

# Connection

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## Crescent Students Get Head Start on College Through New Career Pathway Program

Crescent High School seniors who signed up for a new career pathway program through the College knew it was a great opportunity to get a head start on college credits. They just didn't realize it posed the potential of earning 20 hours of college credits—giving them more than a semester of college during their senior year.

In addition, if they maintain their LIFE scholarship status, their education at Tri-County for the next two years will be free.

"It's a good deal," said Ian McCraw. "For a small fee, we can earn a maximum of 20 college hours and a credential during our senior year. It's great to get started early with college," he added.

He's talking about a new career pathway program designed for Crescent High School students to achieve a Tri-County credential by the time they graduate from high school.

Students receive Technical Advanced Placement credit for electricity classes taken in high school; then dually enroll at the Anderson Campus for four Engineering and Industrial Technology classes during their senior year. The program culminates with students receiving a Basic Electronics Certificate by the time they graduate from high school. They also accrue 20-plus hours of college credit towards an associate degree in either Mechatronics or Industrial Electronics.

This innovative career pathways model is the first of several being developed with school districts in the College's service



Instructor and Tri-County Technical College alumna **Lisa Nabors**, middle, assists Crescent High students **Grant Harbin**, left, and **Trent Hill**, right, in the Digital Electronics class.

area. These career pathways will provide the employer-defined skills needed in advanced manufacturing, business, and other disciplines.

These Crescent seniors travel to Tri-County's Anderson Campus four mornings a week and spend three hours in two classes—AC/DC Circuits II and Digital Electronics.

In the spring they will take two more classes for a total of 20 college semester hours.

"My goal is to finish Tri-County in just three semesters," says Justin Parnell, who plans to major in Industrial Electronics Technology (IET).

Like all of the students, Cheyanne Davis plans to enter Tri-County next fall. "When the College presented this program to us, I saw it as an opportunity, not as more schoolwork. It really reinforces what we have learned in classes at Crescent."

*(continued on page 10)*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Connect to College graduation – Dec. 17

Holidays – Dec. 24, 2013 – Jan. 1, 2014

Jan. 13, 2014 – Spring Semester Begins

Jan. 20, 2014 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday (College Closed)

Annual FIRST Lego League Tournament – Jan. 25

Get Connected Veterans – Jan. 30, 2014, (Pendleton Campus)

Job Fair – Jan. 10, 2014, IBDC

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

## Connection

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### Mailing Address (All Campuses)

P. O. Box 587, Pendleton, SC 29670

### Pendleton Campus

7900 Highway 76, Pendleton, SC

### Anderson Campus

511 Michelin Blvd., Anderson, SC

### Easley Campus

1774 Powdersville Rd., Easley, SC

### Oconee Campus

Hamilton Career Center

100 Vocational Dr., Seneca, SC

Main Number: (864) 646-8361

Toll-free (864 area code): 1-866-269-5677

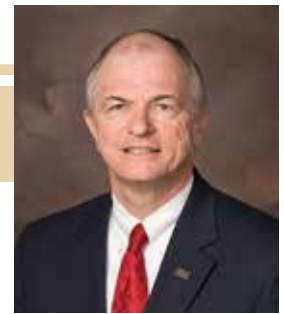
TDD/Voice: 1-800-735-2905

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



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# Connecting



**Dr. Ronnie L. Booth**  
President

One of the reasons I get up each morning and come to work at Tri-County Technical College is because I believe what we do truly changes people's lives for the better. I expect many of you feel the same way.

The education students receive here puts them on a path to success. When they graduate, they are hired for good jobs, and their success helps to build stronger and more prosperous communities.

But for many students, the Tri-County experience does far more than improve their lives and prepare them for the workforce—it transforms them.

Earlier this fall, I wrote about our project to “Define the Transformative Student Experience” as part of the College’s Strategic Plan and its focus on improving student success. The thinking behind this project is that if we can actually define what we mean by a transformative student experience, we can intentionally create an environment that will support this type of experience for all students.

During the past two months, nearly 300 employees, students, and alumni were interviewed to provide input into defining the transformative experience. The interviewer followed up with probing questions to identify what made these experiences so impactful. We were privileged to hear many moving stories about life-changing experiences. All of the stories were different, yet many had similarities.

Late in October, everyone involved in the interview process participated in a half-day retreat to summarize key themes that emerged from the nearly-300 interviews. The common thread running through the vast majority of transformative experiences became evident quite early in the process. Simply put, someone cared—enough to reach out, spend time with them, direct them to helpful resources, and encourage them when they were ready to give up.

One of my favorite quotes shared from an interview is this: “All you have to do is care. That’s what will create a transformative experience for students.” Words like this put things in perspective for me. All you have to do is care—nothing complicated, nothing expensive, nothing remarkable. Just care.

In fact, the word “care” came up more frequently than any other as we shared what we learned from the interview process, along with words like encourage, support, nurture, empathize, respect, community, relationships, and belonging.

Of course, we also heard words and phrases such as high standards, relevant and challenging coursework, good advising, and eyes opened through knowledge gained, but those words were used far less frequently when describing a transformative experience. Please know that I believe these things are at the very core of our educational experience and must meet the highest standards, but it appears our relationships with students are more likely to ignite transformation.

The themes we identified will be used for the next step in this effort, which is to specifically define what we mean by the “TCTC Transformative Student Experience.” Following that, we will identify the values and behaviors that support the experience and develop strategies to deliver on this promise. Those strategies will be incorporated into  
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*“...if we can actually define what we mean by a transformative student experience, we can intentionally create an environment that will support this type of experience for all students.”*

*~Dr. Ronnie Booth*

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## Spotlight on Student Life & Counseling Services

The Student Life Counseling & Services (SLCS) office has had a busy fall semester serving as a resource for many students needing to obtain resources to address life's challenges while maintaining a rigorous academic schedule. SLCS has connected more than 90 students in finding the support they need to stay in college. Resources include accessing daycare, housing, food, transportation, and working out the intricacies involved with referrals to on-campus and off-campus resources so that these students can be successful and stay in school. In addition to personal support, SLCS also seeks to engage students in activities. A lot of time and effort is poured into planning activities for each semester, as well as advising the Student Government Association (SGA).

The challenge each semester, for SGA officers and their advisor, Croslena Johnson, is to keep the energy and momentum going past the kick-off of their first community service/student project. But SGA President Melina Guerra-Rodelo and officers never lost traction and led an impressive list of events and projects that ranged from hosting meet and greet student events to participating in the College's Strategic Planning transformative student experience interviews to completing seven projects for the Benevolence in October project. "This fall was tremendous," said Croslena, coordinator of SLCS, who commended Melina and officers Alexis Williams (Vice President), Ashley Ekwere (Treasurer), and Jessica Hollifield (Secretary).

"Collaboration is the key," says Melina, a Seneca resident and 2013 Accounting graduate, who is now a University Transfer student. This year's theme was Community and Collaboration for Student Engagement. "The goal was to get the campus community involved. We wanted to let everyone know SGA is here, and our goal is to work with you and to reach out and let you know we have big plans," said Melina, who also serves as a Student Ambassador and president of the Alpha Zeta Beta honor society.

"SGA reached out to clubs and organizations, along with faculty, staff, and students. We listened to their needs and asked what we could do for them," said Melina.

Clubs began to collaborate on activities from the beginning. SGA joined members of Student Ambassadors and Student Democrats to assist at summer graduation and at six instant enrollment events. They served as first-day guides along with staff from Career Services, TRIo, Admissions, Assessment Center, and others. They sponsored Meet and Greets on all three campuses, along with hosting fall Get Connected events.



From November 1 – December 2, faculty, staff, and students at the Pendleton, Anderson, and Easley Campuses sponsored Angel Trees to benefit Clemson, Pendleton, and Seneca Head Start programs. The Easley and Anderson Campuses collected gifts for the Easley and Anderson veteran homes. A total of 93 angels were adopted – 40 from the Pendleton Campus; 18 from the Easley Campus; and 35 from the Anderson Campus.

Pictured here with the gifts are, from left, (standing) **Croslena Johnson**, coordinator of Student Life and Counseling Services; **Jessica Hollifield**, SGA secretary; **G. H. Washington** of Seneca Head Start; **Lula Simmons**, of Pendleton Head Start; **Teresa Skelton**, of Clemson SHARE Head Start; **Alexis Williams**, SGA vice president; and **Ashley Ekwere**, SGA treasurer; and (seated) SGA President **Melina Guerra-Rodelo**.

The Benevolence in October project, which ran October 1 – 31, consisted of various drives/fundraisers to assist local agencies. They held a food drive for Clemson Community Care and Anderson Interfaith Ministries, an infant drive to benefit Safe Harbor, and a winter wear drive for the Salvation Army where they collected more than 500 items. They held a general needs drive for the Anderson Free Clinic, a Shoeboxes for Soldiers drive, and a crisis needs drive for Foothills Alliance. The participating  
*(continued on page 13)*

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:

Radio and Television Broadcasting instructor **Amy Roberts**, who is a certified Adobe Education Trainer. "It is incredibly difficult to pass any Adobe Certification course; they have very, very strict standards. This is no small thing. This certification will make our program even more attractive and prestigious," said Program Coordinator John Woodson.



Amy Roberts

Public Relations Associate **Lisa Garrett**, who received a MarCom Gold Award in the writing category for her work in the 2011-12 Annual Report. The MarCom Awards competition recognizes outstanding achievement by communication and marketing professionals across the country and internationally. Entries come from PR firms, corporate marketing and communications departments, ad agencies, free-lancers, and more. MarCom awards are administered and judged by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals.



Lisa Garrett

Medical Laboratory Technology instructor **Deborah Brock** presented a workshop, "Let the Games Begin: Competing for Student Attention in the Classroom," for faculty at Greenville Technical College November 8. Faculty learned how she uses digital gaming technologies, Smartphone apps, and Prezi to engage students in the classroom.



Deborah Brock

**Dr. Jerry Marshall**, mathematics instructor, who has been named Vice President-At-Large of the South Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics (SCCTM).



Dr. Jerry Marshall

College Registrar **Scott Harvey** is serving as the Vice President for Registrars for the Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers.

*in transition*

**PRESIDENT'S OFFICE**



In a prelude to her retirement on January 31, the College's Commissioners gave **Doris Simpson** an early farewell at its December meeting. Since 1997, Doris has served as Executive Assistant for Dr. Booth and the Commission. In 2011 she was the Southern regional winner and among the five nominees across the United States for the prestigious American Community College Trustees (ACCT) Professional Board Staff Member award.

**Chairman Ham Hudson**, pictured at right, said over the past 16-and-one-half years, Doris's role has been one of handling all of the logistics, deadlines, and nuances involved with the day-to-day operations of the President's Office and the Commission. "She understands that this role is a critical one, and she ensures that each and every contact is a professional one that represents the College well."

**Kathy Brand** joined the President's Office as an Administrative Assistant November 1. She is working with longtime Executive Assistant Doris Simpson, who will retire January 31, 2014, after 16-and-one-half years.

Kathy was an elementary school teacher for 22 years at Lugoff Elementary School and worked six years as Curriculum Coach for Doby's Mill Elementary Schools. She later was an Administrative Coordinator for Kershaw County School



Kathy Brand

District through its Safe Schools Healthy Student grant until her retirement in 2012. In 1993, she was named Lugoff Elementary School's Teacher of the Year. In 2009, she was name Kershaw County Conservation Teacher of the Year.

Most recently she was the Communication Manager for iROAR Banner Implementation at Clemson University and served as the Administrative Coordinator.

Kathy earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Elementary Education from Columbia College. She is a member of the St. John's United Methodist Church and chaired the Child Care Committee.

She and her husband, Kemper, have two adult children, Kemper, 27, and Kathleen, 22. She lives in Central.

## CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION DIVISION

**Evans Coleman** is the new Training Coordinator for the Center for Workforce Excellence. Her work experience includes serving as Retail Credit Team Leader at SYNEX Corporation for three years and Account Analyst at ScanSource, Inc. for four years. She holds a B.A. in English from Clemson University. She and her son, Cooper, 7, live in Pendleton.



*Evans Coleman*

## ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**Amy Jo Rieck** is the new Program Resource Assistant for the Connect to College program.

Her career has been varied - in addition to marketing and advertising positions and owning her own business, Kenetix Advertising, she has worked in a variety of clerical positions, most recently with Prudential C. Dan Joiner and Trammel and Mills Law Firm. She is a graduate of Lock Haven Senior High School in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. She is a member of NewSpring Church in Anderson. She and her husband, David, live in Anderson.



*Amy Jo Rieck*



*Katherine Dye*

**Katherine (Katie) Dye** is the new Coordinator of Academic Support for the Bridge to Clemson Program. She has a B.A. in Political Science from Christopher

Newport University and an M.Ed. in Counselor Education from Clemson University. During graduate school (2011 – 2013), she served as the graduate assistant for the Study Abroad program at Clemson. Katie lives in Greenville.

## INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT DIVISION

**Tammy Stout** joined the Foundation Office as the new Manager of Annual Giving. She brings a wealth of event management experience, coming to us with 19 years of experience at the Augusta Sports Council. She was CEO at the time of her departure in 2012 when she moved to Anderson.



*Tammy Stout*

Tammy earned a degree in Marketing with a minor in Biology from Augusta State University in Augusta, Georgia. As a co-op student, she took her first marketing position with Historic Augusta, Inc. After four years, she joined the Augusta Convention & Visitor Bureau where she traveled monthly to market Augusta as a golf destination and managed city special events.

She has served on the Board of Directors for Augusta Rotary and the National Association of Sports Commissions,

Her recognitions include being named Event Planner of the Year for Sports Travel Magazine, to Georgia Trend Magazine's Top 40 under 40, and one of the NCAA Women of the Year.

Tammy resides in Anderson.

## ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

**Ashley Polasek** joined the English Department full time this semester after teaching as an adjunct since 2010. She earned a B.A. in Communications from Marist College and an M.A. in English from Clemson University. She is working on her Ph.D. in Adaptation Studies through De Montfort University. Ashley is a member of the Association of Adaptation Studies, Literature/Film Association, National Council of Teachers of English, and the Modern Language Association. She lives in Anderson.



*Ashley Polasek*

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## Our College Family

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**Aristide Sechandice** is a new Sociology instructor this semester. He holds a B.A. in Sociology and History, an M.A. in Public Policy from St. Louis University, and a Ph.D. in Sociology



*Aristide Sechandice*

from Emory University. During his career, he has taught at 12 two-and four year colleges and universities, including Emory, Georgia Tech, Oxford College, Gordon College, Agnes Scott College, Bloomsburg University, and the University of Georgia at Gwinnett. He is a member of the American Sociological Association. Aristide lives in Athens, Georgia.

**Dr. Alfred P. "Hap" Wheeler** has been named dean of the Arts and Sciences Division and began work December 9.

We will feature Dr. Wheeler in the January edition of *Connection*.

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

**Pattie Burris**  
**Frank Garland**  
**Karrie Moore**

## Mary Johnston Honors Lisa Saxon Through "PAWS for a Cause"

**Lisa Saxon**, administrative assistant for the Institutional Research and Evaluation department, right, places a paw on the wall of our Veterinary Technology Department in memory of her cat, Tigger, whom she adopted from the College's pet adoption several years ago. Through the "PAWS for a Cause" campaign, friend and co-worker **Mary Johnston**, left, purchased a paw for Lisa in honor of her beloved pet. Paws are personalized with the pet's name, the donor's name, and a brief message and are displayed in Halbert Hall. Proceeds benefit the Veterinary Technology program.



**Janelle Hicks**, director of Health Care Programs for the Corporate and Community Education Division, sent this note:

"Recently the statewide organization for the continuing education divisions of our four-year universities and our two-year technical colleges, the South Carolina Association for Higher Continuing Education (SCAHCE), decided to work together to promote the contributions that our College Divisions make to economic development throughout our State.

In SCAHCE's "Share Our Story," our students tell how a continuing education certificate or program helped change their lives for the better. Also included are stories from employers who need employees with advanced skills to stay competitive and how continuing education divisions work with them to meet that need.

Here at Tri-County, thanks to a recent article by **Lisa Garrett**, we had the story from both the student's point of view and the extreme satisfaction from one of our local employers. We had a photo to go along with the story but not a finished product. I called **John Woodson**, program coordinator for our Media Technology and Arts (formerly Radio and Television Broadcasting). He graciously offered his expertise. A big thank you to John for coming to the rescue and putting it all into the needed format.

It takes all of us working together to meet the educational and career development needs of our students who in turn meet the employment competencies needed by our local employers. It takes all of us working together to create multiply levels of economic development for our area of the State."

**Debbie Thrasher**, administrative assistant in the Health Education Division, sent this note of thanks about Graphic Artist **Jessica Raymond**:

"I want to recognize Jessica Raymond for all of her work on the TV monitors she has helped me with for the Health Education External Communication Plan. She has been very helpful and really does a good job in making our communication piece look professional and more student friendly. In addition to Jessica's excellent work with the Health Education communication piece, she recently helped me, on very short notice, to develop a cover page for the "Pre-Veterinary Medicine Program Advisory Committee," which met for the first time in November. Thank you again for all you do!

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.

## College Opens Patriots' Place

"The reason we can stand here today and do what we do is because of the men and women in uniform. I never forget that and I appreciate it every day," Dr. Booth told a crowd of veterans, students, faculty, and staff as the College celebrated Veterans Day by opening the first veterans center.

Tri-County veterans needed a place to call their own, said the College's Disabilities Coordinator Stephanie Winkler, who worked to create Patriots' Place, a veterans center that will serve as a one-stop shop for enrollment processes, resources and a place to hang out and talk. "It will give veterans a home on campus. Veterans take care of other veterans," she said.

In addition, a licensed professional counselor will be available by appointment on Mondays to give counseling to veterans, she said. "We have more than 200 veterans on all of our campuses. This will be a place where they can get to know each other, study together, have meetings, and access resources. Veterans' peers are the biggest support system they have. They rally for each other," she said.

"We want to staff our center to meet your needs. Tell us what you need. Let us know how we can help you to get from where you are to where you need to be. That's my commitment to you," Dr. Booth said.

Currently the College offers the following services for its veterans: disabilities services, career services, a financial aid veterans coordinator, veterans transfer credit, and a student veterans organization with veteran and adjunct psychology instructor Stacey Frank as faculty advisor.

"It is a work in progress, and this is a great start. We will continue to add resources and services. Eventually, we may be able to expand to a larger location," said Stephanie.

For more information, contact Stephanie Winkler at 646-1564 or [swinkler@tctc.edu](mailto:swinkler@tctc.edu).



*The College celebrated the opening of a new veterans center, Patriots' Place, Monday, November 11, in the Student Center, Suite 155.*

*Here, **Stephanie Winkler** talks about how the center serves as a one-stop shop for enrollment processes, resources and a place to hang out and talk. In addition, a licensed professional counselor will be available by appointment to give counseling to veterans.*



***Cody Keown**, of Anderson, a 2013 Associate in Arts grad and Computer Science major at Clemson, left, talks with **Emily Shannon**, licensed counselor with VetCenter in Greenville. A licensed professional counselor will be available by appointment to give counseling to combat veterans.*



## Austin Black Adopts Cotton

Mechatronics major **Austin Black**, of Easley, right, became the new owner of Cotton, a lab/retriever mix, who was available through the Veterinary Technology Pet Adoption Day. He is pictured with **Nancy Brown**, a Veterinary Technology major who lives in Pickens. Several times a semester the Veterinary Technology program holds these pet adoption days. The dogs are trained with basic commands on a gentle leader head collar and socialized with many people. The cats are handled constantly for socialization and enjoy play time together. All animals have been spayed or neutered, received current vaccinations, wormed, and checked for heartworms or feline leukemia.

*There is a \$45 fee payable at the time of adoption. This fee includes a microchip and registration.*

# Bosch President Promotes STEM Education at Annual Report Luncheon

Robert Bosch President Mike Mansuetti says his company is looking to Tri-County and other colleges and universities to supply graduates with an educational background in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, or STEM.

STEM education is the key to our country's economic prosperity and success, said Mansuetti, who spoke to a crowd of business, industrial, education, government, and political leaders at the College's Annual Report Luncheon November 5. But, Mansuetti says the lack of students who are entering these fields is reaching a crisis level and must be addressed for the United States to maintain its competitive edge. "It is a problem of epidemic proportions, and it threatens our ability to innovate, manufacture, and sell products and services in this country. My company, Bosch, is spending considerable resources—in terms of people and dollars—to address it."

Mansuetti noted several factors influencing the crisis. "First, STEM-related jobs are growing, but there is not enough trained talent to fill them. Between the years 2008 and 2018, the U.S. Department of Commerce predicts there will be 17 percent growth in STEM-related employment as compared to less than 10 percent in other areas. This growth translates into high-paying U.S. jobs," he explained.

Unfortunately, he said, not enough students express interest in pursuing STEM careers, and women and ethnic groups are under-represented. Specifically a Junior Achievement survey of teenagers revealed that only 30 percent of boys and 16 percent of girls expressed an interest in STEM careers.

"In addition to a gender gap, we also have a disparity in



Mike Mansuetti, President, Robert Bosch, Inc.

terms of ethnic groups who elect to pursue technical careers," he said. In the Latino community, which makes up 16 percent of the overall population, only eight percent earned engineering degrees. African Americans represent 12 percent of the population and only four percent of the engineering degrees, he reported. For Native Americans, who represent about one percent of the population, four-tenths of a percent earned an engineering degree.

Conversely, as STEM careers are expected to grow, less than one third of students who plan to attend college are even interested in these jobs, he said.

"This is a problem, not just for industry, but for society. It will impact our quality of life, and our ability to innovate and manufacture goods and services in this country, not to mention our ability to purchase them. As you all know, being able to innovate and manufacture goods is a key indicator of a country's economic strength," said Mansuetti.



**Rikayla Johnson**, an Industrial Electronics Technology major from Seneca, left, had attended several two- and four-year colleges and had changed majors several times before finding her niche at Tri-County. She is a Michelin Scholar and works at the company's Sandy Springs plant. She is pictured with **Cheryl Garrison**, job placement coordinator.



**Wanda White**, on-call chaplain at AnMed Health and a University Transfer major; right, delivered the invocation. She is featured in the 2012 – 13 Annual Report publication that was distributed at the luncheon. Wanda plans to transfer to a four-year university and earn a bachelor's in Divinity/ Psychology and work in grief counseling. She is pictured with her daughter, **April Black**.



## Bosch Scholars Program Answer to Supplying Qualified Technicians

Robert Bosch President Mike Mansuetti says Tri-County's new partnership with his company, the Bosch Technical Scholars Program, is an answer to supplying industry with a pipeline of qualified technicians. "Bosch has enjoyed a long and solid history with Tri-County Technical College. We value our partnership with you," he said.

"The Technical Scholars Program is an intense four-month program that is designed to give students a real, on-the-job experience that complements what they are learning in the classroom. During their last semester, the Scholars, who are chosen for our program, are hired to work full-time during the day at Bosch while they continue their studies in the evening. The students graduate with a degree and move right into a technical position at Bosch," he said.

Mansuetti noted that four students graduated in the first class, and the second class of five students is in its final month of training. The next class begins in January. "The caliber of students at Tri-County is excellent as the success of our program clearly shows. Tri-County listens to business and then aligns its education and training so its graduates can hit the ground running. As a result, students succeed . . . business thrives . . . and Tri-County's solid reputation attracts more students to pursue their degrees here," he said.

"We appreciate, too, that Tri-County believes in continuous improvement. In fact, the Bosch team is working with Tri-County to identify how we can make this successful program even better. In addition to further strengthening the curriculum, we have challenged our organization and Tri-County to increase the diversity of the students in the program," he said.



Robert Bosch President **Mike Mansuetti**, right, talks to Bosch Technical Scholars prior to delivering the keynote address. From left are **Tyler Vaughn**, **Chase Madden**, **Travis Caldwell**, and **Weston Fulbright**.

## College Honors Dr. Booth's Decade of Service

When Dr. Booth became Tri-County Technical College's third president on July 1, 2003, he pledged his commitment to developing and maintaining partnerships, designing a roadmap for the College's future,



*Dr. Booth and Chairman Ham Hudson*

and reaffirming the College's commitment to leaving a legacy of serving students and their communities.

His vision, from the beginning, was for Tri-County Technical College to become a role model for community college education through dedication to high standards, a nurturing environment, community alliances, and innovative leadership.

At the Annual Report Luncheon November 5, on behalf of the College's Commission, Chairman Ham Hudson presented Dr. Booth with a proclamation of appreciation for his leadership and significant accomplishments on the occasion of his tenth anniversary as president of Tri-County Technical College.

"Dr. Booth is a man of great integrity, high standards, and a commitment to excellence in everything he and his fine team of College professionals undertake," said Mr. Hudson.

For the most part, Hudson says Dr. Booth's many notable accomplishments represent buildings, campuses, and programs.

"That's his job, and he does it splendidly. But there's more than bricks and mortar and collaboration and fundraising to this man. His heart is really with students. I know this by the stories he tells me when we talk about the College," said Hudson. "The stories are always about students and how we have the power to transform their lives."

"I was completely caught off guard when the Commissioners presented me with this resolution. The work the College has completed would not have been possible without the strong support I've received from a great board that truly values what we are trying to accomplish. The hard work of our faculty and staff are the reason we've been able to achieve so much over the past decade. I look forward to continuing our work by helping every student be successful, no matter what their future goals might be," said Dr. Booth.

## Author Ron Rash Visits Campus, Reads from Works



Award-winning poet and novelist Ron Rash visited the Pendleton Campus November 6 for a book reading as part of the College's Cultural Enrichment Series.

Ron, who taught English at the College from 1986 until 2003, read from his new book of short stories, Nothing Gold Can Stay, and answered questions about his novel, *Serena*, which has been made into a major motion picture starring Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence and will be released in April 2014. Another of his novels, *The World Made Straight*, which garnered the 2006 Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction, had been made into a movie. It stars singer/songwriter Steve Earle and actor Noah Wyle (*ER* and *Falling Skies*). The film will be released next year as well.

Ron is pictured above signing a copy of his book for student Elaine Wilson, of Anderson.

## Crescent Students

*(continued from page 1)*

"They are a great group of students," said instructor Doug Allen, Industrial Technology department head at the College. "They are well prepared with basic concepts. We take what they have learned at Crescent and use it to do advanced problem solving in preparation for a career as a multi-skilled technician."

Instructor and 2013 IET alumna Lisa Nabors, who teaches the Digital Electronics class, agrees. "They are very engaged and prepared beyond their interest and skills. They take initiative, are self-starters and are eager to learn. They come in and get the work done and can solve problems on their own because they had a good background coming in. They will be excellent Tri-County students. I wish I'd had this opportunity when I was their age."



Crescent High School seniors are engaging in a new career pathway program designed specifically for them to achieve a Tri-County credential by the time they graduate from high school.

Pictured from left are (standing) **Justin Parnell**, **Trent Hill**, **Grant Harbin**, and **Nathan Burdette**, and (seated) **Cheyenne Davis**, **Ian McCraw**, and **Blake McDonald**.

## Anderson Campus Site for WorkLink Event



Our Anderson Campus was the site for the SC Works WorkLink monthly hiring event November 15. Several employers were available to screen applications and resumes, as well as to interview job seekers for open positions.

## Executive Staff Summary

- **Stackable Credentials Project:** The College Strategic Plan calls for the development of Stackable Credentials to address the growing need for students to be able to earn credentials that can be “stacked” toward an associate degree, which gives them flexibility to exit the College with marketable skills and re-enroll later to complete additional credentials. This fall, stackable models were developed for Welding and CNC. The project also creates stronger connectivity between credit and non-credit programs.
- **Anderson Campus Course Meeting Patterns:** A new scheduling pattern has been piloted at the Anderson Campus since its opening in 2007. It consists of start times and meeting patterns that differ from the other campuses. Currently, results of the pilot are being studied to determine if there has been an impact on student success. With the exception of different start times, the pilot will continue through Fall 2014.
- **Emergency and eTC Announcements through Regroup:** A new emergency communications tool (Regroup) was launched early in November. Later that month, employees and students started receiving eTC announcements via e-mail. Employees and students have the option to change the default e-mail setting to receive a daily digest e-mail or view announcements only through eTC.
- **Defining the Transformative Student Experience:** Earlier this fall, nearly 300 employees, students, and alumni participated in interviews as part of a strategic planning activity to define the transformative student experience. Next steps in the project are to develop a comprehensive definition and craft activities that will create an environment that supports transformative experiences for all students and puts them on the path to success.
- **Foundation Update:** John Lummus, vice president for Economic and Institutional Advancement, provided an update on the annual giving development plan and the progress the Foundation has made in achieving its strategic goals for 2013-14. During the first half of the current fiscal year, the Foundation already has exceeded the amount of funds raised during FY 13.
- **Other:** Approval of Academic Calendar; policy and procedure updates; A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year nomination; key strategic objectives for the Strategic Plan; grant summary update; and website redesign.

## Connecting *(continued from page 2)*

the next level of strategic planning.

Another quote struck a chord with me. “A simple action by an employee can have a far-reaching impact on a student.” Like the other quote I mention above, nothing complicated, nothing expensive, and nothing remarkable—just a simple action. Can’t each of us contribute to student success in that way?



Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.  
President



The Alumni Association prepared and distributed 200 exam survival kits for students during exam week. Alumni Director Mary Johnston, SGA President Melina Guerra-Rodelo, and Alumni Board members gave students the bags filled with snacks and supplies to help during the stressful exam week. Pictured here **Jimmy Edmonds**, Class of 1967, left, and **Tammy Stout**, manager of annual giving, far right, talk with adjunct math instructor **Rosalinda Connalley**, second from left, and **Sierra Mullins**, of Anderson, an LPN major.

## Alumni Association News Updates:

Congratulations to the Alumni Association book supply award recipients for Spring 2014: Lindsey Morris, Andrew Vaughn, Michelle Hammond, Bobby McDonald, and Frankie Justice. The Alumni Association makes five awards of \$250 each to deserving students in fall and spring semesters.

Biltmore Estate is beautiful at Christmas, and the Alumni Association has discount Biltmore tickets for only \$40—a \$19 savings off the gate price. (Hint from Santa: Biltmore tickets make great presents for those hard-to-buy-for people on your list!). Tickets do not expire and can be used for any daytime visit.

Spring Open planning meeting: Friday, January 24, at 6 p.m. at Glazed in Clemson.

Do you know a Tri-County grad who has excelled in his/her field or made an outstanding contribution to the community or College? Then consider nominating that grad for the Distinguished Alumni award. Contact Mary Johnston at [alumni@tctc.edu](mailto:alumni@tctc.edu) for a nomination form and eligibility criteria.

For more info, e-mail [alumni@tctc.edu](mailto:alumni@tctc.edu) or call Mary Johnston at 864-646-1808.

## It Pays to Invest in Tri-County

Results of a recent economic impact study commissioned by the College reinforce that it pays to invest in education.

In an analysis of the socioeconomic benefits and return on investment of the College, Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI) reported students and taxpayers are seeing a quick return on their investments. “Probably the best example is that folks are going to work. The direct impact to students is they are employed at a higher level and not relying on government-supported social services,” said Dr. Booth.

“You can either pull, push or ride and we are turning out people who are pulling the economy along and adding to their communities. The study reinforces the good job we do with the dollars we get,” said Dr. Booth.

EMSI’s study notes that the College creates a significant positive impact on the local business community and generates a return on investments to its major stakeholder groups—students, society and taxpayers.

“The study looks at data from several perspectives—from the point of view of students, and how it enhances their lives, the benefits to taxpayers, and contributions to society as a whole through social savings,” he said.

“The College provides value to the community when we produce successful students/graduates. The study quantifies that successful students are good for the economy and good for society,” said Dr. Booth.

The Economic Impact Study can be found online at [www.tctc.edu/EconomicImpact2013](http://www.tctc.edu/EconomicImpact2013).

## RTV Program Becomes Media Technology and Arts January 1

The Radio and Television Broadcasting (RTV) department is beginning a rebranding process. As of January 1, RTV will be known as Media Technology and Arts to reflect that program offerings entail more than traditional broadcasting.

“We haven’t stopped doing what we do; we are making a program change, not a degree change,” said John Woodson, RTV program coordinator. Media Technology and Arts will include RTV and the three certificates Digital Photography, Digital Productions Techniques, and Graphic Communications.

Students learn not only the technical aspects of work in radio and television but also develop their own personal talents and communications styles, said John. Beyond the broadcasting basics, students also learn photography skills, digital editing, lighting, copywriting, and communication ethics.

“We have been moving in the direction of multimedia and content creation,” said John Woodson, program coordinator and a 1985 graduate of the program. “I tell people we write, light, shoot, and record content for electronic media. And this new name reflects that.”

For many years, graduates predominantly worked behind the camera and microphone, but today they are working in hospitals as videographers, at TV stations as cameramen and women, as producers and announcers at radio stations, and teaching as adjuncts for the department.

“The average business needs someone with the skills students gain in our program. They need someone to write ad copy and to produce educational and safety training videos for clients. Churches need light and sound engineers for their live performances. Companies need folks to create content and to design their websites. There are so many ways to hear or see your message. Our grads are versed in all of these professional media,” said John.

The College’s RTV program remains one of the few two-year broadcasting programs in the nation.

## Tri-County Chorus Presents Fall Concert



*The College’s chorus and music faculty presented their Fall Concert November 22, in the Marshall Parker Auditorium on the Pendleton Campus. Under the direction of conductor and music instructor **Jeff Christmas**, the concert featured a variety of works by the choir, as well as solo performances, a jazz trio and varied choral works, varying from Sacred French works to Appalachian folk tunes.*

# College Seeks to Define the “Transformative Student Experience”

As part of a College-wide effort to define the “TCTC Transformative Student Experience,” members of the President’s Advisory Council, Student Government Association officers, and others interviewed students, faculty, staff, and alumni about the types of experiences they believe had a transformational impact on their lives. At a workshop held October 29, the group identified themes that emerged from the interviews in an effort to define and create a vision for the TCTC transformational experience. Next steps are to identify the values and behaviors that support the experience and develop strategies to deliver on this promise.



**Cara Hamilton**, fiscal affairs director; **Donna Palmer**, Allied Health department head; and **Robin McFall**, interim dean, Arts and Sciences Division, discuss ideas for how employees can help students to be successful.



**Melina Guerra-Rodelo**, SGA president, leads a brainstorming session to develop a visual description of elements that support a transformative student experience. Also standing is **Alexis Williams**, SGA vice president. Seated are (left to right) **Rebecca Eidson**, PR and communications director; **Tim Bowen**, Anderson Campus director; and **Jackie Blakley**, dean of the Business and Public Services Division.

**Sharon Colcolough**, personnel director, (standing) captures ideas on a flipchart during a small group discussion about elements of a transformative student experience. Seated next to her are **Bobby Brothers**, readySC director; **Galen DeHay**, interim provost; **Lee Tennent**, IT director; **Dr. Ronnie Booth**, president; **Kameisha Guild**, student ambassador; **Gregg Stapleton**, VP for business affairs; and **Sarah Dowd**, financial aid director.



## Spotlight *(continued from page 3)*

clubs and classes included SGA, Student Ambassadors, Student Democrats, Psychology 120 class, College Skills 105 class, Inspiring Futures, Alpha Zeta Beta, and the Minority Student Association. The groups collected a total of 1,338 items.

From November 1 – December 2, faculty, staff, and students at the Pendleton, Anderson, and Easley Campuses sponsored Angel Trees to benefit Clemson, Pendleton, and Seneca Head Start programs. The Easley and Anderson Campuses collected gifts for the Easley and Anderson veteran homes. A total of 93 angels were adopted—40 from the Pendleton Campus, 18 from the Easley Campus, and 35 from the Anderson Campus.

Croslena and SGA also scheduled guest speaker presentations on campus. Topics included “Maximizing Your Potential in a Diverse Society,” and representatives from Foothills Alliance, Safe Harbor and the Pickens County Sheriff Department talked about sexual abuse and domestic violence.

It was a memorable moment for Melina, a sexual abuse survivor who “shared my story, and spoke from the heart.” I wanted people to see the face of a survivor reaching out and helping others while educating a newer generation,” she said. “People came up to me after my speech and commended me for coming forward. Strangers told me their individual stories, and we shared tears. It wasn’t in vain.”

“Melina is a great role model and has held our student body to a higher expectation. She is very committed and always gets it done. She pays close attention to detail and is an excellent communicator,” said Croslena. “SGA is a great team.”

“It’s very gratifying to see how many have benefited this semester. Getting involved has enhanced my student experience. It fills my heart on a personal level,” said Melina.

# Foundation News

It's not too late - you still can contribute to the Employee Giving Campaign. Contact Courtney White at Ext. 1484 or [cwhite12@tctc.edu](mailto:cwhite12@tctc.edu).

## Foundation Honors Itron as Philanthropist of the Year



Itron, Inc. was named the 2013 recipient of the Tri-County Technical College Foundation's Philanthropist of the Year award. Itron Operations Manager **Mike Worley**, third from left, accepted the award, along with **Katherine Crouse**, marketing manager, left, and **Brooke Dobbins**, human resources manager, right. Pictured with them is Dr. Booth.

The Tri-County Technical College Foundation named Itron, Inc., a global technology company for the utility industry, the 2013 recipient of the Foundation's Philanthropist of the Year award.

This is the Foundation's highest and most prestigious honor reserved for individuals, foundations, companies, trusts, organizations, or other entities that have made a significant financial contribution, either cash or non-cash, to the Foundation to support the work of the College.

Itron Operations Manager Mike Worley accepted the award. "On behalf of Itron, I'd like to thank the College and the Foundation for this recognition," Worley said. "Tri-County offers a unique educational opportunity that aligns well with the needs of our business. At our West Union facility, we build high-tech products that are modernizing the electrical grid and we seek employees with the right mix of technical skills. We employ 36 Tri-County Technical College graduates who play an important role in manufacturing technologies that are shaping the way electricity is delivered," he said.

"The College offers a very fertile and encouraging educational ground for those types of students," Worley said. "We are very grateful for the opportunity to work with Tri-County. The College and its graduates are among the things that contribute to our product innovation."

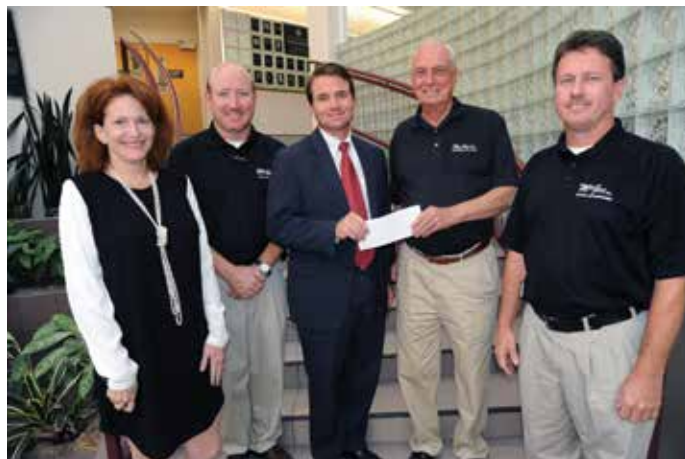
"Itron is strongly committed to supporting local communities and has been a philanthropic partner with Tri-County since 1988. Their commitment with the College and the Foundation is evident through its generous gifts over the years to establish two endowments," said Foundation Chair Peggy Deane.

The Itron Teaching Chair was created to support the professional development of mathematics faculty while the Itron Technology Endowment provides support for the College's technology needs. In addition to establishing these two endowments, Itron has been a sponsor of the Spring Open and Fall Classic golf tournaments.

Itron has given more than \$186,000 to the Foundation over the past 25 years, earning the company recognition on the college's prestigious Wall of Honor.

Itron currently serves more than 8,000 customers in over 100 countries. The company's mission is to provide critical knowledge that will empower the world's utilities to manage energy and water responsibly.

## McGee Heating and Air Gift Supports ITC



McGee Heating and Air Conditioning, located in Anderson and Georgia, owned and operated by **Walter McGee**, fourth from left, pledged \$20,000 to name the Residential and Light Commercial Comfort Cooling Lab in the College's Industrial Technology Center.

Here, Mr. McGee presents a pledge payment to **John Lummus**, vice president of economic and institutional advancement at the College, third from left. Also pictured, from left to right, are **Courtney White**, director of development for the College; **Chad Ankerich**, general manager for the company in Georgia; and **Robert Kesler**, general manager for McGee Heating and Air Conditioning in Anderson.

# SCMC Training Builds Manufacturing Workforce

Local business and manufacturing leaders recently were asked when hiring entry-level operator positions to take a look at individuals who have earned the nationally-recognized SCMC training credential that prepares them to be work ready from day one.

At a December 5 kick-off breakfast, participants learned about the newly revamped South Carolina Manufacturing Certification (SCMC) program, a quick, yet comprehensive training route for individuals seeking to enhance their skills and to secure full-time employment as operators in manufacturing.

The SCMC, formerly Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) training, is a 200-hour curriculum that includes the opportunity to earn eight nationally recognized certifications. Topics include industrial safety, quality, blueprints and measurement, production processes, and some basic understanding of industrial equipment and maintenance.

"This is a broad approach to economic development and work force development," said John Lummus, vice president for economic and institutional advancement. He thanked the business and industry partners "who have provided input to help get this manufacturing certificate program off the ground. "The SCMC program will allow South Carolina to bring its workforce to a higher level."

Earlier this year the S.C. Legislature funded the SCMC program by allocating money for each technical college in the state.

Representatives from our Corporate and Community Education Division, the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, and the South Carolina Technical College System rolled out details about the program at the meeting.

Pat Michaels, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries of the Upstate/Midlands, explained how the organization funds SCMC training and provides counseling and job placement services for individuals in its program.

Tristan Worley, of Westminster, was a participant in Goodwill's first manufacturing class after being laid off from a local industry. "All 13 of us got job offers before the end of the class," said Worley, who was hired as a production technician at U.S. Engine Valve in Westminster two weeks before he finished the class taught by Tri-County's Corporate and Community Education Division instructors. While in training, he continued to pursue his Industrial Electronics Technology degree.

"We got the best of the best with Tristan, and we have big plans for him," said Mary Ann Craft, human resources manager at U.S. Engine Valve. "Goodwill highly recommended him to us. After interviewing Tristan, he was our number-one pick. He has proven himself and is doing an excellent job," she said, adding



*Tristan Worley was hired as a Production Technician at U.S. Engine Valve in Westminster two weeks before he finished Goodwill's manufacturing class earlier this year. He since has been promoted to Maintenance Apprentice. He is pictured with **Gayle Jenkins**, training coordinator at U.S. Engine Valve, left, and **Mary Ann Craft**, human resources manager.*

that he has been promoted to Maintenance Apprentice.

"Goodwill has very good training programs, and we are pleased to see it has expanded to the manufacturing sector. The SCMC program shows that a person is putting forth the effort to obtain a certification that will open up opportunities for him or her. This program is important to us in building a bigger pool of applicants while helping us to recruit the best associates for our skilled machinist positions," said Craft.

"I can't say thank you enough," said Worley, who just a year ago, had been laid off and couldn't find job until he says he "stumbled" upon the Goodwill program. "I had no idea my training would lead to this. Goodwill was been so supportive in helping us to find jobs. I am proud to be a valued employee at U.S. Engine Valve."

"Tri-County is a key partner and a catalyst in helping people find employment," said Michaels. "Goodwill has a 90 percent placement rate for those who are certified. We provide access to the American Dream—full-time employment with good wages, benefits, and opportunities for a career path."

"Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties are pro-manufacturing, and South Carolina is committed to being a manufacturing state," said Ron Humphries, associate program director for our Center for Workforce Excellence. He noted that

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## SCMC *(continued from page 15)*

today's jobs aren't your grandparents' or parents' manufacturing jobs. "It's advanced manufacturing. In class they earn an OSHA 10-hour safety card, a Six Sigma yellow belt certification and a national MSSC credential in safety, quality, product system, and manufacturing awareness which translates into stackable credentials for college credit."

After they pass the last certification exam, participants receive eight hours of simulation training where they apply the quality, safety, and lean manufacturing skills learned in class.

"The SCMC certificate gives applicants them a leg up and many employers consider it to be equivalent to a year of industry experience," said Ron.

"We are building an entry-level manufacturing workforce—folks who have completed this training need to go to the front of the hiring line," said Susan Pretulak, vice president of economic development and workforce competitiveness for the SC Technical College System. "Your voice as manufacturers is key to continuing this process. Take a look at these folks when you are hiring," she said.

For more information about scholarships, contact Ron Humphries at 646-1723 or rhumphri@tctc.edu.

## College Launches New Group Communications Tool

The College recently launched Regroup, an emergency communications tool that allows us to immediately issue emergency notifications through multiple channels simultaneously. Because of its robust capabilities, the tool also will be used for other types of group communications as described below.

### **Emergency Communications**

Emergency communications will be sent by text, e-mail, eTC portal announcements, the College's public website, social media, and the news media as appropriate.

Examples of these communications include immediate safety issues and campus closings due to inclement weather. Please log into Regroup and click on the eTC "Welcome" tab where you will see the number we currently have on file to notify you in the event of an emergency. If the number is not correct, click on the link provided to quickly and easily update your emergency notification number.

### **eTC Announcements**

In addition, eTC Employee and Student announcements will be delivered via e-mail as soon as the announcement is posted. You have the option to change the default e-mail settings for each group by logging into Regroup on the eTC Welcome tab and setting your personal preferences. (Instructions are included on the Welcome tab.)

Options include:

- Individual e-mails sent each time an eTC announcement is posted to a group(s) - default setting;
- One daily digest e-mail at the end of the day that includes all announcements posted that day (One e-mail from each group);
- Web only (You must log into eTC or Regroup to view your announcements.)
- The process has not changed for employees who wish to request eTC announcements. Instructions are on the eTC Employee Tab.

### **Other Group-focused Communications**

Employees may use Regroup to communicate with specific groups, such as students in a particular major, student clubs, wellness groups, book clubs, etc. Again, the beauty of this tool is that it allows individuals who join your group to customize how they wish to receive communications from your group.

For more information about Regroup and how to get started using Regroup for your targeted communications needs, refer to the *Regroup Quick Start User Guide* on the eTC Welcome tab.