



It's Working.

2016  
State of the  
College



The Technical College of the Lowcountry is a public, two-year, multi-campus community college serving approximately 5,000 students annually. TCL employs more than 300 full-time and part-time faculty and staff. The college offers a variety of curricular programs, including university transfer options, career and continuing education, distance learning, and dual enrollment for high school students. Tuition at TCL is generally about half the cost of the tuition at South Carolina's public universities.

TCL is committed to providing students with opportunities to acquire the knowledge and skills

that will enable them to graduate, continue their education, pursue the career of their choice, and be productive citizens. The college offers programs in arts and sciences, agriculture, business, health sciences, computer technology, industrial technology and public service. The college provides comprehensive student services, including academic advising and career counseling. TCL promotes economic development through workforce education courses and customized training that directly serve the needs of Lowcountry business and industries.

The college graduates more than 300 students annually. These graduates receive associate degrees, diplomas and certificates. Fully 93% of TCL graduates either go on to four-year institutions or move directly into jobs – jobs here, in the Lowcountry. More than 10,000 TCL alumni live and work in the Lowcountry.



## Letter from the president

Dear Friends,

The mission of TCL can be stated quite simply: provide the Lowcountry with a “college that works.” This mission is vital to our community and our state. I consider it my personal obligation to ensure that we succeed.

A good career path must be aligned with current and future economic needs. In the years to come, 57% of available jobs will be “middle-skilled” – requiring more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree. Community colleges like TCL offer just this kind of training. Our role, increasingly important to our region and state, is to fortify the economy by offering programs that produce a trained, skilled workforce.

TCL is a gateway to opportunity for all citizens of the Lowcountry. We are Inclusive, Community-Based, and Career-Oriented. TCL is an open-access, inclusive college, welcoming all who desire to learn, regardless of wealth, heritage, or previous academic experience. TCL is community-based, producing workers who meet local employment needs. And TCL is career-oriented, focusing on education and training that will lead directly to employment.

I want TCL to become the best college it can be. In 2015, we accomplished a great deal. We celebrated the opening of the Veterans Resource Center, expanded our aviation technology program, and relaunched our culinary certificate program. These are important achievements – but we intend to do more.

As I look at 2016 and beyond, my vision for TCL includes a dedicated Health Sciences Campus; a Regional Workforce Training Center; and a fully developed Culinary Arts Institute. We want to launch our auto technology program, expand our logistics program and provide much-needed CDL training. To succeed we need to be good partners with our resort and tourism industry, with our local government and schools, and with the businesses that drive the Lowcountry economy. Such partnerships will help our college to meet the Lowcountry’s workforce needs, now and the years to come.

I look forward to accomplishing all of this – and a great deal more – by working together with you in this new year.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Richard J. Gough  
TCL President



## Even closer: TCL unites couple in success

**Husband and wife Reece and Mikie Bertholf share an important similarity: both are exceptional TCL alumni. Their paths to and from TCL, however, are uniquely their own.**

A Minnesota native, Reece enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps after high school graduation. His military service brought him to Japan, where he met Mikie, the woman he'd later marry.

In 1997, the couple moved to the United States.

Mikie, who was far from her native country of Japan, was determined to overcome the language barrier and began formally studying English. In 2001, Mikie moved to Beaufort to join Reece, who was stationed at Marine Corps Air Station.

Soon after, Reece completed his military service and decided to enroll at TCL while working full time at the Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Department.

"I knew education would give me more opportunity to move up in my career field," he said.

Mikie turned to TCL, too. She became fluent in English and focused on classes to prepare her for college-level curriculum. Her hard work paid off, and she was accepted into TCL's highly competitive radiologic technology program.

In 2008, Reece graduated with two associate degrees in general business and in fire service administration.

One year later, Mikie earned her own associate degree in radiologic technology.

But for both, TCL was just the beginning.

Reece transferred his TCL credits directly to USC-Beaufort, where he earned a bachelor's degree. In 2013, he received a master's in business administration from The Citadel. During this same time, Reece also excelled professionally, and in 2015, he was named Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Department Chief.

**"TCL gave me confidence and helped me realize what I could accomplish," Reece said.**

Meanwhile, Mikie earned a bachelor's degree in radiologic sciences from Midwestern University in Texas and joined Beaufort Memorial Hospital as a computed tomography technologist.

In the midst of all these classes and careers, the Bertholfs had two children, Kiwa and Kai. Setting an example for them helped Reece and Mikie stay motivated.

"I didn't do this for myself, but to show my children and other people that if I can do it, you can too," Mikie said.

Though the time before and after TCL has been vastly different for Reece and Mikie, they will always be united as successful TCL alumni.

## Back to college: getting a degree that works

Many students choose TCL as a starting point for their higher education and career goals. But for others, TCL is an expansion of university degrees they already hold.

This is the case for TCL nursing student Lindsay Richardson, who has a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Salisbury University in Maryland.

"I knew having a specific skill or trade was key to putting me ahead of my peers," she said.

Data show that more college and university graduates like Lindsay are choosing to further their education at a community college.

In fact, one out of every 14 community college students has already earned a bachelor's degree, according to the American Association of Community Colleges. At some community colleges, the proportion is as high as one in five.

Health care programs like nursing are popular among these students as are programs in technology, computers and other high-skill fields.

Improving employability is often the primary motivation among students, whether beginning or adding to their college experience. "The education TCL provides is extremely important to job security," Lindsay said.



TCL prepares students for future careers by providing in-demand programs that offer practical learning opportunities in and out of the classroom. Many students also receive additional hands-on practice at clinical sites located throughout Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton and Colleton counties.

**"The education TCL provides is extremely important to job security," Lindsay said.**

Program cost and reputation were also important factors in Lindsay's decision to go back to college at TCL.

"I didn't want to go into debt, and TCL is very affordable," she said. "Plus, former students I know spoke highly of the program."

Going back to school holds different meanings for different people. For Lindsay, already a university graduate, it meant returning to the Technical College of the Lowcountry to pursue an associate degree in nursing.

As Lindsay prepares to graduate from college again, she knows she's earning a degree that works.



## TCL works for the military:

- On-base classes and staffing
- Nationally designated a “Military Friendly School”
- Scholarship assistance specifically for military members and their families
- Approved to offer Veterans Administration (VA) educational benefit programs
- Member of the Service members Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Consortium and the SOC Degree Network System.

# Veterans Resource Center helps military, strengthens Lowcountry

Appropriately, Veterans Day served as opening day for the College’s Veterans Resource Center, which provides military members and their families a more personalized enrollment experience while fostering a stronger sense of community.

“The VRC is the perfect way for TCL to show our appreciation and give back to these great American men and women who themselves have given so much,” President Richard Gough said.

Because enrolling in college can be especially complex for the military, the VRC offers a quicker and easier path to coordination of education benefits, admissions, financial aid and transition resources.

The VRC is the latest addition to TCL’s renewed commitment to offering exceptional services to the military community. TCL now has staff available on both Parris Island and the Marine Corps Air Station and classes are being held on base.

In addition, the college began its Transitioning Military Training Program in November 2011 to assist transitioning military members with refining their skills to match the demands of employers throughout the region.

Since then, the program has helped more than 50 individuals attain their FAA license and more than 80 individuals attain their FCC license. Many of these students now work in civilian companies such as Boeing, Gulfstream, Pilatus Aviation, Interstate Turbine Management, Mobile Communications Incorporated and more. Other graduates have chosen to remain on active duty, where they have applied their newly attained knowledge and skills to positively impact their units.

**With the addition of the VRC, the Lowcountry’s current, former, and transitioning military members and their families now have one more option for help in pursuing higher education. Improved opportunities for Veterans equal a stronger workforce and community.**

## From Pan-Am to TCL: instructor helps aviation program soar

An original Pan-Am advertisement signed by the artist; a sketch of Bugs Bunny poised as an aviation instructor; and a carved mahogany model plane. These are but a few of the memorabilia that fill Pete Semetis's office at TCL.

These special tokens serve as a reminder of his 40 plus years in aviation. But he says it's something else that he's most proud of today: his role as aviation instructor at TCL.

"It's most rewarding to put my experience to work by helping these students get certified and find employment," he said.

Pete began his aviation career at age 16, when he was the only student selected from his district in New York City to attend the Aviation High School in Queens, N.Y. After graduating, he went to work for Pan American Airways as a mechanic and later as a production supervisor.

Pete also served in the U.S. Navy; worked for Evergreen International Airlines; owned and operated one of the largest repair stations at JFK Airport; and taught aviation courses at S.U.N.Y. Pete joined TCL in 2013.

Since then, the college's aviation programs have grown tremendously. TCL houses a new aviation lab complete with an operational Cessna 150, a JT-60 jet engine and a variety of high-tech aviation maintenance and manufacturing equipment.

In addition to offering courses in FAA and FCC licensing, the college has recently launched new programs in aviation maintenance and structural mechanics.

Education like this is the key to securing professional success.

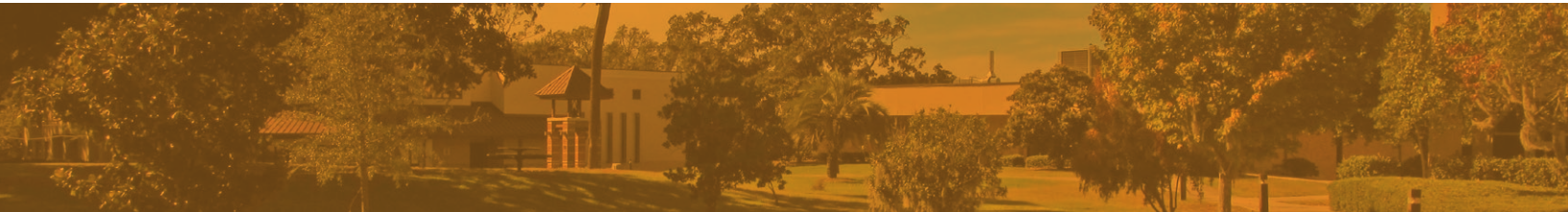


"I've been in the same place as these students and understand the importance of education," he said. "Being federally certified is the doorway to employment in the aviation industry."

**TCL's aviation programs are particularly valuable to transitioning military members and to the entire community.**

"Many transitioning military members have families and own homes here. They really want to find work close by so that they don't have to leave," he said. "TCL's programs help them translate their military experience to civilian employment."

Thanks to Pete, there are sure to be aviation technicians around the region whose own offices are filled with special reminders of their time with TCL.



# 2015 College fast facts

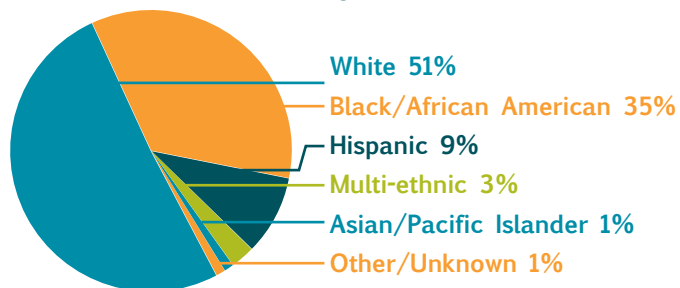
Students enrolled in 2015: **3,691**

Programs of Study: **91**

Awards Conferred in 14-15: **529**

- Associated degrees: **231**
- Certificates: **245**
- Diplomas: **53**

## Student Ethnicity



## Fall Semester: A Closer Look

Headcount: **2,332**

Full Time: **29%** | Part Time: **71%**

Minority: **48%**

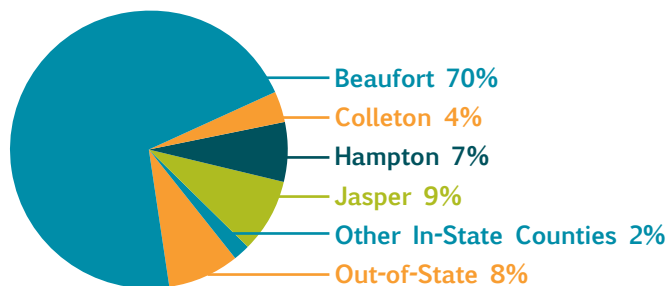
Average Age: **27**

Female: **68%** | Male: **32%**

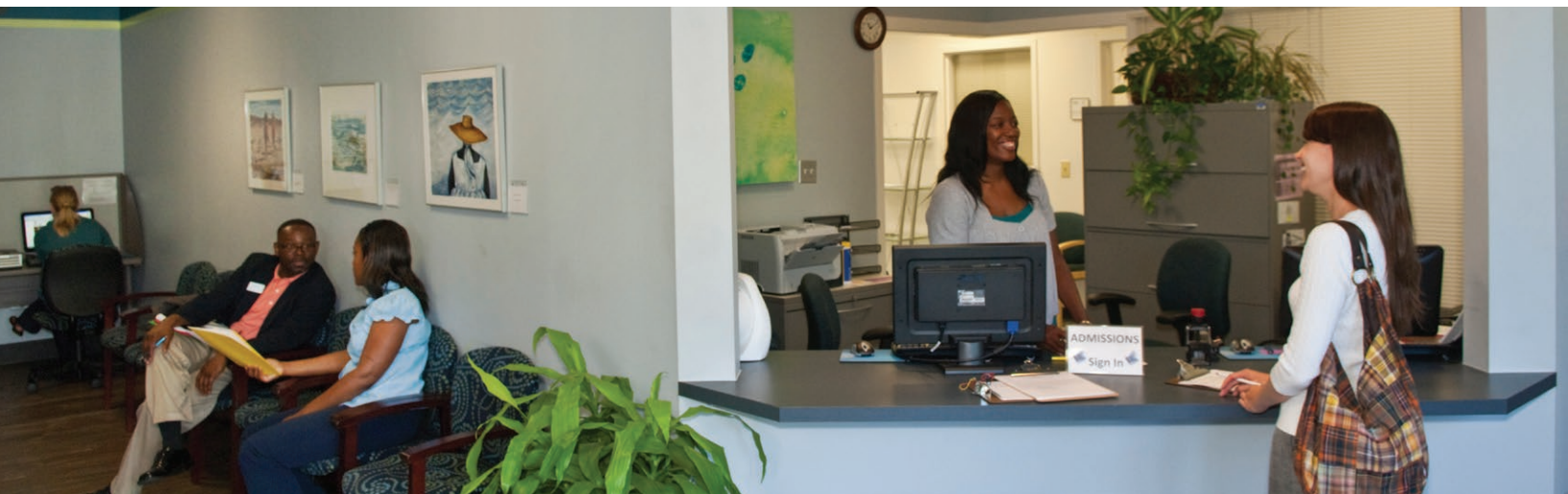
Students Receiving Financial Aid: **81%**

First-time Freshmen: **19%**

## What counties do our students come from?



**17%** of Total Current Enrollment are Military/Veterans/Dependents





## Donor awards

### Corporate Partner of the Year

This award recognizes a corporation that has demonstrated extraordinary generosity in promotion and support of TCL.

#### 2015 Corporate Partner of the Year – Palmetto Electric Cooperative



Palmetto Electric Cooperative is a regional business leader committed to the economic development of the Lowcountry and an important partner to the college. Palmetto Electric Coop has consistently supported student scholarship. In 2015, the coop endowed a scholarship in honor of Tom Upshaw.

### Fundraising Volunteer of the Year

This award recognizes individuals, couples, or groups who have served as fundraising volunteers or mentors while demonstrating exceptional commitment and leadership in building philanthropic support for TCL.

#### 2015 Fundraising Volunteers of the Year - Melanie Gallion and Rosemary Hunt



Under the leadership of staff captain Melanie and faculty captain Rosemary, the 2015 faculty and staff campaign, We Give, broke all previous college records. More than 82% of faculty and staff participated giving more than \$16,500 dollars to the college.

### Philanthropist of the Year

This award recognizes individuals, couples, or families that have demonstrated exceptional generosity in the promotion and support of TCL. Through their philanthropy, the recipients have helped to shape TCL's future and empowered us to better serve the Lowcountry.

#### 2015 Philanthropist of the Year – Mrs. Lou Gast



Lou is committed to higher education and higher education access. In 2015 Lou established the Lou Gast Endowed Educational Scholarship at TCL, a permanent, self-sustaining source of funds supporting student scholarship in perpetuity.



# 2015 College financials

**320 DONORS**  
CONTRIBUTED **\$379,276**

**9** NEW FUNDS CREATED  
IN 2015  
3 ENDOWMENTS  
3 ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS  
3 PROGRAM FUNDS

DONOR-FUNDED SCHOLARSHIP  
SUPPORT IN 2015  
ANNUAL \$125,003  
ENDOWED \$26,516

THIS YEAR TCL AWARDED NEARLY  
**\$9 MILLION**  
IN SCHOLARSHIPS  
AND FINANCIAL AID.

## DONOR BREAKDOWN BY DOLLARS



## DONOR BREAKDOWN BY NUMBERS



## DONOR BREAKDOWN BY FUND TYPE



# The people of TCL

## 2015 Distinguished Donors

TCL Distinguished Donors are those individuals, businesses and organizations who have generously given or pledged \$1,000 or more in calendar year 2015. Faculty and staff who give at the Distinguished Donor level are so designated by TCL following their name.

To appreciate all other generous gifts to TCL please visit [www.tcl.edu/foundation](http://www.tcl.edu/foundation).

Achieve3000, Inc.	Mr. Norman Harberger
Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Bailey - TCL	Carol and Tom Henry
The Bargain Box	Heritage Classic Foundation
David and Bentley Barton	The Hospital Auxiliary
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bootle	Hilton Head Wine and Food Festival
General Arthur Brown, US Army Ret.	Hite Associates
Calhoun Station	Susan and Jim Hooker
Mary Lee Carns - TCL	Istation.com
Mr. Gary Cassevah	Know2 Beaufort County
Patti and John Chiacchiero	Ladies Investment Club of Beaufort
Liz and Todd Clist	Mrs. Beryl LaMotte
Coastal Community Foundation	Drs. Vicky and Fred Leitz
Community Foundation of the Lowcountry	Lowcountry Human Resources Association
Community Foundation of Western North Carolina	Valerie and John McCann
Compass Municipal Advisors	McMillan Pazdan Smith LLC
Dell USA	McNair Law Firm
Mr. Ron Demonet	Mr. and Mrs. Paul Merritt - TCL
Ms. Grace Dennis	Mr. and Mrs. Alan Moses
Randy Dolyniuk	Dr. Gina Mounfield - TCL
Durham School Services	Ms. Camille Myers – TCL
Laura and Marvin Dukes - TCL	National Procurement Services
Lucinda and Edward Duryea	Palmetto Electric Cooperative
Cyndi and Steve Duvall	Palmetto State Bank
Edgenuity, Inc.	Sue and Tom Potrykus
Ms. Linda Ellis	Stevie and Frank Raiti
Mr. and Mrs. William Evans	Rotary Club of Hilton Head Island
eviCore Healthcare	Mr. David H. Schaper
G&O Wilkie, Inc.	Mr. and Mrs. James Shaleuly
GCA Services Group, Inc.	Sodexo, Inc.
Mrs. Lou Gast	Sun City Lions Club
Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Goodridge	Thompson Construction Group
Sonia and Chalmers Gorman	Ms. Nancy Weber - TCL
Judy and Richard Gough - TCL	Wells Fargo Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne (Gabby) Grabenbauer	Dr. James L.W. West III
Martha and Andrew Grant	Mr. Hayes Wiser - TCL
HG Reynolds Management, Inc.	

## The Mather Legacy Society

Mather Legacy Society membership is offered to donors who make a permanent gift of an endowment and to donors who let us know by written documentation that they have included TCL in their estate plans or as beneficiary of another type of planned gift regardless of amount.

Mrs. Lou Gast  
 Mrs. Mary Ellen Hannan  
 Palmetto Electric Cooperative  
 The Estate of Helen McCann Thompson  
 The Estate of Jean P. Wilson

## TCL Commission

General Arthur E. Brown, (US Army Ret.), Chair	Marjorie Thomas
Charles W. (Bill) Bootle, Vice-Chair	Joan M. Heyward
Sheree Darien	Colonel Jack R. Snider (US Marine Corps Ret.)
David M. Smalls	

## TCL Foundation Board of Directors

Dr. Vicky Leitz, Chair	Joan Heyward
Elizabeth "Liz" Clist, Vice-Chair	Charles A. Laffitte, Jr.
Gary Cassevah, Treasurer	Latesha McComas, President, TCL Alumni Association
John Chiacchiero	Carolyn Nettles
Derrick Coaxum	Thomas Potrykus
Grace Dennis	Sarah Reed
Randy Dolyniuk	Robert Trask
Laura Dukes	Mark Wease
Steve Duvall	Shellie West
Dr. Rhonda Edwards	
Malcolm Goodridge	

## TCL Executive Administration

Dr. Richard J. Gough, President  
 Dr. Gina Mounfield, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
 Nancy Weber, Vice President for Student Affairs  
 Hayes Wiser, Vice President for Administrative Services  
 Mary Lee Carns, Vice President for Advancement and External Relations and Executive Director, TCL Foundation



**2016**  
Mark your  
calendars

January 21 – President’s State of the College Reception  
February 19 – Mather History and Education Day  
March 9 – Return to the Classroom  
September 22 – Distinguished Donors Dinner  
October 15 – Oysters, BBQ and Friends by the Bay

For more information about TCL contact:  
**Mary Lee Carns**  
Vice President for Advancement and External Relations  
Technical College of the Lowcountry  
PO Box 2614  
Beaufort, SC 29901  
843-470-5962 • mcarns@tcl.edu

[www.TCL.edu](http://www.TCL.edu)

This publication can also be found on the web at [www.tcl.edu/stateofthecollege](http://www.tcl.edu/stateofthecollege)

The Technical College of the Lowcountry is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all qualified applicants for admissions or employment without regard to race, gender, national origin, age, religion, marital status, veteran status, disability, or political affiliation or belief.