Anita Whitney already had a successful career. After graduating from Columbia College in 1983, she went to work for a software company and spent the next 15 years moving her way up to a systems engineer. A move into the international department meant traveling for months at a time in Norway and Finland. Still, something was missing.

One day, Whitney’s son, Bo, and three of his friends came home talking about mechatronics classes at Spartanburg Community College, encouraging her to look into the program. “I felt a different calling,” the mother of four said recently. “I have always loved working on things. And when things broke around the house, my kids and husband were looking for me to get involved and fix the problem.”

Whitney enrolled at SCC and began taking classes in summer 2014. After driving from her home in Union to Spartanburg for morning classes, she would then commute to SCC in Gaffney for a hand-tools class. She experienced first-hand the need for expanded offerings at SCC’s Cherokee County Campus.

In October, Whitney shared her story as part of the grand opening of the Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Industrial Technologies (CAMIT) at the Cherokee County Campus. The new, $9 million state-of-the-art facility - the college’s third building on the campus - will train students for careers in a variety of in-demand occupations, such as automated manufacturing, machine tooling and welding.

“South Carolina should be applauded for bringing some amazing industry to our state. And with the industry comes opportunities,” Whitney told community and school leaders at the event. “Our government officials promised a trained workforce, and this facility is a prime example of what our state can look forward to in the future. Many of my current classmates are from Gaffney. With the expense of gas, time away from job and family, this new facility will allow those students a greater opportunity to be successful in securing a future for themselves and their family.”

With help from her instructors, Whitney secured a place in the Technical Scholars Program with Michelin North America. She expects to graduate in December and hopes to join the company full time.

“I have been truly blessed and humbled by the opportunity I have been given,” Whitney said. “Spartanburg Community College has given me a new hope and unbelievable opportunity.”
Campus Highlights

SCC Central Campus

Spartanburg Community College kicked off its Lyceum Lecture Series on Oct. 14 in the Tracey Gaines Auditorium on the central campus with a presentation on the history of Spartanburg mill villages. On Nov. 17, the second lecture in the series focused on the painting of landscapes. The Lyceum Lecture Series continues in 2016 with presentations on Feb. 25 about “To Kill a Mockingbird” and March 22 on beekeeping.

SCC Cherokee County Campus

The Cherokee County Campus on Oct. 22 hosted Earl F. Gohl, federal co-chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission. The event celebrated the funding partnerships that contributed to the new Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Industrial Technologies, which opened in September. Gohl also presented a new $642,496 grant from the Southern Appalachian Automotive Workforce Allocation.

SCC Downtown Campus

On Nov. 5, the Downtown Campus hosted a portion of SCC’s fourth WOW - Wonders of Writing - Symposium. The event included an open forum for students, faculty and staff on the SCC Central Campus and an evening program with authors John Lane and Jon Sealy in the Evans Academic Center.

SCC Tyger River Campus

The Testing Center at the Tyger River Campus is working closely with Toray Industries to provide Occupational Safety and Health Administration training and testing to its project contractors. Through March, the Testing Center expects to serve about 1,200 contractors.

Union County Advanced Technology Center

Union County Advanced Technology Center hosted a Manufacturing Career Expo for eighth-grade students from Sims Middle School on Nov. 6. Students enrolled in Randall Hanvey’s design and modeling class were able to view live demonstrations and participate in hands-on activities.
Leaders In Our Community:
Bill Barnet, CEO of the Northside Development Group and former Mayor of the City of Spartanburg

When community leaders cut the ribbon to celebrate the official opening of the Evans Academic Center in downtown Spartanburg in October 2013, Bill Barnet stood to one side, scissors in hand.

As one of Spartanburg's greatest advocates, Barnet was instrumental in bringing new life to the former high school and bolstering the city's reputation for supporting education. So clear is that devotion that Spartanburg Community College and School District 7 named the Vikings Early College Student Lounge and Study Area at the SCC Downtown Campus for Barnet and his wife, Valerie.

"Spartanburg is a college town," the former mayor said at the time.

Barnet's commitment to Spartanburg is evident in the countless hours he devotes to furthering the causes of education, job creation and improving quality of life.

Barnet earned a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth and a Master of Business Administration from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth. He is the CEO of The Barnet Company and Barnet Development Co., and has served on numerous boards, including those overseeing Duke Energy, Spartanburg County Foundation and the S.C. Education Oversight Committee.

Among his numerous honors, Barnet has received the Business Leader of the Year award from the S.C. Chamber of Commerce, the Neville Holcombe Distinguished Citizenship Award from the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce and the Order of the Palmetto.

In recent years, Barnet has focused much of his efforts on revitalizing the city of Spartanburg's Northside neighborhood. As CEO of the group encouraging redevelopment efforts, he helped foster the creation of Harvest Park, a healthy food hub that features the Monarch Cafe. The project also calls for a new state-of-the-T.K. Gregg Recreation Center and new housing to strengthen the community.
Dear friends,

As you all know too well, we live in trying times. The threat of terrorism looms, both at home and abroad, and coverage of attacks around the world fill the evening news. Now, more than ever, it is crucial that we help care for the brave men and women who stand against the threat of terrorism. I am proud to say Spartanburg Community College is helping our veterans succeed in life after the military.

For the past five years, G.I. Jobs Magazine has named SCC as a Military Friendly School, ranking our institution in the top 15 percent of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide for our commitment to addressing the needs of student-veterans. While SCC is grateful for this national recognition, it is not the honor that motivates our instructors and staff in this cause – instead, it is their devotion to all of our students and their desire to help students improve their lives through education.

Any student-veteran needing to talk about his or her challenges can simply look for a star symbol near an instructor’s or staff member’s office. If present, the symbol indicates a Green Zone for military students or staff and their family members, and signifies that particular individual is available to discuss their challenges and assist them in finding needed resources. In the Jack A. Powers Building on our central campus, veterans needing a place to reflect, study or spend down time, can go to our new Warriors Lounge, which is staffed with a part-time SCC ambassador who is also a veteran. They also are encouraged to join the SCC Student Veterans Association, another wonderful resource for military veterans, current service members and dependents, providing a supportive environment for networking and camaraderie.

Veterans and spouses of active duty personnel are also eligible to participate in the SC ACCELERATE program, which expands educational and career opportunities for adult learners by preparing them for in-demand jobs in the manufacturing sector. Eligible veterans can also receive education benefits through SCC’s Veterans Affairs Office.

The college’s outreach to veterans extends beyond our student population. For example, a group of veterans meets regularly at our Tyger River Campus in Duncan to discuss current issues and matters of interest, etc., and in September, we welcomed another resource for students and the community when Upstate Warrior Solutions opened a new office on the first floor of the SCC Downtown Campus. UWS helps veterans transition into civilian life by connecting them and their families to resources and opportunities, while inspiring communities to embrace warriors and families as valued neighbors and friends.

While much is being done, the mission of helping our veterans is far from over. As an institution and as a community, we must continue to support these brave men and women who have given so much on our behalf.

Sincerely,

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

P.O. Box 4386 Spartanburg, SC 29305 | 107 Community College Drive Spartanburg, SC 29303
(864) 592-4601 | 1-800-922-3679 | www.sccsc.edu

SCC Central Campus
107 Community College Drive | Spartanburg, SC 29303
infoSCC@sccsc.edu

SCC Downtown Campus
220 East Kennedy Street | Spartanburg, SC 29302
infoDC@sccsc.edu

SCC Cherokee County Campus
523 Chesnee Highway | Gaffney, SC 29341
infoCCC@sccsc.edu

SCC Tyger River Campus
1875 East Main Street | Duncan, SC 29334
infoTRC@sccsc.edu

Union County Advanced Technology Center
1401 Furman L. Fendley Highway | Union, SC 29379
infoUN@sccsc.edu
Thousands of eighth-grade students from public schools throughout Spartanburg, Union and Cherokee counties explored their future career options as part of the inaugural Upstate College & Career Readiness Showcase.

About 4,700 students attended the event, held on the University of South Carolina Upstate campus on Oct. 7-8. The showcase was a partnership between SCC, the S.C. Department of Commerce, USC Upstate, the Upstate Regional Education Center Board, the Upstate Workforce Investment Board and the school districts in Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union counties.

During the two-day event, students heard from professionals in various fields, gathered information from local colleges - and even got an up-close look inside the medical helicopter, Regional One.