

Connection

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Two Administrators Retire June 30

The words “respect” and “admiration” flow repeatedly when you ask faculty and staff about their experiences with retiring administrators Dr. Phil Buckhiester and Dr. Gwen Owens.

Dr. Buckhiester joined the College in 2004 as Vice President for Academic Affairs and last year was named Provost.

Dr. Owens joined the College in 1992 as Developmental Reading Department Head after 19 years of teaching at Wren and Powdersville middle schools in Anderson County School District

One. Over the years she has served in the roles of instructor, department head, Comprehensive Studies Division Chair, and Dean of the Arts and Sciences Division.

Currently she is teaching a Reading 100 class and although she will retire as dean June 30, she will be back in the classroom full time this fall. She has been hired as a full-time reading instructor for the Comprehensive Studies Department. “It will feel so good to be back in the classroom,” said Gwen. “I have missed it. It’s time to step way from the administrative side and get back to teaching. The timing was right and the position opened up – giving me an opportunity to return to a place I love – the classroom.”

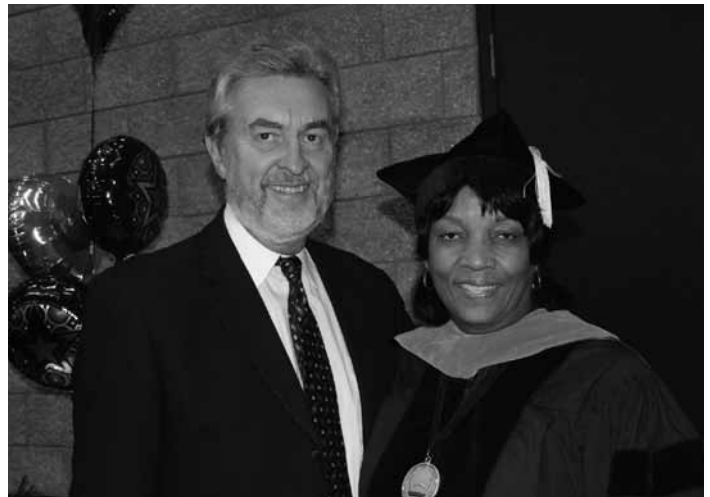
“I have been extremely fortunate to have worked the past eight years with faculty and staff members who truly care about the College, about each other, and about the students,” said Dr. Buckhiester. “I appreciate the opportunity I have had to serve alongside so many dedicated, caring people.”

Faculty and staff praise both for being strong advocates for students, great role models, and exceptional educators.

“Dr. Buckhiester is very thoughtful in his actions and his words,” said English Department Head Robin McFall. “He is able to see all sides of a situation and consider every angle before taking action. He is fair in his deliberations and is respected and liked by faculty and staff,” she said, as evidenced by a standing ovation he received when his retirement was announced at a recent faculty/staff convocation.

“Gwen is very much like Phil – very calm in every situation and doesn’t make rash decisions. She is patient and respectful and devoted to student success. I’ve seen her give her own time to meet with students in early mornings to help them to be successful. She also has a way of getting parents to understand what is in the best interest of the student and in getting students to do what will make them the most successful. The Division will miss her leadership.”

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Dr. Phil Buckhiester and Dr. Gwen Owens

UPCOMING EVENTS

Vet Tech Pet Adoption July 19
Fox Carolina
Easley Town Takeover July 24
Summer Commencement August 3
Fall Faculty/Staff
Convocation August 16

Check the College Activities Calendar in
eTC for additional activities and events.

Connection

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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) 646-8361

Toll-free (864 area code): 1-866-269-5677

TDD/Voice: 1-800-735-2905

Website: www.tctc.edu



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national origin.

Connecting



Ronnie L. Booth
President

In a recent Connection column I shared that we are shifting our institutional focus from student access to student success. We've done a tremendous amount

of work over the last five years in increasing access through the addition of community campuses and learning centers; now our attention turns to success, which means intently focusing on helping students reach their goals.

In about a month, we will begin a new academic year. Much work focused on student success has been going on behind the scenes to prepare for 2012-13, as well for as the academic years that will follow. During the coming year, we will make every effort to help communicate the "big picture" of what we are trying to achieve with our student success agenda and how everything fits together and ties to our strategic plan.

While everything we do as a College impacts student success, the six main areas we will focus on in the coming year are the matriculation process, curriculum and instruction, advising, scheduling, retention, and our LC² initiative. If you don't see the "name" of your favorite student success initiative listed here, I can almost promise you it will be covered in one of these topics. Notably, these six focus areas aren't distinct, stand-alone processes; all are interwoven and related in the larger equation for student success.

Last month my column focused on the "deep dive" examination and assessment of our matriculation processes currently taking place under the leadership of Kevin Steele. He is in the process of forming several project groups to look at different aspects of matriculation.

"During the coming year, we will make every effort to help communicate the 'big picture' of what we are trying to achieve with our student success agenda and how everything fits together and ties to our strategic plan."

- Dr. Ronnie L. Booth

This month, I will focus on the work of the retention project work team, which relates to matriculation but has a broader focus.

Retention lies at the heart of our student success agenda. Each of the areas mentioned above – matriculation, curriculum and instruction, advising, scheduling, and LC² – impact student retention, but currently there is no plan or infrastructure in place to coalesce successful initiatives into a comprehensive retention plan. We have a talented group of individuals who have been working on the development of a comprehensive retention plan with the goal of completing the process by this fall. Recently, they participated in a facilitated session to identify root cause issues negatively impacting retention and to develop preliminary strategic directions for making improvements. Not surprisingly, their initial findings mirror some of the focal points of the matriculation audit.

One thing I found most interesting about their work was the results of an environmental scan they conducted as a first step in the process. It verifies what we knew at an intellectual level, but perhaps have not completely internalized as a College;

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Spotlight on the Center for Workforce Excellence

Since 1990 the College's World Class Training Center has been providing relevant, effective training to industries and individuals in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties. The Center was established to provide companies with the training needed to survive and thrive in today's competitive global economy.

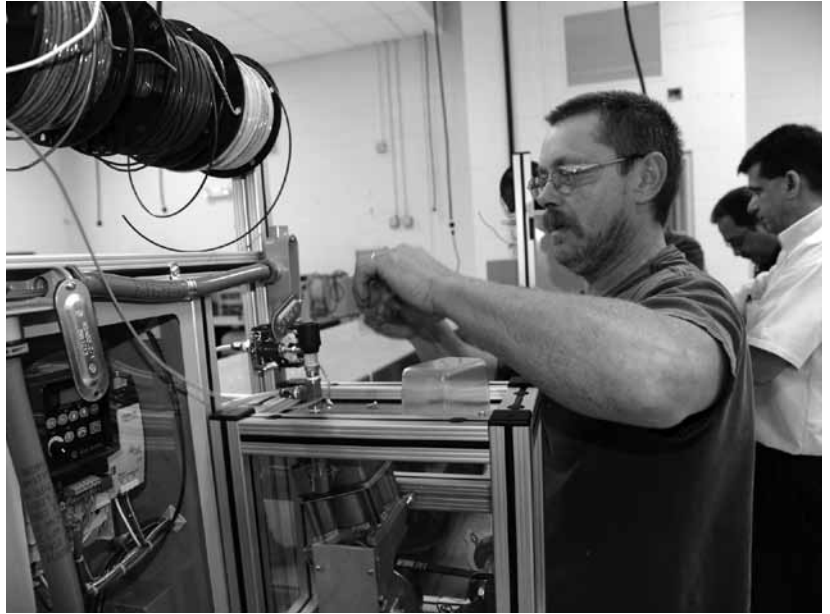
Its mission is still the same, but its name is changing to the Center for Workforce Excellence, said Director Richard Parker. "Our new name reflects the higher level of training we are able to offer industries whose associates require demanding technical skills. Over the past few years we have moved to align our programs with current industry needs, and we believe the name change reflects our new direction as workforce developers," said Richard.

Today's manufacturing workplace requires its technicians to have a broad mix of skills to meet the demands of modern integrated electromechanical systems. One of the Center's newest and most relevant training programs is Mechatronics, which integrates electronics and mechanical competencies for the industrial maintenance occupations, said Richard. "We have purchased the latest Siemens equipment for our labs and are developing curricula to train area maintenance personnel on the newest technology. Our training equipment replicates workplace systems so students are trained on what they will be operating and maintaining in the workplace," he said.

A new program, coming soon at the request of industry, is a CNC machining program to support area machining operations. Participants who complete this 500-hour program will earn The National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) certification. NIMS is the nation's only ANSI-accredited developer of precision manufacturing skill standards. "The ultimate goal often is to earn a CNC degree, but many need courses to get into the workforce or to acquire basic skills, and that's where we come in," said Richard.

The Center also has partnered with the experts at the South Carolina Manufacturing Extension Partnership to provide the highest level of training available in the areas of Lean Manufacturing, Quality Management and Process Improvement, including Lean Six Sigma.

Pulp and paper production classes, to include operator and maintenance training, will begin this summer, thanks to a \$281,852 training grant from the United States Department of Agriculture. Tri-County and York Technical College received grant funds to meet the workforce needs of the local paper-manufacturing workforce.



In the newly equipped lab, **Ronnie Baty**, of Westminster, a maintenance technician at U.S. Engine Valve, learns troubleshooting using new motor control trainers that include the latest PLCs from Siemens.

Over the past three years, nearly 300 individuals have passed the Manufacturing Skills Standard Council (MSSC) exam and gained the Certified Production Technician (CPT) certification which enables workers to build the core knowledge and skills needed in today's advanced manufacturing workplace. The certificate program is based on the MSSC standards and is delivered in a combination of instructor-led and computer-based instruction. The training curriculum covers safety, quality practices and measurement, manufacturing processes and production and maintenance awareness.

A second Logistics certification will follow for persons employed in warehousing materials handling. "Often industries will accept the CPT certification in lieu of one year of work experience when someone applies for a job," added Richard.

"Finally, we are ramping up work on the ACT WorkKeys and KeyTrain programs to increase the basic skills of area workers and to help organizations match open positions with candidates having the necessary skills to succeed," he said.

"We change as the workplace changes, and we modify our course offerings. We are continuing our commitment to continuously improving the quality of our programs and services," he said.

SPOTLIGHT is a regular feature of CONNECTION that highlights College instructional programs, activities, and support services. Surveys show that our own faculty and staff play a significant role in influencing potential students to apply to the College. We're all ambassadors – so stay informed and keep doing a great job spreading the word that Tri-County is a great place to learn and grow!



Debra Nodine, former Early Childhood Program coordinator, sent this e-mail to **Eric Griffith, Gregg**

Rowe, and Ken Kopera:

“I am sending this e-mail to let you know how appreciative I am of the storage shelves on the Anderson Campus in Room 223. I was so excited when I saw them today! It was like Christmas! I can’t thank you enough. The students even commented that it feels like their space now. I know it was not an easy task having to remove all the storage bins from that closet. It was full. I know this project probably took you a good bit of time. Please know that I am appreciative along with the students who attend the Anderson Campus. Thank you, thank you, thank you.”

English Department Head **Robin McFall** was proud to report that **Michelle Todd**, a former English 101 student, whom she wrote a letter of recommendation for when Todd applied for the Soroptimist Scholarship, received the award. Michelle writes:

“I wanted to share some exciting news with you. I was notified yesterday that I have been chosen as a recipient at the regional level for the Soroptimist Scholarship I applied for. In addition to the \$900 award I received for the local level, I will get an additional \$3,000 in May.

I want to thank you once again for your kind and supportive words you wrote on my behalf in your reference letter. I didn’t realize when I applied for this scholarship that there are several levels to it. I will continue to keep you informed as the judging progresses.”

Congratulations to **Tonique Dennis** and **Martez Robinson**, who welcomed a daughter, **Sydney Imomi**, born June 5. She weighed 5 lbs., 13 oz.

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If you wish to thank someone publicly, share personal news, brag about a recent accomplishment in your unit, or any other highlight, send it in for our “Brag & Share” column. E-mail your submission (65 words or less) with “Brag & Share” in the subject line to Lisa Garrett at lgarrett@tctc.edu.

Our College Family

in transition



Bill Whitlock, financial aid director since 2006, center, retired from the College June 30. Since 1984, Bill has worked for the SC Technical College System as Director of Financial Aid at Tri-County and three other technical colleges. He began at Williamsburg Technical College, where he stayed for eight years and moved on to Florence Darlington for another eight years. Prior to coming to Tri-County, he was at Central Carolina. Pictured with him on his final day are, from left, **Kevin Woods, Mary Heyer, Heather Swaminathan, Wanda Pickens, and Sharon Hall.**

The following have departed the College. We wish them well in their new endeavors.

Janet Brdar

Dr. Phil Buckhiester

Debra Nodine

Dr. Gwen Owens

Alison Reynolds

Bill Whitlock

College Purchases Two New Eco-Friendly Vehicles

The College has purchased two new eco-friendly vehicles for its fleet. The 2012 Toyota Prius was chosen for its fuel economy, safety, and reliability. The Hybrid Synergy Drive System assures better fuel economy, reduced vehicle emissions, and improved performance.

The Prius gets 51 miles per gallon in the city and 48 miles per gallon on the highway.

Faculty and staff will be able to check out these vehicles beginning in August, following the issuance of government license plates.

“Because hybrid vehicles operate slightly different from standard vehicles, folks will be required to familiarize themselves with the operation and acknowledge they have done so prior to checking one of them out,” said Ken Kopera, director of facilities.

Liberty Job Fair and Training Expo Held June 25



Liberty residents **Teorha Jones**, left, and **Karen Young**, middle, talk with **Sandra Strickland**, director of business training for our Corporate and Community Education Division, about new career opportunities.

A Job Fair and Training Expo was held for Liberty residents June 25 at the Pickens Career and Technology Center. Participants were given the opportunity to meet area employers with full- and part-time job vacancies. The event was sponsored by Tri-County Technical College, Pickens Adult Education, and the Liberty SC Works Center.

The event reached out to the 200-plus individuals who recently have lost their jobs due to lay-offs in this area. It was a great opportunity for them to talk with potential employers about their futures. Career and training information was available in the following areas: Healthcare, Manufacturing, Business/Retail, Commercial Truck Driving and Heavy Equipment Operation.



Former Liberty Denim employees **Reco Maddox**, of Seneca, left, and **Subra Meencle**, of Liberty, peruse the training pamphlets at the table manned by **Richard Parker** and **Catherine Vinson** of the World Class Training Center, now the Center for Workforce Excellence.

Brag & Share

(continued from page 4)

Tina Burton in our Information Center shared the following conversation she had with the parent of a graduate of our Machine Tool Technology program:

“I just spoke to the mother of one of our TCTC graduates. The graduate is Cody Lee and he received an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Machine Tool Technology last month. His mother informed me that he was hired full-time at BorgWarner, Inc., and is doing well. She repeatedly stated how much she, Cody and her family appreciated everyone here at TCTC.

She said she could not remember everyone’s name, but she did mention the Machine Shop, **Tony Logan** and **David Walker**. She also mentioned **Donald White** in Admissions. She only had praises about us and wanted to share. So did I! This is great and what we want to hear.”



Camp Xceleration

Walker Massey sent this note to **Stephanie Evans** following his son’s participation in the week-long Camp Xceleration sponsored by the Engineering and Industrial Technology Division.

“Thank you for the GREAT experience you provided this week. My son thoroughly enjoyed Camp Xceleration! I took a few photos yesterday and am happy to share all of them with you if it will help with future grant funding and program promotion. Again, many thanks for this opportunity. This was his first experience with Lego Mindstorm, and I am sure it will NOT be the last!”

The Eighties



Each month throughout 2012, CONNECTION will devote two pages to celebrating the College's golden anniversary. Through photos and articles, we will highlight the events which have shaped the College into the role model for community college education that it is today.

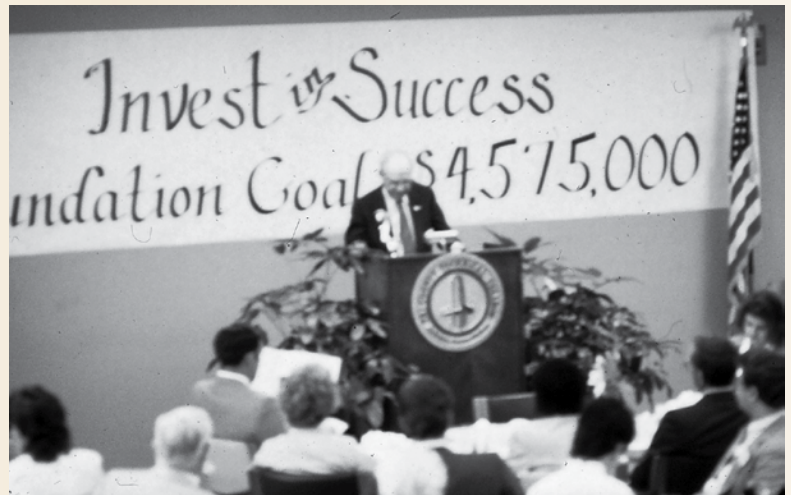
At its first meeting on June 7, 1985, the Tri-County Technical College Foundation Board elected officers and adopted fundraising goals. Paul Wilkerson, retired vice president of Allstate Insurance Company, was elected chairman; Al F. Shorkey, vice chairman; The Honorable John T. Gentry, secretary; and James R. Fowler, treasurer.

Senator Ernest Hollings launched the Foundation in August, 1986, at a special luncheon that attracted nearly 300 people.

In 1986 the Board launched a five-year campaign to raise \$4,575,000 to go toward maintaining quality and excellence in credit and continuing education programs with a focus on the Industrial and Business

Development Center; a Child Care Center; books and audio-visuals for the library; equipment; scholarships; and faculty/staff development. They also adopted a one-year goal of \$85,000 to support capital improvements and program services.

"You're guaranteed a return on your money, and it's a safe investment," **Foundation Board Chairman Paul Wilkerson**, pictured above, said as he spoke about the Foundation's first year as an active fundraising organization. His leadership as the first chair of the College Foundation resulted in raising more than \$200,000 in cash and pledges for the Foundation goals and about \$20,000 in restricted scholarships, beyond the \$50,000 contributed for textile management scholarships.



Members of the Area Commission, legislative delegations, and county councils symbolically broke ground for the Learning Resources Center, now Hicks Hall, on September 11, 1988. Pictured from left are **Sen. T. Ed Garrison**, **Sen. Alex Macaulay**, Commission Chair **J.B. Ouzts**, **Dr. Don Garrison**, president of Tri-County; Commission Vice Chair **Bruce Norton**, Pickens County Legislative Chair **B.L. Hendricks**, Pickens County Council Chair **Bob Nash**, and Oconee County Council Chair **Norman Crain**.



CORRECTION

Last month's anniversary tribute featured a photo of Renae Frazier at her 1988 graduation from Tri-County. Also in the photo was her mother, Lola Thomas, who is not deceased and who is alive and well and living in Anderson. Renae and Mrs. Thomas, we regret the error.

Student Government Association officers, from left, **Monty McConnell**, **Donna Fowler Pund**, **Jeff Patterson**, and **Gina Coker** broke ground on the College's first Student Center, Mall, and Amphitheater facility. Located at the center of campus, the Student Center at the time housed dining facilities, a counseling center, SGA offices, lounges, and the bookstore.



The Student Government Association was chosen the best of the State's technical college student organizations participating in a leadership conference at Myrtle Beach in 1982. Showcasing the trophy are, from left, **Maureen Crawford**, secretary; **Beth Byers**, vice president; **Bobbi Montgomery**, president; and SGA faculty sponsor **June Wright**. Byers also was named one of five outstanding individual participants in the conference.



The Tri-County Technical College Alumni Association was established in May 1985 by graduates and former students committed to furthering the goals of the College through their active support of its programs and activities. The alumni officers were officially inducted into office on May 30, 1985. The first officers of the Alumni Association are from left, **Scott Webber**, treasurer; **Dot Bradley**, secretary; **Dana Robertson** (now Griffith), president; and the late **Bob Chiles**, vice president for membership.

The first memorial to the military veterans in Upstate South Carolina who paid the supreme sacrifice in Vietnam was dedicated May 25, 1980. It is located at the main entrance to Tri-County's Pendleton campus and continues to attract visitors each year.

Howansky Receives Faculty Senate Scholarship

This year the Faculty Senate awarded the Faculty Choice Scholarship to David Howansky, 37, an associate degree Nursing major from Townville. David works part time as a Nurse Assistant at



David Howansky

AnMed Health Medical Center. He writes:

"This scholarship award means a great deal to me. If I had not received this award, I would have had to postpone continuing my studies. This would mean more time until graduation and more time waiting for a better living standard for my family. (David and his wife, Jennifer, are parents to four children, ages 12, 10, 9, and 7.) Soon after the beginning of the current economic recession, I had basically lost my trade. I had been a cabinetmaker for more than 10 years, and it was as if the bottom had dropped out of everything. I was out of work and headed toward financial ruin. I prayed a lot and thought a lot. Finally I decided to go back to school for nursing. My academic career has been very rewarding thus far, and I have a 3.53 GPA. I am also a member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor fraternity.

Thank you once again from the bottom of my heart for helping me to become a greater provider for my family and a greater community servant."

Note: This scholarship was established in 2006 and is awarded annually for students that meet the following criteria: a minimum 3.0 GPA; at least six credit hours completed; must be enrolled in a degree or diploma program; and must submit letters of recommendation from at least two faculty verifying that the student exhibits characteristics of an excellent student.

First Class of BMW Scholars Graduate



Seven of our students were among the first class of 14 BMW Scholars who recently graduated and were officially hired as full-time BMW production and equipment service associates. Pictured from left to right are **Chad Looper, Thomas "Cole" Johnson, Adam Grantz, Kenneth Denmon, Dr. Booth, Alison Reynolds**, former career services counselor, **Michael Bonham, Michael Bellamy, and Charlton Balcombe**.

Seven of our students were among the first class of 14 BMW Scholars who recently graduated and were officially hired as full-time BMW production and equipment service associates. Among those participating in the ceremony held at BMW Manufacturing June 18, were Charlton Balcombe, Michael Bellamy, Michael Bonham, Kenneth Denmon, Adam Grantz, Thomas Johnson, and Chad Looper.

Together with partners from Greenville Technical College, Spartanburg Community College, and Tri-County, BMW's President Josef Kerscher celebrated the recruitment program saying, "Future development of the manufacturing workforce in the Upstate is part of our long-term sustainability strategy and commitment to education. As today's event signifies, the BMW Scholars Program has proven itself to be a successful recruitment tool."

The South Carolina plant launched the BMW Scholars in August 2011 and has recruited more than 30 Scholars, with another 35 planned to enroll this fall. For technical college students enrolled in various career paths related to manufacturing technology, 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. According to Kerscher, "This is a great example of how collaboration between the educational and manufacturing sector leads to far better outcomes for our next generation."

Bridge to Clemson Admits 600 Students

The Bridge to Clemson program, in its seventh year this fall, held five orientations in June for approximately 600 students set to join us this fall. This is the Bridge program's largest class to date. There was a sixth late orientation July 10 for students recently admitted or unable to attend the June sessions.

Bridge students are outstanding students whose applications weren't accepted at Clemson because programs are full and/or the increased competition for incoming freshmen. A first of its kind in South Carolina, this invitation-only program blends the traditional academic experience at Tri-County with the social and cultural experiences of being a Clemson University student.

This collaborative initiative between Tri-County and Clemson University offers Bridge 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 minimum 2.5 GPA. They live in an apartment complex, Highpointe of Clemson.

A new component to the orientation sessions this summer was placing students together in small groups/teams to give them a chance to get to know their peers. Ambassadors met with small individual groups and talked about involvement opportunities in student life.



Lou Ann Martin, left, assists incoming Bridge to Clemson student **Patrick Duda**, of Greenville, with registering for classes.

Dr. Mark Taylor Discusses Gen NeXt

Faculty and staff had the opportunity to participate in a two-part workshop June 29 conducted by **Dr. Mark Taylor**, pictured here, an educator, speaker and consultant known throughout the United States and Canada. The workshops focused on Generation NeXt, a term Dr. Taylor coined to describe traditional-age youth entering college today. The first session highlighted the characteristics and expectations of Generation NeXt and the unique challenges they present to those charged with teaching, serving, and supervising them through their college experience. The second session explored ways faculty can create an effective learning model for these students based on increasing classroom activity, the establishment and operation of learning communities, and the use of available technologies to improve instructional efficiency and effectiveness.



Retirees

(continued from page 1)

"At Tri-County, students come first with Gwen," said Linda Crowe, administrative assistant for the Comprehensive Studies Division who worked alongside Gwen for years. "She puts aside what she is doing to address students' needs. She gives every student individual attention and that communicates the warm, caring attitude she has for every person who calls on her. When situations occur with students, such as home, work, financial, emotional, physical, etc., she considers all of the options available and encourages a solution. She goes above and beyond the call of the average educator," said Linda.

"Dr. Buckhiester is an encourager, a mentor, and a role model," said Lou Ann Martin, Title III activity director for the Academic Support Network. "He has been influential in giving me a chance to do the things I've done, like the Title III project. He is so easy to work with," added Lou Ann, who served as Faculty Senate President for three years.

"I appreciate that he is thoughtful in his decisions, with faculty and staff in mind. Both admire and respect him for that. He has the faculty at heart and is able to balance administrative duties while understanding the roles and responsibilities of faculty," she added.

For more than 30 years, Gwen and Phil have distinguished themselves in academia and the community. Both have been chosen as the College's outstanding Educators of the Year and have been recognized at the South Carolina Technical Education Association (SCTEA) meeting. In 1995 Gwen received the highest award presented to faculty, the Presidential Medallion for Instructional Excellence at commencement.

Dr. Buckhiester is a former member of the executive committee of the Chief Academic Officers' (CAO) peer group and served as the liaison for the General Education/AA/AS peer group. He is a former member of the Commission on Higher Education's articulation and dual enrollment, high school graduation and postsecondary entrance alignment committee, established by the Education and Economic Development Coordinating Council.

CCE Offers Customized Training for Hospice



The Healthcare Programs Department of the Corporate and Community Education Division (CCE) developed a customized training program for 40 nurses from Hospice of the Upstate. The course focused on reviewing and verifying the competencies for the organization's nurses employed in home health and at the Rainey Hospice House, Hospice's residential facility. Pictured from left are **Raye Steele**, RN, facility director; **Janelle Hicks**, MHSA, director, Tri-County CCE healthcare programs; **Cherie Love**, RN, Tri-County adjunct nursing instructor; **Deb Martin**, RN, CHPRN, home care director; and **Linda Morgan**, RN, quality improvement manager.

Anderson Campus Hosts Traveling Exhibit



The Anderson Campus now has a traveling exhibit on Rosenwald Schools from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is located in the entry foyer directly across from the original mini-exhibit. This is an exhibit that is traveling across the nation related to the overall Rosenwald initiative and Tri-County's focuses on South Carolina schools. In addition, Anderson Campus Director Tim Bowen just returned from the first-ever national conference on Rosenwald Schools at Tuskegee University.



Executive Staff Updates

- **Learning Management System (LMS) Review:** A project was approved to assemble a team to conduct a feasibility study to research the pros and cons of switching to a different LMS due to ongoing technical problems with the Blackboard product.
- **Diversity Benchmark Follow-up:** The President's Advisory Committee will be involved in the next phase of a diversity benchmarking study, which is designed to help the College identify areas for improvement.
- **Strategic Communications Focused on Student Success:** A series of communications throughout the new academic year will highlight areas we are focusing on to improve student success, specifically the matriculation process, curriculum and instruction, advising, LC², scheduling, and retention planning.
- **FY 13 Budgets:** Balancing the operational budget for upcoming FY 13 was a challenge due to flat revenue projections and growing needs. If enrollment drops, we will need to make adjustments in September.

- **Matriculation Process:** Assessment continues. Several projects are being formed to address various processes.
- **Retention:** The Retention Project Work Group participated in a facilitated session to identify root cause issues negatively impacting retention and developed preliminary strategic directions for making improvements. Teams will be formed to develop specific improvement plans within each strategy. Employees from all areas of the College will be involved. The retention plan that will ultimately be developed will be the core of our student success agenda. In August, the President's Advisory Council will review a first draft of the retention plan.
- **Fall Enrollment:** We are tracking enrollment projections for Fall Semester on a weekly basis. A decline is projected, which will have a negative impact on our current budget. Many efforts are taking place to positively impact enrollment.
- **Graduation and Success Rates:** New data are available; the Institutional Planning and Effectiveness office will distribute charts to

share with deans, department heads, etc.

- **Mission and Vision:** This fall, we will continue the process of reviewing and updating our College mission and vision.
- **Radio and Television Broadcasting Project:** In order to keep abreast with technology in the workplace and as a first step in preparing to transition the RTV program to a Visual and Digital Media degree, a project was approved to purchase new computers and software to equip labs. Non-operational (plant) funds will pay for the new technology.
- **General Education Outcomes:** Thanks to a Spring Semester pilot project, we now have a mechanism for assessing two of the four required general education outcomes needed for reaccreditation. The next step is to work on the two remaining outcomes requirements.
- **Other:** approval of policy and procedure changes (notice of changes and revised copies are available in eTC); tutoring center renovations; State budget update.

Grads Get Jobs at Employment Fair



Eleven healthcare agencies attended the job fair hosted by CCE Healthcare Programs Department and held June 22 in the IBDC, with many attending grads walking away with jobs that very day. **Nikolas Daves**, of Townville, an associate degree Nursing student, talks with **Nancy Farrar**, RN and director of nursing at Lila Doyle. In the background, **Kathy Salsman**, human resource generalist at Oconee Medical Center, right, talks with **Rebecca Espinosa**, of Easley, who was hired that day to work as a Certified Nurse Aide.



Ann Courtney, left, RN and assistant director of Nursing at Lila Doyle Nursing Care, talks with **Leyda Ibarra**, of Seneca, a CNA graduate. “Both employers and students appreciated the opportunity for each of their goals to be met that day,” said Healthcare Program Director, Janelle Hicks.

ETS Holds Annual Math and Science Mini-Camp



Joyce Shepherd, middle school counselor for the Educational Talent Search program, standing, leads a session for the students.

The Educational Talent Search (ETS) program held its 2012 Middle School math and science mini-camp June 18 – 22 with around 30 seventh and eighth graders from the tri-counties in attendance. “We want to get them excited about math and science in a controlled community environment. The five-day camp was action packed with full days of activities,” said Herm Allen, coordinator of ETS.



Camp participant **Olivia Goodwin**

In the classroom, they worked on dream boards, showing what their ideal future will look like. “We talk about self esteem – you can be what you want to be. It’s enriching and fun,” he said.

In addition to studying math and science in the classroom, they took field trips to the Roper Mountain Science Center and the Greenville Zoo. The final day was a field trip to the Lego Store in Concord, NC, which focuses on STEM activities by using math and science to construct LEGO bridges. They also visited Discovery Place Museum in Charlotte.

CONNECTING

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specifically, the events at the College, State, and national levels that have impacted student success, particularly the events of the last five years. Since 2007, our enrollment has increased 30 percent, in large part as a result of the economy. At the same time, we were dealing with unprecedented reductions to our State funding. To further exacerbate the situation, we were in the process of opening two new, long-awaited, full-service community campuses. When everything came together like a perfect storm, we immediately found ourselves doing exactly what people do in a storm – that is, simply survive.

Fast forward to the present time. Less than one year ago, our semester-by-semester enrollment began declining as the economy started to show signs of recovery. At the same time, we were faced with new measures of accountability for student success and more stringent financial aid regulations, both in the wake of drastically reduced State funding. The days of open access for the sake of providing students with the opportunity to learn quickly morphed into a mandate to ensure that we are doing everything possible to help our current students reach their goals.

The retention plan that ultimately will be developed by the retention project group will serve as the core of our student success agenda. Employees from all areas of the College will be involved and empowered to shape our future as an institution focused solely on the success of our students.

From access to success. The journey will not always be easy, but the rewards will be well worth it for our students and the community.



Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D.
President

Wes Green Accepted into 2012 Summer Palmetto Academy

When adjunct biology instructor Drew McRae got a departmental e-mail with information about a grant opportunity for students through the S.C. Space Grant Consortium, Wes Green immediately came to his mind.

Wes, a 26-year-old single parent, with the goal of becoming a physician, was a student in McRae's biology classes. Wes was taking university transfer classes before transferring to Clemson.

"My experience with Wes in class, his work ethic, drive and capability of performing at a high level, made him a good candidate for being chosen as a grant recipient," said Drew.

Wes applied and recently learned he was among the two- and four-year college students accepted into the 2012 Summer Palmetto Academy. Green was one of two technical college students accepted. He was awarded a \$5,000 grant from the S.C. Space Grant Consortium. He also was one of 10 transfer students accepted into Clemson's Health Science Department and will enter this fall.

"I was so surprised and very grateful," said Wes, the first in his family to attend college. He attended a meeting in Charleston June 7 and will begin his summer research under the director of Dr. Delphine Dean of Clemson University's Bioengineering Department. This summer he will work with her on researching the effects of ionizing radiation on articular cartilage of astronauts in space.

"When astronauts go into space, studies have shown that they lose their innate shielding," explained McRae. "Our atmosphere on earth blocks most high energy radiation but in space the body's tissues (in this case, cartilage) can be damaged when exposed to the radiation in space."

Wes, who earned a certificate in university studies before transferring to Clemson, says affordability and location factored into his decision to enter Tri-County. "I've had a very good experience. It has taught me about what I am capable of, including my strengths and weaknesses as a person and as a student. Mr. McRae, in particular, has been tremendously helpful. Without him I never would have known about the grant opportunity."

"This will be a fantastic, unique experience for Wes," said Drew, "and will stand out on his resume. Wes has definite goals in mind and this research will give him invaluable experience."

"It's a great way to spend the summer," said Wes, who after working in carpentry and later in quality control, reevaluated his life and decided to pursue his dream. That's what led him to Tri-County.

"I'm happy with where I am now. I have direction and I have drive. I know where I want to go. Tri-County helped me to define that goal," said Wes.



Wes Green, right, recently learned he was among the two- and four-year college students accepted into the 2012 Summer Palmetto Academy. He is pictured with Tri-County adjunct biology instructor **Drew McRae**.