



CHANGE STARTS HERE

From Food Stamps to Financial Stability

Meagan Hayes made the decision to go back to school after a string of bad days at her waitressing job. It was the off-season, business was slow, tips were bad and she was picking up evening and overnight shifts just to make ends meet. This meant she could not be home with her 4-year old son to make him dinner, bathe him, read to him and tuck him in.

"I just decided I had had enough. I didn't want to raise my son the way I was raised: with a mom who was working two jobs to keep a roof over our heads and barely home," she says.

Going back to college was always a dream for Meagan, but the thought of it was overwhelming. As an addict four years into recovery and a single, working mom, her days were challenging enough. Trying to find a way to pay for school, jumping through hoops to get enrolled and

changing her work schedule to attend classes were daunting and scary. But she was pleasantly surprised by how easy it was. A few days later after buying her books, wearing her diner uniform, she stood in the parking lot of TTC's Palmer Campus and snapped a selfie.

"I knew it was a life-changing day that I would want to remember forever," says Meagan.

Meagan is working on getting her degree in human services with a focus on addiction, and wants to put her education and experience to good use by helping others turn their lives around. She wants to empower them to be a contributor – not a strain – on the community.

"I will be going from a single parent on food stamps that works at Waffle House to a financially stable member of society, and I want to help others do the same," she says.

Meagan has procured a criminal record from her wayward years and knows that finding gainful employment as a convicted felon is challenging, a problem many addicts face.

"They get to the point where they want to turn their life around and do the right thing but can't find a job. As a result, they return to criminal behavior and eventually end up in jail," she adds.



continued inside...

From TTC to MIT

You could say that Trident Tech alum Tom Pinckney started attending college classes when he was about 10 years old. He would often go to work with his dad, who taught accounting at TTC, so that he could get access to the computers.

"I really liked playing around with computers, mostly games, but it was the beginning for me," says Tom.

As he got older, he started sitting in some of the computer programming classes and completing assignments from the classes, like writing programs to do payroll and other business tasks. He eventually decided he would just take all of his classes at Trident Tech, as opposed to traditional high school. He went on to take classes at the College of Charleston and then graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for undergraduate and graduate school.

"I like to tell people that Trident Tech taught me all of the practical things about programming and MIT taught me all the theoretical things. So between the two I was covered," he laughs.

Tom is Senior Vice President of Engineering at eBay. He manages teams that build the company's search, recommendations and computer vision products – 200 people across locations in San Jose, New York, Shanghai, Tel Aviv and Berlin. In 2008, he decided he wanted to give back to TTC and started a scholarship for programming students called the Top Programmer Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to one



student each year who is majoring in computer programming and has received an A in two key programming classes.

"I really just wanted to help other people who want to develop programming skills with either a first career or perhaps a new mid-life career," he says.

This year's recipient of the Top Programmer scholarship is 56-year old Sherri Broyles, who is returning to school to pursue her degree in computer programming to help her in her accounting job. Like Tom, she wanted to learn how to write programs that will automate many things she does at work.

"Automation will help me provide support to my clients, many of whom are small business owners here in the Charleston area," says Broyles.

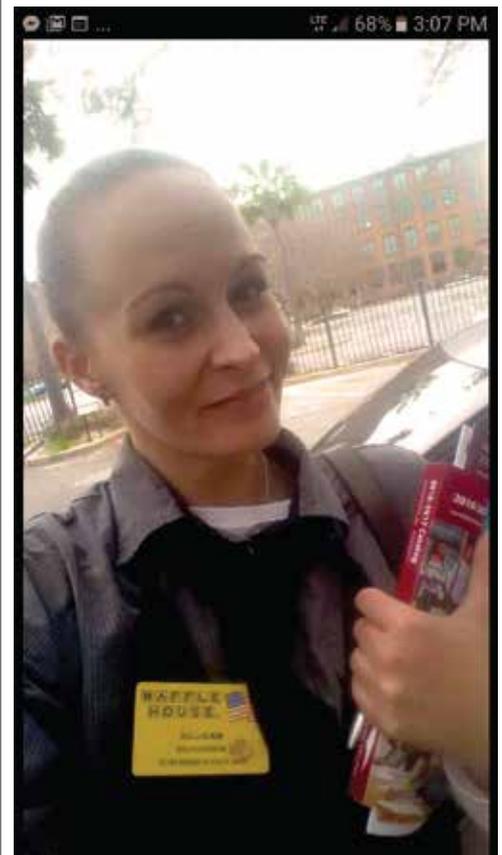
Eight TTC students have received the Top Programmer Scholarship since Tom started it in 2008, and he hopes that many more will be able to benefit from it.

"When I receive a thank you letter from a scholarship recipient, it makes me feel as if I am truly making an impact. I am grateful for the education I received at Trident Tech and feel very fortunate that I can help others do the same," Pinckney adds.

... continued from front cover

Meagan is already making an impact. Taking classes at TTC has given her an enormous sense of accomplishment, and she has already inspired others in her life to make similar changes. She told her story through the 2017 Future Alumni Essay Contest and earned runner-up. She hopes that others who read it will be encouraged to make changes of their own.

"Who can better inspire an addict struggling with the choice of life or death than a person who chose a better life? I am a person that was in the trenches of addiction and lost everything. I know how hopeless and impossible it can seem. Thankfully, I persevered, and now I am living proof that a better life is possible through education."



Meagan Hayes snapped this picture the day she enrolled.

President's Message – Dr. Mary Thornley



Do you remember what you wanted to be when you “grew up”? An astronaut, doctor, ballerina, teacher,

professional athlete? Not many of us find ourselves where we thought we'd be. And more and more commonly, people have several different careers over the course of a lifetime rather than just one. At Trident Technical College, we often hear adults say they're still trying to decide what they want to be when they grow up.

Maybe you're thinking about a change. Or maybe you know someone who is – a neighbor who wishes she could get a better job to provide more for her family, or a friend who doesn't seem happy in his career. It's never too late to further an education, and it's never too late to embrace the opportunities that a change in career can offer.

Trident Tech has over 150 programs of study that can lead to employment in a broad range of fields, including aeronautical studies, arts and sciences, business, computer technology, culinary, engineering technology, health sciences, hospitality, industrial technology, and public service. We

have locations throughout the tri-county area, offer both day and evening classes, and provide many online classes. Whether your educational goal is one of personal enrichment, career development or university transfer, Trident Tech is right here in your community, and we're here to help.

I invite you to seize the opportunity to try something new, to make a change for the better and to invite others to do the same. Together we can build an even more vibrant community and inspire the next generation to dream about what they, too, can be someday.

TTC Foundation Welcomes New Executive Director

When Lisa Piccolo moved to Charleston from Toronto, Canada in January, the last thing she expected to encounter was a snow storm. And even though she and her husband Philip were drawn to the area for its beauty, climate and welcoming nature, it helped them feel right at home.

“We were certain that the boxes containing the boots and scarves would stay taped up, but they were some of the first to be unpacked,” she laughs.

Lisa is the new Executive Director of TTC Foundation and Vice President for Development at the college. As an advancement professional with more than 20 years of experience, Lisa's work within the philanthropic community extends to both Canada and the United States. Focusing her

energies in the higher education sector, Lisa has provided leadership and support as foundation executive director, chief advancement officer, and vice president of advancement and external relations for colleges in Kentucky, Indiana and Ontario, Canada. Lisa has always been actively involved in her community through board memberships with United Way, Junior Achievement, Chamber of Commerce and Holly's House. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toronto, Master of Public Administration degree from Indiana State University and is currently completing a Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership at Northeastern University.

Lisa looks forward to engaging with the college's many supporters and learning more about what motivates them to support TTC.



“I can already see how dedicated our volunteers and donors are to the college, and I look forward to partnering with them to create more opportunities for TTC students,” she says.

If you would like to contact Lisa, please email her at lisa.piccolo@tridenttech.edu or call 843.574.6195.

Ending Campus Hunger



Food insecurity is a reality for many people, and a new study shows that 30 percent of community college students are food-insecure. Having difficulties acquiring nutritionally adequate and safe foods is a reality for many students and is strongly linked to lower graduation rates.*

Students from TTC's student honor society Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) recognized it as a problem on campus and opened the college's first Grocery Vault on Main Campus in 2016, serving over 260 people the first year. This past January, a second Grocery Vault was opened at the downtown Palmer Campus.

The vaults are managed by students with the support of faculty advisors and other volunteers, stocking shelves with donated food and toiletries. Both locations are open for two hours twice a week (and sometimes by special appointment) and are organized so that distribution is equitable based on family size and weekly visits.

There has been a significant outpouring of support from the community and Publix Charities recently donated \$5,000 to pay for a refrigerator so that chilled items like milk, eggs and cheese could also be available.

If you would like to help reduce food insecurity in the TTC community, you may bring grocery supplies to either location or make a cash contribution online at www.tridenttech.edu. The most requested items are bread, peanut butter, jelly, pasta and pasta sauce.



Palmer Campus Grocery Vault Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Left to Right: Dr. Mary Ann Kohli, Clemente Coalition Advisor; Dr. Lou Robinson, dean of Palmer Campus; Veronica Rohtert, president of the Clemente Coalition; Krista Farley, TTC chapter vice president of PTK; Stephanie Hable, TTC chapter president of PTK; Gregory Cushing, Palmer Campus dean's office campus coordinator; Claudia Brown, Palmer Campus bookstore and business office manager; and Amy Hudock, assistant dean of Palmer Campus



*<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/14/opinion/hunger-college-food-insecurity.html>

More than \$546,000 was raised for the 15th A Night in the Valley wine dinner and auction held Friday, Jan. 26, at Trident Technical College. The money will be used to fund student scholarships, support professional development opportunities for faculty and staff, and support instructional activities throughout the college.

Culinary Institute of Charleston chefs and students prepared and served a four-course, wine-paired, dinner to 600 guests. The event is TTC Foundation's largest fundraising event.

A NIGHT IN THE VALLEY





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Special Thanks to the 2018 A Night in the Valley Major Sponsors



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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