

# Connection

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## Duke Energy State President to Be Annual Report Luncheon Speaker

Kodwo Ghartey-Tagoe, Duke Energy’s state president in South Carolina, will deliver the keynote speech at our October 24 Annual Report luncheon.

The luncheon, to be held at the College’s Pendleton Campus beginning at 11:30 a.m., annually attracts approximately 250 community, business, industrial, government, and political leaders from Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.

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

Prior to assuming his current position in January 2017, Mr. Ghartey-Tagoe served as Duke Energy’s Senior Vice President of State and Federal Regulatory Legal Support, where he led the group responsible for delivering legal advice on state and federal utility regulatory matters.

He joined the company in 2002 as Chief Regulatory Counsel for Duke Power. He has served as Vice President, Legal, for Duke Energy’s Commercial Businesses organization, and was responsible for providing legal advice to the company’s commercial businesses, including Duke Energy International, Duke Energy Renewables, Midwest Commercial Generation, and Commercial Transmission. He also has served as Duke Energy’s General Counsel for Litigation, as well as Vice President, Legal-State Regulation for Duke Energy’s Franchised Electric and Gas business. Before joining the company, Mr. Ghartey-Tagoe was a partner with McGuireWoods, LLP, in Richmond, Va.

He is a member of The Executive Leadership Council, a leadership organization composed of the most senior African-American corporate executives in Fortune 1000 and Global 500 companies, and entrepreneurs at top-tier firms. He serves on the board of visitors of Duke University Law School and on the advisory board of Progress in Education, Inc., a charitable and educational organization he helped found in 2000 to assist schools in Ghana to improve their quality of instruction and to promote cross-cultural understanding between students in Ghana and students in America.

In 2000, Mr. Ghartey-Tagoe was appointed by Gov. James Gilmore of Virginia to serve on the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University, one of the nation’s most venerated historically black institutions of higher learning. He served on that board for three years.

In 2013, he received the Diversity Champion Award from the Charlotte Business Journal, and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund honored him with an Award of Excellence for his outstanding



Kodwo Ghartey-Tagoe

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*Passionate people* TRANSFORMING LIVES  
AND BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES ONE STUDENT AT A TIME.



# Connection

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## Mailing Address (All Campuses)

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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

## Your Support Makes a Difference

*J*spend a good deal of time sharing our successes with the community, particularly how well we perform when compared with other community and technical colleges in South Carolina and across the nation. There is no question that the credit lies with all of you—our talented, hard-working, and passionate faculty and staff—who do all in your power to help students reach their goals.

Another important factor in student success is the funding we receive from the Tri-County Technical College Foundation. During the past academic year, the Foundation expended more than \$400,000 on student scholarships, which serves as a lifeline for many of our students who face tremendous financial challenges in paying for their education. Often they are under-resourced, unemployed, underemployed, and/or the first in their families to attend college. They rely on Foundation scholarships and other forms of financial aid to make a college education affordable.

In addition to scholarships, the Foundation funds equipment, professional development, and other priority needs of the College. Overall, the Foundation spent nearly \$1 million dollars last year to support those needs.

We are fortunate that community-minded individuals, companies, industries, and other philanthropic foundations choose to support the work of the College through

our Foundation. They believe in our mission and are willing to invest in our vision to transform lives and build strong communities in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. They also are willing to invest in your professional development through mini-grants and teaching chairs.

Your support of the Foundation is equally as important. Already many of you contribute through annual gifts and payroll deductions. If you are not currently contributing, I hope you will consider doing so. Elsewhere in this newsletter are more details about this year's Annual Giving Campaign.

The impact of giving to the TCTC Foundation is both personal and far reaching. Whether for a scholarship, lab equipment, or program, every gift to the Foundation is an investment in student success. Together we can fulfill the dreams of students, build a stronger college, and support the growth of our community.

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. Please join me in supporting our students through gifts to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation.



**Dr. Ronnie L. Booth**  
President

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*“Whether for a scholarship, lab equipment, or program, every gift to the Foundation is an investment in student success.”*

~Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.

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Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.  
President



# Spotlight on the Abney Foundation

Since 1989 The Abney Foundation has been providing resources to Tri-County's students, faculty, and staff to help them achieve their educational goals.

No other foundation, individual, or company has contributed so generously to the Foundation. The Foundation sponsored the Third Annual Abney Day on September 7. The event was designed to show appreciation for the College's largest contributor to date.

Division deans, along with College administrators, gathered to say thank you to The Abney Foundation's Executive Director Emeritus and Trustee Carl Edwards and Executive Director David King for providing funds to support the needs of the College.

"There are students who have great abilities but can't get to us because of resource restraints," said Galen DeHay, senior vice president. "You invest in your local community, and this helps these individuals to meet their dreams and goals."

"Our faculty also are lifelong learners, and many of them have been the recipients of Abney Foundation professional development funds that help them to stay abreast through conferences and courses. Without your funding, we couldn't do it. We are appreciative of your partnership. You help us to meet our goal of transforming lives in our community."

"Without your contributions, meaningful experiences wouldn't happen," said Dr. Tom Lawrence, dean of the Arts and Sciences Division. "Resources are used to support internal collaboration and external networking," he said.

"Our faculty are scholars and practitioners. They want to leverage best practices in class so they attend national conferences and serve as presenters at peer-reviewed conferences. The funds are used systematically, responsibly, and are very valued. Thank you; we appreciate it. It does make a big difference," said Tom.

Dean of Business and Public Services Jackie Blakley has personally benefited from Abney funds—most recently she attended the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) conference and visited Cal State to observe its student success teams and how they are structured. "Using the Cal State model, we are piloting a student success team in Business and Public Services and recently held an event to connect students to the Division," she said. She also attended



Some of this year's Abney Foundation Scholarship recipients are seen with Executive Director Emeritus and Trustee **Carl Edwards** and Executive Director **David King** (front, center).

the national conference for the Early Care and Education program's accreditation.

"We strive to further our education so our students can be a step above. We don't limit ourselves to what is happening in South Carolina. We want to provide a quality education that keeps them on the leading edge," said Jackie.

Dr. Lynn Lewis, dean of the Health Education Division, thanked Mr. Edwards and Mr. King for funding the human patient simulators for the nursing lab that have served thousands of students in nursing education over the years.

"In addition, our Dental Assisting students go to a yearly event in Atlanta, where they observe technologically-current dental practices," she said.

Faculty members also attend conferences, and they bring back ideas and share them in the classroom and with each other. "It's an obligation for going to a conference. We communicate knowledge in conversations and in formal meetings. Our professional development opportunities would be sorely curtailed without you."

She added that all of the programs in the Health Education Division are accredited. "Your funding helps us do that," she said.

In the Corporate and Community Education Division (CCE), in addition to at-risk and under-resourced individuals receiving training scholarships courtesy of The Abney Foundation, staff members also benefit from professional development funds, said CCE Operations Manager Teresa Young. The Division has 21 on staff, with four serving as full-time instructors. Individuals improve and upgrade their skills through training in OSHA standards, for example, to maintain their credentials for teaching. They

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## More than 1,000 Trained in SCDOT Program

The College's SCDOT Technician Certification Program (taught through the Corporate and Community Education Division) is the only program of its kind at any of the 16 SC Technical Colleges. Students from all over South Carolina attend these classes each year to attain SCDOT Technician Certifications. Any individual performing Quality Control testing on any SCDOT project (which includes employees of SCDOT, engineering firms, contractors, and local public works agencies) must hold the appropriate certification(s) for testing that type of material or application. Although most of these classes are designed for incumbent

workers, the two types of Pre-Highway classes are designed especially for unemployed people or brand new hires to help them get started in the field of highway construction inspection.

### SCDOT Technician Certification Program Facts at a Glance, FY 2016-17

- Classes Held: 88
- Classroom Training Hours: 2,140
- Continuing Education Units (CEUs) Awarded to Students: 3,256
- Total Number of Students Certified: 1,092



## Congressman Duncan Tours Student Success Center

Congressman Jeff Duncan, above, middle, toured the Student Success Center currently under construction and set to open in January 2018. Construction of the new 75,000-square-foot Student Success Center continues on schedule and is slated for completion during the latter part of Fall Semester. Opening day is the first day of classes on January 8, and we will celebrate by hosting a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony on January 12. The facility will include a learning commons, flexible meeting spaces, computer labs, group study areas, tutoring spaces, the College Café, Campus Store, and more.

## Benefits Fair Well Attended

Faculty and staff attended the 2017 Benefits Fair held September 19. Representatives from PEBA (Public Employee Benefit Authority) were on hand to discuss insurance or retirement. Also present were representatives from some of our vendors that carry cancer policies and short-term disability policies.



*Michelle Jacobson, financial services planner in the Financial Aid Office, left, talks with Karen Sanders, benefits manager with PEBA.*



*Laneika Musalini, director of grants, talks with Blake Campbell, of ACI Financial.*

# Foundation News

## Donations to Employee Giving Campaign Make Real Impact

Donating to the Foundation's Employee Giving Campaign can make a real impact in our students' education and the quality of their lives, said Tammy Fiske, director of annual giving.

"Participation is the first goal of our annual Employee Giving Campaign which kicked off in September," added Tammy.

She hopes that 100 percent of our faculty and staff will make financial contributions to fund important initiatives at Tri-County.

Faculty and staff may choose how their gifts make a difference by directing their donations to specific needs. For instance, you may contribute to a general need, such as Equipment/Technology, Scholarships, Professional Development, or College Priority Needs. Or you may designate your contribution to go to a specific program at the College, she said.

"There are some special giving opportunities, like naming a kennel that can be supported through monthly payroll deduction or one-time gifts," she said. "And don't forget to check with your spouse about matching gift opportunities that may exist with their employer," said Tammy.

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

most popular choice because it is easy. Participants making a gift of \$30 or more will receive a campaign t-shirt.

"No gift is too small, and every gift counts," said Tammy. "Donating contributes to the success of our students and to our College."

The campaign continues through November and ends with a "sweet" celebration on November 8.

## Thank a Donor Day



The Foundation sponsored Thank a Donor Day in conjunction with National Thanks Day September 13. **Kiley James**, of Liberty, a Veterinary Technology major, left, was among the students who 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: Kiley is pictured with **Tammy Fiske**, director of annual giving.

## Foundation Feed a Pig Campaign Kicks Off



**Ashley Sikes**, of Piedmont, left, and **Merideth McIntyre**, of Powdersville, second from left, pose for a photo with **Tammy Fiske**, director of annual giving, third from left, and **Laura Crenshaw**, development associate.

The Feed a Pig campaign, which focuses on collecting change for student scholarships, kicked off this month. Students are challenged to collect \$17 by the end of the campaign. Employees also are encouraged to participate. Those who made a gift by the first week in October were invited to attend the Potato Bar events held at each of our community campuses the first week of October. "The focus is on participation," said Tammy Fiske, director of annual giving. "We want our students to know that every \$5 joins another \$5 to fund scholarships and equipment needs. We want to help them understand that the spirit of giving is more important than the amount, and their change can make a difference now. With their contribution comes the recognition of being a Foundation donor."

# Our College Family



Joel McCall

## *in transition*

**Joel McCall** joined us as an instructor in the Criminal Justice program. He has been an adjunct instructor for four years. Since 2002, he has worked in law enforcement for the Anderson Police Department and as a Sergeant at the Central

Police Department. He began his career as an officer with the Pendleton Police Department. Prior to that, he spent 18 years in retail management.

He is a 2008 graduate of our Criminal Justice program. He also earned a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Anderson University and an M.S. in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati.

He was a member of Phi Theta Kappa while a student here and a member of Alpha Phi Sigma while earning his master's degree. He is a Notary Public. Joel and his wife, Ranee, live in Easley.

## *excellence through service*

The September issue of PASCAL eNewsletter features an article written by Library Director **Mary Orem**, titled *From Academic Library to Learning Commons*. PASCAL, which stands for Partnership Among South Carolina Academic Libraries, is a consortium of academic libraries in the State that fosters cooperation on a broad range of issues, including shared licensing of electronic resources, universal borrowing, and Integrated Library System (ILS) hosting.



## Campuses Hold Partnership Appreciation Breakfasts

Partnership Appreciation breakfasts were held on our community campuses to thank our community partners for their work, both individually and collectively, and to provide updates on new College initiatives. "Working together makes us stronger and ultimately helps our students," said **Amanda Blanton**, director of high school engagement and outreach, standing.



## Career Pathways Student Addresses PACE Board

**Nick Colombo**, a May 2017 Wren High School graduate who earned Technical Operator I and II certificates through the College that same month, spoke to the PACE Board about his experience in the Technical Career Pathways program. He took classes at the Anderson 1 and 2 Career and Technology Center for three years before graduating early and entering our Mechatronics program this fall. "Taking dual enrollment classes was a huge plus," said Nick, who was able to skip a grade. Nick will begin an internship in January 2018 with ZF Industries and will graduate in May of next year with his associate degree. "This is a great opportunity," he said.

## Ghartey-Tagoe

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achievements in the legal profession and his dedication to diversity in the workplace.

A native of Ghana, Mr. Ghartey-Tagoe earned a Juris Doctor degree from Duke University and a Bachelor of Arts degree, with joint honors in Economics and Finance, from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. He also completed the Advanced Management Program at the Wharton School of Business. He is admitted to the North Carolina Bar.

He and his wife, Phyllis, have three daughters.



## Business and Public Services Hosts Welcome Back Event

The Business and Public Services Division hosted a Welcome Back event for students September 6. At the event students had the opportunity to chat with resources representatives on campus (Financial Aid, Student Development and Wellness, Tutoring Center, and Career Services). There also was a photo booth, games, snacks, and giveaways.



## Dr. Booth Hosts President's List Reception

Dr. Booth hosted a reception September 19 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 for the semester. To view all of the photos from the event, visit the College's public website at [tctc.edu](http://tctc.edu) and click on the Flickr link.

## Abney Foundation

(continued from page 3)

attend national trade association conferences specific to corporate training and workforce needs so they can hone skills and learn about new training options.

"We don't have a line item in our budget for professional development. Abney funds provide our professional development. We appreciate the opportunity to develop our personnel and to serve our students better," said Teresa.



Division deans, along with College administrators, gathered to say thank you to The Abney Foundation's Executive Director Emeritus and Trustee **Carl Edwards** and Executive Director **David King** for providing funds to support the resource needs of the College.



## Career Services Sponsors Student Employment Fair

The Career Services office sponsored the Student Employment Fair September 13 in the Café. This event is a great way for students who are seeking on-campus or work-based learning opportunities to connect with jobs. Here, **Evan Durham**, of Williamston, a Mechatronics major, standing, talks with TTI's **Tyler Rowe**, director of electrical engineering, and **Margaret (Mac) Garrison**, supervisor in the electronics lab about their company. Mac is a graduate of our Industrial Electronics Technology program.



## National Surgical Technologist Week Celebrated

The College celebrated National Surgical Technologist Week September 18–22 with an Open House/Lab in the Surgical Technology Lab for anyone (faculty, staff, and students) to stop by and see how a Surgical Technologist contributes in the operating room.

Each year, National Surgical Technologist Week is celebrated during the third week of September to recognize surgical technologists. It is an opportunity to promote the profession and educate the community about the vital role that surgical technologists play in the Operating Room.

Surgical technicians assist surgeons and other medical professionals in hospital operating rooms and similar environments. Chiefly, they prepare patients, rooms and

equipment for pending surgical procedures. They also assist during those procedures as part of a team of operating room professionals.

ABOVE, LEFT: **Denelle White**, program director, right, talks about the various duties of the surgical technician to (from left) **Lynn Smith**, in our Career Services Office, **Dabrejha Bowman**, of Anderson, who is taking general education classes and plans to enter the Surgical Technology program in the future, and **Glenn Hellenga**, director of Career Services.

ABOVE, RIGHT: **Sandra Williams**, a certified surgical technician and an adjunct Surgical Technology instructor, left, demonstrates how a doctor uses a laparoscopic simulator for abdominal surgeries. Pictured are **Croslena Johnson**, manager of student development and wellness programs, and **Mack Heaton**. Sandra is a 1994 alumna of the Surgical Technology program and is the recipient of this year's Adjunct Faculty Presidential Award.

## A-O-P Showcase Spotlights TCTC Career Programs



Engineering Design Department Head **Roger Burgess** demonstrates rapid prototyping to middle and high school students from Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens County School Districts during the 2017 Anderson-Oconee-Pickens Business & Industry Showcase held September 26-27 at the Anderson Civic Center.



Middle school students enjoyed learning about the “TCTC EDGE” by pulling bricks from a tall tower to uncover the words “Employable, Dedicated, Goal-Oriented, and Empowered.” The eighth annual Business and Industry Showcase drew an estimated 5,000-6,000 students over the two-day period. Participants had the opportunity to learn about careers programs available at Tri-County Technical College and to interact with company representatives from a wide variety of local industries.