

Connection

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Fifteen Enroll in First I-BEST Manufacturing Career Pathways Program



This semester 15 students started the two college classes (COL 120 and MFG 101) in Level 2 of the I-BEST Manufacturing Career Pathway Program. Pictured front row, left to right, are **Daniel Fitzgerald, Robert Libby, Rachel Ossman, Anna Catoe, Tea Nichols, and Yolize Monson**; and back row, **Julianne Diccico-Wiles, instructor; Nathan Stanley, Amber Bakley, Andrew Pruitt, Daniel Pearson, Chad Allen, Danny Adams, Trejon Craig, Jacob Welborn, Nicole Harris, and Robin Long, instructor**.

This past August the College launched the initial phase of the first of four I-BEST career pathway programs. Designed as a collaborative partnership with area Adult Education Centers, the I-BEST Manufacturing Pathway program offers unprecedented opportunity for under-resourced adults to earn college credit, national certifications, and WorkKeys credentials at the gold or platinum levels—all leading to good jobs with a future in local manufacturing companies and offering additional Pathway learning/earning opportunities.

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Dr. Booth Honored with Duke Energy Award



Photo Courtesy of Rachel Dinkel

Congratulations to **Dr. Booth**, third from left, who was honored with the Duke Energy Citizenship and Service Award at the Anderson Chamber of Commerce awards luncheon. This annual award is a tribute to individuals or groups who make a difference in their communities or places of work by using their time, talents, and compassion to positively impact the lives of others. Pictured from left to right are **John Wright, Jr.**, of McCoy Wright Realty and chair, Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; **Pam Christopher**, president, Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce; **Emily DeRoberts**, Duke Energy, Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce board member; and **Jon Gordon**, guest speaker and author.

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

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

Connecting

Foundation Achieves Fundraising Goal Mid-Year



Dr. Ronnie L. Booth
President

The Tri-County Technical College Foundation achieved its FY17 fundraising goal to raise \$950,000—six months ahead of schedule. We believe this may be the year we break our annual fundraising record, thanks to the hard work of our staff and Foundation Board members.

Our generous donors mirror the vibrant community we are privileged to serve—large industries, local businesses, individuals, foundations, and more.

The Thrift Brothers, a local family-owned business in Oconee County, has given our largest gift to date this year—\$300,000. These funds have been designated for future expansion projects, such as the Industrial Technology Center, the upcoming Oconee Campus, and other expansions we may undertake.

The Abney Foundation, the largest donor in the history of the TCTC Foundation, has chosen to invest in our Corporate and Community Education Division, citing the immediate, life-changing impact of short-term QuickJobs training as the reason for its gift of \$75,000. Our hope is QuickJobs training will be only the beginning for these students. Once they are back on their feet, these students can continue their education without loss of time or credit through our stackable credentials program. We look forward to the day when we have a Hayden Abney Fulp Memorial Scholarship recipient complete a QuickJobs program, decide to advance his/her education, and receive another Hayden Abney Fulp Memorial Scholarship while enrolled in a credit program of study.

We received a \$50,000 donation from Robert Bosch Corporation in support of our Engineering and Industrial Technology programs. Over the years, Bosch has been a tremendous industry partner, donating funds for equipment and funding STEM camps for youth, robotics competitions, and more.

For the first time, we received an anonymous donation to fund scholarships for the nationally-recognized Bridge to Clemson program. A benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous, donated \$75,000 to be used for scholarships for Bridge students, which will help make the program more affordable for those with limited financial means.

A local family business, large foundation, major industry, and anonymous individual. Why do these donors and hundreds of other individuals and companies give so generously to the Foundation? The same reason you, our employees, give so generously. They believe in our mission and are willing to invest in our vision to transform lives and build strong communities in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.

Achieving our fundraising goal mid-year is like a shot in the arm. Our sights are now set on a new annual record.

Ronnie L. Booth, Ph.D., President



Spotlight on Heart Health Awareness Month

Stephanie Brown Serves as a Heart Health Spokesperson

On a Sunday morning in July of 2015, Stephanie Brown was getting ready for church when she began to feel anxious



Stephanie Brown

and overheated. She wasn't able to sit still so she began to pace. It was an unusual and disturbing feeling, she recalls; she wasn't experiencing any pain and had no problems breathing but she knew she needed medical attention. Before her husband put her in the car to head to the hospital Emergency Room, she vomited.

On the way to the ER, she was in and out of consciousness.

She now knows she was experiencing her first heart attack—at age 43. It was the first of many—an estimated 50 or 60 heart attacks over the next seven days before she received a correct diagnosis and was taken to surgery where a stent was inserted to relieve a 76 percent blockage in her left LAD coronary artery.

"I remember looking at my husband later and saying, 'if I had been at home by myself that Sunday, I wouldn't have made it,'" said Stephanie, a Licensed Veterinary Technician, who serves as program director/instructor, as well as head of the evening Veterinary Technology program.

Like many women, Stephanie didn't have the crippling chest pain or pain shooting down her arm that often accompanies a heart attack. And, like many women, she was misdiagnosed.

When she arrived at the Easley ER that Sunday morning, hospital staff couldn't get a blood pressure reading after multiple attempts. "I basically had bottomed out," said Stephanie. After hooking her up to an EKG four times, hospital staff determined she was having a heart attack. Following a dose of nitro glycerin to relieve her symptoms, she was transported to another hospital whose staff performed multiple tests and a heart catheterization. They determined there were no blockages, and after two days in the hospital, sent her home to 'take it easy.' Final diagnosis: anxiety.

She later learned that her feelings of anxiety were her body's reaction to having restricted blood flow to the heart muscle. And her nausea was related to her digestive system not getting enough blood.

While men typically suffer chest pains that feel like an elephant is sitting on their chest, women experience far more



Stephanie Brown, seated far right, with Go Red spokeswomen

subtle symptoms like fatigue, mild pain, and not always in the region of the heart, pressure or achiness in the breastbone, upper back, shoulders, neck, or jaw—signs that are often ignored until it's too late.

During the next week at home, Stephanie experienced repeated episodes of chest pain, difficulty breathing, and a tingling down her arm. A cardiologist later determined she had suffered about 18 heart attacks during that week at home.

Stephanie met with Greenville cardiologist Dr. James Merriam, who finally delivered the proper diagnosis. As she spoke with Dr. Merriam in his office, she began to have more episodes where she couldn't breathe. "I had had about 50 or 60 of them while at home the past week and probably 18 over a 12-hour period before I got to Dr. Merriam's office," she said. Dr. Merriam noted she had three additional episodes while he was talking with her. At the doctor's office, Dr. Merriam took one look at her EKG and rushed her to the hospital catheterization lab, where they inserted a stent.

"I have had no problems since. I was back to work in two weeks. I was finally back on track," she said. As part of her treatment plan, Stephanie takes one heart medication in the morning and an aspirin at night.

Today she feels great and is ready to tell her story.

"I have a real desire to educate the public about women and heart disease and strokes. Dr. Merriam asked me to talk about my experience with others. I am dedicated to advocating for women's heart health issues. I've often asked God, 'why me'? Now I know my experience is a gift I can turn into knowledge for others. Get your numbers. Be aware of your body. My lifestyle was healthy. I am in shape, fit, and have good numbers. I didn't think I was a candidate for a heart attack. But anybody can be," she said.

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Building Leadership Qualities

Seventy-Seven Inducted into National Society of Leadership and Success

Tri-County's newest student organization, the National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), is designed to identify and develop students' leadership skills using real-world applications.

It's exactly what Candice Gillespie, of Easley, 41 and a mother of six, needed during her senior year to complement what she is learning in the Criminal Justice (CRJ) program.

"It's helpful to have a personal connection with folks outside of the CRJ curriculum and to participate in workshops that reinforce the idea that being a true leader is about doing little things that matter every day," said Candice, who plans to transfer to Columbia College and pursue a CRJ degree online. Her career goal is to become a victim's advocate.

NSLS is new this year on campus and is the first society that focuses solely on building leadership qualities, said Scott Jaeschke, coordinator of Community Standards, who also serves as NSLS co-advisor, along with Lori Morrissette, manager of our Student Development and Management Programs.

"Its focus is on leadership experiences and achievements," added Scott. "We focus on the personal goals of our members and how they can achieve them."

Last semester around 1,100 students who achieved GPAs of 2.75 or better and had completed at least 12 credit hours of full- and part-time college work received invitation letters.

Two hundred and forty students were accepted, and 77 completed all of the steps in fall 2016 to be fully inducted into the organization. A ceremony was held in December at the Anderson Campus with around 60 inductees in attendance with their families, friends, and mentors.

During the fall semester, the group participated in an orientation session and a leadership training day with group and individual exercises. Participants formed success networking teams and peer-to-peer networking groups that focused on goal achievement.

The group met every two weeks during academic term.

They watched video presentations (pre-recorded and/or live) by three nationally-known public speakers. They interacted in three small group discussions and participated in a three-hour leadership retreat to focus on their personal leadership styles.



The National Society of Leadership and Success held an induction ceremony in December at the Anderson Campus with around 60 inductees in attendance with their families, friends, and mentors. The group posed for a photo following the ceremony.



Candice Gillespie

"We talked about what future employers are looking for and how they can apply these skills in their job searches, in their personal lives, and in their future workplaces," said Scott.

"We want them to discover their desire to be proactive leaders. They also focus on individual reflections, and the small groups develop action plans. They take long-term goals and break them into smaller, more manageable short-term goals that they can realistically achieve in parts," he explained.

"Talking with my team about meeting our goals was extremely helpful. I really appreciated the diver-

sity of the group," said Candice.

"I really enjoyed the videos about self improvement and their focus on how you can contribute to your community," said Candice, who will continue her work with NSLS this semester as President of Tri-County's Executive Board.

A one-time fee of \$85 (paid by the students) enables participants to have lifelong access to an NSLS website and programs. Students/members continue to receive NSLS comprehensive career coaching and access to a job bank.

NSLS at a Glance

- Founded in 2001 by visionary Gary Tuerack
- Purpose: helping individuals discover and achieve their dreams
- Largest leadership honor society in the United States
- 500+ chapters and 475,000+ members
- Nationally recognized and based on academic accomplishment and leadership

Three Faculty/Staff Members Honored as Educators of the Year

Three employees have been honored as Tri-County Technical College's Educators of the Year and will be recognized at the South Carolina Technical Education Association (SCTEA) meeting in February.

Sarah Shumpert, director of Curriculum and Instructional Support, is the College's outstanding administrator; Marianne Yohannan, biology instructor and High Impact Practices fellow, is the outstanding instructor; and, Margaret Burdette, coordinator of SACS Compliance and Assessment, is the outstanding staff nominee.

SCTEA is a professional association of technical education personnel and others interested in post-secondary technical education. Sarah, Marianne, and Margaret will be recognized at the SCTEA awards

luncheon Friday, February 17. The SCTEA Conference is scheduled for February 16-18 at the Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort.



Sarah Shumpert



Marianne Yohannan



Margaret Burdette

Mark Your Calendars

The SCTEA Conference is set for February 16-18 in Myrtle Beach. The theme of the conference is Power of Partnership. The focus of the conference is the many and varied partnerships the South Carolina Technical College System has with colleges, businesses, and industries.

Tri-County session presenters include George Fiori, Richard Parker, Doug Wilson/Robert Ellenberg, Scott Jaeschke, Valbona Cela/Penny Edwards, and Laura McClain.



Reception Honors Students Named to President's List

Dr. Booth hosted a reception January 19 for students named to the President's List for Fall Semester. He is pictured (center) with those who attended the event. To be named to the President's List, one must take at least 12 credit hours and have a 4.0 GPA for the semester. To view all of the photos from the event, visit the College's public website at tctc.edu and click on the Flickr link.



McGee Donation Supports ITC

Representatives of McGee Heating and Air presented a check for \$2,500 to the Tri-County Technical College Foundation to support technology for the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning program. Pictured from left to right are Justin Herndon, HVAC program coordinator; Robert Kesler, McGee Heating and Air; Dr. Booth; Chad Ankerich, McGee Heating and Air; and Courtney White, director of Development.

Food, Fun, Fellowship at Holiday Celebration

Faculty and staff gathered to enjoy music, food, fun, fellowship and door prizes at the Annual Holiday Celebration held in December.

The purpose of this party was to celebrate and recognize the outstanding year the College had and to provide an opportunity for employees to enjoy some time together (and some light

refreshments) prior to the holiday break. Many thanks to Executive Staff and SET for sponsoring the event.

*LEFT: Music instructor **Julia West** entertained the crowd with holiday tunes.*

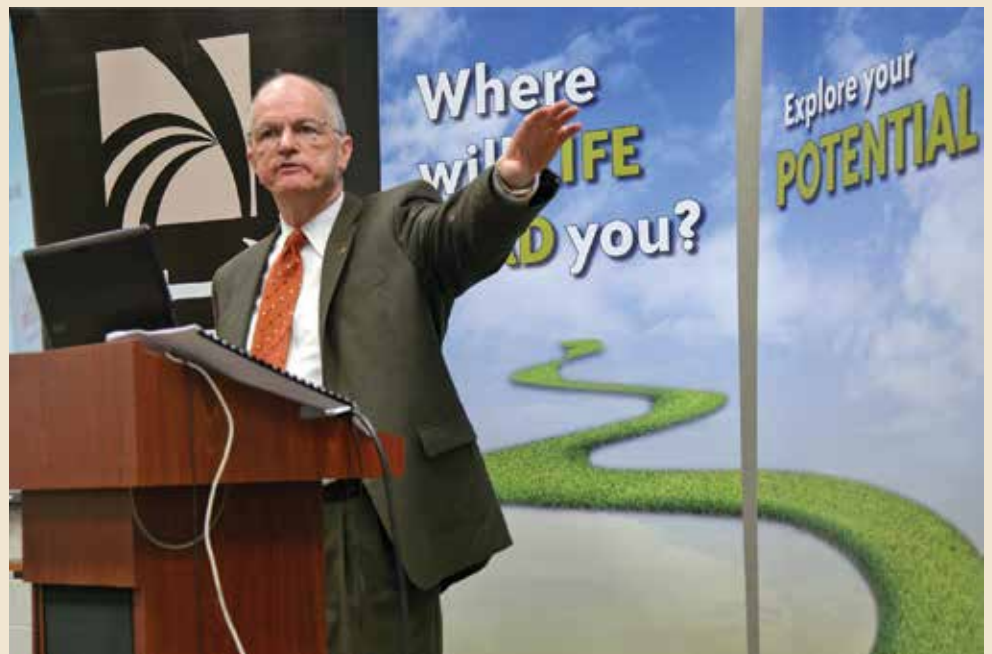
*CENTER: Trombonist **Jeff Swords**, a part-time service desk technician at our Easley Campus, played two selections, “Away in a Manger” and “Patapan.”*

*RIGHT: **Veronica Glanton**, performed “Mary, Did You Know.” A flutist since performing with her high school band, after a 30-year hiatus, Veronica recently began playing again. She now performs with a volunteer organization, the Greenville Concert Band.*



College Hosts “Taste of Pendleton” Event

“We couldn’t be more proud to call Pendleton home,” **Dr. Booth**, pictured here, told a large crowd of community members at the annual State of Pendleton event held January 26 in the Industrial and Business Development Center. The College was a sponsor of the event. In addition to Dr. Booth, attendees heard presentations from Pendleton Mayor Frank Crenshaw, Keith Moody from Clemson Area Transit, and Joanne Avery, superintendent of Anderson School District 4. In addition, the event featured a “Taste of Pendleton” with food and beverages provided by area restaurants and food purveyors.





C2C Grads Receive Diplomas

Six students earned their high school diplomas through Connect to College (C2C) during a graduation ceremony December 14. Pictured from left to right are **Rachel McClain, Shailyn Holcombe, Chance Hunter, and Sheila Raynor**. Not pictured are **Tiffany Aguilar** and **Jordan Turner**. All six plan to continue their education and earn a college degree.

C2C enables academically capable youth between the ages of 17-20 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 “second chance” program for students who, for a variety of reasons, have not been successful in a traditional high school. The program provides students with intensive support services that build confidence and foster success in a collegiate learning environment.

TAPS Sponsors Celebration at New Foundations

Every semester, Tri-County Association of Political Scientists or TAPS chooses at least one worthy community partner to serve in various capacities. Previous projects have included preparing and serving a Thanksgiving dinner to the local homeless community, sponsoring voter registration drives, and donating/sorting food for AIM’s food pantry.

This year, TAPS partnered with New Foundations to sponsor a celebration for the kids who live at the home. New Foundations Home For Children is a private, non-profit agency specializing in caring for emotionally troubled children, adolescents, and families.

The party included food, a DJ, and a photo booth, and our female students gave the New Foundations girls mini makeovers. As a club, the group also collected approximately 30 coats/jackets for the kids.



*Pictured from left are **Nicholas Newell, Darius Geer, Yvonne Martin, Skye Burdette, Leigh Dickson, and Joshua Scott.***



Gifts for Veterans

Thanks to the generosity of students and employees, the Student Veterans Association collected enough holiday gifts for the Richard Campbell Veterans Home to fill four vehicles. Donations were delivered December 9 by (second and third from left) **Lori Morrisette**, manager of Student Development and Involvement Programs, and **Stacey Frank**, psychology instructor and veteran, along with (from left) student veterans **Phillip Oxford, Savana Monsche-Wilson** (Pendleton High School student), **Amanda Nix, Brandon Stockton, John Matta**, and canine friend **Spirit**.

Our College Family



Matt Edwards

excellence through service

Matt Edwards Is A. Wade Martin Nominee

Matt Edwards, Information Technology director, is our nominee for the A. Wade Martin Innovator of the Year Award. The award, to be given

at the SCTEA conference, recognizes individuals in the Technical College System who employ innovative approaches to meet the ever changing needs in the technical education arena.

For the last two years, Matt has been responsible for bringing the College into compliance with a recent unfunded State mandate that requires all State agencies to adopt thirteen new cyber security-related policies from the S.C. Department of Information System (DIS). Not only did Matt tackle this enormous challenge at the College level, he also stepped up to address the issue at the S.C. Technical College System level. As the first College to initiate this type of program, he provided invaluable leadership, resources, and expertise to sister colleges and the System office.

Matt's innovative and forward-thinking approach involved data analysis obtained from institution-wide surveys, workshops, and an untold number of meetings and conference calls with SCTCS, peer colleges, and the College's consultant. The deliverable for Tri-County was a Cyber Security Gap Analysis related to each of the twenty-two National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) categories and ninety-eight subcategories derived from over 3,000 data points at the College and over 20,000 data points at the SCTCS level. The data points were synthesized and used to develop a risk-based approach based on industry best practices specific to Tri-County Technical College and consistent with the DIS policy requirements and the NIST framework.

Matt has been the primary driving force and an example for all of the technical colleges in the State. As an architect of the System-wide approach to address cybersecurity compliance, Matt was the first to conduct a deep-dive into the national standards in the information technology area. He has educated all the System colleges on the tools and assisted in launching the System-wide analysis. All of the colleges in the System used this approach for identifying their individual cyber security gaps, which includes an emphasis on the people, processes, and technology at all System colleges.

The true innovation that Matt achieved in the cyber security effort was the combination of security standards, risk, and application to close cyber security gaps. As a result of this effort,

the College was able to obtain joint funding and use the same basic process with all technical colleges and the State Tech office. Beyond his leadership and support of this enormous System-wide initiative, Matt has been a key player in establishing the Enterprise IT Security Team (EST) across the Technical College System. He serves as the Chair of the Information Technology (IT) Peer Group for the S.C. Technical College System and is a member of the IT Policies and Procedures Review and Update Committee. Matt not only has made Tri-County's data safer and more secure; he has generously shared his approach and tools with all colleges in the System. This serves not only our individual colleges, but also the students and the communities we serve.

TC Central Team Members Nominated for A. Wade Martin Team Innovation Award

Like most community colleges across the nation, Tri-County Technical College is committed to serving under-resourced, first-generation, and post-traditional students. For all students, but these in particular, the enrollment process can be a confusing, overwhelming process, requiring face-to-face, electronic, or personal contact with multiple offices, sometimes resulting in individuals giving up before they ever complete the process.

Two years ago, the College made a commitment to fix this problem. A team of employees representing Admissions, Financial Aid, Student Records, Advising, and the community campuses came together with a commitment to focus entirely on the student experience rather than office processes and procedures.

Developing a "one stop" model was the logical starting point. The team



TC Central Nominees are from left (front row) **Sue Dacus**, Student Data Center/Student Records; **Cathy Cole**, Student Data Center; and **Scott Harvey**, registrar; (middle row) **Tasheka Johnson**, student success coach; **Betty Fant**, TC Central; **Tracey Williams**, TC Central director; **Marilyn Angoli**, Student Data Center; **Lynn Smith**, career counselor; **Tiffany Blackwell**, Admissions, Recruiting, and Orientation director; **Jo Ann Fant**, Anderson Community Campus; **Tina Burton**, TC Central; and (back row) **Adam Ghiloni**, Financial Aid director; **Donald White**, student success coach; **Cyndy Watts**, TC Central; and **Kristal Doherty**, Business Office. Not pictured are: **Jenni Creaner**, dean of College Transitions; **Jason Hart**, IT Operations director; and **Cathy Payne**, Student Data Center.

researched best practices, analyzed processes, and developed recommendations for an integrated services model that they believed would thrive at Tri-County. For the College, the “one stop” was only a starting point for a much more innovative, sophisticated, and holistic approach to providing a top-quality enrollment experience for students. The College developed an integrated service philosophy and strategic framework to guide not only the development of TC Central, but also a component unique to the Tri-County model—a Student Data Center.

Uniquely, TC Central places the student at the center of every interaction by providing a comfortable first and ongoing connection point for students that uses the “student lens” instead of focusing on the “office lens.” Now the College is truly able to better serve under-resourced and post-traditional students by replacing organized chaos with exceptional service.



Pictured with **Tiffany Blackwell** are, from left, **Jon Hutchins**, president of CACRAO, Wilkes Community College; **Scott Harvey**, Tri-County registrar; and **Rick Hinshaw**, director, National Research Center for College and University Admissions (NRCCUA).

to CACRAO “above and beyond the call of duty.” The Charlie Hendricks Award was first awarded in 1995 and is considered to be CACRAO’s highest honor.

Carla Brewer, financial aid counselor/VA coordinator, recently received four credentials from the National Association for Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). She is credentialed in Professional Judgment, Student Eligibility, Verification, and the Application Process, and is now certified to lead workshops for others in the field who wish to become credentialed.

Carla also is active in the State level organization (SCASFAA) and serves as Chair of the Liaison Committee for the Commission on Higher Education for 2016-2017.

Congratulations to **Tiffany Blackwell**, director of Recruiting, Admissions, and Orientation, left, who received the Charlie Hendricks Award during the annual conference of the Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers (CACRAO) held December 4-6. The Charlie Hendricks Award is given annually to an individual who is not a current member of the Executive Board, has been active in CACRAO for at least five years, and has made substantial contributions



Carla Brewer

in transition

Tom Lawrence Named Dean of Arts and Sciences Division

Tom Lawrence spent the last five years as an instructor and administrator in the Business and Public Services Division (BPS). He began his career in public administration, working 15 years in multiple roles with local California governments and the Department of Defense, but says his tenure at Tri-County



Tom Lawrence

has been the most rewarding. “I really enjoy my time in the classroom. I came from public service which I like, but landing here was a defining moment in my career,” he said.

After one year as an instructor in the Criminal Justice program, he was promoted to lead the Public Services Department, a multi-disciplinary department comprised of Media Arts Production, Criminal Justice, and Early Childhood Education. “As I took on administrative duties for the division, I was energized by positive changes in the classroom and on a broader scale by the diverse programs in the BPS division,” he said.

This semester he takes on a new challenge—in December he was named Dean of the Arts and Sciences Division. He succeeds Dr. Hap Wheeler, who retired in December.

“Tom has exceptional qualifications, including extensive experience in higher education and public service. I am confident in his ability to provide strong leadership to the division and to the College as a whole,” said Galen DeHay, senior vice president. “Tom’s vision for the Arts and Sciences Division aligns with the goals of the College, and his passion for students and Tri-County is evident in all he does. We can rest assured that Tom will continue to advocate for our students’ needs, as well as the needs of our employees and the community.”

As BPS Department Head, Tom says he invested time building relationships with faculty and students and focused on bringing people together to find solutions.

“It’s critical to develop a strong network in order to be an effective leader. My new role is a big opportunity to leverage what I have done well in BPS,” he said. “I will take the lessons I learned in BPS and bring them to a larger scale in the Arts and Sciences Division. I plan to look for collaborative opportunities with the technical divisions and Arts and Sciences to strengthen our relationships,” he said.

(continued on page 10)

in transition

(continued from page 9)

He holds a B.A. in Management from St. Mary's College of California and a master of Criminal Justice degree from Boston University. He is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Leadership and Organizational Management at Indiana Tech. He has published on the need for organizations to develop global communication strategies and recently presented at an international conference on the complex intra-political and leadership issues attendant with U.S. foreign policy.

His contributions to the College community are wide ranging and include service on the Faculty Senate, appointment to the SACSCOC Reaccreditation Leadership Team, and development of several new degree and certificate programs.

He and his wife, Bridgett, have two children. They live in Greenville.



Julianne DiCicco-Wiles

Julianne DiCicco-Wiles is the new I-Best Instructor/Training Coordinator in the Comprehensive Studies Division. She is teaching Manufacturing Pathways classes. For the past eight years, she worked as Prevention Director at the Dorchester Alcohol and Drug Commission in Summerville. She holds an associate in Arts in Pre-Criminal Justice, a B.S. in Criminal Justice Corrections,

and an M.S. in Criminal Justice Administration, all from Ferris State University in Big Rapids, MI. She is pursuing an Ed. D. in Community College Leadership through Ferris State.

She and her husband, Steven Wiles, relocated from Summerville.

Gerald Maxie is an instructor in our CNC Programming and Operations program. He was an adjunct instructor in our Machine Tool Technology program from 2010–14 and currently serves on the CNC Programming and Operations Advisory Board. He comes to us from Electrolux, where he was a Tool Model Maker in the Engineering Department from 2003–17. He has worked as a Tool Maker and Engineer at Carolina Mold and Tool Inc., JM Mold South, Inc., and Davenport Tool, Inc.



Gerald Maxie

In 2010 he received the Electrolux Product Award and in 2008 the Electrolux Excellence Award.

He is a 1993 graduate of our Machine Tool Technology program and earned a CNC Programming and Operator Certificate in 1998.

He is a Cub Master for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Pack 31, Troop 226 Assistant Scout Master, and BSA Oconee District Committee Chair.

He and his wife, Kelly, have two children, Andrew 12, and Matthew, 8. They live in Seneca.

Jim Donaldson (no photo available) is an instructor in our General Engineering Technology program. He served in the U.S. Army from 1974–77 and has 34 years of experience, which includes serving as Engineering Manager and Project Manager for Everworks in Greenville and as an Engineer and Project Manager for Michelin. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from LeTourneau College in Longview Texas. He is a member of Pelham Road Alliance Church. He and his wife, Mary, live in the Greenville area.



Sisireia Simmons

Sisireia Simmons is a One Stop Specialist in TC Central. She earned a B.A. in English at the University of South Carolina. She worked part-time as an Administrative Assistant in our Student Records Office from 2011-12. She is the founder of My Pink Haven, an online Breast Cancer Support Group. She and her two daughters, Jazzmin, 2, and Kiera, 9, live in Anderson.

Amy Cromer is the Coordinator of Academic Support for Bridge Programs and College Transitions. She holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Lander University and a Master of Arts in Human Resources Development from Webster University. She worked at Anderson University from 1994–2016 in the areas of recruiting and advising and most recently as Associate Registrar. She also was an adjunct instructor, teaching classes in Liberal Studies, Career Development, and Freshman Year Experience.



Amy Cromer

She serves as a mentor for the Women and Children Succeeding (WACS) program and is former President and Secretary for the Southeastern Association of Baptist Colleges and Schools. She is a member of New Prospect Baptist Church. She and her husband, Patrick, have two daughters, Drew, 20, and Merritt, 17. They live in Anderson.

Getting To Know You

Betty Fant

Administrative Specialist, Financial Aid

1. What is the best part of your job?

The best part of my job is assisting students and encouraging them so that they can meet their educational goals, even though they may feel financial obstacles make it impossible. It is very gratifying when an encounter with a student, whether in person, by phone, or e-mail, ends in the student feeling confident and reassured he or she can accomplish goals.



Betty Fant

2. Did you make a New Year's resolution? If so, what was it?

I didn't make any New Year's resolutions because I find it difficult to keep them. Instead, I decided this year I want to focus more on improving my health by making lifetime, but gradual, changes to my daily routine. Starting with exercising more, eating healthier, and getting proper rest.

3. What store could you spend hours browsing around?

There are several stores I could spend hours browsing around at the Mall of Georgia. A few of my favorite stores are Macys, Dillard's, and Michael Kors. It is so convenient to have several great stores in one location. I like to see what the stores offer in other locations that are different from the Greenville stores.

4. Who is your favorite performer?

I have several favorite performers but two at the top of my list are Prince and John Legend. I still enjoy listening to Prince's music, "Purple Rain," "Little Red Corvette," "1999," and the list goes on. Another one of my favorite performers is John Legend, songs like "Glory," "All of Me," and so many more.

5. What makes you laugh?

A good comedian can make me laugh so hard I have tears rolling down my face. Even after his death, I laugh when watching Bernie Mac in a movie and doing stand-up. I get a good laugh every time I watch Steve Harvey. He will toss in a joke on "Family Feud," his talk show, or even if he's a guest on another show. I laugh when I'm with my grandsons. The teenager thinks I'm too old to understand his generation. He's always saying "things have changed since your day." The three-year-old just thinks he knows everything and can do anything.

Ken Kopera

Director of Physical Plant

1. What is the best part of your job?

Getting to work with all areas of the College and helping individuals to improve their learning and work environments.

2. Did you make a New Year's resolution? If so, what was it?

The usual—exercise more, eat healthier, be a better spouse, scratch some items off my to-do list, be kinder to others, focus on the things that matter. In short, be a better person. So far, I'm having mixed results.



Ken Kopera

3. What store could you spend hours browsing around?

Bed, Bath & Beyond, in the kitchen section

4. Who is your favorite performer?

Depends on the genre, Movies: Clint Eastwood; Television: Sheldon Cooper; Comedian: Robin Williams; Music: The Who; Sports: any college football game

5. What makes you laugh?

The day-to-day little things happening around us that usually involve some sort of irony.

Tim Bowen

Director of the Anderson Campus

1. What is the best part of your job?

I know it's cliché to say, but it's the people. As a serial extrovert (shocker, I know), I get my energy from other people. I thrive on interaction and engagement—one of the reasons I love working in higher education, as well as ministry. My whole life has been about 'pushing up people' in one form or another; and my greatest joy comes from knowing that I've helped make someone's path a little easier or more hopeful or peaceful. I really do believe that every day we live is a gift from God; and what we do with that day is our gift of gratitude back to Him.



Tim Bowen

2. Did you make a New Year's resolution? If so, what was it?

I typically don't make resolutions, but this year I did make myself a promise that instead of settings goals, I will set priorities. Goals can slip or come and go (and that can be self-defeating and de-motivating); but setting priorities keeps me on track and optimistic about the journey. So, day by day and moment by moment, I intend to re-evaluate my priorities and not let the important be held hostage by the urgent.

3. What store could you spend hours browsing around?

Well, the standard answer is Lowes! I can go there to pick up one item for a project I'm working on and come out three hours later with the next six projects laid out in my mind. And if I can go alone and without my phone, all the better! But my favorite lose-track-of-time activity with another person is browsing antique stores with my wife. We can do that for days on end....

4. Who is your favorite performer?

It changes actually, depending on my mood or what season of life I'm in. In my earlier days, it was The Eagles (best band ever!) or Chicago. On my country-boy side, Ronnie Milsap and Don Williams, and on my Contemporary Christian side is singer/songwriter, Laura Story. But I was raised on hymns and Southern Gospel and that's what I have sung and enjoyed the most since childhood. Currently at the top of my playlist is anything by The Collingsworth Family, a fabulously-talented group of musicians who inspire me every day.

5. What makes you laugh?

Smart people doing stupid things (bless their hearts!). It cracks me up and makes me feel better to know I'm not the only one!

Bosch Sponsors Eighth Annual FIRST LEGO League Regional Qualifying Tournament



The Tornado of Ideas, the Due West Robotics Team, received the Champions Award at the Eighth Annual Tri-County Technical College FLL Regional Qualifying Tournament January 30 on the Pendleton Campus. The team went on to win the state tournament held in January. They will represent South Carolina at the FIRST Lego League World Festival in Texas in April.

Our event was made possible through a generous donation from Robert Bosch LLC. Dr. Trish Hayner, Bosch Production Systems (BPS) manager, served as the emcee.

The Engineering and Industrial Technology Division hosted the event.

Thirteen teams, representing students from Upstate public middle schools, home schools, and private schools competed in the regional qualifying event for FIRST LEGO League teams.

*The **Tornado of Ideas** team, from the independent youth organization Due West Robotics, is pictured with **Dr. Trish Hayner**, Bosch Production Systems (BPS) manager and emcee, right.*

FIRST LEGO League (FLL) is a program created by the FIRST organization. It introduces younger students to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. FLL teams, guided by their imaginations and adult coaches, discover exciting career possibilities and, through the process, learn to make positive contributions to society.

In this year's Animal Allies challenge, FLL teams were charged with finding a solution to a problem animals may experience. The Tornadoes created a goat guard that goes on the horns to prevent them from getting stuck.

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) is an organization that seeks to create a world where science and technology are celebrated similar to a sports environment.



Tri-County, SC Works Job Fair Well Attended

SC Works and Tri-County Technical College's Corporate and Community Education Division (CCE) reached out to unemployed and underemployed individuals by hosting a Job Fair in January. The event was held for Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties residents at the Industrial and Business Development Center.

Participants were given the opportunity to meet and interview with area employers that have job openings—in a wide range of businesses including manufacturing, healthcare, transportation, retail, and services.

In addition, Tri-County spotlighted the short-term training options in the fields of healthcare, business, industrial/manufacturing, highway construction, and truck driving.

BELOW, CENTER: **Suet Kwan Lee**, of Anderson, gets started with her job search.

BELOW, RIGHT: **Hailey McClain**, training coordinator for the Center for Business Training Excellence, standing, assists **Teresa Rogers**, of Westminster, with filling out a scholarship application. Scholarship opportunities are available in the areas of health care, electrical wiring, patient access, and more. Teresa is interested in pursuing a career in Phlebotomy.



ABOVE: Job Fair attendees met the instructors and program managers, discussed course offerings, and got information about available funding for instruction in these QuickJobs training programs. Program Director **Sandra Strickland**, seated, talks with **Amity Cutter**, of Anderson, about the Patient Access program.

BELOW, LEFT: Large and small area employers with immediate job openings were on hand. **Channing Laughridge**, a recruiting specialist with Chartsplan, left, talks with **Malachi Jones**, of Anderson.



Faculty/Staff Experts Guide in the Works

Before the holiday break, faculty and staff received a form asking them to highlight their qualifications and areas of expertise at the College for an upcoming Faculty/Staff Experts Guide.

In an effort to get the local media to turn to Tri-County faculty and staff as spokespersons to comment on relevant local, regional, and national issues, the Public Relations Office plans to compile a Faculty/Staff Experts Guide. We hope you will consider supporting this effort by participating in the guide, which we hope will result in media using Tri-County sources as a resource when developing news stories.

When completing the form, please include information about your other areas of expertise, as well. If you are a master

gardener, an artist or craftsman, or a musician, please list details about these talents, too. This valuable resource guide will make reporters aware of the wide range of faculty/staff expertise this College has and how you can give their stories a fresh, local perspective.

This directory will be available online for media professionals as a resource when they are looking for expert commentary on breaking news, feature stories, or any story they are working on.

If you would be willing to be listed and to serve as a College expert in your field, please fill out the form (or request another copy of the form) and return by e-mail or interoffice mail to Lisa Garrett at lgarrett@tctc.edu. Your participation in this project is greatly appreciated.

I-Best Class

(continued from page 1)

Planning and research for the I-BEST Pathway programs started several years ago and then picked up steam late in 2015 when our Technical Skills for Success (TSS) unit and the TSS Work Group partnered with Dr. Mary Gaston, director of Pickens County Adult Education, to refocus initial plans and strategically adapt Washington State Technical College System's nationally-recognized I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training) model into an approach that really meets the needs of workers and employers here in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.

"This Pathway, which expands and builds on the success of our Technical Career Pathways programs in high schools as well as the national I-BEST training model, is for adults and is contextual, more manufacturing related," said Diana Walter, director of Technical Skills for Success.

"There's a lot about our version of I-BEST that's really different from things we've done before—it's a Pathway, so it's not just about getting a quick job, it's about gaining skills and capacity that will take you further. The goal is an associate degree for each and every student, in time. At first, though, it's about meaningful skills and certifications in just one semester—then students work their plan by being placed in full-time employment or continuing their studies, or by combining work and study."

"I-BEST is a game-changer for our students," says Katie Brown, director of Anderson Adult Education Center.

On January 10, fifteen students started two college classes (COL 120 and MFG 101) in Level 2 of the I-BEST Manufacturing Career Pathway Program. Some students are concurrently enrolled in Level 1 of the Pathway at an Adult Education Center, others completed Level 1 last semester and are now transitioning into the next phase, and a few completed their high school credential within the past year and were able to enter directly into Level 2. All the students will participate in national certification training during the semester, many will retake one or more WorkKeys tests to strive for platinum levels, and everyone will have an individual education and training plan for the future—combining non-credit and credit opportunities through to at least the associate degree. And, with support from their instructors, as well as College staff, students will learn how to advance their careers in manufacturing with additional education and understand the type of job performance employers value and reward.

Students enroll in the two college courses in Level 2 of the Pathway at no charge for tuition, books, or even a parking decal, but they must cover their own costs for transportation and child care. Attendance and active participation are required in all class activities, as well as the national certification training/testing.

Students understand from the very first day that Pathway classes foster and require the behaviors needed for success in work and in college.

"Most of the I-BEST students are currently employed in service types of jobs. They could be hired in manufacturing without I-BEST, but all employers, especially the major manufacturers, are looking for the best people they can get. Our goal is to make people more competitive in the employment process, to ultimately make better employees who are promotable and will stay and make a career out of manufacturing, and at the same time, make a good life for themselves and their families," said Diana.

There is a large group of individuals in our service area who could benefit from this manufacturing pathway program.

Research shows there are 167,151 persons, ages 25 and older, living in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties who have a high school diploma but less than an associate degree. In addition, there are 47,000 adults without a high school credential.

"Those who have a high school education or less may be working, but they're struggling financially. By today's definition, they are what's termed 'the working poor.' They need more education but unfortunately, they can't quit their current jobs to gain more education to get a better job, so they are trapped," said Diana.

Because of the nationwide skilled labor shortage all industry is facing today, manufacturers are continuously telling us they struggle to fill the gap between available jobs and skilled workers. They're constantly looking for good people with the skills they need to produce their products—and to be active learners who can keep up with changing technologies and workplace demands.

For the past several years, the College has focused on filling that gap with youth through the College's successful Technical Career Pathways (TCP). The new I-BEST initiative builds on "lessons learned" from TCP and expands those concepts in ways that make sense for adult learners. Now, with continued support from special State proviso funding, and with the contributions of Julianne DiCicco-Wiles, the new full-time I-BEST coordinator, Tri-County will expand both TCP and I-BEST programming to serve youth and adults who will become the future workforce in our service area. The proviso funding supports program development and implementation in high demand STEM-related career fields. (STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math.)

"This I-BEST pathway concept offers real, tangible benefits for adults who need better employment options—and for employers who need good workers. It's definitely a win-win! I'm thrilled to be part of such an exciting initiative!," said Julianne.

January Features Welcome Back/Get Connected Events

Welcome back events were held the first week of classes. Students learned more about the many resources offered, the TCTC Student Government, and how to get involved in the College's clubs and organizations.



Stan Sykes and William Sanderson of Fun Enterprises drew digital caricatures of students, faculty, and staff. Here, **Ashley Isreal** displays her caricature.



Lt. Tracy Lee of our Campus Police Department talks with **Devin Beatty**, a Criminal Justice major.



Mark Masters, a CNC Programming and Operations major, works on a HAAS VF-2 Milling Machine, one of the new pieces of equipment obtained through \$1.5 million in capital equipment funding appropriated in the 2016–17 state budget. The funding provided technical equipment, in addition to the Phase 4 expansion at the Industrial Technology Center in Sandy Springs.



At the Get Connected event, **Briana Johnson**, academic resource specialist in the Business and Public Services Division, talks with **John Yost** about the Minority Student Association, one of the many clubs and organizations students can get involved with.

Spotlight on Heart Health

(continued from page 2)

The American Heart Association and WSPA-TV partnered to host the 2016 Go Red for Women Casting Call to select real women from the Upstate to share their stories and inspire others. Stephanie is one of 12 women in the Upstate chosen as spokespersons to promote heart health awareness. During the month of February (Heart Health Month) and beyond, they will tell their stories about surviving a variety of heart ailments to empower others by example.

"I have a desire to make this known publicly. Heart disease, not cancer, is the number-one killer of women. A heart attack will kill a woman every 80 seconds," said Stephanie. "Too many women die each year because they are unaware that heart disease is their No. 1 killer. Go Red stands for: Get your numbers. Own your lifestyle. Realize the Risk. Educate your family. Don't stop telling people. That's what I plan to do."

Hill's Hard Work Pays Off

While home on break from classes at the U.S. Naval Academy, TCTC alumnus Samuel Hill stopped by his alma mater to chat with Dr. Booth. Samuel is featured in this year's Annual Report publication.

"This is the year where I have seen my hard work pay off," said Samuel, a 2016 associate in Science graduate who spent 2015 working toward his goal of being accepted into the United States Naval Academy. He departed for Annapolis, Maryland, June 30 after finishing his final summer school class and a month before Tri-County's summer commencement.

Samuel entered Tri-County in 2014 just before his 21st birthday with the goals of building academic clout needed for admission into the Naval Academy and cultivating his leadership skills. Read the entire story at http://tctc.edu/About_TCTC/Media/News_Releases/Samuel_Hill_Fulfills_Lifelong_Dream_of_Being_Accepted_into_US_Naval_Academy.xml



Samuel Hill is pictured here with Dr. Booth.

Executive Staff Summary

- **MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS 1 CERTIFICATE:** The College Commission will be asked to approve this new certificate for the new I-BEST/Manufacturing Certification program.
- **AACC FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL:** Penny Edwards provided an update on her work as a member of the Faculty Advisory Council of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). The Council provides strategic advice to the AACC President and CEO about the role faculty leadership can play in accelerating and scaling educational reform such as recommendations tied to the 21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges.
- **DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION PROJECT TEAM:** The team gave a progress report on first steps in determining the overall scope of the charter and defining what diversity and inclusion mean for the College. Deliverables include: create a roadmap outlining goals, objectives and action steps; define components of our diversity and inclusion culture; establish official action and implementation timelines; and provide continuous analysis and assessment to identify needed changes.
- **DELIVERY MODE FRAMEWORK:** A project team has been formed to create a framework for assessing the delivery mode approach for program offerings at the College. The goal is to have an operational delivery mode that will match student attributes and institutional capability to program methodology to ensure student success and enhance student accessibility.
- **ACADEMIC SUPPORT:** A new project charter was approved to develop proactive academic support structures that boost student success. Deliverables include developing a plan to work with the academic divisions to engage students with their academic "home" within the first six weeks; determine criteria for those students who are at risk for academic failure or low performance; establishing guidelines for how the College will proactively reach out to students determined to be at risk for low academic performance; and more.
- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY:** A poverty simulation will be a key component of the day. There may be space limitations on this date, but plans are for all employees to participate in the simulation this year. There also will be time for departmental professional development activities.
- **OTHER:** Core competencies for faculty, staff, and leadership; framework for professional development of all employees (faculty, staff, leadership); strategic planning for FY 18; and policies and procedures.