

NETC Insider

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Dedication of Marian Wright Edelman Public Library



System President to Deliver NETC Commencement Address!

Dr. Barry Russell, President of the SC Technical College System, will be NETC graduation speaker on May 22, 2010.

Dr. Russell will also be recognized for his many years of service in the Technical College System as he prepares for his upcoming retirement.

Northeastern Technical College (NETC) and Marlboro County joined forces in 2009 in an effort to bring more opportunities to Marlboro County citizens and NETC students. A year later, after numerous committee meetings and design concepts, their goal has become a reality in the completion of the Marian Wright Edelman Library.

On March 21, a large crowd gathered for the library dedication in Bennettsville. The new library is named for Marian Wright Edelman, a Bennettsville native and a civil rights pioneer, as well as a nationally acclaimed children's advocate who founded and serves as President of the Children's Defense Fund.

Dr. Jerry Robertson, Vice President of Student Services at NETC, has been affiliated with this project from the

start and firmly believes the partnership is an example of how state and local governments can work together successfully.

"This is a quality facility built through a partnership between a state and local government," he said. "This economical approach has helped to lessen taxpayer impact in Marlboro County and provides a value added, information-based service to its citizens."

The opportunity to partner with Marlboro County on this project was the result of the college receiving a \$740,000 grant from the Allied Health Care Initiative, a state-wide effort of the South Carolina Technical College System to enhance healthcare programs and training. A gift of \$132,000 from the Marlboro (see LIBRARY DEDICATION on pg. 4)

President's Message



Dr. Ron Bartley, President

Lots of things are happening at NETC. Spring is a good time to reflect on these happenings as we move toward graduating another class.

NETC will be moving into some new space in Bennettsville that will greatly expand our ability for offering classes. The college will utilize two large classrooms and a new computer lab at the Marion Wright Edelman Library. In addition, the college has completed renovation of the nursing classrooms and labs in Building 800 on the Cheraw campus.

NETC is partnering on two new grant awards. Along with other colleges in the SC Technical College System, NETC is partnering in a broadband grant program to provide public access to the internet. In a second program, NETC is partnering with Florence-Darlington Technical College and other agencies to train workers for the energy industry.

In January, a number of current NETC students participated in a rally in Columbia to show their support for the Lottery Tuition Assistance program. This program has become increasingly important for many students who, otherwise, would struggle with the costs of attending college.

February was a busy month at NETC. NETC celebrated Black History Month in a ceremony attended by a large group of students, faculty, staff and visitors.

A number of faculty and staff attended the annual South Carolina Technical Education Association meeting where three NETC employees received awards. Twenty-one Cheraw High School students participated in a Job Shadowing Day at NETC. School counselors from across the three-county NETC service region attended a luncheon on campus and heard some inspiring presenters.

Educators of the Year Awards

Three Northeastern Technical College employees were recently named local winners of the South Carolina Technical Education Association (SCTEA) Educator of the Year Awards.

Michael Black, of Mt. Croghan, was nominated for Teacher of the Year for his outstanding performance as a faculty member in the applied technology program.

Dr. Jerry Robertson, of Bennettsville, was nominated for Administrator of the Year for his dedication and commitment to the management of the college as the Vice President for Student Services.

Mary Deese, of Patrick, was nominated for Staff Person of the Year for her

exceptional service and dedication to the college as an administrative specialist in the Academic Affairs Division.

These employees were recognized at the annual SCTEA conference in February at Myrtle Beach, S.C., during an awards ceremony.

Each year, faculty and staff at each of South Carolina's technical colleges vote for local winners, based on performance criteria established by the SCTEA.

This year, faculty and staff at Northeastern Technical College chose Black, Robertson and Deese to represent the college.



Mary Deese (left), Dr. Jerry Robertson (middle), and Michael Black (right) were recently selected as NETC's nominees.

NETC Students Travel to Columbia to Show Appreciation for LTA Program

In January, students and staff from NETC joined hundreds of other students from the South Carolina Technical College System at the State House in Columbia. The students were rallying in support and appreciation of Lottery Tuition Assistance (LTA), a program that nearly 285,000 technical college students have benefitted from since inception.

At NETC, nearly 50 percent of the students rely on the LTA program to pursue their pathway to a future.

During the rally, the NETC students joined more than 300 students representing students enrolled in South Carolina's technical colleges who receive LTA funding. Speakers included Dr. Barry Russell, President of the South Carolina Technical College System.

"Today we are putting a face on the impressive numbers the SC Technical College System boasts. Each of these students present today has their own personal story of how LTA has helped



Students, staff and area commissioners representing Northeastern Technical College gather on the front steps of the State Capital building in support of LTA funding.

them achieve the education and career goals. Goals that are important to our state—that will help build a skilled workforce for our future," said Russell. "We appreciate the General Assembly's foresight in creating this program.

Their continued support and consistent funding of Lottery Tuition Assistance is vital to ensuring that a quality higher education is accessible and affordable for all South Carolinians."

NETC Celebrates Black History Month

Hundreds of Northeastern Technical College students, faculty, staff and visitors attended the college's Black History Program held recently on its campus in Cheraw. The program was sponsored by NETC Student Services, Student Support Services and the Student Government Association. The Reverend Alma Hill, Program Director at the Pee Dee Coalition Shelter, delivered the keynote address.

NETC staff, students and alumni who performed during the ceremony included NETC students Darrel Kyler, of Chesterfield, Ronnie Ford, of Bennettsville, and alumna Sandy Bright, also of Bennettsville. Dr. Ron Bartley, President of the College, provided a welcome to a standing room only crowd; Darin Coleman, Support Services Coordinator, delivered the invocation; and Leron Peterkin, Dean of Student Services, introduced the speaker and provided the adjournment.



NETC SGA members (back row) joined Dr. Ron Bartley, President of Northeastern Technical College for a photo with the Reverend Alma Hill (front row, center), Program Director of the Pee Dee Coalition Shelter, who delivered the keynote address during NETC's annual Black History Month celebration. Also pictured, are NETC students Darrel Kyler, of Chesterfield, Ronnie Ford, of Bennettsville, and NETC alumna Sandy Bright, also of Bennettsville, who performed during the ceremony.

Grant Announcements

Northeastern Technical College is a major partner in two federal grant projects which have recently been announced. More will be revealed about these grant programs but, for now, the following information is available:

Public Computer Center Grant - The Technical College System has received funding to support

internet access for our students and our communities. This grant was awarded through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program of the U.S. Department of Commerce and includes all 16 technical colleges plus the system office. Key elements include network infrastructure improvements, computer equipment and support staff.

“Power Up Pee Dee” - NETC collaborated with Florence-Darlington Technical College to submit this grant to the U.S. Department of Labor. This project will provide a wide range of training for jobs in the energy industry. Equipment, instructional costs, student support and public awareness will be key components.

School Counselors Visit NETC



Pictured are NETC administrators and staff greeting counselors during the welcome reception.

More than 40 high school, middle school, elementary and primary counselors from Chesterfield, Marlboro and Dillon counties recently gathered on the campus of Northeastern Technical College for professional development and a luncheon.

While on campus during their annual visit to NETC, counselors

heard about NETC news, NETC’s dual enrollment programs and the qualities of a good leader from Mike Fox, of the South Carolina Student Loan. Larry Stinson, principal of New Heights Middle School, also delivered an inspirational speech that centered on providing students encouragement and guidance despite their personal challenges.

Library Dedication (Continued from front page)

County General Hospital Charity Trust to further education and training of the healthcare workforce of Marlboro County also accompanied the grant to make this project possible.

According to NETC President Dr. Ron Bartley, the creation of the Marian Wright Edelman Library will meet the needs of both Marlboro County citizens and NETC students.

“Northeastern students and citizens will now have a wide array of

resources at their disposal that can contribute to success along their chosen pathway to a future,” he said.

Some of those resources include new classrooms which will now make it possible for the college to expand services and classes to students who have chosen to pursue the education and training for a career in a healthcare field. The college has also added a computer lab as part of the construction and expansion.

“Partnering with Marlboro County reinforces our mission to prepare the workforce of Chesterfield, Marlboro, and Dillon counties through education and training,” said Bartley. “The completion of this facility brings forth new access to training and education and will continue to provide countless opportunities for our students and the citizens of Marlboro County.”

(Denise Oliver, NETC Alumni, contributed to this article.)