
From: Mary L. Carns <mcarns@tcl.edu>
Sent: Sunday, November 6, 2016 2:10 PM
To: Mary L. Carns
Subject: TCL Talks: State assisted, not state supported

Dear Lowcountry,

Is education and economic development a state issue or a local responsibility?

Education and economic development are inextricably linked. Community-based education and workforce training not only expands economic opportunity for residents but will do more to strengthen the local economy than anything else a state or local government can do. By providing access to education and supporting industry through workforce training, community colleges like TCL propel local economic development.

TCL is a state assisted, not state supported, community college. The college receives approximately 16% of its basic operations budget from the State. State support has decreased significantly since 2008, a trend that is likely to continue. State disinvestment in higher education has shifted costs to students and has made it difficult for colleges and universities to deliver needed programs and services. The impact of funding cuts has been most serious at community colleges like TCL.

Affordable tuition is fundamental to the mission of community colleges. TCL sets tuition and fees to cover the real cost of instruction. There is no profit margin - no additional revenue collected to enlarge programs or for new programs. Finding ways to secure adequate funding to support both current college operations and local industry demand for new or enlarged programs is a challenge we must share as a community.

Our local economy depends in large part on how well we, as a community, succeed at delivering education and workforce training. Healthcare is one of the area's fast growing industry sectors. Increasingly in demand are occupations such as nurses, medical assistants and patient care technicians. Our restaurant and tourism industry has immediate and persistent need for trained culinarians. And, by 2020 it is predicted that 900 new jobs will be created by a fast emerging diversified manufacturing industry.

TCL helps our neighbors increase their employability and supplies businesses and industry with skilled workers. The higher wages earned by skilled workers and increased business productivity increases income across our community. Local tax revenues increase and empower ongoing investment in community development. The benefits of education go beyond economic returns. A post-secondary education correlates to improved health and lower rates of mortality, and lower crime rates. An individual's education impacts the quality of life for us all.

TCL creates value in many ways. It is worth our investment to ensure education and economic development has sufficient resources to succeed.



Mary Lee Carns

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About TCL Talks.

TCL Talks is an e-missive on community college education, workforce development and topics of importance to the Lowcountry.

Due to the redevelopment of TCL's website archived TCL Talks are only available by request. To request a copy please email mcarns@tcl.edu.

What TCL taught PSU, December 2015

2016 State of the College President's Address, January 2016

2016 President's Mid-Year Brief to the Lowcountry, August 2016