

# RoI

## Return on Investment

the South Carolina Technical College System's journal of economic and workforce development • Fall 2006 • vol. 2, no. 2

### INSIDE:



#### McNair talks technical colleges

Former Governor Robert E. McNair helped establish the System 40 years ago, and he has plenty of advice on how they can maintain their relevance for another 40 years to come.

#### System unveils legislative agenda

The statewide allied health initiative, registered apprenticeships, enhancing faculty and lottery tuition assistance rank among the System's top legislative priorities for 2007.



#### Panelists discuss role of colleges

We assembled legislators and economic development leaders to discuss the role of South Carolina's Technical Colleges in the development of the state's "knowledge economy."

#### System essential to economic health

System President Dr. Barry Russell explains how the state's Technical Colleges are bridging the gap between educational paths and workforce needs.



a publication of the



## System hosts largest annual Joint Board Summit

*Colleges unite with allies as System lays out 2007-08 legislative priorities*

The South Carolina Technical College System hosted its annual Joint Board Summit Sept. 26 and 27 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Columbia.



Assistant for Policy and Administration and the Summit's lead organizer. "That aspect of the conference did not change this year, but we also wanted to add an all-star lineup of speakers and presenters that would draw more attention to our priorities for the coming year."

Among the special guests invited to speak were former S.C. Governor Robert McNair, who delivered the opening keynote address; Tri-County Technical College alumnae and area commissioner Dr. Valerie Ramsey; S.C. Secretary of Commerce Joe Taylor; and Commerce Department Deputy Secretary for New Investment Jack Ellenberg.

The conference wrapped up with a panel discussion featuring two state legislators, Sen. Scott Richardson (R-

Beaufort) and Rep. Daniel Cooper (R-Anderson); Chair of the South Carolina Economic Developers' Association Board Deepal Eliatamy; and Commerce Department Deputy Secretary for Workforce Dr. Peggy Torrey.

"We were very pleased that our registration numbers were so high," said D'Amico, adding that more people attended this year's Summit than in any previous year. "The addition of so many special guests, technical college allies and economic development leaders really seemed to spark interest in the System's mission and how we fit into the state's long-term economic development picture."

Full coverage of the Summit follows inside this issue of RoI Magazine.

In addition to hosting the meetings of the System's three primary governing bodies, this year's Summit served as a showcase for the Technical Colleges' mission of economic/workforce development, and as a launching pad for the System's 2007-2008 legislative agenda.

"The Summit always has been a professional development opportunity for those in college leadership around the state," said Dr. Mark D'Amico, Executive

# Message from the System President

*Our Technical Colleges are the state's premier engines of economic development*

It is difficult to understate the impact of our Technical Colleges on South Carolina, its citizens and its economy. The "Quick Facts" information you'll find on page 7 clearly demonstrates that we play an integral role not only in the state's higher education community, but also in its long-term economic and workforce development strategy.

The South Carolina Technical College System was formed for this very purpose: to ensure that South Carolinians would have affordable access to high-quality education, with an eye toward enhancing workforce and economic development statewide.

Over time, our delivery mechanisms, our teaching methods, and even some of our programs have changed and evolved, but one thing has remained constant – our commitment to our core purpose of providing "learning opportunities that promote the economic and human development of our state."

We are institutions of access, and even institutions of hope, to many in our local communities. We help them change their lives by helping them achieve their dreams – which, in turn, improves the lives of everyone in the state.

Higher per-capita income, more productivity, a workforce that is positioned to fulfill tomorrow's needs as well as today's – these are the benefits that flow into the economy from our students.

We are on the cusp of a new era in technical college education here in South Carolina. I believe there is more awareness than ever before of the critical role we play statewide in helping to bridge the gap between educational paths

and workforce needs.

The role of technical college education nationwide is increasingly being highlighted as essential to ensuring productivity, and to moving into a knowledge-based economy. Our role in

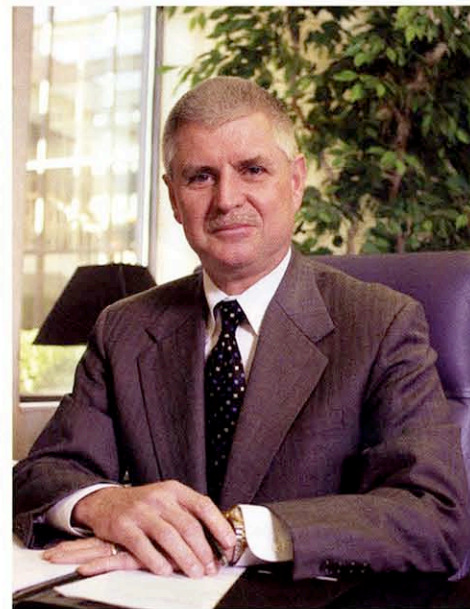
statewide economic development is more important than ever.

One of the System's critical components is the Center for Accelerated Technology Training (CATT). CATT provides high-quality, customized training

for eligible businesses at no cost to them, a benefit that is a powerful incentive to businesses deciding whether to locate or expand in South Carolina.

The System's role in economic and workforce development, however, goes beyond CATT. Of all the reports citing the importance of technical colleges in developing the workforce of tomorrow, none describes the educational needs in our state as well as Pathways to Prosperity, the foundational report behind the Education and Economic Development Act.

This report indicates that nearly two-



**Dr. Barry Russell**  
System President

thirds of jobs in the coming years will require an associate degree or advanced training, exactly the type of educational opportunities provided by South Carolina's Technical Colleges.

The Pathways report then juxtaposed this number against information from the South Carolina Department of Education which indicated that only slightly less than a third of ninth graders would enter this type of program.

This comparison identified a substantial gap between what the state would need for a competitive workforce and what it was likely to get. The passage of the EEDA – which the System supports and is working with school districts, the rest of the higher education community, and others to implement – is designed to help address this gap.

Now, more than ever, it is clear that the South Carolina Technical College System – and the high-quality, low-cost, workforce-relevant educational opportunities it provides – is essential to South Carolina's future growth and economic health.

# McNair shares history of S.C. Technical Colleges

*Former governor challenges System to continue mission of economic development*

“When most people talk about the creation and development of our outstanding technical education system, they talk in terms of what they have read or what someone told them. I was there, serving as Vice Chairman of the West Committee under Gov. Hollings’ leadership. I can tell you exactly why we created what today is one of South Carolina’s finest assets and one of the finest programs in this country...”

“We were determined to create a statewide system to ensure that every part of South Carolina had access to training and education. In the early days, the ‘Special Schools’ were directly responsible for so many industries locating in South Carolina. Today, your Center for Accelerated Technology Training ... serves the same purpose in providing tailor-made training to new and expanding industries, and whatever you call that training, it has never been more vital to South Carolina’s economic future.

As you know, we are facing a transition to a global, highly competitive, knowledge-based economy which will challenge our state far beyond the transition we faced 50 years ago.

For South Carolina to succeed in this global knowledge-based economy, you must lead the way. That is a heavy burden, but it is one that I know you can and must meet. We need [the System] much more today than when we created it.

If the [South Carolina Technical College] System is going to lead the fight for a more highly trained workforce, and I believe it must, then it must be a statewide approach.

Today you have an advantage over other institutions of higher learning. You already have a statewide system in place with an outstanding leader in Barry Russell. Use the strength of your system to tackle the problems with education attainment and training.

We all must work harder to align our effort between you and the business community ... between you and K-12 ... and between you and four-year institutions



State Board Chairman Ralph “Nick” Odom, left, presents Gov. McNair with a resolution honoring his lifelong commitment to the South Carolina Technical College System.

of higher learning. I fully realize you cannot do all this by yourself. But, if you are not getting the leadership from our state policymakers to make sure everyone has an equal stake at the table, then it is time to find someone who can, to elect those who will provide that leadership. Excuses and lack of support for education and training as a critical part of economic development should no longer be tolerated.

Raise your voices. The ongoing need for a highly skilled, technically proficient workforce can only be achieved by the System leading the effort. You must market your capabilities across the state. I believe we must maintain technical education as the main function of the System. Parents, guidance counselors, the business community – everyone – must understand that it will be the System providing the highly skilled, high-wage workforce in the future, and we still have much to accomplish and far to go.

Finally, I must ask all of you to address a problem which South Carolina faces

from kindergarten all the way through the four-year institutions. I am talking about student achievement. We know about our first grade repeater rate and our terrible graduation rates from high school. It is my understanding that in the fall of 2004, approximately 37 percent of first-time, first-year students entering the South Carolina Technical College System were required to complete at least one remedial course – but I see that as your role, and, I believe we should bring adult literacy under the System as well in order to bring back those students who dropped out.

No longer can we just open our doors to students, but we must do everything possible to get them through the System successfully. Just think what we could do for our workforce if you could bring five or even 10 percent more of those students who enter your institutions into the trained workforce. It would be a dramatic improvement. And more importantly, you would be helping them have an opportunity for a better quality of life.

I was fortunate enough to be a part of the creation and growth of the Technical College System while in the legislature and during my terms as Lt. Governor and Governor. Without the System, we could not have made the transition we faced in the 1960s and ‘70s. Now we face an even greater challenge. And again, we must look to you to be the engine to pull us through. I am confident you will meet this challenge.”

Gov. Robert E. McNair’s remarks above were excerpted from his prepared keynote remarks for the Summit Sept. 26.

# Ramsey sings praises of technical education

*Tri-County alum and commissioner recounts her journey from dropout to Ph.D.*

Dr. Valerie Ramsey is the first alumna in the history of Tri-County Technical College to serve on its Area Commission. An outspoken advocate for education, she inspires education groups around the country with her motivational message.

"I am the product of our Technical College System, and I am very proud of it!

Growing up, we never talked about college in my house. All of the girls in my extended family had babies out of wedlock at age 16, and society had prepared a well-written script for me to follow.

That generational curse did not pass me by, and I followed the script perfectly, playing my part just as it was written. I dropped out of high school and had my baby at age 16.

My two older brothers had graduated high school, but I always felt like I was a big disappointment to my family for keeping the curse going.

I think that might have motivated me to go back to school the following term. I repeated the 10th grade, and went on to graduate with my high school diploma. That was a huge accomplishment in and of itself.

I was a high school graduate, but I was going nowhere. It wasn't that I did not want a better life, but I had no point of reference as to how to find it. It was the power of someone else's story that awakened my destiny.

I did not know that I had a story to tell until I was asked by James Williams (who was then Dean of Students at Tri-County Technical College) to share my student testimony with the Area Commissioners in 1997.

I was ashamed of my past and didn't think it was anything to be telling folks. But when I did share it, the most incredible thing happened. It freed me and helped me to realize that had it not been for Tri-County Technical College, I

feel sure that my life would have been so different.

My story has helped others to find the point of reference that they needed to transform their lives as well.

I was not in a degree program at the time that I first came to Tri-County Technical College, but a certificate program. But when I graduated with my certificate, the graduation ceremony was held at Littlejohn Coliseum at Clemson University! Wow! I had the cap and gown, the pomp and circumstance!

In March 1976, before I graduated with that clerical certificate, I got to participate in an on-the-job training partnership between Tri-County Technical College and Clemson University. I worked for six months in the Ag Business Office as an accounting clerk during my training, and after I graduated, I was offered a permanent position. This year I celebrated 30 years of employment at Clemson University.

Thank God for the educational opportunity that I received. I worked for 10 years with my clerical certificate. When I began to want more, I went back to the place that I knew I would be accepted and welcomed.

I went back to Tri-County Technical College. I went to class on my lunch hour and two nights a week while working full time at Clemson, and trying to raise my daughter. I earned an Associate Degree in 1988 with a 3.57 GPA, just days before my daughter graduated from high school.

I value my education that I received from Tri-County Technical College, because it didn't just change my life, it changed generations!



**Dr. Valerie Ramsey**

Tri-County Technical College Commissioner

Thank God for our Technical Colleges, America's best kept secret, America's WMD – South Carolina has 16 weapons strategically located to lift its citizens out of a life of disparity. The Technical College System is a weapon of mass destruction of ignorance.

When I started out, I can't say that education necessarily changed my circumstances at first, but it did change the way that I perceived my circumstances. Rather than my circumstances being on top of me, they gave me strength to persevere and eventually stand on top of them. It is not how one starts out but how well they finish.

Tri-County Technical College was the vehicle, and education was the key – not just to success – but to life itself.

Give voice to the untold stories on your campus and help break the cycle for a new South Carolina! Technically speaking, there is no greater investment!"

Dr. Ramsey's remarks above were excerpted from the presentation she delivered at the Summit Sept. 27.

# System unveils ambitious 2007-08 legislative agenda

*Colleges lay out strategic plans and funding priorities for the coming year*

## **GENERAL FUNDING PRIORITIES**

### **Continuing and Expanding the Allied Healthcare Initiative to Enhance South Carolina's Healthcare Workforce – \$15 million recurring**

In 2006, the South Carolina Technical College System received \$15.8 million nonrecurring funds to build allied health training capacity.

The Colleges are using those funds for infrastructure projects, state-of-the-art equipment, retention strategies and faculty positions. While these expenditures ultimately will result in an increased number of allied health workers, recurring dollars are needed to achieve a long-term solution.

The System will continue its work with the South Carolina Hospital Association and others to address widespread shortages in nursing and other health professions.

Currently, expansion of South Carolina's healthcare industry and retirements generate more than 2,000 nursing and qualified healthcare technician positions each year.

### **Developing a Statewide Registered Apprenticeship Initiative Coordinated Within The South Carolina Technical College System to Enhance Options for Workforce Development – \$1 million recurring**

The System supports the business-led initiative to implement a statewide registered apprenticeship awareness and facilitation process.

To take advantage of its existing statewide network, the System has agreed to serve as the centralized operational force behind this process, using an organizational structure similar to the successful Center for Accelerated Technology Training (CATT) model.

Currently, South Carolina lags far behind its neighbors in the effective use of



System President Dr. Barry Russell outlined the System's legislative priorities for next year during the Summit's General Session Sept. 27.

registered apprenticeships as a workforce development tool, and the establishment of a statewide group responsible for promoting awareness of the option and facilitating its effective use by businesses would provide strong impetus for its expanded use.

### **Supporting the Center for Accelerated Technology Training (CATT) to Strengthen South Carolina's Economic Development – \$8 million nonrecurring**

The funds will support South Carolina's economic development by allowing CATT to continue its workforce training projects.

### **Ensuring Quality and Innovation Through Teaching Faculty – \$8 million recurring**

Since Fall 2001, Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) enrollment at South Carolina's Technical Colleges has increased by 18 percent.

Over the same period, general fund allocations for the Colleges have decreased by 16 percent. This disparity between enrollment growth and allocations has been managed – and our open-access mission maintained – through a combination of limited tuition increases and an increased reliance on adjunct faculty.

New recurring funds for the addition and enhancement of full-time teaching faculty are necessary for the Colleges to reduce the percentage of courses taught by adjuncts, develop and implement new and innovative curricular and instructional programs, and increase faculty effectiveness and student retention. Achieving these goals will ensure South Carolina's workforce competitiveness.

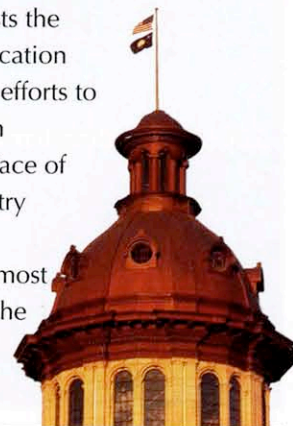
## **LOTTERY FUNDING PRIORITIES**

### **Maintain Lottery Tuition Assistance (LTA) to Ensure Access for Our Students – \$47.6 million**

This year's request is to maintain funding at \$47.6 million to provide student awards of up to \$996 per eligible student per term. The System also seeks to establish LTA as a priority within lottery revenues should those funds fall short of projections.

### **Maintain Technology Equipment Funding to More Effectively Serve Our Students – \$12 million, \$5 million of which would flow to the System and the individual Colleges**

This funding assists the state's higher education community in its efforts to maintain program relevance in the face of continuous industry advancements, especially in the most technological of the career program areas.



# Commerce officials detail state's economic progress

South Carolina Secretary of Commerce Joe Taylor and Deputy Secretary for New Investment Jack Ellenberg spoke about the strides the state is making to court business and industry and the South Carolina Technical College System's role in developing a highly skilled workforce.



**Joe E. Taylor**  
S.C. Secretary of  
Commerce

"The [accomplishment] that I'm most proud of is ... Wachovia's quarterly economic report on the South-eastern United States. South Carolina led the Southeast in gross state product increase of 6.3 percent. That's four

percent higher than the national average, that's number one in the Southeastern United States, and number five in the entire country. The Tech[nical Colleges] play an important role in that.

From building a business in South Carolina, [I] have had the pleasure of seeing the kind of students ... that you put out into our economy and the productivity they deliver. I think a great deal of that growth is attributed to the [Technical College System]. When I hear folks tell me about how we need to be competitive ... what you're doing in the [Technical

"It is an exciting time to be in South Carolina...BMW's called South Carolina home since 1994. Vought's new. There are a lot of similarities between the two.

BMW's Greer facility was the fastest startup of an automotive OEM in the history of the industry. From the first shovel in the ground to the issuance of the certificate of occupancy, the Vought facility took only 374 days to build.

Greer is the only BMW facility making the X5 and Z4, vehicles delivered to customers around the world every single day. Vought will make the ... fuselage for the ... Dreamliner that has already been sold to airlines around the world.

BMW, when they were trying to decide to come to South Carolina, asked a question: can a vehicle be made outside of Germany to the high standards of BMW and can it be done in South Carolina?

Vought & Boeing asked a similar

question: can the future of the aerospace industry be shaped in S.C.? The answer to both? A resounding yes.

BMW and Vought both know South Carolina is a great place to do business.

South Carolina has leadership in government, a positive business climate, a quality of life second to none, but at the end of the day, it all boils down to one thing: South Carolina has an outstanding workforce. The Technical Colleges have played – and continue to play – a critical role in the production of that workforce."



**Jack Ellenberg**  
Deputy Secretary for  
New Investment

College System] and what we're doing tells me we *are* competitive.

Addressing workforce skills gaps and helping our young South Carolinians be

prepared to take on the challenges of new jobs and recruiting is part of our economic development success, and it's going to continue to be."

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

### 2005 was a record year

- \$2.66 billion in capital investment
- 12,370 jobs created
- 137 new deals
- 52 percent was existing industry expansions

### 2006: On pace for another

- \$5.971 billion in capital investment
- 12,565 jobs created
- 95 new deals
- 81.5 percent of the total capital investment is in rural counties
- 43.2 percent of new deals are in rural counties

### South Carolina's economy is very strong

- Through the first two quarters of this year:
  - ∞ Sales tax revenues are up 7.8 percent compared to same period last year
  - ∞ Individual withholdings are up 7.6 percent
  - ∞ Individual declarations, the taxes paid by most small businesses are up 21.6 percent
  - ∞ Corporate declarations are up 36.5 percent

### National recognition

- Fifth in workforce training programs (CATT)

- First in the nation for most direct foreign investment per capita
- First strongest state in the Southeast for manufacturing

### Commerce to focus on four efforts in 2006

- Strategic planning for the continued short-term success of our economy and the long-term prosperity of SC
- Improving the state's soil conditions
- Workforce

Source: S.C. Dept. of Commerce

# Panel discusses need for globally competitive workforce

The Summit concluded with a panel discussion and Q&A session with state legislators and economic development leaders about the current workforce development landscape in South Carolina and the role of the Technical Colleges. Highlights of their remarks appear below.



**Rep. Dan Cooper**

Chair, House Ways & Means Committee (R-Anderson)

- “Our Technical Colleges and the workforce that you turn out are the major reasons for business like BMW, Michelin and the ones you’ve heard about today to locate here.”
- “I don’t see how we can go forward without our Technical Colleges being a major asset in our changing economy.”



**Deepal Eliatamby**

Chair, S.C. Economic Developers’ Association (SCEDA) Board

- “You can’t afford not to train the folks in your communities.”
- “I really can’t say enough about [CATT]. If you ask one of your local developers in any of the 46 counties what would their job be like without the Technical College System, they won’t be able to give you an answer.”
- “Without what you do, our state would not be as successful as it is.”



**Sen. Scott Richardson**

(R-Beaufort)

- “... The legislature supports the [System] ... There is very tangible evidence of what you do and how you do it.”
- “... For the kids who do not grow up in generational families who’ve gone to college, they don’t see the end run ... when you can go to those kids and say, ‘if you do well in high school, come to the technical [college] for two years and we can get you a \$45,000 job,’ then that starts to mean something [to them].”



**Dr. Peggy Torrey**

Deputy Secretary for Workforce, SC Department of Commerce

- “I see four keys to developing a globally competitive workforce ... The first is diversification ... The second key to success is continuing education ... The third key ... is intervention. We have to intervene and give [people] the skills they need... Finally, we’ve got to cooperate ... to make sure we make the case for every potential business. But we can’t do that without [the Technical College System].”

## Quick Facts about the SC Technical College System

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### The System is integral to the state’s economic development strategy

- The System’s Center for Accelerated Technology Training (CATT) is an incentive for businesses looking to locate and/or expand operations in the state.
- According to the 2005 economic impact study funded by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education, each \$1 South Carolina provided to fund CATT projects returned an estimated \$16.50 to the state.



#### The South Carolina Technical College System touches nearly one in 14 South Carolinians over 18

- Fifty-five percent of state residents attending one of the state’s public colleges or universities in the 2005 Fall semester were enrolled at a Technical College.
- In Fall 2005, nearly half of all first-time students enrolling at a public college or university in the state enrolled at one of South Carolina’s Technical Colleges.
- In 2005-06, nearly 107,000 students enrolled at one of South Carolina’s Technical Colleges. We anticipate that total enrollment for the year – credit plus continuing education – will be nearly 240,000 individuals.

#### The System is producing graduates in critical workforce areas for the state

- Nearly one-third of graduates from Technical Colleges in 2004-2005 were in the Health Sciences, an area of critical workforce shortage for the state.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, South Carolina workers with an associate degree earned on average nearly \$11,000 more than those with a high school diploma in 2004.

#### In FY 2004 the System created an economic impact of nearly \$2.5 billion

- For each dollar the State invested in the System, it saw a return of \$12.10.

# Around the state: news from the Technical Colleges

## **Aiken Technical College**

ATC has brought several new state-of-the-art facilities on-line, including the Dale Phelon Information Technology Center, the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) Manufacturing and Technology Training Center and the Health Science Building. Most recently, ATC dedicated a newly renovated 700-800 Building, which provides cutting edge multi-media classroom space, a modern Testing Center and an Academic Success Center.

## **Central Carolina Technical College**

Eric McClung of Sumter became the first graduate of Central Carolina's Pipe Welding Program Oct. 26. The new continuing education program represents a partnership between the College and several local industries. McClung already has been hired by Thompson Industries and began his new job the day after he completed the course.

## **Denmark Technical College**

In anticipation of the construction of a new hospital in Bamberg County along with the increased demand for nurses, DTC is developing a diploma program in Licensed Practical Nursing. An existing facility is being remodeled to host the new Nursing program, which will begin enrolling students in Fall 2007.

## **Florence-Darlington Technical College**

FDTC's Associate Degree Nursing program recently received \$125,000 from McLeod Health. The gift is part of McLeod's ongoing commitment to FDTC's student nurses. Some 80 percent of FDTC's nursing graduates remain in the Pee Dee, and many of them are hired by McLeod Health.

## **Greenville Technical College**

The College has partnered with Greenville County to house a DNA lab and a Forensic Automobile Processing Center. The facilities expand and improve services for area law enforcement agencies and provide a training resource for students.

## **Horry-Georgetown Technical College**

HGTC announced the kickoff off of its *Building Success* campaign Oct. 19. The campaign is a project of the HGTC Foundation to support a

number of college initiatives, with a focus on the Construction Management Technology (CMT) Associate Degree program. The purpose of the CMT program is to prepare graduates to work in the construction industry, with emphasis on construction site supervision and construction project management.

## **Midlands Technical College**

Midlands Technical College will receive \$1.8 million over the next five years to implement a new tutoring methodology designed to enhance developmental students' reading skills to college-level capabilities. MTC is one of the first colleges in the country to implement the corporate model's innovative approach for teaching developmental reading.

## **Northeastern Technical College**

NETC recently started a four-week truck driver training program in partnership with Bishopville-based Xtra Mile Driver Training, Inc. Students graduate with a Class A Commercial Drivers License (CDL), and a majority of students have had job offers upon graduation.

## **Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College**

In December, OCTC will add a new classroom and auditorium building. The new 400-seat auditorium will be a tremendous asset to both the College and the community. In addition to the auditorium, the new Math and Science building will include two biology labs, four classrooms, two lecture rooms, a seminar room and a conference room.

## **Piedmont Technical College**

PTC was recently named a Leading Educational Affiliate (LEA) as part of the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) initiative. PLTW focuses on engineering technology and addresses one of the primary gaps in current workforce preparedness by creating a more seamless grades 8-14 educational system, increasing the number of students entering and graduating from engineering technician programs.

## **Spartanburg Community College**

Construction is well underway on the SCC's new 62-acre campus in Cherokee County. The campus will initially consist of the Freightliner Custom Chassis Corporation Service and Training Facility (which opened in July of this

year), a continuing education building (scheduled to open in January 2007) and an academic building (scheduled to open in August 2007).

## **Technical College of the Lowcountry**

TCL officially dedicated its New River Campus Oct. 26, 2006. The 31,000-square-foot facility opened its doors in August to students from Beaufort, Jasper, Colleton and Hampton Counties, and is the first building to occupy the 40-acre campus site in Bluffton.

## **Tri-County Technical College**

A \$249,775 grant from AdvanceSC will enable TCTC to work with local companies to create customized training programs for their specific needs. In addition, the College and industry are collaborating on a new Machine Tool Technology (MTT) Technical Scholars Program. The Scholars Program began this fall with six students, who work 30 hours per week for four local employers while taking evening classes. Participants can expect to graduate in three years with an MTT degree.

## **Trident Technical College**

The Complex for Economic Development is the largest capital project ever undertaken by the College. After more than 10 years of planning, fundraising and renovation, the 232,000-square-foot facility opened on Main Campus in Fall 2005 with training components designed to support industries vital to the economic health of the region.

## **Williamsburg Technical College**

One of the most recent ways WTC has worked to meet the needs of the community is the institution of a practical nursing program. Williamsburg Regional Hospital and Williamsburg Technical College have partnered in efforts to get the program approved and, as a result of the joint effort of these two entities, the program was the recipient of two Duke Endowment grants to fund program start-up.

## **York Technical College**

Earlier this year, ground was broken for a new Chester Center, which will incorporate energy and environmental technologies that will allow the building to be certified by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.