

NETC Insider

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Meet the New SC Technical College System President!



Dr. Darrel Staat, '70's NETC Administrator and most recent President of Central Virginia Community College, has been selected as President of the SC Technical College System. Dr. Staat replaces Dr. Barry Russell who recently retired.

NETC Awards First Posthumous Degree



Family members of NETC graduate Bellanie Clyburn, of Pageland, attended Northeastern Technical College's graduation ceremony to honor her academic achievements while a student in the college's business program. Clyburn's sons, Jalen Davis and Kyran Stewart (standing in white shirts) walked across the stage and received the Associate Degree in Business she completed in December of 2009.

On May 22, two hundred Northeastern Technical College students received degrees, diplomas, and certificates. More than 800 NETC faculty, staff, family, friends, and guests watched with pride as the graduates walked across the stage.

In an exciting, yet humble commencement ceremony, the NETC class of 2010 was encouraged to push forward to reach new heights in their lives. Dr. Ron Bartley, President of NETC, spoke with pride as he commended graduates on a job well done.

"This is your day and you have worked hard to reach your goals," he said. "We encourage you to take advantage of your talents and everything you have learned at NETC as you continue on your journeys."

Dr. Barry Russell, President of the South Carolina Technical College System, served as the guest speaker and offered sage advice to graduates.

"First and foremost, celebrate your accomplishments. You all did what was necessary to meet your academic goals. Secondly, be willing to accept and embrace the changes that are going to take place. Lastly, commit to something bigger than yourself," he said. "Happiness comes when you aren't searching for it and hidden opportunities are everywhere. Be ready, stay curious, and keep reinventing yourselves. Make a personal commitment to yourselves to continue reaching your goals and full potential."

Reaching academic goals is a core objective at NETC and the college (see GRADUATION on pg. 4)

President's Message



Dr. Ron Bartley, President

Summer is a busy time at NETC. The college graduated 200 students on May 22 and granted one degree posthumously, a first for the college.

NETC employees were recognized for a number of things. Nine employees retired from NETC while seven received recognitions for service. Danielle Pace completed the South Carolina Technical College System Leadership Academy and graduated on April 29. In addition Danielle received the Outstanding Contributor to Technical Education award at the NETC Honors Night ceremony on April 22. Finally, Cathy Pelfrey and Dr. Forest Mahan completed the Leadership Cheraw program.

On May 26, NETC received the Jerry Award from the Charlotte Regional Economic Development Partnership. This award is given in recognition to economic growth and workforce development in the 16 counties that make up the partnership.

NETC has led in the development of a number of training programs in its three-county service region. Successful training programs include heavy equipment operator, oracle training, truck driver training, power plant technology training, and pre-pipe welding.

Lots of other exciting things will be happening in the coming year. Stay tuned in to hear about them.

NETC Receives Grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation



Dr. Ron Bartley (left) and Jeffrey Jones (right), East Carolina President for Bank of America.

NETC announced receipt of a \$4,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. The funds will establish a local Additional Student Support for Instruction, Supplies and Training (ASSIST) fund and will be managed by the NETC Foundation. The fund will help provide a supplemental, emergency source of funds to cover

the costs of textbooks, instructional supplies, tools or uniforms for low to moderate income students.

The support is part of a grant awarded from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation to the South Carolina Technical College System Foundation to assist students throughout the 16 technical colleges across South Carolina, as the state's most accessible and affordable higher education alternative is experiencing record enrollment.

"Though we offer students the lowest tuition cost available and the greatest flexibility, the cost of textbooks and instructional supplies is one of the largest barriers to student attendance and retention," said Dr. Ron Bartley, President of NETC. "This fund will help us provide our most economically challenged students another opportunity for success by offsetting

a financial challenge which can impact their ability to pursue their pathway to a better future."

Priority will be given to students receiving Pell Grants or Lottery Tuition Assistance who have exhausted their financial aid and cannot pay out-of-pocket expenses for textbooks and instructional supplies such as nursing kits or industrial tools.

"Bank of America is pleased to support Northeastern Technical College's goal to provide an education to students that is both affordable and accessible," said Jeffrey Jones, East Carolina president for Bank of America. "With more people turning to NETC to pursue a college education and learn new skills for employment, we hope this grant will help with the expenses that may have prevented some students from pursuing their education goals and reaching their full potential."

NETC Receives Award from Charlotte Regional Partnership

Without a skilled and talented workforce, not even the perfect building or most enticing incentives will induce a company to locate in a community. That's what makes Northeastern Technical College so invaluable in business recruitment.

"Our regional community and technical colleges give us a competitive advantage as we meet and talk with advisors and corporations that are making decisions about where to expand, consolidate or relocate their companies," said Ronnie Bryant, president and CEO of the Charlotte Regional Partnership (Charlotte USA). "When we explain how colleges like NETC not only offer workplace-related courses but will customize programs for individual companies within our 16 counties, these decision makers are very, very interested."

There are 10 community and technical colleges in the 16-counties that define the Charlotte USA footprint. Each is so valuable to the community it serves that the Charlotte Regional Partnership couldn't choose just one to receive its annual award for significant, ongoing contributions to economic development within the Charlotte region. So, on May 25, the Partnership honored all 10, including NETC, with its public-sector Jerry Award.



Standing from left to right are: CCEDB members Greg Lawrence and Catherine Thompson; Kim Burch, CCEDB existing industry director; Ogden Sutton, board member; Atticus Simpson, NETC director of advancement; Brenda Workman, CCEDB Executive Director; Lenora Powe, Chesterfield County Council vice chairperson; and Rev. Waldo Robinson, CCEDB board member.

The other nine colleges are Catawba Valley Community College, Central Piedmont Community College, Cleveland Community College, Gaston College, Mitchell Community College, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, South Piedmont Community College, Stanly Community College and York Technical College.

"Northeastern Technical College is a great economic development asset to Chesterfield County's efforts to bring new industry and business to the

area," said Brenda Workman, executive director of the Chesterfield County Economic Development Board (CCEDB). "Receiving the Jerry Award verifies this value and gives the college and the county new opportunity to promote our advantages."

Representatives from Northeastern Technical College and the CCEDB traveled to Charlotte to receive the award during the Partnership's Annual Awards Luncheon at the Charlotte Convention Center.

Pace Completes Leadership Academy

Danielle Pace, who works in the NETC Admissions Office, completed the 2009-2010 South Carolina Technical College System Leadership Academy in April. The purpose of the Leadership Academy is to develop college employees to assume leadership positions within the technical college system.

Participants in the academy were assessed for individual strengths and areas that may need improvement. An Individual Leadership Plan was developed for each participant that included both short and long-term goals, a gap analysis, and specific

activities to be accomplished to bridge the gap. During the sessions, participants heard presentations that helped them understand the political climate of South Carolina, college finance, legal issues that colleges face, and development of strategic partnerships that advance the college's mission.

"The leadership academy has allowed me to identify the type of leader I am, the values that are important to me, and ways that I can use my strengths and weaknesses to be an effective



Pictured from left to right are: Dr. Greg Rutherford, Danielle Pace, Dr. Jim Hudgins, Dr. Jerry Robertson and Dr. Ron Bartley

leader," said Pace. "Most importantly, the academy has given me the inner ability to help lead others that includes the ability to work together, make decisions and learn from consequences."

NETC Recognizes Achievements during Annual Honors Program

Each year NETC recognizes outstanding students during a special Honors ceremony. In addition to academic achievement, students are recognized for being named on the President's List, serving on the SGA, being inducted into Phi Theta Kappa and obtaining membership in Who's Who in American Junior Colleges.

The Outstanding Contributor to Technical Education award is also presented at this event to an individual, business or organization that has made unique and valuable contributions to NETC. This year's award was presented to Danielle Pace, an admissions coordinator at NETC, where she has been employed for 15 years.

Pace, of Cheraw, began working at NETC in 1995 after graduating from the college with an associate degree in business. She has since earned a bachelor's degree from Gardner-Webb University and a master of science in education enrollment management from Capella University while also working full time.

Employees Honored for Service and Retirement to NETC

Several employees were recently awarded State Service Pins and Certificates for their employment service at NETC. Employees receiving recognition include Wanda Woods, Maudie Prince, Anne Jordan, David Evans and Lorne Brooks for 10 years; Barbara Hough,

for 20 years; and Dr. Jerry Robertson for 30 years of service.

Retirements include Sharon Thurman, Director of Human Resources; Dr. Jerry Robertson, Vice President for Student Services; Marvin Weaver, faculty member;

Esther Brunson, Librarian; Jackie Brooks, Institutional Effectiveness Coordinator; Charlene Huntley, Datatel Consultant, James Charles Thurman, Maintenance Supervisor; Richard Gaddy, Grounds Supervisor; and Sheryll Marshall, Coordinator of Financial Assistance.

Chamber Graduates Leadership Class

Two NETC employees completed the Leadership Cheraw program and graduated on May 12. Cathy Pelfrey and Dr. Forest Mahan attended sessions that covered topics on healthcare, tourism/history, education, social responsibility, business/industry, government, and natural resources.

Leadership Cheraw is designed to identify emerging leaders. The

goals are to educate participants about community issues, develop interpersonal relationships and teamwork, as well as identify opportunities for community involvement.

Pelfrey is an Administrative Assistant in the President's office. Dr. Mahan currently serves as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Services. Both Pelfrey and Mahan previously completed the USC Higher Education Leadership Certificate program.



Pictured above are the graduates of the first Leadership Cheraw Class.

Graduation (Continued from front page)

works diligently to meet the needs of students and offer the best education possible. It is evident to observers that NETC is more than a college. Rather, it resembles a close knit family. The unity of all associated with NETC was evident as the graduation ceremony took a humble turn when the college and

the class of 2010 honored the memory and achievements of one of their own.

A degree was presented to the family of NETC alumna Bellanie Clyburn, of Pageland, who was laid to rest earlier in 2010. Clyburn's

two young sons, Jalen Davis and Kyran Stewart, accepted Clyburn's Associate Degree in Business as many faculty members and guests shed tears through the standing ovation honoring Ms. Clyburn's life and commitment to her family and academics.