SCC Degree Gives Pinkham Confidence to Pursue Her Dream

After six years of higher education, Mary Pinkham is ready to be on the other side of the desk.

When she graduated from high school in 1978, she declined a music scholarship to college, instead focusing on being a wife and mother. At 47, after years of working as a bookkeeper at a trucking company, Pinkham found herself divorced and ready for a change.

In January 2008, she enrolled at Spartanburg Community College.

“I didn't have a lot of self confidence that I could do it,” Pinkham said. “And my first semester at SCC, I made the Dean’s List, and I was like, ‘Yeah, I got this.’ ”

She later earned an associate degree in management, but she didn't stop there. After 30 years out of the classroom, Pinkham decided to keep pushing herself to achieve more. She earned a bachelor degree in management and a master of business administration. Now the 55-year-old Spartanburg resident is pursuing her doctorate in management and organizational leadership. She expects to complete the program in July 2018.

Having an advanced education and pursuing her dreams has changed Pinkham’s life and people’s perception of her.

“When they see, MBA at the end of my name and see that I’m in a doctoral program, they’re like, ‘Wow!’ ” she said.

A longtime tutor, Pinkham now plans to transition into teaching on the college level, perhaps at SCC.

“Whether it’s a child or an adult learner working on a GED, I love to teach,” she said. “I love to make a difference.”
Campus Highlights

SCC Central Campus
For the second year, SCC hosted the Ultimate Technology Summer Camp: STEM in Action at the central campus. The two-week long sessions were designed to encourage interest in science, technology, engineering and math. Rising 8th and 9th grade students who applied and qualified attended the camp.

SCC Cherokee County Campus
The Cherokee County Campus recently added three programs to the curriculum that are available this fall. Students can now enroll in machine tool technology, welding and mechatronics. These programs have all been possible due to the recent expansion of the campus with the Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Industrial Technologies building that opened for classes in September.

SCC Downtown Campus
On Aug. 1, the Downtown Campus hosted ReGenesis Health Cares’ 10th Spartanburg Back to School Health Fair. More than 1,500 health screenings were performed for 844 children. Nearly 170 volunteers - many of them clinical - participated in the event, as did more than 60 vendors and sponsors.

SCC Tyger River Campus
The Tyger River Campus has been awarded the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council Authorized Center Award, which was, presented to schools-centers around the country that are leaders in assessing individuals for MSSC industry-recognized nationally portable certifications.

Union County Advanced Technology Center
The Union County Advanced Technology Center partnered with SC Works and the Union County Development Board to host an industry job fair on August 6. Eleven Union County industries and more than 300 job seekers participated in the event.
Leaders In Our Community: Hubert C. Dobson

Spartanburg Community College lost a stalwart supporter in June when Hubert Clyde Dobson died at the age of 85.

Dobson served on the Spartanburg County Commission for Technical and Community Education for 16 years. From 2001 to 2005, he served as commission chairman, overseeing a time of unparalleled growth for the college. The numerous projects completed during Dobson's time leading the commission included the opening of the Health Sciences Building in July 2001, the construction and completion of the Dan L. Terhune Student Services Building in October 2003 and the development of the 60-acre Cherokee County Campus in August 2004.

Dobson's commitment and service to Spartanburg Community College is acknowledged in May 2009 with the naming of the Dobson Commissioners' Dining Room, which is located in the Terhune Student Services Building, on the central campus in Spartanburg.

Dobson received his education at Wellford-Lyman-Tucapau High School and Spartanburg Junior College. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, and was later a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

After starting his career in data processing, Dobson later formed his own employment agency, Excel, in Greenville, and even after retiring, he started a computer sales and repair company. An active member of Holy Communion Lutheran Church for 38 years, Dobson is survived by his wife, Ann Hammond Dobson, and two sisters.

After his passing on June 8, Dobson's obituary noted, “Although he had many other interests, Hubert’s biggest passion in life was serving on the Board of Commissioners for Spartanburg Community College.”
Dear Friends,

In today's evolving economy, Spartanburg Community College is playing an increasingly critical role in meeting the needs of manufacturers, while also preparing students for the working world.

In order to meet the challenge of preparing tomorrow's workers, we are going further than ever before to educate faculty on cutting-edge industry practices, to identify particular skills needed by large employers and to build an employee base before the first products roll off assembly lines.

Perhaps there is no better example of this innovative strategy than Kobelco Construction Machinery Co., which specializes in the manufacture, sale and service of construction machinery. Kobelco is investing $41 million to build a plant in Moore - a move that is expected to generate 131 jobs.

In anticipation of this investment, SCC and ReadySC have entered into a unique partnership to better glean information about the company’s needs and how to best prepare South Carolina workers for employment there.

In March, SCC sent Jay Coffer, department chair of advanced manufacturing, and Jeff Hunt, dean of technologies, to Hiroshima, Japan to tour Kobelco, meeting with executives and learning firsthand the types of skills necessary to work at the more than 110-year old company. That on-site knowledge will be critical in preparing workers for the company's venture, which is expected to be completed in December. ReadySC and SCC are already working in concert to fill open positions.

This symbiotic relationship between a large manufacturer, SCC and its partner organizations is the right step forward for our students and the Upstate economy, and it's a process that we hope to replicate many times.

Through this process, we can continue to build lasting relationships with this area’s major employers before their first day of business in the Upstate. In doing so, we ensure the company has a fruitful supply of workers, we position our students for successful careers, and, we serve an important role in building and sustaining the Upstate economy.

Sincerely,

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

P.O. Box 4386 Spartanburg, SC 29305 | 107 Community College Drive Spartanburg, SC 29303
(864) 592-4600 | 1-800-922-3679 | www.sccsc.edu
Spartanburg Community College, along with various community and statewide partners, launched the Aligning for Success campaign on Aug. 6. The program is designed to engage high school students to match their interests with their abilities and align both with in-demand skills and jobs. The launch was attended by dozens of community and business leaders, as well as S.C. Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman.

As part of the effort, SCC unveiled a video entitled “Aligning for Success,” which will be shown to schools throughout Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union counties, and is available at www.aligningforsuccess.com.