



Ranked 19th among nation's best community colleges

Greetings, WTC Friend.

We want to take this opportunity to send you an update of the College's progress. We encourage you to visit the campus any time so you can see first-hand how your community's college is changing lives.

Sincerely,

Patty A. Lee

Dr. Patty A. Lee
President

Upcoming Events

February 17-31—Law School for Non-Lawyers—6-9 p.m.

February 21—College Goal Saturday Financial Aid Workshop

—10 a.m.-1 p.m.—Library, Bldg. C

—National Guard Meeting and Honoring of former

Lt. Gov. J. Yancey McGill—10:30-12:30

—Auditorium, Bldg. A

March 18—Local Author Book Signing and Grand Opening

of the WTC Library and Coffee Shop—2-4 p.m.

—WTC Library, Bldg. C

"Work Ready Community" In Place

Williamsburg County was recently recognized as a "South Carolina Work Ready Community" (SCWRC), certified fifth among the 21 other counties across the state to hold the certification. Certification ensures that counties have met certain workforce and education goals to strengthen economic development. WTC is one of the County's main providers for the National Career Readiness Certificates WorkKeys testing to help identify persons who have key skills for job qualification. Persons seeking information on opportunities for Work Ready Community residents may call WTC at 843.355.4177 or email bosticj@wiltech.edu.

SNAP2Work Training Available at WTC

Participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the food stamp program, can now receive assistance in finding a new career path with the SNAP2Work program at WTC.

Beginning in March, the WTC Workforce Development department will offer a number of SNAP2Work-eligible vocational training and certificate programs. Career option offerings will include: healthcare technician, welding, Microsoft Office user specialist, certified warehousing distribution specialist, certified customer service specialist, heavy equipment operator, nail technician, computer desk technician, machine tool technician, heating/ventilation/air conditioning/refrigeration technician, forklift truck operator, and South Carolina Manufacturing Certification (SCMC). Classes will be offered in traditional classrooms and as on-the-job training.

Individuals who wish to register for these programs must have a general equivalency diploma (GED) or a high school diploma and will be required to take Workkeys skill testing. Financial assistance may be available for individuals who qualify. For more information, call 843.355.4182 or email myersj@wiltech.edu.

Online Courses Now Offered

WTC has rolled out six online courses for Spring Semester 2015. Though the College has offered some "hybrid" courses – part online and part onsite – up until now, the six online courses are offered completely online, offering students the option of saving gas, time, and money while still earning their education.

The spring online offering is the tip of the cyber iceberg of online offerings planned at the College. College officials say that, to be competitive in today's educational arena, the College must utilize additional ways to offer students what they need in the most fiscally responsible, convenient way. Online courses are an excellent way to do that.

Spring 2015 courses offered online include: three criminal justice courses, two mathematics courses, and one general business course. Online course offerings at WTC will expand in future semesters to encompass more subject areas.

WTC Unveils New Website

www.wiltech.edu will now take visitors to a new and improved website. Visitors to the site will now be able to interact with faculty, see advisor pages and course syllabi, and even apply and pay their application fee online. Site visitors are encouraged to surf the wiltech.edu site and send suggestions to make it more user-friendly to dukesm@wiltech.edu.

SCMC Training Underway at WTC

South Carolina Manufacturing Certification (SCMC) training, now available at WTC, is a statewide initiative designed to prepare participants for careers in advanced manufacturing by giving them a skill set that is needed to be successful in today's advanced manufacturing environment. Participants in the program will have the opportunity to obtain certifications in such areas as safety, quality assurance, production and processes, maintenance awareness, certified production technician, electrical/hand tool safety, and multi-meter usage, among others. Successful completion can lead to more lucrative careers. Scholarships may be available to persons who are (a) a high school graduate, (b) complete a successful background check, (c) pass a drug screening, and (d) are a US citizen. Interested persons may call 843.355.4182 or email myersj@wiltech.edu.

Financial Aid Program Feb. 21 at WTC

WTC will host an event on Saturday, February 21, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. in the College's library to assist members of the public with the financial aid application process regardless of the colleges they are planning to attend. The event is part of the College Goal South Carolina annual movement which helps students and families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is

the single most important financial aid form a college student will complete when applying for any college. In addition to getting professional help to complete the FAFSA at the WTC event, students are also provided information on state scholarship programs as well as information about the state's two- and four-year higher education institutions.

College Goal South Carolina is open to all college-bound students regardless of age. FAFSA information is shared with the colleges and/or career schools listed by the student on the application so the financial aid offices at any colleges of choice can determine how much federal student aid a student may receive at that college.

For more information on the Feb. 21 WTC College Goal event or FAFSA and financial aid opportunities in general, call 843.355.4167 or email boosj@wiltech.edu.

Employee Superlatives Named

South Carolina Technical Education Association (SCTEA) Educator of the Year awards were recently voted on by WTC SCTEA members to provide annual recognition for outstanding service and achievement for their fellow SCTEA members on campus. WTC's 2015 award winners include Genevieve McCrea, staff winner; Mona Dukes, administrator winner, and Dr. Earlene Walker-Kelly, faculty winner.

WTC Hires New VP for Student Affairs

The College recently hired Dr. Leron Peterkin as Vice President for Student Affairs. Peterkin comes to WTC after serving for 20 years in various student services capacities at Northeastern Technical College (NETC) in Cheraw. His most recent position at NETC was dean of student services in which he coordinated such tasks as student recruitment, grants supervision, student activity and organization oversight, and student counseling. As VP at WTC, Peterkin will plan, direct, and administer a comprehensive student affairs program through the management of professionals engaged in student affairs activities such as registration, admissions, enrollment management, counseling, financial aid, student activities, TRIO programs, job placement and related activities.

WTC, Limestone Partner on Billboards

At five strategic locations around Williamsburg County, WTC and Limestone College students can be seen strolling along — on billboards. In a promotional partnership, both colleges pooled their efforts to notify the general public that WTC and Limestone College are offering a more comprehensive higher education opportunity for Williamsburg County residents. Local residents now have the option to pursue a two-year associate's degree and then move on to obtain a baccalaureate degree all on the WTC campus. For information, call 843.355.4165 or email admissions@wiltech.edu.

Foundation Scholarships Awarded

A record 26 scholarships were presented during the 2014 Scholarship Awards Ceremony sponsored by the WTC Foundation.

Awards and recipients are as follows:

- ◇ Braxton and Virginia Lovett Nursing Scholarship presented to Ms. Ashley Jarrett
- ◇ Walter C. and Elizabeth D. Cottingham Endowed Scholarship presented to Mr. Matthew Whetsell
- ◇ William H. Chandler Memorial Scholarship presented to Ms. Maribel Cohete
- ◇ Duke Energy Progress Scholarship presented to Mr. Benjamin Huggins
- ◇ First Citizens Bank Scholarship presented to Ms. Tynisha Gamble
- ◇ Rotary Club of Kingstree Book Scholarship to Ms. Penny Gagum
- ◇ Henry and Jackie Poston Scholarship presented to Ms. Erin Owens
- ◇ J. P. Askins, Jr., Memorial Scholarship presented to Mr. Benjamin Huggins
- ◇ Santee Electric Cooperative Scholarship presented to Mr. William Kinder and Ms. Sloan Welsh
- ◇ Williamsburg Technical College Foundation General Scholarship presented to Mr. Glenn Ard, Mr. Phillip Grimsley, Ms. Ashley Jarrett, Mr. William Kinder, Ms. Sloan Welsh, Ms. Penny Gagum, Mr. Brian Kelly, Mr. Ricky Brown, Ms. Katelyn Blake, Mr. Stuart Miles, Ms. Kayla Wilder, Ms. Shontasia Cumbee, Mr. Gary Fulmore, Ms. Maggie Blow, Mr. Bryant McLendon, and Ms. Emily Taylor.

Other scholarships invested to be awardable when sufficient interest gain on the endowment is realized include:

- ◇ Anne C. Ellis Endowed Scholarship
- ◇ R. Cleo Fennell Endowed Scholarship
- ◇ M. Oneal Kirby Endowed Scholarship
- ◇ Ednamaye Reese Meriwether Endowed Scholarship
- ◇ Will Northington Meriwether Endowed Scholarship

Donated Benches Beautify Campus

As part of the Campaign for Campus Enhancement, the WTC Foundation recently dedicated ten benches on the courtyard and front entrance to the campus donated by the following persons to honor the loved one(s) as noted:

1. In memory of David Wilson by W.B. Wilson
2. In honor of Elizabeth D. Cottingham by Walter C. Cottingham
3. In honor of Bob and Judy Cherinko
4. In memory of Rebecca Kivett by John and Ida Martin
5. In honor of Mr. and Mrs. William "Lefty" Edwins Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Poston
6. In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Smith, Jr.

by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Poston

7. In memory of William Thomas McCall by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Poston
8. In memory of David Coker by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Poston
9. In honor of Henry Poston by Dr. and Mrs. Walter C. Cottingham
10. In memory of Jessica Latrice Graham by WTC ETS and Upward Bound.

Plans are underway to sell engraved bricks to pave the courtyard perimeter near where some of the benches are located. Donors are also being sought to sponsor larger benches to encircle trees on campus and to provide outdoor seating options for the student patio area. For information or to participate, call 843.355.4121 or email dukesm@wiltech.edu.

WTC Employees Celebrate Regularly

WTC's employees find unique and exciting ways to celebrate at the College. Recently, the College invited employees and retirees to a Christmas dinner at the Schoolhouse Restaurant in Scranton where Mr. Julius Oliver, former construction trades instructor at the College, was honored as the oldest retiree.

Also during the holiday season, a group of employees participated in a festive holiday cookie swap where those in attendance provided festively wrapped homemade confections for their co-participants and also enjoyed a tableful of delicious hors d'oeuvres.

Throughout the last several semesters, employees have been treated to delicious monthly meals on campus courtesy of "Chef" Mike Cumbie and his helpers. Such delicacies as hamburgers, steaks and double-stuffed potatoes, grilled pork chops and sides and smoked turkey, with baked sweet potatoes and collard greens have brought watering mouths to the table from all over campus.

Career Fair Held On Campus

WTC's Workforce Development Department sponsored a career fair for students and community members during fall semester in the College's library. Over 350 participants were in attendance.

Businesses present who met with attendees included AccuStaff of Florence, the City of Florence, Coker College, DSM, DSS/ Workforce Development of Columbia, Francis Marion University, Gear-Up of Kingstree Senior High School, Greater Visual Virtual Solutions, Honda of SC in Timmonsville, House of Raeford, ITI Hydraulik USA of Andrews, Johnson Control Inc., Lane Head Start Center, Nan Ya Plastics of Lake City, Palmetto Synthetics, Project Hope of Florence, SC Air National Guard, SC Dental Screening Association/ Classy Smiles, SC Department of Corrections in Columbia, SC Department of Public Safety, SC Works of Florence, the towns of Georgetown and Kingstree, Simpson Lumber Company of Georgetown, Staffmark/ Tupperware, and Sykes.

For more information on WTC's Workforce Development or future career fairs, contact program director James Bostic at bosticj@wiltech.edu or by calling 843.355.4177.

Dual Enrollment Saves Money, Time

College is usually the part of a person's life that involves meeting new friends, having lots of fun, and enjoying sweet freedom from parental rules. Oh, and obtaining a higher education. Williamsburg County high school students now have the opportunity to get two college courses under their belts *each semester of their junior and senior years* (that's 8 free transferrable college courses) so that they

can get the "college" credit and experience at the same time they are completing high school credit.

WTC, in partnership with the Williamsburg County School District and Williamsburg Academy, has been able to waive tuition for two dual credit courses per qualified high school junior or senior with proper paperwork completion while Individual high schools have provided assistance with textbook costs.

A student taking dual enrollment classes receives college *and* high school credit while sitting in a single class. Depending on school administrator planning, the classes can be offered during the regular school day on the high school campuses, on the WTC campus, or at other designated locations within the County.

For information on dual enrollment opportunities at WTC, call 843.355.4182 or email myersj@wiltech.edu.

Criminal Justice Program Underway

A certificate in criminal justice is now available at WTC and the College's criminal justice instructor Dr. Gladys Loney is just the person to ask how fighting crime can be a lucrative career. A former lieutenant with the South Carolina Department of Corrections and 11-year veteran of the Greenville (SC) Police Department, Loney knows how important it is to be the right person in the right job with sufficient training to enter a career in enforcement. "WTC's criminal justice certificate program is the gateway for entering many branches of law enforcement," she says. "Our curriculum provides students with information that can heighten promotion opportunities. Whether they choose a career path of a police officer, corrections officer, or probation, pardon, and parole officer, the possibilities are unlimited."

WTC's criminal justice courses expose students to the basic elements of criminal law and behavior and helps them obtain a deeper understanding of human behavior as it relates to group and personal choices. Students can learn the skills needed to advance their career and pursue jobs such as local and state law enforcement; local, state, and federal support positions in law enforcement agencies; crime, intelligence, or case analysts; private sector investigations; corrections officers at the local and state level; and court administration, just to name a few. Courses such as criminal law, criminology, police administration, the justice process, and social problems are taught in addition to English, math, and psychology to make up the 30-hour course requirement.

For information in the WTC Criminal Justice program call 843.355.4120 or email loneyg@wiltech.edu.

Let WTC's Cosmetologist Do Your 'Do

Patrons are invited to make appointments visit the College's Cosmetology Department Thursdays from 8:30-11 a.m. for hair cuts, shampoos, sets, and nail work at reduced costs. Not only do visitors get a deal on an otherwise costly process, but they are also helping Cosmetology students learn how to better perform their duties and move toward a certificate and, ultimately, licensure. For information or to make an appointment, call 843.355.4142.