



TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

# CHANGE STARTS HERE

## Reflections from One of TTC's First Graduates

Like many, Bobby Clair graduated from high school having no idea what he wanted to do with his life.

"I majored in sports," he says with laughter. "College was just not on my radar," he added.

But that uncertainty did not last long and luckily fate intervened. A new technical education center was opening its doors soon after Bobby graduated from Bishop England High School. It was called The Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Technical Education Center, which later became known as Trident Technical College.

"It seemed like a perfect fit for me at the time," says Clair. "I had taken some drafting classes in high school and thought that might be something interesting to try."

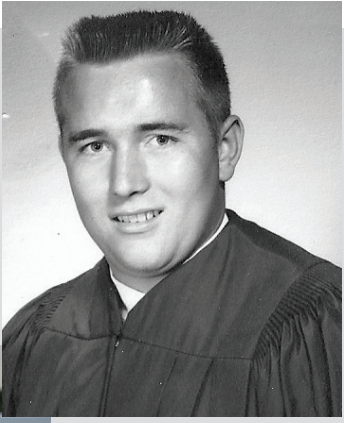
He enrolled in Industrial Drafting and found he really enjoyed it. He received a diploma in Industrial Drafting and went on to receive an associate's degree in Engineering Technology. He was the first in his family to graduate from college and had six job offers.

Clair went on to work for the South Carolina Department of Transportation, where he stayed for many years, working his way up the ladder from Project Manager to Engineering Administrator for the coastal counties. As Director of Engineering for Special Projects, Clair oversaw the construction of the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge, the largest single infrastructure project in South Carolina.

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FALL 2014

### Foundation and Alumni News



*Bobby Clair, a 1965 TTC graduate, is currently Senior Vice President at HDR Engineering in Charleston.*



# Message from the President

## Dr. Mary Thornley

This year, we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Trident Technical College. The spring newsletter looked back on the last 50 years and revisited proud moments from our history. This time, we're looking at the present with an eye towards our future.

**While it's hard to imagine what Trident Technical College will look like in 10, 20, much less 50 years, we do know that jobs are rapidly changing to meet the demands of a global economy.** Ten years ago, for instance, no one mentioned the words "Charleston" and "aerospace" in the same breath. Today, over 200 aerospace-related manufacturing companies and suppliers operate in South Carolina, and they employ more than 23,000 people.

The demand for a workforce to meet this rapidly growing industry cluster is why TTC decided to launch the Aeronautical Training Center. The vision is for a center that will train more students, train more employees, and inspire young people who visit to dream of a future career in aerospace. Fundraising is now underway for the \$79 million center that will be located on approximately 25 acres of TTC-owned land adjacent to the college's Main Campus. The expansion announcement highlights the urgency of moving forward because the future of this industry is already here.

Development of the aeronautical center is just one example of how TTC responds to present and future needs. When we imagine what the years ahead will bring, we don't have a crystal ball to use. **But we do listen and engage with area employers, our students, legislators, board members and community partners. We are proud of the past 50 years and we believe that the best way to prepare for the next fifty years is to begin today.**

Mary Thornley, Ed.D., *President*

*TTC's Aeronautical Studies division offers programs in Aircraft Maintenance, designed to lead towards Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) licensing or certification for airframe and powerplant, and Avionics Maintenance Technology, designed to lead students toward FCC and NCAAT certification.*

## Reflections from One of TTC's First Graduates

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"The education I received at Trident Tech helped me tremendously," said Clair when he received the Alumnus of the Year Award in 2005. "It's given me all the basic engineering fundamentals that I needed to work in this industry, the background to continue my education through the years and to understand new technology as it came on board."

Today, Clair is Senior Vice President at HDR Engineering, an architecture and engineering consulting firm with offices all over the world, including Charleston. He has been a very active alumni with the college for many years, volunteering on the Civil Engineering Technology Advisory Committee since 1998 and the TTC Foundation Board of Trustees since 2005. He and his wife, Dena, are generous contributors to the TTC Foundation.

"It's kind of hard to believe that it's been 50 years," said Clair. "It's a really exciting time to be a part of this college, and for being a part of that for over 50 years now is a real privilege."

# My Story: 2014 TTC Graduate Talisa Pinckney



*Talisa Pinckney graduated in May 2014 with an associate degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management. She currently works at the Renaissance Charleston Historic District Hotel.*

Tell us a little about your background. How did your family background influence your decision to attend TTC?

I was raised by a single parent. I am a single parent of three and take care of my mother as well. A couple of years ago, I decided that I was tired of working in jobs that did not interest or challenge me. I wanted to improve my family life and show my children that through any adversity, education is the key to improving life circumstances.

Why did you want to get a college education?

I wanted to get a college education because I could not go any further in my life without a degree. A college education was my chance to better my career choices and make me stop saying "what if I had gone to college?"

How did you balance education and family needs?

I found it was not that difficult if I planned and stayed focused. I decided that I would take several online classes in the beginning and, in the second year, I began taking classes that met early mornings for two days a week. Later in the evenings when my children were in bed, I would study and do homework. I stayed focused on my goals and did not let any distractions get in my way.

What are you doing now that you have graduated?

I am the first member of my family to graduate from college. Graduation was a milestone and very special moment for us. My education has led me to a job that I totally love in the hospitality field. In January, I will begin pursuing a business degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management at the College of Charleston. I would like to one day work in an inn or hotel in the international market.

What did TTC teach you about yourself? How has education contributed to your life today and prepared you for the future?

TTC taught me to be independent and realize that determination, commitment, and hard work will get you closer to what your future holds for you. Through my entire time at TTC my instructors encouraged me to never give up no matter what and reminded me that small steps lead to the big things.

*Talisa Pinckney received the Charleston Bed & Breakfast Association Scholarship and the TTC Foundation Scholarship as a TTC student.*





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*TTC donors Dena Clair, Dianne Schuler, Sunny Steinberg and Kathy Hall attended a reception with Dr. Thornley on the rooftop deck of the new Nursing and Science Building. For more information about giving circles or to take a tour of the Nursing and Science Building, contact Kim Hallin Sturgeon at 843.574.6195.*



# TTC Employees with 20+ Year of Service Discuss Planned Giving

One part of the recent Building Opportunity Campaign was the Fifty for Fifty Planned Giving Initiative, which is another way for people to support TTC. The goal is to reach 50 planned gifts in 2014. Planned giving refers to the various ways people make charitable gifts through their will or estate plan. This can be seen as confusing and complicated which led foundation staff to wonder:

## What do people at TTC know about planned giving?

To find out, Keith Rumrill, director of development, and Elliott DeMerell, major gifts officer, held a series of lunchtime focus groups. Seventy college employees with tenures exceeding 20 years had lunch and shared their perspectives on planned giving and reasons why someone might make a planned gift to TTC. The comments were candid, enlightening and sometimes entertaining.

Through these exchanges, the participants identified several points about planned giving that everyone should know:

**1. You do not need to be wealthy to make a planned gift. Gifts of any amount are welcome because the focus is on participation.**

*Planned gifts documented with the TTC Foundation range in value from \$2,000 to over \$1 million.*

**2. Planned giving doesn't have to be complicated. Most planned gifts are made by naming the TTC Foundation in a will or as a beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy.**



*Planned gift donor Linda Kalameja and student ambassador Tiffany Vazquez joined Dr. Thorney at the 2014 Legacy Society Luncheon.*

*Bequests through a will or living trust are made in consultation with your estate lawyer. Beneficiary designations are made by you without the assistance of an attorney.*

**3. Planned giving is about giving for the future and creating a legacy to support the students and employees who will be here in the next 50 years and beyond. A planned gift can be made with no restrictions or for a specific purpose.**

*A planned gift of \$2,500 invested in the foundation's endowment will generate an annual gift of \$100. The average campus campaign gift is \$130.*

*A planned gift of \$30,000 can create an endowed scholarship fund to provide \$1,200 each year.*

**4. The foundation recognizes planned gift donors through the Legacy Society and gives those donors the opportunity to come together at an annual luncheon. There are currently 32 members of the Legacy Society.**

**5. The best way to communicate details of planned giving is face-to-face.**

*The Foundation will hold a session during Professional Development Day about the basics of estate planning, including planned gifts.*

An unexpected benefit of these sessions was the chance for everyone to reconnect with colleagues. Since so many of the attendees have worked together for so long, it became a family reunion. We had a lot of talk about old times and past employees. Many participants remembered Laddie Williams, a former TTC faculty member who created the Sarah and Ladson Williams Endowed Scholarship through a bequest in his will.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the focus groups. We look forward to working with all who will consider planned giving as a way to support TTC in the next 50 years and beyond.

# TTC Leads the Way in Local Workforce Alignment



*In alignment with the local workforce, TTC offers an associate degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology - manufacturing and assembly. The Lowcountry is experiencing an increased demand in the field as a result of the booming manufacturing industry in the area, including automotive and aircraft manufacturing. According to The Post and Courier, the Charleston/North Charleston/Summerville area led the nation in the growth of manufacturing jobs from 2010-11.*

**Charleston is one of the fastest-growing metro areas in the United States.** “Between 2013 and 2018, the Charleston Region is projected to create more than 25,000 new jobs – nearly seven times the number of positions created between 2007 and 2012 (Avalanche Consulting and the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning).” While this is good news for the local economy, keeping pace with high-growth industry is critical – and a challenging task.

A recent study commissioned by the Charleston Metro Chamber, along with several other local community and higher education organizations including Trident Tech, analyzed the gaps that exist between high-growth jobs and workforce skills. **The study identified the fastest growing job cluster between 2007 and 2012 as Computer Software. Science and Engineering and Medical occupations also showed fast growth rates with 16 percent employment gains.**

It is perhaps not surprising that among local higher education institutions, TTC is leading the way in providing programs that align with current and future workforce needs. **TTC takes pride in the important role it plays in economic development and will continue to work with educational partners at all levels to ensure the region’s success.**

# TTC Opens New \$30 Million Nursing and Science Building

*Trident Technical College, the largest educator of RNs in the Lowcountry, opened its 90,000-squar-foot Nursing and Sciences Building in March 2014.*

*The facility allows TTC to expand its student enrollment and enhance its curriculum through updated technology and other improvements. The state-of-the-art facility was funded by Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties.*

*Dean Muriel Horton (right) leads a tour for alumni representatives in July 2014.*

