

## CIT Program at TCAT-Shelbyville Honored by the White House

The US Department of Education Office of Career, Technical and Adult Education (OCTAE) recognized the Computer Information Technology program at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Shelbyville for its excellence, dedication and leadership in the field of Career and Technical Education (CTE). Steve Mallard and Mike Miller, CIT instructors, and Dawn Babian, IT Technician, were invited to the White House to be recognized for being awarded as one of the six institutions in the United States as an Excellence in Action Award Winner by the National Association of State Directors for Career and Technical Education Consortium. First Lady Michelle Obama presented a keynote address to the participants, noting the exemplary work of the schools in ensuring that students obtain the career and technical skills that prepare them for the success in their future careers.

It was an honor for the Computer Information Technology program at TCAT-Shelbyville, under the leadership of Steve Mallard, to be recognized for its achievements on innovative CTE coursework and practices by the White House. Steve and his team continue to stay ahead of the technology and the skills needed to prepare students for a long term career in the Information Technology field. Their passion for excellence in instruction for the program, maintaining the proper infrastructure of technology at the institution, and their support for other faculty to utilize technology in the classroom, is unsurpassed in the state.



Pictured L to R: Dawn Babian, Steve Mallard and Mike Miller.

## TCAT Elizabethton Receives NC3 Certification Award



John Lee, pictured fourth from left, coordinator of NC3 certification and the Mopar Career Automotive Program at the Tennessee College of Applied Technology Elizabethton, received the Dennis Iudice Memorial Award for issuing 1,133 NC3 certifications last year, the highest in the U.S. The award, honoring the memory of Dennis Iudice who developed the concept of NC3 certifications, was presented July 16 at the NC3 Leadership Conference at Gateway Technical College in Kenosha, WI. Also pictured, from left, are James King, Vice Chancellor for the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology; Chelle Travis, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Services; Roger Tadejewski, Executive Director of NC3; and John Richman, Chair of the NC3 board of directors and President of North Dakota State College of Science. The National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) was established to address the need for strong industry partnerships with educational institutions in order to develop, implement and sustain industry-recognized portable certifications that have strong validation and assessment standards.

## TCAT Jacksboro Director Retires

The TCATs celebrate the career and service of TCAT-Jacksboro Director David Browder who retired June 30, 2015. Mr. Browder began his career in education as a middle school teacher and high school coach in Marietta, GA in 1981. He began his service in Tennessee with the Tennessee Board of Regents as the County Supervisor for the Job Training Office at Roane State Community College in 1987. He also served as the Assistant Director for Extended Education at Tennessee Technological University from 1995 to 1997. Browder became the director for the Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Jacksboro in 2002. He served in numerous leadership roles including participating in the first TCAT leadership development program in 2001, member of the TCAT Directors' Executive Sub-council from 2006-2008 and 2014-2015, as Chairman of the TCAT Leadership Development Program for six years and as Chairman of the Business Systems Technology and Industrial Electricity Technology Curriculum Committees. Browder has the distinction of working in all three divisions of the Tennessee Board of Regents System and retired with 30 years of service in the field of higher education in Tennessee. He is a native of Lenoir City, Tennessee, where he grew up on the Browder Family farm established in Loudon County in 1798. He resides with his wife Melissa and has one son, Sergeant Matthew Browder stationed in Germany. Vice Chancellor James King stated, "Director Browder's experience and commitment will be greatly missed at the TCAT-Jacksboro. His service to his campus and community is appreciated."



## Upcoming Events

- September 1 Fall Trimester Began
- September 15 TCAT Oneida/  
Huntsville Graduation
- September 19-23 Washington Leadership  
Training Institute—  
SkillsUSA
- September 26 Scholarship Saturday
- September 30 SkillsUSA Model of  
Excellence Celebration  
with Lowe's, TCAT-  
Harriman
- October 9 TCAT-Memphis  
Graduation
- November 3-6 COE Annual Meeting,  
Atlanta, GA
- November 11 TCAT Directors' Sub-  
council Meeting
- November 22-24 Tennessee  
Leadership Training  
Institute—SkillsUSA

## TCATs Welcome New Directors

TCATs welcome Mrs. Youlanda Jones-Wilcox as the new director at TCATs-Covington and Ripley. Ms. Jones-Wilcox started on July 1, 2015, and comes to the TCATs with over 14 years of experience in higher education. She began her career in higher education as the Director of Community Education for Dyersburg State Community College in 2001. She served as the Director for UT Martin's Ripley Center from 2005-2011. While at UT Martin, Ms. Jones-Wilcox was instrumental in establishing the first Lauderdale County Dual-Credit Scholarship and assisted in raising over \$300,000 in scholarships and endowments for the Ripley Center. Directly before coming to the TCATs, she served as the Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Continuing Education at Dyersburg State Community College. During her tenure there, she assisted in raising over \$1 million each year in the Dyersburg State Community College Annual Fund Campaign as well as increased contract revenue generation in the Division of Continuing Education and Workforce Development by over 100% and workforce training contact hours by over 300%.



TCATs also welcome Mr. Stephen Milligan as the newest director at TCAT-Crump as of April 1, 2015. He comes to the TCATs with over 18 years of experience in higher education. He began his career in the Tennessee Board of Regents System as the first Director for the Clifton Campus at Columbia State Community College in 1997. While at Columbia State, Mr. Milligan worked to build enrollment and educational programs from the ground up to serve rural Wayne and surrounding counties. He established the College Summit to promote post-secondary education to high school seniors and the Career Summit to increase awareness of job and career opportunities to high school juniors. Mr. Milligan went on to serve as the Assistant Director for TCAT-Pulaski from 2013-2015. During his tenure at TCAT-Pulaski, he coordinated over \$1.4 million in grant funding that allowed the campus to acquire new equipment and start new programs. He served on the LEAP Grant Project Steering Committee to help implement the South Central LEAP Grant Program, which sought to promote manufacturing careers to secondary and post-secondary students.



"Mrs. Jones-Wilcox and Mr. Milligan are truly welcomed additions to the TCAT family. They bring a wealth of administrative experience as well as innovative ideas to the TCAT System," stated Vice Chancellor James D. King.

## TCAT Dashboard

	2013	2014
Completion	81%	81%
Placement	85%	86%
Licensure	96%	94%
Fall FTE	12,154	12,329
Fall HC	17,264	17,353

## TN Promise & Reconnect Lead to Record Enrollment for the TCATs

Fall 2015 registration day will go down in TCAT history! From TCAT-Memphis to TCAT-Elizabethton, the campuses reported record enrollments as TN Promise and TN Reconnect students registered for classes—tuition free. Vice Chancellor James D. King said, “With over 10,707 TN Reconnect website internet applications completed by May 15<sup>th</sup>, we knew the enrollments would be high.” Campuses have been preparing for the rush by planning additional programs, adding additional sections at night or afternoon, etc. While some students in some locations and in specific program areas may have to postpone their enrollment temporarily, many students are being served now thanks to the Governor’s equipment grants, marketing plan and great work of the campuses. With job demands high for trained employees, it has never been a better time to be in technical education.

TN Promise and TN Reconnect are vital components of Governor Haslam’s Drive to 55. Governor Haslam has challenged our state with a critical new mission: the Drive to 55 – to get 55 percent of Tennesseans equipped with a college degree or certificate by the year 2025. Both initiatives are not only assisting with the Drive to 55, they are also opening higher education to many who never thought they could become college graduates. With no tuition, students who faced economic issues are now given a chance to start a new career.

“We are pleased with the turnout of students using the Tennessee Promise and Tennessee Reconnect grants for two years of free tuition to attend TCAT-Elizabethton,” said Dean Blevins, TCAT-Elizabethton Director. According to Amanda Heath, Student Ser-

vice Coordinator at TCAT-Covington, students were thrilled to discover they had a zero balance at registration. The TN Reconnect program is working to educate more Tennesseans for a better Tennessee.

Pictured below are some of the students that began the registration process at TCAT-Elizabethton with an orientation session on financial assistance.



## TCAT Dickson Celebrates Clarksville Campus Grand Opening

The Clarksville Campus recently celebrated the grand opening of its 65,000 sq. ft. addition with a ribbon cutting, presentation, and campus tours. Community leaders and local business and industry joined the students, faculty, staff, and administration to make the day a special event.

“The Clarksville Campus is a great example of our commitment to providing quality educational programs that are accessible to the residents of our service area. Having this campus in Montgomery County enables us to meet the training needs, not only of the individual citizen, but also to the dynamic and growing industrial businesses in this community. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the city and county governments, local business and industry, and agencies such as Workforce Essentials for their continuing support of our institution,” noted Dr. Arrita Summers, director.

Attending the event was Bobby F. Sullivan, who was very instrumental to the creation of the initial TCAT Clarksville Campus and who served as the initial planner of the expansion on International Blvd. Sullivan was a past-director with 32 years of service. Retired director Mark Powers was also in attendance.

A beautiful watercolor art original by local artist Terry Smith graced the TCAT -Clarksville grand opening. Prints of the beautiful watercolor were distributed to dignitaries and visitors, which is shown to the right.

Administration and TBR System staff delivered cupcakes to students in each program thanking them for choosing TCAT-Clarksville Campus for their education.

“I am honored to be a part of the official opening of the Clarksville campus. I applaud the long lasting partnerships between industry, community and the Tennessee Board of Regents for making the new campus a reality,” stated Vice Chancellor James D. King.





## Dot Foods Partners with TCAT-Newbern to Launch Driving School

Dot Foods and Dot Transportation are partnering with the Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Newbern to offer a unique training opportunity. Dot Transportation donated \$57,000 to the TCAT to offer a 9-week truck driving school at night, with a promise to hire at least 55 graduates of the program. TCAT-Newbern plans to launch the program's first class of eight students on September 7.

## TCATs Partner with C-Tech for Industry Certifications

Step into a TCAT classroom and you will see students wiring a network, constructing an automated manufacturing process, troubleshooting and then repairing a faulty fiber optic connection, or more than a hundred other skilled tasks. Today more so than ever before, students are learning processes that will result in employment that extends far beyond entry level. In many cases, our students are also experiencing cutting edge practices in the classroom, and by working alongside professionals during co-op experiences, students gain valuable marketable skills.

Six TCATs have partnered with C-Tech, an educational training company specializing in telecommunications, to give students the opportunity to earn additional industry certifications that make the students even more employable in the workplace. The TCATs

participating in this program are: Athens, Elizabethton, McKenzie, Morristown, Shelbyville, and Whiteville. The results of the C-Tech implementation at the six institutions in Tennessee has been remarkable. Over 98% of the 869 students who have completed the courses in Introduction to Telecommunications, Copper Cabling, Fiber Cabling, Telephone Systems, Home Entertainments, or Energy Management have received a nationally recognized certification in one or more of the six program offerings and earned over 860 industry certifications. Our level of accomplishment exceeds the national average experienced in using C-Tech programs in similar venues. While this speaks volumes about the training aids, it also speaks volumes about the TCAT faculty's ability to effectively present this high tech information.

TCATs know and understand the need to stay ahead of the industry and produce top quality technicians. Our commitment to industry and our students continually propels us to strive not just for a technical diploma but for industry certifications as well.



## TCAT-Morristown Receives USDA Rural Development Grant

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Area Director, Joe Woody, presented the Tennessee College of Applied Technology-Morristown with a check for \$110,020 to assist with the purchase of state-of-the-art technology equipment that will be used to train students interested in Advanced Manufacturing. The grant was awarded on July 14, 2015, at a ceremony held at the main campus. In attendance were Morristown mayors Bill Britain (county) and Gary Chesney (city) as well as Mayor Melville Bailey from Hawkins County. Representatives from both Senator Alexander and Senator Corker's staffs were also present at the event.

TCAT-Morristown Director Jerry Patton stated that the grant ties in beautifully with Governor Haslam's "Drive to 55" and the LEAP grant that the community received in the fall of 2014. "Upgrading equipment enables the school to not only train more current students but to heighten the interest of more high school students who may be contemplating careers in business and industry," Patton commented.

The USDA Rural Development is moving investments to rural America with housing, business and infrastructure loans and grants to create jobs and strengthen rural economies. Part of the equipment to be purchased will go to

the school's Hawkins County Branch in Surgoinsville.

Among the items to be purchased are one Process Control Training System; two Precision Surface Grinders; one Pneumatic Trainer; one Hydraulic Trainer; and one Modular Automation Training System.

In addition to training students for entry-level positions in fourteen different areas of study, TCAT-Morristown specializes in upgrading the skills of incumbent workers in our service delivery area. The USDA grant will enable the school to expand the number of companies we currently work with and increase the number of credentials we currently award.

## TCAT-Crossville Received New Electric Car

The Hybrid/Electric class at TCAT-Crossville returned from summer break with a little something waiting for them, a 2015 Nissan Leaf. Instructor Stacy Johnson is excited about the fact that his students will be eligible for ETA Certification in electric vehicle now that they have received their first 100% electric model to use in their learning program. Knowing that electric vehicles will be overtaking the streets of the United States in the future, it is necessary to have the best training possible. The Nissan Leaf is 100% electric with a 24 kWh lithium-ion battery that provides power to the motor. Everyone at TCAT-Crossville is very excited about this new edition on campus as well as the direction their students are headed with astounding programs like this.



Pictured from L to R: Vestle Phipps, Chris Crespo, David Dabay, James Sparling, Anthony Johnson, Electric Car & Hybrid Instructor-Stacy Johnson, Lisa Hartigan (seated inside Leaf).

## TCAT-Jackson/Lexington Partners with Stanley Black & Decker



The Machine Tool Technology program on TCAT Jackson's Lexington Extension campus has partnered with Stanley Black & Decker. This partnership provides the opportunity to couple classroom learning with on-the-job experience. Stanley Black & Decker has developed a Machinist Internship program that provides TCAT Machine Tool students with real life job experience in an advanced manufacturing environment. Students are able to continue their classroom and lab work while being employed with a globally recognized Fortune 500 company.

## TCATs Host Annual Faculty Institute

How do you turn an industry expert into a dynamite TCAT instructor? Send them to the TCAT Annual Faculty Institute for networking, sharing and learning about technical teaching from system experts!

Over sixty Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology faculty members convened at the Radisson Airport Hotel August 24-26 to participate in the Faculty Institute. The attendees represented 24 campuses and their teaching experience ranged from two weeks to one year. The event was sponsored by the TCAT System Office and supported by the campuses. This once-a-year event provides new and existing faculty members with information needed to ease the transition from industry expert to technical instructor.

The event was kicked off by Vice Chancellor James King and an overview of the TBR and TCAT System by Dr. Carol G. Puryear. Participants heard from System experts on pertinent topics such as “How Learning Occurs,” and

“COE 101” by TCAT Associate Vice Chancellor Carol Puryear; “Communicating with Others” by TCAT-Shelbyville Director Ivan Jones; “Teaching Strategies for an Effective Classroom” by TCAT-Nashville Facilities & Maintenance Coordinator & NCCER State Coordinator Mark Willoughby; “Using Instructional Designs in the Classroom” by TCAT-Jackson Administrative Office Technology Instructor Karen Welch; “Evaluation Techniques” by TCAT-Dickson Tech Foundations Instructor Deanna Wallace; “Classroom Management” by TCAT-Livingston Director Myra West; “How to Stay Employed and be Promoted” by Drs. Lynn Goodman and Carol G. Puryear; and “Multiple Intelligences” by TCAT-Paris & McKenzie Director Brad White.

The event concluded with a motivational send off by TCAT-Crossville Director Jerry Young discussing his experience as a first year instructor and survival techniques for them. Attendees said, “I have been to many in-services/

conferences over the years, and I found this to be one of the best. I greatly enjoyed the overall experience. It was very insightful, and I feel like I walked away better prepared to teach my students.”

While a two-day event won't magically make an industry expert a dynamite teacher, our event certainly helped provide resources and materials to start the transition to a long and successful career.



## TCATs Hold NTHS Induction Ceremonies



The National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) currently serves approximately 80,000 active members and awards over \$225,000 in scholarships annually to its members. NTHS honors the achievements of top CTE students, provides scholarships to encourage the pursuit of higher education, and cultivates excellence in today's highly competitive, skilled workforce. For over 30 years, NTHS has been the acknowledged leader in the recognition of outstanding student achievement in career and technical education. The TCATs see the value of this organization and the opportunities it presents our students.

TCAT-Jacksboro inducted 16 students into the National Technical Honor Society on Thursday, August 6, 2015. Advisor Chandy Hensley greeted the students and over 100 guests. Interim Director Debbie Petree congratulated the students on their outstanding achievements and challenged them in their future endeavors to strive for continued success. The keynote speaker was TCAT Vice Chancellor James D.

King. He encouraged the students to continue in their development of leadership abilities and passion for a continued thirst for learning. The following students were honored: William Bills, Chesni Bullman, Courtney Byrd, Brittany Cureton Davis, Robert England, Carla Ford, Heather Fultz, Jennifer Higginbotham, Joni Howard, Michelle McMillan, Melanie Phillips, Kelley Powers, Deborah Riseden, Lynzee Smith-Masters, Kala Welch, and Nila Williams.

TCAT-Memphis held its inaugural induction on June 11, 2015. Nine students, who were highly recommended by their instructors, were inducted into this elite society. Membership, even after graduation, provides job search tools as well as scholarship and recruitment opportunities. The following students were honored: Cameron Robinson, Turquoise Goudeau, Edna Mohammad, Samuel House, Shawnette Whichard, Renee Ballard, Laporshea Campbell, Jerkeisha Blamchard and Katie Nguyen. NTHS induction ceremonies are held throughout the year at the TCATs.

“Industry is seeking the best and brightest graduates. The honor society inductees have proven that they have the skills for which employers are looking,” stated Vice Chancellor James D. King.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Sarah Wyatt

*Welder, Norfolk Naval Shipyard  
Portsmouth, Virginia*

Can you imagine going to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard or working on the Navy's finest 5-Star Aircraft Carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower every day, earning a great salary, and being 22 years old? You could if you were Sarah Wyatt. Sarah, a TCAT Crossville Welding graduate and a 2012 TCAT Outstanding Student of the Year state finalist, is a 3rd year apprentice working in the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth Virginia. The Norfolk Naval Shipyard's Apprentice program is a four-year Student Career Experience Program (SCEP), which is designed to attract students to federal public service. Sarah does serious work in a dangerous environment daily. Her work is hard physically and mentally, but she is proud of her work. Sarah says, "I do love my job! Though I'm currently an apprentice and a small part of the organization, many others depend on my skills and ability. Though we are individuals that make up the shipyard, all who have different backgrounds and skillsets, we work toward the same goal of repairing, overhauling and modernizing ships and submarines."

Sarah is appreciative that during the pursuit of her career she was able to start in the field of her choice, welding, as a dual enrolled student. The articulation program that Cumberland County High School has with TCAT-Crossville allowed her to begin vocational training as a high school student. Almost immediately, she knew she'd return upon high school graduation to become a full time student. Sarah says, "The introduction to various welding and burning processes I learned while at technical school have been a fantastic foundation for my current training and career."

As a woman in welding, 22-year-old Sarah has a future as bright as the arc with which she welds!



## Brian Campbell

*Co-owner  
At Your Service Heating and Air  
Covington, TN*

Brian Campbell, a former student in the HVAC/R Technology Program, always knew he wanted to own his own heating and air conditioning business. Brian displayed outstanding leadership qualities as a TCAT Whiteville Student Ambassador and he also competed in the SkillsUSA State HVAC contest. After successfully earning his diploma as a Commercial Technician, Brian began his own company, "At Your Service Heating and Air". Brian holds five HVAC Excellence Accredited certifications and has obtained his Limited Licensed Electrician (LLE) license. Located in Covington, Tennessee, Brian's customer base extends to Fayette and Shelby counties. Brian has purchased his own company vehicles and has been able to hire additional help to handle his customer load.

Brian currently serves on the HVAC/R Technology Advisory board and has donated equipment to the HVAC/R Technology Program.



## Skills National Conference

Once again the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology SkillsUSA students represented the Tennessee Board of Regents in exemplary fashion. Over 230 students, advisors, administrators, and business and industry guests from Tennessee Postsecondary SkillsUSA attended the SkillsUSA National Conference in Louisville, KY. Ninety-seven TCAT students from across the state competed in 64 contests with 42 students bringing home gold, silver or bronze medals and 80 finishing in the top ten nationally. Our hardworking delegate team elected our eighth straight National Officer, David Foss II, an HVAC- student from TCAT -Knoxville. In addition, our SkillsUSA chapter from TCAT Harriman was recognized during an awards ceremony at the Kentucky Derby Museum as a Model of Excellence for the Nation for their commitment to community service and developing personal skills of their members.

The SkillsUSA Championships, held in Louisville, KY, took place June 24-25, 2015, as part of the SkillsUSA 51st annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), a showcase of career and technical education students. During the week, more than 6,000 outstanding career and technical education students, all state contest winners, competed hands-on in 100 different trade, technical and leadership fields.

During the national competition, students worked against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupations like electronics, computer-aided drafting, CNC machining, medical assisting and culinary arts. All contests are run with the help of industry, trade associations, and labor organizations, and test competencies are set by industry. In addition, leadership contestants demonstrated their skills, which included customer service, extemporaneous speaking, quiz bowl and conducting meetings by parliamentary procedure.

Top student winners received gold, silver and bronze medallions. Many also received prizes such as tools of their trade and/or scholarships to further their careers and education. The SkillsUSA Championships is for high school and college-level students who are members of SkillsUSA.

SkillsUSA is a national partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. SkillsUSA chapters help students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations excel. SkillsUSA has more than 350,000 students and instructors as members.



Pictured with SkillsUSA Model of Excellence for the Nation Award (L to R): Angela Richardson, AOT Instructor & SkillsUSA Lead Advisor TCAT Harriman, Assistant Vice Chancellor Chelle Travis, TCAT Harriman Students Heather Thearp and Nicholas Braganca.

## TCATs Represent at WorldSkills



SkillsUSA, the organization that represents the United States in the WorldSkills Competition, sent 18 career and technical education students to São Paulo, Brazil, to compete in 16 skill categories during the 43rd biennial event on Aug. 11-16, 2015. Over 20 percent of the WorldSkills team was made up of Tennessee College of Applied Technology students this year, with four of the 18 students competing for the United States' team coming from TCATs. Erica Heckman and Daniel Dossett, students from TCAT Knoxville represented the United States in the Manufacturing Team Challenge. This is the first time that the US has competed in this event. Also, TCAT-Chattanooga graduates Ian Gwaltney and James Womble competed in the WorldSkills Mechatronics competition. Not only did this team represent the US and the Tennessee Board of Regents well in competition, they have made national news with articles in the US News and World Report, Huffington Post and others.

The students tested their skills against more than 1,200 students representing 73 countries and regions from around the world competing in 48 official skill competitions and two demonstration contests. There were 5,000 international experts, delegates and judges, 3,000 volunteers and 200,000 student and public spectators in attendance.

The WorldSkills Competition highlights a worldwide issue: preparation of a highly skilled workforce. Simon Field of the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD) stated in the book *Learning for Jobs*, "Increasingly, countries are recognizing that good initial vocational education and training has a major contribution to economic competitiveness. The wealth of nations will come to rely more on the skills of their people than on other sources such as natural resources."

WorldSkills was founded in 1950 and currently has members from 73 countries and regions. In 1973, President Richard M. Nixon recognized SkillsUSA (then known as VICA) as the official U.S. representative to WorldSkills.



Pictured L to R: Daniel Dossett, Erica Heckman, Ian Gwaltney, and James Womble.

