



Florence-Darlington Technical College

Florence, South Carolina

Automotive and HVAC Technology Center Nears Completion As The New Year Arrives

The new Automotive and HVAC Technology Center located between the 600 Building and the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT) is nearing its completion.

The roughly 37,000 square-foot building is taking shape as construction crews work feverishly to finish the building by early 2017. It will serve as the home for the gasoline and diesel automotive programs, as well as for the college's HVAC Program.

The current Automotive Program is located in the 600 Building, while HVAC is housed in the 200 Building. With the two programs being in such high demand, Florence-Darlington Technical College is constructing the new building so that each program can expand and serve more students.

The new Automotive and HVAC Technology Center is just one step in the



\$55 million Academic Master Plan. In May of 2016, the land began to be cleared, and by June of 2016, construction was underway

"The first building of the ten-year Academic Master Plan is the Automotive and HVAC Technology Center," said FDTC President Dr. Ben Dillard. "We decided to construct this facility first due to the high demand for classes. With the exception of the SiMT, the Automotive and HVAC Technology Center marks the first construction of a building on campus in more than 30 years."

As you walk through the eight-foot doors of the new building, you will walk down a single hallway that has offices and classrooms on each side.

Automotive will be located on the left side of the building, while HVAC will be on the right.

The extra space inside the classrooms not only allows extra room for stu-



dents to get hands-on experience but also allows for more necessary equipment for the programs to be added as well.

Featuring

Message from the President

As 2016 came to a close with the many festivities associated with the holiday season, it was a natural thought process to reflect upon the many blessings that have been bestowed upon FDTC and its employees.



We are all privileged to have the opportunity to work at a place that plays such a prominent role in workforce and economic development in the Pee Dee region of the state. Our students depend upon us to help them prepare for exciting jobs or to continue their education at a senior institution.

FDTC enrollment continued its upward trajectory in the fall of 2016, topping out above 6,000 students and exceeding the number from the previous year. We have been extremely lucky to maintain our enrollments when the national trend has seen a decline in enrollments for community and technical colleges. This was accomplished by much hard work by the entire

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Editor: Hunter Thomas

Contact: Hunter.Thomas@fdtc.edu

Florence-Darlington Technical College
PO Box 100548
Florence, SC 29502-0548
843-661-8324
www.fdtc.edu



FDTC Lake City Site Hosts Grill Master Challenge

Florence-Darlington Technical College's Lake City Site hosted the inaugural Grill Master Challenge at the National Bean Market on Henry Street in Lake City on Friday, November 11, 2016. Proceeds from the event went to the FDTC Educational Foundation to help with student scholarships.

The Grill Master Challenge featured four competitors who prepared plates in a head-to-head battle for a grand prize of \$1,500. In the three rounds, the competitors received a "mystery basket," and they had to quickly concoct a recipe that would appeal to the trio of judges' taste buds. One competitor was eliminated in each round.

Chef Latasha McCutcheon was the celebrity judge of the night. She was the winner of Hell's Kitchen Season 13. McCutcheon was joined by Lake City High School Culinary Instructor Coco Floyd and Baker's Sweets Owner Jennifer Baker.

Chef and Lake City High School alumni

Cadejah Stukes won the event and took home the cash prize.

Stukes is currently a Cook II HMS Host at 1897 Market in the Charlotte Douglas International Airport. She will now go down in Florence-Darlington Technical College history as being the inaugural champion of the prestigious Grill Master Challenge.

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Celebrity Chef Latasha McCutcheon with event champion, Cadejah Stukes.

Featuring Grill Master Challenge...

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The other three competitors included Bo Whitlock of The Railway Restaurant, Mitchell Sims of Piggybacks BBQ,

and Frank Halasz, Chef at the Inn at the Crossroads in Lake City.

Following the completion of the Grill Master Challenge, the FDTC Lake City Site held a VIP gathering so that attendees could meet with the competitors and judges.

Music was provided by the Sideswiped Band throughout the evening as well. The inaugural event was quite a success. The stout competition produced intense head-to-head battles, and there was plenty of drama as the clock ticked away during each round.

Lady Stingers Receive Their Region X/District F Championship Rings

On Friday, November 4, the Florence-Darlington Technical College Lady Stingers softball team received their championship rings for winning RegionX/District F during the 2016 season.

The ring ceremony took place at Red Bone Alley Restaurant & Bar located in Florence. Earlier this year, the Lady Stingers became the first Florence-Darlington Technical College team to ever make it to the NJCAA Division II Softball National Championship.

Throughout the 2016 season, many of the players were recognized for their exceptional achievements.



NJCAA Academic All-American Nominee:

- Carlee Belk

1st Team - NJCAA Region X:

- Ann Warley
- Ramsey Sherrill
- Kaylie Miles
- Carlee Belk

2nd Team - NJCAA Region X:

- Heather Kirby

All Tournament - NJCAA Region X/District F:

- Adrianna Weatherford
- Heather Kirby
- Anna Warley
- Ramsey Sherrill

NJCAA Region X Pitcher of the Year:

- Ramsey Sherrill

NJCAA Region/District MVP:

- Ramsey Sherrill

A Message from the President...

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college family, including more than 4,000 phone calls that were made to prospective students by faculty and staff.

A big thanks also goes out to our high school partners for their strong support of our Early College/Dual Credit program. In the last three years, this program has grown from around 250 students to more than 1,250 students this past fall. Students, parents, and employers are realizing the value of this program since it allows students to leave high school with significant college credit that will transfer to just about any college or university. This credit also helps students to enter the workforce earlier.

We have made significant accomplishments this year by investing in the

entire college family, our students, and our facilities. This year we will see the completion of the new Automotive/HVAC Technology Center. It is scheduled to open in 2017. This new facility allows for the expansion of these programs since waiting lists exist for both programs. As the Automotive and HVAC programs move into this new facility, other space will be freed up to expand our Caterpillar and Welding programs, both of which also have student waiting lists.

In looking back at last year's accomplishments, it gives us pause to be excited about the many possibilities for 2017. We are dedicated to continue working diligently to enhance student success by improving our graduation and job placement rate. We will also be extremely excited to see our new academic and workforce

development facility rise on the front of the campus in August. We hope to have it completed in time for the fall of 2018. In addition, a new facility to replace our current Lake City Site, is now in the design phase and should be under construction by July 2017 with completion scheduled for spring of 2018. We are also excited about another project that will begin in February of 2017. This project will include an athletic complex with fields for both men's baseball and women's softball.

As you can see lots of activity is taking place at FDTC, and 2017 promises to be another exciting year. I would like to thank each of you for your dedication and hard work toward making our students successful. My wish is that each of you have a safe and wonderful 2017!

New Faces

Hello to . . .

Melissa Smith is a new psychology Instructor. Melissa holds a B.S. from FMU in Psychology and a M.S. degree in Clinical Psychology from FMU.



Augelisa Hickman is the new Library Assistant III. Augelisa received an A.S. degree from FDTC in Health Information Management.



Tyris Timmons is the new Facilities Assistant. Tyris received an A.S. degree from FDTC in Machine Tool Technology.



Anthony Willard is the new Facilities Assistant. Anthony's work experience includes Department Manager/Stocker for Phar Mor, Sales Associate/Stocker for Roses, Store Manager for Family Dollar Store and Banquet Room Organizer for the Hilton Garden Inn.



Amanda Mosley is the new Administrative Assistant for Arts & Sciences. Amanda received a B.S. degree from Francis Marion University in Mass Communications.



Harry McFadden is the new Virtual Server and Desktop Administrator. Harry received an A.S. degree from Wake Technical Community College in Networking Technology, a B.S. and M.S. degree from Strayer University in Internetworking Technology and Network Security.



Dr. Andre Boyd is the new RUSH Program Coordinator. Dr. Boyd received a B.A. degree from the University of SC in Sociology/Education, an M.Ed in Educational Leadership from Cambridge College and a Ph.D. in Christian Education from Dayspring Christian University.



Latonya Freeman is the new Sponsorship/Scholarship Coordinator. Latonya received a B.S. degree in Business Administration/Management and a MS degree from Webster University in Business Administration.



Anna Lane is the new Facilities Assistant. Anna received a B.S. degree from the University of SC in English and a M.S. degree from Lasell College in Sports Management.



Bree Robinson is the new Transcript Specialist. Bree received a B.S. degree from South Carolina State University in Political Science/Public Administration and a M.S. degree from Webster University in Leadership and Resources Development.



Jon-Michael Hooks is the new Information Systems/Business Analyst. Jon-Michael received a B.S. degree from North Greenville University in Business Administration.



Connie Williams is the new Student Services Program Coordinator II. Connie received an A.S. degree from Denmark Technical College in Secretarial Science and a B.S. degree from Voorhees College in General Studies.



From Around Tech

South Carolina Virtual College of FDTC Launches New Website

The South Carolina Virtual College (SCVC) at FDTC recently launched a new website along with its rebranding.

The website (scvc.fdtc.edu) was launched on Monday, November 21, 2016, with the goal to better assist students with their online needs. During any given semester, 35-40% of the student population at the college is taking online courses.

"The main reason why we developed the SC Virtual College of FDTC website, was to support student success here at the college," said Director of the SC Virtual College at FDTC Derk Riechers. "This website has a student-center design which allows for easy navigation to different links and pages. For instance, under the Apply Link, there are many great



resources to help a student get started with their educational journey at FDTC!"

FDTC was the first college in the state of South Carolina to offer complete programs online. The Online College successfully rebranded itself to SCVC during the summer of 2016.

Students choose the SCVC for their educational needs because it's

affordable, it can fit into nearly any schedule and there's always student support.

SCVC is located in Room 5217 of the 5000 Building. For more information on the SCVC, please contact Derk Riechers or Lamar Younginer:

Derk Riechers
Director, SC Virtual College of FDTC
843-661-8061
Derk.Riechers@fdtc.edu

Lamar Younginer
Online College
843-661-8117
Lamar.Younginer@fdtc.edu

You can also like the South Carolina Virtual College of FDTC, or you can follow @FDTCOnline on Twitter and Instagram.

Lakischi Livingston Named Top Administrator by State Organization

One of Florence-Darlington Technical College's Administrative Assistants was recently named as a top administrator by a state organization.

At the South Carolina Association for Higher Continuing Education (SCAHCE) conference during the first week of October, Lakischi Livingston was given the Outstanding Continuing Education Support Staff Award.

"The award was given to me at Trident Technical College in Charleston," Livingston said. "My supervisor asked me to go along with her because she needed to go on the last day. I read my bio, and five minutes later, I was called up to receive the award. It took me completely by surprise! Jim Hill is the one who nominated me."

Livingston is the Evening



Lakischi Livingston

Administrative Specialist for Continuing Education at the college, and she is a 12-year veteran of FDTC. Livingston joined the FDTC staff in 2004 after graduating with an Associate's Degree in Public Safety from the college. While she was a student, Livingston was a work-study student in the Enrollment Management Department.

"My start date at Florence-Darlington Technical College was August 9, 2004," Livingston said. "It has been a learning experience even after 12 years with the college. I'm still learning!"

"Customer service is very important to our department and across Florence-Darlington Technical College. I work evenings, so I normally stay later."

Before coming to FDTC, Livingston worked briefly at Coca-Cola Bottling of Florence and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florence.

SCAHCE is a statewide professional organization made up of the Continuing Education staff members who serve at the state's 16 technical colleges. This is a statewide award, and Livingston was chosen from among three finalists.

FDTC Foundation Hosts New Orleans' Preservation Hall Jazz Band

The world famous Preservation Hall Jazz Band from New Orleans visited the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT) on Thursday, November 3, 2016.

The FDTC Educational Foundation's "Let's Get Jazzed" event at Club SiMT benefited the non-profit organization's important mission by helping deserving students with their college expenses.

"When you purchase your jazz tickets, your funds will go directly to make sure a young person continues their dream of getting a higher education," said Vice President of the FDTC Educational Foundation Jill Lewis.



The Preservation Hall Jazz Band's visit to the SiMT was their second appearance. The band dazzled the Gala attendees in 2011.

The night began with the President's reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the band's performance at 7:30 p.m.

"The Gala was a fantastic event," said Director of Development Celeste Kahn. "The Preservation Hall Jazz Band is the best there is, and they have awesome energy! I love to swing dance, and there were lots of people out on the floor. The band had a great rapport with the audience, and everyone had a lot of fun."

Thomasena Thomas Presents Project at Inaugural Honors Forum at FDTC

First-year honor student Thomasena T. Thomas presented the results from her project "Effects of Class on Career Choice" on Thursday, November 17, 2016, at the inaugural Honors Forum at FDTC.

Honors students at FDTC are chosen from among a group of applicants who exhibit high academic achievement. Applicants are screened and selected. Honor students must pick a topic for a project that has to be approved by a faculty member.



"This first presentation of an honors project established the standard to which I hope all our honors students will aspire," said English

Instructor Marjory Hall. "The presentation requirement is intended to help students acquire a sense of ownership of the authority they gain through research and study.

"Most people feel some degree of apprehension at the thought of public speaking, so being the first to speak in an entirely new program is an even more daunting proposition. Thomasena set a standard of excellence."

FDTC Foundation Joins the Global #GivingTuesday Movement

The Florence-Darlington Technical College Educational Foundation participated in #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving that occurred on the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving on November 29, 2016.

The FDTC Educational Foundation raised money toward student scholarships and state-of-the-art learning equipment. FDTC's theme for the fundraising effort was "We are because you give." The theme refers to students being able to achieve their higher educational goals because donors are able to help support them by contributing scholarship funds.

"#GivingTuesday inspires people to collaborate in improving their local communities and to give back in impactful ways to the charities and causes they support," said FDTC Educational Foundation Director Jill Lewis.

"This was the first time we have participated in #GivingTuesday, and we hope it will not be the last. We are transitioning away from traditional teaching methods and implementing



3D programs that allow our automotive and manufacturing students to learn via virtual reality. It's very exciting!"

Celeste Kahn, Director of Development for the FDTC Educational Foundation, said, "The model for this event was peer-to-peer fundraising. It was very social media-driven. The goal was for people to give and then encourage their friends to jump on the bandwagon. We wanted folks to understand how much our students rely on their support. We would like to

thank Adams Outdoor Advertising and Baker Office Solutions, as well as the many individuals who contributed."

In 2016, the global #GivingTuesday movement raised \$168,000,000 in more than 98 countries.

"We encourage people to not only support us but to also take a look at the #GivingTuesday website and see what other nonprofits are participating," Kahn said. "There are several organizations throughout our state that are part of the movement."

FDTC Super Truck Wins at Myrtle Beach Speedway in November

Hayes Goodson, driver of the No. 13 Florence-Darlington Technical College Super Truck, earned the biggest win of his career on November 12, 2016, at Myrtle Beach Speedway.

The Goodson family has a long, rich history at the 0.538-mile NASCAR Home Track located just off Highway 501 in Myrtle Beach. Goodson's victory came during the prestigious Myrtle Beach 400 opening weekend. The race was Hayes' final Super Truck event for the 2016 season.



Hayes Goodson Celebrates in Victory Lane at Myrtle Beach Speedway

Goodson started on the pole, but he fell back to conserve tires

during the early stages of the 100-lap race. A late-race caution bunched the field back together, and Goodson was able to take advantage of the opportunity to retake the lead.

He led the final laps and went on to earn his second victory of the season at Myrtle Beach Speedway.

Hayes also piloted the No. 16 Florence-Darlington Technical College Pro All-Stars Series Super Late Model throughout the year as well.

FDTC Students Travel to the Nation's Capital

Two Florence-Darlington Technical College students recently traveled to Washington D.C. to represent the college at the National Science Foundation ATE Principle Investigators' Conference. The South Carolina Advanced Technological Education Center (SCATE) facilitated their participation.

Michael Davis, second-year FDTC Mechanical Engineering Technology student, and Ivy Wilson, second-year FDTC Civil Engineering Technology student, were nominated by their lead instructor and chosen by the American Association of Community Colleges as ATE Student Scholarship recipients to attend the Washington D.C. confer-



(Left to Right) Ivy Wilson, second-year FDTC Civil Engineering Technology student, and Michael Davis, second-year FDTC Mechanical Engineering Technology student, represent the college in Washington, D.C.



ence, October 26 –28, 2016.

Each student showcased a project. Davis's project was entitled "Additive Manufacturing from SiMT and MakerSpace," and Wilson's was entitled "Solid Works Render to 3D Print." The showcase sessions at the conference were attended by nearly 900 attendees representing education, industry and government.

"For me, David Edwards helped me out a lot," Wilson said about the FDTC Engineering Technology Instructor. "He helped me come up with a solid works project for my presentation. It was really cool to go because I had never been to Washington, D.C. before."

Michael Davis said, "The experience helped give me a better understanding of what everyone else is doing, and it helped me become better rounded. It allowed me to take from what we learned here with 3D printing and additive manufacturing and compare it to related fields and what other colleges were doing."

The conference schedule included the showcasing of student projects and provided time for FDTC's participants to take part in several roundtable discussions with fellow student participants. Industry Speed Networking was a unique student activity at the conference designed to facilitate introductions between business/industry representatives and the student participants.

An ATE Student Recognition Breakfast was held on Thursday, where each individual student was recognized by National Science Foundation officials

for their outstanding accomplishments in ATE programs. An ATE Student Breakfast networking session provided an informational setting for ATE students to network with one another and to share their educational and professional experiences. They were also treated to a complimentary tour of the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum and given an opportunity to see other important landmarks.

In addition to the student-focused sessions, Davis and Wilson attended the plenary sessions featuring keynote speakers on the following topics: "Better Skills, Better Jobs, and Better Lives," "Preparing Technicians for the 21st Century Workforce," and "Leadership in the World Today." They also attended showcase sessions where ATE-funded projects and centers shared the purposes and products of their work. The overall conference theme was "Growing Leaders; Leading Change."