

President's Newsletter

Second Quarter | 2016

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SPARTANBURG COMMUNITY COLLEGE



CONGRATULATIONS 2016 SCC GRADUATES!



SCC: Changing

SCC student Lucas Polin has a bright future with BMW



With graduation under his belt, Lucas Polin left his last exam with his future assured. Polin, 22, left behind a golf scholarship at North Greenville University in order to enroll in Spartanburg Community College's mechatronics program and pursue the BMW Technical Scholars Program. After an extensive application process, BMW admitted Polin in the summer of 2014, along with a handful of other high performance, driven SCC students.

Mechatronics is a combination of robotics, electrical and mechanical engineering. Polin said he became interested in the technical study from working on the diesel engines at his grandfather's farm. For nearly two years, Polin has been under BMW's wing, working 35 hours a week while picking up 12 credit hours on SCC's central campus.

"I would work a shortened night shift from 8 at night to 3 in the morning, then I would have to be up at 7 a.m. to be at class by 8 a.m.," Polin said. "When SCC

"The SCC Technical Scholars Program opened a large door for me at BMW that a lot of students don't get — even after graduating."

Lucas Polin

has holiday or extended breaks, we (the scholars) are at BMW taking even more classes. It gives an in-depth knowledge of the machinery at the plant; we learn a lot here."

Even with a hectic schedule, Polin has still earned a 4.0 GPA. In March, he was selected by BMW as the #1 Top Scholar and was sent to Germany for a one week, fully expensed trip to celebrate the automaker's 100-year celebration. He was able to tour Munich and meet other scholars from all over the world. BMW has also offered him a full-time position after graduation as an ESA Maintenance Technician.

"The SCC Technical Scholars Program opened a large door for me at BMW that a lot of students don't get — even after graduating," Polin said. "I was very fortunate to get in and I credit my parents and fiancé for keeping me going."

As for his future plans, Polin said he's looking forward to a life-long career at BMW, and marrying his fiancé in October 2016.

Lives & Building

Campus Highlights

SCC Central Campus

Three members of the Spartanburg Community College team were recognized for their commitment to education. The college selected Jay Jackson, director of Evaluation, Accreditation & Planning; Renee Trammell, program director, Administrative Office Technology; and David Barber, maintenance supervisor; to receive South Carolina Technical Education Association awards. The recipients were recognized at SCTEA's annual conference in February.



SCC Cherokee County Campus

The Cherokee County Campus has added Computer Numerically Controlled mills and lathe trainers in a classroom for the advanced machine tool classes. The program will be ready next semester. Students in Cherokee County who meet certain criteria may be able to take advantage of the Cherokee Know2 K-14 Scholarship, funded by Cherokee County Council. Students who qualify for the scholarship can attend the machine tool program tuition free.



SCC Downtown Campus

In early April, the Downtown Campus hosted the second annual State Alliance for Safe Students Summit. More than 100 educators, counselors, and others dedicated to students' well-being from across South Carolina attended the two-day conference that focused on freeing students from discrimination, harassment, bullying and violence.



SCC Tyger River Campus

Renovations to the Center for Business and Entrepreneurial Development were completed recently. The space adds 13 offices, nine cubicles, two conference rooms and two flexible training spaces to help entrepreneurs and businesses launch, build, expand and reorganize.



SCC Union County Campus

As part of a special agreement with Union County, the Union County Advanced Technology Center will officially become one of SCC's five campuses on July 1, 2016. College leaders are working through a reorganization plan that will rename the location the SCC Union County Campus and position the campus to provide more programs, services and course offerings to residents and to workforce partners.



Futures Since 1963

Leaders In Our Community: George Dean Johnson, Jr., has built his legacy in business and public service circles



George Dean Johnson, Jr.

The entrepreneurial and public service reach of George Dean Johnson, Jr., extends far beyond South Carolina, but his roots are firmly entrenched in Spartanburg.

Johnson was raised in Spartanburg and graduated from Wofford College in 1964. Three years later, he earned a law degree from the University of South Carolina.

In 1969, Johnson was elected to the state House of Representatives and eventually served three terms, winning once each as an independent, as a Democrat and as a Republican. He served as chairman of the S.C. Development Board and as president of the S.C. Chamber of Commerce. He is also past Director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

opment Board and as president of the S.C. Chamber of Commerce. He is also past Director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

But Johnson is most noted for his career in building businesses and his executive leadership. He co-founded and directed two companies onto the New York Stock Exchange in the 1990s. Among his numerous executive board seats are Extended Stay America, Norfolk Southern, Advance America Cash Advance and Duke Energy.

Today, Johnson is founder and chairman of Johnson Development Associates, Inc., which develops and manages retail space, industrial space, office space and apartments.

Johnson has also been a vital ally to Spartanburg Community College. When the college was exploring expansion to downtown Spartanburg, he was one of four community leaders who helped spearhead the project and secured the former Evans Building. That historic facility once served as a high school that Johnson himself had attended.

After renovation was completed in 2013, the building returned to its original purpose as an educational facility and would become the Evans Academic Center at the Spartanburg Community College Downtown Campus.



Dear friends,

On July 1, the Union County Advanced Technology Center will officially join the Spartanburg Community College family as our fifth campus. This step will be reflected in a name change, but more importantly, this move is representative of an emboldened commitment to Union County, its residents and its corporate partners.

As evidenced by SCC's success in Spartanburg and Cherokee counties, an educated workforce is critical when attracting and retaining manufacturing jobs. As a full-fledged campus, SCC's Union County Campus will feature expanded course offerings in high-demand fields such as mechatronics, welding, machine tooling and health sciences. Students seeking to land careers in these areas will no longer need to travel elsewhere for classes, and companies that have invested in Union County can begin to help grow their own workforce.

These students will also receive coursework in areas such as English, math and general education — courses that previously had been restricted. By offering such courses, and through partnerships with Union County High School, students can begin earning dual credit and preparing for their futures even before earning their high school diplomas. These opportunities help create a steady stream of qualified employees for a growing manufacturing base.

All of these changes would not have been possible without the vision and leadership of Union County Council and Union County Supervisor Frank Hart, who saw the need for expanded educational offerings and fostered the transition to a full campus. Often, when companies are examining sites for potential investment, county leaders are asked about technical training facilities and the available workforce. Now, with the resources of a full campus available, Union County and SCC are better positioned to meet the needs of prospective employers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Henry C. Giles, Jr.'.

Henry C. Giles, Jr.
President, Spartanburg Community College

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SCC receives Global Attention for Magnolia Project

Spartanburg Community College students recently counted out seeds that will sprout Magnolia trees across the globe.

When a Harvard University professor decided to relinquish his duties overseeing the Magnolia Society International seed counter project, the organization looked to Kevin Parris, SCC's Horticulture instructor/Arboretum coordinator, to take over the role.



Kevin Parris, SCC Horticulture instructor/Arboretum coordinator

In February, under Parris' direction, students, staff and volunteers sorted through packages containing dozens of varieties of magnolia seeds — mailed in from Magnolia Society supporters from around the world. The seeds were organized, counted and sorted into smaller amounts. Those 10-15 seed packages were then redistributed to arborists, gardeners and other enthusiasts in countries such as Belgium, Sweden and Australia.

“There are people in Finland, Germany, Estonia who are seeing that this seed is from Spartanburg, S.C.,” Parris said.