

Connection

In this Issue ...



Spotlight on Career Paths in Advanced Manufacturing 3



Annual Report Luncheon..... 4



Commissioner Rosemond-Saunders Honored..... 6



Together We Are Change 9

Mike Cannon Receives Order of Merit



The College honored former Foundation Board of Directors member and Anderson resident **Mike Cannon**, left, with the highest award given by the College's nine-member Commission. **Dr. Booth** presented Mr. Cannon with the Order of Merit at the College's Annual Report luncheon.

The College honored former Foundation Board of Directors member and Anderson resident Mike Cannon October 24 with the highest award given by the College's nine-member Commission. Dr. Booth presented Mr. Cannon with the Order of Merit at the College's Annual Report Luncheon.

The Order of Merit is an honorary society that recognizes community and State leaders who have contributed to the development of Tri-County Technical College and the State Technical College System.

Mr. Cannon received a resolution of appreciation for his service to the Foundation Board and for his loyalty to Tri-County Technical College and its students.

"He came on the Board with a passion for the College's mission and has been a longtime advocate for Tri-County Technical College," said Dr. Booth. "Mike Cannon is an exceptional man who gets up every day trying to make the world a better place."

(continued on page 12)

Thrift Brothers, Inc., Named Philanthropist of the Year

The Tri-County Technical College Foundation named Thrift Brothers, Inc., the 2017 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.

On behalf of the company's co-founders Sam and Tom Thrift, Marcia Hydrick, daughter of Tom Thrift and vice president of the company, and her husband, Tim Hydrick, accepted the award. Grayson Kelly, executive director of the Foundation, presented the award at the College's Annual Report Luncheon held October 24.

Thrift Brothers, Inc., of Seneca, has been a loyal donor to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation since 1994.

(continued on page 11)



The Tri-County Technical College Foundation named Thrift Brothers, Inc. the 2017 recipient of its Philanthropist of the Year award. Accepting the award on behalf of the company's co-founders Sam and Tom Thrift, were **Marcia Hydrick**, daughter of Tom Thrift and vice president of the company, and her husband, **Tim Hydrick**. **Grayson Kelly**, executive director of the Foundation, presented the award.

Connection

is published ten times each year by the Office of the President and the Public Relations Department.

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-TCTC (8282)

Toll-free

1-866-269-5677

TDD/Voice

1-800-735-2905

Website

www.tctc.edu



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

More than Numbers

On October 24 we hosted our Annual Report Luncheon for business, industry, and community leaders in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.

We were proud to share some truly impressive rankings and achievements with our community partners, including our top rankings in student success, transfer, and graduation rates among the sixteen colleges in the S.C. Technical College System, and our top five percent national ranking for successful transfers to four-year colleges and universities.

We also shared information about the Michelin Manufacturing Scholars program, the first in the State and now a model across the SC Technical College System, as well as the Manufacturing Skills Standard Certification (MSSC) program in the CCE Division, which ranks third in the nation in numbers of students trained.

We are the first in the State to implement the I-BEST Manufacturing Pathway Program for under-resourced adults who want to gain marketable skills. Several of our medical programs achieved 100 percent graduate pass rates on licensure examinations.

Our Technical Career Pathways program for high school students has grown from seven to well over 100 students, and our dual enrollment program for high school students has grown nearly 35 percent over a five-year period. The Tri-County Technical College Foundation, the largest in the SC Technical College System, raised more than \$1 million dollars this year, achieving its highest mark since 2011.

As I told our guests during the luncheon, we are proud to have achieved high numbers and top rankings during the 2016–17 academic year, but our students are far more than numbers to us. In the pages of this newsletter, you will meet some of those we featured in our Annual Report, several of whom also attended the luncheon to meet some of our business and industry leaders. Their stories take many forms, from lifelong dreams finally realized to perseverance despite overwhelming odds. All have one thing in common—their lives were transformed by their educational experience at Tri-County Technical College, and our communities are better for it.

The success our students achieve is made possible by all of you—the faculty and staff who bring our College vision to life: Passionate people transforming lives and building strong communities one student at a time. Our students are more than numbers to us—they are the people we teach and support each and every day as they pursue a better way of life made possible through education.



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

“As I told our guests during the luncheon, we are proud to have achieved high numbers and top rankings during the 2016–17 academic year, but our students are far more than numbers to us.”

—Dr. Ronnie L. Booth

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President



Spotlight on Career Paths in Advanced Manufacturing

Boeing Reps Tell Students They Are its Future Workforce

Boeing representatives visited Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties the week of October 9 with the goal of educating young people, from grades K-12, about the varied career paths of working in advanced manufacturing.

“Our message is about advanced manufacturing and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) development in the state,” said Frank Hatten, director of Strategy and Integration Education Relations for Boeing, “It’s also about partnerships and commitment.”

Boeing Days events are a partnership between Boeing and the SC Department of Commerce. The goal is to inspire future generations of South Carolinians to pursue careers in STEM and to introduce citizens to Boeing.

Our Technical Career Pathways (TCP) students, who attended a luncheon at the Anderson Campus October 10, were told they are just what Boeing is looking for in its future workforce.

The TCP program is designed for high school students to achieve a Tri-County credential (Technical Operators 1 and/or 2 certificate) before they graduate from high school. In addition, students who receive Technical Operators 1 and 2 certificates can enroll at Tri-County and in one year finish their associate degrees.



“We need students who want to enter advanced manufacturing,” **Tommy Preston**, a D.W. Daniel High School graduate, who is director of Boeing’s South Carolina National Strategy and Engagement, told the group of Technical Career Pathways students.

“You young people are ahead of the curve. With a high school diploma and these certificates, you will be qualified to apply for jobs at Boeing. At 18 you can compete for jobs all over the world. Where to do you want to go? We will show you and pay for it all. You just need to invest in yourself and our company. We will pay for every cent of your school and give you a mentor for the job you are interested in,” said Hatten.

“There aren’t too many parts of life that Boeing doesn’t touch,” he added.

Boeing is the world’s largest aerospace



Frank Hatten, director of Strategy and Integration Education Relations for Boeing, left, talks with Technical Career Pathways students following the presentation. Instructor **Mark Franks** is seen at right.

company and leading manufacturer of commercial jetliners, defense, space and security systems, and service provider of aftermarket support.

“For instance, a Boeing satellite runs your DirecTV, the presidential plane is made by Boeing, and we build the space lab, along with rockets. This company is doing things we can’t even imagine. You have the opportunity to be a part of it,” he said.

Tommy Preston, a D.W. Daniel High School graduate, who is director of Boeing’s South Carolina National Strategy and Engagement, is part of the team who is visiting all 46 counties in SC to tell students about these exciting career opportunities.

“There are wonderful career paths in advanced manufacturing,” said Preston.

“First and foremost, we are looking for a skilled workforce,” he said. “Our success is hinged on South Carolina coming together to help us achieve success.”

Before 2009, Boeing had never built a commercial airplane outside of Washington State, said Preston.

“Now we are building the most amazing products you have ever seen, like the 787 Dreamliner, ‘a computer in the sky.’ It’s unbelievable what SC has done in this short period of time. We have 7,000 workers in North Charleston,” said Preston.

“We saw a unique combination here - an amazing technical college system and a state that made sure we had a skilled workforce to be successful. But we have challenges, too. We need students who want to enter advanced manufacturing,” he told the group of students.

“There are so many opportunities here in South Carolina. There are more than 23,000 companies who do work for Boeing. In the future, you could work for Boeing or for one of our partners,” added Preston. “But the real work begins with you leaders to make sure students are moving in the right direction.”

(continued on page 11)

Duke Energy President: “I Am Truly Impressed with All that Has Been Achieved”

Kodwo Ghartey-Tagoe, Duke Energy’s state president in South Carolina, delivered the keynote speech at the College’s October 24 Annual Report Luncheon.

Mr. Ghartey-Tagoe is responsible for the financial performance of Duke Energy’s electric utilities in South Carolina and managing State and local regulatory and government relations and community affairs. He also has responsibility for advancing the company’s legislative and regulatory initiatives related to its electric operations.

The luncheon annually attracts approximately 250 community, business, industrial, government, and political leaders from Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. Dr. Booth distributed copies of the Annual Report, a 44-page publication that highlights the major College and Foundation accomplishments of 2016–2017.

“The College’s outstanding performance as a technical and community college is truly more than numbers and has a tremendous impact on not just this region but the entire state of South Carolina,” he said.

“I’ve seen firsthand the important role that the technical colleges play in not only education but in developing the economy of our State. Without Tri-County and the Technical College System, Duke Energy and many companies would be lacking in a diverse, well-trained, motivated workforce that we need to power our operations today and in the future. That’s why it is important



Dr. Booth and Kodwo Ghartey-Tagoe, Duke Energy’s state president in South Carolina, talk before the Annual Report Luncheon begins.

that we partner with these institutions and help support innovative programs that continue to supply well-qualified applicants into the workforce of our State.”

Duke Energy Supports Tri-County

The Duke Energy Foundation granted \$75,000 to support the I-BEST Manufacturing Pathways program.

Designed as a collaborative partnership with area Adult Education Centers, the I-BEST program offers unprecedented opportunities for under-resourced adults to earn college credit, national certifications, and WorkKeys credentials at the gold or platinum levels—all leading to good jobs with a future in local manufacturing companies and offering additional Pathway learning/earning opportunities.

In 2015 the Duke Energy Foundation donated \$25,000 to support development of coursework for the program. The \$75,000 donation will provide virtual trainers and curriculum development for all of the courses in the certificate program.

“Supporting programs like this that help build the workforce we need today across South Carolina, while working with schools like Tri-County to build that employment pipeline we will need in the future, is very important to Duke Energy,” Mr. Ghartey-Tagoe said.

He added that Duke Energy is embarking on a bold plan to invest three billion dollars over the next 10 years to strengthen the State’s energy grid, making it more resilient and secure, and to better prepare it for the increasing adoption of renewable energy across South Carolina. “We’ll also be creating thousands of new jobs to build, maintain, and operate this new energy infrastructure,” he added.



John Geer, former Foundation Board chair and retired Duke Energy executive, middle, traveled from his home in North Carolina to attend the luncheon. Here he talks with keynote speaker Kodwo Ghartey-Tagoe, Duke Energy’s state president in South Carolina,

More than Numbers—It's About Students and Their Accomplishments

"We have posted some impressive numbers this year, but our story is about more than numbers. It's about the students and their accomplishments," Dr. Booth told an audience of community leaders at the College's Annual Report Luncheon.

"We've earned the top ranking among all 16 technical colleges in the State System in the three most important categories: student success, transfer, and graduation," he said.

"We also rank in the top five percent nationally for successful transfers to four-year colleges and universities. Many of our medical programs boast a 100 percent first-time pass rate on licensure exams," he added.

"We are the first in the State to implement the I-BEST Manufacturing Pathway for unemployed and under-resourced students. Our Foundation boasts the highest endowment in the Technical College System," he added.

The Annual Report, titled "More than Numbers," features stories about some of the students behind these numbers, rankings, and achievements. "Their stories take many forms, but one thing is common: their lives were transformed by their educational experience at Tri-County Technical College, and our communities are better for it," he said.

"But this Annual Report is as much about your success as it is about ours. We could never accomplish so much without your partnership. We are privileged and honored to serve our community and thank you for your continued support," he added.

Jacob Ledbetter

Jacob Ledbetter is one of more than 100 high school students who enrolled in our Technical Career Pathways program. After graduating from Walhalla High School, he enrolled in our Mechatronics program and is working an internship at Shaw Industries in Central.



Jacob Ledbetter and Shaw Industries Plant Manager **Colleen Hydrick**



Patrice Cleveland, fourth from left, is pictured with family, friends, and mentors, from left, **Stephanie Enders** and **Dreama Clay** from Ripple of One, her father, **George Cleveland**, **Emma Robinson**, and **Adraine Garner**.

Patrice Cleveland

Students like Patrice Cleveland are why we are ranked Number 1 in Student Success among all of the 16 technical colleges in the State. A high school dropout, Patrice, 34, credits Ripple of One with helping her to earn her GED and Tri-County instructors, counselors, and coaches with helping her to remain in school and stay the course.

Today she is a proud single parent who earned an Administrative Office Technology degree in 2016, was named to the Dean's List, was asked to join the National Society of Leadership and Success, and has become, as she calls herself, determined and phenomenal. "If you know where you are going in life, you won't get lost," says Patrice, who is employed at Littlejohn Community Center in Clemson as an Administrative and Data Specialist.

Briana White

Tri-County has the highest transfer rate in the State and ranks in the top five percent in the nation.

Briana White, who graces the cover of this year's Annual Report publication, is one of the faces behind that impressive statistic. She entered the Bridge to Clemson program and is now a sophomore at Clemson University studying Economics and Legal Studies.



Briana White graces the cover of this year's Annual Report publication.

(continued on page 12)

Commissioner Rosemond-Saunders Honored with ACCT Award

College Commissioner Helen Rosemond-Saunders was named the Outstanding Trustee for the Southern Region by the national Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). She received the 2017 Southern Region ACCT Trustee Leadership Award at the annual fall conference. Earlier this year, she was named Commissioner of the Year for 2017 by the S.C. Association of Technical College Commissioners.

Mrs. Rosemond-Saunders is a lifelong educator and champion for improving student success and access to higher education at technical and community colleges. She was appointed to the Tri-County Technical College Commission in 1993 and provided leadership as Chair from 2007-11. During her time as Chair, the College opened three community campuses, two QuickJobs Centers, and a state-of-the-art Industrial Technology Center. As an advocate for those from low socioeconomic backgrounds with limited opportunity to pursue higher education, Mrs. Rosemond-Saunders championed the Connect to College program for high school drop-outs and has served on the ACCT Diversity Committee. Her leadership has greatly contributed to the success of Tri-County, which currently has the highest student success rate in the S. C. Technical College System and ranks in the top five percent nationally for successful student transfers.



COURTESY PHOTO

College Commissioner **Helen Rosemond-Saunders** received the 2017 Southern Region ACCT Outstanding Trustee Award at the annual fall conference. She is pictured with (from left) 2017 ACCT Chair **Bakari Lee** and ACCT President and CEO **J. Noah Brown**.

Jennifer Hulehan and Two College Graduates Recognized by South Carolina Association of Developmental Education

Jennifer Hulehan's commitment to students and their success was recognized recently by the South Carolina Association of Developmental Education.

Jennifer, who serves as Department Head for Comprehensive Studies, received the Outstanding Service to Students Award at the S.C. Association for Developmental Education (SCADE) conference.

"Jennifer lives out an authentic commitment to the success of students, individually and collectively, in the way she leads the department, teaches her courses, invests in students and employees, serves the college, and challenges the status quo to continually innovate and improve. It's no surprise Jenn's colleagues around the state recognize her dedication to students as we do here at Tri-County," said Jenni Creamer, dean of College Transitions.

In addition, two Tri-County graduates brought home awards.

Automotive Technology alumnus Tyler Swaney, who took developmental English classes when he was a C2C student, received the Outstanding Former Developmental Student Award. Tyler received his high school diploma through C2C, transitioned



Jennifer Hulehan, left, was honored by the S.C. Association of Developmental Education.

into Automotive Technology, excelled, and is now working in the industry

Ann Hall received the SCADE Scholar Award. In the nomination letter, her math instructor, Jimmy Walker said, "After 20 years out of school, Ann enrolled in college with an unyielding commitment to excellence inside and outside of the classroom,"

"I work in a field filled with people dedicated to changing lives," said Jennifer. "They work hard day in and day out to help people get from where they are to where they want to be in college and in life. My team in the Comprehensive Studies Department truly excels in this arena. In addition, they put up with me and my continuous demands and high expectations as I push us all to be better tomorrow than we were yesterday. I asked

them to follow me as I jumped off a metaphorical cliff, and they did. And the result has been better than we ever expected. We do new and awesome things today that no one even imagined when I became Department Head in 2012. And that's why this award is all the more meaningful. I'm honored they nominated me, and even more honored that my colleagues in the State find me worthy of the Outstanding Service to Students Award," she said.

Linda Jameison Honored by S.C. College Personnel Association



Linda Jameison

Linda Jameison's dedication to students' success, as well as her leadership in student affairs organizations across the state, earned her the 2017 Clarice W. Johnson Outstanding Professional Award.

Linda, who is assistant vice president for student support and engagement, was honored by the South Carolina College Personnel Association (SCCPA) for her

contributions to the field of student affairs.

She was nominated by Dr. Tony Cawthon, alumni distinguished professor at Clemson University. She received the award at the SCCPA's Fall Drive-In conference held September 25 at Clemson University. She also will be recognized at the annual American College Personnel Association (ACAPA) convention.

"I'm honored to be included with the roster of prior recipients and thank Tony for his nomination," said Linda. "These are people I've admired for the work they have done on behalf of the profession, their peers, and most importantly the students. It's about the student first and foremost, and whatever I can do to continue to learn and grow to better support their growth is a priority for me."

"Not only has Linda served students and her institutions, she also has been an active leader in SCCPA and the Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA)," said Dr.

Cawthon. "In the last ten years, no one has given more to our profession and SCCPA than Linda."

She is past President of SCCPA, Member at Large, and past Co-Editor of the newsletter. Within SACSA, she has served as Chair of the Resolutions Committee, Career Development Committee, and Co-Chair of the New Professionals Committee.

She joined Tri-County's leadership team in 2015. She directs the student engagement and support efforts and serves as the chief student services officer. She provides leadership to student development, community campuses, registrar's office, career services and the learning commons.

At Tri-County Technical College, she has assembled an excellent team of professionals and executed a strategic plan for student success, retention, and engagement, said Dr. Cawthon.

"In each of her positions, Linda has given significant time, energy, and resources to our profession. She serves as a mentor to students and staff, builds collaborative relationships with faculty and community partners, and mentors many current SCCPA professionals," said Dr. Cawthon.

In addition to Linda, her team at Tri-County participated in the SCCPA fall conference this year.

"I'm very proud of my Tri-County colleagues' participation. Engaging with peers from other institutions helps to inform and improve how we best support our students and how we engage in our own professional development," said Linda.

"People at Tri-County are committed, in a very genuine way, to helping students be successful," she said. "All have a sincere commitment to making a difference in students' lives and finding ways to help them have a transformative student experience."

Student Development and Wellness Sponsors Health Fairs

Student Development and Wellness sponsored a Health Fair October 4 at all of our community campuses. The Health Fair featured free health screenings, massages, free breakfast and/or lunch bars, frozen treats, nutrition and educational programs, interactive exhibits, free samples, demonstrations, flu shots, and other activities.



Financial Aid Counselor **Amy Jared**, left, talks with **Anna Morgan**, a Bridge to Clemson student, at the Money Management Center.



Vinecia Jenkins gets a blood pressure check from **Judith Surak**, RN.

Scenes From October 17 Professional Development Day



Marketing Director **Gayle Arries**, standing, left, and Marketing Assistant **Aida Laham** talked about social media ideas and efforts to help get the word out about the many activities and services available to our students, both current and prospective. They also shared best practices and new guidelines for making TCTC social media communications a good source of information and community building.



Human Resources Coordinator **Lisa Anderson**, standing, led “Hiring for a Team Fit.” She showed participants how to identify the needs within their team, connect those needs with characteristics and competencies of the job, and search for these things in the hiring process to identify and hire the person who is truly the best fit for the job.



During a session titled “Giving and Receiving Trust in Teams,” Human Resources Manager **Jeff Laws**, standing, discussed the different types of trust, high trust behaviors, and communication methods for building trust.



In a seminar titled “Collaborative Technologies at Our Fingertips,” Information Technology Director **Matt Edwards**, standing, showed the group different types of technologies that make collaborative efforts flow seamlessly. Among those discussed were using the new Windows release, collaborating with Microsoft Office 2016 and Office 365, using Outlook to set up meetings, collaborate on campus in conjunction with Skype, and creating Skype meetings.

Elected Officials Tour Student Success Center



Elected officials from Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties gathered at the Pendleton Campus to tour the new Student Success Center, which will open January 2018. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for January 12 at 11 a.m.

Foundation News

Together We Are Change

By Tammy Fiske, Director of Annual Giving, Tri-County Technical College Foundation

Students, faculty, and staff have been on a mission this semester to make a change. FEED A PIG is a fall giving campaign benefiting scholarships and priority needs. FEED A PIG Challenges are a

tradition among college campuses and serve as a symbol that a little change will make a big difference.

Students accept the challenge by adopting a small piggy bank. Adoptions can happen at any time during the campaign.

Those who collect \$2.17 during the campaign can enjoy another great event, THE SWEET CELEBRATION, an ice cream bar scheduled for November 15.

Students who participate also are part of a drawing to win Beats X ear buds. Those who raise \$17 by the end of the six-week campaign will receive a cool campaign t-shirt, too. Don't be shy to drop any amount of change. Every coin really matters!

The majority of our employees choose to give by payroll deduction. Make a gift of \$30 or more and receive a campaign t-shirt.



LEFT: The Foundation invited faculty, staff, and students to a free potato bar to celebrate the Feed-A-Pig campaign. **Timeko McFadden**, Spanish instructor, poses with the pig as she makes a donation.



RIGHT: Many employees, including **Beverly Vickery**, an instructor in our Office Systems Technology program, pictured with Foundation Executive Director **Grayson Kelly**, supported the Foundation's Feed a Pig campaign by visiting with fellow co-workers and enjoying a baked potato bar. It also gave the Foundation staff a chance to thank employees and students for supporting College needs through a personal gift to the campaign.

All participants will be recognized as a Foundation donor in the Annual Report publication.

Why Give? The Simple Reason

Many don't know that Tri-County Technical College is only 15% State funded. Without support from individuals who make gifts of all amounts, many opportunities would simply not exist.

A gift of any amount joins the gifts of others, and before you know it, you have helped to make a \$1,500 scholarship possible and changed a life.

Individuals make gifts of \$10 up to gifts in the thousands. Together they make possible more than \$400,000 in student scholarships every year. Together they make change.

President's Cup

The 2017 President's Cup Golf Tournament held October 17 drew 25 teams and raised \$50,000 for the College's priority needs.



The team consisting of, from left, **Danny Brothers**, Commissioner **Ham Hudson**, Commission Chair **John Powell**, and **Dr. Booth** wrap up their round at the last hole in front of The Falls Clubhouse.



The tournament champions had the winning score of 56. Pictured left to right are from left **Larry Lyles**, **Jimmy Pennell**, **Craig Thornton**, and Rep. **Brian White**.

Our College Family

in transition

We welcome two officers to our Campus Police Department. **Shawn Chastain** and **Jamey Hill** joined the Campus Police team this month.

Jamey has 21 years of experience in law enforcement, working as a Patrolman for the Anderson County Sheriff's Office and the City of Anderson.

For the last 10 years, he was a School Resource Officer at T.L. Hanna High School. He received the Anderson County School District Five Support Staff of the Year award



Jamey Hill



Shawn Chastain



Jimmy McGill

and is a trained hostage negotiator. Jamey is a 1996 graduate of our Industrial Electronics Technology program. He and his wife, Paula, live in Pendleton.

Shawn worked for the Anderson City Police Department for six years as a Patrolman and later as a School Resource Officer at McCants Middle School and Nevitt Forest Elementary School. He and his wife, Lauren, have two children, Bella, 5, and Brady, 2.

They live in Anderson.

Jimmy McGill is an Electronics Control Technician in our Campus Police Department. He comes to us from Johnson Controls, where he was a Control Technician for two and one-half years. He also worked for Anderson School District Five as a Lead Technician for 12 years. He and his wife, Amy, live in Belton.



Kristie Ossenfort Named Café Employee of the Month

Congratulations to **Kristie Ossenfort**, middle, the College' Café's Employee of the Month for October. Kristie lives in Anderson and her goal is to enter Tri-County next year. She is pictured with **Sandra Dacus**, Café manager, right, and **Jessica Johnson**, Café shift manager.

excellence through service

I-Best instructor Melinda Hoover shared this e-mail from T.J. Earle, one of our I-BEST graduates. T.J. recently earned his GED through Oconee Adult Education.

Dear I-BEST Team,

"I hope all is well this semester for you. I wanted to say that if you ever need someone to come speak to your class about the program, whether it is to keep students motivated or if there are people thinking about joining, I would be happy to do it. I-BEST has really changed and motivated my life.

I know I would have done well without it, but it has been a real spark for me. I accepted a position at BorgWarner. The pay is great and with what I learned from the class, they put me right under my team leader. The benefits are amazing, and I will be coming back to school soon, which they will pay for. I'm excited. I just got an e-mail from HR that teachers from the elementary school that my son goes to are coming to the plant. They want me to be part of the presentation. I'm excited about it. THANK YOU again for everything this summer. You helped me get here.

I remember at the graduation reception they said let people who helped you get here know how much you appreciate it. Well, I'm letting you know how much I appreciate you. Once again, if you ever need anyone to speak, I will without hesitation."



Blood Drive a Success

Bridge to Clemson student **William Blakely**, of Seneca, was among the faculty, staff and students who participated in the College's Future Laboratory Professionals/AnMed Health-sponsored blood drive. William is pictured with **Kelly Wilbanks**, a medical laboratory technician (MLT) and 1991 graduate of the College's MLT program.

Spotlight

(continued from page 3)

"It's so important that they hear from Boeing about advanced manufacturing so we can better prepare our future workforce," said Hollie Harrell, director of Anderson 1 & 2 Career and Technology Center.

"It's about workforce development and talent management for the advanced manufacturing workplace," said Dr. Booth. "Thanks to Boeing for your interest in talent management and talent development."



Technical Career Pathways students from Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties pose for a group photo with Boeing representatives.

Philanthropist of the Year

(continued from page 1)

Sam Thrift served on the Tri-County Technical College Foundation Board from January 1995, until March 2004.

In 2016 Thrift Brothers continued its support and commitment to the advancement of the College by making a \$300,000 gift to support campus expansion. "Their love of their community is demonstrated through donations which support education in the tri-county service area. They recognize that Tri-County graduates are their future employees and see the importance of employees needing skills in forklift operation, truck driving, accounting, and mechatronics," said Kelly.

Thrift Brothers' initial gift of \$30,000 in 1994 established an endowed teaching chair. This endowment supports the professional development of faculty in the Business program and allows our faculty to attend conferences to learn state-of-the-art technology and training techniques. Additionally, Thrift Brothers made a \$10,000 endowment gift in 1999 that has been instrumental in supporting Tri-County's mini-grant initiative. Faculty and staff apply for these mini-grants on an annual basis to support their attendance at seminars and workshops,



Sam and Tom Thrift

advanced course work, or other professional development activities.

Additionally, Thrift Brothers, Inc., has supported the College by contributing funds for many Foundation-sponsored golf tournaments and other fundraisers.

To date, Thrift Brothers, Inc., has given a total of \$356,300 and is recognized on the College's prestigious Wall of Honor.

More than Numbers

(continued from page 5)

“Spending my first year at Tri-County allowed me to slowly ease into college life,” said Briana. As SGA President, she spoke at graduations and groundbreaking ceremonies and traveled to Columbia with Dr. Booth to address legislators about her first year at Tri-County. “All of this made me a better student and ready to transfer to Clemson,” said Briana.

Jennifer and Adam Simmons

More than 80 percent of our students receive financial aid—not student loans—financial aid they do not have to pay back. This includes Lottery Tuition Assistance, Pell Grants, and scholarships through the Tri-County Technical College Foundation.

This assistance makes it possible for many non-traditional students, like Adam and Jennifer Simmons, to attend college



Jennifer and Adam Simmons

and advance in their careers. Both will graduate next year.

Adam, 42, works as a Bib Standard facilitator at Michelin’s Sandy Springs plant. Pell grants, Lottery Tuition Assistance, and tuition reimbursement from Michelin made it possible for him and Jennifer to return to college.



Deanne Williams with her daughter, Evelyn Williams.

In 2015 Jennifer entered the University Transfer program at the Anderson Campus where she is a work study. She is working as an intern at Renewable Water Resources (ReWa) in Greenville.

Deanne Williams

Tri-County boasts the highest graduation rate in the State Technical College System.

Deanne Williams, the College’s Distinguished Alumni of the Year, is one of our graduates who is an excellent example of how you can ladder your education to help you reach your ultimate career goal.

Deanne holds three degrees from Tri-County—Medical Assisting, Practical Nursing, and associate degree in Nursing.

She went on to earn BSN and MSN degrees, followed by a second MSN with a specialty in Family Nurse Practitioner in August 2014, graduating with a 4.0. She is a Family Nurse Practitioner at AnMed Health.

Mike Cannon Receives Order of Merit

(continued from page 1)

“I am thrilled to receive this award. I love this community, and I love this College,” said Mr. Cannon.

From 2001–2015, he represented Anderson County on the Tri-County Technical College Foundation Board.

A longtime advocate for Tri-County and its mission, he supported the College through his contacts in the community, his attendance at College events, and his generous support of the Foundation, both financially and personally.

He and his wife, Brenda, named the conference room at the Anderson Campus in 2007 in honor of their sons, Brooks and Ross. Because of the Cannon’s love of reading and their desire to encourage young people to cultivate their talents and imagination, they chose to honor their sons by serving as patrons

of the Tri-County Technical College Ruby S. Hicks Memorial Writing Contest. They funded the cash awards for the winners of the competition that recognized the creative writing abilities of area high school students.

In addition to their major gifts, the Cannons also made unrestricted gifts, supported the 5k Race and made gifts in honor of friends.

Mr. Cannon also gives his time and resources to the planning and execution of the Fall Classic Golf Tournament (now the President’s Cup).

He is active in his community with the Anderson County Disabilities Board and with the Special Olympics of SC, Anderson Area 14.