



TCAT Directors Retire, Taking 128 Years of Experience With Them

Imagine living 128 years. One might say that is unthinkable. Then imagine 128 years of work experience. The Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology marked the end of an era when three directors recently retired from the TCAT system, ending a combined period of employment in education of 128 years. Ralph Robbins retired in June 2013 as director of the TCAT - Livingston, having served 43 years in educational systems. Lynn Elkins, director at TCAT - Morristown retired in December 2013, having served her entire 45 years career in higher education at the college. Rick Brewer retired as director of TCAT - Hohenwald in January 2014, having served in educational positions for 40 years.

Ralph Robbins began his career in education teaching physical education for three years at Livingston Elementary School, but began working with the Livingston Area Vocational Technical School as a counselor. Seven years later, in 1990, he began his tenure as director of the school. One of his proudest accomplishments was the development of the first articulation agreement between a Tennessee Technology Center and a community college. He worked tirelessly to promote a seamless transition from high school to TTC to community college to university. His dream was for the TTC system to be named a college system, and upon learning that legislation had been filed to do just that, Robbins worked hard to show his support of the name change.

Lynn Elkins began her career as a basic skills instructor and taught Office Occupations for 20 years. During her tenure, Elkins facilitated many changes as the school grew from six basic shop-related programs to 13 highly-technical programs, including the addition of four off campus sites in Hawkins, Greene, Claiborne, and Sevier counties. She has served in numerous leadership roles including chairperson of the Executive Sub-Council for the TCAT directors. Throughout her tenure, Elkins was recognized by various professional and civic groups for her outstanding leadership and her commitment to postsecondary training.

Rick Brewer started his career in secondary education by serving as a math and science instructor, high school principal, vocational director, and superintendent of schools. He began his post-secondary education career as director of TCAT - Hohenwald, a position he held for 22 years. While there, Brewer established instructional service facilities in five locations, as well as important partnerships with businesses, industries and health care facilities in the college's service area. He, too, was instrumental in promoting the legislation that changed the names of the Tennessee Technology Centers to the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology.

“Each of these leaders dedicated their lives to helping others gain the knowledge and skills needed to build their own successful careers,” said Vice Chancellor of Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology James King. “They spent over 100 years just in the TCAT system. The changes they saw occur, the historical events they remember, and the wisdom they gained in leading those colleges was immeasurable. We will always be thankful for their determination to make a difference in the lives of their students, in their communities and across Tennessee.”





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Editor's Notes:

Welcome to the 58th 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>.

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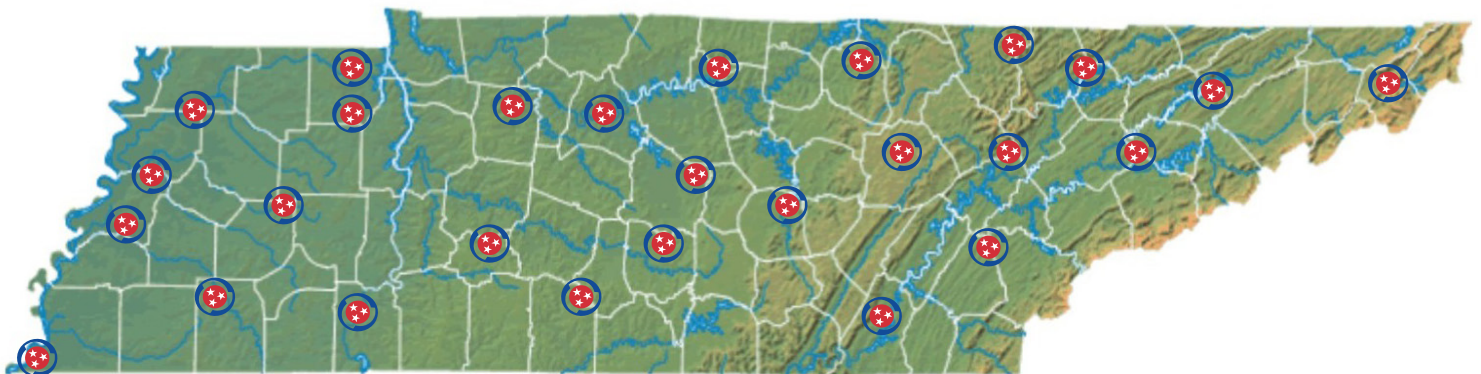
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Governor Presents Tennessee Promise and Reconnect to Help Reach Goal of “Drive to 55”

Governor Bill Haslam, during his fourth annual State of the State address before the General Assembly in February, introduced a new program that could change the lives of Tennessee citizens who think that attending a post-secondary institution is beyond their reach. The governor introduced the Tennessee Promise program to legislators and guests, telling them that the new program is proof he is committed to making education beyond high school a priority in Tennessee.

The “Tennessee Promise” proposal commits to providing on a continuing basis two years of a college of applied technology (TCAT) or a community college absolutely free of tuition and fees to graduating high school seniors. To make the program sustainable, the governor proposed transferring lottery reserve funds to create an endowment to cover the estimated \$34 million dollar expenses annually. This would still leave \$110 million in the lottery reserve fund.

“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.”

For students at Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology, the legislation is specialized and is introduced as Tennessee Reconnect. The program will provide a last-dollar scholarship to qualifying adult students to cover tuition and fee expenses after other financial aid has been applied.

Also, adult students who qualify for the Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant must currently have never received a HOPE scholarship. That will change with the Tennessee Reconnect program as well. When the program goes into effect, students who have already received a HOPE scholarship will still be eligible to receive a Wilder-Naifeh technical skills grant.

“We are excited about the opportunities the governor’s new program will bring for our future students,” said Vice Chancellor James King. “The program opens doors for students who might not have been able to cover that last bit of their training costs, or who needed financial assistance but couldn’t receive it because of previous training.”

TCAT Knoxville’s Vatter Named Among Knoxville’s Most Influential Under 40

Kasey Vatter, Assistant Director at TCAT - Knoxville, makes it possible for people to do something many of them never thought they could ever do: get an education after high school. Because of her dedication to changing students’ lives, Vatter was named to the 2013 Greater Knoxville Business Journal’s 40 Under 40.

Vatter found her way to TCAT in 2009 through her volunteer work with tnAchieves, an organization that provides scholarships and mentor guidance to high school students. Vatter accompanied one of the students to whom she was assigned through tnAchieves to the campus to look at some program options. TCAT - Knoxville helps students deal with barriers and things that make it hard for them to come to school every day, so they can train in career fields that will allow them to provide better opportunities for themselves and their families. Because Vatter’s dedication to her tnAchieves students fit that model, she impressed the school’s administrator, and he hired her as the school’s student services coordinator.

Vatter credits her experiences as a tnAchieves mentor with influencing the work she does at TCAT in other ways, as well. “TnAchieves has helped me in transforming the way I think about each individual person and their different backgrounds,” she says. “I can try to understand where they’re coming from and use my position to help them reach the goals they need to reach.”

A little over a year ago, Vatter became Assistant Director, helping to oversee 700 students who attend classes in 17 programs offered at the Liberty Street campus. Vatter was also instrumental in helping the school transition through a name change last summer that, she says, better reflects the school’s mission to provide a well-trained, skilled workforce for the state’s industries. “There are so many different paths you can take right out of the gate in high school that can get you to a good paying job, help you raise a family, buy a house, travel or do whatever you want to do,” she says. “The Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology can do just that!”



TCAT - Athens Student Finds Career in Industrial Electricity Construction

Less than a year ago, 37-year old Dana Riley left the Tennessee county in which she was born for the first time in her life. The single mother of two was enrolled in the Industrial Electricity program at TCAT – Athens, having been laid off from her job at a furniture factory, where she'd worked for 11 years. While enrolled at the college, she met Mittie Cannon, Workforce Development Director for Robins & Morton.

“Mittie asked me if I wanted to work in construction,” says Dana. But she wasn't sold. Dana says growing up she heard that construction work was messy and unsafe and was no place for a woman. “I was scared of the thought of working in construction. But it was more than I expected, it was way different from what I expected.”

The Construction program at TCAT – Athens offers authentic learning for high potential students in welding and electrical programs. The program allows students to transfer their knowledge from the classroom to the construction site as well as continue their growth through earning and learning and participating in the National Center for Construction Education and Research training at the sites.

Dana graduated from TCAT –Athens in Industrial Electricity with honors and was recognized as Student of the Year. She then began work as a helper pulling wire at Robins & Morton's Olin Chlor Alkali – Membrane Conversion construction project just across the river in Charleston, Tenn. She wasn't alone. Dana's 21-year old daughter Bridget had also attended TCAT – Athens and joined her mother at Olin working in the field as an electrician helper.

“I was the only woman and it was pretty rough. The guys would help me if the wires were too heavy. Everybody was nice,” Dana recalls.

After a few weeks, Dana began building system turnover packages for the electrical department. The packages were used to complete the required cable terminations in each system. After work was completed for each system, packages were transmitted to the Robins & Morton startup team for check-out. When the Olin project was completed, Dana took another job that was not in construction. But it wasn't long after that Dana's former supervisor at Robins & Morton called and asked her to join him in Millen, Georgia, working at the CARBO Ceramics project. Robins & Morton is currently performing Engineering, procurement and construction services for CARBO – building a grassroots ceramic proppant manufacturing facility. Dana decided to move and encouraged her daughter to join her. It was their first move outside the state of Tennessee. Dana signed on as an electrician helper.

Dana says that the money and opportunities in construction have been good. She wishes she'd worked in construction rather than in a factory. She has also encouraged her daughter to learn all that she can and go as far as she can go in construction. In the meantime, Dana says she hopes to work in construction as long as she can. “I enjoy moving and meeting new people,” she says. “I want to keep studying and move up and keep learning.”

TCAT - Chattanooga Recognizes Landscape & Turf Management Program

The Landscape & Turf Management program at TCAT - Chattanooga was recently awarded the Tennessee Turfgrass Association's 2013 Collegiate Sports Field of the Year Award for their work on the Chattanooga State Baseball Field. The program received the honor based on the unique management strategy employed to maintain and improve the quality of the playing field.

Over the last few years, Chattanooga State has made significant improvements to the facilities by building a new stadium, new dugouts, and a fieldhouse. Before these projects began, a partnership was formed between the baseball coaches (who had previously been solely responsible for field maintenance) and the students and faculty of the Landscape & Turf Management program. This partnership benefits the program by providing students with a valuable field laboratory space and real-world, hands-on experience while the team and coaches benefit by having a better quality field and more time to spend on practice.

In addition to work on the turf, students have also worked to constantly improve other areas of the field. Each spring, students prepare the irrigation system for the season by performing a complete audit and adjustment of the system. Students have also worked to clean and maintain the field edges, smooth and fill eroded areas of the warning track, and keep the dugouts and stadium clear of debris.

Other programs have contributed to this success as well. Students in Diesel Equipment Mechanics, Motorcycle and Marine Engine Technology, Welding, and Machine Tool Technology have all helped to maintain and repair the tools and equipment needed to maintain an award-level sports field.

The Landscape & Turf Management program has recently begun working on Chattanooga State's softball field and has already seen a dramatic improvement in the quality of the field. Students are looking forward to continuing to build on the program's success at the baseball field and expect to have both fields competing for awards in the future.



TCAT - Covington SkillsUSA Students Host Tipton County Officials

TCAT - Covington students recently hosted a visit to the campus by Tipton County officials. Administrative Office Technology students Stacy Roberts and Cheryl Carlisle, along with Industrial Maintenance students Zachary Smith and William Yancey, were responsible for scheduling and hosting the tour as part of their assignment after attending the Tennessee Leadership Training Institute in Murfreesboro, Tenn. Tipton County Court Clerk Mary Gaither, County Trustee Kristie Glass Maxwell, and Tipton County Sheriff JT “Poncho” Chumley were present for the informational session and college tour.

During the group session students shared with the officials the value and quality of their education and training at TCAT – Covington. They also shared information regarding the impact of a public career and technical education in our state, the importance of Wilder Naifeh funding, and the benefits of their participation in SkillsUSA. Said TCAT – Covington Director Bill Ray, “We were very proud of our students and the great job they did in presenting the campus and the advantages of career and technical education to our community leaders. Their hard work and enthusiasm was evident, along with their belief that the multi-faceted training they are receiving will lead to great opportunities for them!”

TCAT - Crossville Hosts Legislative Breakfast

In January, TCAT - Crossville hosted a legislative breakfast in conjunction with the Crossville/Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce. The forum was open to the public and local business leaders, and 55 people attended. State Senator Charlotte Burks and State Representative Cameron Sexton opened the meeting. Representatives from Representative Diane Black’s office and Senators Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander were also present, along with members of the Crossville/Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce.

Senator Burks and Representative Sexton soon opened the floor to discuss topics such as road construction funding, economic development on the local level, and the wine in grocery store legislation and how it affects local merchants. On the state level issues like school vouchers and the legalization of marijuana were discussed. Senator Burkes also announced she would not seek re-election for her seat. After a brief open forum, TCAT Director Don Sadler thanked the attendees for coming and before adjournment special recognition was given to TCAT - Crossville for hosting the event.



Pictured from left to right are: Janice Hamby and Karen Cole from Crossville/Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce, State Senator Charlotte Burks, State Representative Cameron Sexton, moderator Landon Colvard of Crossville/Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce, Michael Detweiler representing U.S. Representative Diane Black, Katie Davis representing Senator Bob Corker, and Evan Freeman representing Senator Lamar Alexander at TCAT - Crossville’s recent legislative breakfast.



TCAT - Crump Celebrates College Graduates

In January, Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Crump welcomed parents, family, and friends to its graduation ceremony to recognize the graduating class of 2013-2014. Director Arrita Summers presided over the commencement and noted that it was her great honor to present the graduates for recognition of their academic efforts.

Keynote speaker James King, the Tennessee Board of Regent's Vice Chancellor for the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology, spoke to the graduates about the value of a technical education and the skills they have honed at the college. "You have already chosen a career path, and that is an important first step in leading a successful life," King told graduates. He further encouraged them to never stop learning and to strive for continual improvement both personally and intellectually.

Director Summers encouraged the graduates to, "Be dedicated and persistent to your craft and dedicated to your career; continually promote to this community that Tennessee College of Applied Technology is a wonderful place to learn; and, finally, be diligent to chase your professional and personal dreams."

TCAT - Dickson Partners with NHC Healthcare

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Dickson is pleased to announce that the Practical Nursing program received a \$2,950 donation from NHC Healthcare in January to help support the training program. NHC Administrator Steven Yokley and Director of Nursing Jessica Moen praised the quality of students the college produces. Yokley said the funds came from NHC's Foundation for Geriatric Education and are used for tuition reimbursement for employees and to support higher education institutions.

The Practical Nursing program will use the funds to purchase in-classroom feeding pumps and other geriatric training equipment and materials. Said Mark Powers, director at TCAT – Dickson, "Support from programs such as NHC Healthcare's Foundation for Geriatric Education helps us provide our students with training aspects that we might not be able to otherwise offer them. We truly appreciate their support and look forward to our students using the equipment to better prepare them for their new careers in nursing."



Pictured (L to R): TCAT - Dickson Director Mark Powers, NHC Director of Nursing Jessica Moen, Administrator Steven Yokley, and Laura Travis, coordinator of health careers programs for the college.

A dream doesn't become a reality through magic;
it takes sweat, determination and hard work.

Colin Powell



TCAT - Elizabethton Highlights Industry Partnerships

TCAT – Elizabethton is working to assist in achieving Governor Bill Haslam’s goal to bring the percentage of Tennesseans with college degrees or certifications to 55% by the year 2025. The college recently participated in a legislative luncheon hosted at Northeast State Community College for the state’s legislators who represent the northeastern part of the state. Among those in attendance from the Tennessee Board of Regents in Nashville were TBR Vice Chancellor David Gregory, who gave a brief overview of capital projects and thanked the legislators for their continued support.

Lt. Gov. Ron Ramsey, whose senatorial district includes TCAT - Elizabethton, told attendees that there is a \$100 million projected revenue shortfall in Tennessee coffers this budget year. Tennessee has shown a marked improvement in K-12 education national test results. “Funding has been a problem for higher education in the past. With health care inflation low in Tennessee, it should help education,” Ramsey said.

Despite the state revenue shortfall, career and technical education training for manufacturing employment in Tennessee is brisk. James King, Vice Chancellor for Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology, said TCAT - Elizabethton with Snap-on Tools, TCAT - Chattanooga with Volkswagen, and TCAT - Murfreesboro with Nissan Manufacturing, have taken the lead in developing NC3 partnerships with local industry. King said TCATs will fulfill specialized training and certification of emergency technology skills through membership in the National Coalition of Certification Centers, which develops, implements and sustains industry-recognized portable certifications built on national skill sets.

Dean Blevins, director of TCAT – Elizabethton spoke about the development of certifications for Bell Helicopter at Piney Flats, which is doubling production capacity, as well as with Snap-on. New programs in aviation airframe mechanics and machine tools are also being developed at the college.

Also in attendance was Bill Snodgrass, field representative for Congressman Phil Roe.

TCAT - Harriman Announces Gene Haas Foundation Scholar

TCAT – Harriman is pleased to announce that Steve Winstead, a student in the college’s Machine Tool Technology program, was recently named the recipient of a \$2,500 Gene Haas Foundation Machining Technology Scholarship. The scholarship is intended to help ease the financial burden of qualified students who are interested in machine operation and maintenance coursework. Awards range from \$1,000 to \$2,500 depending on the cost of the applicant’s program.

The Gene Haas Foundation provides scholarship funds to community colleges and vocational schools for students entering technical training programs, especially machinist-based certificate and degree programs in partnership with the SME Educational Foundation. The foundation was formed in 1999 to fund the needs of the local community and other deserving charities at the discretion of its benefactor, Mr. Gene Haas, who is the the founder and president of Haas Automation – Oxnard, California.

Winstead’s Machine Tool Technology instructor is Adam Dalton. According to TCAT – Harriman Director Danice Turpin, “We are excited that one of our students has received this award. Steve Winstead is a truly talented student, and Mr. Dalton works hard to bring out the best in each of his students.”



TCAT - Hartsville Student Graduates Against All Odds

A recent graduate of TCAT – Hartsville has proven that if there's a will, there's a way. In 2008, Jimmy Hunter of Gallatin suffered two major strokes which left him with damaged short-term memory and a speech impediment. Having been a long-haul truck driver, Jimmy and his wife knew his days of driving to Canada were over. After going through therapy, Jimmy volunteered at Jack Anderson Elementary, where his wife Karen worked as the cafeteria manager.

A few years later, Jimmy had the opportunity to work with the Tennessee Department of Rehabilitation in Smyrna to determine if he had recovered enough to go to college. He was allowed to go under their program and jumped at the opportunity. "When he first started going to school, he was withdrawn because he stuttered," Karen said.

According to them both, being able to attend college helped him overcome his stuttering. "Going to college brought him out of being so scared around people, got him to talk and got his confidence back," Karen said. Jimmy will tell you that he is grateful that he was able to be with the younger generations, and also of the fact that they were so helpful in his journey to graduation. "One guy said I was the grandfather he never had," Jimmy said. He hopes to use his Computer Information Technology certificates to obtain a job appraising trucks. After all, he knows them as well as anyone does.

Karen commented jokingly that Jimmy didn't know how to turn the computer on before he began the program. Jimmy added, "Now I can build one."

TCAT – Hohenwald Celebrates Leadership Event with State Representative

TCAT - Hohenwald hosted State Representative Shelia Butt's campus visit in January. Serving the 64th District, Representative Butt was named 2013 Representative of the Year by the National Foundation for Women Legislators, a first for Tennessee legislators. The award was given to Rep. Butt for her dedicated service, overall passion for state and country, and steadfast commitment to conservative ideas.

Rep. Butt spoke to the whole student body, reminding them that education is the key to freedom and achieving their dreams. She gave personal testimony to her own success, as well as that of family members who were successful technical education graduates in the automotive field. She also contended that education as the great equalizer among today's society.

A presentation was also given by Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Services Chelle Travis, who encouraged a commitment to the students' completion of their post-secondary educational efforts. Also the SkillsUSA State Director, Travis explained the name change from Tennessee Technology Center to College of Applied Technology, and challenged each student to take advantage of the skills and training they are receiving at TCAT.

Travis was followed by Tennessee Post-Secondary SkillsUSA President Gildore Simplice, who shared his personal story as encouragement to others to take advantage of the educational offerings available to them. Born in Haiti with very humble beginnings, Simplice came to the United States with big dreams, made a few bad choices along the way, but credits the TCAT - Hohenwald with providing him the skills to turn his life around. Mary Crowell, a Cosmetology graduate and TCAT – Hohenwald's 2014 Outstanding Student of the Year, also gave her success story as to how TCAT has helped her change her life and career. The day concluded with a luncheon for Rep. Butt, college faculty, staff and SkillsUSA Officers, who also shared the impact TCAT – Hohenwald has had on their lives.



State Representative Shelia Butt is pictured above, along with TCAT - Hohenwald SkillsUSA officers as they listen to CIT Instructor Steve Lewers.



TCAT – Jacksboro Offers OSHA Course

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Jacksboro, Campbell County Chamber of Commerce, Campbell County Small Business Incubator, and the Tennessee Career Center/ETHRA partnered with Roane State to offer a 30-hour OSHA course. The course was offered on the TCAT - Jacksboro campus during the months of November and December. The free course was offered to Roane State and TCAT students, business entrepreneurs, Workforce Investment Act/Career Center customers, dislocated workers and others in the community. Twelve students completed the course in December. The program was funded through Roane State Community College by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor/ETA/OGCM. A second class, which began mid-February, is being offered as well.



TCAT – Jackson Program Named Chapter of the Year

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Jackson is proud to announce that its Drafting & CAD Technology program was selected as the American Design Drafting Association’s (ADDA) “2014 Chapter of the Year.” The award is based on a chapter’s academic achievement, community service activities and having a 100% pass rate on the Certified Drafter (CD) examination.

The chapter’s primary service project this year was participating in RIFA Food Bank’s local “Canstruction” competition. Canstruction is a design/build competition with a unique way to help feed the hungry. Competing teams, led by architects, engineers and designers, showcase their talents by designing giant sculptures made entirely out of canned foods. At the close of the exhibition, all of the food used in the structures is donated to the RIFA Food Bank to distribute to other nonprofits in the Jackson-Madison County area that serve individuals, food pantries and shelters.

As a part of the Chapter Recognition, the students and advisor Dan Rodenbaugh will have the opportunity to attend the ADDA National Conference in Kansas City, Mo., in April, with all conference fees waived and meals included.

TCAT – Knoxville Hosts Legislative Luncheon

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology – Knoxville’s second legislative luncheon was held in February. SkillsUSA and Student Government Association students greeted and served approximately 40 guests, including House Education Committee Chairman Representative Harry Brooks and 12 other legislators.

Also present were TCAT Directors Dwight Murphy of Knoxville, Danice Turpin of Harrman, David Browder of Jacksboro, and Myra West of Livingston, and TCAT-Knoxville Interim Assistant Director Patrick Wade. Former TCAT – Knoxville Assistant Director Carolyn Roach was also present. Other guests were tnAchieves Executive Director Krissy DeAlejandro, Pellissippi State Community College President Anthony Wise, and Special Advisor to the Governor for Higher Education Randy Boyd.

Director Murphy kicked off luncheon by thanking the legislators for their help in renaming the TTC system to include College in the name. TCAT – Knoxville SkillsUSA officer Drew Saffles also welcomed the legislators to the luncheon. TBR Chancellor John Morgan spoke to the group about the direction of higher education in Tennessee and the goal of the “Drive to 55” state initiative.

It was then announced by Murphy that TCAT – Knoxville will have its first dual enrolled students at South Doyle High School and Oak Ridge High School this spring and its first tnAchieves students in fall 2014. He also announced TCAT-Knoxville’s new specialized industry programs with ALCOA Aluminum, Denso, UCOR, Gatlinburg Falls, and Eagle Bend Manufacturing, and thanked the legislators for the \$450,000 equipment grant for these program.



TCAT - Livingston Partners with APCOM for Training

TCAT - Livingston recently provided special industry training for APCOM of Cookeville. APCOM makes parts for high volume and small batch assembly with capabilities in molding, insertion molding, metal tube forming, stamping and cold forming. APCOM was originally founded in 1969 as a manufacturer of parts for water heaters. It started in a 10,000 square foot building, but now has locations in Franklin and Cookeville. Seven employees from the Cookeville plant completed training in Blue Print Reading, Fundamentals of Dimensional Metrology, Mechanical Aptitude, and Charting Tools.

TCAT - Livingston will be partnering again this Spring to offer more training to its employees. The training is conducted on-site and will be customized to meet the needs of APCOM.



Pictured left to right are APCOM employees and TCAT - Livingston graduates Lyndon Marccom, Bobby Baker, Tony Smith, Hugh Oakley, Chrissy Tucker, Frank Bledsoe and Jerry Peek.

TCAT- McKenzie Leaders Meet with McKenzie Mayor

TCAT - McKenzie SkillsUSA representatives met with McKenzie, TN Mayor Jill Holland to discuss the “Drive to 55” for post-secondary education. Currently, about 32% of adults have some type of degree in the state of Tennessee, putting the state at 43rd in the nation. The governor would like to see that number increased to 55% by the year 2025.

Mayor Holland met with Terry Wilson, HVAC/Refrigeration Instructor and SkillsUSA advisor, along with Cole Lessenberry, TCAT-McKenzie student and Skills representative and Zach Price, IT Assistant at TCAT-McKenzie and Skills representative, to discuss ways to help reach the 55% goal. They discussed ways to better inform high school students about the TCAT programs and the high job placement rates the programs have, as well as offering more technical skills training opportunities at the high school level. The group also discussed building better relationships between TCATs and community and industry leaders so more people are aware of what TCATs have to offer.

Mayor Holland had put together a packet to let prospective companies who may be considering moving into the area know what McKenzie has to offer. While information on TCAT - McKenzie was included in the packet, Mayor Holland requested more detailed information concerning available training programs, certifications and credentials. This new information will allow city leaders to inform businesses and industries of the training TCATs offer, as well as the types of skilled workers available in the community and the state.

Finally, Mayor Holland requested more information on SkillsUSA. The group explained SkillsUSA’s partnership of students, teachers and industries working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce, their local, state and national competitions, and that TCAT students consistently placed high at both state and national levels. Wilson also explained how the leadership side of SkillsUSA pushes students to be more aware of their community and how to become more involved as citizens and leaders. Together the TCAT representatives and Mayor Holland hope to create new opportunities for the community and TCAT - McKenzie to work towards meeting the governor’s goal of “Drive to 55.”



TCAT - McMinnville Provides Training for Re-entry Program

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology - McMinnville has partnered with Franklin County's Community Re-entry program, to offer training classes to inmates from the Coffee County Jail. The educational and rehabilitative program for prison inmates started in 2007. Under the direction of Christine Hopkins, an award-winning rehabilitation counselor with the Tennessee Department of Human Services, Franklin County's Community Re-Entry program has become so successful that it has been expanded to Coffee and Warren counties. "The program is intended to prepare the inmates for immediate re-entry into the workforce, or else to continue their education," said Greg Jackson, a corrections officer and classroom instructor with Coffee County.

The current five-week training class includes instruction on computer-based Microsoft Office applications such as Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Publisher and Windows 7. Because some inmates have never used a computer at all, the program also offers keyboarding exercises designed to improve typing skills. Upon completion, the inmates will receive certificates from the TCAT - McMinnville, where they are accepted and enrolled as part of the Business Systems Technology program. Of course, students are also encouraged to explore other programs offered at the college as well. "By placing these individuals into paying jobs upon their release, we're not only reducing the cost of housing inmates in our county jails, but also turning them into productive, taxpaying citizens," Hopkins said.

TCAT - McMinnville Director Warren Laux stated, "We are pleased to join in this community-wide effort to improve opportunities for local inmates to obtain skills that will help them integrate into the state's workforce. Hopefully these skills and the ability to obtain employment with a livable wage will help them remain productive citizens and keep them from returning to jail." The college hopes to offer the program in other counties as the Re-Entry program continues to expand.

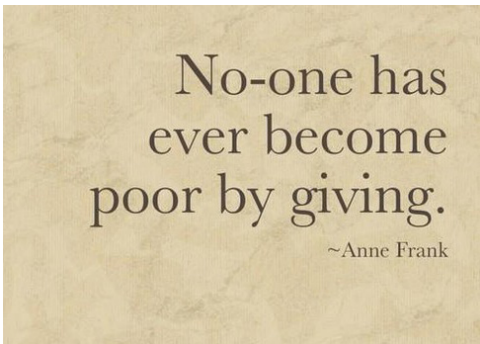
TCAT - Memphis Praised by VFW

The Veterans of Foreign Wars organization can't stop giving accolades to the TCAT - Memphis Building Construction (BCT) and Masonry (MAS) Programs. According to the organization's members, "The old command post, soon to be a neighborhood community center, was in shambles" before the students transformed it and brought it back to life. The students, under the guidance of Brad Kerley, BCT instructor, and Ray Tisdale, MAS instructor, have done everything from demolition and clean-out to construction of brick support piers and restoration of thousands of feet of flooring. Though words like "marvelous" and "outstanding" have been used to describe the work of these programs, the instructors feel that the gains have been reciprocal. Not only has this project provided real world training for the students, but they have acquired mentors and leadership development.

TCAT - Morristown Opens Dual Enrollment Programs

Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Morristown, at its Surgoinsville campus in Hawkins County, plans on partnering with Cherokee High School to further develop and expand the high school Robotics program. Using the TCAT Industrial Maintenance department at Phipps Bend Industrial Park, the high school hopes to attract more students to a quickly growing field that will provide superior employment opportunities to trained graduates of the program.

Once the curriculum is agreed upon, TCAT Morristown and Cherokee High School will present the project to the Niswonger Foundation in Greeneville, Tenn. The Niswonger Foundation is the leading philanthropic organization for education in the east Tennessee region. The plan calls for funding to be used to upgrade equipment at both the high school and postsecondary sites.





Business Partner Donates to TCAT – Murfreesboro

The Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC-R) program at TCAT - Murfreesboro received thousands of dollars' worth of equipment donation from Johnstone Supply Company. The donation included a Goodman Manufacturing two-stage heat pump, Goodman two-stage gas furnace with gauge and a Heat Controller 88-series oil refiner furnace. Goodman Manufacturing is a Tennessee based company that manufactures in Fayetteville. Heat Controller is based out of Michigan, keeping true to American-made products. Partnerships with companies like Johnstone Supply are the life-blood to ensuring the program curriculum is relevant and students are being trained on a variety of equipment in the HVAC-R field.

The HVAC-R program currently maintains an 86% job placement rate for student graduates. The program is accredited by HVAC Excellence, which also adds to the quality assurance of student graduates. Wes Campbell, recently retired HVAC-R program instructor, was instrumental in acquiring the equipment donation.

Bret Davis, Johnstone Supply Company sales representative stated, "We are happy to be able to make this donation and consider it important to ensure the students are training on the latest technology."

TCAT - Murfreesboro and Johnstone have a long working relationship and plan to continue to support one another in the ongoing effort to provide students with quality hands-on training experiences.

TCAT - Nashville Dental Students Experience Board Activities

Dental Assistant students from Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Nashville are not just prepared for their actual dental practice, but they are equipped with knowledge of the laws, rules and regulations that determine qualified practice. Eleven students, along with Instructor Eva Loring, attended the quarterly meeting of the Tennessee Board of Dentistry in January. "To understand the high expectations of conduct that the Board applies to dental professionals is essential to the success of our students," said Loring.

The Board of Dentistry, an authorizing entity in the state's Department of Health, issues licenses, investigates violations, and provides appropriate discipline to dental professionals in Tennessee. Students who attended the meeting said that hearing the issues discussed during proceedings confirmed that they are learning what they need to know to be successful dental assistants. The students also learned the need for specific certifications, such as nitrous oxide monitoring, sealant placement, coronal polishing and radiology, as offered by TCAT – Nashville's program. "I appreciate the opportunity to offer this experience which provides students with more extensive knowledge that is part of their holistic dental training," stated Loring.

TCAT – Newbern Graduate Named 2014 ADDA Student of the Year

TCAT – Newbern is proud to announce that one of its graduates, John Densford, has been named 2014 Student of the Year by the American Design Drafting Association. Densford is a former

Drafting/CAD student.

The ADDA was conceived in 1948 by a dedicated and enthusiastic group of oil and gas piping drafters who were involved in various phases of design drafting. The group consisted of highly specialized industry drafters, educational instructors, piping designers, and engineering personnel, and does so today as well. Today, ADDA, with headquarters located in Newbern, Tenn., is still the world's only organization for the graphics professional. The Student of the Year is an annual award given to a student who excels with the classroom, community and future profession.

Said TCAT – Newbern Director Donna Hastings, "When John enrolled, we quickly began hearing of not just his design drafting skills in the classroom, but his leadership abilities, as well. Of course, we are biased, but we think John was the perfect choice for this award." John graduated from the Drafting/CAD Technology program in December 2013.





TCAT – Oneida/Huntsville Launches Distance Learning Lab

In January TCAT - Oneida/Huntsville launched a Distance Learning Lab at Oneida High School that provides secondary students the opportunity to receive dual credit at both the high school and the college. By utilizing the Distance Learning Lab and proctoring the students for a shortened amount of time, it allows students who cannot fit a three hour class into their schedule to have the opportunity to take TCAT classes, thus allowing the college to reach students who could have never enrolled prior to this program. By proctoring the class, it helps the students stay on task, provides a link between the high school students and the TCAT instructors, and helps ensure student success.

OHS Principal Kevin Byrd states, “This revolutionary program exemplifies the partnership between secondary education and the TCAT. I feel that this unique example should be and will be duplicated across the state. A program such as this is good for both institutions, but most importantly, it is good for the students.”

This semester the Distance Learning class located at the OHS campus offered the secondary students the choice of taking one of these Administrative Office Technology classes: Computerized Accounting, Medical Terminology, Medical Office Procedures, Database Applications, or Business Math & Personal Finance. TCAT - Oneida/Huntsville has the ability to proctor 25 students this first semester. Future goals are to offer classes during 3-4 class periods allowing an additional enrollment of 100 students per semester.

TCAT - Paris Hosts Quarterly Meeting of the Henry County Alliance

Representatives of the Henry County Alliance met on the campus of the Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Paris in February. Representatives of area industries, including Dana Corporation, Allegro Foods, Tecumseh Products, Nobel Automotive, and PML Inc., met with Brad White and his staff to discuss training needs of the area industries.

The group meets on a quarterly basis to discuss issues related in industrial growth in Henry County. The event is organized and sponsored by David Hamilton of the Henry County Alliance, which is a cooperative effort of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, the Paris-Henry County Industrial Committee, the city and county, as well as various local industries. This goal of the Alliance is to achieve the economic development goals of Henry County.

TCAT - Pulaski and Project Learn Join Forces

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Pulaski and Project Learn, the adult education program serving Maury, Marshall and Williamson counties and administered by the South Central Tennessee Workforce Alliance have joined forces to provide career training to recent High School Equivalency graduates. South Central Tennessee is one of three areas in the state to receive funding for a Career Pathways pilot project. Project Learn is working with graduates to prepare them for jobs at the IBEX Global Call Center in Spring Hill, Tenn. Students will enroll in a 7-week, 140-hour, Call

Center Support Technician Program provided by the TCAT - Pulaski. The program was designed by IBEX in collaboration with TCAT - Pulaski to produce qualified applicants for the company and other call centers in the area

Secondary Students at TCAT – Ripley Join SkillsUSA Competition

TCAT - Ripley, for the first time, sent secondary students from the college to participate in Regional SkillsUSA Competitions in February. CIT student J.D. Moore competed in Computer Maintenance. Fellow Industrial Technology students Jon Hassell and Larnell Morgan competed in the Electrical Construction Wiring and Job Interview competitions respectively. This was the first time TCAT - Ripley had secondary students participate in the Regional SkillsUSA Competition.

Although TCAT - Ripley's SkillsUSA postsecondary program has been in existence for several years and has seen students successfully compete at the regional, state and national levels, the Secondary SkillsUSA section was established in November. Advisors are very excited about the responses they are getting from their students and expect participation to increase as the dual enrollment numbers increase on the campus. CIT Instructor Joanne Edley and Industrial Technology Instructor Martin Crowder worked closely with these students to ensure they were well prepared for their events.



TCAT – Shelbyville Hosts “CADTACULAR”

In January, the Tennessee College of Applied Technology - Shelbyville’s Drafting/CAD program hosted the first annual CAD-TACULAR. The drafting competition gives talented high school students in Technical Drafting and Architectural Drafting classes an opportunity to practice competing with other area high school students in preparation of regional and state SkillsUSA events. The event also seeks to recruit future Drafting/CAD students into the program.

Eight high school students, four from Coffee County Central High and four from Tullahoma High School, competed in either Technical Drafting or Architectural Drafting. All students utilized computers and software in the TCAT - Shelbyville Drafting/CAD classroom. The software used included AutoCAD 2013, AutoCAD Architecture 2013, Inventor 2013, Revit 2013 and SolidWorks 2013, all of which represent the latest industry trends.



TCAT - Shelbyville instructor Russell White presents Jackson Shasteen with the Architectural Drafting Award.

After a brief explanation of rules, students worked on competition projects for three hours. Drafting/CAD instructor Russell White and SkillsUSA National Parliamentarian Anthony Hamblin judged and mentored the competitors with the help of the currently enrolled students. The competition was judged on the level of competencies demonstrated on the assigned projects and the quality of the hard-copy print out conforming to the standardized methods of drafting.

Each student received a certificate of participation, a participation ribbon, and a student license of SolidWorks 2013. The Top Award in Architectural Drafting was presented to Jackson Shasteen of Tullahoma High School and the Top Award in Technical Drawing was presented to Baylee Luttrell of Tullahoma High School. The trophies were designed and created by the college’s Drafting/CAD students.



Baylee Luttrell is presented the Technical Drawing award by TCAT - Shelbyville instructor Russell White.

TCAT - Whiteville Director Presented 2013 Sterling Award

The Sterling Awards: 20 Most Influential Women of West Tennessee were created by the Jackson Business and Professional Women and The Jackson Sun in 2010 to honor those women in the West Tennessee area who have achieved a significant level of success in their fields of endeavor and work to better their communities. Qualified nominees are leaders in a business of their profession who live or work in West Tennessee outside Shelby County and serve as role models to other women in their profession and community. They must also display creativity and innovation and contribute these talents to the growth of their profession, and contribute time and energy to community betterment.

In 2013, TCAT - Whiteville Director Carolyn Beverly was among those presented the Sterling Award and named among the 20 most influential women of West Tennessee. A reception was held in Jackson at the J. Walter Barnes Conference Center at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital for award winners and community leaders.



Notes



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