

Connection

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Foundation Exceeds Fundraising Goal12

Proposed Center Includes Campus for Oconee Residents

The Tri-County Technical College Commission voted unanimously at its July 27 meeting to move forward with a recommendation for a location for a future Oconee County Workforce Development Center that will include a campus for Oconee County residents.

This new partnership between the College, Oconee County School District, and Oconee County will create a unique center for technical education, work-based learning, and economic development.

The Oconee Industry and Technology Park, located on Highway 11 in Westminster, is the recommended site for the new center, which will co-locate an Oconee Campus of Tri-County Technical College, a new Career Center for high school students, adult education, and county economic development offices. Several sites were reviewed by the team. The Oconee Industry and Technology Park was chosen as the top site because of its size and proximity to the four public high schools in Oconee County.

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Site study rendering

Companies Come to Campus to Recruit



Matt Varney, of Liberty, a General Engineering Technology major set to graduate next fall, talks with **Teresa Chand**, recruiting supervisor with Voith.

Area business and industry have been contacting Job Placement Coordinator Cheryl Garrison this summer asking to visit our campus to recruit for positions available now and ones that will open up this fall.

“As a result, we’ve developed and scheduled Business and Industry Recruitment Days throughout the year,” said Cheryl. “These companies are making presentations about their companies, as well as conducting interviews and on-site testing.”

Already, AFCO, Haring USA, and Voith Industrial Services have been recruiting students in the

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Connection

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

Mailing Address (All Campuses)

P. O. Box 587, Pendleton, SC 29670

Pendleton Campus

7900 Highway 76, Pendleton, SC

Anderson Campus

511 Michelin Blvd., Anderson, SC

Easley Campus

1774 Powdersville Rd., Easley, SC

Oconee Campus

Hamilton Career Center

100 Vocational Dr., Seneca, SC

Main Number

(864) 646-TCTC (8282)

Toll-free

1-866-269-5677

TDD/Voice

1-800-735-2905

Website

www.tctc.edu



Tri-County Technical College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award the associate degree. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Tri-County Technical College.

Tri-County Technical College does not discriminate in admission or employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, qualifying disability, veteran's status, or national origin.

Connecting

Partnership Key to Future Oconee Campus

We have the opportunity to create a national model in higher education and community partnerships. More importantly, we have the opportunity to fulfill our commitment to increase access to higher education for the citizens of Oconee County and provide a trained workforce to support the growing industrial base in the region.

On July 27 the Tri-County Technical College Commission voted to approve a recommendation to co-locate an Oconee Campus of Tri-County Technical College with a new career center, adult education center, economic development offices, and industry. The recommended location is the Oconee Industry and Technology Park located on Highway 11 in Westminster.

Pending approvals by the county and school district, we hope to get underway with a pre-design study later this year.

From the very first discussions that began years ago, we knew this project would take us into previously uncharted territory. Unlike the Anderson and Easley Campuses, we were presented with a unique set of challenges and opportunities, including a smaller

population base, limited funding, diverse stakeholders, and specific industry needs.

When the School District of Oconee County joined the conversation earlier this year, the pieces of the puzzle began to fall in place. Co-location will not only significantly reduce the overall project cost, but also allow us to create a unique education and training model to better serve youth and adult populations.

In this new model, students will be able to move seamlessly between high school classes, college classes, and work-based learning in one high-quality, integrated educational experience at the same location. We also have the opportunity to expand our co-op, apprenticeship, and internship programs in ways only possible through co-location at a business park.

This model also will enable us to expand our highly successful career pathways program for high school students. We are reaching students who might never consider going to college by allowing them to earn a Tri-County certificate in a technical field by the time they graduate from high school. These students then have the option to continue their education at Tri-County and complete an associate degree within one year. If they choose not to continue, they can immediately enter the workforce with marketable skills and a college credential.

What we can accomplish through this partnership would not be possible to do alone and will allow us to better serve students, local industry, and the citizens of Oconee County.



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

"We have the opportunity to fulfill our commitment to increase access to higher education for the citizens of Oconee County and provide a trained workforce to support the growing industrial base in the region."

~Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D., President



Spotlight on Campus Safety

Campus Safety Director Jonathan Finch is proud of the progress he and his team of officers have made this year in the areas of emergency preparedness, officer training, and serving as a resource at each of our community campuses.

The TCTC Campus Safety Team has officers assigned to the Anderson, Pendleton, and Easley Campuses, along with the Industrial Technology Center (ITC) in Sandy Springs. "We have a presence at every campus, and we are here to serve as a resource for faculty, staff, and students," said Jonathan.

"We provide services on all campuses and are staffed by Campus Police Officers certified by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and commissioned by the Office of the Governor as State Constables. We also employ State Certified Security Officers and work closely with local sheriff's offices and other security and law enforcement agencies," he said.

Meet the Campus Security Team

In addition to Jonathan, long-serving security officers B.J. Ellis and James Canty are located at the Pendleton Campus, along with Lieutenant Tracy Lee, Jessica Cullen, and Jackie Howard. Linda McEntire serves as Dispatcher/Administrative Assistant.

Currently the evening shifts at all three community campuses are staffed by American Security Officers. During the day, Teresa Summers is at the Anderson Campus, Dana Miles is at the Easley Campus, and Elaine Alexander is at the ITC.

Officers safeguard the campus community by responding to all calls for service/assistance. They patrol the campuses, enforcing traffic and parking regulations, and investigate traffic accidents. They are available for routine calls for assistance with a dead car battery or keys locked in a vehicle. They handle incident reports and conduct criminal investigations. They secure buildings and provide entry to buildings, as well as lock and unlock doors. They also direct traffic and work all major campus events, such as the Annual Report luncheon and Bridge to Clemson orientations.

Last year, following a feasibility study, College Commissioners approved a plan that would allow the College to arm its Campus Safety Department as appropriate, up to and including firearms.

Visit the Campus Safety Website and Learn About Improvements

Details of Campus Safety's mission and services are outlined on its website, tctc.edu/CampusSafety. You'll also find safety tips and examples of class topics that can be provided, such as personal defense, internet safety, defensive driving, pedestrian safety, and crime prevention techniques. Individuals can contact



Campus Safety Team: From left, Lt. Tracy Lee, Elaine Alexander, Linda McEntire, Jessica Cullen, Jackie Howard, Teresa Summers, James Canty, and Director Jonathan Finch.

Inset photos: Dana Miles, left, and B.J. Ellis

Campus Safety to make a request for a specific class, Jonathan said.

Throughout the year, Jonathan has worked on the Campus Safety Improvement Plan, an official document which outlines future needs and addresses officer training, staffing, and emergency communications.

Significant improvements have been made in Campus Safety including four full-time new hires, vehicles being marked, and recent equipment purchases, such as medical kits for vehicles, bolt cutters, and a camera software system.

Ongoing Training Sessions for Officers, Faculty, and Staff

Last August just prior to the start of the new academic year, the Campus Safety Department hosted two "town hall" meetings to provide departmental updates and to solicit ideas and insights from employees. Jonathan shared information about several topics, including officer training, classroom safety, new lighting and blue-light phones, and the College's Incident Command Structure (ICS) for handling crisis events.

This fall there will be another town hall meeting for employees with details to be announced.

A series of officer training sessions have taken place over the past few months: They include:

FEMA facilitated a table top with Anderson County, Anderson University, and Tri-County which opened additional lines of communication. "We will continue the conversation of managing critical situations on campus," said Jonathan.

In June the TCTC Campus Safety hosted a Crisis Intervention Team training offered by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). This course educates first responders on how to respond to someone experiencing a mental health crisis. The class focused on building strong partnerships between first responders, local mental health

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Ryan Timmer

Timmer Offered Job Following Completion of BMW Scholars Program

Ryan Timmer, a 2015 Mechatronics graduate, was among the BMW Scholars offered full-time employment following a graduation ceremony held June 11 at the company's Greer plant. The BMW Scholars Program offers the workplace benefits of a traditional apprentice program found in Germany

with the additional advantage of tuition and book assistance.

Ryan, of Seneca, is working as a Body Shop ESA.

All of the 27 students from Tri-County, Greenville Technical College, and Spartanburg Community College, are now full-time associates at the plant following the completion of the two-year Scholars Program.

The Scholars Program allows selected students to attend class full time while working part time at BMW. The program gives students a chance to pursue their education, gain necessary hands-on experience, earn an hourly wage, and become viable candidates for positions at BMW. During this process, BMW assists with students' tuition, books, and supplies. Students must be full time and maintain a minimum 2.8 GPA.

"You are the next generation and our future," said BMW president and CEO Manfred Erlacher. "We have 100 percent retention of our graduates in the program thus far," he added.

Ryan Childers, manager of apprentice and associate training, said, "You've accomplished a great deal over the last two years and I'm very proud of the way you have grown. You are our top performing BMW Scholars team." Scholars averaged a 3.6 GPA, scored 3.68/5 on their OJT evaluation, worked an average of 2061 hours and had an average training score of 4.5 out of 5. "You've done an outstanding job," Childers said.

SCMC Is Answer to Skills Gap

Since 2013, 126 individuals have enrolled in South Carolina Manufacturing Certification (SCMC), a training program that has been called an answer to the serious workforce skills gap that has left businesses and industries without a pipeline of the skilled workers needed in today's rapidly changing economy.

"Mid-level industry jobs are out there, but there aren't enough qualified applicants to fill them," said Corporate and Community Education Division Program Manager Richard Parker, adding that sixty-five percent of the jobs in our area require above a high school diploma up to and including an associate degree.

Richard's comments came at a breakfast meeting to congratulate SCMC graduates and to give business and industry partners information about the training program. SCMC is a quick, yet comprehensive training route for individuals seeking to enhance their skills and to secure full-time employment as operators in manufacturing. Classes are offered and taught through Tri-County's Corporate and Community Education Division.

The SCMC training is a 200-hour curriculum that includes the opportunity to earn eight nationally recognized certifications. Participants may earn an OSHA 10-hour safety card, a Six Sigma yellow belt certification, and a national MSSC credential in safety, quality, production systems, and maintenance awareness which translates into stackable credentials for college credit.



SCMC Graduates

Since 2013 approximately 80 percent of Tri-County's SCMC graduates are employed at an average per hour wage of \$12. 73. They are employed by Koyo Bearings, Kroger Bakery, Yokohama, Robert Bosch, U.S. Engine Valve, Plastic Omnium, St Jude Medical, Michelin, Greenfield Industries, and others.

"We are thankful to manufacturers who interview and hire out of this program," said Richard, adding that additional classes will be offered in the future. "We can enroll more people who qualify and we are seeking additional funding opportunities. We hope to hold at least four more classes before the year is over, if funding lasts," he said.

New Pharmacy Technician Program Debuts This Fall

Over the past year, Dr. Ann Barnes, program coordinator and instructor for our new Pharmacy Technician program, worked on curriculum development and achieving SACS accreditation, talked with health care partners, and recruited students in preparation for launching the program this fall.

For years, a Pharmacy Technician certificate program was offered by the College's Corporate and Community Education Division. Last year the decision was made to offer it as a one-year diploma program through the Health Education Division. The program received approval from the State Technical College Board and received accreditation by the American Society of Healthsystem Pharmacists.

The 45-hour, three-semester program will have classroom and clinical components. It will prepare graduates to work in hospital and retail pharmacies, research laboratories, home health care agencies, and other health and personal care industries. Students must be eligible to enroll in English 101 and Math 101.

Classes will be held on the College's Pendleton Campus.

Dr. Barnes spent the last 15 years working as a pharmacist in retail and hospital pharmacies and welcomes this new opportunity to teach and train technicians for the career she has worked with and respected for years. "The pharmacy technicians are the operational aspect of the pharmacy. They are the nuts and bolts of pharmacy, its heart and soul," said Dr. Barnes. "He or she is the first and last person a customer sees when visiting the pharmacy for prescriptions. A well trained technician will connect with the customers," she said.

Pharmacy technicians must be detail oriented, have good communication skills, be adept at math and science, and have

the ability to multi-task, she added. "No matter what the setting is, the phone is always ringing and customers are always waiting," she said.

"Over the years, I found myself not losing contact with the operational aspect of the pharmacy and made sure to not lose that skill set myself. I truly value what they do. For a pharmacy to work well, you can't lose that connection with the technicians," she said.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to teach. I will take my years of experience, in combination with the educational resources, to create hands-on, practical experiences to prepare these students for the work place," she added. She stresses that professionalism and teamwork are as important as academics. "It's not just about the technical skills. A well-rounded technician can walk in and be an asset from day one."

Employment for pharmacy technicians is predicted to grow by 24 percent over the next five years, with an annual median salary of \$28,400. Tri-County's general education courses coincide with those required for transfer, providing students with further educational opportunities, such as a pathway into the Pre-Pharmacy program.



Dr. Ann Barnes

Tri-County Presents Anderson County Star Student Event



Tri-County was the Presenting Sponsor for the Anderson County Star Student event to recognize outstanding juniors from high schools throughout Anderson County. Tri-County representatives hosted a booth, gave welcoming remarks, and presented medals to the students. Prior to the presentations (from left), **Katie Kunkel** and **Yixia Huang**, both juniors at Anderson Christian School, visited Tri-County's booth to talk with **Christina Houck**, recruiting coordinator, and **Emily Danuser**, academic advisor for the Business and Public Services Division, about educational opportunities at Tri-County. The event is organized by the [Anderson Independent-Mail](#).

College to Launch Honors Program This Fall

The College will roll out a new program for high performing students this fall with the launch of the Honors Experience.

“High academic achievers are among the students who enroll at Tri-County. We have initiated the Honors Program in the hope that it will provide intellectual challenges and a learning community for them,” said Dr. Hap Wheeler, dean of the Arts and Sciences Division.

“It’s not about writing extra papers and getting additional reading assignments,” said Dr. Kate Williams, former social sciences department head and one of the honors team leaders. “It’s designed to be challenging in terms of a student growing intellectually and being a deeper learner. Instead of the traditional lecture format, classes will enroll 15 really academically-strong students who will engage in discussion, peer-to-peer teaching, and participate in more hands-on learning,” she explained.

“The Honors Program is for students who want to be active learners, are highly motivated and capable, want to stretch their minds and make the most of their academic experience at Tri-County,” she added. “It’s for students who want to interact more deeply with the material.”

A team representing the departments in the Arts and Sciences Division has been working for a year on eligibility criteria, assessment of applicants, philosophy of the coursework, developing courses, and evaluating other programs, said Hap.

Participants must be enrolled in the Associate in Arts or Associate of Science degree programs and meet certain eligibility requirements. Graduating high school students must meet two of the following: a 3.5 GPA, or a combined score of 1150 or better on the critical reading and math sections of the SAT; a score of 25 on the ACT; or rank in the top 10% of their graduating class.

Current students must meet these two requirements: a 3.5 GPA on courses taken at Tri-County and have 12 credits at Tri-County that would qualify for university transfer.

“We anticipate enrolling 40 to 50 students with diverse ages and backgrounds in the first semester this fall. This experience will provide the academic challenge sought by students who expect more than a job or transfer credential from their education,” said Hap.

Offered this fall will be Astronomy 101, English 101, History 202, Sociology 101, Biology 101, and Chemistry

110. The team hopes to add one-hour topical colloquia which have been submitted for state approval by Dr. Sue Ellenberger.

The first of these will be taught by Dr. Della Vanhuss, Spencer Heringa, and Lara Wrightson. The colloquia will be co-curricular opportunities for honors students to delve into a topic of interest while working closely with other honors students and faculty. The courses might include service learning or research that culminates with a group project.

Students will take one or two honors classes each semester, and one to two colloquia per year as part of their regular schedule.

Students will be awarded the honors distinction at graduation on their credentials.

“The faculty who are involved are excited to be building a program that develops student scholarship for those who are deeply committed to their education and who think about the big questions. It’s more than getting

the degree; it’s what they can achieve and invent. I’m glad we are offering this program that will benefit students who want to collaborate with like-minded students and work closely with faculty,” said Kate.

Honors Team Members

Dr. Aristide Sechandice
Social Sciences (faculty team leader)

Timeko McFadden
Humanities

Todd Crisp-Simons
English

Matt Anzur
Math

Dennis Lee
Science

Dr. Sue Ellenberger
Science

Dr. Hap Wheeler
Dean of Arts and Sciences



SAB, Foundation Sponsor Ice Cream Social

The Staff Advisory Board sponsored and the Foundation funded ice cream socials on all of the campuses for all full-time faculty and staff. **Kevin Foley**, lab specialist in the Science Department, enjoys a cone of Brusters ice cream.

Nearly 800 Accepted into Bridge to Clemson This Fall

Nearly 800 freshman have been accepted to the Bridge to Clemson program, the largest class to date. In June and July, eight orientation sessions were held for students who will join us this fall. Bridge Director Kristen Karasek extended thanks to “faculty, staff, and campus partners for another successful orientation for these student and their parents.”

Started in 2006, Bridge to Clemson, a first of its kind in South Carolina, is an invitation-only program that blends the traditional academic experience at Tri-County with the social and cultural experiences of being a Clemson University student. The program offers select Tri-County students a university experience and seamless transition to Clemson for the sophomore

year. Bridge students must earn 30 transfer credits at Tri-County during their two semesters and transfer to Clemson with a 2.5 GPA.



Jen Hulehan helps **Hannah Baker** with her schedule following an orientation session.



Mathematics Coordinator of Instructional Activities **Mohammad Ghobadi** assists **Tyne Scott**.

Camp Xceleration Participants Create Interactive Art

Twenty rising fifth–eighth graders participated in the College’s Engineering Camp, held June 22–25 on the Pendleton Campus. Their mission was to use math, electronics, programming, and problem-solving skills to create pieces of interactive art by using an Arduino controller as “brains.”

A PLC, such as the Arduino, is a tool for making computers that can sense and respond to the physical world. It’s an open-source physical computing platform based on a simple microcontroller board.

Each camper created a cutting-edge sculpture that uses sensors, lights, and motors to detect and respond to lights, sounds, and movements in the environment.

Campers worked on their projects during the week, with Tri-County instructors serving as consultants, and on the last day, June 25, showcased their projects to family members.

The Engineering and Industrial Technology Division hosted this annual summer camp with additional funding provided by Robert Bosch LLC and Laser Tec.



Meredith Shumpert, daughter of Sarah Shumpert, poses with her project.



Trusha Patel works on her project during the week.



Matt Williams, son of Kate Williams, was among the participants.

Our College Family

excellence through service



Laneika Musalini

Congratulations to Grants Director **Laneika Musalini**, who received the ATHENA Young Professional Award at the Anderson Chamber of Commerce Small Business Luncheon.

The award honors emerging leaders who strive toward the highest level of personal and professional

accomplishment and who devote time and energy to their community and serve as a role model for young women.

Laneika was described as "a leader who exceeds at being a role model to whomever she comes in contact with on a daily basis. Her infectious smile is evidence of her concern for others."

The Business Affairs Office once again has been awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR). For the 13th consecutive year, the Division received the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting from the Government Finance

Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

To be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized

CAFR whose contents conform to program standards. Such CAFR must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

Pictured above from left are **Deborah Wardlaw, Krystal Doherty, Gigi Ward, Debbie Norris, Matt Whitten, Ann Hall, Cara Hamilton, Linda Brown, Roberta Sitton, Lynn Shook, and Ana Interiano.**



Business Affairs Office staff with the CAFR award

THE FACULTY SENATORS FOR 2015-2016 ARE:

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT

Tom Hiebel

ARTS AND SCIENCES DIVISION

Stacey Frank

Timeko McFadden

BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SERVICES DIVISION

Meg Allan

(Vacant)

ENGINEERING AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

Gregg Corley

Justin Herndon

HEALTH EDUCATION DIVISION

Laura McClain

Stacy Smith

COMPREHENSIVE STUDIES

Andrea Barnett

Tonia Faulling

Adjunct members of Faculty Senate will be voted on in the fall.



Deborah Brock



Penny Edwards

Congratulations to **Deborah Brock**, MLT instructor, **Penny Edwards**, Psychology instructor, and **Laneika Musalini** for completing community leadership programs

during the 2014-15 academic year. Deborah participated in Leadership Pendleton, Penny in Leadership Pickens, and Laneika in Leadership Anderson. Community leadership programs introduce participants to a variety of community topics and issues, including education, health care, recreation, economic development, and local and state government. Programs typically last six months to a year. Penny also has been named to the Board of Regents for Leadership Pickens and will serve a three-year term.



Tom Lawrence

Tom Lawrence, Public Services department head, was recently appointed as a part-time Administrative Judge (Ministerial Recorder) for the City of Greer Municipal Court. In his official capacity he will preside over bond hearings, authorize search and arrest warrants, and issue subpoenas.

in transition

COLLEGE TRANSITIONS DIVISION

Cindy Mobley is the new Connect to College Director. She has devoted her career to higher education, beginning as Assistant Principal for the Bradford Catholic School System from 1996–2002, and serving as Principal of St. Bernard Elementary Middle School from 2002–2005. She and her family relocated to South Carolina in 2005, and she began working as an Instructional Coach and adult educator in the Greenville County schools until 2015.



Cindy Mobley

Cindy earned a B.S. in Education from Clarion University of PA and an M.S. in Education from St. Bonaventure University of New York. She is a member of South Carolina Adult and Community Education and the South Carolina Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. She is the recipient of the 2010 Gerry

Pfaehler Endowment Award and was an Olympic Torch Bearer in 2002. Cindy and her husband, Arthur, live in Simpsonville.



Cathy Strasser

Cathy Strasser is now working as the Program Resource Assistant for Connect to College. She spent the last 10 years in the Business Office as a Fiscal Technician until moving to her new position several months ago.

STUDENT RECORDS

Courtney Embler is a Data Coordinator in Student Records. She earned a B.A. in Psychology from Anderson University and worked as a Data Export Specialist and an Administrative Assistant for Graduate and Evening Admissions at her alma mater from 2009–15. She is a member of Grace Church. Courtney lives in Anderson.



Courtney Embler

Gentry Simmons is a Data Coordinator in Student Records. She earned a bachelor's in Interdisciplinary Studies from North Greenville University and a master's in Human Services/Executive Leadership from Liberty University.



Gentry Simmons

She worked as Assistant Registrar at Anderson University for a year and as an Admissions Counselor at Liberty University for more than two years. Gentry lives in Townville.

JAN KEMPINSKI RETIRES

For 15 years **Jan Kempinski** has been an integral part of the IT team, working on various projects ranging from installing software for the servers to web development to serving as the administrator for the content management system for the public website.

She also was a member of the eTC Development Committee that meets weekly to manage ongoing maintenance of the portal.

Jan and her husband, Steve, both decided to retire and relocate to Florida where they will make their new home. Jan retired June 29 and celebrated with friends and co-workers.

"It's been a good 15 years," said Jan. "I've met and worked with a lot of really nice people. I'd do it all over again."

She plans to enjoy life at the beach, watch the porpoises, and relax.



Jan Kempinski, front, center, with the IT team on her retirement day.

STAFF ADVISORY BOARD 2015-16

Debbie Powell (Chair).....	College Transitions
Scott Jaeschke.....	Curriculum and Instruction/ Institutional Effectiveness
Jamie Black	Curriculum and Instruction/ Institutional Effectiveness
Jessica Scott	Student Support & Engagement
Jessica Cullen	Business Affairs
Jason Hart	Business Affairs
Susan Womack	Corporate and Community Education
Beth Byars.....	Foundation, Public Relations, and Human Resources
Tracy Woods	Community Campuses



Ron Talley

After 39 Years of Service, Ron Talley Retires

In his commencement address to the class of 1994, Ron Talley urged the graduates to find good jobs, which he defined as ‘ones that you enjoy.’

“It is one that you look forward to getting out of bed in the morning and going to. It is one that you are in no hurry to leave at the end of the day.

It is the one that puts you in contact with the kinds of people and the kinds of tasks that you enjoy. The best job of all is the one that you would do even if no one paid you,” said Ron.

Ron Talley practices what he preaches.

For the past 39 years, serving in roles as a faculty member and an administrator, Ron distinguished himself as a gifted educator with a longstanding commitment to and passion for teaching and learning while being firmly committed to the community college philosophy and the mission and purpose of the College.

Colleagues and friends gathered July 16—his retirement date and his last day of full-time teaching, to wish him well. It’s not goodbye for Ron, who will teach as an adjunct for the Engineering and Industrial Technology (EIT) Division.

He says he is often asked how he remained at one institution for the majority of his career, and he answers, “If you do what you enjoy, and you enjoy doing it, you look forward to every day.”

Over the years opportunities presented themselves to work other places—he was recruited by other colleges and agencies, but each time the occasion arose, he decided he didn’t want to be in Washington or Greenville or Columbia. “I’m at home in Pendleton, among friends, family, and co-workers. And there is no other division I’d rather be in,” he said, citing camaraderie,

interpersonal relationships, and mutual respect for each other in the EIT Division.

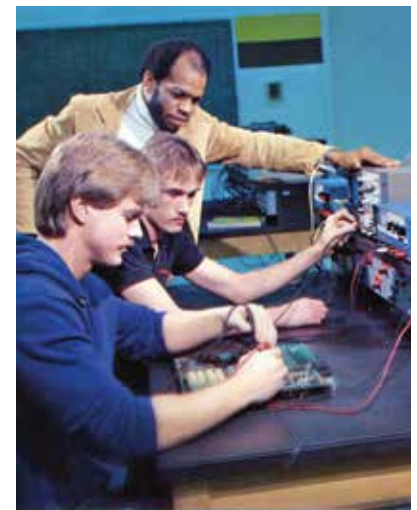
“Unquestionably, the interaction with the students and watching them grow is the best part of this job. The wealth I’ve received from my teaching experiences is the most valuable possession I own,” said Ron. “In short, I can’t imagine being anywhere else,” he said.



Ron entered college at age 16 and in the late 1960’s, he earned a bachelor’s degree in Sociology/Education from Dartmouth College. After graduation he was hired to teach education and community development classes for his alma mater. At the time, the 21-year-old was the youngest faculty member ever hired at the New Hampshire university. Computer programming and mathematics were his passion, and he says he was fortunate to study under John Kemeny, one of the authors of the original BASIC language at Dartmouth College

“I am what I am because someone gave me something. I wanted to give something back,” he said. He returned to his native home in Pendleton several years later to embark on a new career in real estate development and home building. At his brother’s suggestion, his first stop was Tri-County Technical College to inquire about the brick masonry classes as a first step to a new career as a real estate developer. “I remember my brother saying, ‘you can learn anything there.’”

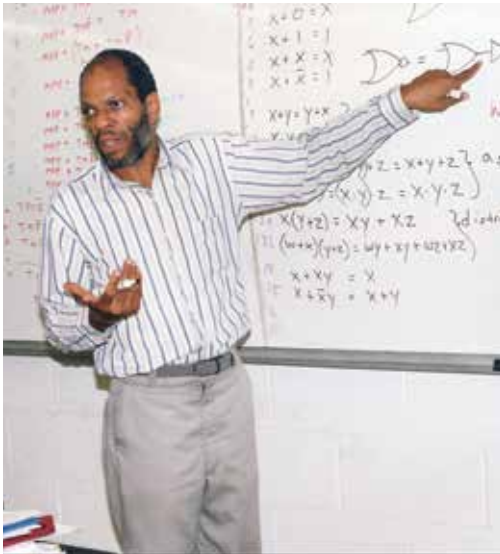
Former Dean of Students, Al Norris, often tells the story of potential student Ron, who ended



Career Notes

- In 1990 Ron was recognized as one of 16 Educators of the Year by the South Carolina Technical Education Association.
- That same year he was recognized by the American Technical Education Association as one of the top 10 technical educators in the nation.
- He was Tri-County’s nominee for Governor’s Professor of the Year in 1991 and was recognized as one of the State’s Distinguished Professors by the Governor’s Office.
- He has been called upon by numerous national, State and local organizations to provide direction and content for mathematics and technical education.

up in his office at Tri-County as most incoming students did in those days. Several sentences into the conversation Norris learned that Ron didn't need a college degree—he had one. “You don't need to be a student, you need to be teaching here,” Norris said.



Two days later Ron was hired—and never enrolled in the brick masonry class, instead entering the classroom. He says he was invested by day one—thanks to three individuals—Norris, Willis Crosby, Jr., and President Don Garrison.

“I was impressed by the institutional potential for providing life-changing opportunities for the people I knew and those in other areas of the tri-counties,” said Ron.

He joined Tri-County in 1976 as an instructor in the Comprehensive Studies Division, and he became its evening director in 1977. In 1979 he became Director of the Manpower Training Program until August 1984 when he joined the Electronics Engineering Technology (EET) Department as an instructor. He became head of the department in 1988 and moved to the IET program as an instructor in 2008.

He set an example of lifelong learning for his students by continuing to take courses and earning degrees himself. He earned a master's degree in Educational Administration from Clemson University, and while serving as an EET instructor, he attended evening classes and earned an EET degree. He completed coursework toward a second master's in computer science as a NASA Research Fellow at Clemson and is working on his doctorate in Career and Technical Education.

Seldom does a week go by that he doesn't see a former student while out shopping or on campus. “They often give me the thank-you speech,” he said. “No material reward can top that.”

“It's validation that I taught them well,” said Ron.

Recently, Ron was invited by alumni for a tour of Itron where he was reunited with around 20 of his former students—both IET and EET. It was one of the highlights of his career, he says, reminiscing with former students and listening to their career paths.

“If you do what you enjoy, you have it made. I wouldn't change a thing,” he said. “I could do another 40,” he added.

Spotlight on Campus Safety

(continued from page 3)

service providers, and others. More than eighteen first responders attended the week-long class held on the Pendleton Campus, and eight different agencies were represented. Jonathan says one of his priorities is preparing his officers to deal with exactly the types of scenarios this course covers.

“The Campus Safety Department works every day to ensure a safe, secure learning environment at TCTC for students, employees, and visitors. The department serves as a resource for the College community, and tips, concerns, etc. are always welcome. We can be reached by calling (864) 646-1800 or by sending an e-mail to campussafety@tctc.edu,” said Jonathan.

“The Campus Safety Mission Statement calls out the fact that safety and security on campus are a shared responsibility. Students, employees, and visitors to the College should keep their head on swivel and contact us immediately if they see anything they think is suspicious or concerning,” he added.

Over the next few months there will be opportunities for employees to participate in general safety training, training exercises, and other volunteer roles. Please look for these opportunities and attend and/or participate if possible.

“In addition to daily campus safety operations, my department is constantly working on creating a more prepared, resilient, and aware campus community. One big way we do this is by educating the community and practicing things like mass notification and other emergency drills.”



In June the TCTC Campus Safety department hosted a Crisis Intervention Team training offered by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). This course educates first responders on how to respond to someone experiencing a mental health crisis.

Foundation Exceeds Fundraising Goal

Thanks to Foundation Board members, industry partners, College Commissioners, and our faculty and staff, the Foundation exceeded its annual goal to raise \$750,000.

The Foundation staff raised \$753,878 for the last fiscal year (July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015). Foundation Executive Director



The Foundation staff is grateful to everyone who contributed during the last fiscal year.

Grayson Kelly said a \$10,000 donation from Oconee Federal Charitable Foundation for its endowed scholarship put them over the goal mark.

In addition, he thanked employees for their support of the employee's iGive campaign. 166 employees gave \$32,562.65, and we experienced a 25 percent increase in giving through payroll deduction over last year. "That is a big accomplishment. We are so grateful for faculty and staff support for our programs and initiatives," said Grayson.

He also recognized Foundation board members for their generosity and support. Every single one of the 35 board members, who are active and supportive, contributed to the Foundation, he said.

Industry supports the College and it supports the Foundation as well, he said, citing corporate donations that totaled \$339,000 this year. Earlier this year, Blue Ridge Electric Co-op gave a major gift of \$100,000 to support priority needs at the future Oconee Campus.

College Mourns Loss of Friend, Foundation Board Member Kleo Stathakis

The College mourns the loss of friend and former Foundation Board member, Mrs. Kleo Stathakis, who passed away June 19 at her Anderson home at age 86.

She is survived by her two children, Alexandria and John Pete Stathakis, her two beloved grandchildren, and her two sisters.

Mrs. Stathakis was a founding member of the Tri-County Technical College Foundation Board as well as a founding member of the Anderson County Woman's Club. She was president of the Anderson Historical Society and an active member of the Anderson County Democratic Party. She also was one of the founders of the local Democratic Women's Club.

"For 26 years, Mrs. Stathakis served as an invaluable member of the College's Foundation Board and has been a staunch supporter of the College, always devoted to its mission and purpose," said Dr. Booth.

As a charter member, she represented Anderson County since the Foundation Board's first meeting on June 7, 1985, and served as the secretary to the Foundation Board.

She served on numerous Foundation-related committees and assisted in the solicitation of major gifts to the Foundation. Her most notable accomplishment as a board member was when she introduced Mrs. Ruby Hicks to the College and Foundation.

When Mrs. Hicks, a member of the College's Foundation Board, died October 2, 1992, she bequeathed the majority of her estate, valued at nearly three-quarters of a million dollars, to Tri-County to establish scholarships. Until 2001, this was the largest single donation the College had received in its history.

Since 1993, Mrs. Stathakis generously contributed to a scholarship established in the name of her late husband, Pete Stathakis. She also was instrumental in the Anderson County Woman's Club establishing an endowed scholarship.

The College honored her with the highest award given by the College's nine-member Commission, the Order of Merit, at the College's October 20 Annual Report luncheon in 2013.

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



Kleo Stathakis

Proposed Oconee Campus

(continued from page 1)

The next step is to submit the recommendation to the other two governing bodies, the Oconee County School District Board and the Oconee County Council. Both boards meet August 18.

“We have the opportunity to create a dynamic center where education, economic development, workforce training, and industry come together in ways we have yet to imagine,” said Galen DeHay, senior vice president of Tri-County and a member of the project team. “In addition, co-location will save money through shared infrastructure, labs, and equipment.”

One of the goals of the College Commission for several years was to obtain property for an Oconee County Campus, said Dr. Booth. “This partnership is a national model for the rest of the country, quite honestly,” he said.

“I don’t know of another community college that has taken advantage of this type of opportunity,” added Galen.

“There is a mutual trust among the three entities that is very positive and encouraging,” said Commission Chairman Butch Harris.

“Every person on the project team supported this project,” said Commissioner John Powell who represents Oconee County and served on the team. “It’s a win-win-win for everybody,” he said.

Initially, the project focused on a campus in Oconee County for the College. Earlier this year, the School District of Oconee County joined the conversation as they began planning for the construction of a new Career Center. “When the school district came to the table, an entirely new set of options and

opportunities became possible through the co-location of both facilities,” said Galen.

Steve Hanvey, assistant superintendent for the school district, also serves on the project team. “Co-location benefits the students and makes good economic sense,” said Hanvey. “Generally speaking, Career Center students can use the facilities during the day and Tri-County can use the equipment in the afternoons and evenings. It’s expensive to train technicians on cutting-edge equipment. Rather than purchase similar equipment at two locations, we can share some of the same equipment and labs.”

Scott Moulder, Oconee County administrator, agreed that cost savings can be realized through shared roadways, curbing, water/sewer, parking, and other amenities. “Co-location saves money for everyone. It eliminates redundancies and duplication of effort,” he said.

“We will move our county economic development offices to the Center which will strengthen our partnership with the College and the school district,” added Moulder. “We have all the makings of a first-class economic development team to support existing industry and attract new industry to the county.”

Beyond reduced costs, a co-located facility will support the new career pathways model created by Tri-County. “The Career Pathways to Success program enables students to achieve a Tri-County credential by the time they graduate from high school,” said DeHay. Students can move seamlessly between high school classes, college classes, and work-based learning in one high-quality, integrated educational experience at the same location, he said.

Larry Smith, plant manager for Schneider Electric and a member of the project team, believes the center will be attractive to prospective industries because of the potential for shared space, on-site workforce training, and a ready pipeline of prospective employees—all in the same location.

“The project makes perfect sense, and the Center will certainly be a selling point when recruiting companies to locate in the park,” said Smith. “Industries will have the opportunity to groom future employees by providing internship and cooperative education experiences on site for high school and college students. Students literally can walk from the classroom to the workplace and immediately apply what they have learned in a real-world setting.”

Once the project is approved by each governing body the next step will be to commission a pre-design study. The study will generate a master plan for the site, cost estimates, generalized floor plans, and phasing options. All parties will collaborate on funding options and cost sharing.

No timeline has been established for construction.

Schneider Electric Supports The Foundation



Schneider Electric in Seneca made a \$5,000 contribution to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation in support of the 2015 Fall Classic Tournament. Here, **Larry Smith**, plant manager, second from left, presents a check to **Grayson Kelly**, executive director of the College’s Foundation. Pictured with them are **Tammy Fiske**, director of annual giving, left, and **Athenia Edwards**, human resources manager at Schneider Electric.



AT&T Supports Connect to College

AT&T awarded Tri-County Technical College \$5,000 to support the Connect to College (C2C) program.

The Connect to College (C2C) program has evolved to meet the diverse needs of area students by offering academically capable youth between the ages of 17 and 20 the opportunity to simultaneously earn their high school diploma and college credit, up to and including a postsecondary credential. The first of its kind in South Carolina, C2C is a program for students who, for a variety of reasons, have faced difficult challenges in traditional high school settings. The program provides students with intensive support services that build confidence and foster their success in a collegiate learning environment.

Ted Creech, director of external affairs for AT&T, middle, presents the check to **Dr. Ronnie L. Booth**, right, and **Grayson Kelly**, executive director of the College's Foundation. "It's personally rewarding to see people on the right path," Creech told the C2C graduates. "We, and the folks here at Tri-County, want to see you succeed and reach your dreams."

Campus Recruiting *(continued from page 1)*

Engineering and Industrial Technology Division. They also are using the platform to talk about work-based learning opportunities for current students.

"These meetings can lead to connections that can lead to full-time jobs. Students can learn about their many options. Businesses have the opportunity to tell their story and to plant the seed of interest," said Cheryl.

"I encourage company representatives to talk about what kind of associate they are looking for. Help us to help you get the right fit. Guests are discussing the importance of 21st-century workplace skills (soft skills) needed in today's workplace. It helps students to understand that respect and teamwork are transferable skills in the workplace. Representatives emphasized that at Voith, soft skills are as important as getting the technical skills," said Cheryl.

Earlier this year Andreas Lehnhofer, president and CEO of Haring 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 Lavonia, GA, in 2017. Michelin, Bosch, and BMW regularly test for their scholars programs throughout the year.

Scott Brown, regional manager for maintenance and engineering for Voith, is looking for graduates to work in the Industrial Services sector of the company, specifically at the BMW plant in Greer. Voith is a maintenance and engineering supplier to BMW in addition to Boeing, Toyota, Mercedes, Honda, and others.

Brown said he began his career with a two-year degree as a maintenance helper and over the years he advanced to technician, journeyman, group leader, plant manager, and his current position. "We're a performance-driven company and

there are opportunities for advancement," he said. "We make decisions because it's the right thing to do. And we instill in everyone the importance of work/life balance. A happy employee is a successful employee," said Brown.

Danny Stovall, a technical trainer for Voith, talked about the three-year technical program available for GET, IET, and Mechatronics grads to work full-time at BMW. Graduates are teamed with ESA's in class and on the job training. "We are building a pipeline of skilled workers," he said. "This is a great opportunity to apply what you are learning now," said Stovall, a former Mechatronics instructor at Tri-County.

"We develop people and put them on a career path," said Brown. "This kind of opportunity didn't exist for me. This takes you to the next level to help you advance. What took me 10 years to do you can do in three to four."



AFCO was on campus recruiting for co-op and full-time technician opportunities for GET, IET, Mechatronics, CNC, and Industrial Supervision students. Here, **Pat Jones**, HR systems engineer, talks with **Cristina Colombo**, of Piedmont, who will enter the GET program this fall.

Students Spend Summer Getting College Credit

Rising 11th grader Nick Colombo hopes to graduate from Wren High School in 2017 with a high school diploma as well as an associate degree in Mechatronics.

It's possible, he says, because of the academic plan he has mapped out for himself which includes dual enrollment classes at the Williamston Career and Technology Center and classes at Tri-County for the next two summers that will earn him enough credits for a college degree at age 17.

Five of those college credit hours were earned this summer by taking two classes, IMT 112 lecture and EGT 123 lab, from June 18–July 21 on the Pendleton Campus.

Nine students from the Williamston Career and Technology Center and Daniel High School, who ranged from high school sophomores to seniors, took two classes and accrued credits

toward an associate degree in Mechatronics or Industrial Electronics Technology.

"It's not a bad way to spend the summer," said Nick. "Best of all, we received college credit for free. It can't get any better than that," he said, referring to a \$1 million state-funded proviso making it possible for high school students to take college courses in career pathways with little or no out-of-pocket cost.

He says his first experience with dual enrollment classes this summer rated a 12 on a scale of 1–10, and much of the rating is based on instructor Glenn Barbour.

"Mr. Barbour makes learning fun. It's not just board work and lectures," said Nick. Glenn has extensive experience that Nick admires. A graduate of the Henry Ford College, Barbour was a military mechanic, who went on to work as an apprentice, supervisor, and later general foreman over maintenance at Chrysler. He also worked at Bosch for 24 years before his retirement in 2006.

Nick Stowers, a Powdersville High School senior, said initially he knew Barbour would be a good instructor. But it wasn't long before he added the words friend and mentor to his description. "He connected with all of the students. He gives good life advice, and he had our respect because he has 30-plus years of work experience. He made the class enjoyable because he teaches by doing," said Stowers.

Glenn is equally as impressed with the caliber of students he taught this summer. "They are sharp and engaged, and they have done a superb job. They came in every day willing to work. Their comprehension levels are quick, and their applications are excellent."



Instructor **Glenn Barbour** and students who completed summer classes of IMT 112 lecture and EGT 123 lab.

Upward Bound Honors Outstanding Achievers

Brianna Winfield, left, **Rogeline Amisial**, middle, and **Nykeria Geer** were honored with Outstanding Academic Achiever Bridge Component Awards at the College's 35th Annual Upward Bound Awards Banquet held recently. This fall Brianna, a Westside High School graduate, will attend USC-Aiken, Rogeline, also a Westside grad, will attend Presbyterian College, and Nykeia, a Crescent High School grad, will attend USC-Upstate.

Upward Bound is designed to help high school students bridge the gap between secondary school and college and to provide them with financial and academic resources to prepare for postsecondary education. The Upward Bound project, sponsored by Tri-County, serves 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders from Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties and provides high school students with services year-round through its academic and summer bridge components.



Tri-County Is an Authorized AHA Training Center

Tri-County Technical College is now an authorized American Heart Association (AHA) Training Center.

After serving as an AHA training site for several years, following a rigorous evaluation, the College's Corporate and Community Education earned authorization to be an AHA Training Center providing emergency life support classes in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.

Tri-County's AHA Training Center is responsible for the administration and quality assurance of Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC) courses. The College serves as liaison to AHA and implements AHA/ECC education in the community.

Certification through an authorized AHA Training Center is universally accepted by all employers and considered the gold standard of certification, said Andrela Riley, director of health care programs for CCE.

"When customers call us for AHA training, one of the first questions they ask is if Tri-County is an AHA Training Center. It's important. This prestigious recognition signifies we are a leader in the community for providing training for cardiovascular care," said Andrela. "Our job is to promote the highest level emergency cardiac care training in our community."



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AUTHORIZED
TRAINING
C E N T E R

AHA classes include CPR, First Aid, Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and Blood Borne Pathogens, as well as Basic Life Support CPR for Tri-County's allied health students. In compliance with AHA guidelines and standards, all courses conform to the requirements set forth through the AHA instructor manual.

"Our role is to help achieve AHA's goals by increasing the number of instructors, providers, and trained responders through delivering the highest quality AHA training. We will continue to create community, business and industrial partnerships that focus on communicating and rallying around the mission of the AHA," said Andrela.

"We want to continually evolve our program into one of the nation's finest examples of corporate and community sponsorship of the AHA program," said Andrela.

Executive Staff Summary

- **OCONEE CAMPUS:** The Oconee Campus project team has completed a feasibility study and is recommending the Oconee Campus be co-located with a new Career Center planned by the School District of Oconee County, Oconee County Economic Development Offices, and Adult Education. The recommended location is the Oconee Industry and Technology Park on Highway 11 in Westminster. Approval will be needed from all three governing entities before commissioning a pre-design study.
- **PHASED RELOCATION OF EIT PROGRAMS:** In an effort to maximize space and ensure the best and highest use of College facilities, CNC Programming and Operations and Engineering Graphics Technology will be moved to the Industrial Technology Center; HVAC will be moved to Cleveland Hall; and Mechatronics and Industrial Electronics will be co-located in Cleveland Hall. In order to minimize disruption to student learning, a phased, sequenced approach will be used in moving programs.
- **ONE-STOP CENTER PROJECT APPROVAL:** This project team will evaluate and implement appropriate levels

of integrated services in all enrollment-focused units, with particular emphasis on functions associated with Admissions, Student Records, and Financial Aid. The ultimate purpose of this project is to create a streamlined student experience for the full student lifecycle.

- **INTEGRATED DATA CENTER PROJECT APPROVAL:** This project team will develop a plan for an Integrated Data Center as part of the One Stop Center framework, which will serve as the primary resource for information/services related to enrollment functions and processes.
- **PROGRAM STRATEGY PROJECT:** This project team will implement the newly approved integrated approach to identifying what programs the College will offer in the future. Step-by-step processes must be created to evaluate new programs for adoption and existing programs for continuation or growth.
- **OTHER TOPICS:** Miller Hall renovations; Fall Semester enrollment tracking; policy and procedure updates; leadership development project; preparations for SACS reaffirmation; Veterinary Technology facilities expansion; and county support for a new Student Success Center.