



AIKEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE
COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT
2016



VISION

We envision Aiken Technical College as a catalyst for developing educated, engaged, and employable individuals whose collective energy will be the driving force for prosperity and quality of life in our diverse communities.

MISSION

Aiken Technical College is a public, open-door, two-year comprehensive institution of higher education established to provide citizens of greater Aiken County opportunities for educational, economic, professional, social and personal development. The College educates and trains students to provide an effective workforce to support economic growth and community development through its focus on teaching and service.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



2016 was a busy one for Aiken Technical College—new partnerships were established, existing partnerships grew, we increased the number of opportunities available to our students and area residents, and the College experienced a transition in leadership.

When I arrived in July as the College's newest President, there were already many great things occurring. The team at the College has its finger on the pulse of the state of the workforce in this region and is able to quickly adapt and help address industry needs. This is evident through the launch of the Nuclear Fundamentals certificate program which was designed in collaboration with Savannah River Nuclear Solutions.

The team also understands that a key to quality of life and success is education. It is often said that education is the great equalizer because it levels the playing field regardless of one's background. The College made great strides in increasing the access to higher education by partnering

with the Aiken County Public School District in the creation of the new Early College Program at Midland Valley High School. This program provides high school students with an early start in their college education and also increases the likelihood of successful college completion.

These are just two examples of what Aiken Technical College has been able to accomplish during the year. Over the latter half of the year, I have focused on nurturing our partnerships, discovering new opportunities and guiding the College's path forward. The College has a vital role and responsibility in providing educational opportunities for residents of Aiken County and the surrounding area. It is my vision to continue to build upon the College's strong foundation to continue to make a positive impact in the lives of those in our region and on the area's economic vitality.

Sincerely,

Dr. Forest E. Mahan
President, Aiken Technical College



AIKEN WELCOMES NEW ATC PRESIDENT

Aiken Technical College welcomed its fifth President, Dr. Forest E. Mahan, on July 1, 2016.

A native of South Carolina, Dr. Mahan has spent more than 20 years in the South Carolina Technical College System. His experience has included being a history instructor and later Dean of Arts and Communications at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College, and Vice President for Academic Affairs and then Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Services at Northeastern Technical College.

He received a bachelor's degree in history from the College of Charleston and a master's degree in history and a Ph.D. in higher educational administration, both from the University of South Carolina.

Although he did not personally attend a technical college, his experience within the technical college system developed him into an advocate for technical colleges.

"I have fully embraced the goals of our System to reach first-generation, underrepresented student

populations; to spur economic development of the state of South Carolina through workforce development in both credit and noncredit sectors; and to serve as a quality, affordable pathway to a four-year baccalaureate degree," he said. "Accordingly, I see myself as much a product of the South Carolina Technical College System as any of the graduates from the System's two-year institutions."

It was after receiving his master's degree—and his mother's insistence—that he began his career in the technical college system.

"My mother showed me an ad in the newspaper that stated that Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College was looking for a history instructor," he said. "She told me to apply and I did. I was hired and it was the start of my career in higher education."

As he progressed through his career, one of the areas he has become most passionate about is opening the door of opportunities for those in the state.

"Technical colleges have so much to offer and providing access and removing barriers to higher



Dr. Mahan was welcomed to the Aiken community by area business, educational and community leaders during a community reception.

education is among our functions,” he said. “One of the things I have stressed and will continue to focus on is redefining what it means to go to college in South Carolina. Some may perceive our colleges as just ‘trade schools’ but we are so much more. We are institutions of higher learning. We challenge students to think critically. We provide the tools they need to be successful in reaching their goals. One of my goals is to help change the perception of technical colleges and help people realize the opportunities that exist by pursuing an education at one of our colleges.”

Partnerships and the collaborative spirit of the Aiken community were some of the draws to Aiken Technical College, said Mahan.

“Education, economic vitality and quality of life are all closely intertwined. Aiken Technical College has built strong partnerships within the community and with business and industry who also value collaborating for the betterment of the community,” he said. “Together, we can make a much larger impact than if we were try to work independently of each other.”

As he settles into his new position, he is looking forward to leading the College into

its 50th anniversary in 2022.

“There is much enthusiasm and a lot of great ideas among our faculty, staff and administration that will help shape what the next few years will look like for Aiken Technical College,” he said. “It is a monumental time in the College’s history and I am excited to be a part of it.”



Dr. Forest Mahan (left) speaks with Lynn Moore, accounting instructor, and Dr. Jacob Agbor, business department chair, during a welcome reception held with employees.



NEW PROGRAM HELPS BUILD PIPELINE FOR NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

Retirements and attrition are expected to hit the energy industry hard in the next few years. At Savannah River Site alone, it's estimated that there will be as many as 2,000 job openings over just the next five years.

The pipeline for many of these positions begins at the entry-level nuclear operator level. But while Savannah River Nuclear Solutions—the management and operating company for SRS—receives a large number of applicants for these jobs, few have the training, know-how or confidence to quickly get up to speed. In many cases, it takes up to 16 months to get a new hire on board and able to complete his or her job responsibilities.

Enter Aiken Technical College.

A team from SRNS, including site training manager Kevin Whitt, met with Dean of General Education and University Transfer F. Gregory Rogers, Dean of Technical Education Dr. Joy Watson and instructors from physics, science, chemistry, technical education and radiation protection about developing a training program that would enable SRNS to qualify these

new hires more quickly and help fill this vital gap.

The new two-semester nuclear fundamentals certificate brings together ATC's existing courses in industrial chemistry, radiation fundamentals, hydraulics and pneumatics, and process controls with specially created courses in applied chemistry for the nuclear industry and integrated physics. SRNS has also taken a hands-on role with students, providing tours of its facilities, attending classes and offering training on interview skills.

Ed Redd was among the second cohort to graduate from the program and started working for SRNS as a nuclear operator in December. The fine arts major was managing his own lawn care business but wanted an opportunity that would provide more career stability and support his growing family.

With his father, uncle and father-in-law all employed at SRS, he knew the nuclear industry was a great field; the challenge was getting his foot in the door.

"I was one of the first people to call the school and enroll," said Redd.



Nuclear Fundamentals students (above) work through assigned practice scenerios while in scheduled lab.

Nuclear Fundamentals students (left) and Aiken Technical College personnel visited the Savannah River Site to tour facilities and learn more about the nuclear industry.

The hands-on training and exposure to the nuclear industry that he received through ATC's program gave him a new confidence compared to his earlier attempts to get hired on at the plant. Gone were the sweaty palms and uncertainty—instead, said Redd, “I felt like I could speak to them as though I was already coming from a nuclear background.”

That is exactly what SRNS and ATC were hoping for.

“Finding nuclear operators is very difficult,” said Whitt. “They have to have academic ability, and they have to have technical ability. It’s a marriage between having a level of knowledge and being able to apply that level of knowledge into a facility environment...We wanted highly qualified, highly motivated people, and that’s what we got.”

According to Whitt, SRNS is also conducting a value stream analysis of the program and foresees the 16-month onboarding process being cut down to just nine months thanks to ATC’s nuclear fundamentals training.

“Our mission is to prepare students for employment in the workforce,” said Rogers. “It’s really good news to us that there are going to be job opportunities for the next several years at SRS...and it’s a great thing that a technical college like ours can construct programs that respond directly to workforce needs.”



A Nuclear Fundamentals student (right) uses test equipment to check for possible radioactivity during a lab mock contamination scenerio.



GRANT FUNDING TO HELP GROW LOCAL WORKFORCE

Industries are beginning to see a shift as the current workforce begins to retire.

Slightly more than 40 percent of South Carolina's workforce is over the age of 50 and the state's employers report that nearly 25 percent of their workforce will retire in the next 10 years, according to statistics from the South Carolina Technical College System.

The nuclear industry isn't any different.

That is why ensuring that the workforce pipeline is filled with people who have the knowledge and skills necessary to fill those positions is the primary focus for the new Workforce Opportunities in Regional Careers grant, which is funded locally by the U.S. Department of Energy—Office of Environmental Management and the National Nuclear Security Administration.

The five-year grant was awarded to the SRS Community Reuse Organization in spring 2016 and Aiken Technical College became one of five area higher education institutions to become sub-

recipients of the grant.

"This grant award is significant to the region because the focus is on connecting local citizens with education and training opportunities that may lead to career opportunities locally, particularly those in the nuclear industry," said Mindy Mets, Nuclear Workforce Initiative Program Manager for SRSCRO. "The grant includes scholarships at the partner colleges and universities for programs that are relevant to SRS and other industries that require highly skilled workers."

The grant builds upon the successful Advancing Nuclear Skills Regionally grant program which included the same higher education partner, added Mets.

The goals of the current WORC grant is to increase the number of workers with skills relevant to the nuclear industry and to improve connections between academic programs and employers' internships with the hope that such interactions will ultimately lead to long-term careers.



“Each WORC partner has a different area of expertise and serves a different geographical area within the Georgia-South Carolina region. With a consortium approach, the entire region is part of the pipeline,” said Mets.

Over the next five years, Aiken Technical College will focus on contributing to the pipeline by increasing enrollment in the following programs: electronics engineering technology, industrial maintenance technology, nuclear fundamentals certificate, nuclear quality systems, and radiation protection technology. The College will also introduce a new nuclear welding certificate program.

Being chosen to again be a partner in such a grant is significant, said Dr. Gemma K. Frock, ATC’s Vice President of Education and Training.

“For the College, it demonstrates a continued commitment for educating students for a career in the nuclear sector,” she said. “For students, it provides scholarship funds and internships. For the industry, it provides connections to colleges, their students and input on industry needs.”

Through the grant, the College’s marketing and outreach efforts for these programs concentrate on informing local citizens about the region’s workforce needs and increasing awareness about the educational

Electronics engineering technology and nuclear welding are among the programs of focus for Aiken Technical College through the WORC Grant.

opportunities and financial resources available. Grant funding will allow the College to award scholarships each academic year to up to 32 recipients enrolled in one of the academic programs of focus.

A WORC Student Success Coach position has also been established to ensure that students enrolled in the programs receive the support and access to resources they need to successfully complete their program of study in a timely manner.

Over the life of the grant, the College will continue to build relationships with area employers to develop internship and apprenticeship opportunities for students and regularly evaluate the curricula for areas of improvement based on employer feedback.



PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM RECOGNIZED FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

Carl Andrews' hands shook a little as he got ready to administer his first shot.

"You won't be so nervous next time," his instructor assured him.

That was a year ago, and Andrews, a 2015 graduate of Aiken Technical College's practical nursing (LPN) program, now handles injections, oral medications, oxygen delivery and patient care with confidence in his role as a nursing assistant at Pepper Hill Nursing Home in Aiken.

Andrews was among ATC's first class to graduate following the college's initial accreditation for the LPN program by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. The program has always had a strong reputation among nursing applicants—it has boasted a 100 percent pass rate on the state's licensure examination for practical nurses for at least the past three years—and for Andrews, the experience of graduating from an accredited program is invaluable.

"I didn't apply anywhere else," he said. "The LPN program isn't easy—and it's not made to be easy. They really push for you think critically, and it really does help you to deal with real-life situations in the nursing field."

Nationwide, nursing programs at technical colleges are beginning to move toward ACEN accreditation, according to Dr. Hermecender Walton, ATC's dean of health sciences.

"It hasn't always been the case," she said, "but we're proud at Aiken Technical College to be leading the pack."

The college began planning for the strenuous accreditation process three years ago, says Department Chair of Nursing Demica Williams. Encompassing two full years, that process includes completing a candidacy presentation that ensures programs meet basic state board requirements, followed by a 200-plus-page self-study report and a three-day site visit by reviewers from other ACEN-accredited programs.



The practical nursing program requires students to participate in activities in the skills lab and in the simulation lab.



All full-time nursing faculty were deeply immersed in the year-long self-study process, which involved addressing the following standards: mission, administrative capacity, faculty and staff, students, resources and outcomes.

“It was very rigorous,” said Williams. “In order to meet the criteria for initial accreditation, we had to be flawless, with no areas of recommendation for improvement. You have to do everything right the first time, and we did.”

LPN students in the one-year nursing diploma program complete more than 400 clinical hours and are prepared to tackle career opportunities in fields such as long-term care and home-based care. Graduates—including Andrews—can also choose to pursue further education through ATC’s LPN to ADN Transition program.

And, since ATC’s associate degree (RN) program is already accredited by ACEN, students who pursue both a diploma and associate degree benefit from

a “seamless academic progression,” a model that is supported by national nursing accrediting agencies and other leading nursing organizations. Seamless academic progression involves academic career growth and development in order to create a more highly educated nursing workforce.

Accreditation by ACEN is a major part of that.

“Students look for ACEN accreditation because employers look for that,” said Walton. “Employers are very impressed by the fact that a program is ACEN accredited, and because both of our programs are, that gives our students an opportunity to be ‘the choice’ in a very competitive field.”



APPRENTICES CONTINUE EDUCATION AND GAIN EXPERIENCE THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

As South Carolina prepares for a wave of retirements, registered apprenticeships are becoming a key element in ensuring that the pipeline is filled with a well-trained and knowledgeable workforce.

“There is currently a skills gap and we already see coming down the road that there will be a jobs gap because so many will be retiring. It’s going to leave a lot of skilled positions needing to be filled. There are currently not enough people in the pipeline,” says Robert Crenshaw, Area Director for ReadySC and Apprenticeship Consultant for Apprenticeship Carolina, both are programs within the South Carolina Technical College System.

“There’s also a lot of experience that needs to be transferred down to the younger generations,” he added. “This is an opportune time for that to happen.”

Apprenticeship Carolina is working with the state’s technical colleges to connect with employers and increase their awareness of the free resources available to them. The organization will help employers identify their needs and the occupation(s)

the employer wants to apprentice. A customized training program is then designed and provided to the employer.

South Carolina’s technical colleges, such as Aiken Technical College, provide the technical education component of the registered apprenticeship.

“We deal with registered apprenticeships. A registered apprenticeship has three parts to it. There’s on the job training, job-related education, and a wage progression. So our mission is to help employers put all three of those in place to upskill their employees, their workforce.”

Locally, MTU America, Inc.’s Aiken Plant has been an advocate for such apprenticeships and recently expanded its apprenticeship opportunities.

“For the last five years, we have had a youth apprenticeship program with high school students in the 11th and 12th grades in partnership with the Aiken County Career and Technology Center. That in itself has a bunch of advantages,” said Jeremy Diebel, Senior Manager of Machining and Aiken



Christian Lopez is pursuing an associate in industrial maintenance degree while completing his apprenticeship with MTU.

Apprenticeship Coordinator with MTU's Aiken Plant.

The youth are paid while they receive hands-on work experience, and gain soft skills such as learning how to work with others. Upon graduating from high school, the youth receive their high school diploma and documents indicating their work readiness and recognizing their completion of an apprenticeship program.

"We found that for some of the apprentices graduating from our youth apprenticeship program, we didn't have avenues to support their continued growth in a field they really wanted to be in," said Diebel, noting that industrial maintenance has been a common area of interest for several apprentices.

Then came the South Carolina Apprenticeship Initiative which opened the door for MTU's Aiken Plant to offer youth apprentices a pathway that allows them further their education after high school graduation and receive an associate's degree from Aiken Technical College while continuing to gain work experience.

Christian Lopez is among those who decided to participate in the registered apprenticeship program at the MTU Aiken Plant. The 2016 graduate of Silver Bluff High School spent his last two years of

high school in the company's youth apprenticeship program and is now enrolled in the industrial maintenance program at Aiken Technical College.

"It was a good opportunity for me to get ahead of everyone else in experience," he said, noting that it helps him connect what he is learning in the classroom to the workplace. "Not many people get the opportunity to work and go to school at the same time. I hope to learn a lot more by getting more hands-on, real life experience."

MTU's apprentices shadow the company's subject-matter experts in various areas to observe tasks and then perform the task as the expert coaches them, said Rob Rehnlund, Senior Manager for Facilities Manager at MTU's Aiken Plant.

"So when they graduate with the industrial maintenance degree, they will be pretty well rounded and able to in work in a lot of different areas in maintenance," he said.

The partnership has created a positive momentum for all, said Diebel.

"There are very few things you find in life that are win-win-win-win for everybody, but this is one of them," he said. "Everyone is winning in this situation. The student, the company, other companies, the College—it's a win all the way around."



INTERNAL TEAM DEVELOPS NEW WEBSITE DESIGN

The Internet has changed the way people seek information and having a modern, user-friendly website is key in communicating with the online audience.

Aiken Technical College took on the task of redesigning its website to showcase a modern look, user-friendly navigation and new features.

The redesign process took approximately nine months and was led by an internal team from the Marketing & Public Relations office and the Information Systems Management department—several of whom are Aiken Technical College alumni.

“Redesigning a website is a large undertaking. There are many phases and it takes a lot of focus, diligence, and teamwork to complete this project in that time period,” said Dr. Forest Mahan, ATC President. “This also attests to the level of talent and expertise we have among our employees. What they have accomplished is very impressive.”

The new website design was updated to reflect current technology standards and has a responsive design framework that enables visitors to easily view the website on a variety of platforms including

computers, tablets, and cell phones of varying sizes.

“Technology and the needs of the College’s constituents are constantly evolving,” said Walter Busbee, the College’s Chief Information Officer. “One of the needs the team identified early in the process was to be able to provide a responsive design framework which would give our website users a similar experience on mobile devices as well as a standard, full-screen web browser. Also, the new website was developed using a content management system that will allow content contributors to rapidly develop and maintain webpages.”

It also offers several new features to help make finding information easier for site visitors.

Centralized resource pages were created for current students, faculty and staff, and the community. The community resource page provides quick links to information such as the College library, test center, employment opportunities and more.

Another new feature is a calendar which lists important academic and enrollment dates, campus events and news. Site visitors may separate calendar items by category or view a master calendar of items.



Contact information for campus offices and employees can now be located in a searchable directory. Schedules for faculty members are also available through the directory.

“Technology has become an important part of our lives and has changed the way we access information,” said Nikasha Dicks, the College’s Interim Director of Marketing & Public Relations. “We wanted to make it easier for our site visitors to find information about the College’s programs, resources, and ways to engage.”



Aiken Technical College’s Marketing & Public Relations and Information Systems Management departments collaborated on the website project. Team members (from right): Nikasha Dicks, Interim Director of Marketing & Public Relations; Joshua Jones, Applications Analyst; Stephanie McFerrin, Marketing & Web Coordinator; Adams Mitchell, Applications Analyst; Veronica O’Berry, Applications Manager; and Walter Busbee, Director of Information Systems Management.



EARLY COLLEGE GIVES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AN EARLY STAR

Aiken Technical College in partnership with the Aiken County Public School District opened a new door for students at Midland Valley High School through the introduction of the Early College program.

“An Early College is a program that give students still in high school the opportunity to complete significant college credits prior to their high school graduation,” said Father Gregory Rogers, ATC’s Dean of General Education and University Transfer. “In this case, it actually allows them to complete an Associate in Arts degree at the same time that they graduate from high school.”

The program’s first cohort of 18 began classes in June 2016 as rising sophomores. To be considered for the program, the students had to meet the College’s standards and prerequisites that would be required of any other College student, said Rogers.

To complete the Associate in Arts degree program by high school graduation, students take two courses per term through their senior year. Fall and spring courses are held on the Midland Valley High School

campus and summer courses are held at ATC.

Victorian Williams, 15, is one of the students enrolled in the program and has a goal to one day be a nurse anesthetist.

“This program will help me get ahead and that will be a lot of money saved,” said Victorian, adding that she has a competitive spirit and aims to graduate in the top 10 of her class. “I think it will also open up more chances for a scholarship to a four-year college.”

Her fellow classmate, Abigail Ruff, said she is also excited about being in the program.

“When I got to my freshman year, I started thinking about my future and knew how serious it was,” said the 15-year-old who plans to become a playwright, actress or journalist one day. “I knew that doing a college program would be an amazing opportunity for me.”

Programs such as Early College lay the foundation for educational success, said Rogers.

“Students who take significant college credits in high



Early College first cohort consisted of 18 students from Midland Valley High School. They began the program in June 2016.



school are show to graduate from college at higher rates than those who just start after high school,” he said. “They also tend to have higher GPAs and even higher high school graduation rates.”

The program “increases the bar of expectations for students,” said ACPSD Superintendent Dr. Sean Alford.

“The Early College program will have a positive impact on all students who participate because we are going to give them—with support—an opportunity to start on a high-quality post-secondary direction before they get there,” he said. “For the student who ever questioned whether or not they could handle college-level work or do the things that are necessary to be successful in that environment, well, that question has been answered. Yes, you can. Through hard work, and with support, you can do it.”



Father Gregory Rogers teaches a class as part of the Early College program. Fall & Spring semester classes are held at Midland Valley High School. Summer classes are held at Aiken Technical College.



POST CHALLENGE PROGRAM GIVES YOUTH A SECOND CHANCE

It was time for a change.

That desire was what drew Michael Crump and his family to the Youth ChalleNGe program at the McCrady Training Center in Eastover, SC.

“I was acting up in school and my basketball coach had sent his son to the program and told my parents about it,” said Crump of Moncks Corner. “Toward December (of 2015), during the Christmas break, my parents signed me up and I went for it because I knew I needed to change.”

While participating in the Youth ChalleNGe program, he learned of yet another opportunity—the POST ChalleNGe program, an extension the Youth ChalleNGe program focused on providing selected participants with a chance to earn a credential from Aiken Technical College, work toward a Work Keys and Microsoft Office certification, and if needed, also receive GED tutoring through a partnership with the Aiken County Public School District’s adult education program.

“They were telling us what people from the last cycle were doing in the program and I thought it was kind of cool. I thought, ‘I might as well do it. It’s free college and then I can get started in a career,’” said Crump.

The POST ChalleNGe program is a collaborative effort between the South Carolina Army National Guard, Aiken Technical College, Clemson University’s Youth Learning Institute Camp Long facility, Lower Savannah Council of Governments’ Workforce Opportunity Investment Act, and Aiken County Public School District.

In 2015, the U.S. Department of Labor awarded the South Carolina Army National Guard a nearly \$4 million grant to create the new 20-week extension the Youth ChalleNGe Academy—thus the birth of the POST ChalleNGe program. The program welcomed its first cohort in January 2016 and graduated two cohorts in 2016.

Cadets selected for the Post ChalleNGe program have an opportunity to earn applied science certificates in high-demand fields—basic tower and wireless



The second POST ChalleNGe program cohort (pictured) began in July and graduated in December 2016.

installation, computer technology, patient care assisting, production technology, or welding.

These academic programs were selected because they are “great pathways”, said Dr. Gemma K. Frock, ATC Vice President of Education and Training.

“These programs lead to entry level jobs that pay greater than minimum wage and have the potential for building apprenticeship programs,” she said.

For Haley Key, having the opportunity to earn a certificate in patient care assisting is a step toward her career goal of becoming a nurse.

“I wanted to be in this program because it can help me do something I really want to do which is nursing,” said Key, an Aiken native.

Cadets in the Post ChalleNGe program have access to all of the support offered to other ATC students and progress through their respective academic programs as a cohort.

The 20-week experience was a positive one, added Key who planned to work as a patient care technician

after graduating in December 2016, then possibly go into the military and eventually return to college for nursing.

“I didn’t think I would be in college, especially not at the age of 17,” said Key. “But, I learned a lot. I learned that I like to help people and I met a lot of people by being in the program.”

Crump, who also graduated in December 2016 with a certificate in patient care assisting, agreed with his classmate.

“Like she said, I didn’t think I would be in college at a young age,” he said. “It was kind of hard, but we pushed through and helped each other out.”

Although the Post ChalleNGe program is still young, all of the organizations involved have already started to see early success and anticipate that the future impact will be exponential for those who complete the full program, said Frock.

“We are changing their lives by showing them a pathway and a future,” she said. “They have all go one to college and/or the military.”

Crump also graduated in December 2016 with a certificate in patient care assisting. His future plans are to work as a patient care technician and later go into the military and further education.

“Just last year, I was the trouble of my family,” he said prior to the start of his December 2016 graduation. “Now I’ve changed and I can come back home to be someone better and start a career. This is the beginning of my life and adulthood.”



Michael Crum (standing) practices skills with the help of a fellow classmate.



HIGHLIGHTS 2016



NEW COMMISSIONERS JOIN BOARD

Aiken Technical College welcomed three new Commissioners to its governing board, Aiken County Commission for Technical and Comprehensive Education.

Virginia (Ginger) Hawkins is the Chief Nurse Officer at Aiken Regional Medical Centers where she has helped influence the strategic direction and aligns nursing goals to improve quality, patient safety and transform culture. Tim Painter is the plant manager of the Bridgestone Aiken passenger and light truck plant and, prior to the current position, has held several positions related to process engineering and operations management in Bridgestone plants in Tennessee.

Keyatta Priester is the Community Development Manager for Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc. where she has worked to cultivate and develop lasting relationships in the community.

COLLEGE RECOGNIZED FOR COMMITMENT TO VETERANS

Aiken Technical College was recognized in November 2016 for its commitment to serve student veterans and their families.

The College is ranked No. 16 among the top 24 career and technical colleges in the country in the *Military*

Times 2017 Best for Vets list. The College was also named a 2017 Military Friendly college by Victory Media, a designation it has received for six consecutive years.

"It is an honor for Aiken Technical College to serve our veterans," said ATC President Dr. Forest Mahan. "Our objective is to help them meet their educational goals. Veterans bring a very strong work ethic and are a vital part of our student community. These recognitions are honors that we share with our veterans."





CENTRALIZED PRINTING SYSTEM IMPLEMENTED

Aiken Technical College's Information Systems Management department implemented the PrintMe/PaperCut system during the latter half of 2016.

The centralized printing solution allows users to print to and pick up their documents from any multi-function printer on campus. Users simply use their campus ID card to release the print jobs. It also now provides all users, including students, the ability to print in color, duplex and even scan documents.

Moving to the new system save the College more than \$100,000 in capital expense plus an additional savings of \$5,000 per year for consumable items.

LIBRARY OPENS NEW S.T.E.A.M. ROOM

The Aiken Technical College Library opened its new S.T.E.A.M. Room, a makerspace that focuses on science, technology, engineering, art and math.

The S.T.E.A.M. Room includes a computer with a variety of software, video camera, green screen, 3-D printer, electronic circuit kit, several Lego robotic kits, parts from a disassembled old computer, and art supplies.

"A makerspace is a place where students can come and make things," said Katie Miller, the director of ATC's Learning Resources Center. "They can interact with technology outside of the classroom. It provides a space for those who are kinesthetic learners, hands-on learners."



NEW RUBRICS FOCUSED ON ENHANCING STUDENTS' COMMUNICATION SKILLS

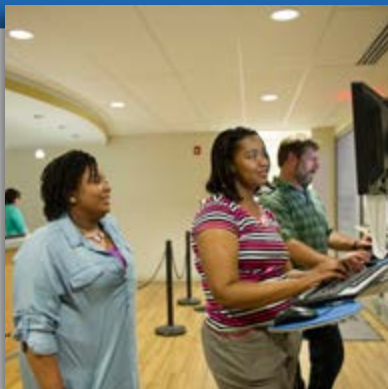
Aiken Technical College faculty have worked to standardize writing and oral rubrics for use in courses campus wide to help measure students' ability to effectively speak, read and write—which is the focus of one of the College's core general education outcomes.

The process included reviewing rubrics from the American Association of Colleges & Universities and other community colleges and sharing content during a Faculty Academy.

The writing rubric has been fully implemented in the transitional course as well as general education English classes. The draft of the oral rubric has been developed with a pilot and implementation expected in 2017.



HIGHLIGHTS



COLLEGE SEES GAINS IN ENROLLMENT

Aiken Technical College experienced a 5 percent increase in its overall enrollment for Fall 2016* as compared to Fall 2015 and the highest enrollment since 2013.

The increase is partially credited to the Within Reach initiative, a partnership with Aiken County Public School District to increase the number of Aiken County residents with a higher education credential. Through the initiative, the College engaged in several activities to increase interaction with area high

school students and educate them on their educational and career options.

One of the activities included Instant Decision Days organized in collaboration with the school district. During the 2016 events, more than 260 district seniors applied to ATC.

**As of September 2016*

COLLEGE RECOGNIZES 2016 FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS OF THE YEAR

Aiken Technical College honors a faculty member and a staff member who have made great accomplishments or had an impact on the College. The award recipients are announced and recognized during commencement each May.

The 2016 Faculty Member of the Year was Demica Williams, nursing department chair and instructor. She led the department's efforts for its nursing faculty to become Certified Nurse Educators, holds retreats at the end of each semester to review course and program learning outcomes, and led the licensed practical nurse program through its initial accreditation from the Accreditation for Commission for Education in Nursing.

The 2016 Staff Member of the Year was Mike Raine, technology services manager in the Information Systems Management department. He embraces the College's culture of continuous improvement and has saved the College money in energy costs through the creation of an automated shutdown of academic computers on campus, reducing the number of servers needed on campus and implementing a centralized on-campus printing solution.

NEW EQUIPMENT INCREASES LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Aiken Technical College added a Bayport Process Control Trainer in the summer of 2016 to help enhance hands-on learning in programs that educate students for careers in the nuclear industry.

The trainer, purchased through a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, allows students develop hands-on critical thinking and problem solving skills on equipment similar to what is found in the industry, said Bill Nolan, engineering instructor in the Technical Education division.

“Aiken Technical College is adding real hands on work for automation, controllers, valves, pumps, sensors and redundant systems,” he said. “The trainer is part of the continuing work in stepping beyond demonstrations to work that students engage in: preventive maintenance, disassembly and reassembly, industrial tear downs and set ups, and actively calibrate components and systems.”

COLLEGE PARTICIPATES IN SYSTEM-WIDE “I MADE IT” INITIATIVE

The South Carolina Technical College System is aiming to change the perceptions of technical colleges through a new initiative called “I Made It... You Can Too!” The initiative involves educating students, school districts, parents and the community about the increasing workforce need in science, technology, engineering and math.

One of activities includes increased outreach and interaction between technical colleges with school counselors in their respective service area. Aiken Technical College held a two-week Guidance Counselor Institute in July 2016 to provide local school counselors with an in-depth look at the College’s programs, services and enrollment process. Participants had an opportunity to visit labs, have interactive discussions with faculty and staff, and provide the college with insightful feedback.

Participants from Aiken County Public School District were: Leslie Bright, Benny Everett, Regina Hall, Rovonia Hilliard, Marissa Norman, Bobbie Lou Shipman, Sally Tice, and Jobina Wiemer.



LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ENCOURAGES ENGAGEMENT



The Aiken Technical College Student Leadership Council reorganized in 2016 in an effort to provide a meaningful experience for student leaders.

The council is made up of representatives from the following organizations: American Welding Society, ATC Ambassadors, Christian Life Club, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Student Government Association, Student Nurses Association, and Student Veterans Association.

“Our student leaders are a stellar group who constantly impress me with their dedication to this campus and the fellow students. They are wonderful advocates for ATC and are committed to making the most of their educational experience,” said Melissa Johnson, lead advisor for the Student Leadership Council and the Director of Recruitment & Student Experience.

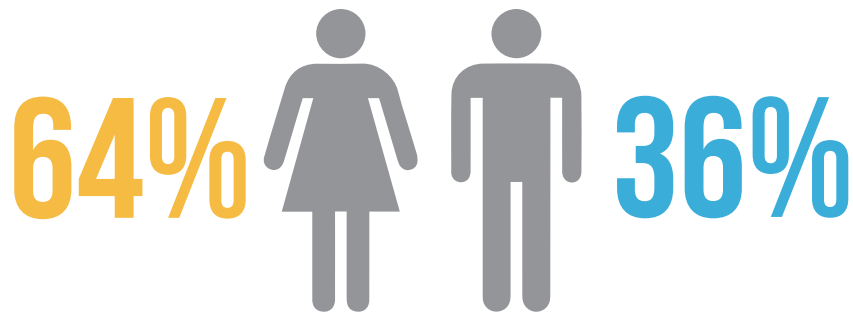
The group participated in events such as orientation, Constitution Day, a voter registration drive, Halloween funhouse, and Carols in the Café. They also develop their leadership skills through activities such as a local leadership retreat and the South Carolina Technical College System’s student leadership conference.

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS*

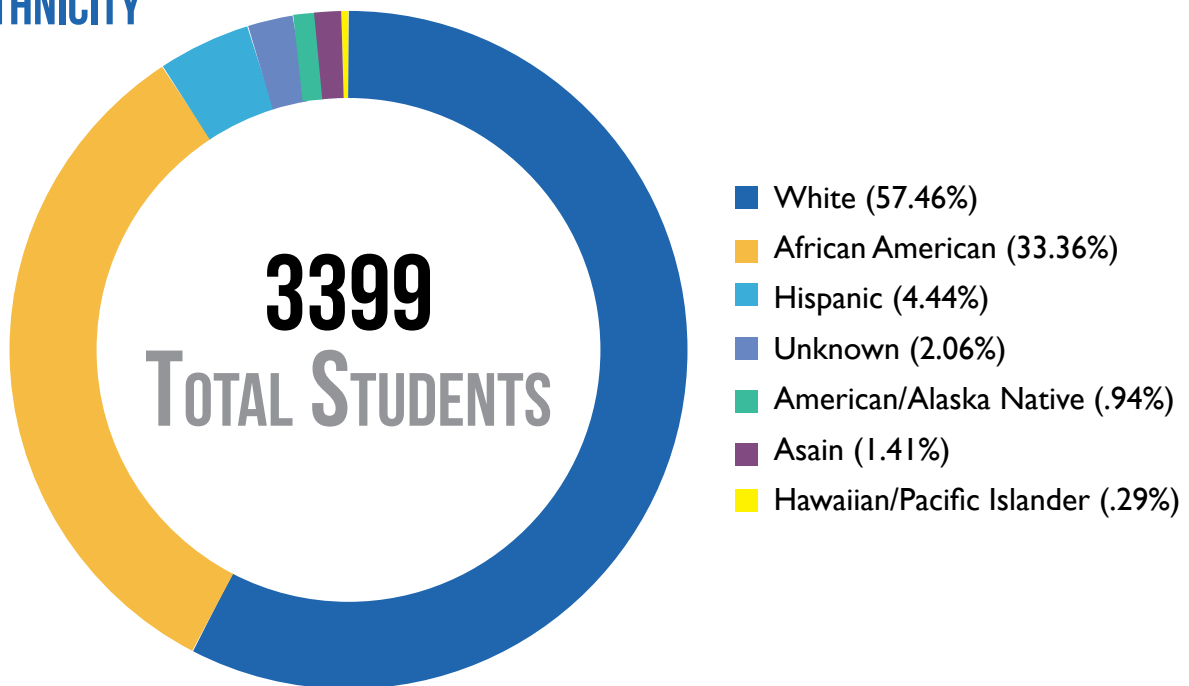
Based on Unduplicated headcount

STUDENT GENDER

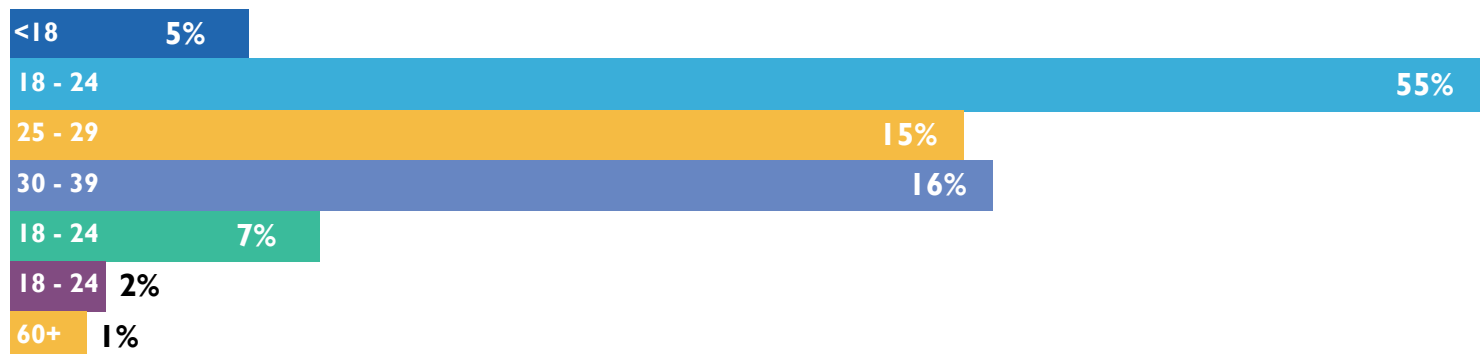
2175 FEMALE
1224 MALE



RACE/ETHNICITY



STUDENT AGE RANGE



*Information presented on these pages is based on Fall 2015 through Summer 2016 enrollment.

GRADUATES



321 DEGREES

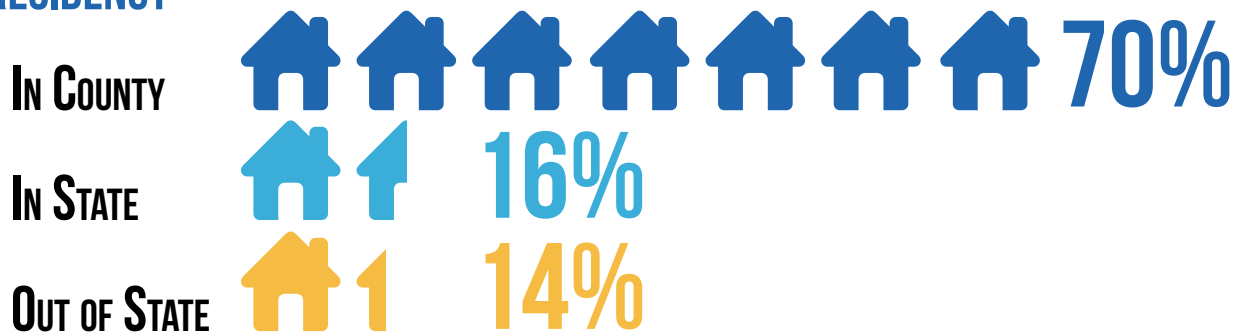


34 DIPLOMAS

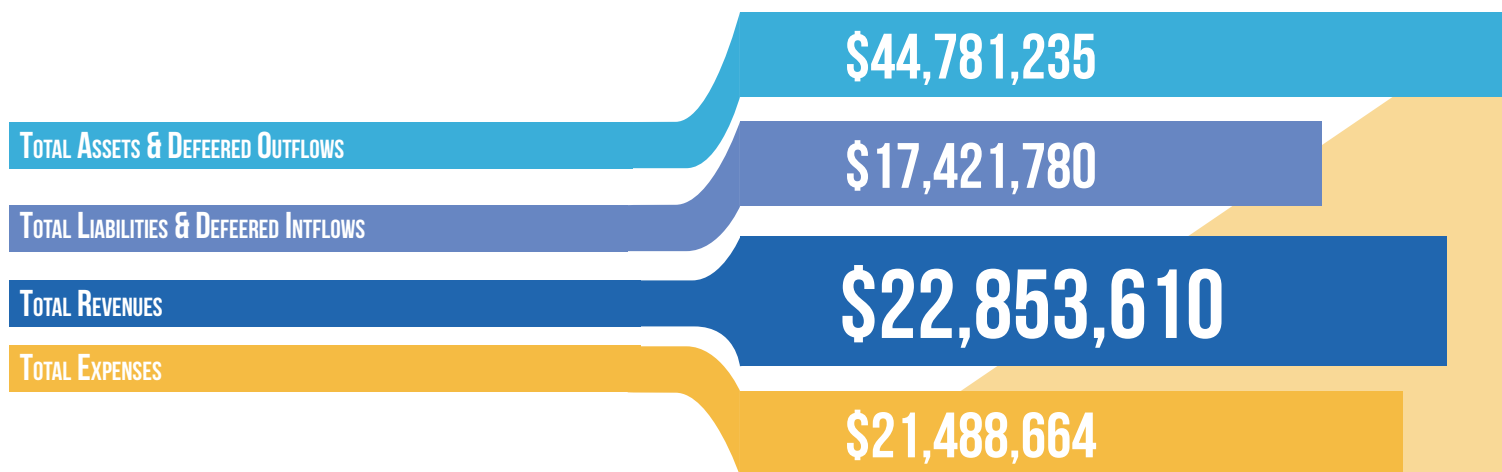


366 CERTIFICATES

RESIDENCY



COLLEGE FINANCIALS





DIRECTOR'S LETTER

A Message from the Foundation Director



Aiken
Technical
College
FOUNDATION

The Aiken Technical College Foundation strives to enhance the opportunities at Aiken Technical College with an emphasis on student scholarships, faculty and staff professional development, and equipment for our state-of-the-art learning facilities.

The ATC Foundation is governed by a group of 20 volunteers who believe in the mission and goals of the College and believe that one of the best investments a person can make is in education, and the best target for education dollars is the Aiken Technical College Foundation. We are stewards of the resources contributed to the Foundation, and the priorities and values of donors are thoroughly respected.

The Aiken Technical College Foundation provides a variety of options so that donors can support the areas or programs most meaningful to them. Making a charitable gift to the Aiken Technical College Foundation is an important and very personal decision. The satisfaction of giving comes in knowing that you are investing in the lives of individuals, businesses, and organizations that benefit each day from Aiken Technical College's excellent education opportunities.

On behalf of the Aiken Technical College Foundation Board of Trustees, thank you for your continued generosity.

Sincerely,

Mary K. Commons
Director, Aiken Technical College Foundation



"GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER" FINALE

10 Year Run Ends on a High Note

Ten years ago, the Aiken Technical College Foundation Board of Trustees decided that it was time for a big social fund-and friend-raising event to increase scholarships support for students. It was back in 2007 when Mary Commons, Director of the ATC Foundation watched the classic movie "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" and the next day she kept thinking about the movie and how she could make that into an event that people would want to attend. Commons came up with the idea that the "Guess Who" part would be the entertainment and that hints would be disbursed in newspaper advertising, social media, on invitations and posters throughout the Aiken community. Everyone was excited by this idea. Businesses, organizations and individuals helped defray cost by becoming Producer Sponsors or Cast Member Table Hosts. It created a social event that people wanted to attend each year to see who the secret entertainment would be. Here is a recap of entertainers over the past 10 years:

2007 *Martha Reeves and the Vandellas*

2008 *Broadway Star, Rob Evan*

2009 *The Comedy and Songs of Jerry Farber and Johnny Parrazzo, "The Ageless Wonders"*

2010 *Neil Diamond impersonator and the band Leggz*

2011 *Livingston Taylor*

2012 *Journey Unauthorized*

2013 *Folk singers and story tellers, David Holt and Josh Goforth*

2014 *Broadway Star, Willy Falk*

2015 *"Two Guys Doing Skits," Jerry Farber and Johnny Parrazzo*

2016 *The WannaBeatles*

During the 10 year run, the Foundation raised over \$137,900 for student scholarships. This is due in large part to the support received from so many businesses large and small. The Aiken business community came together and donated so many wonderful items for the silent and live auctions. There were also individuals that donated their vacation homes to the



auctions. For many years, the Foundation had help from the Sand River Women's Club who donated their time and talents to decorate our silent auction tables and they looked amazing.

Thanks for the memories! 2017 will be a new year with a new event!

SCHOLARSHIP BENEFACITOR & RECIPIENT BREAKFAST

In January 2016, ATC Foundation held its 16th Annual Scholarship Benefactor and Recipient Breakfast. Each year, scholarship benefactors and recipients are brought together to share breakfast and to meet face-to-face. Recipients are provided a chance to let their benefactor know how important the scholarship is to them and how it will help them towards obtaining their future goals.

For the 2015-16 academic year, the Foundation awarded 122 scholarships totaling more than \$109,000.

Former student Chris Raynor, who received the Ryberg Pre-engineering Scholarship in ATC's Early College commented: "The scholarship will help set a great foundation for my formal education, for my future pursuit of aviation and for other areas of my life."

Benefactors appreciate meeting the recipients of their scholarships and hearing first hand of the impact it is making in their lives. Betty Ryberg, along with her husband former SC Sen. Greg Ryberg, sponsor the Ryberg Pre-Engineering Scholarship. The scholarship is for dual-enrolled students who qualify to earn college credits while still in high school. She urges students "to daydream as a way to make a difference in people's lives in the future. Daydreaming might open up an area where you could possibly come up with an idea that no one has ever had. You are our future, and we're happy to part of that."

The breakfast is a win-win for all involved. Recipients have an opportunity to thank their benefactors. Benefactors get an opportunity to learn the impact their scholarship is making in someone's life.





FOUNDATION HIGHLIGHTS 2016



MENDED HEARTS VISIT

Chapter 294 of the Aiken Mended Hearts paid a visit to the campus to see our nursing graduates and faculty before a pinning ceremony in December. Since 2007 the Mended Hearts have generously contributed over \$56,643 for equipment needed in the cardiac care labs used by all of our nursing students.



HOP TO IT! FAMILY GIVING CAMPAIGN

In March, the ATC Foundation held its annual Family Giving Campaign which seeks financial support from faculty and staff. This year's theme was "Hop to It!" The campaign is held to create awareness of the Foundation's key accomplishments such as student scholarships, facilities and professional development. Activities such as "jean passes," St. Patty's Day Cookie Cart and a silent auction are just a few of the fun events during the month-long campaign.

The ultimate goal is not a dollar amount, but 100 percent participation. Faculty and staff can support the cause or fund near and dear to them. Our goal is to build a culture of philanthropy at Aiken Technical College. A strong employee program improves collaboration between departments and strengthens a sense of campus community. Since 1999, generous faculty and staff have given \$240,205 to the annual family giving campaign.



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

2015-16

Amelia Grace Mottel
Memorial Nursing Scholarship
Benjamin Warner

American Association of
University Women Scholars

Ariana Baker
Alexandria Bellido
Carolyn Chester
Taylor Green
Shameka Johnson
Robyn Karle
Abigahill Camacho
Harley Muniz
Michelle Nichols
Julie Owens
Emily Perez
Caroline Phelps

Ashley J. Little Scholarship
Endowment
Xiomara Harman

ATC Book Scholarship
Nicholas Grubbs
Khadijah McLean
Frank Richardson
Daeshnae Stanley

ATC Within Reach Scholarship
- ASCO Numatics
Kimberly Oakley

ATC Within Reach Scholarship
- BWX Technologies
Cassidy Stuart

ATC Within Reach Scholarship
- Gregg Graniteville
Foundation
Marley Ranson
Noah Scott
Tori Shekastehband
Madison Spires

ATC Within Reach Scholarship
- Savannah River Nuclear
Solutions
Sarah Bickford
Brittany Burroughs
Savannah Coleman
Carmelita Diaz Lazaro
Meagan Dooley
Allyson Hall
William Hamilton

ATC Within Reach
Scholarship - Savannah River
Remediation
Katelynn Williams

ATC Within Reach Scholarship
- Dr. Susan Wood
Alyssa Jones
Paul Mazzell
Sara McLane
Natalie McLemore

Beta Delta Kappa Gamma
Scholarship
Raynee Spires

Bridgestone Americas
Bryon Herron

CNTA Scholarship
Tracy Burke

Centerra SRS Criminal Justice
Scholarship
Olivia Quarles

D.A. Norton Endowment
Gunnar Price
David Spencer

Dental Assisting Book
Scholarship
Jamie Lewis
Haley Penn
Gabriella Zamora

Donald Bleasdale Memorial
Book Scholar
Avery Snipes

Energy Solutions Engineering
Technology Scholarship
Billy Slaton

Fluor Military Support
Coalition Grant
Jermaine Coleman
Ketorrin Edwards
Ladarius Green
Alisha Golden
Sharon Jeffcoat
Lucas Jumper
Shaquana O'Neal
Robert Quackenbush
Hope Robinson
Rubin Strom
Lisa Washington

Frances Smothers Memorial
Book Scholarship
Eve Padgett

Georgialina Physical
Therapy Associates
Scholarship
Brandon Able

Henry Pickens Cato II
Endowment
David Muncy

Hilda Delionbach Nursing
Endowment
Sherria Bryant

Hospital Auxiliary of Aiken
County
Brittany Bolin
Amanda Barton
Sully Delgadillo

Industrial Maintenance
Scholarship
Michael Craig
Jeremy Eidson

James Greer Phi-Theta-
Kappa
Roben Wolf

John D. Bryan Criminal
Justice Scholar
Tyler Lamb

Kolosvary Scholarship
Alyssa Profitt

Lions Club of Aiken
Scholarship
Rebecca Paschal
Jill Puetz

Marlin L. Knight Memorial
Nursing Endowment
Catherine Spencer

Maurice Williams/Aiken
County Home Builders
Scholarship
Brent Bonner

Midland Valley Chamber of Commerce Scholarship
John Cogburn

Mike King Memorial Paramedic Scholarship
Kirby Eickleberry

North Augusta Rotary Scholarship
Payton Griffin

Patrick Blewett Scholarship
Sierra Smith-Day

Presidential Scholars
Rumona Frazier
Brandy Kendrick
Earnest Key
Sonesta Nelson-Gilliam
Timothy Pennington
Heather Sargent
Megan Swarthout
Cheryl Taylor
Steven Walling

R.E.A.D Scholarship
Gunner Barnett

Roland and Peggy Smith Scholars
Jazmine Canaday
Clinton Holtsizer
Gage McIntosh
Donovan McMullin
Madison Storey

Ryberg STEM Scholarship 2nd Year
Grant Harris
Gunner Harris
Trenton Nolan

Sand River Women's Club Scholarship
Shirley Cannon
Shannon Herron

Thomas S. Truitt Memorial Scholarship
Crystal Holmes
Jamie Lewis

Travis Miller Memorial Basic EMT Scholarship
Tyshawn Brown

Vernon R. Ford 2nd Year
Madison Derrick
Cinthia Gallegos
Aleyah Gardner
Jacob Gue
Brook Lynn Winkler

Vernon R. Ford Career Center
Kenneth Lybrand
Abby Williams
Paul Zeaser

Vernon R. Ford High school
Michael Hall
Bryan Hurt
Joelle Leguizamon
Golding Ronald
Haley Ussery
Daniel Jacob Yon

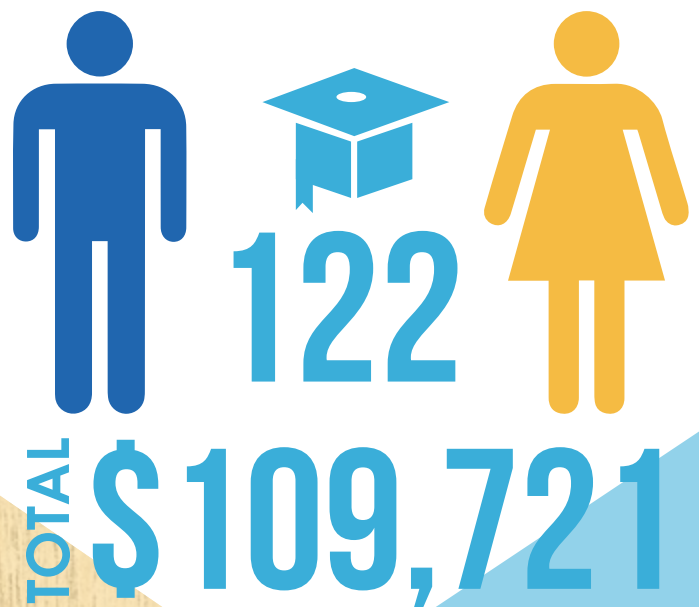
Vernon R. Ford Incentive Scholarship
Favian Zambrano
Xiomara Harman

Weldon Computer Technology Book Scholarship
Andrew Mears

Women of Woodside Scholarship
Samantha Langley
Morneisha Hazel

WORC Nuclear Quality Systems
T'keya Anderson
Darcy Mabry

Scholarships Awarded



DONORS

2015-16

AECOM

Aiken Community Playhouse
Aiken County Home Builders Association
Aiken Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Aiken Golf Club
Aiken Masonic Lodge 156-A.F.M.
Aiken Regional Medical Centers
Aiken Regional Medical Centers
Aiken Voc. Rehab. Center
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Amazonsmile Foundation
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Amick Farms
Applied Research Center, Inc.
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Atlantic Broadband
Automotive Workbench
BAE Systems
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Mr. Robert Barnett
Ms. Miriam S. Berendsen
Beta Delta Chapter, Delta Kappa Gamma
Birds & Butterflies
Ms. Erynn Black
Mr. Patrick M. Blewett
Mr. Mark Bolton
Bone-i-fide Bakery
Bridgestone Aiken County Plant
Bridgestone Americas Off-Road Tire Plant
Bright and Bold Entertainment
Mr. Joseph J. Buggy
Dr. Vinson Burdette
Mr. Pellum Burts
Mrs. Dawn Butts
BWV Technologies
Carolina Musculoskeletal Institute, PA Foundation
CB&I AREVA, MOX Services LLC
CD's Midlands Inc

Cengage Learning
Centerra-Savannah River Site
Christian Life Club
Citizens Park Office & Conference Center
Combs Chiropractic Care
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Ms. Jill C. Hartzog
Hass & Hilderbrand, Inc.
Hightower
Ms. Kimberly Holdren
Mr. Stephen W. Homoki
Horry Georgetown Technical College
Hospital Auxiliary of Aiken County
Houndslake Country Club
Hubbell Power Systems
Mrs. Dana Hudson
Ms. Thomasina Hughey
Ms. Lee Hunt
Mr. Scott Hunter
Mr. Julian Hutcheson
Hutson-Etherredge Companies
J. E. Stewart Builders, Inc.
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JC Seafood
Jim Harrison Gallery
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Ms. Melanie Johnson
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Kimberly Clark Corporation
Mr. Mike Kleiman
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Law Offices of Tom Young, Jr., PC
Dr. Paul J. Leslie
Mr. Joe Lewis
Lionel Smith, Ltd.
Lions Club of Aiken
Longhorn Steakhouse
Mr. Sanford Loyd
Ms. Vicki Major
Ms. Toni Marshall

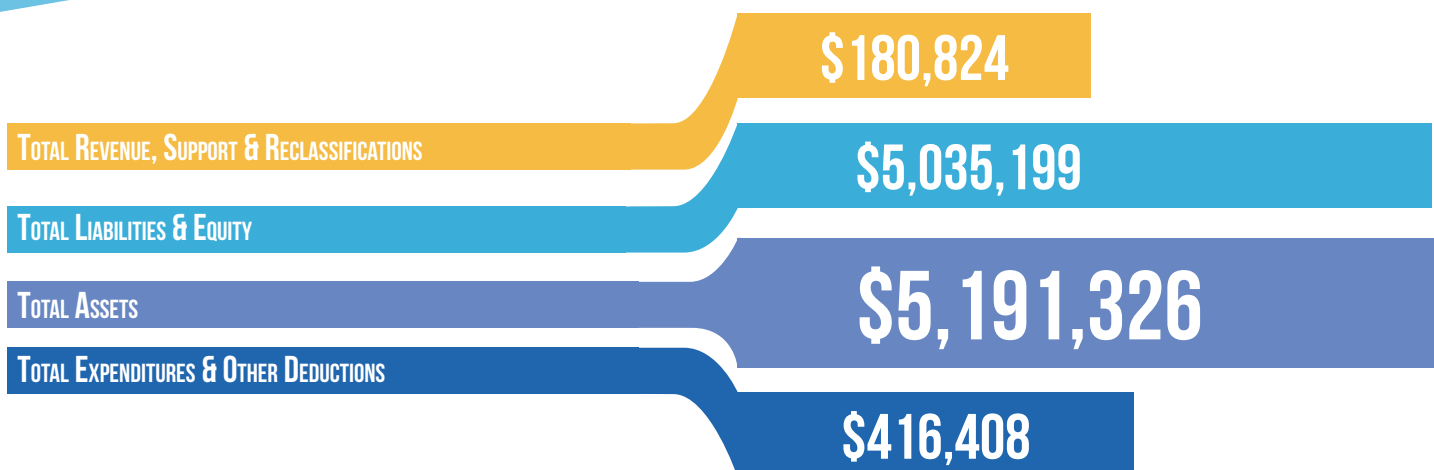
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Ms. Barbara Morgan
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MTU America
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Nuclear Suppliers Association
Mr. Rick Osbon
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Mrs. Deborah Randall
Ms. Crystal Ratliff
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Red Lobster
Ms. Katherine Redd

Mr. Ben Reeves
Ms. Lynn Rickabaugh
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Riverbanks Zoo and Garden
Ms. Sherry Robbins
Ms. Sharon L. Rodgers
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Mr. and Mrs. Greg Ryberg
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Mr. Marshall Scott Saul
Savannah River Nuclear Solutions
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Mr. Tim Simmons
Ms. Susan Sims
Mr. Allan C Sorensen
Ms. Dorenda Sprowl
SRP Federal Credit Union
SRS Community Reuse Organization
State Credit Union SCU
Steeplechase Association
Mr. Josh Stewart
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FOUNDATION FINANCIALS

July 1, 2015 - June 30, 2016



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Ex-Officio

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