

2014 Outstanding Student of the Year

Karlie Zimmerman, TCAT - Chattanooga

The Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology Outstanding Student of The Year was announced in April in Chattanooga during a statewide awards night presentation. This year’s winner, having competed on the local, regional, and state levels, grabbed the attention of the judges from the minute she began her speech and drew them in even more so during her interview. TCAT - Chattanooga’s Karlie Zimmerman was named the 2014 Outstanding Student of the Year.

A Medical Assistant program student, Karlie exudes enthusiasm and excitement about the career and life opportunities she believes are before her thanks to technical education. Described as a goal-oriented leader, Karlie has not only impressed the TCAT - Chattanooga staff, but also her fellow classmates, who elected her class president. Fellow students say she is always first to volunteer in the classroom and most certainly will be the first to assist her fellow classmates should the need arise.



2014 TCAT Outstanding Student of the Year Karlie Zimmerman from TCAT - Chattanooga jumps with excitement in front of her new 2014 Chevrolet Spark.

Karlie has a phenomenal life story that is nothing short of miraculous. A serious medical event threatened both her life and the life of her child, but rather than letting that event incapacitate her, Karlie resolved to live her life to the fullest, with the support of both family and friends. She has been a guest speaker at an American Heart Association’s “Go Red for Women” event and is involved in numerous community outreaches. More determined than ever, Karlie knows that her decision to attend the TCAT - Chattanooga was one that was well made.

As Outstanding Student of the Year, Karlie will represent the TCATs at such events as legislative sessions, community events and meetings with elected officials, sharing the effect technical education has had on her life. Karlie, as the chosen winner, was presented a 2014 Chevrolet Spark, donated by the TCAT Directors and corporate sponsors WIN, Inc. and Amatrol, Inc.



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Editor's Notes:

Welcome to the 59th edition of TCAT News, a quarterly letter from the directors of the Tennessee Board of Regents' Colleges of Applied Technology. We are excited to share our news from the new year with you here.

TCAT News is also available online at <http://tcat.tbr.edu>.

TCAT Athens
Page 4

TCAT Harriman
Page 7

TCAT McKenzie
Page 9

TCAT Oneida
Page 12

TCAT Chattanooga
Page 4

TCAT Hartsville
Page 7

TCAT McMinnville
Page 10

TCAT Paris
Page 12

TCAT Covington
Page 5

TCAT Hohenwald
Pages 4, 8

TCAT Memphis
Page 10

TCAT Pulaski
Page 12

TCAT Crossville
Page 5

TCAT Jacksboro
Page 8

TCAT Morristown
Page 10

TCAT Ripley
Page 13

TCAT Crump
Page 6

TCAT Jackson
Page 8

TCAT Murfreesboro
Page 11

TCAT Shelbyville
Page 13

TCAT Dickson
Page 6

TCAT Knoxville
Page 9

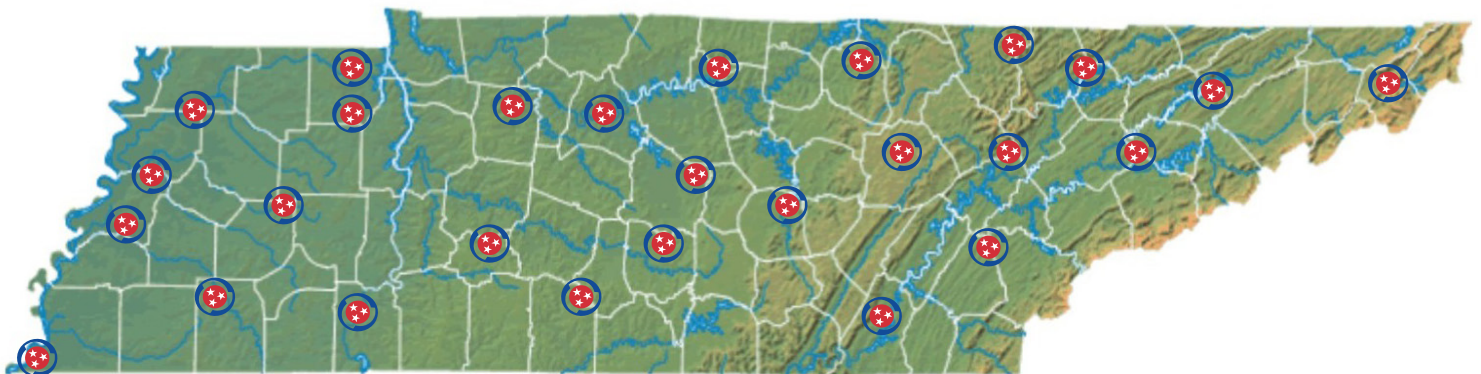
TCAT Nashville
Page 11

TCAT Whiteville
Page 13

TCAT Elizabethton
Page 7

TCAT Livingston
Page 9

TCAT Newbern
Page 11





Directors Learn About Situational Leadership®

The directors of the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology participated in a day long Situational Leadership®: Building Leaders workshop in April at the TCAT - Nashville. Situational Leadership® has been used in most of the Fortune 500 companies and is currently in use around the world. The Situational Leadership® Model is arguably the most recognized, utilized and effective leadership and influence tool in the history of the behavioral sciences.

Developed by Dr. Paul Hersey in the late 1960s, the Situational Leadership® Model is a powerful, yet flexible tool that enables leaders of all kinds to more effectively influence others. Dr. Hersey's original Situational Leadership® Model is based on the relationship between leaders and followers and serves as a framework to analyze each situation based on:

- The amount of guidance and direction (task behavior) a leader gives.
- The amount of socio-emotional support (relationship behavior) a leader provides.
- The readiness level that followers exhibit in performing a specific task, function or objective.

Situational Leaders learn to demonstrate four core, common and critical leadership competencies:

Diagnose: "Understand the situation as they are trying to influence."

Adapt: "Adjust their behavior in response to the contingencies of the situation."

Communicate: "Interact with others in a manner they can understand and accept."

Advance: "Manage the movement."

Conducted by certified facilitator, Dr. Lynn Goodman, The Situational Leadership® Model provides leaders with an understanding of the relationship between an effective style of leadership and the level of readiness followers exhibit for a specific task.

Pictured are TCAT Directors, Assoc. Vice Chancellor Lynn Goodman, and Joel Meyers of The Centre Group.



TCATs Compete in Preparation for SkillsUSA Nationals

In April, the Chattanooga Convention Center was buzzing with excitement and energy as over 1200 secondary and post-secondary students, along with instructors and advisors, judges and guests gathered for the Tennessee SkillsUSA State Competition.

During the competition, over 400 different students from Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology statewide participated in 68 competitions. They competed for the opportunity to travel to Kansas City in June to compete in the SkillsUSA National competition. Also in attendance were 127 advisors from 27 different colleges.

The contestants were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals for placing in the top three competitors for each contest. Most also went home with prizes donated by state and national corporations involved in the industries in which they competed.

Vice Chancellor James King said, "This is undoubtedly one of the most exciting events we have occur during the year. It's not just the students who look forward to these competitions. Our staff can't wait to watch their students compete and represent their schools."



SkillsUSA and Nissan Highlight TCAT - Hohenwald

In May, a National SkillsUSA team visited TCAT - Hohenwald as they develop a national publications campaign to “rebrand” the post-secondary aspect of the SkillsUSA organization. The team photographed the technical training areas offered by the college. They also met with Nissan, who has featured in a company video two work-study/employee students who recently won the gold medal in the Mechatronics Competition at the SkillsUSA state level. Videos and photos were also taken of community service events, chapter meetings, student scholarship presentations, organizational fund raising and social activities. The photographs and videos taken will appear in upcoming SkillsUSA National publications.

Attending the publications shoot were two national SkillsUSA Representatives, Gayle Silvey and Kelly Horton, from the Office of Marketing, Membership and Sales, as well as TCAT Vice Chancellor James King and Assistant Vice Chancellor Chelle Travis. Wayne Ellington and Bill Coleman represented Team Nissan. Also present were the Tennessee SkillsUSA state officers, including TCAT - Hohenwald’s own Gildor Simplice, who is currently serving as Tennessee’s SkillsUSA Chapter President. Local TCAT students and Skills-USA chapter members served as the college student population for the publications shoot.

May is also SkillsUSA’s National Community Service Week, and as a result, TCAT Hohenwald had scheduled a community service project at nearby Lewis Memorial Park. TCAT students painted the park’s pool building and trimmed hedges and fence rows along the walking trail. The community service event was supervised by Andrea Cooper, and all event activities were coordinated by Director Kelli Kea-Carroll and SkillsUSA Chapter Advisor Tracy Whitehead.

TCAT - Athens Partners With Alstom to Develop Entry-level Machinist Technician Program

Due to a shortage of skilled labor nationwide, industries are already feeling the effects and looking for ways to develop opportunities for entry-level machinists to learn from more seasoned journeymen. Alstom, located in Chattanooga, is a manufacturer of some of the world’s largest turbines for fossil, steam, nuclear and gas power plants and is one such industry that is being proactive in the development of an entry-level technician program. In 2012, a representative of the industry contacted TCAT - Athens looking to hire its first candidate for the program. Jonathan Musnicki, a McMinn County resident and TCAT - Athens graduate, was hired and has been a vital asset to the industry for two years.

As a result of Musnicki’s success and contribution to the company, Alstom contacted the college earlier this year to announce it was developing four new entry-level technician programs and was looking for applicants. Randy Rogers, the Machine Tool Technology Instructor at TCAT - Athens, then took a select group of students to Alstom for a plant tour and interviews. Two weeks later, Machine Tool student Hunter McKinney was selected for the entry-level technician program. The entry-level technician program offers McKinney the opportunity to have a portion of his schooling paid, a competitive salary and a flexible work schedule in order for him to finish his schooling at TCAT - Athens. Alstom plans to hire several other entry-level technicians in the near future and is considering more students currently enrolled at the college.

TCAT - Chattanooga Hosts NC3 Training

The Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology and the National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) held in-service training at TCAT - Chattanooga in March. NC3 is a network of education providers and corporations that supports, advances and validates new and emerging technology skills in the transportation, aviation and energy industry sectors, and more than 60 TCAT instructors from across the state participated.

The event was noteworthy in that the TCAT system is the first system-wide partnership with NC3. On hand to welcome the participants were Vice Chancellor James King, Early Baily from Snap-on, Dan Ramirez from NC3 and Jim Barrott, vice president for technology and director of the TCAT - Chattanooga. The training featured sessions on diagnostic, torque and meter. Assisting with the training were John Lee from TCAT - Elizabethton and Jimmy Jones and Michael Harris from TCAT - Chattanooga. The training is a result of the Snap-on equipment grant that was made possible by the Governor’s grant initiative.



(L to R):TCAT - Hohenwald student Colton Langford; Wayne Ellington of Nissan; Jeffrey Pilkington, TCATH student; Bill Coleman of Nissan; and Vice Chancellor James King.



Governor Haslam Signs “Tennessee Promise” at TCAT - Covington

Governor Bill Haslam held a ceremonial bill signing at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Covington in May for HB 2491/SB2471, the “Tennessee Promise.” The historic proposal commits to providing two years of community college or college of applied technology (TCAT) absolutely free of tuition and fees to graduating high school seniors on a continuing basis. “Through the Tennessee Promise, we are fighting the rising cost of higher education, and we are raising our expectations as a state,” Haslam said. “We are committed to making a clear statement to families that education beyond high school is a priority in the state of Tennessee.”

The Tennessee Promise will be funded with excess lottery reserve funds, which will create an endowment that will keep the program sustainable over time. It is part of Haslam’s “Drive to 55” initiative aimed at increasing the number of Tennesseans with a certificate or degree beyond high school. In addition, several other elected officials were present during the Governor’s visit. They included Congressman Stephen Fincher, Covington Mayor David Gordon, Tipton County Court Clerk Mary Gaither, State Representatives Mark White, Reginald Tate and Debra Moody, as well as State Senator Mark Norris.

While on the campus, Governor Haslam met with students in a variety of technical programs, as well as with SkillsUSA student leaders. They discussed the opportunities technical education will afford them in creating career paths that will sustain them throughout their work lives.



(L to R): Representatives Mark White and Reginald Tate; Governor Haslam, Senator Mark Norris and Representative Debra Moody.

TCAT - Crossville Partners with TLD Logistics for CDL Program

Commercial driving is a growing industry, with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimating 21 percent growth in the number of jobs by 2020. It is a career where individuals can quickly complete training and enter the workforce, earning a highly competitive wage. Despite the job demand in the Upper Cumberland region, many would-be students found it difficult to travel to the closest truck driving schools in Knoxville or Lebanon.

TLD Logistics and TCAT - Crossville developed a partnership that went above and beyond Department of Transportation requirements to train and prepare students for over-the-road trucking. The two entities joined forces to create the campus’ first commercial driver’s license training program. TLD Logistics is a subsidiary of Toyota Motor Corporation and is the fastest growing freight transportation company in the Crossville area. The company has provided TCAT - Crossville with a new truck and trailer to be used as a training aid in the pre-trip inspection portion of the class. TLD is also providing the actual driving portion of the class off site. TCAT - Crossville is doing all of the pre-trip and theory training on campus in a four-week rotation. Licensed CDL drivers are always in big demand, and TCAT – Crossville, with the help of TLD Logistics, is helping fill that need.



TCAT - Crump Director Visits Kurdistan-Iraq University

TCAT - Crump Director Dr. Arrita Summers travelled to Kurdistan-Iraq to visit Duhok Polytechnic University (DPU) in December 2013. Together with Dr. Kirmanj Gundi of Tennessee State University, Dr. Summers met with the administration and faculty of DPU in an effort to learn about their perceived needs, to recommend actions that can help the newly established DPU and to determine how the TCAT system and TSU could assist them with pursuing an accreditation status.

Kurdistan is a rapidly evolving region in Iraq that has witnessed a dramatic shift in educational needs for its society. Both higher education enrollments and the number of institutions have expanded dramatically during the last decade. DPU realizes that it has an opportunity to enhance its academic and scientific status through accreditation and with the assistance of the TCAT system, can learn more about how to obtain this status. Accreditation would demonstrate that DPU has met high quality assurance standards.

While in Kurdistan, Dr. Summers visited the main campus in Duhok as well as four satellite campuses, and met with administrators, staff and students while there. Drs. Summers and Gundi also conducted a day-long seminar, which was attended by the president, vice presidents, deans, directors, and heads of departments of DPU. In the seminar, they presented brief findings of their visits and presented topics on accreditation, philosophy, theories and concepts of leadership.

Vice Chancellor for Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology James King met with Drs. Summers and Gundi upon their return to discuss the final report of the visit. Among the items discussed were further actions that can be provided through efforts of the TCAT system to assist DPU with its continued development and its accreditation processes.

TCAT - Dickson Honors Retiring Warner Taylor

It was both a sad and happy occasion when TCAT - Dickson honored the retirement of long-time college administrator Warner Taylor. The assistant director retired in March after 20 years of service at TCAT - Dickson. He began his tenure in 1994 and became program coordinator under former Director Bob F. Sullivan. After Sullivan's retirement in 2008, Taylor was named assistant director by current director, Mark Powers, that same year.

Taylor was feted with a reception and an array of gifts, including a whimsical caricature that showed Taylor leaving the college in style. Elected officials from the area who attended the event included Reps. David Shepard, Mary Littleton and Josh Evans. They presented Taylor with a proclamation passed in his honor by the Tennessee House of Representatives. Said Powers, "Warner will be greatly missed. His dedication to the school, the students and the community has been evident by the respect and honor shown him here today."



(L to R): Representatives David Shepard, Mary Littleton and Josh Evans as they present proclamation to Warner Taylor.

**I hear and I forget.
I see and I remember.
I do and I understand.**

Confucius



TCAT - Elizabethton Student Recognized by Head Start

Monica Ray of Carter County was presented a Certificate of Appreciation Thursday “for making a difference” after volunteering more than 225 hours in Head Start at Valley Forge Elementary School where her son, Jacob, is enrolled in the program. Ray is currently enrolled in the Administrative Office Technology program at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Elizabethton to prepare for employment as an Administrative Assistant.

“I chose TCAT - Elizabethton because it had a solid academic reputation and the training programs could be completed in 12 months. I should receive my diploma from TCAT - Elizabethton by the time my son enters the first grade,” said Ray, who graduated from Elizabethton High School in 2007.

Mike Miller, Head Start program director for Carter County Schools, and Misty Hammitt, parent involvement coordinator, presented the Certificate of Appreciation to Ray at a Head Start Policy Meeting. “Monica is a huge asset to Carter County Head Start. She volunteered over 225 hours, which equates to \$3,500 in-kind hours for us. She was the parent with the most volunteer hours by far this year in Carter County Head Start,” Hammitt said.

According to Miller, “Educators know that the most important factor in the success of a student is what kind of environment that he/she goes home to at the end of the day. Very few of our parents attend any higher education institution. That is why Monica is so important to Carter County Head Start and TCAT - Elizabethton is so important to parents in the Carter County Head Start program.”

TCAT - Hartsville Dual Enrollment Students Awarded Scholarships

The dual enrollment students at TCAT - Hartsville’s Tri-County Extension Campus in Red Boiling Springs have been recognized and rewarded for their dedication to their skill areas over the past few weeks.

Jordan Cain, Welding Technology student and graduating senior at Red Boiling Springs High School, won an \$800 scholarship from the American Welding Society Nashville Section. Jordan has been a student at Tri-County since 2011 and plans to finish his Welding diploma over the coming months. Jordan’s instructor is David Porter.

Austin Wheeler, General Building Trades student and rising Junior at Macon County High School, won the Student of the Year Award from the Upper Cumberland Home Builders Association. The award included \$400 in tools for Austin and a \$1,500 check to the GBT program at Tri-County. Austin’s instructor is Kelvin Davis. Austin has been a student in Drafting and GBT at TCEC since Fall of 2012. He plans to continue training in General Building Trades. Austin was presented the award by Danny Lee, UC Home Builders Association Board of Directors and Cookeville Kitchen Sales.

TCAT - Harriman Gives Back Through Local TV Appearance

Chris Ayers, assistant director at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Harriman, appeared in April on local TV station WBIR to share news about the college. He announced to the public the recent name change of the college to better reflect its mission. Ayers also took the opportunity to share the mission of the TCATs and about the program areas available at TCAT – Harriman, including advanced manufacturing-based and healthcare related programs.

Ayers invited the community to attend the “Give Back to the Community” event the college hosted the next week. During the open house, TCAT – Harriman officials shared information about and provided demonstrations on the training programs offered on campus. Information on course lengths and financial aid assistance, as well as student organizations was also provided. Among the highlights of the “Give Back to the Community” event was information shared about the SkillsUSA organization and the opportunities students have had by participating.

Three students from TCAT - Harriman’s Diesel Technology program competed in the SkillsUSA state competitions held in Chattanooga. Postsecondary SkillsUSA competitor Nathan Ramsey won a gold medal for his skills. In the secondary SkillsUSA competition, dual-enrolled student Thomas “Suede” Duncan from Coalfield High School earned a gold medal and dual enrolled student Jake Farmer from Anderson County High School went home with a silver medal. The gold medal winners will travel to Kansas City, Mo to compete at the national level in June.



TCAT - Hohenwald Students Shine at SkillsUSA

Twenty-five students from TCAT - Hohenwald competed in the SkillsUSA state competitions in Chattanooga in April. As a result of their efforts, students achieved nine gold, five silver, and four bronze medals in 19 competition areas.

The 2014 competition results are as follows: Architectural Drafting Gold: Alan Vineyard; Practical Nursing Gold: Lauren McKennon; Mobile Robotics Technology Gold: Kyle Riddle and Robert Layson; Mechatronics Gold: Colton Langford and Jeffrey Pilkinton; High School Customer Service Gold: Sara Denman; High School Mobile Robotics Technology Gold: Geoff and Ray Whitehead; Cosmetology Silver: Bo Barnes; Esthetics Silver: Nikki Talley and Kambria Creasy; Electrical Construction Wiring Silver: Sam Beatty; Medical Terminology Silver: Erik Odom; Pin Design Bronze: Kyle Adams; Electronics Technology Bronze: Jesse Pretzer; and Nail Care Bronze: Angie Pickard and Hollie Mercer.

Based on the number of medals won by TCAT - Hohenwald, the college was honored with the James D. King Award for Tier 2 colleges. Director Kelli Kea-Carroll accepted the award on behalf of the institution.

TCAT - Jacksboro Sends Student to SkillsUSA Nationals

TCAT - Jacksboro students competed in the State SkillsUSA competition in Chattanooga in April. Kyle Lambert, a student in the Industrial Electricity program, competed in the Electrical Construction Wiring competition, placing first, receiving a gold medal. Chris Norman, a student in the Machine Tool Technology program, competed in the Precision Machining competition, where he placed second and received a silver medal.

By winning gold at the state level, Kyle earned the opportunity to represent the state of Tennessee at the national SkillsUSA competition held in Kansas City in June. This will be the third consecutive year that a TCAT - Jacksboro student has represented Tennessee at the national competition. The faculty and staff of TCAT - Jacksboro congratulate these students on their accomplishments and for representing the school and community so well.

TCAT - Jackson Surg Tech Program Accredited

The Surgical Technology program at TCAT - Jackson recently completed the Annual Report process for the Accreditation Review Council on Education in Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (ARC/STSA). In partnership with the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Programs (CAAHEP), ARC/STSA accredits Surgical Technology programs. This accreditation allows graduates of the program to sit for the Certified Surgical Technician (CST) exam – a nationally recognized credential.

The Surgical Technology program at TCAT - Jackson is an accelerated program designed to introduce the student to the basic sciences that are the foundation of practice for the Surgical Technologist. This one-year program (1,296 hours) includes instruction on basic and advanced surgical procedures, as well as over 300 hours of clinical practicum in local surgical centers.

The Surg Tech Class of 2014 graduated in April. Nine of the 11 graduates have taken and passed their CST exam thus far. Ten of the 11 are already employed in the field, and five of the graduates are members of the National Technical Honor Society.





TCAT - Knoxville/Pellissippi State Articulation Has First Graduate

In 2012, Warren Lewis went from feeling underpaid and undertrained to enrolling in the Medical Office Information Technology program at TCAT – Knoxville. After graduating in October 2012, he wanted to continue his education and conferred with Pellissippi State Community College. At the time, Pellissippi had a degree program in Health Science which was in the process of being implemented. Taking advantage of an articulation agreement between the TCAT and Pellissippi State, Lewis enrolled and began classes at Pellissippi in January 2013.

TCAT – Knoxville is pleased to announce that Lewis graduated from Pellissippi State Community College in December 2013, with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Health Sciences. Lewis is one of the TCAT’s first graduates who transferred to Pellissippi utilizing the articulation agreement. Lewis stated, “I am so grateful for TCAT – Knoxville and especially Ms. Wood-all, instructor of the Medical Office Information Technology program, for getting me well-prepared for college on the next level. I am also honored to have been able to represent TCAT - Knoxville at Pellissippi, and I encourage all of those students who wish to further their education to do so. I just want everyone to know that it can be done, and TCAT – Knoxville will get you ready to take your academic future to the next level.” In addition, Lewis needs only five credits to graduate with a second degree in Administrative Professional Technology/ Healthcare Office Administration.

TCAT - Livingston Active in Highlands Public/Private Initiative

The Highlands consists of six towns, three counties, three chambers of commerce and dozens of economic leaders who joined forces more than six years ago to harness the area’s collective assets and energies to put the Highlands region on the map. Today, the Highlands (anchored by Overton, Putnam and White county leadership) is recognized as a best-practice model of a public/private initiative not only in the region, but throughout the entire state of Tennessee.

The First Highlands Industrial Trade Show was recently held with more than 30 area industries from construction to finance on hand to network and foster a culture of interdependence among the region’s industries. TCAT - Livingston was among those present to share what training the college could provide to industries and potential employees. The event included various breakout sessions, including sessions on Pathways to Prosperity and Starting a Business.

The TCAT - Livingston also participated in the Highlands Career Fair in May. The Fifth Annual 8th Grade Career Fair allowed approximately 1,312 students from Jackson, Putnam, Van Buren and White counties to explore different career opportunities in the Upper Cumberland. The Career Fair complements lessons provided by the schools and other programs available through the Highlands Initiative by giving students real world exposure to jobs in the region. Providing ongoing exposures to career opportunities paves the way for students to be prepared as they continue their education.

TCAT - McKenzie HVAC Partners with Habitat for Humanity

Tennessee College of Applied Technology - McKenzie’s HVAC/R class has partnered with Habitat for Humanity International to serve the community. Through the work of Habitat for Humanity, thousands of low-income families have found new hope in the form of affordable housing. Churches, community groups and others have joined together to successfully tackle the need for decent housing for all.

The HVAC class chapter of SkillsUSA performed this much needed service project for the Henry Co. Habitat for Humanity by installing a complete central heating and air conditioning system in the latest new home constructed by the organization. The project allowed the students to help their community while gaining valuable skill in a real world experience using the knowledge and skills they are learning in their training. Terry Wilson, HVAC/R instructor said, “The students did an excellent job installing the unit and they gained firsthand knowledge of practical principles that will aid them in the future.”



HVAC students prepare to work on HVAC unit for a Habitat for Humanity home.



TCAT - McMinnville Students Win Gold

TCAT - McMinnville is proud to announce the five students who earned gold medals at the recent state SkillsUSA competition in Chattanooga in April. Those students will be going to Kansas City in June for the 50th annual National Leadership and Skills Conference, which showcases career and technical education and the skills obtained by students in those programs.

The five gold medalists are: Richard Schilt, who competed and won gold in Automotive Service Technology; Ashley Shelton, who won gold in the Medical Terminology competition; Autumn King, won gold in Commercial Baking; Alyssa Lewis, who won the top prize in the Restaurant Service competition; Nicholas Weiten, gold medalist in Culinary Arts.

Director Warren Laux said, "We are so proud of each of these students, and can't wait to see what they can accomplish in Kansas City."

TCAT - Morristown Opens New Programs

In order to gauge the training needs of the various businesses and industries in the Morristown/Hamblen County area, TCAT - Morristown developed a survey that was distributed through the local chamber of commerce. Not surprisingly, training related to Industrial Maintenance headed the list of needs. One area in particular was mentioned by a number of companies – pipefitting. As a result of the survey TCAT - Morristown will start a new program in pipefitting/plumbing with a start date of January 2015 anticipated. A number of companies such as Alcoa and C & C Millwright have not only shown support, but will be providing donations to the program.

One of the most significant findings from the survey was the urging of area businesses for the college to continue driving home the importance of worker characteristics. Time and again companies have stated that not only do their employees need to have the necessary skill sets, they also need to have exceptional attendance, good communication skills, the ability to get along with others, etc. The 27 TCATs have been in the forefront in teaching these critical skills.

TCAT - Memphis Students Give Back to Community

TCAT - Memphis students have been going above and beyond to contribute to the community as they also learn skills for their career of choice. The TCAT - Memphis Practical Nursing students assisted the FBI, Memphis Police Department, Paramedics and other first responders with an active shooter drill in preparation for March Madness 2014 (NCAA College Basketball Tournament). This exercise helped law enforcement prepare for incidences involving active shooters at affairs of this magnitude. The students simulated injuries that would be sustained in such an event, which helped them identify their roles as healthcare providers during an actual active shooter event. The TCAT - Memphis Nursing Department was commended for having "exceptional students."

The TCAT - Memphis Barbering students learned well the lesson that Barbering instructors Ernestine Peete and Demetrius Armstrong consistently incorporate into the curriculum, the importance of giving and reaching back. Students clock hundreds of hours of community service each year by voluntarily giving haircuts to residents of various missions, secondary school students and clients of benevolent organizations. One Barbering graduate, Elgen McFerren, has taken "reaching and giving back" to a whole new level. He has hired three other TCAT - Memphis graduates, Mariko Faulkner, Gabriel Moore and Deshaun Powell at his Trendz Elite Barber and Beauty Salon and has implemented programs for free haircuts and food donations for the needy.

Members of the TCAT-Memphis Health Information Technology Program volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House of Memphis (RMH). RMH provides long-term housing for patients and families of St. Jude Hospital, and is located right across the street from the TCAT- Memphis Main Campus. The students toured of the facility as a field trip and decided to help. They read books, made hand puppets, told jokes, sang songs and played games with residents. The children were also entertained by "Mr. Noodles," the hand puppet. Tonya Braden, the instructor, encourages her students to complete volunteer work as a strategy toward building their resumes with experiences and to strengthen their networking skills.



TCAT - Murfreesboro Offers Electrocardiogram Technician Program

TCAT - Murfreesboro, in partnership with the Rx-TN (A Prescription for Healthcare Training in Tennessee) grant program, is now offering a comprehensive 40-hour, non-credit ECG course for individuals interested in starting a career in the medical field. This certificate program will assist students in preparing for the National Health Career Association Certified ECG Technician (CET) exam.

Electrocardiogram technicians are one of the first people to assist patients experiencing cardiac symptoms. They are responsible for performing diagnostic tests to assess the heart's rhythm and rate. ECG or EKG Technicians may set up and administer electrocardiogram tests and stress tests, and monitor the hearts performance. These technicians are critical members of the patient care team found in physicians' offices, emergency rooms and hospital based cardiology clinics across the country.

The ECG Technician program is 40 hours, which includes face-to-face lab sessions and online course work. "We are excited to be working with Rx-TN and Motlow State Community College to offer this program," said Director Lynn Kreider.

TCAT - Newbern Host "Gear Heads"

In February, TCAT - Newbern hosted Dyer County's "STEM" Project participants (STEM is short for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Dyer County is committed to bringing STEM to students at an earlier age and has partnered with several industries and educational institutions, such as TCAT - Newbern, to assist in this task. The STEM group is comprised of eighth grade students from the Dyer County schools systems. Once accepted, students are given the title "Gear Heads."

When the "Gear Heads" visited TCAT - Newbern, staff and students volunteered their Saturday to work with these students. The students were divided into groups of four and had to read, learn about and assemble a Hydrogen fuel cell car. This car was capable of providing power via Hydrogen, solar or battery. Once all groups completed their projects, a competition was conducted to see whose fuel cell car was fastest.

Altogether the project lasted approximately five hours. After the race, students were treated to pizza and toured the college campus. The fuel cell cars will remain at TCAT - Newbern, and the college looks forward to sharing the experience with a new set of "Gear Heads" next year.

TCAT - Nashville Welding Receives New Equipment

TCAT Nashville – The TCAT - Nashville Welding program received \$468,000 in equipment grant monies from the state of Tennessee. The donation is part of an \$8.5 million dollar competitive grant set aside by the state specifically for the TCATs. With the income, the Nashville welding program has already received the first of forty Miller XMT 350 Multi-process welders. These will provide students the opportunity to learn traditional processes such as MIG and TIG, but also processes such as Flux Core welding that are returning to the industry due to economic constraints. "This gives the students a better competitive edge in the marketplace, evidenced by the number of calls I get each week from companies who are hiring and the almost 100% job placement at the completion of the welding program," stated Instructor James Cagle.

The grant also means broader involvement and program expansion to the college. Currently, approximately 45 students are in the Nashville welding program per trimester. With the new equipment plus the roll out of the used equipment to other locations, up to 95 full-time students and 45 dual-enrolled high school students will be trained across five campuses – TCAT - Nashville, Cheatham County and McGavock high schools, and two new sites, Portland and Lebanon.

The TCAT - Nashville Welding program has not only garnered attention at the state level with this grant, it is drawing attention outside of the state. Representatives from Huntington Ingalls Industries in Mississippi are scheduled to visit the welding program this summer. Huntington Ingalls designs and builds nuclear and non-nuclear ships for the Navy and Coast Guard. According to Director Mark Lenz, "It's exciting to see what will come from this technology and its impact on what the students can and will attain."



(L to R): Instructor James Cagle with Welding student Erik Carlson.



TCAT - Oneida/Huntsville Graduate Completes RN Despite Tough Times

In 2007, Phyllis Holcomb, a single mother struggling to survive, was suffering in poverty and couldn't put presents under the tree for her two sons. The next year, USA Today picked up her story as Mission of Hope, a local charity, came with gifts after hearing that Holcomb and her boys were living in a borrowed house, eating from food stamps, and could barely scrape together gas money to get Holcomb to nursing school. At that time, Phyllis was enrolled at TCAT - Oneida/Huntsville. She graduated from there, and after working for a while, went on to enroll in the Registered Nursing Program at Lincoln Memorial University.

Phyllis, now married and known as Phyllis Aeys, recently graduated from LMU, having persevered through the tough times to achieve her goal of becoming a registered nurse and providing for her children. She is so thankful for the opportunities afforded her to achieve her dreams, and for the people who saw her story and cared. As Phyllis received her diploma, her family cheered from the audience.

Tall Tales and Catfish Races at TCAT - Paris

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Paris recently entered the Henry County Literacy Council's annual Tall Tale contest and Catfish races. The contest is held each April in conjunction with the World's Biggest Fish Fry. For the race, live catfish are raced in Plexiglas troughs. Despite Dr. Brad White's best efforts at training his competitor, the TCAT entry was not the fastest swimmer. However, the TCAT - Paris tall tale entry won third place for the best fish name. Below is an excerpt from the entry, written by Administrative Office Technology instructor Lorie Goodgine.

"At 41 years old, TCAT Catfish (formerly TTC Catfish) decided it was time for a change. He was weary of all the other fish not knowing who he was and underestimating his abilities. He spent many years living in the big pond of Paris and a lot of people didn't even know where to find him. . ."

"While working to improve his image one night, he turned on AMT (which everyone knows is Algae Music Television) and saw a Prince music video-then it hit him! He needed to shed his old mediocre image and become 'The catfish formerly known as TTC catfish.' He thought, 'I am 'The CATfish' for training apprentices around here and I need to scream my name to everyone out there. I am TCAT Catfish and from this day forward, I will be known simply as TCAT. I will continue to use my abilities to change this pond. My little tadpole apprentices and I will strive to make it one of the best ponds around.'"

TCAT - Pulaski CNC Machining Program Highlighted

TCAT - Pulaski recently hosted the 2014 South Central Tennessee Regional Welding Competition for area high school students. The spring event involved 45 students from high schools in Bedford, Coffee, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lincoln and Marshall counties. The competition allowed students to showcase their skills in shielded metal arc (STICK), gas metal arc (MIG) and gas tungsten arc (TIG) welding. Trophies and prizes were awarded to the first, second and third place contestants in each category, with the overall winner receiving a full tuition scholarship to attend TCAT - Pulaski. Representatives from local industry were on hand to promote career opportunities in the welding field and recruit future welders for their open positions.

The regional welding competition is a great learning experience for all students involved. It provides the students a chance to see how their skills compare to other students in the area. Welders have the opportunity to work locally, nationally and internationally because they are necessary for everything from power plants to bridges to fans to radiators. According to the American Welding Society there will be a need for 250,000 welders in the next decade. These high school students are learning a skill that can provide an avenue for a high-wage career after graduation.

TCAT - Pulaski operates two full-time Industrial Welding Technology programs located at the Pulaski Campus and the South Lawrence Instructional Service Center at Loretto High School. Students completing the 12-month program graduate with a Combination Welder Diploma and are prepared for employment in STICK, MIG or TIG welding. There is high demand for qualified welders from local industry creating a need to prepare more individuals with the skills needed to earn welding certifications and enter the workforce. In response to this demand the college is finalizing plans to offer evening welding classes at the Pulaski Campus.



TCAT - Paris director Brad White prepares to race his catfish during the Paris Catfish Race.



TCAT - Ripley Sends First SkillsUSA Students

TCAT - Ripley sent the college's first delegation of secondary participants to the SkillsUSA state conference held in Chattanooga in April. The delegation consisted of four Ripley High School dual enrollment seniors and one home-schooled junior. Not only did the group compete, one of the participants, J. D. Moore ran for secondary state officer and is now the SkillsUSA secondary parliamentarian.

TCAT - Ripley was already fortunate enough to have the current post-secondary state treasurer, Quinel Nabors. High School students, J.D. Moore, Lamar Miller, Chris Bockholt, Bradley Hargett and Jon Hassell competed in Computer Maintenance, Welding, Telecommunication Cabling, Related Technical Math and Construction Wiring respectively. Postsecondary students William Ryan Walker, Joyce Nelson, Quinel Nabors, and Jeanie Payment, competed in Technical Computer Applications, Job Interview, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Computer Maintenance Technology respectively. TCAT - Ripley is excited about the future for both its SkillsUSA high school chapter and its post-secondary chapter.

TCAT - Shelbyville's Mallard Speaks at MTSU Cyber Summit

Steve Mallard, Lead CIT Instructor and IT Manager of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Shelbyville, spoke at the MTSU Cyber Summit in May. The Cyber Summit was sponsored by the Department of Justice as an annual event for FBI, TBI, law enforcement, utilities, safety and other information technology leaders. Mallard spoke on training security analysts in higher education.

TCAT - Shelbyville's Steve Mallard, Mike Miller and Dawn Babian, along with senior CIT students, sponsored a Capture the Flag competition for senior and junior security analysts. The two hour event had approximately 65 analysts who were challenged at an offensive penetration test involving cyber security.

After the event, many organizations have contacted TCAT - Shelbyville's CIT program for advanced security training, student internships, along with partnerships in education and articulation. Five organizations have asked TCAT - Shelbyville's Computer Information Technology program to run a Capture the Flag at their locations for advanced training on defending their organizations.

TCAT - Whiteville Hosts Small Business Specialist

Joel Newman, a Senior Small Business Specialist with the Tennessee Small Business Development Center, recently visited the campus of TCAT - Whiteville to conduct a business seminar that outlined the keys to owning a successful business. This program is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration as well as the Tennessee Board of Regents and the State of Tennessee.

Newman gave students information on the importance of doing market research and determining if the business would be profitable and a benefit to the community. One of the most important keys to having a successful business, according to Newman, is offering good customer service. Students from several programs of study attended this seminar and gained key knowledge on how to start their own business and create a successful business plan.



Joel Newman speaks to TCAT - Whiteville students about starting their own businesses.



2014 Outstanding Student



Taquila Hayes
TCAT - Covington
Practical Nursing

Taquila is described by her instructor as someone who presents herself in a professional manner and stays focused on her goal of becoming a nurse. She is said to have a positive attitude and gentle way of dealing with those around her. She is quick to offer assistance to her classmates and instructors alike.



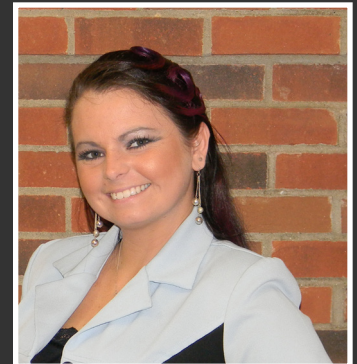
Anna Lisa Altland
TCAT - Elizabethton
Practical Nursing

Lisa worked as a CNA before enrolling in the practical nursing program. She is described as a hard worker who goes above and beyond, even helping fellow students who are not CNA's at the request of her instructor. She also hosts high school tours for the college. Her instructor describes her as a true leader in every sense of the word.



Nathan Ramsey
TCAT - Harriman
Diesel Power Equipment

Nathan is described by his instructor as being very detail oriented and one who shows pride in his work. He has perfect attendance, the highest grade point average in class, and is known to stay on task. He has enthusiasm for learning that is second to none.



Mary Crowell
TCAT - Hohenwald
Cosmetology

Mary is someone her instructor trusts to provide assistance to other students who are struggling with their theory and practical assignments. She is dedicated about her education and her career. She has maintained a 98 average and has been the Valedictorian of her class each term. In addition, she's been involved in SkillsUSA and other school activities.



Student of the Year Finalists



Jennifer Puente
TCAT - Jackson
Practical Nursing

Jennifer worked in the medical field as a medical assistance and unit secretary before entering the practical nursing program. She is described by her instructor as a rare student who has strong clinical skills, excellent grades and dynamic leadership skills. She demonstrates scholarly excellence and is always willing to help classmates learn.



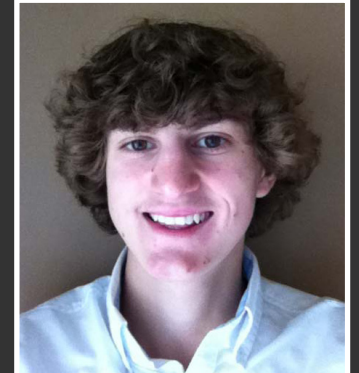
Heather Marsalis
TCAT - McMinnville
Practical Nursing

Heather's instructor describes her as portraying superb leadership qualities in both class and clinical settings. Her willingness to assist classmates in their studies while maintaining an uplifting and pleasant spirit led her to being chosen as the Sunshine Chairlady for the class. She works hard to become the best nurse she can be.



Tacoya James
TCAT - Murfreesboro
Practical Nursing

Having been a nurse's aide for 12 years, Tacoya brought her strong work ethic and caregiving skills to the classroom. Her instructor describes her as a "leader within her small clinical lab group who has stayed after class to help her classmates learn personal care techniques and study for tests. Ultimately, Tacoya hopes to someday finish her career as a nursing instructor.



Larry Cupples
TCAT - Whiteville
Industrial Maintenance

Larry's instructor describes him as a proven leader who goes the extra mile to absorb as much knowledge as he can. He is an excellent student with perfect attendance and often volunteers for any task that needs completing. He has set defined personal and career goals, and his instructor fully expects Larry to obtain them all.

TCAT Leadership Academy 2014 Begins Training Sessions

The Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology Leadership Academy began its 2014 class in April with employees from 12 campuses accepted into the leadership development program. The program, which meets through December, is designed to provide an opportunity to develop and enhance leadership skills of future educational leaders for the TCAT and TBR system.



The academy will prepare individuals to step into leadership roles with a better understanding of the aspects of operating a campus including budget/finances, community involvement,

accreditation and industry certifications. Participants learn to identify their own leadership style and the importance of relationship building as it relates to leadership. Included in training sessions will be such topics as legislative initiatives, TCAT operations, serving students and staff, personal leadership development, accreditation, strategic planning, workplace management and motivation, campus and community, and Board of Regents leadership and operations. TCAT Shelbyville Director Ivan Jones assists Associate Vice Chancellor Dr. Carol Puryear in facilitating the sessions and academy operations.



In April, the opening dinner was held for those nominees accepted into this year's class. Employees participating are Amy West, TCAT - Oneida; Donnie Walton, TCAT - Newbern; Laura Travis, TCAT - Dickson; Kasey Vatter, TCAT - Knoxville; John Penn Ridgeway, TCAT - McKenzie; Nathan Garrett, TCAT - Memphis; Tachaka Hollins, TBR/TCAT - Murfreesboro; Brian Harris, TCAT - Crump; Melanie Buchanan, TCAT - Nashville; Jacquene Winfield, TCAT - Whiteville; Susanne Cox, TCAT - Morristown; Clifford Wightman, TCAT - Crossville; and Stephen Milligan, TCAT - Pulaski.

