



Florence-Darlington Technical College

Florence, South Carolina

Actor Wesley Snipes Visits the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology

Hollywood actor Wesley Snipes stopped by Florence-Darlington Technical College on Tuesday, January 24, to tour the campus and the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT).

Snipes visited the campus to meet with college officials about a potential partnership about using SiMT technologies on upcoming projects. While at the college, Snipes took time out from his day to talk with students, staff and faculty in the Student Commons Area, located on the 1st floor of the 5000 Building.



Wesley Snipes takes time out of his tour to pose for a picture with the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology staff.



Avery Darby and Vernadette Barbour-Godfrey have the opportunity to meet Wesley Snipes in the 5000 Building.

Following the tour of FDTC's main campus, Snipes headed to the SiMT to check out the cutting edge technology housed in the facility. His first stop on the tour of the SiMT was the 3D/Virtual Reality Studio.

Once in the studio, Snipes got a first-hand look at the latest Oculus Rift and zSpace technology, as well as other technologies that have the capabilities to simulate real life events. As the media's cameras flashed, Snipes was in his own 3D/virtual reality world, interacting with a robot and assembling heavy equipment.



Snipes then made his way to the SiMT's Advanced Manufacturing Center and Additive Manufacturing/Rapid Prototyping Center.

At the Gould Business Incubator, Snipes saw the various spaces that are offered to customers, and he also had the opportunity to meet with small business owners housed in the building.

Snipes ended the tour by meeting with members of the Florence Darlington County Commission for Technical Education.

Featuring

Message from the President



Florence-Darlington Technical College completed

an exciting year in 2016 and is looking forward to a year of even more accomplishments in 2017. FDTC will undoubtedly look back on 2016 as a year of continued growth fueled by our supporters on the state, county and municipal levels as well as the taxpaying citizens of Darlington, Florence and Marion counties. Without the support of our elected officials and their constituents, FDTC would have been unable to achieve its status as a workforce resource for the Pee Dee region.

At the end of 2016, FDTC neared completion of the first construction phase of its ten-year academic master plan. Construction crews are now putting the finishing touches on the new Automotive and HVAC Technology Center on the main campus. This 35,000-square-foot facility, located on DuBard Boulevard, bridges the main campus to our Southeastern Institute

Continued on next page



TECH Notes is published four times each year by the Office of the President and the Public Relations and Marketing Department.

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FDTC Practical Nurses Achieve 100% Pass Rate on NCLEX-PN

Florence-Darlington Technical College's Practical Nursing Program's class of August 2016 achieved a 100% pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN). That means all of FDTC's Practical Nursing candidates earned certification the first time that they took the test.

The NCLEX is administered by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Incorporated, and successful completion is required for nursing students to earn their state nursing certification. Sixteen FDTC Practical Nursing graduates took and successfully passed the rigorous NCLEX exam.

Practical Nursing students spend three semesters at FDTC and work in doctor's offices and long-term care after certification.

Dr. Suresh Tiwari, FDTC's Vice President of Academic Affairs, is very proud of the program. He said that "the PN program has enjoyed strong outcomes

under the leadership of Nursing Faculty Naomi Woods with pass rates from 88%-94% in the last three years."

"However, the 100% pass milestone is a visible indicator of how well the FDTC program prepares our practical nursing graduates. It has been 20-plus years since we achieved a perfect score, and we hope it is a sign of continued excellence," Dr. Tiwari



Practical Nursing Instructor Naomi Woods (left) teaches proper airway clearing techniques to a Florence-Darlington Technical College student.

Continued on next page

Featuring

FDTC Practical Nurses...

Continued from Page 2

continued.

The next class of Practical Nursing candidates is well underway at FDTC,

and they are working towards an August 2017 graduation date.

FDTC also operates a successful Associate Degree of Nursing Program, which educates Registered Nurse candidates. FDTC administers a Certified Nursing Assistant program

through a federally-funded program called BOOST, which stands for Better Occupational Outcomes Using Simulation Technologies. All of FDTC nursing programs can be found in its Health Sciences Campus in downtown Florence.

A Message from the President...

Continued from Page 2

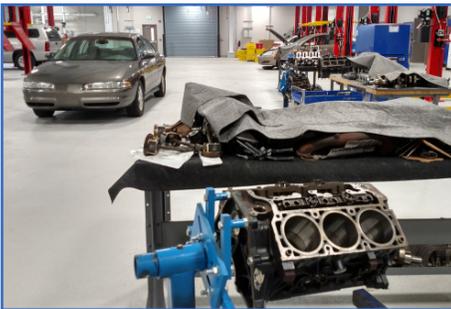
of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT). The explosive demand for technicians who can work on modern vehicles and complex heating and air-conditioning units accelerated the

international Think Big Conference, and FDTC is working hard to make our new facilities the perfect match for the Caterpillar leaders and technicians who will attend the conference.

HVAC's move to its new location has also made more space available for welding students. FDTC's state-of-the-art Welding Center has enjoyed phenomenal growth in recent years and has shared space with HVAC for many years.

ment Center, is an 80,000-square foot building that promises to be the main campus's focal point and will house a new library along with student intake, workforce development, and other offices.

FDTC will also be continuing its laser focus on student success in 2017. The college just held its annual Student Success Day that required students to attend seminars on how to make the most of their higher education experience. In addition, many of the seminars offered students information about the best ways to obtain and keep a job.



*Automotive & HVAC
Technology Center*

need for this new facility.

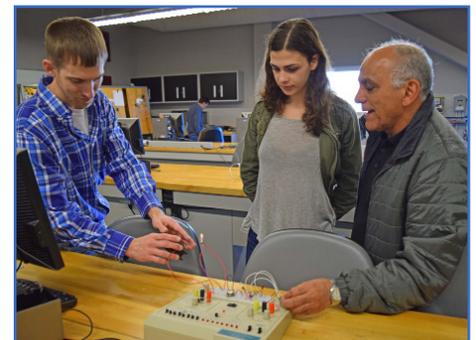
This initial building is just the first of many changes designed to transform the look of our campus and make us better able to serve our students and employers. By moving the Automotive Technology program to a new building, FDTC was able to free space for our Caterpillar Dealer Academy. The academy is a great partnership between FDTC and the three Caterpillar Dealers in North and South Carolina. Students attend intensive classes and labs at the college and then spend a semester working for a dealer. They graduate with an associate's degree and are guaranteed a high-paying job that leads to a great career. Caterpillar brands its dealer program with the tag line: "Think Big." This summer the FDTC Dealer Academy will host the



Caterpillar Dealer Academy

Another place that FDTC is planning to expand in 2017 is in Lake City in lower Florence County. Thanks to our friend, Darla Moore, FDTC received a generous \$5 million dollar gift in May of 2016 to create a Culinary and Hospitality Program. Through a partnership with Mrs. Moore's foundation, FDTC plans to use the Inn at the Crossroads in downtown Lake City as the centerpiece facility for this exciting new program. Plans are also now underway for a new FDTC campus in downtown Lake City.

FDTC also hopes to begin construction on the second building project in its academic master plan during late 2017. This facility, known as the Academic and Workforce Develop-



Student Success Day

Just prior to the start of 2017, FDTC's Online College rebranded itself as the South Carolina Virtual College of FDTC. Online college students from across the country often have a difficult time with access to the resources that they need for success. At FDTC, we have decided to ensure that online students are prepared for success and get the same personal attention that "brick and mortar" students receive.

New Faces

Hello to . . .

Tara Pressley is the new Administrative Specialist II for Financial Aid. Tara received a B.S. degree in Management from Francis Marion University and a M.S. degree in Business Administration from Webster University.



Katrina Johnson is the new Health Care Program Manager for Continuing Education. Katrina received a Diploma from FDTC in Practical Nursing and an A.S. degree also from FDTC.



Gloria Campbell is the new Program Assistant for SC ATE. Gloria received a B.A. from Winthrop University in History and a Master's degree in Management and Leadership from Webster University.



H. Thomas Pierce is the new CDL Program Manager for Continuing Education. Thomas received a certificate in Auto Body Repair from Williamsburg Technical College.



Mary Cox is the new Cosmetology Program Director. Mary received a Diploma in Cosmetology from Chris Logan Career College in Cosmetology.



Emanuel Smith is the new Respiratory Care Instructor. Emanuel received a Diploma from FDTC in Respiratory Care, an A.S. degree from FDTC in Health Sciences and a B.S. degree from Walden University in Educational Studies.



Megan Watson is the new Executive Coordinator for Institutional Advancement. Megan received a Bachelor's degree in Interdisciplinary Education from Liberty University.



Adriene Williams is the new HIM Instructor. Adriene received a Bachelor's degree in Medical Record Administration from the Medical University of SC.



From Around Tech

Educational Foundation Awards Scholarship To Veteran Thomas Beck

Thomas Beck is the first Florence-Darlington Technical College recipient of the Veterans Scholarship Forever that is available only to vets who are taking Continuing Education courses.

The scholarship is awarded through the FDTC Educational Foundation. Beck is currently a welding student in the FDTC Corporate Workforce & Development division.

“I’ve always had a passion for automobiles,” Beck said. “I bought my first car at 15-years old with money I had saved.

“I’m hoping to use this welding certification to restore classic and antique automobiles.”



Thomas Beck

The North Carolina native has served in the United States Army and Coast Guard. He comes from a long line of veterans dating back to the Revolutionary War.

“As a vet, I’m very proud to have served,” Beck said. “Every male in my family back to the Revolutionary War has served in the military. Every

single male member of my family. We’re a very happy family to serve our country. We’re very proud to be Americans. I myself am proud to be not only an American but to be also a Cherokee Indian.”

Beck discovered the scholarship while walking through the 100 Building and talking to Max Welch, Director of Veterans and Career Services.

“I came in one day just to check into the Welding Program and see how much it would cost,” Beck said. “To go to the Registrar’s Office, you have to walk by the Veteran’s Affairs Office. I walked in, and Command Sergeant Major Max Welch asked me about my service. I stumbled into it, and I’m very happy that I did.”

The Yellow Jasmine Recognizes Submissions

Florence-Darlington Technical College’s online journal of literary and visual art, *The Yellow Jasmine*, recently recognized select submissions for the Volume 1, Issue 1 publication.

On Tuesday, January 31, authors and artists were selected by judges for special recognition.

During the ceremony, FDTC Associate Vice President of Arts and Sciences Dr. Marc David presented awards to the following winners:

Winners:

1st place in Art was awarded to “Tattooed Face” by Nathaneal Rodriguez, Civil Engineering - Graphic Design, class of 2018



Dr. Marc David recognizes Marjory Hall for her 1st place in the Faculty Art.

1st place in Poetry was awarded to “The Call” by Christian Cheyenne Courtney, Radiology, class of 2018

1st place in Nonfiction was awarded to “Love at First Sight” by Jennie Self, Dental Hygiene, class of 2018

1st place in Faculty Art was awarded to “Springtime Beauty” by Marjory Hall, English Department.

1st place in Faculty Poetry was awarded to “The Wee Wizard Willy” by David Barry of the FDTC BOOST Staff

The first issue of *The Yellow Jasmine* is currently undergoing its final edit and is expected to be published soon.

The Yellow Jasmine would like to thank its event sponsors, Target (2791 David McLeod Blvd.), Krispy Kreme (2014 W Lucas St.) and Hardee’s (2302 W Lucas St.) for their support.

Employees and Retirees Honored During a Ceremony at the SiMT

Florence-Darlington Technical College honored its employees and retirees during an annual ceremony on Monday, January 31, 2017, at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT).

FDTC President Dr. Ben Dillard recognized and presented a \$500 check to the Outstanding Administrator of the Year, Max Welch; the Outstanding Employee of the Year, Amanda Brown; and the President's Faculty of the Year, Brantlee Haire.

Service Award recipients and retirees were also recognized for their dedicated hard work. Below is a list of all the employees and retirees who were honored for their service.

2016 Service Award Recipients:

10 Years

Ms. Maureen Dever-Bumba, Ms. Eveline Cuypers, Mr. Allan Dunphy, Ms. Turksha Green, Mr. Jim Hill, Mr. Jamie King, Ms. Jennifer Mabry, Mr. Matthew Schaffer and Mr. Alan Trusky



Brantlee Haire accepts the President's Faculty of the Year Award during an annual ceremony at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology

20 Years

Mr. Harrison Ford and Ms. Cheryl McGill

30 Years

Ms. Lisa Ard, Mr. Winfield Brown and Mr. Jack Walker

Retirees

Debbra Petricek, Suzanne Jennings, John Evans, Kaye Stone, Jonnie Miller and Nancy Carlon

Ruiz Foods Offers Scholarship To FDTC Students

Ruiz 4 Kids, the nonprofit founded by Ruiz Foods, has made a commitment to help Pee Dee students pursue their dreams of a higher education.

The company has scholarship funds available to high school students in Florence and Darlington Counties, as well as students at Florence-Darlington Technical College who are planning to transfer to a four-year college.

Last year, Ruiz 4 Kids awarded \$1,000 in scholarships to high school students in Florence. As Ruiz Foods has grown and expanded in Florence,



the company has made more funds available to more students.

"We want to make sure we have a viable workforce going forward . . . Anything we can do to help students

who want to improve their situation and come back to this community and contribute. It's something that we support," said Tommy Pruitt, head of Human Resources at Ruiz Foods in an interview with WMBF News.

In order to be eligible for the scholarship, FDTC students must be enrolled full-time, have a GPA of 3.0 or above, and be in the process of applying to a four-year college or university. Applications must be completed and postmarked by March 10, 2017, in order to be eligible for consideration.

To learn more, or to apply for the Ruiz 4 kids scholarship, visit ruiz4kids.org.

SCATE Inc. Donation Supports SCATE Center of Excellence

SCATE Inc., a non-profit company dedicated to systemic change in advanced technological education, recently donated more than \$20,000 to the Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) Educational Foundation for new office furniture at the South Carolina Advanced Technological Education (SCATE) Center of Excellence.

The SCATE Center implements projects funded by the National Science Foundation to expand excellence in technician education. Initially funded in 1994, the SCATE Center moved to FDTC from the SC Technical College System office in September 2001 with surplus State Tech System furniture and one employee. At FDTC, the Center has thrived and reached new levels of national prominence and funding success. With a growing staff to implement new projects and sustain innovations previously initiated, an updated and more efficient workspace was needed.

In 2015, the SCATE Center moved from the 5000 Building to the South-



One of the SCATE Center of Excellence offices has a new look thanks to a sizeable donation from SCATE Inc.

eastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT) Advanced Manufacturing Center. Existing SiMT office furnishings have been upgraded, as a result of a generous donation of \$22,634 from SCATE Inc. The donation enabled the expanded office space to be reconfigured and furnished to accommodate the Center's seven full-time employees.

SCATE Center Executive Director Elaine Craft expressed appreciation to the SCATE Inc. Board of Director's for this generous donation to the

FDTC Educational Foundation for this purpose. Craft concluded by saying, "The focus of the SCATE Center's work is on advanced technological education at two-year community and technical colleges. The SCATE Center and SiMT are well aligned as they have a shared mission to support FDTC, industry, and economic development. This wonderful new office space and the SCATE Inc. donation for furnishings are already impacting the continued success and sustainability of the SCATE Center."

FDTC Foundation Receives Gifts From Dixie Products

The Florence-Darlington Technical College Educational Foundation recently received two gifts from Georgia Pacific's Dixie Products in Darlington.

Dixie Products presented a check to the Florence-Darlington Technical College Educational Foundation and to the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology.

FDTC President Ben Dillard and Jill Lewis, Vice President of the FDTC Educational Foundation, accepted the gifts from Dixie Products officials during a ceremony in December.



From left to right, Dixie Products officials Brian Manuel, Michael Griffith and La Sonja Jackson, fourth from left, present two gifts to Florence-Darlington Technical College leaders Jill Lewis and Ben Dillard.

Lewis said that "Dixie Products has been a long time partner of our college, and we are so grateful for its continued support of our mission."

On hand for the gifts from Georgia Pacific's Foundation were Dixie Products' leaders Bryan Manuel, Michael Griffith and La Sonja Jackson.

Dixie Products has two locations in Darlington. One location manufactures paper plates while the other produces paper cups.

FDTC Awards CDL Licenses to Hartsville Natives

Several Hartsville natives were honored recently for completing their Commercial Driver's License (CDL) truck driver training at Florence-Darlington Technical College.

The recognition took place in Hartsville City Hall's Council Chambers on Thursday, December 15, 2016. Kevin Gaskins and Gerald (Jerod) Williams will now be able to pursue a career in truck driving due to their hard work and dedication toward earning their certification through the college's CDL training.

"This particular CDL class is meaningful for Florence-Darlington Technical College for several reasons," said Lauren Holland, FDTC Associate Vice President of Corporate and Workforce Development. "First, it is our inaugural offering of CDL training in Hartsville and represents a successful expansion of the program to another part of the college's service area.

"Secondly, 100% of the students in this class earned their CDL, and the fact that one from the Hartsville Safe Communities program has obtained employment says a lot about the ability of this program to change lives for the better."

Williams was a participant in the Hartsville Safe Communities program, a data-driven outreach effort designed to help repeat offenders turn their lives around. Williams' job actually came to fruition due to his success at earning a CDL. Although he is an offender, earning a CDL is a step in the right direction as he looks to turn his life around.

"To me, the CDL program was a big help, because it got me the opportunity to do stuff that I never imagined trying to do," Williams said. "The class



Hartsville natives Kevin Gaskins (left) and Gerald (Jerod) Williams were honored by the City of Hartsville for earning their Commercial Drivers Licenses.

itself, it was pretty difficult, because you don't see many people parallel park an 18-wheeler. It's possible, though.

"With me knowing it was something that I needed and having wonderful instructors like Mr. Randolph (Crocker) or Mr. Thomas (Pierce), it's something that anybody should try to do."

Williams continued, "When I first started, I was a temp; but after I got my CDL, I was promoted to a full-time employee. For now, I'm going to be driving some of the city (of Hartsville) trucks; but hopefully in the future, I can move on, get on the road, and get some on-the-road experience."

"The trucking industry is second in the nation in terms of workforce size," said Thomas Pierce, FDTC CDL Program Manager. "However, the indus-

try need for new drivers between now and 2020 is well over 100,000, so employment opportunities for individuals with CDLs is great."

FDTC's CDL training program is one of the largest in South Carolina, and its students typically have a 100% job placement rate. The extensive training is usually completed in about five weeks. The college has a small fleet of 18-wheelers that gives students the opportunity to get hands-on training in real-world settings. A second CDL class is planned for Hartsville in early 2017.

Contact Cynthia Admill in the FDTC Corporate and Workforce Development office at Cynthia.Admill@fdtc.edu or 843-661-8028 for additional information.