

**Ashley Holt:** Hello, and welcome to **Smoke Signals**, the podcast of the **Cherokee County Campus of Spartanburg Community College**. I'm your host, the library guy, Ashley Holt. Join us as we explore the programs, personnel and facilities of the **Cherokee County Campus**.

One of the biggest roadblocks to college education is cost. And since **Spartanburg Community College** works to encourage everyone to enjoy the benefits of an affordable education, new aid programs are always being developed to make the cost of college as negligible as possible. One such aid to Cherokee County residents is the **K-14 program**. I asked the **Executive Director** of the **Cherokee County Campus, Daryl Smith**, to explain.

*What can you tell me about the **K-14 scholarship**? This is a special scholarship for Cherokee County residents, is that right?*

**Daryl Smith:** That's right. It's a special scholarship that came out of a grassroots effort called **Cherokee KNOW2**. It is called the **K-14 Scholarship**, so from Kindergarten through the 14<sup>th</sup> grade. County Council feels like they're covering all those grades, and adding two more years. It is a third level scholarship designed to remove the concern that college is not affordable for someone. It covers any tuition left after all the federal and state funds have been exhausted, so it's a third level.

*So that's what we mean when we say third level scholarship: After all tuition costs that would be covered by a federal program or another scholarship, this is the scholarship that can step in and take care of the rest of that.*

That's right.

*And how long have we had this?*

It came out in 2010. Cherokee County Council appropriated funds for it, it was administered through others for a couple of years. Now it's administered by the college for the county. It's funded every year by them. It's a line item in their budget. And it's for any resident in Cherokee County who has lived here for twelve consecutive months at the time that they apply, and who has graduated from high school or received their GED in the past five years (or they'll waive the five years if the applicant is a veteran) and majors in one of eleven industrial or technical fields of study.

*So those eleven industrial/technical fields of study, what would that cover?*

Those are **Automated Manufacturing/Robotics, Automotive and Manufacturing Production Technologies, Electronics and Engineering, Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning, Industrial Electricity, Electronics, and Repair, Machine Tool Technology** (which is a real exciting field), **CNC (Computer Numerical Lab), Mechatronics, Nuclear Power/Radiation Protection** (which is a very unique program we have with **Duke Energy**) and **Welding**. That's more than eleven, but we lump those into eleven categories.

*And these are the kinds of industrial trades that the Cherokee County Campus is uniquely qualified to*

*deal with. We have some very special equipment here, for example, that maybe you can tell us about.*

We do. As part of the community effort to develop the workforce that County Council is trying to bring into industry, which has been fairly successful, we have a special building designed around those technologies. So we have unique simulators that simulate actual conditions in industry. We have a brand new, state of the art welding facility, brand new, state of the art machine tool technology lab and computer numerical control lab. So, very unique equipment, all brand new, all less than a year old.

*Right. This is the new facility we have as of last year, which is called the **CAMIT Building**. Maybe you can remind us what that stands for.*

Okay, it's the **Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Industrial Technology**.

*It's a very impressive facility. The K-14 Scholarship – does this cover books or fees or anything beyond the basic tuition?*

No, it just covers the tuition, which is the largest portion of the cost of going to college. Cherokee County Council wanted to remove that excuse, "I can't afford the tuition," so they've done that.

*So this scholarship – what period of time is this covering? Is this covering a year or per semester?*

It's a by-semester basis. Each student would have to apply for it every semester. They do that to make sure they're making good academic progress. So it's for one semester.

*Have we had a lot of success so far in folks signing up for the scholarship?*

The scholarship has been most successful in that it removes the excuse that you can't afford to go to college. So most students who come to us and ask about this scholarship actually don't need it because the federal government and the state government typically will cover all due tuition, and often cover their books and everything. We have plenty of students who go with almost nothing out-of-pocket for two years. In fact, some who go without anything out-of-pocket for two years. But we've had, since 2010, 15 graduates who have used the scholarship at certain times during their enrollment. They're all working in the field of study that they came to study, so it's been very successful.

*So this is one of those barriers to convincing a student that they have a future with a college education.*

They do. For very good jobs. These young folks are typically making \$45 - \$50,000 per year to start. So these are good careers.

*Well, the most important question here that we want to get across is how does someone apply for this scholarship?*

After they apply for state and federal funds, which they do through FAFSA (which we can help them do), they can come to the **Administrative Office** of **Spartanburg Community College** on the **Cherokee**

**County Campus.** That's **Room 125** in the **Harvey S. Peeler, Jr. Academic Building** on the **Cherokee County Campus.** And after they've exhausted all those federal and state financial aid sources, they complete an application here. And then they sign a release that they'll allow the **County Administration** and the **Cherokee KNOW2** leadership to see their records to make sure they're making good academic progress. And they also have to agree to give a monthly progress report for each class. And if they're okay with all of that, then their tuition is covered. They can go tuition-free, basically.

*And we also have information online about the **KNOW2** programs.*

We do. On our website, [www.sccsc.edu/ccc](http://www.sccsc.edu/ccc). On that page you'll see some details about the **KNOW2**.

*And if they want to call someone about more information about the program, who would they get in touch with?*

They can call me. My name's **Daryl Smith**. My number is **864-206-2702**.

*Thank you very much, Daryl.*

Thank you.

Ashley: Thanks for joining us. Remember to visit us online at [www.sccsc.edu](http://www.sccsc.edu) for more information. See you next time!