



CHANGE STARTS HERE

Becoming a Googler

Laura Ayers

Originally from West Virginia, Laura Ayers moved to Charleston in 2000 to complete her bachelor's degree at a local university. After several years spent working in the audio/video industry, Ayers decided to further her education by taking some engineering graphics classes in the evenings at TTC.

TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Foundation and Alumni News



Laura Ayers



"That was how I got my first taste of technical college, and I thought it was brilliant. Eventually I came to the realization that I wanted to make a career change and felt that IT would be a good move for me," said Ayers.

"So after meeting with Laurie Boeding [Network Systems Management faculty member] and discussing options, I signed up for the Associate in Telecommunications Systems Management* program." Ayers went back to TTC full time in the spring semester of 2010.

"I was able to take an internship class with the TTC IT helpdesk. While taking classes, I became involved in the student chapter of AITP (Association of Information Technology Professionals) and went to the parent chapter meetings as well. That is where I learned about opportunities at Google," remarked Ayers. "I sent in a résumé, interviewed and started working as a contractor there in February 2011 before I had even graduated. It's a really fun environment, and I feel challenged by the work. I was converted to 'Googler' in July of this past year and am looking forward to a great career with Google."



*The program has since been renamed, Network Systems Management.



TTC now has the
second largest number of
undergraduate students in
South Carolina.



Message from the President

Dr. Mary Thornley

Trident Technical College offers what students need – affordable quality education – and what businesses require – well-trained, work-ready employees. TTC now has the second largest number of undergraduate students in South Carolina among all public and private colleges and universities and serves the largest number of undergraduates who are South Carolina residents. As we continue to grow, TTC works hard to ensure that its programs maintain the highest level of quality. Through our Quality Management Plan, which has been in place for more than 20 years, TTC ensures continuous improvement as demonstrated in the following outcomes:

- 91 percent of all TTC students taking licensure exams pass their exams on the first attempt.
- 88 percent of graduates find employment or continue their studies at a four-year college within one year of graduation.
- Health care, hospitality and information technology industries rely on TTC's extensive recertification and continuing education programs to guarantee that employees remain at the top of their fields. With more than 50 certification tracks, the Division of Continuing Education and Economic Development processed nearly 33,000 registrations in 2010.
- Additionally, TTC is participating in the National College Completion Challenge, which sets a goal of increasing the number of college graduates by 50 percent by the year 2020. With the awarding of 2,251 degrees, diplomas and certificates during the 2010-2011 year, TTC is well on its way to reaching this goal.

An educated community is a prosperous community. Community college graduates earn, on average, 20-30 percent more than those with only a high school diploma. Higher wages lead to increased tax revenues and less dependence on social services. A broader tax base and a more educated workforce bring companies and jobs to the region, ensuring a strong economy and a healthy community.

Mary Thornley, Ed.D., President

Scholarship Recipient Inspired to Help Others



Joseph Powe

After Joseph Powe's mother suffered a severe stroke, he became determined to pursue a career in physical therapy. "She had to recover her strength and relearn a lot of skills," said Powe. "I was inspired by my mother's physical therapist, and now I want to help other people who struggle with physical challenges."

Powe is one of TTC's 2011-2012 scholarship recipients. He began classes at TTC in the fall of 2010 and is working toward an Associate in Science degree. After he graduates, he plans to transfer to Charleston Southern University for a bachelor's degree in athletic training then pursue a doctorate at MUSC in physical therapy. Eventually he would like to open his own physical therapy clinic.

As for the scholarship that Powe received, he remarked that it's helped him afford his education. "Being selected as a recipient is a privilege and an honor, and I know I'll have the scholarship to thank for my degree," said Powe.

Last year 1,960 students applied for scholarships at TTC, and 203 scholarships were awarded. "There is a tremendous gap between student need and available funding," said Bill Craver, board chair of the TTC Foundation. "The TTC Foundation has made scholarship development a priority, and we continue to reach out to donors who want to help bridge the gap for TTC students."

"A Gift that Will Keep on Giving"

Q&A by Keith Rumrill, Director of Planned Gifts, with Linda Kalameja

Q: You created a scholarship in memory of your husband Alan Kalameja. How did this impact your family and friends?

A: The Kalameja Memorial Scholarship was created as a sustainable way to honor Alan's memory and to pay tribute to him as a hardworking and passionate educator for more than 33 years. Not only was he a dedicated teacher, but an excellent mentor, a visionary, a respected author and a man of faith.

Q: Why is the scholarship focused on students enrolled in Computer Aided Design or Engineering Design Graphics?

A: It was a natural choice for me that the scholarship would focus on students in these programs as this was Alan's area of expertise and the subject of the textbooks he authored. Alan's priority was the education of these students so that they could enter the working world with skills that would be beneficial to them and their employers.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish with the scholarship fund?

A: Alan believed that education was very important and should be available to everyone. In fact, a year after our marriage, I became a full-time student at TTC where I earned an Associate in Arts degree. I went on to obtain my bachelor's degree. I will be forever grateful to Alan for inspiring and encouraging me to pursue that dream. Receiving a scholarship can give a student the courage and means to pursue a better quality of life through higher education.

Q: In 2011, you made plans through your estate to endow the scholarship fund in the future. How did you do that, and was it easy to set up?

A: I set up an endowment during my estate planning with my attorney. I also went online to TTC's Foundation Planned Giving site and found that a bequest is easy to arrange and will not alter your current lifestyle in any way. I now have peace of mind that my wishes will be carried out and that this is a gift that will keep on giving.



TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

P.O. Box 118067
Charleston, SC 29423-8067

Foundation@tridenttech.edu
www.tridenttech.edu/supporting-ttc.htm

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 47
Charleston, SC



The event grossed more than \$388,000, a record amount for the fundraiser. The Culinary Institute of Charleston's award-winning culinary competition team was recognized during the dinner (at right).

The TTC Foundation held the ninth annual "A Night in the Valley" dinner and auction Jan. 27 on Main Campus. Proceeds from the event benefit all TTC students.

A Night in the Valley

Dinner and Auction



CHANGE

STARTS HERE

Becoming a Googler

Laura Ayers

Originally from West Virginia, Laura Ayers moved to Charleston in 2000 to complete her bachelor's degree at a local university. After several years spent working in the audio/video industry, Ayers decided to further her education by taking some engineering graphics classes in the evenings at TTC.

TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Foundation and Alumni News



Laura Ayers



"That was how I got my first taste of technical college, and I thought it was brilliant. Eventually I came to the realization that I wanted to make a career change and felt that IT would be a good move for me," said Ayers.

"So after meeting with Laurie Boeding [Network Systems Management faculty member] and discussing options, I signed up for the Associate in Telecommunications Systems Management* program." Ayers went back to TTC full time in the spring semester of 2.

"I was able to take an internship class with the TTC IT helpdesk. While taking classes, I became involved in the student chapter of AITP (Association of Information Technology Professionals) and went to the parent chapter meetings as well. That is where I learned about opportunities at Google," remarked Ayers. "I sent in a résumé, interviewed and started working as a contractor there in February 2011 before I had even graduated. It's a really fun environment, and I feel challenged by the work. I was converted to 'Googler' in July of this past year and am looking forward to a great career with Google."



*The program has since been renamed, Network Systems Management.