Technical Skills for Success program.

Robin worked at Clemson University from 2012–2015 as an Agricultural Education lecturer. Prior to that, she was Office Manager

for Residency, Veterans Services, and the Registrar at the University of Arizona. She also worked as Office Manager for the Reclamation and Restoration Center at the University of Wyoming for three years.

Robin holds an A.S. in Equine Technology from Connors State College in Warner, Oklahoma, a B.S. in Animal Safety, and a master's degree in Agricultural Education, both from Oklahoma State University. Last year she authored a journal article titled "The Use of a Mobile App in Teaching Beef Cattle Body Condition

Scoring in Undergraduate Classes." In 2010 she wrote an article titled "The Elements of a Two-Year Equine Degree Program in the Midwestern U.S."

She serves as Secretary for the S.C. Upstate Equine Council and received an honorary degree from the S.C. State FFA in 2015. She is Assistant Treasurer for Sandy Springs United Methodist Church.

She and her husband, Nathan, live in Anderson.

Lauren McClellan is the new Manager for the Accessibility Resource Center (ARC), formerly Disabilities Services. Lauren comes to us from T.L. Hanna High School, where she has worked as a Special Education teacher and service provider since 2009. As Manager of the ARC, Lauren will work with students and faculty to coordinate the academic accommodation certification and implementation



Lauren McClellan

processes, educate the College community about working with students with disabilities, and work with compliance issues.

She started her career in Charleston County as the sole Special Education provider. She holds a B.S. in Special Education and an M. Ed., both from Anderson University.

She and her husband, Matthew, live in Pendleton. They have two children, Charlie, 3, and Beckham, 11 months.



Denelle White

Denelle White is the Surgical Technology Program Director. She is a graduate of Guilford Technical Community College's Surgical Technology program and earned a B.S. at Middle Tennessee State University. Denelle has worked in the medical field for 21 years - as a Surgical Technologist in hospitals along the East Coast for 18 years and for the last eight years as the Surgical Technology Program Director for

proprietary schools in Tennessee and California. She is a member of the Association of Surgical Technologists and is a Certified Nurse Aide and a Licensed Aesthetician. She lives in Easley.

Coni Durocher is the Administrative Specialist for the Curriculum and Instructional Support Department. For the last six years, she worked as Facilities



Coni Durocher

Coordinator and later as Executive Assistant to the CEO for Forward Service Corporation, a non-profit in Madison, Wisconsin. From 1997-2010, she worked in a variety of positions at Vail Resorts, including a Trainer, Marketing Assistant, Real Estate Agent, and lastly as the Executive Assistant to the Director of Development. She and her husband, Jeffrey, live in Easley.

Melinda Hoover is the new I-BEST instructor for the Comprehensive Studies Department. Melinda has 20 years of business/manufacturing experience. Since 2005 she was owner/President of Camp Bow Wow and Greenville Dog Camp Inc., a premiere day and overnight camp for dogs. For the past year, she provided contract consulting services to Camp Bow Wow Corporate.

Also since 2005 she has been Owner/CEO of Banner Properties, LLC, a real estate investment company.

Prior to that, she was Plant Manager for Collins and Aikman in Greenville, a tier one automotive supplier providing carpet and acoustics to numerous automotive companies. The plant was recognized as one of the top 25 plants in the nation by Industry Week in 2003.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Shippensburg University and an MBA from Pennsylvania State University. She also is a graduate of Animal Behavioral College with a dog training certification and is a tester/observer for the National Alliance of Therapy dogs group. Currently she has three registered therapy dogs.

She and her husband, Robert, live in Seneca.



Melinda Hoover

Clinkscales Named Café Employee of the Month

Congratulations to **Patricia Clinkscales**, of Anderson, middle, the College' Café's Employee of the Month for May. Patricia, a part-time employee, has worked in the Café for eight years. She is a Front End Leader. She is pictured with **Sandra Dacus**, Café manager, left, and **Jessica Johnson**, Café shift manager.



CCE Dean Earns Doctorate



Dr. Rick Cothran

Congratulations to **Rick Cothran**, dean of the Corporate and Community Education Division, who earned a Doctorate in Education from Northeastern University in Boston, MA. The title of his dissertation is "The Effects of Middle Skills on Middle-Aged Workers' Life Cycles."

Foundation News



U.S. Engine Valve Donation Supports CNC Lab

U.S. Engine Valve/Nittan Valve made a \$20,000 donation to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation to purchase equipment for the Corporate and Community Education Division's CNC lab at the Oconee QuickJobs Center.

Pictured from left to right are **Dr. Rick Cothran**, dean of the College's Corporate and Community Education Division; **Courtney White**, director of development at the College; **Bobby Dover**, plant manager, Westminster U.S. Engine Valve plant; and **Hiro Akutagawa**, assistant plant manager.



Board Member Donates to Foundation

The Tri-County Entrepreneurial Development Corporation, led by Foundation Board member **Dave Eldridge**, middle, made a \$3,000 donation to the Foundation to support entrepreneurial programs at the College. He is pictured with **Dr. Booth**, left, and **Grayson Kelly**, executive director of the Foundation.

Welding Students Win Four Awards at State Competition



The College's Welding students garnered four awards—including a first-place recognition—at the Annual South Carolina Technical College State-wide Welding Competition. Pictured from left to right are **David Healy**, of Marietta, Category 2, second place; **Garrett Lundy**, of Bradenton, Florida, Category 1, second place; **Tyler Cobb**, of Salem, Category 4, first place; **Zach Marett**, of Anderson, Category 5, third place; and **Kayla Holder**, of Pickens.

Michelin Supports Truck Driver Training Program with Tire Donation



Many thanks to our longtime community partner, Michelin North America, who donates tires for the three tractor trailers and two straight trucks for the College's Truck Driver Training program. Pictured with **Leesa Owens**, director of government and affairs and community relations for Michelin, middle, are from left, **Josh Fennell**, of Anderson, student; **Kadeem Williams**, of Anderson, student; **Mike Sanders**, instructor; and **Lee Dillard**, of Walhalla, student.

A Passion for Learning: First I-BEST Class Graduates

"I've seen you grow and change, and I'm proud of what you've accomplished and where you are going," Robin Long, curriculum developer for the Technical Skills for Success program, said to the graduates of the first I-BEST Manufacturing Career Pathways Program. "It's been a real team effort."

On January 10, fifteen students started two college classes (COL 120 and MFG 101) in Level 2 of the new I-BEST Manufacturing Career Pathway Program. Some students are concurrently enrolled in Level 1 of the Pathway at an Adult Education Center, others completed Level 1 last semester and are now transitioning into the next phase, and a few completed their high school credential within the past year and were able to enter directly into Level 2.

With support from their instructors, as well as College staff, students are learning how to advance their careers in manufacturing with additional education and understand the type of job performance employers value—and reward.

As the final project for College 120, students designed and developed a video, illustrating what they have gained from this pathways class. After the viewing, students individually talked about their journeys.



Graduates of the first I-Best Manufacturing class (COL 120 and MFG 101) pose after the celebration. Pictured here are (front row, left to right) **Rachel Ossman**, **Yolize Monson**, **Anna Catoe**, **Téa Nichols** and (back row) **Robin Long** (instructor), **Daniel Pearson**, **Ikechukwu E. Andrew Pruitt**, **Robert Libby**, **Danny Adams**, **Jacob Welborn**, and **Julianne DiCicco-Wiles** (instructor).

The recurring word among the comments was 'caring.' Many said without the program he or she wouldn't be in college. "Teachers care about individuals. They made us feel like family, and we all did it together," said one student.

Other comments included, "They showed me the possibilities," and "They pushed us and refused to let us sell ourselves short."

Daniel Pearson summed it up when he said the class "had all the parts that completed a puzzle. We had two great instructors who truly changed our lives. Without you, I wouldn't have the confidence to believe in myself. I have the opportunity to pursue education, and I've developed a passion for learning."

This summer nine are enrolled in the next course, Manufacturing 102.



Tiffany Oliver Named to All-State Academic Team

Tiffany Oliver, an associate in Arts major from Anderson (middle), recently was selected for the South Carolina 2017 Phi Theta Kappa All-State Academic Team and honored at a luncheon at the Capital City Club in Columbia. She is pictured here with **Amy Borders**, English instructor and Alpha Zeta Beta advisor, left, and **Linda Jameison**, assistant vice president for student support and engagement.

Phi Theta Kappa, a national honor fraternity for two-year college students, recognizes and encourages scholarship and provides opportunities for the development of leadership skills and service. To be eligible for membership, a student must be enrolled in an associate degree program, must have accumulated 12 hours, and must have achieved and maintained a GPR of at least 3.50. Alpha Zeta Beta is the name of the local chapter at Tri-County.

Alumni Association Hosts Cookout for Graduates

The Alumni Association hosted a cookout and celebration honoring new Tri-County graduates May 4 in the Café.



Jonelle Herbert, of Anderson, an Early Childhood Development grad, and son, **Joshua**.



Alumna **Kathy Green** returned to campus with her grandchildren, **Will** and **Christine Canipe**. Kathy, who graduated in December with an associate degree in Nursing, lives in Salem and is employed as an R.N. on the Med /Surg floor at Oconee Memorial Hospital.



Andrea Mullinax, of Easley, left, talks with Accounting instructor **Angel Luper**. Andrea received an Accounting degree.



Kayla Wood, of West Union, middle, poses with her children, **Gabrielle**, left, and **Destiny**, and husband **Fred Wood**. Kayla received an Administrative Office Technology degree.

Cookout with Dr. Booth

Each year Dr. Booth hosts a cookout at his home for student leaders of campus clubs and organizations. Here, the group poses for a selfie.



Technical Career Pathways Students Celebrate Accomplishments

At spring graduation, 67 high school students earned a college credential through our Technical Career Pathways program that allows high school students to get a head start in preparing for high-tech jobs in advanced manufacturing.

The Office of High School Engagement and Outreach hosted a graduate recognition banquet May 16 at the Anderson Campus for those students who - before graduating from high school—completed courses leading to certificates in Automotive Technology, HVAC, Technical Operators I and II, or Structural Welding.

Justin Parnell, a 2014 graduate of the first Technical Career Pathways Basic Electronics class (now Technical Operators),



Tim Hayden, president of Sargent Metal, left, attended the event to talk with students about summer job opportunities. Pictured with him is **Bradley Murphy**, who earned a SMAW Structural Welding certificate.

spoke to the crowd. A 2016 Industrial Electronics Technology graduate, Justin works as an Engineering Technician with Red Oak Engineering in Easley. “Go after every opportunity at Tri-County,” he advised.

The Technical Career Pathways program began with Anderson School District Three in August 2013. Classes were held at the

Anderson Campus. “We started with seven students from Crescent High School who completed a TCTC Basic Electronics Certificate before they graduated from high school. Six went on to enroll in associate degree programs in technical areas,” said Amanda Blanton, director of High School Engagement and Outreach.

Today, more than 100 high schools students are enrolled in the Technical Career Pathways programs in all seven school districts in the College’s service area, she added.

This program was initially funded through a special proviso in the State Legislature and is now fully supported with State funding.

Industry leaders tout the program as an answer to finding trained and competent graduates with the skills needed in advanced manufacturing and other STEM-related careers.

“Many of you are registered for summer and fall semester classes,” she said. “Many will finish their associate degrees next May. That’s such an accomplishment, and we are so proud of you.”



Justin Parnell, a 2014 graduate of the first Technical Career Pathways Basic Electronics (now Technical Operators) class, spoke to the crowd. A 2016 Industrial Electronics Technology graduate, Justin works as an engineering technician with Red Oak Engineering in Easley. “Go after every opportunity at Tri-County,” he advised.



Technical Career Pathways students pose following a banquet held in their honor at the Anderson Campus.

Student Success Center on Schedule

Despite the recent rain, construction on the Student Success Center remains on schedule with the projected move-in date beginning November 1.

Roofing and the exterior walls will be completed by the first week of June, and the construction crew will begin the interior work, windows installation, and masonry.



Many of you have asked for a refresher of the Student Success Center project, as well as an outline of the offices that will be housed in the building. Below is a breakdown of that information:

Project Scope: The Student Success Center is a key component of the College's strategy to increase student success, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and address decades of enrollment growth. The project scope includes a new building, the complete refurbishment of Ruby Hicks Hall, and the installation of a central chiller plant and chilled water loop. The new building will be the first built on the Pendleton Campus in twenty years. At that time, enrollment was just over 3,000 students, compared to close to 5,000 students on the Pendleton Campus today.

New Construction: The 75,000 square-foot building will include a Learning Commons that houses library collections,

flexible meeting spaces for students, computer labs, study areas, computer laboratories, supplemental instruction, and tutoring spaces; Student Development Office; Information Technology Services; Campus Store; Café, Printing Services, meeting spaces, shipping and receiving. Construction of this facility required the removal of the amphitheater and Clarke and McKissick halls.

Cost: \$42 Million



Student Success Center Overview

Ground Level:

- Help Desk/IT
- Kitchen Prep
- Print Shop
- Shipping & Receiving
- Student Support and Engagement Offices

Plaza Level

- Campus Store
- Cafe
- Student Organizations

Upper Level

- Computer Labs
- Learning Commons
- Tutoring

Coming Soon:

Ruby Hicks Hall Renovation: A complete renovation and refurbishment of Ruby Hicks Hall will house TC Central, a one-stop enrollment center that will include Admissions, Student Records, Cashier, Financial Aid, Student Data Center, Assessment, Advising, and Student Success Coaches; Curriculum and Academic Support Services; Administration; and conference/training spaces.

Students Inducted into National Society of Leadership and Success

Students were inducted into Tri-County's newest student organization, the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS). It is designed to identify and develop students' leadership skills with real-world applications.

The National Society of Leadership and Success held an induction ceremony December at the Pendleton Campus with inductees and their families, friends, and mentors.

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

During the fall semester, the group participated in an orientation session and a leadership training day with group and



Those inducted into the NSLS posed for a photo following the ceremony.

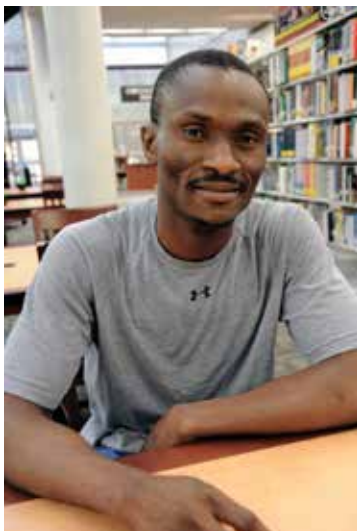
individual exercises. Participants formed success networking teams and peer-to-peer networking groups focused on goal achievement.

The group met every two weeks during this academic term.

Ekpe Wins Chick-fil-A Scholarship

University Transfer major **Kossi Ekpe** is the one of 12 Chick-fil-A team members nationwide who received an individual, one-time award of \$25,000.

These True Inspiration scholarships are awarded annually to Chick-fil-A Team Members based on leadership, academic achievement, community involvement, and demonstrated financial need.



Kossi Ekpe

Kossi, 32, has been employed full time at Chick-fil-A in the Anderson Mall for two years while taking classes at Tri-County. He plans to transfer to Clemson University, where he wants to study Electrical Engineering.

He moved to the United States from his home in Togo, West Africa, several years ago and began his studies at Tri-County. Kossi, who is trilingual (he speaks his native Ewe, along with French and English), studied Linguistics for three years at the University of Lome in Toga.



Campbell Honored with SCAVT Leadership Award

Amy Lynn Campbell, of Anderson, left, participated in the pinning ceremony held May 9 for Veterinary Technology graduates. Pictured with her is **Ashley Brady**, department head for the program. Amy also was presented the Leadership Award from the South Carolina Association of Veterinary Technicians, and she also received the Outstanding Senior Award.

Geren Receives Presidential Medallion

(continued from page 1)

Mary joined Tri-County in 2009 and teaches English on the Pendleton and Anderson Campuses.

"It has been the honor of my life to give back to an institution that has given so much to me. As a first-generation college graduate and the first in my family to graduate from high school, graduates, I am here to tell you that no dream is too big. You can do this," Mary said upon receiving the award.

"I, too, was a student at Tri-County Technical College, which is when my love for community college fully blossomed, and I decided I would like to teach at a 'college like that one day.' Little did I know, I would return to TCTC less than 10 years later to do just that," she said.

"My students inspire me every day to get up and keep fighting for all children to have the opportunities I had to succeed. Education literally saved my life. As the youngest in a family of seven, I knew education was the catalyst that would propel me upward, out of poverty. I will forever be thankful to the countless teachers who encouraged me along the way. The least I can do is the same for my students. I am truly honored and humbled by this recognition."

"Mary's dedication to engaging students in service learning, providing students with learning experiences beyond the classroom, and sharing her positivity with the college community illustrates her commitment to creating a positive educational experience," Dr. Amoena Norcross, curriculum consultant for the Curriculum and Instructional Support Department at the College, wrote in her nomination letter. "She consistently prioritizes student learning and engagement. She is never satisfied with the status quo when it comes to helping her students succeed academically, as well as providing her students with experiences outside the classroom."

Mary regularly engages students in numerous service learning opportunities, including showcasing the College's Rosenwald School reproduction on the Anderson Campus to Anderson School District Five elementary students, as well as through partnerships with the United Way, Anderson Interfaith Ministries, New Foundations Home for Children, and the Foothills Alliance.

Several years ago Mary began teaching the Composition and Community Connect class (English 101) with a service learning theme.

No one in the class, many of them Anderson County natives, had ever heard of the Rosenwald Schools when fall semester began. But just several months later, a team of students, who chose to study and profile the Rosenwald Schools as the group's service learning project, was educating third graders from Calhoun Academy of the Arts about the one-room school houses that were built in the early twentieth century for the education of

African Americans. The Anderson Campus is the site of the Nation's only full-scale reproduction of a one-teacher Rosenwald School.

For years Mary, who recently announced her bid for Congress in the 3rd Congressional District, has served as Faculty Advisor to the Student Democrats. Last year the TCTC Student Democrats and TCTC Student Republicans merged and are now known as TCTC Association of Political Scientists (TAPS).

One of the events she helps to organize is the annual trip to Washington, DC, (see story on page 3) when she and other instructors take a group of student leaders to the Nation's Capital. The goal of the trip is to learn about U.S. history, our government, and to honor our veterans.

She also coordinates students' participation in philanthropic activities, such as serving the homeless at a local soup kitchen and walking with a team to raise funds for a free medical clinic in the Anderson area.

She engages with her colleagues in professional development activities, often sharing strategies that improve student learning. She and a co-worker co-presented their work on service learning at the 2017 Two-Year College English Association—Southeast Conference.

Prior to joining Tri-County, Mary was a lecturer for Clemson University's English Department. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Clemson, where she graduated summa cum laude and in the top five percent of her class. She was the recipient of an Abney Foundation scholarship and was nominated for the Excellence in Teaching Award at Clemson in 2005.

She has been a member and volunteer of NewSpring Church for 14 years. She is also a member of the Anderson Chamber of Commerce and serves on the board of Foothills Alliance. She serves as the Executive Committeewoman for the Anderson County Democratic Party and co-chairs the Anderson chapter of SC Democrats Care.

She has lived in Anderson with her husband, Shawn, for 19 years. They have a daughter, Madilyn, 11, and a son, Kenan, a junior at the University of South Carolina.



Mary Geren poses with students **Caleb Allen**, left, and **Darius Geer** after receiving the Presidential Medallion.



Chinatown was a favorite dining spot for the group. From left, **Amanda Nicks**, **Kamille Tyson**, **Angelica Goodson**, **Joshua Scott**, and **Caleb Allen** are seen eating at an Italian restaurant, Vapiano.

Spotlight on Trip to D.C.

(continued from page 3)

“My favorite part always is to see the reactions of students who have never been to Washington. We actively try to identify and recruit student leaders who have never been,” she said.

It was a whirlwind weekend, Lara said, adding that the weather cooperated, with just a few afternoon showers which prompted a change in the schedule and a trip to the Holocaust Museum in Petersburg, Virginia.

“We’re already talking about next year,” Lara said.

The trip is open to all students. Space is limited with a maximum of 30 students accepted. The trip is funded by fundraising efforts of TAPS, along with allocations from the Student Support and Engagement Division. For those who didn’t participate in TAPS fundraisers, the cost is \$200 per student, which includes travel, hotel, and admission fees.

If you can’t afford the trip, merely participating in fundraisers throughout the year allows you to go free of charge, said Mary. “Over the years, through our fundraising efforts, we have been building our TAPS account with the Foundation. That’s important because it teaches our students responsibility, appreciation, and ownership.”

“It’s a high quality trip that is affordable. It’s too great an opportunity to miss,” said Lara.

Foundation Contributions

(continued from page 1)

about ways to sell Tri-County to our business and industry partners, philanthropists, government entities, and other local stakeholders,” said Grayson. “Soliciting investments to a public institution is no easy task, but you all make it easier by the amazing accomplishments that you make through producing quality graduates who go out into our workforce to make a difference in our local community.”

He outlined a few of this year’s accomplishments:

- The Foundation received a number of major gifts, including the largest gift of \$300,000 from the Thrift Brothers for future expansions. Other major gifts include \$100,000 from the late Mrs. Mollie B. King for a new endowed scholarship; \$75,000 from The Abney Foundation designated for Corporate and Community Education scholarships; \$50,000 from The Charles A. Cannon Charitable Trust for the Student Success Center; \$40,000 from the Bosch Community Fund for STEM initiatives; and an anonymous \$75,000 endowed scholarship for our nationally-recognized Bridge to Clemson program.
- Employee donations continue to be a big boost to annual fundraising. “Your gifts are projected to exceed \$39,000 before the end of this fiscal year with more than 50% of full-time employees making a contribution. We truly appreciate your support,” he said.

The Foundation is responsible for soliciting funds, along with reinvesting those funds in the markets. “I’m proud to say that we have experienced positive returns for the year,” added Grayson.

The Foundation’s investment portfolio experienced a 9.17% return for the Fiscal Year-to Date as of March 31, 2017, compared to the return at the end of last fiscal year, which was 0.42%, he said.

A total of \$411,878 was paid for scholarships awarded to approximately 400 students.

The Foundation made \$194,800 available to faculty and staff during the fiscal year for professional development activities. Faculty and staff benefitted from these funds through teaching chairs and mini-grant allocations.

An additional \$132,000 was made available to the College to support technology and other priority needs.

More than \$2 million in federal and State grants were secured for strategic initiatives of the College.

“Again, thank you for all of your continued support. We remain committed to transforming lives and building strong communities, one student at a time!” said Grayson.

C2C Students Reach Milestone

Tri-County faculty and staff, along with school district officials celebrated with Connect to College (C2C) graduates and their families at an annual reception prior to graduation.

The Connect to College 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 environments.

In addition to earning their diplomas, three of the C2C graduates have earned a certificate or post-secondary credential while attending Tri-County.

"We are very proud of their hard work and accomplishments as many of them will be continuing on at Tri-County," said Cindy Mobley, director of C2C.

Chyene A. Harper, a West-Oak High School graduate, also earned a post-secondary credential in Structural Welding Certificate and Pipe Welding Certificate.

Killian N. Hudgins, a West-Oak High School graduate, earned two Culinary Certificates while enrolled in C2C and Tri-County.

Bethany Rogers-Smith, a Seneca High School graduate, earned a University Studies Certificate.



C2C graduates are pictured left to right: **Victor A. Bowerman** (Easley High School); **LaQuenshay D. (Shay) Willingham** (Westside High School); **Bethany E. Rogers-Smith** (Seneca High School); **Killian N. Hudgins** (West-Oak High School); and **Chyene A. Harper** (West-Oak High School).

LaQuenshay D. (Shay) Willingham received a diploma from Westside High School, and Victor A. Bowerman received a diploma from Easley High School.

"We're better together," said Dr. Booth, thanking students for their perseverance and families for their support. "You join a parade of successful individuals. You're in the right place at the right time. Thanks to our school district friends for their partnership with us to make this happen. Here at the College, we say we are changing lives, one student at a time. Today it is five at a time."

Executive Staff Summary

- **OCONEE CAMPUS:** The site of the new Oconee Campus is being prepared at the Oconee County Industry and Technology Park on Highway 11 in Westminster. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held July 14.
- **STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT:** A project charter was approved to create a Strategic Enrollment Management framework to assist in moving the College beyond our current state of simple annual enrollment targets and basic integrated marketing and recruitment plans. To effectively serve an increasing percentage of our local adult population without postsecondary education, requires the College to develop a much more strategic and purposeful approach to enrollment processes. The integration of existing academic program review and program prioritization processes, as well as local labor market data, will allow us to ensure that enrollment planning processes and structures are defined and developed within the academic context of the College.
- **SMART EVALUATIONS PROJECT CHARTER:** A project charter was approved to develop professional development for the use of the SMART Evaluations program. The

program will teach faculty the value of the My Focus Report and encourage faculty to document best practices. Additionally, implementation of the instructor-added feature will allow instructors to include their own questions in the evaluation.

- **AACC FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE:** Penny Edwards provided an update on her work as a member of the Faculty Advisory Council of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). The Council provides strategic advice to the AACC President and CEO about the role faculty leadership can play in accelerating and scaling educational reform, such as recommendations tied to the 21st-Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges.
- **CYBER SECURITY TRAINING:** Cyber Security Awareness Training, the first of three cyber security projects the College is implementing as part of the State-mandated Cyber Security program, will begin June 1. Details will be communicated with all employees via e-mail.
- **OTHER:** Commission meetings; Summer Commencement; review and approval of official College policies and procedures.