



# CHANGE STARTS HERE

## Capital Campaign Shatters Goal

The TTC Foundation has raised more than \$4.2 million through its Building Opportunity campaign – far exceeding the campaign’s initial goal of \$3 million.

## TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

### Foundation and Alumni News

The funds raised will enable TTC to move forward with two important initiatives: more scholarships for deserving students and a campus-wide technology upgrade.

“The outpouring of support for our campaign emphasizes how vital the accessible education and training provided by TTC is for students, families and companies in the Lowcountry,” said Anita Zucker, Building Opportunity campaign chair.

Because of the campaign’s success, the TTC Foundation will be able to increase the number of student scholarships awarded annually by 47 percent, beginning in the Fall of 2013. For many students, a TTC scholarship is the necessary vote of confidence that encourages them to complete their education. Says one scholarship recipient, “When I first received my TTC scholarship acceptance letter, I cried a little bit because no one ever believed in me growing up. It is life-changing to know that someone does.” For others, a TTC scholarship helps ensure a successful graduation by enabling students to

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*Pictured above are Capital Campaign steering committee members who attended the campaign celebration on Jazz Island. (L-R) Geoff Schuler, Bobby Clair, Carolyn Hunter, Frank Bullard, Jimmy Bagwell, Jack Harrison, Anita Zucker, Lonnie Carter, Reid Banks, Bill Blanton and Mary Thornley.*



TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

# Message from the President

Dr. Mary Thornley

The fundamental, number one strategic goal for Trident Technical College is accessibility. We need to have the capacity to accept the students who want to enroll and further their education. Our enrollment of 16,357 is TTC's highest Spring enrollment yet and also marks TTC's 19th consecutive semester of growth.



Not only are we growing, but we are educating students who represent the diverse demographics of our tri-county community. Based on the census demographics of Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties, the college's African American student percentage for each county is slightly higher than the percentage living in those counties. TTC's overall student population is 58.5 percent Caucasian, 31.5 percent African American, and 10 percent Hispanic, Asian, American Indian or Hawaii-Pacific Islander.

In recognition of TTC's efforts to nurture and support a student body that reflects our community, TTC recently received the first annual Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in higher education. In addition, TTC was recognized in the South Carolina State Human Affairs Commission's report to the General Assembly as #1 among all South Carolina technical colleges and #2 among all state agencies in meeting equal opportunity goals. Diversity is one of our core values. The college's goal is to provide quality education and promote economic development in a diverse environment that reflects not only our community but the world.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Thornley".

Mary Thornley, Ed.D., President

## Record Community Support *continued*

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balance college with work and family commitments. "We are truly grateful for the generosity of our donors and for their commitment to Trident Tech and our students," said Kim Sturgeon, Executive Director, TTC Foundation.

Building Opportunity will also help fund TTC's campus-wide conversion to a Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI), which is a cloud system that makes technology more accessible to all students and faculty. With VDI, students and faculty will be able to use their laptops, smart phones or tablets to access resources that are now available only from TTC-owned computers. Rather than traveling to campus computer labs, VDI will allow TTC students to work from anywhere at any time. Because VDI eliminates the need to replace desktop computers and software, TTC will realize significant savings over the next 10 years while also conserving energy. VDI uses approximately 10 percent of the energy needed for desktop computing.

"I don't want to turn away one student who seeks a better life through higher education because of lack of space, equipment, instructors or financial assistance," said Mary Thornley, president of Trident Technical College. "We seek to help those who need the most support. In doing so, we transform lives, build the foundation for families and have the greatest impact on the communities we serve."

# TTC Proudly Serves its Veterans

According to the 2010 Census Bureau, there are nearly 70,000 civilian veterans in the Tri-county. TTC not only enrolls more veterans than any other postsecondary institution in the region, but strives to meet their unique needs along the postsecondary continuum. During the 2012-13 academic year, 1,728 students enrolled at TTC who either identified themselves as veterans on their application forms or received VA benefits. TTC has been named a Military Friendly School by *G.I. Jobs* magazine for the last four years, earning the designation through its commitment to provide a variety of services that embrace military service members and veterans as students. Services include:

**Veterans Assistance Office:** Students eligible for military educational benefits can come to the VA office for help with benefits forms, tuition assistance, transcripts, standards of academic progress and related VA information. "The Veterans Office here is outstanding," says TTC student, Ric Adams. "Staff members give you all the information needed to get you enrolled."

**VETS Center:** Vets can socialize and network in this veterans-only study lounge and use computers. An educational benefits counselor is on hand to assist in selecting programs of study. The VETS Center staff "bend over backwards to help vets," comments Anna McRae-Lewis, a TTC alumni and current employee. "Veterans talk to one another in the lounge to get the whole picture and help each other out."

**Veterans Upward Bound:** This pre-college program, funded by a U.S. Department of Education grant, helps vets transition to higher education with free academic refresher classes, advising, assistance with admission and financial aid, and other support services. As VUB Director Brian Jerdan explains, "VUB is here to help veterans prepare to achieve their academic goals."

**Navy College Program Distance Learning Partnership:** This program offers sailors the opportunity to earn a college degree while serving in the Navy anywhere in the world by completing degrees entirely online.



According to Lewis, "TTC has definitely earned the name of a Military Friendly School; they want veterans to come here and will help them to succeed."



*Pictured to the right are TTC's Foundation Executive Director Kim Sturgeon, Building Opportunity Campaign Chair Anita Zucker, President Mary Thornley, Vice President of Advancement Meg Howle and Director of Development Keith Rumrill at the campaign celebration on Jazz Island.*



# TTC Opens New Media Arts Facility and Wellness Center

On March 6, Trident Tech officially opened two new training facilities on Main Campus: The InterTech Group Wellness Center and the Media Arts facility, which hosts the Film, Media and Visual Arts Division.

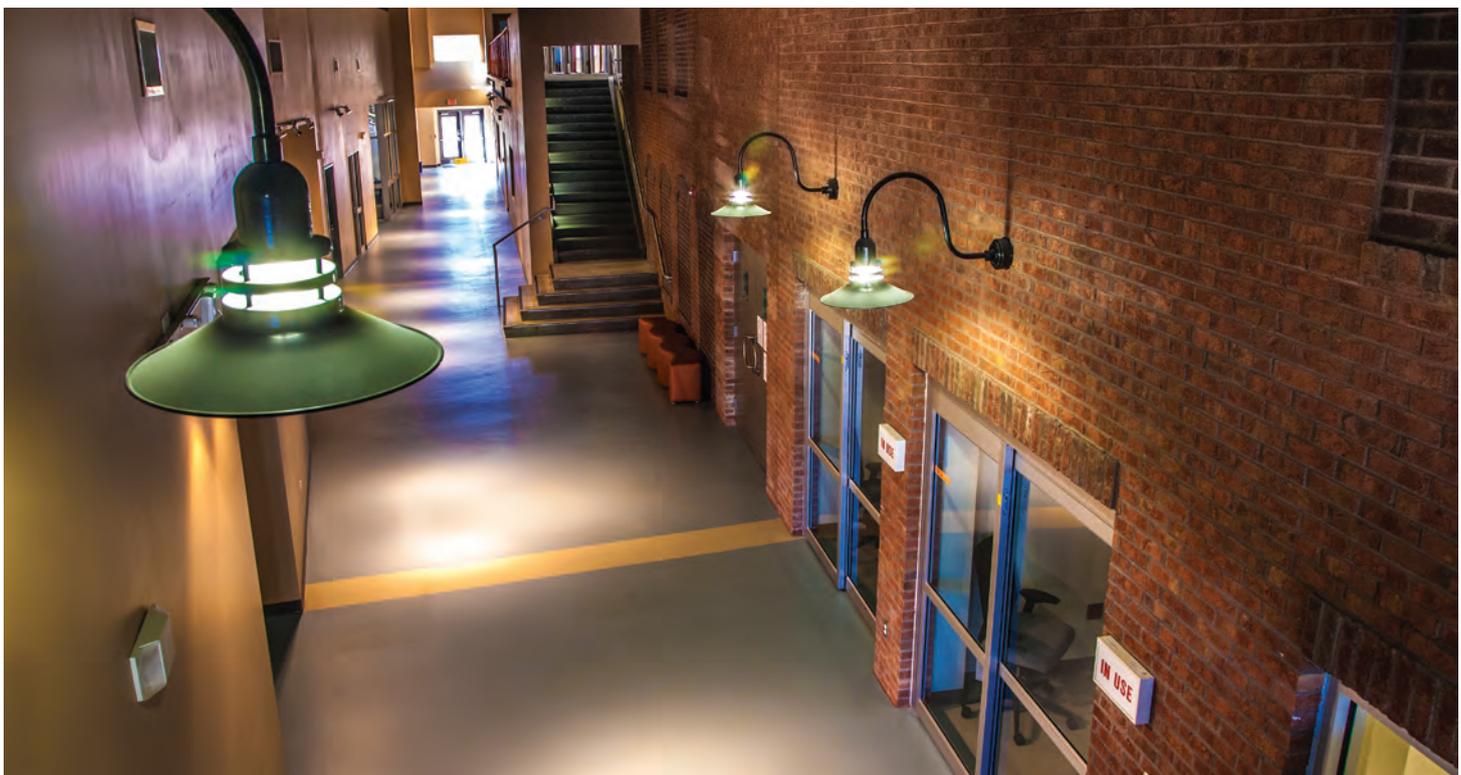
The InterTech Group Wellness Center will offer students the opportunity to complete a Fitness Specialist certificate which provides entry-level training for the fitness industry. Graduates will be qualified to work in gyms and in commercial and corporate fitness centers to provide cardio, weight training, wellness and personal fitness training services. The Wellness Center is also adjacent to a new café that offers espresso and blended coffee drinks, smoothies, bagels, panini and flatbread sandwiches, and soups and salads.

Near the Wellness Center is the new, state-of-the-art Media Arts facility. The space includes a sound studio, TV production studio, film production studio, two radio labs, two computer labs, six editing suites, two lab classrooms, one tiered theater classroom, an equipment checkout/repair facility and eight faculty offices. Students majoring in the Film, Media and Visual Arts Division can choose from an associate degree in general technology (film production career path), radio and television broadcasting, and commercial graphics (graphic design, digital media, photography or animation), along with a range of certificates.



*The InterTech Group Wellness Center is a new state-of-the-art fitness training facility that houses a large aerobic room, free weights, cardio equipment, Sports Art selectorized equipment and locker rooms.*

*The new Film, Media and Visual Arts facility features a state-of-the-art production studio and control room, sound recording center, sound stage and theatre screening classroom that provides students with all the tools they need for a real world learning environment.*



# The Leatherwood Legacy

What family traditions do you have? For Mike Leatherwood, president of Leatherwood Manufacturing in North Charleston, education at Trident Technical College has become an intergenerational family tradition.

Leatherwood has been an on-going student since the early 1970's. His two sons, Scott and Gil Leatherwood, are TTC graduates, as is Gil's wife Angela. Scott holds two associate degrees in industrial technology and welding technology. Gil and Angela, who met at TTC, both graduated with associate degrees in electronics technology. Angela also has a TTC medical assistant associate degree. Third generation grandsons Nick and Bryon are enrolled in two-year associate degree programs in mechanical engineering, while granddaughter Brooke is enrolled in a two-year program in nursing. With all the cousins and four more grandchildren coming along, Mike says he will probably have enough TTC graduates to have their own college reunion.

"There wasn't a plan to establish a family tradition, it just happened," Leatherwood said. "TTC offered and continues to offer career courses that are important to my business and to the future of my grandchildren. TTC is also affordable and offers almost any career path of choice."

Leatherwood's business, which provides contract manufacturing services for the aerospace, military, medical, industrial and commercial industries, has relied heavily for 27 years on the training offered at TTC. "I'm always delighted to see job applicants who have attended TTC," said Leatherwood. "This always gets my attention as I know they have received the proper training for their selected careers."

Over the years, Leatherwood has served on TTC's academic advisory committees and now serves as a member of TTC's foundation board. Mike and his wife Linda are strong supporters of TTC and are convinced that the college is the engine for economic development growth for the tri-county community. "Industry must have a well-educated and trained work force to survive and grow in today's markets," Leatherwood concluded.

*"Nursing has been my dream for as long as I can remember, and I know that Trident Technical College has all of the resources to make that dream come true."*

-Brooke Corbin

*"I have witnessed the success of Trident Tech Alumni and how knowledgeable and experienced the instructors are."*

-Nick Leatherwood

*"TTC gives me the opportunity to be close to home and get most of my basic courses done before transferring to a four-year university."*

-Bryon Leatherwood

***If you have a TTC family tradition to share, we'd love to hear more about it. Please email [elliott.demerell@tridenttech.edu](mailto:elliott.demerell@tridenttech.edu).***



Pictured is the Leatherwood Family (l-r) Angela, Gil, Mike, Linda, Nick, Brooke, Bryon and Scott in front of Leatherwood Manufacturing on Dorchester Road in North Charleston.

# *A Night in the Valley*

On Jan. 25, Trident Technical College hosted the 10th annual A Night in the Valley dinner and auction on Main Campus. The four-course dinner was prepared by the Culinary Institute of Charleston faculty, staff and students.

This year's event was record-breaking and grossed over \$400,000. Proceeds from the event provide funding for student scholarships, equipment for academic programs and other needed resources.

