Dear friends,

On Oct. 23, a tornado struck Spartanburg Community College, tearing trees from their roots, shattering windows and causing in excess of $1.1 million in damage across the Central Campus. Neighboring facilities fared worse, with roofs ripped from their foundations and 18-wheelers upended onto the interstate.

Today, however, we reflect not on those things that were torn apart, but rather on what joined together. At SCC, we frequently witness the goodness of our students, faculty, staff and our partners in the community; we see it in ways great and small each day. When an event, such as a tornado strikes, it often reveals the inherent bonds within a community, and this was no exception.

Greenville Technical College sent help for two days. Livesay Correctional Institution sent a crew. The University of South Carolina Upstate brought a vacuum trailer to clear debris from parking lots. Two landscape companies, one of which was owned by an SCC horticulture graduate, were on campus; another volunteered equipment. Case Tree Service had employees on campus all week removing partially broken and potentially dangerous limbs from trees. Even though it had sustained damage from the same storm, Spartanburg Methodist College offered assistance. Spartanburg County Administrator Katherine O’Neill offered resources, as did The Timken Co. in Union County. The list goes on, and is humbling as an institution.

In addition to the outside assistance, SCC’s own faculty and staff helped students and their fellow colleagues. In particular, horticulture instructors and students went above and beyond. Immediately following the storm, they went to work clearing debris so that others could move vehicles and exit parking lots, and they continued working through the week.

As horticulture instructor Jay Moore surveyed the damage, he commented on the fallen trees, saying, “This just opens up opportunities for us.”

As with most challenges, opportunities will come from this storm – in the form of planting new generations of trees, for example. As an institution, the damage also presented us an opportunity to lean on one another and to be thankful for those friends who offer help in times of need.

Sincerely,

Henry C. Giles, Jr.
President, Spartanburg Community College
Through his experiences working for Chick-fil-A in high school, Carson Donald knows he wants to either own one of the fast food giant’s restaurants or work for the company. The 2017 Boiling Springs High School graduate appreciates the family-owned company's commitment to servant leadership.

The 18-year-old has traveled to the Atlanta-based company’s corporate headquarters twice and plans to work on a team that helps new Chick-fil-A restaurants open.

“I just started working there in high school, and I just loved it,” Donald said.

Donald, who serves as one of SCC’s student ambassadors, recently shared some of his story during the college’s annual legislative delegation luncheon on Nov. 16, where SCC President Henry Giles thanked Donald and the other ambassadors for their service.

“Carson is one of the student ambassadors who leads tours and represents the college in our community,” Giles said. “They just help us out immeasurably in what they are doing.”

In deciding to attend SCC, Donald took the advice of his older brother, who is in his third year at the University of South Carolina Upstate. His brother encouraged him to save money by taking many of his core classes at SCC before transferring to Clemson University.

Donald said he has enjoyed his studies at SCC, and he plans to enter Clemson as a sophomore next fall. There, he wants to study business before working in the Chick-fil-A family fulltime.

**Studying at SCC a pleasure for this Chick-fil-A fan**

“Carson Donald

[Image of Carson Donald]

**Save the Date:**

**2018 Economic Visionaries Event**

Thursday, March 22, 2018 | 5:15 - 8:00 pm
Spartanburg Marriott
Keynote Speaker - Lynn Good, Duke Energy President & CEO

SCC will host Economic Visionaries 2018, a signature event to recognize and honor four Upstate companies as Economic Visionaries for their extraordinary leadership in transforming the Upstate of South Carolina.

Sponsorship & Nomination information available online:
www.sccsc.edu/economicvisionaries/
SCC Central Campus

SCC hosted the 2017 Arboretum Adventures event: Down the Garden Path – A Shared Journey of Horticultural Excess at the college’s Central Campus in Spartanburg on Oct. 26 at the Tracy J. Gaines Building auditorium. The event featured an evening of presentations by Adrienne and Jon Roethling, two dynamic horticulturists from North Carolina. Adrienne Roethling is the curator at the Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden in Kernersville, N.C., and her husband, Jon, is the curator of the Mariana H. Qubein Arboretum & Botanical Gardens at High Point University.

SCC Cherokee County Campus

Administrators from the Cherokee Campus and SCC financial aid department experts hosted two S.C. College Goal Events in the fall semester, one at Blacksburg High School and one at Gaffney High School. The events are part of a partnership between the S.C. Technical College System and Commission on Higher Education. Financial aid experts helped 42 students and parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) so they can attend the college of their choice.

SCC Downtown Campus

SCC celebrated the relocation of the college’s School of Business to the Downtown Campus during a special celebration on Sept. 26. The event welcomed community leaders, elected officials, students and business graduates. Guest speakers at the event included Max Hyde, founder of Hyde Law Firm and Spartanburg City Councilman-elect for District 4, and Ben Stubbs, an SCC business graduate and an outreach coordinator with Upstate Warrior Solution.

SCC Tyger River Campus

Thousands of Upstate students learned about great paying jobs at area companies during the third annual Upstate College & Career Showcase, which was held on Oct. 4-5 at the Tyger River Campus in Duncan. Approximately, 4,300 ninth grade students from Spartanburg, Union and Cherokee counties explored their opportunities, gathering information from Upstate colleges and businesses. The event coincided with S.C. Manufacturing Week as a way to recognize career opportunities in that field in the Palmetto State.

SCC Union County Campus

Middle school students from Sims Middle, Jonesville Middle, Lockhart Middle and Union Christian Day schools participated in a career day event at the Union Campus on Nov. 4. Students took a closer look at several programs offered at SCC, including mechatronics, welding, computer technology and health science programs. Local businesses also spoke with participating students about employment opportunities.
If you have visited the Central Campus recently, you cannot miss Sue G. Schneider’s influence on Spartanburg Community College.

In 2014, Schneider, CEO of Spartanburg Water System, partnered with SCC to paint the water tower near campus with the college’s logo, an act of partnership that resulted in an iconic image. More recently, Schneider and Spartanburg Water have been instrumental partners in creating a monument sign that welcomes visitors to the Central Campus and to Spartanburg as a whole. The sign, which can be seen just off Business 85, is part of a larger effort among Spartanburg leaders to improve the gateways into our community.

Since 2015, local business and community leaders have improved and revitalized an 8-mile stretch of Business 85, which serves as an important thoroughfare for business, industry and motorists. Because first impressions matter, overgrown vegetation has been removed. Broken fencing has been removed, and signage has been replaced with modern, welcoming signs.

SCC President Henry Giles said in addition to Schneider, the following community leaders have played an instrumental role in the beautification project: Spartanburg County Council Chairman Jeff Horton, Spartanburg County Councilman David Britt, Economic Futures Group Executive Vice President Carter Smith, S.C. Department of Transportation Commissioner Woody Willard, Milliken & Co. CEO J. Harold Chandler, horticulturalist Stewart Winslow, Pacolet Milliken Enterprises Research Coordinator Jennifer Calabria, landscape architect Mark Byington, Spartanburg County Administrator Katherine O’Neill, former City of Spartanburg mayor Bill Barnet, Montgomery Development Group CEO John Montgomery, Livesay Correctional Institution Warden George Dodkin.

For Schneider, the beautification project also hearkens back to her roots. Schneider received her Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture from The Ohio State University, a Master of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Business Administration from Wake Forest University. She joined Spartanburg Water in 1998 as the Assistant General Manager and was promoted to CEO in 2007. Schneider is the recipient of the Morgan Award by the United Way of the Piedmont and the Neville Holcombe Distinguished Citizenship Award by the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce.
A generous donation from Milliken & Co. is one step closer to starting a new truck driver training program. On Oct. 3, Milliken donated a 53-foot trailer that will be used to train students enrolled in the college’s new commercial driver’s license (CDL) or truck driver training program.

CEO, President and Chairman of the Board of Milliken J. Harold Chandler presented SCC President Henry C. Giles with the trailer at the college’s Central Campus in Spartanburg at a meeting between executives from both organizations.

The group visited the college’s Center for Automated Manufacturing and Industrial Technology (CAMIT), which includes classrooms and labs for the mechatronics, process control and robotics programs of study, as well as SCC’s career services department, which manages the technical scholars program and apprenticeship opportunities. The group also visited the college’s Corporate & Community Education division and the Spartanburg County Early College, which is housed on SCC’s central campus.