

NETC Insider

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Faculty Staff Recognition

NETC Advisor of
the Year:

M.J. Martin

AAWCC
Professional
Development
Grant Award
Winner:

Benita Rhynes

NETC Dedicates Building at Dillon Campus



Dr. Ron Bartley, President of Northeastern Technical College, gives some attendees at the Dedication Ceremony a tour of the biology lab in the new building on the Dillon Community Campus.

On September 21, Northeastern Technical College dedicated its new facility at the Dillon Community Campus.

The new addition to the Dillon campus grows the campus size from 4,200 to more than 10,000 square feet. The extra space will allow for more students in the Dillon County service area to take college courses close to home.

“By expanding the Dillon campus, we are growing our capabilities to serve the needs of the community,” Dr. Ron Bartley, NETC President, said. “We have utilized our distance learning classrooms in Dillon, but now we can offer more independent classes with instructors on site at the Dillon campus.”

Dr. Darrel W. Staat, President of the S.C. Technical College System, was among those in attendance at the dedication ceremony.

“Accessibility – making certain a quality higher education is available to all South Carolinians – is a key tenet of the S.C. Technical College System. Northeastern Technical College is doing the right thing in the expansion of the Dillon campus. I applaud Dr. Bartley and his staff for the great work they have done to bring this facility into reality,” Staat said.

The 6,000 square-foot facility will house three classrooms in addition to an administrative office and lobby. Two of the classrooms can be converted into one large room that can accommodate 200 people. Bartley extended the invitation to the community to use this facility for large group meetings.

The Dillon campus opened in 2003 to offer access to higher education and job training for residents and industry in Dillon County. Plans for the Dillon campus expansion began in March 2008.

President's Message



Dr. Ron Bartley, President

The past few months have certainly seen some excitement on the economic development front for the NETC service region. In early August, Schaeffler Group announced plans to expand its existing facility in Cheraw. Their \$10 million investment is expected to generate 100 new jobs.

In late August, 5-STAR USA announced that it would be locating soon in Bennettsville. This company is a venture capital start-up, or "business incubator" that plans to attract, finance and manage new businesses. Company officials hope that their efforts will create \$25 million in capital investment and generate 1,300 new jobs over the next five years. Their announcement came on the heels of another company, ECAPS Corp., that is locating in Bennettsville. ECAPS, who produces aluminum composite building panels, will be the main anchor on the business incubator campus. They are expected to create 150 jobs during the next five years.

In late September, Dillon Furniture Manufacturing Company announced plans to expand its operations with a \$2.6 million investment that is expected to generate 107 new jobs in the next two years in Dillon.

Finally, Chesterfield County officials, along with the Town of Cheraw and Chesterfield, held a ground-breaking ceremony in early October for an industrial building that is being constructed in the Carolinas Centre Industrial Park. Officials have been working for more than five years on this project.

Other companies in the NETC service region either have made or will be making announcements. This activity, along with the boost to our local economy and jobs, makes it an exciting time for the residents of Chesterfield, Dillon, and Marlboro Counties. NETC is proud to be a training partner for all new and existing industries.

NETC Surpasses Enrollment Record Again

Northeastern Technical College has again broken its record for Fall enrollment. Last year, the college saw the highest enrollment in its 41-year history; however, the record was surpassed again with the number of students enrolled in the 2011 Fall semester reaching over 1220.

In addition to the increase in students, enrollment numbers also reflect that students are taking more courses this Fall than in the past. Whether they are high school students pursuing dual enrollment opportunities or adult learners balancing college with family and job obligations, students are taking advantage of a variety of course options that fit their busy lifestyles.

These course options include the traditional day and evening classes,

as well as "Friday College" courses. The number of students taking online courses has also increased to the point that online enrollment is the second largest "location," with the main campus in Cheraw being first, where students are taking college courses. "Saturday College" courses will also be offered this Spring.

Registration for the 2012 Spring semester began for current students in October with registration events held at the college's Bennettsville and Dillon community campuses. The application deadline for new students is December 9, and open registration for new and returning students is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11, 2012, on the Cheraw campus.



New students pack an orientation session during Northeastern Technical College's open registration for the 2011 Fall semester. The college experienced record enrollment growth for the second Fall semester in a row.

Domtar Receives Manufacturing Award

On September 22, Domtar-Marlboro Mill received the Silver Crescent Foundation Award in the medium manufacturing category at the Salute to Manufacturing Awards Luncheon in Greenville, SC. This award recognizes accomplishments of South Carolina's best and brightest companies during the state's annual industry appreciation observance.

The medium manufacturer category is for companies with 200-499 employees. Domtar, the 2011 award winner, employs 325 people and produces uncoated, xerographic, offset, envelope and form bond papers.

Domtar, a Marlboro County industry, is a leader in environmentally sound forestry practices and recycling. A three-time winner of the SC Environmental Excellence Program Award, the plant has decreased air emission and water discharge annually since 2007, and reduced landfill waste annually since 2005. More than 75% of energy used at

Domtar is from renewable sources, and the company launched a 50 megawatt bio-fuel steam turbine generator in 2010.

"I'm not surprised that Domtar received this award. Their company is progressive in every aspect from making sure that their employees have the skills to handle the work before them, being a 'green' company and not wasting anything, being innovative, and being involved in the community," says Sherrie Chapman, Director of Continuing Education at NETC.

"Marlboro County is very pleased to have the Domtar facility, the organization and its people as a part of our manufacturing base. Their commitment to the environment, their employees and the community at large sets a very high standard for excellence here in the county. Their proactive integration with the resources of the state, region and county coupled with their determination to improve and excel is reflected



Left to right: Front Row: Donna Skipper, Bernie Stewart, Bettie Fleming; Back Row: Stefan Nowicki, Will Adams, Scott Smearman and Ray Ogilvie.

in all of their employees and their outreach in the community," comments Ronald R. King, Executive Director of the Marlboro County Economic Development Partnership.

Bernie Stewart, Process Manager/Purchasing and Logistics for Domtar, was at the luncheon to receive the award and was accompanied by six other Domtar employees.

New Hires and Retirees



Karina Liles

Karina Liles joined NETC on October 26, 2011. Karina is the new Research and Assessment Coordinator in the Institutional Advancement Division. Karina lives in Bennettsville.

Joining NETC on September 1, 2011, **Linda Harris** is the new Administrative Specialist in the Financial Aid Office. Linda lives in Cheraw along with her husband and their youngest daughter.

Mrs. Olive Covington, a long-standing member of the NETC Area Commission, recently retired. She served on the Area Commission for 18 years.



Linda Harris

NETC Nursing Graduates Achieve Milestone for ADN Program

The 2011 graduates of Northeastern Technical College's Associate Degree of Nursing (ADN) class achieved a significant feat recently. All 23 members of the class passed the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN) exam on their first attempt. Graduates of the program must pass the NCLEX before they can be designated as Registered Nurses (RN).

"I am extremely proud of the nursing faculty, administrators and students for this outstanding achievement and for making the Associate Degree of Nursing program successful," Dr. Ron Bartley, President of the college, said.

Registered nurse Alex Barkman, of Cheraw, was one of the 23

members of the ADN Class of 2011 and served as class president. "As a class we are so proud of this accomplishment because it is a personal win for each of us, and it shows how well the college has prepared us for this profession," Barkman said. "This is a rigorous 21-month program that will challenge you to your limits, but this success shows we could do it and that the college is producing competent, caring professionals who are ready to serve others."

An important partner in developing the program is McLeod Medical Center in Dillon. "McLeod Dillon is proud of this significant accomplishment," said Cindy Causey, Associate Administrator of Human and Mission Services for the hospital. "Because nurses are so vital to health care and the region's economy, Dillon is



Terry Wright (left), Director of NETC's nursing department, receives instructions from educational support specialist Shannon Packard.

fortunate to have a nursing education program of this caliber as the medical center continues to meet the needs of the region's patients and offer enhanced services."

"This is a huge achievement for this program and our students," said Terry Wright, head of NETC's Nursing Department.

NETC Receives Two New Grants

NETC was recently notified that the college would be receiving funding under two grant programs that began October 1.

The first program is a Predominantly Black Institutions grant which will allow the college to continue a highly effective program that helps students overcome barriers, access educational services, and succeed in their educational programs. In 2008, NETC was one of the first colleges in the country to receive a Predominantly Black Institutions (PBI) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. That first grant enabled NETC to establish a comprehensive package of programs and services

aimed at increasing student success, including support groups, counseling, dual enrollment opportunities, and online courses. The program was further developed with the support of a one-year PBI grant in 2010. The new grant will run through 2016, with first-year funding of \$250,000.

In the second grant program, NETC is part of an eleven-college consortium that has been awarded a three-year federal grant of nearly \$20 million to provide advanced workforce preparation and online learning. This highly competitive grant was funded through the Community College and Career

Training Program and jointly awarded by the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education. It will enable consortium members to operate workforce readiness centers and to develop advanced online learning tools focusing on the technologies needed in today's workplace. Florence-Darlington Technical College is the lead institution in the consortium, which includes ten of South Carolina's 16 technical colleges plus Clemson University. The consortium will work closely with employers to provide input into the project. NETC will receive approximately \$1.7 million under this grant program.