When Gov. Ernest “Fritz” Hollings set out to make South Carolina more competitive in recruiting business and industry, he knew that the state needed to excel at training the people who would fill those jobs. So in 1961, he established the South Carolina Advisory Committee for Technical Training to oversee the creation of permanent regional technical centers to provide postsecondary technical and other adult skills training.

Trident Technical College – then called the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Technical Education Center – became the seventh center to open in September 1964. TTC began with two buildings and 226 students. Fast-forward 50 years, and TTC is number two in undergraduate enrollment in the state with more than 17,000 students, four campuses and three sites.

As we look back on the past 50 years, we are proud of many moments. The timeline inside highlights just some of these important hallmarks. But the real history of TTC is the story of its students, the tens of thousands of men and women who entered our classrooms to seek growth and opportunity to better their lives and their families and to grow as individuals. That story continues to unfold, and I know that the next 50 years will bring new challenges and opportunities. As TTC moves forward to prepare the next generation for a global economy, our trademark values of teaching excellence, diversity, creativity and continuous improvement will allow us to continue to fulfill our vision: to be the leading force for educational opportunity and economic competitiveness in the communities that we serve.
Ways to Get Involved—Your Story is Our Story

In celebration of the college’s 50th anniversary, we would like to spotlight students, alumni, employees, retirees, volunteers and community members – those whose lives have been impacted by TTC.

Let us know how TTC has impacted your life. Your experiences at TTC can inspire and motivate others. There’s a link on our website to share your story.

Planning for the Next 50

The Fifty for Fifty Planned Giving Initiative is designed to provide TTC with 50 new planned gifts, ensuring that TTC’s future needs – needs that have yet to be identified – will be funded. A planned gift perpetuates support to TTC beyond one’s lifetime while often providing a donor with favorable estate tax benefits. For information, contact Keith Rumrill at keith.rumrill@tridenttech.edu or 843.574.6196.

Maximize Your Gift

On May 6, 2014, Trident Technical College will participate in Lowcountry Giving Day sponsored by the Coastal Community Foundation. Through the generosity of an anonymous Lowcountry donor, online gifts made that day to TTC – and other designated nonprofits – will be leveraged, making your contribution even more impactful. Please consider giving one dollar for every year that TTC has been providing high-quality education and training to the Lowcountry. Mark your calendar for May 6, 2014, go to www.lowcountrygivingday.org and make your contribution count even more.

Visit www.tridenttech.edu to learn more about these and other initiatives.

“I love my job and owe my success to Trident Technical College. My experience there changed my life, allowing me to receive hands-on education that directly correlated to my field of interest.”

Chris Terry, Employee at F5 Networks, Alumnus/Volunteer/Adjunct Faculty

“Almost one out of 10 employees at Santee Cooper that work in the Berkeley County area have been to Trident Tech ... It is hard to imagine what our economy would be like without the impact that Trident Tech has had.”

Lonnie Carter, President and CEO, Santee Cooper
On Jan. 31, the Trident Technical College Foundation and the Culinary Institute of Charleston hosted the 11th annual A Night in the Valley. This year's event grossed over $480,000—an increase of almost $80,000, and marked the beginning of the 50th anniversary year of Trident Technical College.

Special thanks to our major sponsors: The Boeing Company, Limehouse Produce Co. Inc., Wells Fargo, Embassy Suites, Harris Teeter, Tiger Lily Florist, and Production Design Associates.
A dedication ceremony for the $1.7 million Charleston-Dorchester Technical Education Center is held on May 13, 1964. The center opens with two buildings and 226 students. The center, located on 25 acres in the North Area, emphasizes engineering and industrial technologies.

The Trident Technical Foundation is chartered. The foundation helps advocate and raise funds for the college to support the region’s economy.

TTC purchases 30 acres of land including an office building and a 229,302-square-foot warehouse adjacent to Main Campus. The buildings will be renovated in phases over several years to become the Complex for Economic Development.

With 15,756 students, TTC overtakes Clemson University to become the second largest provider of undergraduate education in South Carolina. (With a Fall Semester 2013 enrollment of 17,489, TTC remains No. 2 in undergraduate enrollment in the state. Only the University of South Carolina has more undergraduate students.)

The Culinary Institute of Charleston at Trident Technical College is established to continue culinary and hospitality programs already available and to offer new credit and continuing education offerings.

The TTC Foundation hosts its first wine dinner auction fundraiser. The event, now known as A Night in the Valley, is currently held in the College Center on Main Campus and is the foundation’s largest fundraising effort.

The Mount Pleasant Campus opens.

Fall academic enrollment is 4,685.

Mary Thornley is named president. Dr. Thornley began working at the college in 1973 as a part-time instructor. She later held positions including instructor of speech and English, department head of English, vice president of Institutional Planning, dean of Academic and Student Services and vice president for Academic Affairs.

Fall academic enrollment is 9,626.

TTC launches QUEST, an academic competition for area middle and high school students, to recognize outstanding schools and promote academic excellence.

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