



TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

# CHANGE STARTS HERE

TTC Youth Apprenticeship Program

## Career training, credentials and a paycheck

Like many high school students, Walter Newman knew that he wanted to go to college, but he had no idea what he would study.

“I couldn’t see wasting all that time and money studying something that I may never use,” said Newman.

But last year when Newman was a junior at Fort Dorchester High School, his guidance counselor told him about the new manufacturing youth apprenticeship program at Trident Technical College.

“He knew that I liked to work with my hands, so he mentioned the program to me,” said Newman. “It sounded like a good opportunity, but I really had no idea that it would be this much fun.”

This year, Newman has been “earning while learning” while working part time at the VTL Group, which designs, develops and manufactures precision engineered components. He is also attending high school and taking classes at Trident Technical College. When he completes the program this year, not only will he earn his high school diploma, but he will also have a certificate in Industrial Mechanics that will count toward an associate degree, a national Journeyman credential from the United States Department of Labor and two years of work experience.

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### Foundation and Alumni News



*Fort Dorchester senior and TTC apprentice  
Walter Newman*

# Message from the President

Dr. Mary Thornley



*Starting Fall Semester 2014, 98 percent of courses were compressed.*

As president, it's my job to ensure that Trident Technical College is fulfilling its vision: to be the leading force for educational opportunity and economic competitiveness in the communities we serve. How do we accomplish that? **There are many important ways to achieve that vision, but none more fundamental than our students' success.**

When students come to Trident Tech seeking postsecondary education, they do so because of the opportunities that await them when they achieve their goals. Unfortunately, our data showed that too few of our students were achieving what they came here to do. When we looked at a multitude of factors related to student success, there was a striking finding that stood out regardless of age, gender, race or academic background, which was: the shorter the term, the greater the student's success. This data helped lead us to make a transformative change to TTC's schedule, which impacted every aspect of the college from financial aid to student services to academics.

**In fall 2014, TTC made the transition to 7-week terms instead of 15-week semesters. Under the new schedule, students focus on fewer courses at a time for more hours at a time. We are carefully monitoring the results, but so far, they are promising. Course success is significantly up and withdrawal rates are significantly down.**

There's no part of my job that is more important than ensuring that our students succeed, and our new Schedule for Success is an important part of that strategy.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Thornley".

Mary Thornley, Ed.D., President

## Youth Apprenticeship Programs

*continued from page 1*

"I definitely do not get bored. Next, I will be learning about tool changes, tool offsets and part changes. I am pretty excited about that," said Newman.

At the Youth Apprenticeship Program Signing Day last August, TTC President Mary Thornley spoke about the benefits of the program.

"It's a win for individuals, employers, our economy, our community and our schools," said Thornley.

Newman says he doesn't have a lot of time for fun right now but it is worth it. This summer, Newman will work full time at the VTL Group but said, "I'd work here 80 hours a week if I could. It is a really good program and I would advise anyone to jump on board."

*"Some of my friends are working in similar programs and other friends are interested now that they have seen our experiences."*

Walter Newman



# 2015 A Night in the Valley

## Friends and Supporters of TTC



- a. Clara Varga-Gonzales (left), A Night in the Valley Event Chair and TTCF Trustee, congratulates Elise Jones Martin on turning 100 years old. Martin's son, Montez Martin, and Marlon Kimpson celebrate along beside her.
- b. TTCF Trustee Geoff Schuler and wife Diane, TTC President Mary Thornley, TTC Area Commissioner Anita Zucker and David Popowski.
- c. Paul and Allison Stoney with TTC President Mary Thornley.
- d. Auctioneer Tom Crawford of Ultimate Benefit Auctions LLC and Emcee Chris Fraser, managing director of Avison Young, keep a sharp eye out for the highest bidder.
- e. TTCF Trustee Mike Bunker and wife Gretchen.
- f. Standing: TTCF Trustee Larry Hargrove with wife Deborah along with Sandy Johnson and wife Phyllis Gray. Seated: TTCF Trustee Tom Kays with wife Claudia and Scott and Monica Cayouette.



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## Lowcountry Giving Day

*Double – or TRIPLE – your donation on May 5!*

The first Lowcountry Giving Day last year was a huge success, raising more than \$92,000 for Trident Tech after incentive funds were applied. This year, thanks to an additional challenge gift of \$100,000 from Home Telecom for TTC donors only, your gift will be doubled or perhaps even tripled!

*We hope you will join us again to boost your gift on this special day of giving.*

For more information, visit [www.lowcountrygivingday.org](http://www.lowcountrygivingday.org)



# A NIGHT IN THE VALLEY

DINNER & AUCTION  
January 30, 2015



The 12th annual A Night in the Valley gala fundraiser for TTC was held on Jan. 30 at the College Center. The sold-out event, which features Culinary Institute of Charleston students and draws more than 600 guests, netted approximately \$379,000. All proceeds will support student scholarships, the student emergency fund and other critical needs of the College. Thank you to our many sponsors, guests, and volunteers for your generous support!



## **Special thanks to our major sponsors:**

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Area Convention Center  
Harris Teeter  
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Time for Questions

# Q & A with Foundation Trustees



We caught up with current TTC Foundation Board Chair Jimmy Bagwell and incoming Chair and Vice-President Carolyn Hunter to discuss their service on the foundation board and what they see ahead.

## What do you see as the greatest opportunities and challenges for the foundation in the upcoming years?

**Carolyn:** Securing the funding for the S.C. Aeronautical Training Center. While the price tag for the project is significant and we continue to seek sources of support, the education that TTC will be able to provide will be unparalleled.

**Jimmy:** Another goal is to increase the number of scholarships we provide every year. In addition, we need to provide the educational tools necessary for our students to learn new skills.

## What is your favorite part of serving on the foundation board?

**Carolyn:** My favorite part is having the opportunity to interact closely with so many like-minded members of the business community and to know that we are truly making a difference in students' lives.

**Jimmy:** I have served on the Foundation Board since 2008 and have always enjoyed the many opportunities to see our students achieve their goals and hear their stories. I especially enjoy seeing the pride in their accomplishments at graduation.

## If you could give one word of advice to a current TTC student, what would it be?

**Carolyn:** I would encourage students to share their experience at TTC with everyone. After getting settled in their new jobs, remembering to support the TTC Foundation is critical. The more each of us helps to strengthen our college, the more we all benefit.

**Jimmy:** To persevere and never give up. Nothing is more valuable than a good education in being able to realize your dreams.

## Pillars of the Foundation

TTC Foundation recently benefited from not one, not two, but three commitments of \$100,000!

The Charleston Development Board Foundation, a business development organization dating back to the 1940s, made a multi-year commitment to fund the S.C. Aeronautical Training Center at TTC – perpetuating their legacy of strengthening business in the Lowcountry. TTC Foundation board member and president of Home Telecom, Will Helmly, announced to Dr. Mary Thornley that Home Telecom would support the Aeronautical Center with a \$100,000 gift. In addition, past Foundation Board Chair Bill Craver presented his 10-year leadership challenge of \$100,000 to support TTC and to inspire others to consider long-term consecutive annual giving.

**“The TTC Foundation is immensely grateful to the Charleston Development Board Foundation and Home Telecom for their belief in the S.C. Aeronautical Training Center and for the leadership of Will Helmly and Bill Craver, whose personal dedication are among the strongest pillars of the college’s foundation,”** said Kim Hallin, executive director of the TTC Foundation.



Will Helmly, Mary Thornley, Frank Lucas and Y.W. (Bill) Scarborough.