

Florence-Darlington Technical College And Coker College Team Up For Bridge Program

Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) and Coker College teamed up with the signing of a bridge partnership agreement on Tuesday, June 27, 2017. This Bridge Program will make it easier for FDTC students to transfer to Coker College and earn their four-year degree.

FDTC President Dr. Ben Dillard and Coker President Dr. Robert Wyatt signed the agreement in the 5000 Building on FDTC's main campus. Leaders from both colleges were also in attendance.

Students who are accepted into the program will receive dual admission, dual advisement and dual student development opportunities from both colleges. The Bridge Program agreement marks the first time that the two institutions have come together to form a partnership.

"This is yet another example of how FDTC collaborates with its neighboring institutions of higher learning toward enhancing opportunities for the citizens of the Pee Dee region," said Dr. Suresh Tiwari, Vice President for Academic Affairs.

FDTC students who apply to the Bridge Program will complete developmental and other required coursework at Coker towards a baccalaureate program.



FDTC President Dr. Ben Dillard (far left) and Coker College President Dr. Robert Wyatt (far right) pose with the mascots of each college.

Benefits for Bridge Program

Participants:

- FDTC students may attend Coker College athletic and cultural events at no cost.
- Coker College will provide an academic advisor who will provide academic information as well as course selection to students in the Bridge Program.
- The application fee will be waived for Bridge Program participants when they apply for admission to Coker College.
- FDTC students may transfer a maximum of 76 semester hours with a grade of "C" or better to Coker College. A list of transferable courses is posted on coker.edu/bridge program.
- Bridge Program participants will attend an orientation program on the Coker College campus prior to the beginning of their initial attendance.

Featuring

Message from the President

Since classes started in the middle of August, a hot summer has slowly given away to cooler weather. The promise of even cooler fall weather is just around the corner. Fall is always an exciting time at FDTC. Freshmen are getting acclimated to the college. Student organizations are becoming active, and our returning students are getting back into the groove. Faculty and staff also bring a new energy to the college with the return of cooler weather.



The athletic complex on the main campus continues to take shape and completion is expected in time for the 2018 regular season. This project

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Rick Roberts (left) and Emery DeWitt (right) represented the SCATE Center and FDTC while in Salt Lake City, Utah in July.

SCATE Center of Excellence Staff Visits Salt Lake City

South Carolina Advanced Technological Education Center of Excellence (SCATE) personnel joined more than 592 educators, workforce development advocates, trade organizations, industry professionals and technicians at the 2017 High Impact Technology Exchange (HI-TEC) Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 17-20.

Assistant Director Rick Roberts and Program Manager Emery Dewitt, along with Principal Investigator for NSF grants Elaine Craft, represented the SCATE Center at the conference.

HI-TEC is a national conference on advanced technological education where attendees can update their knowledge and skills. Charged with providing better solutions for Educating America's Technical Workforce, the event focuses on the preparation needed by the existing and future workforce for companies in the high-tech sectors that drive the nation's economy. HI-TEC uniquely explores the convergence of scientific disciplines and technologies.

"The HI TEC conference brought many opportunities for the SCATE staff," DeWitt said. "The networking and comradery of the ATE community is second to none. I always leave each conference with a surge of optimism for all of technical education and its vital role in the US economy and manufacturing fields."

Attendees had the option to choose from approximately 15 preconference workshops and industry site tours during the first two days, followed by the two-day main conference featuring keynote speakers and 60-plus breakout sessions. There was also an awards luncheon, an active Exhibit Hall with an exhibitor reception and more.

"HI-TEC is certainly a professional development highlight of the year for me," Craft said. "In addition to being a terrific networking opportunity among like-minded educators, HI-TEC provides useful content that is immediately applicable to two-year college

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SCATE Center of Excellence...

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programs that produce technicians for the workforce. The conference is co-produced by a consortium of National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education (NSF ATE) grantees. The SCATE Center has been a co-producer of the conference since its inception. The multi-faceted program allows for the exchange of technical content, program improvement strategies, and best practices."

The SCATE Center staff disseminated information, tools, tips and strategies at six concurrent sessions at HI-TEC and maintained a SCATE Center and Mentor-Connect exhibition booth.

Also at the HI-TEC Conference, Florence-Darlington Technical College's highly acclaimed Mentor-Connect project hosted a full-day workshop for project participants who are preparing proposals to submit to the NSF ATE Program in October. During the workshop, participants learned about the new NSF ATE Program Solicitation from NSF Program Officers, received tips for successful completion of their proposals, learned from a panel of previously successful Mentor-Connect participants, and spent one-on-one time working with their Mentor-Connect mentors.

"The SCATE Center, with our support

from FDTC is able to continue to work to expand excellence in technician education across the nation," Roberts said. "What makes the HI-TEC conference such a successful event is the building of relationships among the faculty, industry leaders and those within the NSF ATE community. It is a great way for all parties to connect and understand each other's needs and find new and innovative ways of working together to find solutions to the changing technology landscape."

HI-TEC is supported by the NSF and contributions from corporate and industry partners.

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includes both a women's softball field and men's baseball field. This facility will bring the excitement of NJCAA softball and baseball to the campus.



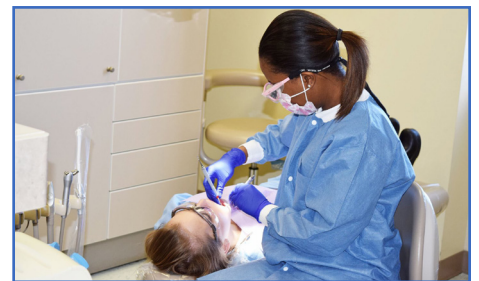
Another project now underway is the new campus in downtown Lake City. Design is almost completed with demolition and reclamation at the site scheduled to take place later this year. Construction is slated to begin in January of 2018 with completion scheduled for January of 2019. This will be a full-service campus with a new culinary arts program serving as its flagship program. In addition, this

campus will have an expanded program for workforce development and will include a welding lab and space for a QuickJobs program. This facility will be a model for future off-site facilities.

A total commitment to the personal and professional development of all employees will continue at FDTC. In fact, the college will seek to provide numerous opportunities for this development. Included among these opportunities is a continuation of customer service training, leadership training, and specific discipline training and education. The better that we do our jobs, the better that we can serve our students and community. Serving our students and community is the primary mission of FDTC.

FDTC is also continuing to introduce new technology to our students. The introduction of the FDTC Mobile Application (for Apple and Android devices) will make life much easier for our students, faculty and staff. This

is a full service application that will make it easier for FDTC's customers to do business with the college. Checking grades, registering for classes, checking financial aid status, and paying bills will be as close as your iPhone, iPad, or Android device.



The physical therapy, radiologic and dental assisting programs have all recently gone through recertification audits and passed with outstanding results. Academic success continues to be our number one priority for our students. Credentials are very important when our graduates are seeking jobs, and they satisfy potential employers that our students have the education/training necessary to do the job.

New Faces

Hello to . . .

Hunter

Thomas is the new Public Information Specialist. Hunter received a BA degree from Francis Marion University in Mass Communications.



Kenneth

Gibson is a new RUSH Counselor. Kenneth received a BA degree from Claflin University in Religion and Philosophy and a Master's degree from Troy University in Education.



Sherry Ford

is a new Cosmetology Instructor. Sherry received a certificate from Dudley Cosmetology University in Cosmetology and a Certificate of Applied Science from FDTC in Management.



Chantelle

Moreno is the new Student Services Program Coordinator I. Chantelle received a BS degree from Westminster College in Psychology.



Harriet

McCray is a new RUSH Counselor. Harriet received a BS degree from Lander University in Early Childhood Education and a M.Ed. from Troy State University in Counseling and Psychology.



Dr. Scott

Kelly is a new Business Instructor. Scott received a BS degree from Francis Marion University in Economics and a PhD from the University of SC in Economics.



Cynthia Admil

is a new Administrative Assistant. Cynthia received an AS degree from FDTC in Marketing.



Bonnita

Andrews is a new Administrative Assistant. Bonnita received a BS degree from Francis Marion University in Business Administration.



Rebecca

Hunter is a new music instructor. Rebecca received a BA degree from Carson-Newman College in Music and a MA degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in music.



Franklin

Brown is a new Trades Specialist. Franklin received an AS degree from FDTC in Civil Engineering Technology.



Donna

Porter is a new Nursing Instructor. Donna received a BS from Florida State University in Psychology, a BS degree from Auburn University in Nursing and a MS degree from Troy State University in Nursing.



Ashley E.

David-Anthony is a new Biology Instructor. Ashley received a BS degree from the College of Charleston in Biology/Chemistry and Health and a MS degree from the University of SC in Biomedical Science.



From Around Tech

FDTC Students Served as Guests of STP at Darlington Raceway

Fifteen Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) Automotive Technology students were guests of STP and enjoyed an experience of a lifetime during the Bojangles' Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway on Sunday, September 3, 2017.

While at the track *Too Tough To Tame*, FDTC students toured the legendary track and learned firsthand of how NASCAR teams operate on a race weekend. The experience was all courtesy of STP, a longtime partner of Richard Petty Motorsports.

"It was a privilege to host students from Florence-Darlington Technical College at Darlington Raceway," said Katina Wall, Marketing Director for STP. "There are automotive



aficionados and future DIY-ers in every community where NASCAR races. Their desire to learn more about the technological aspect of the sport, as well as future career options, is something STP is both happy to fulfill and enjoy seeing."

Former crew chief and NBC Sports analyst Steve Letarte greeted the students when they arrived at Richard Petty Motorsports' No. 43 team hauler. Letarte took the students

inside the hauler and explained the process of how the team works on a race weekend. Afterwards, he gave a guided tour of NASCAR's technical inspection in the garage area. Students followed a race team through the technical inspection.

Following the garage tour, students experienced an up close and personal view of the NASCAR driver/crew chief meeting. All of NASCAR's superstars were gathered in one place as students stood by and learned about the procedures that drivers go through during competition. Students then walked outside of the tunnel and attended an appearance by Richard Petty at the STP display area. At the end of the day, students enjoyed the Bojangles' Southern 500 from the grandstands.

Duke Energy Gives \$50K for ReBOOST Program

The Duke Energy Foundation presented Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) with a \$50,000 check on Friday, July 14, 2017 for its ReBOOST FastTrack program.

The program is a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) curriculum that allows students to earn stackable certificates after completing a one-semester foundational certificate.

"Florence-Darlington Technical College truly values and appreciates the partnership of the Duke Energy Foundation in making the ReBOOST FastTrack program a success in the Pee Dee," Executive Director of the FDTC Educational Foundation Jill Lewis said. "This investment not only benefits individual students but also entire families and communities."

Mindy Taylor, Government and Community Relations Manager for



Duke Energy presents FDTC a \$50,000 check for its new ReBOOST FastTrack program.

Duke Energy, presented the check to FDTC President Dr. Ben Dillard, Associate Vice President of Health Sciences Maureen Dever-Bumba and other leaders of the college.

This grant from the Duke Energy Foundation will assist low-income students in the program who have exhausted all other forms of financial

aid in paying for textbooks, curricular aides, uniforms and other fees.

ReBoost FastTrack has three programs of study that are linked together by the foundational CNA certification. The programs include Certified Nursing Assistant, Advanced Nursing Assistant and Cardiac Care/Patient Care Technician.

Healthcare is one of the largest industries in the Pee Dee Region. The ReBoost FastTrack program at FDTC meets healthcare employers need for licensed and certified employees while also offering students a robust career opportunity.

Caterpillar Inc. Dealers Award 10 Students Scholarships

Caterpillar Inc. dealers in the Carolinas in conjunction with the Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) Educational Foundation presented 10 students with \$500 tool scholarships through May and June 2017.

The scholarships are awarded based on grade point average (GPA), with the exception of one senior student who received the \$500 scholarship based off a Most Improved recognition. Students who received the scholarships are part of Caterpillar Inc.'s ThinkBIG program that is accredited by the Associated Equipment Distributors. Caterpillar Inc. dealers, Blanchard Machinery, Carolina CAT and Gregory Poole are the program's current partners.

"The program is designed to build a relationship early with future employees and is part of a global solution to put talented technicians to work in Caterpillar dealerships," said Stephen Murphey, Director of the Caterpillar Dealer Academy at FDTC. "The internship based program allows for an eight-week paid work experience each



semester in addition to a full load of courses facilitated by FDTC. "

On Wednesday, May 10, FDTC's Caterpillar Dealer Academy senior class of 2017 was awarded the \$500 scholarships during graduation at the Country Club of South Carolina.

Senior recipients included: Austin Connor, Carolina CAT Asheville; Seamus Minogue, Carolina CAT Charlotte; Austin Shealy, Blanchard Machinery Columbia; Ryan Shirer, Blanchard Machinery Columbia; and Brandon Suggs, Carolina CAT Charlotte.

The junior class received its scholarships at the Caterpillar Dealer Academy on Wednesday, June 7.

Junior recipients included: Jacob Byrd, Blanchard Machinery Summerville; Travis Gaddis, Carolina CAT Asheville; Cannan Sullens, Carolina CAT Charlotte; Eric Shelton, Blanchard Machinery Summerville; and Matthew Wood, Gregory Poole Raleigh

Murphey says that the junior class is scheduled to join the full-time workforce after graduation in May of 2018.

Back to School Bash Helps More Than 600 People

Florence-Darlington Technical College's (FDTC) 2nd Annual Back to School Bash, served more than 600 people during the school supply giveaway on Saturday, July 29, 2017.

Kids of all ages visited FDTC's campus on Saturday to collect school supplies and to spend the morning having fun at the free admission event. In the event's second consecutive year, it proved to once again be a favorite among the community.

FDTC's Back to School Bash's car show featured classic and exotic vehicles. Vendors were set up inside and outside of the 5000 Building.



Kids participated in an array of games and activities, while the Wilson High School marching band and others performed.

Music was provided by local DJ, Dan E. Lockemy, and iHeart Media's WJMX-FM 103X broadcasted live from the

campus.

The Florence County Sheriff's Office, Florence City Police, Florence County EMS and West Florence Fire Department provided an up close and personal look of their emergency vehicles for the kids in attendance.

For more information on Florence-Darlington Technical College, visit www.fdtc.edu. To keep up with the latest updates and news from around the college's campuses, like Florence Darlington Technical College on Facebook, and follow @FloDar_Tech on Twitter and Instagram.

FDTC Educational Foundation Hosts Donor Appreciation Night

On Thursday, August 17, the FDTC Educational Foundation said “thank you” to its donors, partners and supporters in the first annual Donor Appreciation Night.

This event highlighted the impact that donors have on students’ lives by supporting scholarships, loans and grants at Florence-Darlington Technical College.

The FDTC Educational Foundation invited all donors who have supported the 501 (c) 3 nonprofit within the past several years to enjoy an evening at the Florence Country Club while students, alumni and Foundation staff thanked them for their support.

Several scholarship recipients shared stories of how the FDTC Educational Foundation allowed them to pursue their dreams. The students who spoke included Delma Carvajal (Nursing), Johnny Dunham (Business Management), Virginia Yarborough (Electronic Engineering), Kevin Deale (Mechanical Engineering), Billy Byrd (Eelding), and Alexis Robinson (Dental Hygiene).

Rare Solar Eclipse Soars Over FDTC As Students Gaze

Students, staff and faculty took a break from their day-to-day tasks to enjoy the Great American Eclipse at Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) on Monday, August 22, 2017.



The solar eclipse near its maximum as it occurred over FDTC.



Many of the student speakers shared emotional testimonies of overcoming insurmountable odds to obtain their education. Each of them cited the scholarships they received through the FDTC Educational Foundation as a main factor in their success.

“My mother was only able to achieve a third grade education level, and my father was only able to get to middle school,” said Carvajal, a third-semester Nursing student at FDTC who received the Bruce and Lee Foundation Allied Health Scholarship. “I cannot thank the Bruce and Lee Foundation enough...thanks to them, I can now focus on studying and be less anxious about possibly having to drop out of

college due to financial issues.”

Virginia Yarborough, a student pursuing a career in Electronic Engineering in order to cover her daughter’s medical expenses, said she “gained a whole new appreciation for those who donate to FDTC,” and that “Your donation not only helps me create a better future for my family, but I get to accomplish my dream, too.”

Along with faculty members Nicholas Lyerly and Winfield Brown, FDTC President Dr. Ben Dillard encouraged donors to continue to support students through scholarships and donations to the Foundation.

Florence, South Carolina wasn’t in the path of totality, but the FDTC family witnessed a partial solar eclipse at more than 99% totality.

Everyone at the college stepped outside and stared at the solar eclipse that reached its maximum around 2:47 p.m. The college went from a bright partly cloudy day to a dim, eerie afternoon once the moon moved in front of the sun. It got just dark enough for the 5000 Building’s parking lot lights to automatically come on.

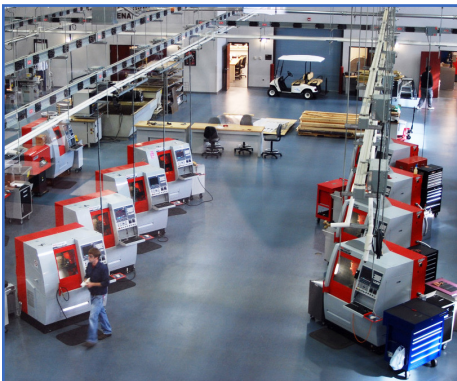


Students gathered at the 5000 Building’s fountain on the front of campus to view the rare solar eclipse that moved across the country on Monday, August 21, 2017.

FDTC CWD Helps Manufacturing Job Seekers

Florence-Darlington Technical College's Corporate and Workforce Development (CWD) division seeks to provide training that keeps a pipeline of skilled workers ready for employment at area companies. In addition, it seeks to support ongoing workforce development needs of employers in the Pee Dee region. The division is housed at the college's Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT).

Earlier this year, CWD launched one of its most successful training programs, the Manufacturing Skills: Pre-Employment Course. "The Manufacturing Skills classes are designed to equip individuals who are jobless or underemployed with three valuable manufacturing credentials in a fast and efficient manner, providing them an opportunity to be prepared for employment quickly," said Lauren Holland, Associate Vice President of CWD.



FDTC and the SiMT provide an array of tools and machines for students to work with while sharpening their job skills.

The Manufacturing Skills: Pre-Employment Course, offered each month, consists of 25 hours of certifications in Forklift Driving, Six Sigma Yellowbelt and OSHA 10 for General Industry. The



program is offered during the day but will be expanded this year to include evening sessions in order to accommodate individuals who are currently working but seeking an opportunity for a new career path. On the last two days of each course, employers with hiring needs are invited to interview students for open positions they have within their companies.

Two modifications of the program to provide quick training that will support workforce development and the recruitment of employees for both Warehousing/Logistics and Food Production industries are currently being explored and developed.

CWD Office Manager Elizabeth Shelton said the program has had much success. Shelton said, "We've placed nearly 30 students in jobs since we began the program in March, and employers are thrilled with the program, because where else are they going to see 15 job seekers with these credentials at one time?"

Holland said, "This program is a win-win for both employers and jobseekers."

Three of the Skills Manufacturing programs' biggest supporters are the Pee Dee Community Action Partnership, South Carolina Works and the state Vocational Rehabilitation Department. Patrick Williamson with the Florence Regional Office of the state agency said, "The partnership has been great for us because many of our clients are finding better paying skilled jobs."

To learn more about the Manufacturing Skills: Pre-Employment at FDTC, or for a schedule of upcoming classes, contact CWD via email at Elizabeth.Shelton@fdtc.edu or call 843 413-2727.