One of the primary objectives of Building Opportunity: The Campaign for Trident Technical College is the establishment of a $2 million Technology and Equipment Fund. This fund will enable the college to make major investments in technology and equipment infrastructure to better address the emerging needs of students and employers.

The first priority of the Technology and Equipment Fund is the campus-wide conversion to a Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI). This transformational technology initiative will allow the college to realize more than $3 million in net savings over the next 10 years while furthering the college’s mission to provide more affordable, accessible educational opportunities for all students and faculty members, across all programs and campuses.

VDI replaces individual desktop computers with a client/server cloud system. VDI, which pushes software applications from a central server to individual units, eliminates the need for costly desktop computers that require constant upgrades and have an average five- to seven-year life span. TTC currently replaces 500 computers annually; converting to a VDI will save the college $750,000 each year. These significant cost savings will be reallocated to other essential college priorities.

“We must ensure that the college has the facilities, equipment, and the human and financial resources necessary to fuel the region’s economic growth and to make relevant training accessible to everyone who seeks a better life and livelihood.”

Dr. Mary Thornley
President, Trident Technical College

“Under Dr. Mary Thornley’s leadership, Trident Technical College continues to exceed expectations. Utilities are a high-tech industry, and Santee Cooper’s Power Associates program and TTC’s Electrical Line Worker certification together prepare our next generation of workforce for a successful career at Santee Cooper.”

Lonnie Carter
President and CEO, Santee Cooper
Building Opportunity Campaign Steering Committee Member

“Trident Tech is and always has been able to adjust to the needs of our state and flexible enough to provide the workforce that keeps our local economy humming.”

Post and Courier editorial
Nov. 14, 2010
VDI benefits students and faculty members by making education more accessible and affordable. With VDI, students and faculty can use their computers, smart phones or tablets to access resources that are now available only from TTC-owned computers. Students no longer will need to purchase expensive software for their personal computers. Rather than traveling to campus computer labs, a VDI will allow TTC students, most of whom balance families and careers with academic learning, to work from anywhere at any time.

The environmental benefits of TTC’s proposed VDI are significant. In addition to keeping 500 desktop computers out of landfills each year, a VDI utilizes “zero client” workstations that require one-tenth the electricity of traditional computers. Students can telecommute rather than travel to campus computer labs, reducing their carbon footprint.

Corporations that have embraced VDI technology have realized increases in productivity with decreases in expenses. TTC, long recognized as a pioneer of educational innovation, has the opportunity to be one of the Southeast’s first institutions of higher learning to implement a VDI.

Beyond VDI, the Technology and Equipment Fund will enable TTC to evolve with the world around it. Through additional initiatives such as equipping labs in the new Nursing and Science Building, TTC will be well positioned to meet student demand and the needs of the businesses that rely on an exceptional workforce for continued economic growth.

The Benefits of a Virtual Desktop Infrastructure are Substantial

VDI replaces TTC’s 3,200 desktop computers with virtual networks, allowing students and faculty to access data and software applications anywhere at any time.

VDI eliminates the need to replace more than 500 desktop computers each and every year, saving TTC $3 million over the next 10 years. Cost savings will be reallocated to other TTC priorities.

VDI requires an initial investment of $2.35 million for equipment. After ROI is achieved, cost savings will be reallocated to other TTC priorities.

VDI allows students and faculty to access software applications from their personal computers, tablets or smart phones, eliminating the need to purchase expensive software or work in a TTC computer lab.

TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE
The Foundation

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