



CHANGE

STARTS HERE

Chef Grossman Provides a Crucial Ingredient to Charleston's Food Scene

Starting at a young age, Ellis Grossman felt destined to follow in the footsteps of his physician father and enter the field of medicine. "Other kids got traditional bedtime stories. My parents read to me about veins, muscles and bones."

TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Foundation and Alumni News



Ellis Grossman, TTC graduate and owner of Black Bean Co., at the West Ashley location.

But after graduating from high school, Ellis decided he wanted to follow his passion and attend culinary school. "Why get into a bunch of debt and not be able to pay it back when I can apply what I am learning in an actual field that I love? So many people that I know have four-year business degrees and are working at Starbucks."

With the full support of his parents, Ellis enrolled at Johnson & Wales, but quickly realized he wasn't learning anything new. "Not only was I not enjoying my experience there, but I also wanted to be back in Charleston where I grew up. So I took a tour of the Culinary Institute of Charleston at TTC and I absolutely fell in love with it."

After graduating in 2008 with associate degrees in Culinary Arts and Culinary Arts Technology, he decided to open up his own business. **The Black Bean Co.** serves organic, all-natural "energy food" with one additional ingredient previously missing from the Charleston food scene: convenience. As a result of providing delicious, *continued on next page 2*



Message from the President

Dr. Mary Thornley

Trident Technical College's transfer program is designed to help students make a seamless transition from one college to another, whether they are transferring to TTC or from TTC to another college or university. Because TTC is a regionally-accredited college, students can transfer successfully to most colleges and universities in the U.S. Whether the student is choosing to go down the road to The Citadel or across the country to a college in California, transfer advisors can help them pick courses that will count toward their four-year degree.

TTC's transfer program has numerous benefits, which is why over 23 percent of our students transfer. First, earning transfer credit at TTC enables many students to be admitted to four-year colleges and universities who might not be admitted as freshmen. Second, TTC's tuition, which is only \$771 a semester after S.C. lottery assistance, is an affordable way to complete up to two years of college. Third, with small classes, helpful instructors and high standards, TTC transfer courses effectively prepare students for higher levels of coursework.

A 2011 TTC graduate, Darren Boulton, spoke recently at our TTC Foundation Board meeting. Darren said that after being accepted as a freshman to the College of Charleston, he chose instead to spend his first two years at Trident Tech. Not only did he save thousands of dollars, but TTC's flexible scheduling and online courses allowed him to work full-time and attend classes. Darren transferred to College of Charleston as a junior and completed his bachelor's degree, and recently received the prestigious Schottland Business Leadership Award, which will provide him with \$15,000 towards an MBA.

Trident Technical College has a long history of helping future leaders like Darren and we are proud of the role that we play in helping all students reach their goals.

Mary Thornley, Ed.D., President

TTC students have continued their education at public and private institutions including:

Charleston Southern University, The Citadel, Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, College of Charleston, Francis Marion University, Harvard University, Limestone College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Medical University of South Carolina, South Carolina State University, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and University of South Carolina.

Chef Grossman *continued*

"I could not have asked for a better foundation on which to build my career.

TTC gave me the opportunity to learn, grow, become successful and most importantly, help our community thrive."

healthy food at a speedy pace, Grossman has quickly expanded and now has locations in downtown Charleston, James Island, West Ashley, an express location at MUSC East and more on the horizon.

Ellis attributes much of his success to the support that he received from the faculty and staff while attending CIC, support which Ellis said did not stop after he graduated. "It was so helpful to go back for advice, leads on jobs, cooking tips and talk about what's going on in the marketplace. Dean Michael Saboe was always extremely supportive of anything I wanted to do and is always interested in what I am doing next."

Now Ellis is trying to pay it forward by hiring CIC graduates; supporting TTC's annual fundraising event, A Night in the Valley; and joining the Hospitality, Tourism and Culinary Arts Advisory Committee at TTC.

Why We Hire Trident Tech Graduates

Roger and Karen Allen are thriving small business owners who own nine Great Clips salons, seven in the Charleston area and two in Bluffton. Like all small businesses, their success is dependent upon the staff they hire. The Allens shared their strong preference for hiring TTC graduates and gave some of the reasons why.

“Our staff’s ability to give great customer service along with great haircuts is the key to our business. The cosmetology students we hire from TTC have proven to be prepared for what we are looking for in our employees,” said Karen Allen. “The number one thing we look for during an interview is attitude and a passion for the cosmetology industry. We can work on the technical skills but we cannot change a person’s attitude.”

“The cosmetology students from TTC are taught more than just the cutting skills they need. They are also taught life skills. They present themselves in a positive way during an interview, from the way they speak to the way they are dressed,” Allen added.

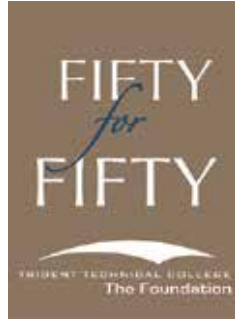
“TTC students have a very good understanding about delivering great customer service, which is number one in our business. They also know it takes hard work and time to build your confidence and your skills in this industry. We feel that TTC students have a good idea of what it is like to be out in the real working world. These are some of the reasons we like to hire TTC Cosmetology Students for our Great Clips salons!”



Great Clips owner Karen Allen (left) poses with mascot Sudzy, employees and loyal customers.

Legacy Society Gives with an Eye toward the Future

In 2014, Trident Technical College will celebrate its 50th anniversary. To acknowledge this milestone and build support for the next 50 years, the Foundation announced the Fifty for Fifty Initiative. Fifty for Fifty seeks to provide TTC with 50 new planned gift commitments. Twenty-five pledges, totaling more than \$2.5 million, have already been made by employees, retirees, trustees, alumni and friends of the college.



also include gifts such as charitable gift annuities and charitable trusts that provide income to a donor or loved one.

Linda Kalameja endowed a scholarship to honor the memory of her husband, Alan Kalameja, a long time faculty member at Trident Tech. **“I created the Kalameja Memorial Scholarship to honor Alan’s memory and to give TTC students the courage and means to pursue a better quality of life through education.** I chose to endow it in the future by making the TTC Foundation a life insurance beneficiary in order to sustain his memory and help TTC students for years to come.”

A planned gift perpetuates the support of TTC beyond one’s lifetime while often providing a donor with favorable estate tax benefits. Planned gifts ensure that TTC’s future needs, needs that have yet to be identified, will be supported.

Planned gifts include gifts that cost nothing during a donor’s lifetime such as bequests, beneficiary designations for IRAs, 401(k)s and life insurance. They

For more information about planned giving, go to www.tridenttech.edu/capital.htm or contact Keith Rumrill, Director of Development, 843-574-6196, keith.rumrill@tridenttech.edu.



TTC Foundation recognized donors who have made a commitment to TTC’s future through planned gifts at the first annual Legacy Society Luncheon on May 21 in the Relish Restaurant Group Dining Room on Main Campus.

TTC Alumnus Climbs Ladder of Success

Inspires Others to Follow Suit

"It was my initial experience attending community college at Trident Technical College that truly ignited my passion for education and the obtainment of higher education," said Herman Pryor, a TTC graduate who now works in Washington, D.C.

Pryor, who is an Educational Counselor with a division of the College Board, helps low-income and first-generation adult learners obtain postsecondary education. He came to TTC as one of those low-income and first-generation students, entering the college with the help of TTC's Educational Opportunity Center. While here, the college's MOMAHS (Mentoring Our Male African American and Hispanic Students) Mentoring Program welcomed and supported him throughout his education. "They made sure that in regards to education, we understood the deficits of the past, appreciated the promises of the future, but also took advantage of every opportunity of the present that afforded advances," said Pryor.

Pryor praises TTC champions like faculty member Noelle Parris, who "provided the type of TLC as a

mentor and professor that was unmatched through her level of direct support and care," and President Mary Thornley, whose "gestures as the leader of the institution were a prime example of how servant leadership was truly enacted and embodied throughout TTC."



Herman Pryor

After completing his associate degree at TTC, Pryor received a bachelor's degree in Experimental Psychology from the University of South Carolina and a master's degree in Counseling from the University of the District of Columbia. He is currently completing a doctorate degree in education in Community College Leadership, is the owner of HIP Enterprise, LLC, and is an adjunct professor of public speaking.

Of what he's been able to accomplish so far in life, Pryor writes, "**I can honestly say I have Trident Technical College to thank for it.**"

TRANSFER INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

What is TIRC?

The Transfer Information Resource Center, located at Trident Technical College's Palmer Campus, provides a central location for students to access information regarding transferring to four-year colleges or universities.

At the center, students have the opportunity to connect with orientation and transfer advisors to develop an academic plan that will assist in making the transfer process easy and successful, as well as receive answers to general questions about academic advising and the transfer process. The center also hosts transfer fairs to allow students to meet with college and university admissions representatives.



TIRC helps students connect with transfer advisors for:

- Developing an academic plan
- Career consultation
- Transfer advice
- Schedule planning
- Registering for classes

Palmer Campus
Suite 102
843.722.5532

success starts here



2013
KIDS COLLEGE

David Price and Nate Hicks show off their LEGOs in the TTC Kids' College Let Go of My LEGOs! Camp for students ages 9-11. Students learned basic engineering and logical thinking skills while building various components and structures with LEGO bricks.

