

# Connection

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## Ashley Brady Named SCAV’s Licensed Veterinary Technician of the Year

Ashley Brady, department head for our Veterinary Technology program, was named Licensed Veterinary Technician of the Year October 18 at the South Carolina Association of Veterinarians (SCAV) Southeast Veterinary Conference.

Each year at its annual meeting the SCAV recognizes outstanding veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and clinic staff with awards. This is the third time that a Tri-County Veterinary Technology instructor has received this award.

“I am still speechless,” said Ashley. “I am so honored to have my name listed among past recipients who are co-workers and colleagues whom I admire and respect. There are so many veterinary technicians across the State who are so deserving, especially with their heroic behind-the-scenes efforts during the flood relief. That makes this award mean even more to me,” she said.

“I am proud to be a Licensed Veterinary Technician (L.V.T.) and a Veterinary Technologist working in this profession. When I worked in private practice, I gave back to the

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Ashley Brady

## Frances Wilson Named SCAHCE’s Outstanding Support Staff Member

She has been known as the Chief Executive Officer of First Impressions among the Corporate and Community Education (CCE) Division staff for years. Recently Frances Wilson received a new and deserving title: Outstanding Continuing Education Support Staff Member by the South Carolina Association for Higher Continuing Education (SCAHCE).

SCAHCE is the Statewide association that promotes Corporate and Community Education and professional development for both two- and four-year colleges.

Fourteen days before her 15th anniversary at Tri-County, Frances received this award at the 38th Annual SCAHCE Conference held October 16 in Columbia.

“I was so shocked when they called my name,” said Frances. “I attended the conference

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Frances Wilson

# 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

## One Student at a Time

Last month we were honored to have Bobby Hitt, secretary of the S.C. Department of Commerce, deliver the keynote address at our Annual Report luncheon and spotlight our role in economic development in the region and State.

South Carolina's chief economic developer and top recruiter of jobs to the State told an estimated 250 guests that Tri-County Technical College has been a key player in transforming South Carolina from textiles, tobacco, and tourism to an advanced manufacturing, automotive, and aerospace economy.

During his remarks, he emphasized workforce training as a critical factor companies consider when deciding to locate a manufacturing facility and new jobs in South Carolina. He points to Tri-County Technical College as the role model for success.

How do we deliver on this expectation? One student at a time.

When you read the College's Annual Report, which was presented at the luncheon, you will find charts and diagrams which contain statistics, trends, and factual information about the College and its Foundation, all of which are an important part of our success story.

But the substance of the report lies in the stories we tell about our students. These stories reveal the true power of education in changing lives and preparing students to enter the workforce.

One example is Kenneth Buchanan, who started his college career last year while still a student at Crescent High School. Kenneth enrolled in our Technical Career Pathways program, an initiative designed to increase the number of skilled technicians for high-paying jobs in local industries—exactly the kinds of jobs Bobby Hitt and the SC Department of Commerce work to attract to South Carolina. Kenneth earned a Tri-County certificate in Basic Electronics before he graduated from high school this spring and will finish his associate degree in Mechatronics after one year of full-time study.

Many students do not have the means, money, or motivation to start a technical career path while in high school, but the Technical Career Pathways program breaks down these barriers. The curricula has been carefully mapped out by high school and Tri-County officials, and students are carefully counseled and mentored through the process. Thanks to a special proviso approved by the S.C. General Assembly, the cost of participation is fully paid for. We have grown this program from seven to 166 students in three short years.

Our annual report is as much about your success as it is about the success of our students. Together we have created a challenging, caring, and supportive learning environment that leads to transformation in our students and positions them to reach their goals. In addition, as Bobby Hitt said in his remarks at the luncheon, we are a role model in workforce training and a tremendous asset to economic development and quality of life in South Carolina.

I extend my sincere appreciation to each one of you for the role you play in making Tri-County Technical College a partner in economic development and a catalyst for change in the lives of the students we serve.



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth  
President

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D., President

For a copy of *One Student at a Time* (2014-15 Annual Report), contact the Public Relations office at Ext. 1507 or view it online at [www.tctc.edu/AnnualReport2015](http://www.tctc.edu/AnnualReport2015).



# Spotlight on Student Veterans

## Service Projects Part of Student Veterans' Mission

For 10-year-old Christopher Morton, Monday and Wednesday afternoons are reserved for him to visit Patriots' Place and meet with newfound buddies Drew Pitman and Jeremy Max, and other student veterans who are friends and fellow classmates of his father, Jeff, here at the College.

Christopher, at age three, was diagnosed with Autism and Mitochondrial Disease, an inherited disorder resulting in mental disabilities as well as developmental or physical disorders. He has asked every day to see both men since Drew, Jeremy, other members of the Student Veterans Association (SVA) chapter at Tri-County, and campus safety officers invited him to visit Patriots' Place, a campus veterans' center, under the guise of playing. They surprised him and his parents and his service dog, Buddy, with gifts after learning about the family's struggle with finances and the health setbacks associated with a recent car accident that injured Christopher and Buddy.

Drew, 24, an Air Force veteran who is back at Tri-County in the University Transfer program, said he hasn't been able to get the family off of his mind since learning of their plight. "I was in Patriots' Place studying for a chemistry exam when Jeff's wife, Kelli, and Christopher came in to wait for him while he was in



**Drew Pitman**, right, is pictured with **Christopher Morton**, with some of the toys gathered by members of the Student Veterans Association.

class. I was a canine handler in the military, and I talked with her about their service dog, Buddy, who is a comfort and calming agent for their son. I noticed Christopher was in a wheelchair, and I learned they had been in a car accident months ago which had set him back and injured the dog," said Drew.

"Christopher showed me his toys, and as I listened to him and Kelli, I realized how hard they have had it, what they are sacrificing, and what they go through to give him quality of life. They have devoted themselves to him and he is their life," he added.

"He told me he was getting braces on his legs, and he began to cry. He told me he was scared. I realized that as a group of veterans at Tri-County, we could touch this family and bring a smile to his face," said Drew.

Drew wanted to give Christopher a "big day" after getting his leg braces so he went into overdrive, gathering toys and donations for the boy. Within 48 hours, he, other student veterans, and Tri-County faculty and staff were able to get a trunk full of toys, which included GI Joe and Star Wars toys, and a stamp set and Legos to help Christopher with his cognitive skills. The group also obtained pet supplies, including medication for Buddy.

Campus Safety Officer Teresa Summers arrived at work with a car full of items, including a handicap shower chair she and her husband purchased for the family.

Tri-County Campus Safety Director Jonathan Finch, a veteran himself who serves as the Advisor for the SVA, is proud that the veterans are helping others and making service projects a part of their mission.

"I was very quickly impressed with their motivation and initiative. After meeting Christopher, the SVA team immediately determined this was something they

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**Jeremy Max**, former staff sergeant with the U.S. Army and a Purple Heart recipient who did two tours of duty in Iraq, standing, is back in school in our University Transfer program. Jeremy, seen here talking with **Dr. Booth**, spoke at the recent faculty/staff meeting about his involvement with the Student Veterans Association (SVA) and his appreciation for Patriots' Place. "SVA gives us the opportunity to reach out to veterans and our communities. We're thankful for Patriots' Place," he added.

# ADN NCLEX Scores Exceed State, National Averages

Associate Degree Nursing faculty are celebrating graduates' National Council Licensing Exam (NCLEX-RN) scores that exceed both State and national averages.

The College's Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) program reports a 94.67 percent pass rate for first-time exam takers between the period of December 2014 and June 2015. The College had approximately 100 graduates who took the exam during that period and became licensed. As of June of this year, the State average is 92.92 percent, and the national average is 87.92 percent. Graduates of associate or baccalaureate nursing programs must pass the NCLEX-RN exam to become a Registered Nurse in the State.



Associate Degree Nursing faculty, **Dr. Booth**, **Dr. Lynn Lewis**, and **Peggy Deane**, advisory committee member, celebrate the news that graduates' scores on NCLEX-RN exceed State and national averages.

"I applaud your good work," Dr. Booth said to the faculty. "Knowing that you have trained our students to be exceptional health care providers is a point of professional and personal pride for me. I know how much you give to the students. Thanks for unapologetically holding our students to high standards, and thank you for making us and your students proud," he said.

"You bring honor to Tri-County and the Associate Degree Nursing program," said Peggy Deane, former vice president for nursing at AnMed Health, a member of the ADN advisory committee, and chair of the College's Foundation Board. "I commend the committed and dedicated faculty. When I was at AnMed, we were delighted to hire Tri-County graduates. Nursing means being caring and compassionate and kind. That's what you are as leaders, and that's the graduates you produce. I commend you and congratulate you," she said.

"I'm proud of our faculty's hard work to prepare students for the licensure exam and the workforce," said Jackie Rutledge, ADN department head. "Our faculty worked tirelessly to get the students prepared to work in our ever-changing health care field. I'm proud to be part of the faculty and the team."

One of the department's success strategies was to incorporate ATI assessment tools in all nursing classes to familiarize students with the NCLEX format and to enhance and fine tune their critical-thinking skills. ATI Nursing Education is an assessment tool training program to prepare students to take the NCLEX exam. It offers educational products that test students' knowledge in a variety of content areas such as nursing fundamentals,

pediatrics, medical surgical, psychiatric, community health, and obstetrical nursing.

Jackie said in the final class, Nursing 221, students must take a comprehensive predictor test which encompasses material from the past two years. "It's our first look at how prepared they are to pass the NCLEX on their first attempt. It also indicates areas students need to work on to be successful," she said.

They also engage in a live ATI session which is three days of intensive review by ATI educators, and six weeks before they graduate, they enroll in a virtual ATI course with a personal coach to review content. "They must receive the 'green light' from their ATI coach before they are ready for the NCLEX. The 'green light' is tied to their final grade in the Nursing 221 course," said Jackie.

"Students take ATI testing seriously because ATI tests are an integral part of our program from the first nursing course to the last nursing course. We've found ATI testing throughout the program really works," said Jackie, adding that after experiencing a dip in board scores a year and a half ago, the faculty, as a group, decided to adopt ATI strategies in the curriculum to prepare students to be successful.

"We like to stay in the 90th or greater percentile for NCLEX-RN scores. Our goal is always to meet or exceed State and national averages. We have a good reputation with students being successful in the workplace and with our pass rates for the first-time exam takers who are licensed and want to continue," she said.

# Secretary of Commerce Hitt Says Tri-County Is Critical Member of State's Team

There is nothing more important to South Carolina than preparing young people to go into the workforce, Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt said, crediting Tri-County Technical College's Mechatronics curriculum, apprenticeship programs, dual enrollment offerings, and Technical Career Pathways programs in making the State a frontrunner in advanced manufacturing.

Hitt spoke to a crowd of nearly 250 business, industrial, education, government, and political leaders at the College's Annual Report Luncheon. Dr. Booth distributed copies of the annual report, a 50-page publication that highlights the major accomplishments of the College and Foundation during 2014-2015.

"We need our kids to see what their futures could look like," said Hitt, referencing the Career Pathways Program (CPP) program which gives students a head start on college, allowing them to complete an associate degree in a technical program within one year of full-time study after high school. Since 2013, Tri-County's CPP program has grown from seven students in one district to 166 students from all seven school districts.

"The pathways program, funded by a State proviso, will be the answer to workforce needs," he said.

"I'm proud of what Tri-County does in leading the way," said Hitt.

"We've had unprecedented success in recruiting new industry to our state," said Hitt. "The secret sauce is our workforce." In the manufacturing sector, S.C. is the fastest-growing state in the Southeast, he said. "The success in transitioning from textiles to advanced manufacturing is the State's remarkable people," he said. "We had a vision and stayed the course, and at the center of it is our technical colleges. Tri-County is a critical member of that team," he said.

"It's all about what we sell—what's in this room," he said referring to an audience of educators, manufacturers, economic developers, and community partners. "We have recruited 75, 000

jobs in four and one-half years. We must put 20,000 individuals in jobs in the next three to four years. Twenty years ago, we had no auto workers. Now we have 9,000."

Hitt reminded the audience that there is a stigma about the image of working in manufacturing. "Many are told don't work in a mill. Today, the mill requires using your head, your heart, and your hands," he said.

The most complex consumer product in the world is made in S.C., he said.

"Companies invest here because we are good. The largest BMW production facility in the world is located in S.C. We have the largest and best tire companies in the world," he said, referencing other companies like Michelin, Bridgestone, and Continental, who have located in the State.

"Twenty-five years ago, if you had said BMW would locate in S.C., I would have laughed. Now we have BMW, Mercedes and Volvo. There is no state in the U.S. with a constellation of companies like that. We are the premium car state," he said.

"Today, we are 50-50 in terms of company expansions and new companies relocating to S.C. We have new dollars, new blood, new footprints, all of which are vital to our success. S.C. is ranked number one in foreign investment. It's not me, it's you. We all work together and are an extension of each other," he said.

The best and most effective ways to close the skills gaps in today's workforce involve partnerships, training, and apprenticeships/internships, he said.

He referenced Apprenticeship Carolina™, a way to formalize the training process and to create a pipeline of skilled workforce for today's advanced manufacturing and business jobs.

It is another success which came out of a need for workers. "Now we have the fastest-growing apprenticeship program in the country. That's what we do. That's who we are. Be proud of every success," said Hitt.



*There is nothing more important to South Carolina than preparing young people to go into the workforce, Secretary of Commerce **Bobby Hitt** said, crediting Tri-County's Mechatronics curriculum, apprenticeship programs, dual enrollment offerings, and technical career pathways programs in making the state a frontrunner in advanced manufacturing.*



*Keynote speaker and Secretary of Commerce **Bobby Hitt**, left, jokes with Pendleton Regional Education Center (REC) Coordinator **Rick Murphy**, middle, and Senator **Larry Martin** at the College's Annual Report Luncheon.*

## Smiths Named Philanthropists Of the Year

The Tri-County Technical College Foundation named Jim and Marjorie Smith of Pendleton the 2015 recipients 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.

Mr. Smith represented Anderson County on the College's Foundation Board for 18 years. He and his wife are considered two of the Foundation's major donors and are recognized on the Foundation's Wall of Honor for gifts they have made since 1989.



**Grayson Kelly**, executive director of the Foundation, right, presented the award to **Jim and Marjorie Smith**.

## Local Leaders Attend College's Annual Report Luncheon



TOP LEFT: **Samuel Hill**, a University Transfer major, sang the National Anthem.

TOP RIGHT: Commission Chairman **Butch Harris**, left, took the opportunity to publicly congratulate **Dr. Booth**, who was recognized nationally for his commitment to advancing the community college movement. He received the Association of Community College Trustees (AACCT) 2015 Southern Regional Chief Executive Officer award. The award was presented to him at the Regional Awards Luncheon during the 46th Annual ACCT Leadership Congress October 14–17.

Among the achievements cited in his nomination are College programs and services such as Bridge to Clemson, Connect to College, career pathways, and stackable credentials, and our community campuses. In addition, the College's

student success rate is the highest among the 16 technical colleges in the State. "This award is not just in recognition of Dr. Booth, but also the hard work all of you have done," said Chairman Harris.

BOTTOM LEFT: A large crowd of business, community, industrial, education, government, and political leaders attended the College's Annual Report Luncheon. Dr. Booth distributed copies of the annual report, a 48-page publication that highlights the major College and Foundation accomplishments of 2014-2015. One Student at a Time, the theme of the report, is taken directly from our College Vision Statement, which was adopted nearly two years ago: "Passionate People Transforming Lives and Building Strong Communities One Student at a Time."



# Annual Report Stories Spotlight Student Successes

The stories in this year's Annual Report publication spotlight students who are all on the road to achieving academic and professional goals; they are just taking different pathways to get there. Many of the students say they could not have made it without the guidance and support of faculty and staff.



**Selena Valdizon**, of Walhalla, left, a 2015 Tri-County graduate, is featured in the College's Annual Report publication, titled *One Student at a Time*. Selena stepped out of her comfort zone and embraced the complete college experience by serving as President of the Student Government Association (SGA) and was involved as a Student Ambassador and a member of the Choir and the Spanish

Club. She says individuals like **Croslena Johnson**, director of Student Life and Counseling and SGA advisor, pictured at right, made the difference. Selena was accepted to Clemson University's School of Nursing where she is pursuing a BSN degree.

**Tara Lenertz** is a University Transfer student who won first place in the Storytelling category at the 2015 South Carolina Speech and Theater Association's College Festival. At age 31 she is back in college for the second time—and is an honor student (4.0 GPA) on the President's List. She dropped out of college at age 18, and after working minimum-wage jobs, learned the hard way how important a college degree is. She enrolled here with zero college credits but the maturity and determination to be successful this time around.



**Daniel Sanders**, left, is a Process Engineer with TTI and a graduate of the Manufacturing Management and Leadership program. Daniel, pictured here with Program Coordinator **Stan Compton**, says the lean manufacturing principles he learned and mastered while a student in the Manufacturing Management and Leadership program contributed to his

success. Before he earned a degree, he says he was struggling to make ends meet. Today, he encourages his associates to get their degrees. "I move their schedules around so they can go to classes at Tri-County," he said.

**Kenneth Buchanan** spent the last year putting the final pieces of his career path into place to prepare him to graduate from the College's Mechatronics program before he turns 20.

He started his plan as a senior at Crescent High School by enrolling in the Career Pathways Program (CPP), which enables students to achieve a Tri-County credential by the time they graduate from high school.

CPP gives students a head start on college, allowing them to complete an associate degree in a technical program within one year of full-time study after high school.

After earning a college certificate in Basic Electronics weeks before graduating from high school, Kenneth entered the Mechatronics program this fall as a third-semester student with more than 20 college credits and a silver WorkKeys® certification. He gained on-the-job experience at TTI Power Equipment in Anderson last summer through a WorkLink-paid work experience, while earning more certifications through the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and ServSafe. Kenneth plans to graduate from Tri-County within a year—debt free—thanks to the State proviso that paid for pathways classes, along with a LIFE scholarship and Pell grant. "That's a big deal for me and my parents. It can't get any better than this," said Kenneth.



**Koshier Dawson**, left, was an Educational Talent Search participant in high school, and now a 21-year-old Early Childhood Development (ECD) major who credits people like Herm Allen and Croslena Johnson with helping her to move forward with her life and her studies. Tragically she has lost both of her parents, but she has persevered, found her niche in ECD, and is a Dean's List student who is active in clubs and organizations and is a Student Ambassador. As Herm told her, "it's not where you start but where you end up." Koshier and her brother, **Troleum**, seen here, reunited with **Beth Harris**, their assistant principal at Whitehall Elementary, and wife of Commission Chair Butch Harris.

# Our College Family



Grayson Kelly

## *excellence through service*

Foundation Executive Director **Grayson Kelly** was among the rising leaders honored at the annual 20 Under 40 luncheon that recognized twenty community leaders under the age of 40. The event is sponsored by the Anderson Independent-Mail.

Grants Director **Laneika Musalini**'s story was spotlighted in a video that premiered at the annual Hats Off to Women

Anderson Interfaith Ministries (AIM) luncheon held September 24 at the Civic Center of Anderson.

**Helen Rosemond-Saunders**, a member of the College Commission, was elected Chair of the Diversity Committee of the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). The Diversity Committee ensures leadership for the involvement of historically-underrepresented diverse populations within the governance activities of ACCT. She also serves as Secretary for the S.C. Association of Technical College Commissioners.



Helen Rosemond-Saunders



Cara Hamilton

## *in transition*

We welcome **Cara Hamilton** to her new leadership role at Tri-County. After an extensive search process, Cara was offered and accepted the position of Vice President for Business Affairs effective October 1. Cara has been serving in this role in an interim capacity for the past several months. The Vice President for

Business Affairs provides leadership to Fiscal Affairs, Campus Safety, Information Technology, Physical Plant, Financial Aid, and Auxiliary Services. The position reports directly to Dr. Booth.

Cara joined Tri-County in May, 2013, as Director of Fiscal Affairs. In addition to providing leadership to the Fiscal Affairs office, she has served on numerous project teams, including Service Excellence, Talent Management, Federal Loan Default Management, Oconee County Workforce Development Center project, and Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC).

Prior to joining Tri-County, Cara was employed as General Manager and Vice President of North American Distribution with Guardian Building Products in Greer. Her previous work experience includes Controller, Auditor, and Accountancy positions for Regent Hospital Products in Greenville, American Trim Products in Travelers Rest, Lee Apparel Company in Merriam, KS, and Deloitte in Kansas City, MO.

Cara holds a B.S. in Accounting from Kansas State University, an M.B.A. from Clemson University, and a Certified Public Accounting license.

**Mary Orem** joined us as the College's Library Director, supporting students at all the community campuses. She comes to us with extensive experience in Library and Technology



Mary Orem

Instructional Support having worked 28 years in Anderson School District One as a School Library Media Specialist and Instructional Technology Integration Specialist.

Mary holds an A.S. in Mental Health and Human Services Administration from New Hampshire Technical Institute and went on to earn a B.A. in Behavioral Science from Notre Dame College. She

holds a master of Librarianship degree from the University of South Carolina and an M. Ed. From Lesley College. She was a Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem in Anderson County from 2009-11 and is past Commander for the Lake Hartwell Sail and Power Squadron. She and her husband, Barry, have four dogs and live in Pendleton.



Jessica Christenbury

**Jessica Christenbury** is the new Program Assistant for Technical Skills for Success. Her experience includes serving as an Editor and Administrative Assistant for the College of Business and Behavioral Science at Clemson University, and she was a seventh grade English teacher for Anderson School District Five.

Jessica holds an associate degree in English from Spartanburg Methodist College and a bachelor's in English from Clemson. She earned a teaching certificate (grades 7-12) through the SC PACE program and a Copy Editor's certificate while working at Clemson. She received an honorable mention in the 2015 Anderson County Libraries' Poetry contest. She and her husband, Kevin, have two children, Rosalee, 4, and Walker, 2. They live in Seneca.





**Lou Ann Martin**, left, retired October 2 after working at the College for the past 15 years. She served as Academic Support Network Coordinator/Interim Director of Advising for the last five years, and joined the College in 2003 as a Math instructor. She is pictured with **Sarah Shumpert**, director of instructional support and the Title III project director.

## Lou Ann Martin Retires

Over the past 15 years in her roles as instructor, advisor, and Faculty Senate President, Lou Ann Martin always supported the College's philosophy and goals of becoming a role model and a learning college.

Lou Ann, who retired October 2, served as Academic Support Network Coordinator/Interim Director of Advising, for the last five years, and joined the College in 2003 as a Math instructor.

She assumed the Academic Support Network Coordinator position in 2010 after the College was

awarded a Title III grant to fund the Learning through Community and Connections (LC<sup>2</sup>) initiative.

During the 2008 and 2009 academic years, in addition to her teaching responsibilities, she worked with a team of faculty and staff to develop the College's Title III proposal, Learning through Community and Connections (LC<sup>2</sup>). The grant focuses on expanding the use of learning communities to promote academic and social integration of students into the institution while

implementing virtual tools to promote student success as students navigate their way to achieving their educational goals. In the fall of 2010, after the College was awarded the Title II grant, she assumed the position of Academic Support Network Coordinator.

During this time, she spearheaded the development of an academic support network that includes advising and tracking tools to promote student success, including Starfish, Degree Works, SmarterMeasure, and Early Alert.

In 2009 Lou Ann was honored for her dedication to the profession with the highest award presented to the faculty, the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence, at the College's annual spring commencement. The medallion is presented each year to the instructor who has contributed the most during the academic year to the profession of teaching, to the development of the College, and to the students.

She founded the Future Educators of Tri-County Technical College and served as an Advisor and role model to these education majors. She also was instrumental in initiating a PRAXIS Workshop, which offers a concentrated review of foundational concepts necessary for successful completion of the PRAXIS I test, a necessary step toward a four-year degree in education. She served on Tri-County's Faculty Senate and was President for three years, always seeking input from across academic divisions, and working closely with folks from areas such as Institutional Research, Student Affairs, and Instructional Support to clarify issues and develop solutions.

In 2013, she was named the Tri-County Technical College Education Association's Outstanding Staff Member.

## AOP Showcase Highlights Career Opportunities

Thousands of middle and high school students from area schools participated in the annual Business and Industry Showcase for Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. Tri-County was a major sponsor and supporter of the event and showcased our programs and services via a large interactive booth highlighting health, business, manufacturing, and public services majors.

Designed to help young people understand the decisions they need to make now in order to thrive in their future careers, the annual Showcase gives students the opportunity to interact with company representatives from a wide variety of industries to learn more about the pathways they need to take to gain the skills and knowledge needed for specific career clusters.

**RIGHT: Mandy Orzechowski**, department head for Engineering Technology, shows **Jeff Barkley**, a student from West-Oak High School, how to operate a Segway. The Engineering and Industrial Technology displays were popular with middle and high school students attending the annual Business and Industry Showcase for Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.



**ABOVE: West-Oak High School students, from left, Bradley Moore, Chase Ables, and Sam Baker** learn how to operate a floating logo bubble machine during the Business and Industry Showcase held at the Anderson Civic Center September 28. The machine was built by students enrolled in the College's General Engineering Technology program last spring.

## Carolyn White Retires

Carolyn White, an administrative specialist in our Admissions Office since 2003, retired this month.

Carolyn says she loved her job, but the lifelong friends she made will be the hardest to leave. One of those is Tammy Lollis, administrative specialist for the Counseling Center. Both Tammy and Carolyn were victims of plant closures when they returned to college in the early 2000's and were hired soon after they graduated from the Office Systems Technology (now Administrative Office Technology) program. "We both had lost our jobs due to plant closures," recalled Tammy. "We took our new careers very seriously. It wasn't just a job for us."

Thirty years ago, Carolyn began her career working in manufacturing and expected that to be her lifelong career. When the plant closed 10 years later, she found work in another plant and worked there three years before that plant closed as well. She worked for 14 years at another plant that moved to Mexico in 2002.

Carolyn says her life changed when she met former WIA Case Manager Gaynelle Harrison (now deceased) at the Liberty One Stop Workforce Center. Carolyn was eligible for the Trade Adjustment Act services because her employer moved to Mexico. She enrolled in our Automated Office diploma program, earning certificates in Data Entry Clerk and Office Support Specialist, along with an OST degree. She was a work study and part-time associate in the Admissions Office while working on her



*Carolyn White, front, middle, poses with her co-workers at a retirement party.*

Management degree (which she completed in May 2004) and joined the Admissions team full time that year.

In 2005 she was nominated for the Workforce Investment Act's Outstanding Alumnus Award, one of the State Workforce Investment Board awards.

Tammy and Carolyn have been lunch buddies for the past 11 years. "Not seeing her every day will be an adjustment for me, as well as the Admissions team," said Tammy. "Carolyn has a wealth of knowledge that can't be replaced overnight. We are losing a valuable employee." Both vow to keep in touch. "She says she will come back to campus and eat lunch every once in a while," said Tammy.

"Thanks to all my friends and buddies for all they have said and done for me and mine," said Carolyn.

## College Assists with Flood Recovery Efforts

Faculty, staff, and students from all campuses responded to a request from Our Student Development and Bridge to Clemson offices for donations of water and other non-perishable food items for individuals impacted by the storm that brought massive flooding and devastating road damage to the lower part of our State.

*Student veterans from Patriots Place extended a helping hand to assist the Anderson County Sheriff's Department in loading the items.*

*Pictured from left are **Darius Gleaton**, of Clemson, a criminal justice major and member of the National Guard; **Julio Salazar**, of Liberty, and U.S. Marine Corps veteran; **Jay Trotter**, of*



*Anderson, a Mechatronics major and U.S. Marine Corps veteran; and **Jacob Sizemore**, of Clemson, a University Transfer major and member of the National Guard.*



***Lori McKinney**, a Manufacturing Management and Leadership major, who is a third-shift supervisor at Yokohama, right, generously donated water and paper products. Lori's friend **Kendall Chappell** is on the left.*

*Lori says: "Back in 2003, I had a house fire and lost everything I had except for the clothes I had on my back. If it wasn't for the generosity of friends and family, I don't know what I would have done. But I still had my mom and dad's home to go take a shower, get a good night's sleep, food to eat, and water to drink and a car to drive. Some of the flood victims don't have that. It's a good feeling I get when I can help people out like this."*

## Celebrating the Success of LC<sup>2</sup>

On the afternoon of October 2, a group of faculty and staff celebrated the success of Learning through Community and Connections (LC<sup>2</sup>) and one of its architects, Lou Ann Martin, who retired from the College after 15 years as an instructor, advisor, Faculty Senate President, and multiple award recipient.

“Lou Ann led the charge for the LC<sup>2</sup> proposal,” said Sarah Shumpert, director of instructional support and the Title III project director, “and it’s through her willpower that we got a successful grant submitted.”

In 2010 Tri-County was among the 48 institutions nationwide and the only applicant from South Carolina to receive funding for a five-year plan to more powerfully focus on student learning and success for first-time postsecondary students. Nearly \$2 million was granted to Tri-County by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) Title III Strengthening Institutions grant funds.

The grant proposal, named Learning through Community and Connections (LC<sup>2</sup>), had two key components for learning communities and a web-based comprehensive academic support network to connect students with resources for goal planning, advising, and support services.

“It was built on the the knowledge of the learning communities,” said Sarah.

Over the last five years, the grant provided funding for the College to address the need to provide more fully integrated systems to support student persistence, achievement, and program completion.

The Academic Support Network, which Lou Ann oversaw, includes Smarter Measure (a College readiness assessment), Degree Works (an electronic educational plan), and Starfish (an early alert system delivered online).

The readiness assessment allows students to answer online questions about their work schedule, academic preparation, and potential obstacles to academic success.

Electronic educational plans provide students with the capability to build an academic plan of action with input from



*The Learning through Community and Connections (LC<sup>2</sup>) team from left, Sarah Shumpert, Lou Ann Martin, Cheryl Enfinger, and Dr. Amoena Norcross.*

advisors. The early alert system provides an online platform for faculty to identify students experiencing academic trouble and to more efficiently direct them to available resources that can provide timely, accessible support.

The grant ended September 30 and has been fully institutionalized. “The Academic Support Network is integrated into the way we do business at Tri-County. What we learned from learning communities formed the foundation for the College’s next Quality Enhancement Plan or QEP—embedding High-Impact Practices or HIPs into the curricula,” said Sarah.

In addition to providing equipment and resources, the grant funded two permanent positions—a Learning Communities Coordinator and an Academic Support Network Coordinator.

“We celebrate the closure of this grant. More than 100 people were involved in building these systems. It’s how you transform an institution,” Sarah said. “Our next step is moving forward. That requires work from everybody on campus.”

*The Title III grant funded three online tools, Smarter Measure, Star Fish, and Degree Works. Additional funds added modules of Blackboard, along with Career Coach, Course Scheduler, and Industry Weapon.*

## Science Faculty Prepare for Supermoon



Heavy cloud cover did not diminish the anticipation and excitement of approximately 50 students, faculty, friends, and family who gathered in Parking Lot B on the Pendleton Campus for a viewing of the Blood Moon September 27. This was the first Blood Moon in 32 years, but even the strong telescopes used in Astronomy classes could not penetrate the clouds masking the total lunar eclipse that coincided with a Supermoon, a phenomenon that won’t happen for another 18 years.

Many thanks to our Science Department for making an effort to share this experience with the College community. Pictured left to right are **Radhey Shyam**, adjunct instructor, **Sue Ellenberger**, science department head, **Dan Thorpe**, physics and astronomy lecturer, and **Zach Vollrath**, physics and astronomy instructor.

# Getting To Know You

## Amy Borders

English instructor and faculty advisor for Alpha Zeta Beta honor society

### 1. What is the best part of your job?

Seeing students connect with material and gain skills to move forward in life is rewarding. I also greatly value being in a department with smart, funny, caring people.

### 2. Do you prefer to travel by plane, train, or automobile?

Trains are fun and romantic, but automobile. I'm passionate about singing in my car.

### 3. What is your favorite quote?

I don't have a favorite, but here's a good one from Einstein: "Education is not the learning of facts but the training of the mind to think."

### 4. What is a skill you'd love to master?

Guitar! I play violin, but I'd love to pick up other instruments.

### 5. What is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for you?

People have done a lot of nice things for me, but when I was applying for grad school, Frank Day (one of my professors), wrote "Literature is her métier" on my recommendation, and then showed it to me before he sent it off. That gave me one of the nicest feelings I've ever had.



Amy Borders

## Caroline Williams

Information Center Specialist for Admissions

### 1. What is the best part of your job?

I'm a people person, so I would have to say that the best part of my job would be my daily interactions with our students. There's never a dull moment.

### 2. Who are your three favorite performers of all time?

Patti LaBelle, Michael Jackson, and Luther Vandross.

### 3. What did you consider a dream job as a child?

I knew early in life that I wanted to be a Secretary or Teacher.

### 4. Whom do you respect most and why?

That would be Mr. Tom Lewis, now deceased VP for Finance. I wasn't hired very long before my husband had to go to Crawford and Long Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, for an experimental procedure to rejuvenate his decaying hip joint by removing his femur and somehow grafting it to his hip joint. In passing, Mr. Lewis overheard my conversation that I didn't know where I was going or where I would stay. Mr. Lewis graciously printed off directions to Crawford and Long, found a hotel blocks away, and assured me that I would be o.k. with my leave request.

### 5. What makes you laugh?

Life, funny people, and children playing.



Caroline Williams

## Dr. Dan Averette

Dean of the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division

### 1. What is the best part of your job?

The fun part of my job at the College is in the following three areas: interacting with students, faculty, and staff on a daily basis; helping to improve the educational experience for our students; and doing the work that allows our communities to grow.

### 2. What would people be surprised to learn about you?

In the past, I machined and built high-performance engines for drag racing in the super stock classification and very much enjoyed racing these cars. I still enjoy going really fast in a short distance.

### 3. What is a perfect day for you?

Completing a project that will make a positive impact on students' academic careers.

### 4. Who knows you best?

At the College, I would say my co-workers in the EIT Division.

### 5. What makes you laugh?

People who fail to realize the laws of Physics still exist.



Dr. Dan Averette



Recent graduate **Kayla Massey** wrote this note of appreciation about excellent service she received from **Courtney Embler**, data coordinator in the Student Records Office:

"I am now living in New York City and plan to continue my education to earn a bachelor's degree. I had several questions about the process and called your Student Records Office. I spoke with Courtney Embler. She is a wonderful and incredibly helpful person. She walked me through exactly what I need to do. I am so grateful for the help!"

**Susan Goudie**, the parent of a high school dual enrollment student, wrote this note to **Debbie Powell** in the High School Engagement and Outreach office:

"Joey is doing well with ENG 101 and PSY 201 this semester and loves TCTC! So much in fact, that he has decided he wants to stay at TCTC for another year instead of trying to move on to a four-year institution as soon as he graduates from Westside High School in May."



**Nick Hamor**, Engineering Graphics Technology (EGT) Class of 2003, poses with his EGT instructor **Roger Burgess**. Nick is a Senior CAD Specialist at St. Jude Medical in Liberty.

## Nick Hamor: In His Own Words

Nick Hamor, Engineering Graphics Technology (EGT) Class of 2003, spoke to a group of EGT majors at the first of several Lunch Works sessions planned for this year. The Lunch Works series, sponsored by Career Services with lunch provided by the Alumni Association, is designed to give students an opportunity to have lunch with a professional in a specific career field and find out how the Tri-County degree helped him or her to accomplish goals.

Nick, a senior CAD specialist at St. Jude Medical (SJM) in Liberty, told the group that education is the key to success. Nick began his career at SJM as a CAD Operator in New Product Development. Over the last 11-and- $\frac{1}{2}$  years, he has been promoted to Component Designer, Senior CAD Designer, and now is a Senior CAD Specialist in Research and Development. With the support of SJM, he is back at Tri-County taking University Transfer classes with the goal of transferring to a four-year college or university to study Mechanical Engineering.

Here is his story in his own words:

*After graduating from high school, I had no idea what I wanted to do or be, but I knew that I had to make a decision. I wasn't familiar with the EGT program, but I had a classmate describe to me his experience with the curriculum. Shortly after, I signed up for the program, and Mr. (Roger) Burgess and Mr. (John) Norris provided me with the skills necessary to enter the workforce as a competent CAD professional. I was very fortunate in that I had built a working relationship with a classmate prior to graduation. He was already in the workforce and was continuing his education. He asked if I would be interested in an interview if a position came available at his company (St. Jude Medical). I thought this would be an excellent opportunity. Several months later, I got a phone call from him saying that a position had opened up for an entry-level CAD Operator. Thankfully, I received a job offer after the interview process. For the past 11-plus years, I have been employed by a great company, St. Jude Medical, a world-class leader in medical device manufacturing. We are a Fortune 500 company with 18,000 employees worldwide and an annual revenue of \$5.6 billion. We have facilities throughout the world, and two of them are located in Liberty.*

**Nick went on to discuss a few topics he feels are important for future graduates: education, building effective relationships, and career progression.**

### Importance of Education:

*Education truly is the key to success, and it is important to realize early in life that a college education is the foundation on which to build a strong career. From my experience in industry, the common thread uniting the most successful people is education. With this in mind, think about future goals, stay focused on learning, and enjoy the journey. College is an investment that will yield dividends for a lifetime.*

### Building Effective Relationships:

*Leading up to graduation and especially when entering the workforce, building effective relationships is extremely important. As a new graduate, the learning process has only begun. It is helpful to identify key individuals who can assist with aspects of the profession that can only be learned through experience. I have a number of counterparts who have helped me develop my skill sets over the years, and I am grateful for these working relationships.*

### Career Progression:

*Most days a person normally wouldn't get into their vehicle and start driving without a destination. The same goes for career goals. Have a destination in mind, and explore what the best path is to get there. There will certainly be bumps and detours in the road, but never lose sight of the destination. After entering the workforce, be familiar with the advancement opportunities that are available with the company. Make a habit of creating realistic short- and long-term goals to continually improve skill sets and to increase advancement potential.*



## College Holds Benefits Fair

The 2015 Benefits Fair was held September 29 in the Wellness Center with 19 vendors attending. Faculty and staff took this opportunity to meet our representatives and get information about financial planning and banking. Here, IT Technical Support Specialist **John Peltier** talks to **Jessica Taylor**, a personal banker at Wells Fargo.

# Foundation News

## Employees Support Give an Edge Campaign

Many employees supported the Foundation's Give an Edge kick off on October 7 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.

The photos are available for viewing in the campaign blog.

"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. Our goal is to raise funds that are critical to supporting scholarships, equipment needs, faculty/

staff professional development funds, and individual program needs," said Tammy.

"There is a vast area of need and dozens of different areas of the College to support," she added. For instance, you may contribute to a general need or specifically the Equipment/Technology; Scholarships; Professional Development; or College Priority Needs endowments. Or you may designate your contribution to go to another area of the College," she said. "We appreciate our faculty and staff's ongoing generosity."

Weekly prizes will be available to all employees who make a gift.



**Margaret Burdette**, coordinator of learning effectiveness and advancement, was among the faculty and staff who attended the Foundation's Give an Edge campaign kick off, where **Dr. Booth**, left, and **Dan Cooper**, director of economic development and government relations, served baked potatoes to the crowd.



Later that day, everyone had a little fun at the faculty staff meeting with a game of Minute to Win It. Participating in the challenge were General Engineering Technology Program Coordinator **Dorian McIntire**, third from left, and **Tammy Fiske**, manager of annual giving for the Foundation, right, competing against **Courtney White**, director of development for the Foundation, and **Dan Cooper**, director of economic development and government relations. Dorian took home the prize.

**Suzanne Koniczny**, Computer and Information Technology department head, right, displays the duffel bag faculty and staff receive as a gift when you make a monthly payroll deduction or a one-time gift of \$25. She is pictured here with **Courtney White**, director of development.



**Kathy Brand**, executive administrative assistant to Dr. Booth, is among the faculty and staff who support the Foundation's Give an Edge campaign. A former teacher, Kathy says she supports scholarships because "I want students to be the best they can be."



## 11th Annual Fall Classic Supports College Priority Needs

Proceeds from the 11th annual Fall Classic Golf Tournament, held October 12 at Cross Creek Plantation Golf Course in Seneca, will support College priority needs, said Tammy Fiske, manager of annual giving for the Foundation and tournament director.

Since 2005, the Tri-County Technical College Foundation has hosted this tournament and to date has raised nearly \$400,000 to support priority needs of the College and the Foundation. Proceeds this year will support both Patriots' Place and the Foundation, said Tammy. "Due to the generosity of our tournament presenting partners, HMR Veterans Services, Schneider Electric, and Wells Fargo, along with Oconee Federal, Michelin, and Reliable Sprinkler and the Fee family, the tournament raised \$45,000," she said.

Also, a big thank you to in-kind partners Chick-fil-A, Boulevard Catering, and J Peters.

"Folks were excited to take in the sunshine after the rainy weather of the last few weeks," said Tammy.

This year's event consisted of morning and afternoon tournaments with a total of 108 players representing 27 corporate teams.

"A double tournament speaks to the strong relationship the College has with our local partners. Corporate support is a testament

to the impact the College has on our community," she added.

Tammy extended a big thank you to the Committee members, as well as staff members who spent time helping with the logistics of the day. "Student Government Association officers, board members, and College staff were on hand the entire day. The tournament wouldn't be as successful without our enthusiastic employees and students, who play a key role in representing the College," said Tammy.



Student Government Association officers from left, **Jimmy Knott**, secretary/treasurer; **Caleb Allen**, president; and **Samuel Hall**, vice president, served as volunteers at the tournament. Here they are seen talking with **Rick Adkins**, deputy chief of staff for Congressman Jeff Duncan, right.



One of two teams sponsored by Wells Fargo placed first in the morning tournament of the Fall Classic. Pictured (l-r) are **Robert Halfacre**, **Al Shadwick**, **Scott Moulder**, and **Phil Shirley**.



The Anderson School District Five team was the first-place winner in the afternoon tournament. From left are **Monroe Campbell**, **Kyle Newton**, **Terence Roberts**, and **Matt Harbin**.



One of the Phillips Staffing foursome putts while team members look on.

# Ashley Brady, SCAV's Veterinary Technician of the Year

(continued from page 1)

animals and now as an educator, I am giving back to the animals and the students," said Ashley.

A 2000 alumna of our Veterinary Technology program, Ashley worked in veterinary practices as an L.V.T. before she joined the teaching staff at the College in 2007 as Director of the Evening Program. She assumed the department head role following the retirement of Dr. Peggy Champion in 2014.

"Ashley has done a fantastic job as department head over the past year," said Stephanie Brown, L.V.T., who serves as program coordinator/instructor as well as head of our evening Veterinary Technology program. "Ashley is rock solid. She is the glue that holds the program together," said Stephanie. "I continue to be amazed at her ability to multi-task." In addition to teaching full time and serving as department head, Ashley is assisting the Foundation in its fundraising efforts for a \$1.5 million Veterinary Technology Expanded Housing and Learning Facility currently under construction.

Ashley was involved in the initial plans for the facility and continues to provide input as construction progresses. "Not only has Ashley taught classes and run a department; she has spent many hours with architects, contractors, and College and State officials," said retired Easley veterinarian Dr. James Mullikin, who chairs the department's advisory committee and nominated her for the award.

"Under Ashley's supervision, the Veterinary Technology program has a highly successful adoption program for the animals used in the program," added Dr. Mullikin. "She also initiated a service learning program with Big Oaks Farm where the students went out and radiographed rescue horses. They worked with the rescue, the rescue group's veterinarian, and the local authorities. It helped the students to get a real-world perspective while learning. She organizes the students to work at the J.D. Massey Horse Show each year which gives students \$2,000 in scholarship money annually," said Dr. Mullikin.

"Ashley is respected by everyone she meets and is a phenomenal teacher. She never misses an opportunity for a teaching moment. She is very innovative in her teaching style and skills. We're very blessed to have her," Stephanie said.

Ashley attended Lander University for one year before entering Tri-County's Veterinary Technology program (she graduated in 2000) and transferred to Murray State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Veterinary Technology/Animal Health Technician with a minor in Equine Science in 2002. She worked as the Head Technician in the Large Animal Department and Surgical Suite at the University of Tennessee for a year before moving back to S.C. She worked at Creek Run Veterinary Clinic in Pendleton for five years and worked with Drs. Poag Reid, Amy Lawson, and Daniel Knox, all of whom have high praise of Brady.

"Ashley's knowledge and expertise as a technician were invaluable to me in my early experiences as a newly-graduated veterinarian," said Dr. Amy Lawson, owner of Creek Run Veterinary Clinic, who also nominated Ashley for the award. "Ashley was a remarkable technician. She truly made our practice a more efficient, happier place. I can think of countless examinations and farm calls where Ashley's role was paramount. Her good sense of humor made even the most difficult situations bearable. She loved the clients and their horses, and in return, they loved her," she said.

"In addition to having excellent experience working with horses, Ashley exuded a warm and energetic self confidence. She was a reliable, conscientious worker who always had both hands on deck. Her dedication and determination in her work continued as she moved out of private practice and into the realm of education. Her focus shifted to serving students and providing them with the leadership skills and knowledge base needed to develop into sharpened veterinary technicians. Ashley will, no doubt, continue to do great things for the Veterinary Technology program at Tri County Technical College and the veterinary profession as a whole," said Dr. Lawson.

Ashley and her husband, Eric, live in Honea Path and have one son, John Owen.

## Vet Tech Pet Adoption Day Is November 19

The Veterinary Technology program's Pet Adoption Day is set for Thursday, November 19, from 2-6 p.m. at Halbert Hall on the Pendleton Campus. Dogs and cats are available for adoption. Dogs are leash trained and taught basic commands, while the cats are socialized with people and other cats. All animals are spayed or neutered and vaccinated. There is a \$45 fee payable at the time of adoption. This fee includes a microchip and registration. For more details and pictures of the animals up for adoption, go to [tctc.edu](http://tctc.edu) and click on Upcoming Events, then click Pet Adoption.





# Construction Moving Along on Vet Tech Expanded Housing And Learning Facility

Construction is moving along on the new \$1.5 million Veterinary Technology Expanded Housing and Learning Facility. The new facility is designed to better prepare students and consequently contribute to their future success in the veterinary workplace.

The new facility will be built behind the current facility and will have 33 indoor/outdoor canine runs and the capability to house 28 cats, food storage, bathing areas, laundry and storage rooms. The highlight will be an isolation ward that will meet AVMA accreditation standards.

Phase II will be the re-purposing of Halbert Hall for class space, surgical needs, and labs. A renovated Halbert Hall will be finished by fall 2016.



*Weather permitting, November 18 is the target completion date for Phase I, the construction of a 5,500-square-foot structure that will replace the aging kennel next to Halbert Hall with an expanded housing and learning facility.*

## Frances Wilson, SCAHCE's Outstanding Support Staff Member

*(continued from page 1)*

as a nominee with the goal of meeting my peers. It was icing on the cake to accept the honor. It makes me proud and want to work harder to help our students with their new beginnings.”

“Frances defines excellence in customer service and is deserving of SCAHCE’s recognition and an example for other front-line employees in our State’s education and training programs,” said CCE Operations Manager Teresa Young in her nomination letter.

As a Customer Resource Specialist, Frances guides students through the registration process. “Frances is a go-to person for many of the tasks associated with the registration database, but her favorite part of her job is working with people,” said Teresa. “She assists with requests, counsels students on career choices, and takes them from start to finish. Students give her high marks for customer service.”

“The highlight of my job is to assist students who are starting over in their lives and careers. I love to encourage them and later

observe them confident and successful in the workplace,” said Frances.

Frances calls herself ‘a late bloomer’ and sees herself in many of these students. “I was a stay-at-home wife and mom raising our three boys for years,” she said. After her husband retired, she went to work in restaurants, home health, child care, and later at Clemson University. “I really started my career when I joined Tri-County. That’s when I found my calling, my safe place. The CCE Division is close knit; we’re like family.”

Frances gives as much to her community as she does in her job in CCE. “As a breast cancer survivor, I needed to give back so I volunteer at Cannon Memorial Hospital at the front desk on weekends, and for 20 years have been a Facilitator, as well as a State Trainer, for the National Alliance for Mental Illness.”

She and her husband are members of Pickens View Wesleyan Church. They reside in Liberty.



## Local Author Shares Writing Experiences

Local author **Carolyn Lee Adams** spoke about her first published book, *Ruthless*, to a group of students and employees during a forum September 28. In this fictional psychological thriller, the story is told in first person by 17-year-old heroine Ruth Carver, who is kidnapped by a serial killer and taken to a remote area in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

During the presentation, Adams discussed her writing process and techniques, as well as her experience in working with agents and book publishers. Originally from the Seattle area, Adams attended USC Film School and graduated with a BFA in Screenwriting. In addition to writing, she works as a stand-up comedienne. The program was sponsored by the Enrichment Series Committee.

# Spotlight on Student Veterans

(continued from page 3)

wanted to help with. The attitude displayed by these young TCTC student veterans is amazing," he said.

"Not only is this just a great experience with someone having been helped, there is no doubt in my mind Tri-County students have been impressed with the immediate and overwhelming support shown by College employees. I look forward to working with this impressive team," said Jonathan.

The next project for the SVA is to raise enough money and donations to build a handicap-accessible shower for Christopher. Currently, Kelli has difficulty bathing him in their small bathroom in their single-wide mobile home. "We hope to raise \$2,000 through upcoming fundraisers," Drew said. SVA is planning an Angel Tree for Christmas and a food drive. They plan to visit an elementary school on Veterans' Day and read to the students and talk about Veterans' Day.

Jeff, who spent eight years in the Army (working in Homeland Security), is now an associate degree Nursing student. After Christopher was diagnosed, he began to rethink his career. After leaving the military, he worked in food services at resorts, as a ski lift operator, and at an animal shelter. He says Christopher's medical condition was a motivating factor for choosing the health care field.

His wife, Kelli, a Tri-County Computer Technology graduate, is a stay-at-home mom now and homeschools Christopher. Jeff, who doesn't qualify for the GI Bill because he has been out of the service so long, is attending Tri-County on a Pell grant and a lottery scholarship, leaving the family strapped for funds.

The Mortons are overwhelmed at the selfless outpouring of support from their Tri-County family.

"They are such a humble and gracious family," said Drew.

"Christopher still talks about the day they presented him with the gifts. He really latched onto Drew. Christopher will remember their faces forever," said Jeff.

"He knows he has a second family here. That's what we do for each other; we reach out to veterans and their families and help them," said Jeremy, an Army veteran and University Transfer major who serves as a Veteran Student Ambassador.

"As veterans, we gave to our country; now we want to continue serving other veterans and their children," said Jeremy. "They've got my back, and I've got theirs."



*Devan Cheek, second from left, Justin Parnell, third from left, and Ian McCraw, fourth from left, have been accepted into the Häring program. Pictured with them are Andreas Lehnhofer, president and CEO of Häring USA, far right; Doug Allen, Industrial Technology department head, left; and Cheryl Garrison, job placement coordinator.*

## IET Students Enter Häring Apprenticeship Program

Three Industrial Electronics Technology seniors, who were members of the first Career Pathways (Basic Electronics) class who graduated with a high school diploma and a college credential in 2014, will leave for Germany on January 2, 2016, to embark on an incredible opportunity with Häring USA, a leading global manufacturer of precision components and subassemblies for the automotive industry.

Devan Cheek, Justin Parnell, and Ian McCraw have been accepted into the Häring program to train for three years at the company's Bubsheim, Germany, facility.

In January, Andreas Lehnhofer, president and CEO of Häring USA, spoke to Engineering and Industrial Technology Division students about training and career opportunities that will be available at the company's new U.S. facility set to open in Georgia in 2017. While in Germany, Devan, Justin, and Ian will attend an academy with students from other colleges and universities, where they will study as apprentices along with attending daily classes while immersing themselves in the German culture. They will train to be team or group leaders when they return to the United States.

All agree it is a once in a lifetime opportunity they couldn't pass up. Lehnhofer says their Häring training and final Tri-County semester studies will run parallel. "The goal is to train them for a solid position in a leadership role with Häring when they return to the USA to work," he said.

# ECG Grads Boast 100 Percent Pass Rate on Certification Exam

Recent graduates of the College's Electrocardiogram (ECG), also known as EKG, certificate class scored a 100 percent pass rate on the national Certified EKG Technicians exam.

All eight graduates of the 10-week course passed the National Healthcareer Association (NHA)-administered online exam and now are designated as Certified Electrocardiograph Technicians.

The 110-120-question exam tests students on the cardiovascular system, medical terminology, EKG interpretation, EKG equipment, patient rights, and professionalism.

An electrocardiogram (EKG) is a machine that collects data about the heart's activity. For example, it measures the rate and rhythm of the heart's electrical activity. Tri-County's EKG technician training program prepares each student to effectively and efficiently administer EKG tests, record patient data, and provide results to physicians and other medical staff.

"Due to an aging population and a strong prevalence of heart-related conditions, the demand for ECG technicians is increasing," said Andrela Riley, director of our health care programs in the Corporate and Community Education Division. "By administering ECGs/EKGs, technicians are able to help make a life-changing difference by helping people, regardless of their age, prevent and treat heart disease."

Andrela said employment opportunities are at private practices, hospitals, private cardiology clinics, and laboratories.

Tri-County's ECG program is offered through the College's Corporate and Community Education Division's Center for Healthcare Excellence. The curriculum includes medical terminology with anatomy and physiology; AHA Basic Life Support for health care professional CPR; and ECG technician (theory and clinical).

## Support Angel Tree Drives

Beginning November 2, students, faculty, and staff are asked to reach out to help others by supporting the Angel Tree drives on all campuses. Angels can be adopted November 2-24.

Choose an angel from the tree to help others. Please return Angel Tree donations by December 2 (see below for specifics) to the campus where the angel was signed out with the angel tag attached.

### **Pendleton Campus:**

Head Start Angel Tree helps pre-schoolers 3-5 years old. Sign out your angel in the Student Development Office (SC 155). Please place gifts in a gift bag (unwrapped) and return with the angel tag attached.

Contact Croslena Johnson at 646-1568 for more information.

### **Easley Campus:**

DSS Foster Kids Angel Tree helps youth in foster care ages 2-17. Sign out your angel at the Easley Campus front desk. Please wrap gifts and return with angel tag attached.

Contact Ashley Isreal at 220-8892 for more information.

### **Anderson Campus:**

Veterans' Angel Tree helps residents of the Campbell Veterans Nursing Home. Sign out your angel at the Anderson Campus Front Desk. Gift donations can be returned unwrapped or in holiday totes. Contact Mary Dunkel at 646-6711 for more information.



## Application Deadline for Foundation Scholarships Is November 20

During a recent Leading Edge workshop, Financial Services Planner **Michelle Jacobson** gave step-by-step instructions on how to search for scholarship opportunities at Tri-County and other organizations. "We in Financial Aid are here to help you," she said.

Debbie Nelms and Tammy Fiske from the Foundation office also were on hand to give details about the Spring 2016 Foundation Scholarships that will be awarded to both new and continuing students in December. The criteria for scholarships varies, but include academic achievement, community participation, and financial need.

Students can apply for the scholarships by going to [tct.academicworks.com](http://tct.academicworks.com) to view the scholarships and their criteria. A link also is available on the eTC Get Set tab under Step 2, Financial Aid Information.

This spring the Foundation will award scholarships made possible by the generosity of individuals and companies in the tri-county area. "I urge you to apply," said Debbie.

The deadline for all applications is November 20.

## HIPs Workshop Features Learning Communities

Learning Communities Coordinator **Dr. Amoena Norcross**, standing, talks about linked learning communities that have been a learning experience option for our students. She discussed the characteristics of a learning community, the history of learning communities at the College, and the opportunities available for developing additional learning communities. Participants also learned the High-Impact Practices (HIPs) criteria learning communities meet, along with institutional data illustrating the powerful impact learning communities have on our students.



## Campus Safety Holds Town Hall Meetings

Campus Safety Director **Jonathan Finch**, standing, hosted four town hall meetings for students and employees during the month of October on the topic of campus safety. Students and employees had the opportunity to learn about campus safety operations and priorities, personal safety tips, and to share their ideas and ask questions. All sessions were held at the Pendleton Campus and will be offered at the community campuses in the near future.

## Executive Staff Summary

- **CYBER SECURITY PROJECT:** Executive Staff approved a project to address cyber security priorities using the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) Cyber Security Framework. The project will identify the risks that need to be mitigated, current state in regards to risk, best practices, and approximate cost of implementation of controls. This data will be analyzed and vetted through the NIST framework, third party consulting, and a cross sectional team of employees and Executive Staff. The result will be a prioritized cyber security roadmap that will lead to college compliance based upon the level of acceptable risk.
- **STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT (SEM) PROJECT:** Executive Staff approved a project to develop a comprehensive strategic enrollment management plan to help the College achieve and maintain optimum enrollment. The existing academic program review and program prioritization processes, as well as local labor market data, will allow the College to ensure that enrollment management processes and structures are developed within the academic context.
- **RECRUITMENT PROJECT:** Executive Staff approved a project to develop a new recruiting strategy that will be coordinated and managed across divisions and campuses. The project also will define and appropriately customize recruitment to meet the needs of traditional and non-traditional students, including credit and non-credit student populations.
- **STUDENT ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY:** Executive Staff approved a project to develop a student engagement strategy that places priority on challenge and support and addresses the breadth and depth of needs that community college students face. This framework also will connect seamlessly with High Impact Practices (HIPs) for an integrated in and out of classroom experience.
- **COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN:** Executive Staff approved a new Comprehensive Emergency Management plan that provides guidelines for dealing with a crisis, coordinating with external entities, and providing resources to expedite a return to normal operations.
- **OTHER:** SACSCOC preparation; ITC Phase IV; asphalt lab relocation to Wilson Hall; process policy and procedure reviews.