Shannon Brennan has much to celebrate. In the fall of 2016, she bought her first house, a tidy brick ranch on the street where she grew up in Goose Creek. Not long after that, she was promoted at work, moving from industrial mechanic to manufacturing engineering technician at Cummins Turbo Technologies in Ladson. First homes and job promotions are major milestones in anyone's life, but the fact that Shannon was able to achieve both by the time she was 19 puts her in a class by herself.

And it wouldn't be the first time she found herself in that category. As a member of the pioneering cohort in the Charleston Regional Youth Apprenticeship Program, 17-year-old Shannon was the only female in a class of 13 industrial mechanics in training when the program launched in 2014. When asked if she ever encountered any discrimination or discouragement in such a male-dominated field, Shannon's answer is quick and definite. “Never. I had the best teachers, both in high school and at Trident Tech. And I had excellent mentors at Cummins who were very interested in me succeeding.”

At Goose Creek High School, it was Shannon’s mechatronics teacher who connected her with the youth apprenticeship opportunity. After her first year in the program, Shannon graduated from high school, and Cummins hired her on full-time with benefits; her starting salary at 18 with a high school diploma was more than what many college graduates make with a four-year degree.

Shannon knew the apprenticeship was an incredible opportunity, but the demands of her second year in the program were significant, her schedule punishing. Working 4 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. then attending classes that ran some evenings until 9 p.m. tested her resolve, but Shannon is extraordinarily focused and determined. “For a while, I was actually working two jobs. I

continued inside...
Why Help Someone Like Me?

The question students ask most at the Scholarship Luncheon and in their thank you letters is, “Why would a donor help someone like me?” To answer that question, we partnered Viktoriya Zlateva, a student panelist at the Scholarship Luncheon who received the Michael O’Shaughnessy Scholarship, and donor Michael Scaraf tile, president of Carolina One Real Estate who established the O’Shaughnessy Scholarship, to answer why people fund scholarships.

**Viktoriya:** What made you want to help someone like me?

**Michael:** We are all part of our greater community, and we all get stronger or weaker together. Given that, whether you call it help or call it an investment in both an individual and in our collective future, the question is: Why wouldn’t you help someone willing to put in the hard work to further their education?

**Viktoriya:** What do you hope your support can accomplish?

**Michael:** Education is the key to opportunity. Our hope is that our support will provide someone with the opportunity to reach their full potential in whatever area they choose.

**Viktoriya:** Did someone help you?

**Michael:** Of course. People, whether it be family, friends, teachers or mentors, helped me all along the way in many different ways, whether that be through financial help, encouragement or otherwise.

**Viktoriya:** What type of scholarships do you look to sponsor?

**Michael:** I like to root for the underdog. The student who has the potential, but may not have had the opportunity, support or encouragement to succeed and strive for something greater.

Thank you Michael and Viktoriya for the gift of your time. To learn more about scholarships at TTC, go to www.tridenttech.edu/pay/available/fa_scholarships.htm.

Annual Scholarship Luncheon

At the annual spring Scholarship Luncheon, the college brings together student scholarship recipients and the donors who make those funds possible. Student panelists share their educational journey and how scholarships helped them along the way, and a scholarship donor speaks about why they choose to support TTC students. For more photos, visit the Trident Tech Alumni & Friends Facebook page.
The Tricounty area is rich in opportunity, and Trident Tech is proud to forge connections with agencies and institutions that will result in educational development for our community.

This fall, Trident Tech is partnering with Project Lead the Way and the U.S. Department of Labor on a pilot project for high school students dual enrolled in Project Lead the Way and Trident Tech courses. Students will be apprenticed as engineering assistants with a variety of companies throughout the region while studying to become engineers or engineering assistants.

With the College of Charleston, we are embarking on a new Bridge program. Students live on the College of Charleston campus and take Trident Tech courses with Trident Tech instructors. With a successful term, they earn an Introductory University Studies certificate and matriculate in the spring to the College of Charleston.

At the Palmetto campus, the inaugural ninth grade class of Early College High School students is beginning coursework. These students have the opportunity to complete up to two years of college credit while earning a high school diploma, as well as participate in internships and/or apprenticeships.

With these and other new and innovative partnerships, Trident Tech is striving to help meet our community’s evolving needs, and we look forward to additional opportunities yet to come.

Shannon is now finishing her associate degree at TTC (where her sister Shaina is a nursing student), and wants to go on to earn her bachelor’s degree at The Citadel. Since Cummins offers generous tuition remission, and Shannon is a LIFE scholar, she will graduate with virtually no student debt. “It wasn’t always easy. The youth apprenticeship was tough, but it was well worth it. Everything I did paid off.”
Future TTC Students

A machine that cuts the crust off your bread and a comb that is shaped for your head are just a couple of things that 9-year-old George Holseberg has invented. And that was before he came to TTC’s Kids’ College summer camp, Tinkering on the Edge of Innovation.

The camp was the perfect fit for George and his friend Sam Wilson, who attended with him in August. Sam, who aspires to be a scientist, loves to take things apart to see how they work. He keeps notes and watches the show “How it’s Made” on television with his dad. George says he would like to be an inventor because, “It’s a thrill and accomplishment to take something that is really hard to do and make it easier.”

The boys learned about simple machines – inclined plane, wheel and axle, wedge, lever, pulley, screw – and eventually created their own Rube Goldberg, which is a series of devices designed to perform a simple task. They also visited the aeronautical classrooms on campus where the kids were able to see how the simple machines carry over in the real world.

The instructor, Colleen Shoemaker, who is a full-time teacher at College Park Middle School, says she loves coming back to teach every summer because the kids are so excited to be there. They already have an interest in the topic, so her job is to help ignite the interest and make it a fun week. She says she wants them to be able to leave camp with positive feelings about learning and maybe a desire to further pursue something they like. “There may have been a future engineer in my camp this summer,” she says. “I hope they think back on our work this week as a time that helped them along the way.”

George and Sam partnered up on their project for the class, which was to use three to five simple machines to complete a task. The boys chose to pop a balloon using a ramp/inclined plane, a pulley and a lever. When their parents were invited to watch the kids demonstrate all of their projects, their passion for the project was clear. As the balloon successfully popped the boys jumped up with excitement exclaiming, “It worked!”

Sam’s mother, Suzan Wilson, was pleased to see how excited he was about the camp. She says, “Sam is a very active kid, and it is nice to have something that engages him so much.”

George and Sam came to the TTC Kids’ College camp last year for the first time and couldn’t wait to come back again this year. They both loved the Junior CSI Camp, where they learned how to take fingerprints, and the Mind Your Manners camp, which George says he really didn’t want to attend but still had fun.

George’s parents Lynda and Stephen Holseberg are very pleased with the variety of camps offered at Kids’ College. Lynda says, “From manners to music to culinary arts, you have covered a lot of bases,” and Stephen adds, laughing, “We may have to run him back through the manners camp, though, I think he forgot a few things.”
Recent Events

1. Early College High School Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
2. TTC ProAm Golf Tournament
3. Spring Spin-Off
4. Scholarship Luncheon
5. Youth Apprenticeship Signing Day
Thank You for Your Support of TTC Students

Your donations in 2016-17 resulted in tangible impacts for our students, faculty and staff. Thank you for giving to the TTC Foundation!

2016-17 Program Impact

- Scholarships = $340,178
- SKIP Awards = $2,000 (2 employees awarded at $1,000 each)
- Future Alumni Essay Contest = $3,000
- Student Emergency Fund = $5,884
- Student Equipment Funds = $15,000
- International Education Fund = $46,812
- Minigrants = $119,804
- Tuition Assistance = $135,505
- Steinberg Book Fund = $158,135

The Trident Technical College Foundation advocates and raises funds for the college to support the region’s economy. Visit us at www.tridenttech.edu/foundation.

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