

Connection

In this Issue ...



Partnership Breakfast 5



Ruby Renovation Nearly Complete 6



Keowee Partnership Funds Scholarship 11



Tri-County Hosts Forum For Candidates 16

Dr. Booth Announces Retirement

Dr. Booth announced his plans for retirement effective June 30, 2019, at a faculty/staff meeting October 1.

Dr. Booth, who was named the third President of the College in 2003, said he notified the Tri-County Technical College Commission of his intentions in June, 2018.

“Deciding to retire was and is not an easy decision, but I strongly believe that the timing is right for me and for the College,” said Dr. Booth in a speech to faculty, staff, and Commissioners on the Pendleton Campus.

“As a team, we—you—have accomplished much to date, but there is much yet to do,” Dr. Booth added. “Between now and when I retire, we will begin laying the groundwork for the College’s next Ten-Year Vision and Strategic Plan. We will have a new President in time to finalize our path forward for 2020–2030.”

Under Dr. Booth’s leadership, the College has launched three community campuses, three Work-force Training Centers, an Economic Development Center, and a state-of-the-art Industrial Technology Center. In 2018, he, along with faculty, staff, and community partners, dedicated a 75,000-square-foot Student Success Center on the Pendleton Campus and a new campus in Oconee County.

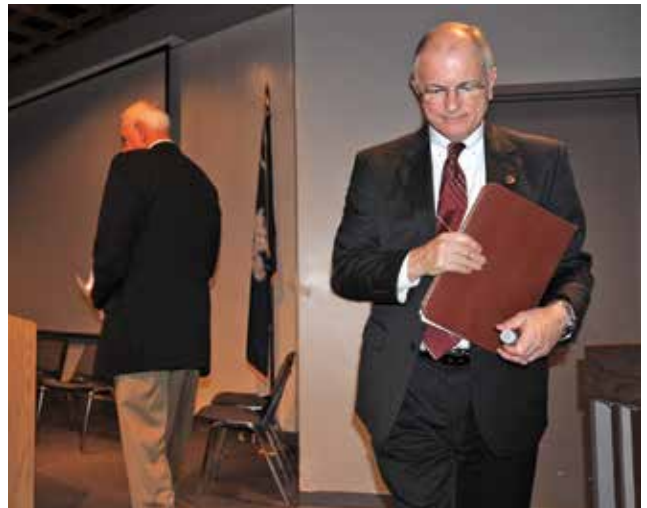
Other accomplishments include several trailblazing student-focused initiatives, including the nationally-recognized Bridge to Clemson program with Clemson University, which has grown from 220 students in 2006 to 848 in 2018, and the Connect to College (now I-BEST) program for high school dropouts.

“Our work has not just been about buildings. We are totally focused on creating pathways to help our students succeed in reaching their goals,” said Dr. Booth.

“Dr. Booth has been a great leader and President for Tri-County Technical College,” said John Powell, chair of the Tri-County Technical College Commission, which serves as the governing board of the College. “His passion for students is the central driving force behind his work. Every recommendation he makes to the Commission, every goal we set, and every dollar we spend is focused on the best interest of students. And it makes a difference. You can see it in the numbers.”

During the 2017–18 academic year, Tri-County Technical College earned

(continued on page 12)



President Booth turns the podium over to Commission Chair John Powell and exits the stage after telling faculty and staff about his plan to retire, effective June 30, 2019. “I will leave a huge piece of my heart here when my time is up. I also will leave knowing that this College is the best in the country and will only get better,” he said.

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

552 Education Way, Westminster, 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

A New Chapter

On October 1, I announced my decision to retire as President of Tri-County Technical College effective June 30, 2019. The time has come for me to focus on the next phase of my life and to spend more time with family, particularly my two beautiful granddaughters.

My decision to retire and leave a stimulating and gratifying career as your President did not come easily. The last fifteen years have been truly remarkable, and the credit for our many accomplishments goes to each and every one of you – our faculty and staff. The sheer number of highly successful programs, initiatives, and capital projects are too many to name, but proof of our accomplishments is in the numbers. We are ranked at the very top in graduation, transfer, and student success rates among all sixteen colleges in the S.C. Technical College System.

Our Commissioners are committed to making the search for my successor their highest priority during the coming year. Your feedback is important to the process, and they want to hear what attributes you are looking for in our next President. If you haven't already, you soon will be asked to provide feedback through a survey. That feedback will be used to create a Position Profile for the President, and then the process of advertising to fill the position will begin.

I strongly believe that the timing of my retirement works out well for the natural ebb and flow of our organizational development. Between now and the end of June, we will begin laying the groundwork for the College's next Ten-Year Vision and Strategic Plan. This means your new President will be with you to finalize a new vision and path forward for 2020- 2030.

I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Tri-County Technical College Commission. Their belief in our mission, vision for our future, and steadfast support of my leadership has given me the courage and conviction to push beyond the status quo and take on new challenges. I also am grateful to have worked with a remarkable Foundation Board and many community leaders and organizations who also believe in our critical role in providing a top-quality education to the citizens of Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.

Most of all, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with a superb faculty and staff who are committed to excellence in teaching and learning and have an unwavering passion for the success of our students. You inspire me every day.

It has been an incredible journey. When I retire at the end of June, I will leave this job with a profound sense of gratitude for having been given the opportunity to lead this fine institution for sixteen years. Great memories will be your gift to me, and I will cherish each and every one of them.

With appreciation,

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D., President



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President



Spotlight on Community Career Connection

Laneika Musalini wishes there had been a clothes closet available to high school students in Anderson School District 5 back in 1998 when she was preparing to graduate from T.L. Hanna High School and enter the workforce.

“My closet was my Mama’s. I wore one of my mother’s dresses to a job interview,” remembers Laneika, who was taking Accounting classes at the Career Center when she was hired by Merchants’ Credit for a co-op that turned into a full-time secretarial position while she finished her senior year. The job continued as she headed to Tri-County Technical College.

Today, at age 38 with three degrees in hand (an associate degree from Tri-County, a bachelor’s from Anderson University, and a master’s from Clemson University), Laneika works as Director of Grants in our Foundation Office.

The married, mother of four says today there are students, just like her, who don’t own professional attire to wear to job interviews.

“First impressions are everything,” said Laneika.

In 2014 she was a participant in Leadership Anderson, a 10-month leadership development program devoted to strengthening and developing community leaders. More than 800 local leaders have graduated from the program and continue their commitment to the growth, development, and prosperity to Anderson County.

A requirement of the program is for class groups to develop a community service project to implement in the community.

“Our class project was called Community Career Connection,” said Laneika. “Given the existing workforce gaps in our service area, the overarching goal of this project was to prepare students, who were graduating from the Anderson Five Career Campus, for the workforce.”

Laneika played a major role in the development of this project, which had four components: to create a Career Clothes Closet; to integrate soft skills training into the curriculum/classroom; to facilitate mock interviews; and to host a Job Fair at the culmination of the program.

“As we talked with economic developers in the area, we discovered a need for a program to prepare high school students, who want to go directly into the workforce or Tri-County Technical College,” she said.

“You want to present the full package for an interview, but many don’t have business and workplace attire which are critical to a job interview, no matter what age. To be competitive, you have to sell yourself, be presentable, and put your best foot forward,” she said.

The group launched the Career Clothes Closet first and began to gather donations of workplace-appropriate clothing, accessories, and shoes. They received a large response and set up drop off locations (at the Anderson Chamber and the Anderson Five Career



Want To Give? Contact **Laneika Musalini**, pictured above, at 646-1810 to donate workplace-appropriate clothing, accessories, and shoes (male and female).

Campus). The public generously responded with donations, many with the original sales tags. They quickly outgrew the closet and set up a boutique, a designated room at the Career Campus with shelves and racks displaying clothing of all sizes for both males and females.

Once clothes are selected by the students, they are theirs to take home and wear to job interviews and other events. “We had sponsors who gave monetary donations we put into petty cash to purchase clothes and shoes in the sizes we didn’t have in stock,” Laneika added. “We have outgrown our closet space twice already. The School is now designating a full classroom for the clothes.”

As the project evolved, they added the components of soft skills training, mock interviews, resume writing, and a career fair that included real interviews with industry representatives looking to hire.

“We received thank you notes from students telling us that if not for the clothes and preparation interviews, they would not have aced the interview. Students were offered jobs, all because of what they learned in the sessions. It changed how they see themselves,” she said. “When the students are fully prepared, they are more confident.”

The project was completed before the Leadership Anderson graduation.

Laneika remained committed to the cause the next year. “Years ago I was that student so I was invested in the program’s success,” said Laneika.

(continued on page 13)

Surgical Technology Grads Continue 100 Percent Pass Rate on National Certification Exam

Graduates of our Surgical Technology program maintain their 100 percent pass rate on the National Certification Exam.

The 12 August graduates who took the National Board Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting Certification Exam now are designated as Certified Surgical Technologists (C.S.T.).

This marks the third consecutive year that every student in the Surgical Technology program passed the National Certified Surgical Technologist Exam. Their scores exceed the national average pass rate which is 70%.

Graduates who obtain national certification as a C.S.T. demonstrate an understanding of the basic competencies for safe patient care in the operating room.

The Surgical Technology program prepares students to serve as members of the surgical team through classroom and clinical experiences. Graduates work in hospital operating rooms, in labor and delivery, endoscopy, ambulatory centers and doctor's offices, said Surgical Technology Program Director Denelle White. Passing the exam is required for employment at South Carolina health care organizations.

"I am so proud of the continued success of our Surgical Technology students. Their success is a result of hard work and dedication, along with the commitment of our faculty who provide quality and engaging instruction," said Denelle.

The three-semester program is fast paced, said Denelle. "It's challenging each year because of the advancement of



*In honor of National Surgical Technologist Week (September 17-21), the Surgical Technology Department hosted an Open House to demonstrate its role in the operating room. Program Director **Denelle White** talks with **Sarah Larsen** and **Erica Wakester**.*

technology, and with that comes more responsibility in the role of a Surgical Technologist."

The department has a 100 percent job placement rate, and more than half of the students had job offers before graduation.

In October of 2010, the Surgical Technology program received a 10-year continuing accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. Accreditation evaluators complimented the department on its clinical procedures and state-of-the-art equipment.

President's List Students Meet Dr. Booth

Dr. Booth hosted a reception September 18 for students named to the President's List for spring and summer semesters. He is pictured (center) with those who attended the event. To be named to the President's List one must have a 4.0 GPA and 12 credit hours for the semester.



Partnership Breakfasts Held

The College held its annual Partnership Appreciation Breakfast for high school counselors and other public school officials at each of our community campuses this month. Its purpose is inform educators about programmatic updates and the varied opportunities Tri-County can provide for students.

Discussions included high school outreach initiatives, such as the College Readiness Initiative, Enrollment and Career Pathways for Success, Technical Advanced Placement, and high school recruitment.

Updates were given on dual enrollment and pathways programs, including the Technical Career Pathways and I-BEST. Presentations were made on CNC and Computer Information Technology, along with recruitment, admissions, and orientation, accessibility resource center, financial aid, scholarships, and the



ABOVE, LEFT: **Aidan Bish**, a General Engineering Technology graduate, told a group at the Partnership Appreciation Breakfast that “Tri-County is not the only option, but it’s the best option.” Aidan is taking University Transfer classes this semester and plans to study Electrical Engineering at Clemson University.



ABOVE, RIGHT: High school counselors and other public school officials participated in Partnership Appreciation Breakfasts at each community campus.

Dual Enrollment and Pathways Programs At a Glance

- 841 dual enrollment students (enrolled in University Transfer/General Education courses (674) or Technical Career Pathways (167), 14.3 % increase over last fall
- This fall dual enrollment students were enrolled in the following programs: Automotive Technology, HVAC, Technical Operators I and II (Industrial Electronics Technology and Mechatronics), and Welding
- This May, 57 students successfully completed Technical Career Pathways prior to graduation.

Technical Scholars program (BMW, Michelin, and Electrolux). “We can’t do it without your partnership and support,” said Amanda Blanton, director of high school engagement and outreach.

AARP Back to Work 50+ Grant Offers Free Job Training

Job seekers who are 50 years of age and older may be eligible to receive free job training through the AARP Back to Work 50+ grant at Tri-County Technical College.

The Corporate and Community Education Division periodically holds 7 Smart Strategies for Job Search Workshops. The BACK TO WORK 50+ program is designed to help unemployed men and women over the age of 50 update their job-search skills, and in some cases, get short-term job training. At Tri-County, eligible participants may receive tuition assistance to enroll in training programs that will prepare them to work in administrative offices/medical offices, logistics, computer service and more.

- 73 attended our Back to Work 50+ 7 Smart Strategies for Successful Job Search

- 50 enrolled in the coaching program
- 29 enrolled in training program to improve skills
- 22 individuals were hired into full-time employment.
- Average wage was \$16.53 per hour

Training included the following continuing education certificate programs:

- Bookkeeping and Payroll Specialist
- Business Office Support Specialist
- Certified Logistics Technician
- Computer Concepts
- Computer Service Technician
- Medical Office: Patient Access Specialist
- Medical Office: Electronic Health Records Specialist
- Microsoft Office Classes (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Ruby Renovation Nearly Complete

The renovation project for Ruby Hicks Hall is nearly complete, and the building is expected to reopen by the end of Fall Semester. Recently Physical Plant Director Ken Kopera gave a tour of the facility to members of the Academic Affairs Division, Foundation Office, and President's Office to view their new work spaces. The building will house the Assessment Center, Advising, Cashier, Student Success Coaches, Curriculum and Academic Support, Administration, conference/training spaces, as well as TC Central and its home offices Admissions/Recruiting/Orientation, Registrar/Student Data Center, and Financial Aid.



Physical Plant Director **Ken Kopera** leads a tour of the renovated Ruby Hicks building.



The Board Room



The Multi-purpose Room



Academic Affairs



Second Floor Commons Area

Our College Family



Richard Parker Retires from CCE Division

Richard Parker, (center), manufacturing program manager for the Corporate and Community Education Division since 2000, retired September 28. Richard is moving to Myrtle Beach to care for his wife, Tammy, who several months ago suffered a stroke.

He joined the College as a Training Development Director for the then-World Class Training Center and over the years

has taught OSHA, Lean Manufacturing, ISO 9000, electrical, supervisory, and interpersonal skills classes for business and industry. He is an OSHA-authorized trainer and WorkKeys profiler.

At a gathering on his last day of work, co-worker presented him with a framed Clemson artwork (Richard is a Clemson grad).

Grayson Kelly Promoted to Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Business Relations

Grayson Kelly has been promoted to Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Business Relations.

In addition to continuing in his role as Executive Director of Tri-County Technical College's Foundation, he now has the added responsibilities of business relationship management with the College's community partners.

Along with providing direct leadership to the Foundation operations and staff, alumni, and grants functions of the College, Grayson is working to strengthen partnerships with existing business and industry using an Integrated Workforce Solutions model.

The College's Integrated Workforce Solutions (IWS) committee engages credit and non-credit divisions in shared governance over numerous



Grayson Kelly

Tri-County/employer projects, such as the I-BEST Manufacturing and I-BEST Healthcare pathways and the Michelin Manufacturing Scholars program.

For the second year in a row, the Tri-County Technical College Foundation raised more than \$1 million, with 46 percent of contributions being designated for endowed scholarships. Other major gifts funded the purchase of equipment for the College's new Oconee Campus, capital projects, robotics programs and educational/support services provided to our community's 50 years of age or older population who are actively seeking employment.

The Tri-County Technical College Foundation remains the State's largest technical college foundation with assets of more than \$30 million.

in transition

Angela Morris is the Training Coordinator for the Corporate and Community Education Division. She has seven years of experience as a Database Coordinator for Walgreens Distribution Center and 11 years at Target as a Logistics Coordinator. She is a 2014 alumna of our Associate in Arts program and transferred to USC Upstate where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in Informatics. She and her daughter, Katelynn, 17, live in Anderson.



Angela Morris



Joshua Smith

Joshua Smith is the Door and Lock Finisher for our Maintenance Department. He has 20 years of experience at various businesses, including Southeastern Dock and Door, City Glass, and Anderson Door and Glass. He and his wife, Kathleen, have two children, Mason, 9, and Carter, 6. They live in Anderson.

Becky Garrigan is the Human Resources Specialist for our Human Resources Department. She comes to us with 15 years of experience in human resources and three years of working in account management. Most recently, she worked as a Human Resources Manager for Innovative Architects, a software development and consultant firm in Duluth, Georgia. Other work experience includes Cousins Properties, Imerys, Affiliated Computer Services (account manager) and Electrolux Corporation.

She holds a B.S. in Human Resources Management from Auburn University. She and her husband, Mike, live in Anderson. They have two daughters, Colleen, 21, and Sara Jane, 18, both of whom are in college.



Becky Garrigan



Kevin Williams

Kevin Williams is a Physics instructor in our Science Department. For the last two years, he has been a Physics Lecturer for the Arts and Sciences Division. Prior to that he taught at Spartanburg Community College and Greenville Technical College.

He holds an Associate in Science degree from Greenville Technical College, a B.S. in Physics from Furman University, and an M.S. in Physics from the University of Tennessee.

Kevin lives in Anderson.

Rachel Elkins joined us this semester as a Financial Aid Advisor. For the last three years, she was a Financial Aid Specialist for Weber and Associates and prior to that was Assistant Manager for Operations for Lake Clark Air for two years. She holds a B.A. in Business Administration from Toccoa Falls College. She and her husband, Jeremy, live in Piedmont.



Rachel Elkins



Kayla Redd

Kayla Redd is an instructor in our Associate Degree Nursing Program. Since 2002 she has worked as a Pediatric Nurse for the Greenville Hospital System. She earned an Associate Degree in Nursing from Greenville Technical College and BSN and MSN degrees from Western Governors University.

She is Drama Leader for the College Park Church of God of Prophecy.

She and her husband, Matthew, have three children, Jaiden, 10; Berkley, 7; and Hudson, 2. They live in Belton.

Christy Porter joined our Practical Nursing faculty this semester at the Easley Campus. From 1995 until recently, she was a Registered Nurse at Baptist Easley Hospital. She earned a BSN from USC-Upstate and an MSN in Nursing Education from the University of Phoenix. She is the 2015 recipient of a Palmetto Gold award and served as President of the South Carolina Faith Community Nursing Association in 2016 and president of the Carolina Health Ministry Partnership in 2016 and 2017. She and her husband, Robert, have two children, Mary Alice, 21, and Bailey, 18. They live in Easley.



Christy Porter

Dr. Anita Tam and **Allison Deming** joined our Psychology Department.

Anita taught Psychology for the past six years at Greenville Technical College. She served as Executive Director of the



Dr. Anita Tam

Center for Community Services in Simpsonville from 2009–2010 and was a Graduate Assistant at Clemson University from 2008–2011.

She holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Virginia, an M.S. in Industrial/Organizational Psychology from Pennsylvania State University, and a Ph.D. in International Family and Community Studies from Clemson University.

While at Greenville Technical College, she received the Paragon Award for New Advisors for the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society. Amy led the PTK chapter to earn the Top 10 Most Distinguished Chapters award in 2016, along with the distinction of being named the eighth best chapter internationally out of 1,300 chapters worldwide.

She serves as Board Chairman for Upstate International. Since 2015, she has served on the Advisory Council for Fostering Great Ideas and has served as Mental Skills Coach for Clemson’s Men’s Rugby Team since 2016.

Beginning in spring 2019 Amy will be a HIPs Designer for the PSY 203 (Human Growth and Development) course. She and her husband, Steve, live in Clemson.

After two years as an adjunct instructor, **Allison Deming** is a full-time Psychology instructor in the Social Sciences Department. She also serves as the Advisor for our Psychology Club.

Prior to teaching at Tri-County, Allison taught Psychology at Argosy University International (2010–2013), Ferrum College (2008–2010), and at Texas Tech in 2008.



Allison Deming

She received a B.S. in Psychology and Human Development from Brigham Young University and an M.A. in Experimental Cognitive Psychology from Texas Tech. She is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Allison lives in Easley.

Taylor Matthews (no photo available) is working as a Student Data Analyst in the Student Data Center. She holds a bachelor’s degree in History from Clemson University and a master’s in History from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Previous employment includes University of UNCC Academic Affairs Budget and Personnel Office, Clemson University Historical Properties, and the College of Charleston’s Registrar’s Office, She lives in Clemson.



Emily Boyter

Emily Boyter joined the English Department full time this semester after serving as an adjunct for a year. From 2015–16, she was a graduate teacher at Clemson University. She earned a B.A. in English from Liberty University and an M.A. in English from Clemson University.

She lives in Liberty.

Colleen Lynch (no photo available) is an Arts instructor in the Humanities Department.

She graduated with honors with a BFA in Painting from the University of Georgia, and an MFA in Drawing and Painting (with honors) from Pratt Institute. She also holds an M.S. in Art History from Pratt. She was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and received an award of merit at the Fine Arts Festival of Atlanta.

She lives in Seneca.

Richard Burton is a full time instructor in the Mechatronics program. He served as an adjunct Mechatronics instructor for spring and summer semesters. Since 2014, he has been a Machine Technology and Mechatronics instructor at Anderson School District Five.



Richard Burton

After graduating from our Industrial Electronics Technology program in 1993, he began his career as a Maintenance Technician for Foundry and Steel and went on to work as a Production Technician for Bosch, a Maintenance Technician for Owens Corning, and as a Maintenance Technician for Dietze and Schell, Inc.

He is a member of Varennes Heights Baptist Church in Anderson. He and his wife, Tina, a recruiting specialist here at the College, have three children, Jena, 20; Kyle, 16; and Justin, 14. They live in Anderson.



A student sent this note to **Emma Robinson**, coordinator of Student Resource Programs:

“Thanks so much for helping me and encouraging me when I came in for assistance. You took the time to dedicate your full attention

to my needs and valued every word I said. Thanks for going above and beyond for all of your students. You are one of many here at Tri-County who does an exceptional job.”

Foundation News

Presidential Medallion Winner Donates Parking Spot

Donald White, the recipient of this year's Presidential Medallion for Staff Excellence, generously donated his coveted reserved parking space to the Foundation for a drawing with proceeds benefiting the Jackye Murphy Memorial Scholarship Fund. Dean of Student Development Mark Dougherty was the winner of the fundraiser which raised more than \$9,000 to date.

For the past several years, Early Care and Education instructor Jackye Murphy, had been bravely battling a recurrence of cancer. Sadly, she reached the end of her medical treatment options and passed away September 19 at her home.

"She had been fighting really hard," said Meredith Dickens,



Donald White, right, poses with drawing winner Mark Dougherty.

program director. "Her friends, family, and school family decided to honor her life's mission by establishing the scholarship. They decided that establishing an endowed scholarship in her honor would be a fitting tribute to a lady who has served as a role model for them and for the students, always inspiring everyone to do their best," she said.

"This scholarship embodies Jackye's passion for improving lives through education," said Meredith. "A legacy scholarship is a fitting tribute to let Jackye know how much she means to us," said Meredith.

Donations in her memory can be made to Tri-County Technical College's Foundation.

Thank a Donor Day

The Foundation sponsored a Thank a Donor event September 26 in the Student Success Center. Students stopped by and took a few moments to write notes of appreciation to College donors whose generous gifts make scholarships, equipment, and professional development opportunities available. These notes will be distributed to donors throughout the semester. Thank a Donor Day also helps emphasize the importance of thanking donors for their generosity.



Here, Leslie De Luna, a Dental Assisting major, displays her card.

Tour de Tech Raises Scholarship Funds

Dr. Tim Hardee, president of the South Carolina Technical College System (center), toured the State by bicycle to raise funds for student scholarships and awareness of technical education programs and careers. "Tour de Tech" spanned 800 miles over twelve days during which Dr. Hardee visited all sixteen technical colleges. Grayson

Kelly, vice president for Institutional Advancement and Business Relations (left), accepts a check for \$5,250 at the Anderson Campus, which was Dr. Hardee's fourth stop. Garvin Barker, plant manager for Schneider Electric and member of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, joined Grayson in greeting Dr. Hardee.





Keowee Partnership Funds Scholarship

Members of the Keowee Key Community Partnership (KKCP) presented a \$15,000 donation to **Dr. Booth** for the Tri-County Technical College Foundation to fund the first KKCP Scholarship to provide financial assistance to need-based students in Oconee County. First consideration will be given to Keowee Key full- and part-time employees and their immediate families, followed by Oconee County high school graduates.

Alumni Update: Beverly Sweet, General Engineering Technology Graduate

Beverly Sweet says she wouldn't have her career as a weekend Shift Production Supervisor at Abbott if it weren't for mentors, both in the classroom and in the workplace, who encouraged her to go for and complete her college degree at age 41.

"I'd always thought about college since graduating from high school, but there were always roadblocks," said Beverly, who had a 20-year career in the textile industry—one she thought would last until retirement—but ended with a plant closure in 2003.

Beverly had to start over and began applying for jobs. She soon landed a part-time job at Abbott (then St. Jude Medical in Pickens) that within six months turned into a full-time production job. Abbott is a global company that manufactures a variety of medical products and devices. At the Liberty, SC, site, the company manufactures components for life-saving Cardiac Arrhythmia and Heart Failure devices.

Her then-production manager noticed an aptitude in Beverly and encouraged her to pursue a degree at Tri-County Technical College. "It's easy to talk yourself out of something if you don't have encouragement. But she helped me to see I could do it," said Beverly.

She returned to college in 2007 to earn a General Engineering Technology degree—23 years after graduating from high school.

"I was excited and scared. Once I got started, I had fun building projects and applying the knowledge. My instructor Dorian McIntire and Mandy Elmore (dean of the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division) were a huge part of my success. I connected with them just as I did my Production Manager and they served as mentors for me," she said.

It took her five years to complete her degree because she was a part-time student taking evening and online classes. Her last



Beverly Sweet

semester she took four classes, in addition to working full time. She made the President's List and graduated with honors and debt free, thanks to Abbott's tuition reimbursement program and Lottery Tuition Assistance.

Over the years, she advanced from Team Coordinator to Production Technician to Senior Production Technician.

In 2013 she was promoted to weekend Shift Production Supervisor and supervises four departments (45 people) Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 6 a.m.–6 p.m.

"This is the best job I have ever had. It's always different. That's why I love my job so much. It's never boring. But I couldn't do it without the Tri-County degree."

Dr. Booth's Announcement

(continued from page 1)

the top ranking in student success, transfer, and graduation among the sixteen colleges in the S.C. Technical College System. The College also ranks in the top one percent nationally for successful transfers to four-year colleges and universities.

"Dr. Booth has led Tri-County Technical College to the top and set us apart from the rest of the S.C. Technical College System. Surrounding himself with the best faculty and staff has allowed him to stay focused on the future—continually moving the College forward," said Powell, who is an alumnus of the College and represents Oconee County on the Commission.

During Dr. Booth's tenure, the College saw other notable achievements, including the Technical Career Pathways program, a dual credit program for high school students designed to increase the pipeline of skilled technicians. Other initiatives include the first Michelin Manufacturing Scholars program, now a model program being replicated across the State, and the State's first I-BEST Manufacturing Pathway Program for under-resourced adults who want to gain marketable skills.

"I think about all of those graduates whose hands I have shaken over the last fifteen-plus years. I cannot begin to count the lives that have been changed, careers launched, families supported, and communities made better because of the work of everyone here at the College," said Dr. Booth. "Making a tangible and measureable difference in so many lives is certainly what I will miss the most."

Support from the community has grown under Dr. Booth's leadership, both in partnerships and donations. The Tri-County Technical College Foundation, the largest in the State Technical College System, raised more than \$1 million dollars each of the last two years, bringing total assets to more than \$34 million for scholarships, equipment, and other priority needs.

Dr. Booth credits the outstanding faculty and staff with the accomplishments the College has experienced over the years. "I can outline in detail many programs and successes at the College that have come about because we have such a strong and engaged team—each of you."

"Our community owes a huge debt of gratitude to Ronnie," said Powell. "He has been a great leader, and while we don't want him to retire, we understand his desire to move into the next phase of his life and focus on his family."

Powell said the Commission intends to immediately organize a search process for Dr. Booth's successor. "As a Commission, we are committed to working tirelessly to find the right person to lead this institution. The search process is getting underway immediately. We want to have the new president named before Dr. Booth retires in June," he added.

"Countless times over the last several years I have been stopped by someone in Lowe's, Ingle's, or at QT or elsewhere



Commissioners **Ham Hudson**, left, and Chairman **John Powell**, right, are pictured with **Dr. Booth** following the announcement of his retirement effective June 2019.

who asks what I do at Tri-County. They do this because I am almost always wearing a shirt with a TCTC logo. Those have been fun times, and I have made new friends and recruited several students along the way," Dr. Booth said. "I will now and always will be an ambassador for the College."

During retirement, Dr. Booth plans to volunteer for his favorite non-profits, undertake building and renovation projects, write his memoirs, and spend more time with family. "I have two granddaughters who have their grandpa on a very short string. Most important, I want to do all of these things jointly with Sara, my best friend and bride of 38+ years," he said.

"I will leave a huge piece of my heart here when my time is up. I also will leave knowing that this College is the best in the country and will only get better in the future," he said.

A native of Aiken, South Carolina, Dr. Booth holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, a master's in Education in Student Personnel Services, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership and Policies from the University of South Carolina. He also holds a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities from Clemson University.

He has been active in a number of professional associations, civic groups, and State and national boards, including the Board of Trustees for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; Executive Committee of the Upstate SC Alliance; Board of Directors for Anderson County Economic Development, Duke Energy South Carolina President's Advisory Board; Alliance Pickens, WorkLink, Oconee Economic Alliance, SENIOR Solutions, and Community Colleges of Appalachia, among others. In 2015, he was named the Southern Region Winner of the Chief Executive Officer Award by the Association of Community College Trustees.

Dr. Booth is the recipient of the 2017 Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award. He was named one of "15 over 50" for 2018 by the [Anderson Independent-Mail](#). He and Sara have two adult daughters, Ashley and Erin, and two granddaughters. Dr. and Mrs. Booth make their home in Anderson.

Commission Chair Praises Dr. Booth; Outlines Next Steps

“You have been a great President, but more than that—a great leader for the College,” Commission Chair John Powell said to Dr. Booth after he made the announcement of his retirement.

“The accomplishments we have made over the last 15½ years have made Tri-County Technical College the undisputed leader among all sixteen technical colleges in the State. We can’t thank you enough for your commitment, hard work, and vision. You should be very proud of all you have accomplished. We regret seeing you leave, but fully understand you are ready for the next phase in life,” he said.

Powell then addressed the faculty and staff to explain the next steps in the process of hiring a new President.

“To you, our faculty and staff, this College and Dr. Booth could never have achieved such great success if it weren’t for each of you. By surrounding himself with a top-notch faculty and staff—arguably the best of any community college in the nation—he was able to stay focused on the future and work continuously to move the College forward,” he said.

“Your Commission is legally responsible for hiring the President of this College. I speak on behalf of the entire Commission when I pledge to you that our highest priority is to find the right person to lead this College on its future path.”

He said the process of identifying the next President is already underway. “We are interested in hearing from you all regarding your thoughts on hiring the next President. As such, in the very near future you will receive a survey from Human Resources asking you for feedback about what attributes you are looking for in our next President. That feedback will be used as we create a Position Profile for the President of Tri-County Technical College,” Powell said.

The composition of the Search Committee itself is prescribed by law and must consist of the three individuals:

- The Chair of the Commission or his/her designee. It will be Chairman Powell.
- The Chair (or designee) of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, the governing board for the SC Technical College System.
- Another sitting President in the SC Technical College System.

This Committee will narrow the pool of applicants down to three finalists from which the Commission itself will actually chose the next President.

“Once the profile is completed, the process of advertising for the position will begin. We fully expect to have the new President of Tri-County Technical College named before Dr. Booth’s retirement,” he said.

Spotlight on Community Career Connection

(continued from page 3)

“I have felt very compelled to continue the project because I know, first-hand, what this can do for our community. So, for the past few years, I have continued the program by coordinating mock interviews twice a year at the Anderson Five Career Campus and coordinating the annual Career Fair. We have since invited all five Anderson County School Districts, Anderson Economic Development, WorkLink, and Anderson Vocational Rehabilitation to participate. Last year, we held our very first county-wide Career Fair (for graduating seniors) at the Anderson Mall in 2017. It was a huge success with businesses,” she said.

“We want seniors to be comfortable and confident in their job searches. The way to do that is by practicing,” she said. “They learn the importance of a hand shake, eye contact, and conversation. They know they are selling themselves.”

Students practice during mock interviews with industry volunteers in the fall and spring. “Industry leaders are

looking for candidates to hire. We’ve had 20 vendors each year, and we’ve added industry signing days where students commit to co-ops and internships with companies,” she said.

“The impact is so great—students, parents, industry, and the community. This project is thriving four years after our Leadership Anderson team introduced it because it is meeting an ongoing need. Industry bought into it, and we have the support of the principals, faculty, and School Districts,” she said. “I want to give thanks to Principal Cecil Bonner for his tremendous support. I also want to thank Charlene King, the Student Ambassadors, and all mock interview volunteers.

Over the last four years approximately 500 students participated in the Career Fair.

“Many graduates come back and say ‘I got the job.’ Others send e-mails—it really warms my heart. This project has really paid off.”

Business and Public Services Division Sponsors Nothing Sweeter than Success

The Business and Public Services Division offered a free event, Nothing Sweeter than Success, for students to chat with faculty, staff, and resource representatives.



Briana Johnson, Academic Resource Specialist (left), is pictured with **Mykia Young** and **Tia Daniel**, who is an Administrative Office Technology major from Anderson.



Students were treated to ice cream sundaes served by **Billy Carson**, department head for Computer and Information Technology.



Students Attend Get the EDGE And Thrive Fair

Students stopped by the “Get the EDGE and Thrive” Fair to learn more about community resources that are available to help them be successful. Here, **Croslena Johnson**, manager of student development and wellness programs, talks with students.

Executive Staff Summary

- **BANNER 9 IMPLEMENTATION:** The College’s Student Information System has been successfully migrated from Banner 8 to Banner 9. This new release delivers a number of important enhancements, including a modern user interface, enhanced navigation and process management tools, and new functionality across the student, HR, and finance functions. Preparations for this major upgrade took more than a year of work by the Banner 9 Implementation Team and others providing support to the project.
- **BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICES (BPS) DIVISION STUDENT SUCCESS PROJECT:** Academic recovery workshops and other strategies were successfully implemented as part of a pilot project to improve the success rate of students enrolled in programs in the BPS Division. The program was presented as a model to the Academic Leadership Team and likely will be replicated in other divisions.
- **RUBY HICKS RENOVATIONS:** We expect the Certificate of Occupancy by mid-October and can begin to install furniture. Offices will be moved in later this calendar year.
- **OTHER:** Policies and procedures; Occupational and Chemical Safety Committee Charter; Fall Semester enrollment, strategic planning.

Workforce Pathways Scholarships Help Individuals Get Back to Work through QuickJobs Training Programs

The Corporate and Community Education Division received \$876,000 in Workforce Pathways Scholarship funding that will help more than 400 individuals get back to work through QuickJobs training programs.

The funding, approved by the General Assembly, helps students pay for courses in approved career training programs, such as CNA, SCMC, Pre-Highway Construction, Logistics/Forklift Training, Business Office Support Specialist, and more.

Scholarships, up to \$2,100 per person, will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to qualified unemployed and underemployed individuals in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. This is the fourth year that the S.C. General Assembly has renewed the Workforce Pathways Scholarships through the S.C. Technical College System

“Last year the Corporate and Community Education (CCE) Division awarded scholarships to 375 students and we hope to award well over 400 this year,” said Brittany Neely, recruiter and success coach for the CCE Division.

“Students are able to earn certifications in all of our QuickJobs programs like CDL, phlebotomy, manufacturing, highway construction, IT, and more. The QuickJobs programs are perfect for students who need to skill up in a short amount of time and many of the programs can be completed in 90 days or less. Our goal is to help students obtain a certification that will lead them to employment or better employment. Many of the students interviewed with local businesses in their last few weeks of class and were hired directly from the class. It was amazing how many students we were able to help with the money we received last year and I hope we continue to be able to help more students in the years to come,” said Brittany.

Last year \$599,031 was invested, matched with \$134,092 in funds from partners including Goodwill, SCWorks, AIM, and others, said Brittany. More than \$3 million in annual salaries were generated from the students returning to work after completing certifications.

Students can apply for scholarships by attending an Open House on the Pendleton Campus, IBDC building, October 23 from 9–10 am or 4–6 pm For more dates and times, call 864-646-1700.

Health Fair Held

Our Wellness Programs sponsored a Third Annual Health Fair October 3 on all of our community campuses. The Health Fair featured free health screenings (including vision screenings), mini yoga and massage sessions, breakfast and/or lunch bars, frozen treats, nutrition and educational programs, interactive exhibits, free samples, demonstrations, and flu shots.



Judy Surak, R.N., performs a blood pressure check on **Bess Athens**, of Belton, a Business Management major.



StoryShare Audio Project Training Begins

Thelisha Casey Eaddy, reporter/producer for SC Public Radio, presented a training session for faculty and staff who will conduct narrative-style interviews with students who will tell their stories for our StoryShare TCTC Voices audio project Oct. 29–Nov. 2.



RIGHT, BELOW: **Dr. Darryl Morris** of Family Vision was on site to perform eye exams for students.

Tri-County Hosts Pizza and Politics Forum

The College held a bipartisan forum September 26 for students and the community to meet candidates running for State House offices in the tri-county district. They spoke about their individual platforms followed by students asking questions and discussing the issues with them.

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



From left, the incumbents and challengers in attendance were **Gary Clary** (R) House District 3 incumbent; **Jody Gaulin**, candidate for SC House District 2; **Mary Geren**, Democratic candidate U.S. House seat for the 3rd Congressional District; **Jonathon Hill** (R) House District 8 incumbent; and **Dr. Israel Romero**, candidate for SC Superintendent of Education.

Celebrating Constitution Day, Students Register to Vote

The College celebrated Constitution Day, an American federal observance that recognizes the creation and adoption of the United States Constitution and all persons who have become U.S. citizens, through birth or naturalization. It is observed on September 17, the day that the Constitution was signed by

the delegates to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania’s Independence Hall. Volunteers with The League of Women Voters were on campus several times this month to register students to vote (see photos below).



PINK OUT Event Planned for October 17

In Honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, TC Central will host a PINK OUT event for the month of October. During this month, you can stop by TC Central to write an encouraging note for someone currently battling cancer. Faculty, staff, and students are invited to come by for a selfie station, health awareness, and the opportunity to honor or remember loved ones. The notes will be personally delivered at the end of the month to patients at Anderson and Oconee County Cancer Treatment Centers. All members of the Tri-County Technical College Community are encouraged to wear pink on Wednesday, October 17, in support of those affected by breast cancer.