

Connection

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SACS Team Calls QEP “Pure Gold”

No recommendations regarding compliance and no recommendations for the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

That’s what Dr. William Ingram, chair of the SACSCOC On-Site Reaffirmation Committee and president of Durham Technical Community College, reported at the exit conference following a three-day visit by the committee.

After reviewing our issues of non-compliance as noted by the Off-Site Committee, they determined the College is in compliance with all Core Requirements, Federal Requirements, and Comprehensive Standards. The Committee also reviewed our QEP and determined the College has an acceptable QEP with no recommendations.

During the week of October 10–13, nine SACS visiting team members met with a wide variety of faculty, staff, and students across the College. The team was responsible for visiting and reviewing off-campus instructional sites, gathering additional information for standards and requirements where there were still questions, and reviewing the Quality Enhancement Plan.

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Dr. William Ingram, chair of the SACSCOC On-Site Reaffirmation Committee and president of Durham Technical Community College, addresses members of the staff.

SACS Compliance Report and QEP Results: “A Wonderful Example of Synergy”

At a celebration event held several days after the SACS site team visit, Sarah Shumpert, director of instructional support, thanked the campus community for its active participation in the QEP development and our student success journey. Here is an excerpt from her speech:

“This was the result of so many contributions across the institution. I do believe Margaret Burdette (coordinator of SACSCOC compliance and assessment) should be recognized for all of her good work in putting together the compliance report and the visit itself, as well as the Core Team members of the QEP development group, which included Margaret, Jackie Blakley, Deborah Brock, Galen DeHay, Cheryl Garrison, Chris Marino, Amoena Norcross, and Mandy Orzechowski. Having said that, of course, none of the work that any of us did would have been possible without the entire campus community being active participants not only in QEP development but our entire student success journey. Our good outcome with the site visit

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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

Partnerships and Pathways

On October 27, we were honored to have Dr. Jim Clements, president of Clemson University, deliver the keynote address at our Annual Report Luncheon in honor of the tenth anniversary of the Bridge to Clemson program.

The theme of the 2015-16 Annual Report and luncheon, Partnerships and Pathways, is a tribute to the important role our community partners play in helping us to create solid pathways to student success. More than 200 of those business, industry, and community partners joined us for the Annual Report Luncheon, a visible sign of support for our mission and vision to transform lives and build strong communities—one student at a time.

The highly-successful Bridge to Clemson program, still flourishing after ten years, is one of many examples of partnerships at work. Jim Clements said during the luncheon, “More than 1,700 of our students came to us through Bridge—that’s 10 percent of our overall undergraduate student body.” He also pointed out that eighty-two percent of those students graduate from Clemson, almost exactly the same as their native freshmen graduation rate and more than double the national average.

Several other partnerships are spotlighted in the Annual Report. Our Connect to College (C2C) program, a partnership with the seven school districts in our service area, provides a pathway for students who need an alternative to a traditional high school setting. Those same partners work with us to deliver Technical Career Pathways, a program that allows high school students to get a head start in preparing for high-tech jobs in advanced manufacturing by earning a college certificate before graduating from high school.

Just as no two people are alike, no two pathways are alike. In the report, you can read about Samuel Hill, whose dream of enrolling in the United States Naval Academy came true only after he was able to prove his leadership and academic talents at Tri-County. You also can read about Caleb Allen, whose internship and degree in Mechatronics opened a pathway to his next career goal to work in the field of human resources. Megan Moss, another student featured in the report, was able to finish her high school diploma through Connect to College, complete a degree in Industrial Electronics, earn the Outstanding Student Award in her major, and land a great job with a bright future in manufacturing.

Jim Clements put it well when he said, “Our community depends on Tri-County Technical College to educate our citizens for high-demand jobs in local businesses and industries, particularly manufacturing.”

There is a reason we continue to lead the S.C. Technical College System in student success, graduation, and transfer rates – creative, dedicated employees like all of you and the unparalleled support of our community partners. We all are moving in the right direction, and it is remarkable what we can accomplish by working together.

If you would like to view a copy of the report, you can access it on the About TCTC tab on the public website. For a hard copy, contact Public Relations at PR@tctc.edu or call Ext. 1507.



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D., President



Spotlight on Give an Edge Campaign

October 18–November 15

The Foundation's annual Give an Edge employee giving campaign, which kicked off October 18, is way for faculty and staff to make a huge impact in helping to fill the gaps in fulfilling students' needs.

"It's not about giving to the College but supporting students' needs," said Tammy Fiske, manager of annual giving. "Many faculty and staff continue to direct their gifts to scholarships and other priority needs, such as technology, professional development, or a specific interest or department. Our goal is to raise funds that are critical to supporting scholarships, equipment needs, professional development funds, and individual program needs," said Tammy.

For instance, you may contribute to a general need or specifically the Equipment/Technology, Scholarships, Professional Development, or College Priority Needs funds. Or you may designate your contribution to go to another area of the College, she said.

Cindy Trimmier Lee, program coordinator for Educational Talent Search, says she gives to the Scholarship Fund because "it's an opportunity to help students reach their educational goals and think less about finances. I know that each time I give as part of a group, it quickly adds up to reach a greater number of students who might give up without the extra scholarship support."

Math Department Head Keri Catalfomo believes in giving back to her community. "What better way than to give directly to Tri-County students through the Foundation? The scholarship opportunities the Foundation provides help our students to achieve their success goals and better their lives. I feel blessed that I have the chance to help impact students' lives in this way," said Keri.

Many employees supported the Foundation's Give an Edge kick off on October 18 by visiting with fellow co-workers and enjoying a baked potato bar. "It also gave the Foundation staff a chance to thank employees for supporting College needs through a personal gift to the campaign," said Tammy. "It was a great time to socialize and served as a way for our newer employees to learn about the College and various giving opportunities that can be supported through monthly payroll deduction or one-time gifts," she said.

"We are focusing on increasing participation, as well as monthly payroll giving," said Tammy. "The significance of monthly payroll giving allows us to budget annually, and it is by far the



The Foundation Office kicked off its 2016 Give an Edge employee giving campaign October 18 with a free potato bar for faculty and staff.

most popular choice because individuals make the decision of how much and where the funds will go," she said. As an incentive for new payroll deduction participants, with a minimum \$25 gift, they will receive a campaign gift (insulated shopping tote) and a travel mug.

Over the past two weeks, Tammy has been delivering campaign gifts to those currently enrolled in the monthly payroll giving. "We will have weekly drawings for giveaways that all participants will have a chance to win," she added.

Employee support makes a difference—this past year, employee contributions totaled \$42,596, a 31 percent increase over FY15.

"We are extremely grateful to you for your gifts and for helping us to achieve our goals," she said.

Tammy says her "pie in the sky" goal is to achieve 100 percent participation.

"It can happen if everyone makes a gift, even if it's just a dollar. You can give any amount. Reaching the 100 percent participation mark would make a huge statement by employees about their belief in our mission and would support our students," she said.

IT Systems Administrator Larry Barnes summed it up when he said, "When everyone does a little, the impact can be pretty big and impressive. Supporting education helps everyone."

The campaign will end November 15 with a Sweet Celebration in the Café.

Annual Report Luncheon Features Pathways and Partnerships

There is a reason Tri-County Technical College continues to lead the S.C. Technical College System in student success, graduation and transfer rates. Dr. Booth told a crowd of community partners at the College's Annual Report Luncheon.

"We do the right things right, and we have the unparalleled support of partners like each of you, who plays an important role in helping us to create solid pathways to student success at Tri-County Technical College," said Dr. Booth.

"It is the partnerships and pathways that you have helped us to create that make our students' educational experiences so successful. We like to share student success stories in our Annual Report publication—but the proof is also in the numbers," he said.

"We have the highest student success rate among all sixteen technical and community colleges in the State. We are ranked in the top five percent nationally for successful transfer to four-year colleges and universities. Ninety-nine percent of employers are highly satisfied with the preparation our graduates receive. We exceed all state academic benchmarks and performance standards. We are proud of these achievements, and we are on the right path," he said.

Dr. Booth said the signs of successful partnerships are in the highly-successful Bridge to Clemson program, a partnership between Tri-County and Clemson University that creates a

pathway to transfer to Clemson; the Connect to College program, a much needed option for students who need an alternative to traditional high school; and the fast-growing Technical Career Pathways program that allows high school students to get a head start in preparing for high-tech jobs in advanced manufacturing.

Looking ahead, the College has two major capital projects underway that support student success and economic development, said Dr. Booth.

The partnership with Oconee County and the School District of Oconee County will create a one-of-a-kind Workforce Development Center at the Industry and Technology Park, he said. The Center will co-locate an Oconee Campus of Tri-County and a new Career Center for high school students. "We have the opportunity to become a national model through this partnership," he added. The groundbreaking is set to take place this spring.

Earlier this fall, the College broke ground on the Student Success Center on the Pendleton Campus. This 75,000 square-foot building will house a learning commons to include library collections, flexible meeting spaces for students, computer labs, study areas, and tutoring spaces, as well as student development offices, IT services and more. In addition to a new building, the project includes a complete refurbishment of Ruby Hicks Hall to house TC Central, a one-stop enrollment center, curriculum and academic support services, administration and conference/training spaces, as well as the installation of a central chiller plant and energy loop.

"We are privileged and honored to serve our community, and thank you for your continued support," he told the audience. "We owe a debt of gratitude to all of you—our business and industry partners, county councils, legislative delegations, donors, public school officials, and friends—for your support. We all are moving in the right direction and it is remarkable what we can accomplish by working together."



Dr. Booth addresses community partners at the College's Annual Report Luncheon.



There's a waiting list for all pathways classes—Welding, Mechatronics, and Auto Body—at Anderson 1 and 2 Career and Technology Center—and it's because of instructors like **Mark Franks**, right, pictured here with **Doug Wilson**, Mechatronics program coordinator. Mark teaches sophomores, juniors, and seniors from Belton-Honea Path, Palmetto, Powdersville, and Wren high schools in the Mechatronics curriculum at the Career and Technology Center.

"He does such a wonderful job," said Center Director Hollie Harrell. "He interacts well with the kids, and he knows how to motivate them and to relate to them as individuals. He gives them a sense of purpose and he has a true commitment to transforming these young adults," said Harrell.



Student Success Stories Highlighted in Annual Report



Caleb Allen, a 2016 Mechatronics graduate and former Student Government Association president, worked as an intern at E & I Engineering. He is pictured with his mentor, Atalie Norton, at E & I Engineering. Caleb's many experiences now have led him on a new pathway. He is taking University Transfer courses and plans to transfer to Anderson University and major in Human Resources. This semester he is working as an intern in the President's Office.

a partnership we have with area school districts to provide alternative pathways to a high school diploma for those who need it. She went on to earn a degree in Industrial Electronics Technology (IET) and was named the Outstanding IET student for 2016. She graduated this summer and accepted a position at Robert Bosch Corporation as a Technical Scholar. She is pictured with Alan Johnson, her supervisor.



Heather and Brian Jones are featured in the Annual Report. Tri-County provided a starting-over point for the married couple. Heather, a stay-at-home mom while their four children were growing up, found her niche as a Phlebotomist in the health care field. She received a scholarship made possible through funding provided by the SC General Assembly for short-term job training through the Corporate and Community Education Division.



Megan Moss—Several years ago, single parent Megan Moss needed to find a different pathway to complete her high school diploma. She enrolled in our Connect to College program,

Brian, an Army veteran and former police officer, discovered he has a real knack for computers and is enjoying every minute of his newfound career as a Computer Technician and Webmaster for Spartanburg County School District 2. Retraining at Tri-County has put the couple back to work in jobs they love and provided the financial stability and benefits they need.



CU President James Clements:

‘I’m Proud of Bridge to Clemson’s Impact, Growth’

The average national six-year graduation rate for first-time incoming college freshmen is 44 percent, according to a report card issued by the White House earlier this year.

The Bridge of Clemson program, a partnership between Tri-County Technical College and Clemson University that creates a pathway to transfer to Clemson, boasts an 82 percent graduation rate—almost double the national graduation rate. “That is unbelievable,” Clemson University President James Clements said in his keynote address at the Annual Report Luncheon. Clements celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the Bridge to Clemson program by spotlighting statistics and success stories.

He called Bridge to Clemson “a national model of collaboration whose graduation rate is consistent with our overall graduation rate. Our Bridge students are doing just as well as our students who enroll as traditional freshmen.”

A first of its kind in South Carolina, Bridge to Clemson is an invitation-only program that blends the traditional academic experience at Tri-County with the social and cultural experiences of being a Clemson University student. The program, which began in 2006, offers students a university experience and seamless transition to Clemson for their sophomore year. Bridge students must earn 30 transfer credits at Tri-County during their two

semesters and transfer to Clemson with a minimum 2.5 GPA.

Bridge to Clemson is a program whereby students benefit academically and socially, said Clements.

The first class of the Bridge to Clemson University program enrolled 235 in the fall of 2006 and has flourished beyond all expectations during the past decade. In the fall of 2016, the Bridge program admitted close to 800 students—its largest class to date.

“I’m so proud of the program’s impact and growth,” he added.

“At Clemson, more than 1700 of our current students came to us through Bridge. This is almost 10 percent of our overall undergraduate student population. The program is so important because it gives more students, especially more South Carolina students, access to a world-class Clemson education,” he said.

“The Bridge program helps us educate South Carolina students, which helps to build a stronger productive workforce. The Bridge program gives lots of amazing students an alternative path of enrollment. Tri-County Technical College is a critical and vital partner,” Clements said.

“Access is important,” he said. “Our community depends on this college—to educate our citizens for high-demand jobs in local businesses and industries, particularly manufacturing. Tri-County graduates fuel our local economy and help attract new jobs and expand our tax base. Tri-County is such an important part of this community and I am so grateful to have you as a partner as we work together to make South Carolina stronger.”

Meet Bridge To Clemson Students Past, Present, and Future



Wallace Cobbs

Wallace Cobbs, featured in the 2015–16 Annual Report publication, was a member of the first Bridge to Clemson class in 2006. After several years as a Reading/Social Studies teacher at Pendleton Elementary School, he recently was promoted to Assistant Principal at New Prospect Elementary School in Anderson.

Back in 2006, he narrowly missed admission but received a letter inviting him to join the brand new Bridge program. After a successful year at

Tri-County, he transferred to Clemson, where he learned from friends about the Call Me MISTER program, a nationally-known scholarship teaching program developed by Clemson University to meet the shortage of African American male teachers in South Carolina’s elementary schools.

He graduated from Clemson in 2011 with an Elementary Education degree and an Educational Administration and Supervision degree from Southern Wesleyan University and

now is pursuing a doctorate in Educational Leadership at Clemson. Read Wallace’s full story on page 2–4 of the Annual Report.

Jeremy Johnson, a Clemson junior from Columbia majoring in Graphic Communications, is another Bridge success story. He says his year at Tri-County prepared him for being a Clemson student.

Johnson is a Resident Assistant in the Bridge residential community at Highpoint, and he mentors new Bridge students. He is a volunteer firefighter with Friendship Fire Department in Seneca and is a member of a bluegrass gospel band.



Jeremy Johnson



Briana White

Briana White is currently enrolled in the Bridge program at Tri-County. An Asheville, NC, native, she is studying Psychology with the goal of attending law school. She is president of Tri-County’s Student Government Association.

Senator Tim Scott Meets with Students

Senator Tim Scott was on campus October 12 to meet with current students and graduates who are participating in or benefited from work-based learning opportunities. Students reflected on how co-ops and internships complement their classroom work and make them more marketable. Senator Scott said the earn and learn experience is powerful for students and for economic development and companies building a skilled and competent workforce.

“We must continue to provide an amazing workforce so companies are anchored in South Carolina for generations. A trained workforce is an important ingredient to our State’s success. That’s why Tri-County Technical College is so important and what you are experiencing is phenomenal,” he said.



Pictured from left with **Senator Tim Scott** (seated) are (standing, from left) **Cedrick Smith**, BMW scholar; **Greg Skipper**, Tetremer Technologies; **Timothy Loudermilk**, Michelin Scholar; **Megan Moss**, Bosch Scholar; **Cole Counts**, Reliable Sprinkler; **Luis Andrey**, BMW; and **Caleb Allen**, E & I Engineering; and (seated) **Christina Colombo**, Michelin; and **Quin Magee**, alumnus working at Bosch.

He urged the students to find a mentor. “People who succeed the most are those who are most available and willing to re-invest what they know in others like you. Take time to find a mentor. It will change your life and your trajectory,” he said.

TAPS Students Attend Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, Spratt Issues Conference

Lara Wrightson, instructor of Political Science and coordinator of Instructional Activities, Social Sciences, and Mary Geren, English instructor and faculty co-advisor for Tri-County Association of Political Scientists (TAPS) took students to the Jefferson-Jackson Dinner and Spratt Issues Conference in Columbia.

Students met candidates for various State and local offices and heard presentations from Inez Tennenbaum (former Superintendent of Education), Rev. Leah Daughtry, and Jaime Harrison (chair of the South Carolina Democratic Party). Interested student Republicans have the opportunity to attend the Silver Elephant Dinner held by the SC GOP in the spring.



Faculty members and TAPS students met actor **Jeffrey Wright** (of *The Hunger Games* movies), third from left.

Foundation News

Foundation Board Welcomes Three New Members

Three community leaders have been elected to serve on the College's Foundation Board of Directors.

Joining the Board's current members are Sheila King, of Anderson, George Acker, of Pickens, and Jim Lovinggood, of Williamston.

Members of the Foundation Board raise money to supplement appropriations thereby helping the College to meet the educational needs of the citizens of the tri-county area.

Sheila King

Mrs. King and her husband, David, are Licensed Funeral Directors and co-own Sullivan King Mortuary in Anderson. She also is owner of Kid's Stuff Academy in Anderson and Clemson. She is a summa cum laude graduate of Clemson University where she received B.S. and master's degrees in Elementary Education with certification in Administration and a Principal Certificate.



Sheila King

She is past Chair of the Hospice of the Upstate board and serves as a board member for Anderson County First Steps, AnMed Health Foundation, and the South Carolina Child Care Association.

She is an AnMed Health Ambassador, a member of the Anderson County Woman's Club, and former chair of the Women's Leadership Initiative of the United Way. She is a former board member of Habitat for Humanity and the Greater Anderson Musical Arts Consortium and is a graduate of Leadership Anderson Class 24. She is an active member of New Spring Church.

She is a past member of United Way Campaign Cabinet and former Chair of the Governor's Advisory Board for Child Care.

She is the recipient of the 2005 Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce Athena Award and the co-recipient of the 2015 United Way Communitarian of the Year Award.

She and David have an adult daughter, Taylor King Young. They have one grandson.

George Acker

Mr. Acker served as SC Vice President for External Relations for Duke Energy of the Carolinas until his



George Acker

retirement earlier this year. Mr. Acker had been with Duke Energy since 1981 and held positions in Greenville, Anderson, Columbia and Spartanburg, in addition to Charlotte, NC.

In 2009 he was appointed to the Tri-County Technical College Commission, the governing board of the College. He served from 2009-2014.

He is former Vice Chairman of Upstate Alliance and former Chairman of the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, Greenville Convention and Visitors Bureau, and South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities. He previously served on the boards of the Anderson Chamber of Commerce, Anderson Economic Partnership Executive Committee, the Greenville Symphony, and the Better Business Bureau of the Foothills. He is past Chair and President of the Pickens County United Way.

Mr. Acker is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and earned a master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He lives in Pickens and has three children.

Jim Lovinggood

Mr. Lovinggood is Manager of Engineering and Support Services for Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, Inc., where he has system-wide responsibility for a variety of departments. He is a graduate of Limestone College, where he earned a B.S. in Business Management. He has spent more than 34 years of his professional career in a number of positions with Blue Ridge Electric. Prior to his current position, Mr. Lovinggood helped to develop and launch Blue Ridge Security Systems, Inc. in 1995. Under his direction, the company's subsidiary grew into a large regional company with branches currently operating in Charlotte, NC, and Knoxville, TN, as well as the home office in Anderson,



Jim Lovinggood

Currently he is serving a second term on the Anderson University Board of Visitors. He previously served on a number of boards, including the SC Poultry Federation; the Palmetto High School Booster Club (Past President); the Anderson Area YMCA; Foothills Alliance; and the Engineering Association of the Electric Cooperatives of SC (Past President). Mr. Lovinggood also is a member of the Anderson Rotary Club.

He and his wife, Denise, have two adult children, Nicole and Jonathan, and one grandchild. They are members of Williamston First Baptist Church.

Foundation Honors Oconee Memorial Hospital with Philanthropist of the Year Award

The Tri-County Technical College Foundation named Oconee Memorial Hospital the 2016 recipient of its 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.

Grayson Kelly, executive director of the Foundation, presented the award to Hunter Kome, president, and Pat Smith, chief nursing officer, at the College's Annual Report Luncheon held October 27.

"On behalf of the Tri-County Technical College Foundation, its board of directors and the College, I thank you for Oconee Memorial Hospital's gifts, for your commitment to improving healthcare within our community and for your support of our students and graduates," Grayson said.

Oconee Memorial Hospital has been a loyal donor since September of 2000. The Hospital's first gift named the Oconee Memorial Hospital Surgical Technology Center in Fulp Hall. This naming created an endowment that supports the professional development of faculty in the Surgical Technology Department.



The Tri-County Technical College Foundation named Oconee Memorial Hospital the 2016 recipient of its Philanthropist of the Year award. **Grayson Kelly**, executive director of the Foundation, right, presented the award to **Hunter Kome**, president, and **Pat Smith**, chief nursing officer, at the College's Annual Report Luncheon held October 27.

In 2005 and 2006, the Hospital made gifts to support the purchase of human patient simulators, helping to make it possible for the College's Health Education Division to be the first in the State to have a fully-equipped virtual lab.

Some of the largest gifts received from the Hospital were in support of the "LPN to Professor" program—a collaborative arrangement between the Duke Endowment and the hospitals in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties. This program allows RN students to work full-time while pursuing advanced nursing degrees.

The Hospital's most recent major gift created an endowment for nursing excellence. The purpose of this endowment is to support various needs of the nursing program, including faculty professional development activities, the purchase of equipment, and other priority needs.

Additionally, Oconee Memorial Hospital has sponsored the Foundation's Fall Classic Golf Tournament and has donated equipment.

To date, Oconee Memorial has given more than \$607,000, giving the Hospital recognition on the College's prestigious Wall of Honor.

Rainbow Gang Visits ITC



The Rainbow Gang, a group of special adults from Anderson County, had the opportunity to tour the Industrial Technology Center September 28. These special visitors were able to observe students operating welding, CNC, and other equipment. They also were treated to a demonstration of the large-scale robotics equipment and received small souvenirs produced using the College's 3-D printer. **Mike Cannon**, far right, longtime friend of the College and former Foundation member who volunteers with the Rainbow Gang, arranged the tour.

Fall Classic Raises More Than \$50K

The 2016 Fall Classic Golf tournament held September 26 raised more than \$50,000 for the College's priority needs.

The tournament champions scored 17 below par, turning in the winning score of 55. Pictured left to right are **Craig Thornton**, account executive, Marsh & McLennan Agency; **Bill Biggs**, president/COO HMR Veterans Services, Inc.; **Heyward Hilliard**,



executive vice president of Operations, HMR Veterans Services, Inc.; and **Rep. Brian White**.

Our College Family



Melissa Blank

in transition

Melissa Blank joined us as an instructor in the English Department in the Arts and Sciences Division. Melissa received a master's in English from Southern Wesleyan University last year and worked as an adjunct teaching English in fall 2015. She also holds a B.A. in Political Science from Clemson University. Her work experience

includes working in the Claims Department for Geico for seven years and as a Customer Service Representative for Enterprise for two years. She and her husband, Steven, live in Pendleton.

Brittany Talbert is a Recruiter in the Admissions Office. After completing the Bridge to Clemson program in 2013, she transferred to Clemson University, where she earned a B.A. in Psychology. She continued her work with the Bridge program by serving as a Tour Guide and as a Bridge Ambassador at Tri-County in 2016. She also was an Administrative Assistant for Bridge to Clemson this summer, as well as a Student Success Intern. Brittany lives in Clemson.



Brittany Talbert

August Johnson (no photo) is a Student Success Coach in TC Central. He holds a B.S. in Criminal Justice from USC Spartanburg and an M.S. in Human Resource Management from Webster University. Prior to joining the College, he worked at Greenville Technical College as a Student Success Program Coordinator working with veterans affairs, as well as financial aid and advising. He also was an adjunct instructor for College Skills classes. His other work experience includes working in child protective services for the Department of Social Services for two years and as a Case Manager for Alston Wilkes Society for two years. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity. He lives in Mauldin.

After a year of working in the Bridge to Clemson program, **Robin McFall** is back in the classroom teaching English for the Arts and Sciences Division. Robin began teaching at

Tri-County in 1990 as an adjunct instructor after working as a teacher for Anderson School Districts 1 and 3. In 1992 she became a full-time instructor and in 2004 was named head of the English Department for the Arts and Sciences Division.

Her award recognitions include the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence in 2002, and in 2003 and again in 2013 was honored as one of our Educators of the Year and at the South Carolina Technical Education Association conference.

In 2003 she was the College's nominee for the S.C. Technical College's A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year Award.

During her time at Tri-County, she developed some of the College's first distance education and online courses, as well as facilitated an orientation program for students in the Arts and Sciences Division.

In 2006 she worked with Clemson University to develop academic and advising components for the Bridge to Clemson program and served as the Academic Liaison. Robin is a member of the Two Year College English Association—Southeast, as well as NACADA and the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students. She holds a B.A. and an M.Ed. in Secondary Education (English) from Clemson University. She and her husband, Perry, have two sons, Logan, 21, and Kade, 17, and live in Piedmont. They attend Mt. Airy Baptist Church.

Erica Stephens is the Administrative Assistant for the Health Education Division. For the last several months, she has been the Administrative Assistant for the TRiO offices. She earned a B.S. in Human Services from Southern Wesleyan University. She is a Worship Leader at First Assembly of God in Easley. She and her husband, Andrew, live in Liberty.



Robin McFall



Erica Stephens

Zachary Sheppard is a Business Analyst for our Information Technology Department. He was a student in the Bridge to Clemson program from 2013–14 before transferring

to Clemson where he is pursuing a B.S. in Computer Information Systems. He will graduate in May 2017. Last year, he was a Dell Campus Representative for Clemson and was an Orientation Ambassador for Bridge to Clemson in 2014. Zachary lives in Clemson.



Zachary Sheppard

Bill Screws is a Network Administrator in our Information Technology Department. He earned a B.S. in Computer Science from Clemson University and worked for the School District of Oconee County from 2003–2016



Bill Screws

as Network Administrator, Service Administrator, and in User Support.

He also worked as a Network and Operations Manager at Lander University from 1996–2003 and as a Computer Specialist for the Great Smokey Mountains National Park from 1989–1996.

He and his wife, Wanda, have a son, Jaret, 21, and live in Salem.

Two longtime Tri-County employees have joined the College Transitions Division.

Phyllis Shealy has served the College in a variety of roles over the past 28 years. Earlier this fall, Phyllis moved into an administrative support role for the College Transitions Division.

Elizabeth Cox, who served as an Administrative Assistant in the Arts and Sciences Division for more than six years, recently moved up to the 3rd floor of Oconee Hall to take on a new role: providing administrative support for the Comprehensive Studies Department

Financial Aid Staff Show Community Spirit

The Office of Financial Aid and the Money Management Center shared their community and team-building spirit by sponsoring and creating a scarecrow as part of Fall Festival activities in the Town of Pendleton. Students and employees are encouraged to stop by to see it in person, pose for a picture with the scarecrow, tweet it, and tag @AuntFAE. Prizes are available to those who stop by or contact the office after tweeting their photo.



Pictured from left to right are Adam Ghiloni, Carla Brewer, Michelle Jacobson, Ross Hughes, Rosemary Howlin, Amy Jared, Sharetta Bufford, Catherine DuRant, and Betty Fant.



Elaine Ashton wrote a letter expressing her thanks to **Dr. Stephan Irwin**, Biology Instructor. Highlights of the letter include:

“The enthusiasm and passion you have for educating students have truly made you the best teacher I have ever had.

You have not only taught me Anatomy and Physiology, but you have also taught me about life and how to be a better student. ... Before entering your classroom, I was scared

to ask questions—in fear of being judged, and scared to answer questions—in fear of being wrong. However, I have learned asking “stupid” questions does help and saves others who may be scared to ask them as well. ... Continue encouraging your students to perform their best and better their lives. You have made a great impact on my life, and I know you will continue to impact your student’s lives. Thank you for this amazing experience and giving me the opportunity to be your student.”

Getting To Know You

Dr. Jackie Blakley

Dean of Business and Public Services Division

1. What is the best part of your job? There are a lot of great parts to my job. I enjoy coming to work every day because I love what I do. I like helping people, and having a job that allows me to do that is great. There is never a dull moment, and we are not satisfied with mediocre. I like learning new things, and this job allows me the opportunity to stay on the cutting edge and provides chances for me to attend conferences and network with my peers.



Dr. Jackie Blakley

2. What fad or fashion do you wish would make a comeback?

This was a hard one for me. Let's go with blue jeans, a white shirt, and Keds. That was a popular outfit. Keds with anything was good.

3. What is your greatest achievement, and how did it shape or change you? My greatest achievement was becoming a mother. After that I realized that life is a miracle and such a blessing. I love the time that I spend with my children. They challenge me to always be the best that I can be. I want to always be a positive example for them.

4. What is a skill you'd love to master? I love cooking. I am a pretty good cook, but I would love to be a gourmet cook and baker. I bake a lot as well, but there are so many things that I don't know about cooking and about baking. I don't watch TV a lot, but when a member of my family comes in and turns on the TV and it is on the Food Network, they know that I was the last one to watch it. It would be awesome to be a contestant on Chopped, Cupcake Wars, or the Next Food Network Star. It would be more awesome to win.

5. What makes you laugh? I love a good funny movie, and I like to watch comedians. Lately I have truly enjoyed watching Jimmy Fallon write "Thank You Notes" on Friday nights.

Ross Hughes

Quality Assurance Coordinator, Financial Aid

1. What is the best part of your job? The best part of my job has to be the satisfaction of helping students find work-study jobs on- and off-campus. These jobs are not only important because they provide students with income to offset college expenses, but also because the students are afforded the opportunity to network and learn valuable soft skills. Just getting to be a part of this process is something I value highly.



Ross Hughes

2. What fad or fashion do you wish would make a comeback? Everything from the 90's is pure gold. Well, maybe not everything (looking at you, backward jeans), but I would love to see

Seinfeld back on TV while enjoying some Doritos 3D chips and a refreshing Clearly Canadian flavored water.

3. What is your greatest achievement, and how did it shape or change you? Ah, this one may be a bit cliché, but graduating college is my greatest achievement. I'm the first in my family to graduate college, and I am proud to have started this achievement at a technical college. Doing this saved me thousands of dollars, and afforded me the opportunity to transfer to Lander University to complete my Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. I'm now working on a Master of Science degree in Management and Leadership at Southern Wesleyan University and look forward to adding that to my achievements.

4. What is a skill you'd love to master? I have had a desire to learn how to play the violin for about 15 years now. I actually received a violin as a gift one year, but never progressed with taking any lessons. However, I finish my Master's next summer and have decided to begin lessons then. Give me a few years, and I will be sure to break it out for an event.

5. What makes you laugh? I am a sucker for Internet memes. It is a guilty pleasure, and I often find myself spending my downtime laughing at the latest cat or weather meme. My family and friends are often tagged or receive them, as a fun way of expressing my feelings or opinion on pretty much anything. There are even times you can find one or two posted around the Financial Aid Office.

Tracy Wactor

Controller and Director of Fiscal Affairs

1. What is the best part of your job? The best part of my job is the people I work with daily. Every day presents a new challenge that we work together to resolve. They are a great group of people.

2. What fad or fashion do you wish would make a comeback? I would like to see drive-in movie theaters make a comeback. Drive-ins were great for family night outs—they had terrific snack bars with burgers and fries, playgrounds for kids, and allowed for quality family time.

3. What is your greatest achievement, and how did it shape or change you? Obtaining my CPA license is my most significant achievement. This designation has provided me with opportunities to work in a variety of settings and with people from very different circumstances and backgrounds. Throughout my career, I have developed valuable skills and believe I have become a more versatile person because of my experiences.

4. What is a skill you'd love to master? I would like to master an artistic skill that would provide me with the ability to create something beautiful.

5. What makes you laugh? My co-workers! They are very entertaining individually, but as a group they can be truly hilarious!



Tracy Wactor

Students Observe National Pharmacy Technician Day



The third Tuesday in October is National Pharmacy Technician Day. It is a day to make an extra effort to thank technicians for their invaluable support and contributions throughout the year.

From left are Pharmacy Technician students: **Haley Wilbanks**, **Robin Vanegas**, **Ruth Melnik**, **Grace McElroy**, and **Brooke Wood** and Program Coordinator **Dr. Ann Barnes**.

Get the Healthy EDGE Events Held at Campuses



“Get the Healthy EDGE” events were held at each campus during the month of October. Events focused on health and wellness services and resources. Students had the opportunity to have their blood pressure checked, sample healthy food choices, calculate their BMI, and more.



Patrick Howington and **Mathew Roberson**, second and third from left, both Computer Information Systems majors, and **Darius Gibson**, a University Transfer major, fourth from left, sample healthy beverages made by **Sue Dacus**, senior student data analyst. Sue used a juicer to make tasty drinks using carrots, fruit, kale, and other healthy ingredients.

Executive Staff Summary

- **SACSCOC VISIT:** The SACSCOC On-Site Reaffirmation Committee determined the College is in compliance with all Core Requirements, Federal Requirements, and Comprehensive Standards. The Committee also reviewed the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and determined the College has an acceptable QEP with no recommendations. The On-Site Report will be sent to the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, and an official vote will occur in June 2017.
- **SCTEA AWARDS:** This year the S.C. Technical Education Association will award the A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year award in two categories—the Innovator of the Year and

the Innovative Team of the Year. Nominees should have made significant contributions by employing innovative approaches to meet the fast-changing needs in the SC Technical College System and/or their respective colleges. Tri-County’s nominees will be Matt Edwards, IT director, for his College and State leadership in the area of cyber security (individual category) and the integration of TC Central and the Student Data Center (team category).

- **OTHER:** President’s Advisory Council planning, strategic planning, and policy/procedure updates.

A-O-P Showcase Spotlights Advanced Manufacturing Careers

Middle and high school students from Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens County School Districts attended the 2016 Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Business & Industry Showcase held in September at the Anderson Civic Center.

The seventh annual Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Business and Industry Showcase, drew an estimated 5,000-6,000 students over the two-day period.

The Showcase is designed to help these young people become aware of the good paying jobs that are available in advanced manufacturing. Sixty-five percent of the jobs created require technical or two-year degrees—specifically, persons with the math, science and programming skills needed to run today’s sophisticated equipment and to work in an environment where technology is evolving at a rapid pace.

During this event, students had an opportunity to interact with representatives from more than 40 companies from a wide variety of industries to learn more about the pathway they need to take to gain the skills and knowledge needed for these local advanced manufacturing jobs.

Again this year 150 of the most career-ready seniors from the Career and Technology Centers were invited to meet with



Students from the Pickens County Career and Technology Center observe a Hexapod, a six-legged walking machine powered by pneumatics, controlled by a PLC and built by General Engineering Technology students.

participating industries to talk about potential jobs, co-ops, internships, and apprenticeships that are available. These Tops in Technology students have taken the WorkKeys assessment and successfully completed a career development pathway during their time in school.

SACS

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Dr. Ingram said, “You’ve taken this process seriously and understand the importance of the process for institutional improvement.”

After delivering opening comments about the QEP, Dr. Dee Fink, education consultant and QEP lead evaluator, said, “My dream is to see every institution do this (embedding high-impact practices or HIPS into the curriculum). The bottom line is you’ve done a great job. We look at what you are doing as pure gold.”

“As I told the committee the morning of October 13, we have a great team here, and it’s easier to accomplish goals when you engage in dialogue with each other. This project has allowed us to engage and reflect with each other. I believe as long as we are talking, we can solve problems,” said Dr. Booth. “This is a big deal. Many thanks for the good work of so many. The results are evidence of your commitment to our mission and vision, and each of you should take pride in the work you do to design and deliver a truly transformative experience to all our students. Thank you for your investment in our students and their success. It shows,” said Dr. Booth.

“The committee concluded that this is an ambitious project but is really focused on doing something important—

embedding high-impact practices into the curriculum,” added Dr. Fink. “You have clearly thought this through and have anticipated challenges and developed responses. I commend you. We sensed a sense of awareness and commitment among faculty and students, and that bodes well for your project.”

Adam Hutchison, provost at Texas State Technical College, said, “You have prepared your culture to do this work. They understand the idea that the Transformative Student Experience (TSE) is the central goal, and it comes through loud and clear.”

“I’m impressed with the broad-based campus involvement and with the logical next steps,” said Dr. Jason Warren, dean of student affairs at Hopkinsville Community College.

“You’ve been an inspiration to this group when talking about practices you employ. You want to improve, and it’s nice to pause and take in where you are and have a sense of pride and accomplishment. This is a pretty place to be,” said Crystal Baird, vice president of SACSCOC.

As far as next steps, the On-Site Report will be sent to the SACSCOC Board of Trustees, and an official vote will occur in June 2017.



Dr. Booth recognized the above and beyond efforts of Margaret Burdette and Sarah Shumpert, calling them “folks who get things done.”

Dear Faculty and Staff,

On behalf of the Tri-County Technical College Commission, I wanted to take this opportunity to publically commend you for your outstanding work in preparing the College for the SACSCOC reaccreditation process. Dr. Booth informed the Commission that the visiting team had excellent things to report about the work of the College and your commitment to student success.

I understand the Compliance Report and the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) were very well received. As Dr. Booth has told the Commission on many occasions, embedding High Impact Practices into the curriculum is one of the best strategies an institution can adopt to improve student success, so we know you are on the right path. When several of us attended the Spring and Fall Convocations this year, we listened to Dr. Booth and Galen DeHay talk about pockets of excellence across the College and how bringing these practices to scale in all programs is the next logical step in delivering the transformative student experience. As a Commission, we are fully behind you in embracing this approach.

While formal reaccreditation will not be voted upon until next year, I am supremely confident we will have a positive outcome. Your excellent work and dedication to student success is to be commended. Congratulations on a job well done!

*Sincerely,
Leon “Butch” Harris, Chair
Tri-County Technical College Commission*

SACS Report

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that we are celebrating today is a wonderful example of synergy....how the innovations happening in one area (for example, how an instructor is engaging his students in the classroom) mutually influence another area (such as how student development engages students outside of the classroom), and because of this synergy we all collectively rise to a whole other level in our work to transform student lives.

This, I believe is the power of Tri-County and what makes us special.

To be honest, there is nothing new (or dare I even say special) about HIPs... many, many people are doing HIPs across the country (and using it as their QEP topic). What sets us apart, and what made the on-site review committee call what we are doing “pure gold” is the fact that we are able to come together as a group to scale HIPs across our entire curriculum. It is a matter of institutional commitment and follow through to implementation (not just talk) that can only come from working together as a team.”

Tri-County Hosts Forum for State House Candidates



The College held a bipartisan forum September 28 for students and the community to meet candidates running for State House offices in the tri-county district. From left, the incumbents and challengers in attendance were **Gary Clary** (R) House District 3 incumbent; **Jay West** (R) House District 7 running unopposed; **Barbara Jo Mullis** (D) House District 8 challenger; **Jonathon Hill** (R) House District 8 incumbent; and **Mary Geren** (D) House District 9 challenger. They spoke about their individual platforms followed by students asking questions and discussing the issues with them.

The “Pizza & Politics” forum was sponsored by the Tri-County Association of Political Scientists and the College’s Enrichment Series Committee.

Animal House Ribbon Cutting/Open House Draws Large Crowd

The Veterinary Technology Department and the Foundation hosted a Ribbon Cutting and Open House celebration October 22 for the new kennel and housing facilities. The ribbon cutting for the Expanded Animal Housing and Learning Facility was followed by student-led tours of the new facility, which features 33 indoor/outdoor canine runs and the capability to house 28 cats, food storage, bathing areas, and laundry and storage rooms. The highlight is an isolation ward/suite that meets AVMA accreditation

standards. Last year officials broke ground on the new facility and launched a campaign to raise funds for scholarships and animals’ medical needs.

The 5,500-square-foot Expanded Animal Housing and Learning Facility opened this summer and replaces the aging kennel formerly located behind Halbert Hall. The new facility was built behind Halbert Hall which was re-purposed for class space, surgical needs, and labs.



ABOVE, LEFT: **Dr. Booth**, center, was joined by Veterinary Technology faculty, students, alumni, and supporters to cut the ribbon on the new Expanded Animal Housing and Learning Facility. Pictured from left are adjunct faculty member and alumna **Nikki Smith**; instructor **Stephanie Brown**; Department Head **Ashley Brady**; longtime supporter **Henry Harrison**, **Dr. Jim Mullikin**, chair of the advisory committee; **Dr. Elizabeth Bryan**, staff veterinarian, **Dr. Kyle Powell**, veterinarian at Anderson County P.A.W.S.; retired department head **Dr. Peggy Champion**; **Jess Owen** and adjunct instructor and alumna **Christee Williams**.



ABOVE, RIGHT: **Henry Harrison**, pictured here with **Courtney White**, manager of donor relations in our Foundation Office, and a calico cat named Courtney, is among the supporters of the “Animal House” campaign to raise funds for the



Veterinary Technology program. Last year Mr. Harrison made a \$25,000 gift to name the cat ward. **Mrs. Juanita Garrison**, not pictured, also made a \$20,000 gift last year. Many thanks to both for their generosity!

CENTER: Faculty, staff, students and their families, alumni and community members attended the event which featured family-friendly activities, such as face paintings, a teddy bear diagnostic clinic and a small petting zoo. Here, two-year-old **Finn Price**, son of alumna **Jessica Price**, gets acquainted with the tortoise named Shelton.

If you are interested in supporting the Veterinary Technology program, we have several opportunities for you to consider—you can purchase brick pavers in memory of one of your pets, or even name a kennel run.