



*Florence-Darlington Technical College*

*Florence, South Carolina*

## *McDonald Named ABCA/Diamond Sports NJCAA D1 Eastern Region Coach Of The Year*

Following Florence-Darlington Technical College's (FDTC's) first visit to the JUCO World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado, Tech Stingers head baseball coach, Preston McDonald has been named the 2017 American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) and Diamond Sports National Junior College Athletics Association (NJCAA) D1 Eastern Region Coach of the Year. He will be traveling to Indianapolis in January for the coaches' awards banquet.

McDonald was also named NJCAA D1 Eastern District Coach of the Year in 2017. This is his eighth year as the men's baseball head coach at FDTC.

"A Coach of the Year Award is more of an award for the entire program," McDonald said. "A head coach can't win an award without having great players and assistant coaches and the team having an amazing season. It just puts in perspective that we had one of the top-10 teams in the nation."

McDonald is a native of Sumter, South Carolina, and he has served as the head baseball coach for the FDTC Stingers since May 2009. At just 24-years-old, McDonald became one of the youngest NJCAA coaches in the country.

Earlier this year, the Tech Stingers won the Region X Tournament in Burlington, North Carolina, as well as the Eastern District Championship that



*During the 2017 Region X Tournament Preston McDonald gives a baseball player on third base instructions on the strategy to reach home.*

was held at Francis Marion University. The success berthed FDTC an opportunity to compete in the JUCO World Series. The Stingers finished out the 2017 season ranked seventh in the country with 42 wins, the second most in school history.

"Having the opportunity to get to Grand Junction and play in the JUCO World Series was an amazing experience for our players and coaches and a huge step forward for our program," McDonald said. "It's something I've dreamed of since I've taken over here. It's an exciting time to be a Stinger."

Since arriving at FDTC, McDonald has coached 48 NCAA Division 1 base-

ball signees and more than 100 total former Stingers who have gone on to play baseball at four-year colleges. McDonald has also coached 11 players who have been selected in the MLB Draft. Most notably, Trent Autry who played on the JUCO World Series team was drafted in the 17th round by the Arizona Diamondbacks at season's end over the summer.

Over the past eight seasons, McDonald has amassed a winning record of 273-165 for a .623 winning percentage. He has averaged more than 34 wins per season since he became head coach at FDTC.

## Featuring

### Message from the President



With the holidays and a restful break

behind us, a new exciting year lies ahead for FDTC. Along with a new semester beginning in January there are a number of new exciting projects that will be happening across our entire college.

In the 2018, we will continue to make “student success” as our top priority. Our success measures include retention, course pass rates and to some extent graduation rates. With the new programs we have put in place over the past few months, we are seeing steady progress in these areas. The entire college family is committed to having every student at FDTC successful.

Renovations of the vacated automotive program space in the 600 complex will be completed in early 2018 and will allow the Caterpillar program to double its enrollment during the New Year. Each student in this pro-

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Contact: [Hunter.Thomas@fdtc.edu](mailto:Hunter.Thomas@fdtc.edu)

Florence-Darlington Technical College  
PO Box 100548  
Florence, SC 29502-0548  
843-661-8324  
[www.fdtc.edu](http://www.fdtc.edu)



*Thompson Turner Construction pledges \$10,000 in scholarship funds for students at Florence-Darlington Technical College on day of giving.*

## Thompson Turner Construction to Donate \$10,000 to FDTC

Thompson Turner Construction will donate \$10,000 to the Florence-Darlington Technical College Educational Foundation in celebration of the non-profit’s success on #GivingTuesday.

Florence-Darlington Technical College Educational Foundation supports scholarships, special programs and other resources that benefit students at Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC). This year, the Foundation participated in the first-ever #GivingTuesdayPeeDee, a community-wide day of giving based in Florence, SC.

Coordinated by the Eastern Carolina Community Foundation, #GivingTuesdayPeeDee is a local offshoot of the global #GivingTuesday movement, which was celebrated on Tuesday, November 28, after the widely-recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday. The first #GivingTuesday was held in 2009. Since then the movement has grown to include all 50 states and dozens of countries. This year, Americans gave

more than \$274 million to charitable organizations on #GivingTuesday.

The aim of #GivingTuesdayPeeDee was to provide a platform for nonprofits in the seven-county Pee Dee region to encourage the donation of time, resources and talents to address local challenges. More than 30 different nonprofits from all over the Pee Dee area took donations online all day

*Continued on next page*



*Celeste Kahn collects donations for the FDTC Educational Foundation at the Florence Center on #GivingTuesday.*

## Featuring

### Thompson Turner Construction...

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and in-person from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Florence Center. The FDTC Educational Foundation received most of its donations online.

“Our goal was to secure 100 donations of any amount by 11:59 p.m. on November 28,” said Celeste Kahn, Director of Development for the FDTC Educational Foundation. “Not only did we meet that goal, but we exceeded it! The final tally was 128 donations totaling more than \$3,000. And now our partner, Thompson Turner Construction, will contribute an additional \$10,000. That gift will be extremely beneficial to our students!”

Thompson Turner Construction, which is headquartered in Sumter, South Carolina, has partnered with FDTC on multiple construction projects and fundraising events prior to #GivingTuesday. The construction company agreed to a “challenge gift,” pledging to give \$10,000 the FDTC Educational Foundation if the organization reached its target of 100 donations on #GivingTuesday.

“Our company has a strong history of giving back in both dollars and volunteer hours to charitable organizations across the southeast,” said Hal Turner, Vice President of Thompson Turner Construction. “We are proud

to partner with the FDTC Educational Foundation in supporting scholarships and resources for students.”

“We are so grateful to Thompson Turner Construction for being such a willing and enthusiastic partner,” said Jill Lewis, Executive Director of the Foundation. “Their challenge gift was key to our success on #GivingTuesday, and will go far in helping our students achieve their dreams.”

### Message from the President...

*Continued from Page 2*

gram is required to be sponsored by a dealer.



*Students working in the Caterpillar Dealer Academy located on Florence-Darlington Technical College's main campus.*

This program allows students to spend eight weeks in the classroom and then an equal amount of time in the dealer's shop. Upon completion of the program, in addition to each student having achieved an Associate's Degree, they have a full-time job



*Coach Heber Watson high fives a softball player on third base following a home run.*

waiting for them with their sponsor. Each dealer also funds a significant portion of the student's expenses while attending FDTC.

Our athletic programs continue to achieve outstanding results, both on and off the field. Our new complex currently under construction should be completed and ready for play by midyear. This facility is being funded by several very generous families in

our community. We look forward to opening this facility later in the new year.

The new Lake City campus is beginning to take shape as site demolition has been completed and construction is beginning in January. Plans are to have the construction completed in January of 2019 with classes opening for the spring semester. The flagship programs for this campus are state-of-the-art culinary and hospitality programs. In addition to the general education courses, we will have a strong workforce development program as part of this campus.

As you can imagine, 2018 is going to be a very exciting year for Florence-Darlington College with new opportunities.

New Faces

Hello to . . .

**Elizabeth Crow** is a new Early Childhood Educator Instructor. Elizabeth received a BS & MAT degree from the University of SC in Mathematics & Early Childhood/Elementary Education.



**Michelle Baxley** is a new Nursing instructor. Michelle received several AS degrees from FDTC; they are in Nursing and Surgical Technology and an Associate in Arts degree from FDTC, a BS degree from University of North Carolina in Nursing, a Master's degree from the University of Phoenix in Nursing and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Phoenix.



**James Goffio** is the new Shipping and Receiving Clerk. James' previous work experiences include Receiving Associate for Target, Receiver & Material Handler for Angus Palm, Team Lead/Shipping & Receiving at Pilkington Warehouse, and finally a Receiving Lead & Trainer for McKnight Farms & Warehouse.



**Dean Fowler** is the new Supply Manager II. Dean received an AS degree from FDTC in Electronics Engineering.



**Gary Ancheta** is the new Director of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment. Gary received a BA degree and MA degree from Florida Gulf Coast University in English and Curriculum and Instruction.



**Christina James** is the new Administrative Coordinator in Academic Affairs. Christina received an AS degree from the Community College of the Air Force in Information Management, a BS degree from the University of Mount Olive in Business Management, a MS degree from Central Michigan University Administration, and a Doctorate degree from Walden University in Adult Education.



**Lakeisha Johnson** is the new Respiratory Program Director. Lakeisha received an AS degree from Durham Technical Community College in Respiratory Care, a BS degree from the College of Charleston in Biology, and another degree in Psychology.



**Crystal Fairchild** is the new Financial Aid Operations Manager. Crystal received an AA degree from FDTC and a BS degree from Francis Marion University in Business Administration in Management.



## From Around Tech

### The Inn at the Crossroads Hosts the Inaugural Teen Grill Master Challenge

Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) hosted the inaugural Teen Grill Master Challenge at the Inn at the Crossroads in Lake City on Thursday, October 5, 2017.

The event placed Lake City High School students Heather Harrelson, Quantay Hickson, Amari Lawson and Cortney McFadden in a head-to-head competition to win \$1,500 and be named the 2017 Teen Master Challenge Champion.

The action kicked off in the courtyard at the hotel located in downtown Lake City around 6 p.m. Celebrity judges of the competition consisted of Mayor Lovith Anderson Jr., Mitchell Sims of Piggybacks BBQ and Executive Chef Mahmoud "Sherif" Elkhyati.



*Amari Lawson grilling in the courtyard of the Inn at the Crossroads as she competed for the title to become the 2017 Teen Grill Master Challenge Champion.*

Following multiple fast-paced rounds, Amari Lawson arose victoriously in the competition. In the final round of the night, it came down between Amari and Heather Harrelson. After an

extremely tough decision, the judges chose Amari for the title. Both of the girls hugged and congratulated each other following the announcement of the winner. The packed courtyard filled with family, friends and FDTC employees cheered on the two girls for their valiant efforts.

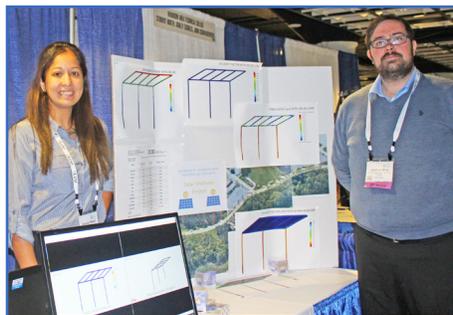
FDTC and the FDTC Educational Foundation would like to thank sponsors US FOODS, KJ's IGA, Scotty Campbell Insurance, Anderson Brothers Bank, South State Bank and Farmers Telephone for making the event a reality.

### Two FDTC Students Visit Washington, D.C.

Two Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) students recently traveled to Washington, D.C. for the 24th National Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Principal Investigators (PI) Conference at the Omni Shoreham Hotel on October 23-25, 2017.

Selected students, Alyssa Ward and Josh Wos, both in their second year studying Civil Engineering Technology (CET), were nominated by Department Chair, Kamil Zakhour to attend the Washington D.C. conference as ATE Student Scholarship recipients.

The students developed and showcased their "Solar Walkway Project." Their showcase consisted of a presentation of their proposal design for the construction of a covered walk-way for students, staff,



*Alyssa Ward (left) and Josh Wos (right) pose for a quick photo in front of their presentation booth.*

and faculty between major ends of the FDTC campus. The project outlined the required area of the walkway, construction design of solar roof joints, and the land survey for accuracy. Their showcase also included detailed drawings of the project and the calculations used in design.

The conference was hosted by the

American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) with the support of the National Science Foundation (NSF). The South Carolina Advanced Technological Education (SCATE) Center coordinated and facilitated their participation.

The conference brought together approximately 850 people to focus on the critical issues related to advanced technological education. Key people working on ATE projects from across the country participated in the conference. Attendees of the conference represented community colleges, business and industry, secondary school systems, and four-year colleges covering projects in a wide variety of areas such as: information technology, engineering technology, micro and nanotechnologies, chemical technology, biotechnology, and others.

# Seventeen Baseball Stingers Sign to Play at Four-Year Institutions

**S**eventeen Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) baseball players will further their higher education and collegiate baseball careers at four-year colleges and universities.

Coming off its debut appearance in the JUCO World Series in Colorado, FDTC had the most 2017 early signing period commitments out of every college in the NJCAA.

2017 FDTC Baseball Early Signing Period Commitments include:

**Charleston Southern University**  
Dante Blakeney

**Clemson**  
Michael Green

**College of Charleston**  
Will Abbott  
Gabe Austin  
Harrison Hawkins  
Cross Holfert  
Tradd James  
Tanner Myatt  
Josh Price  
Jackson Williams



*(front, left) Michael Green, Harrison Hawkins, Cross Holfert and Tradd James. (back, left) Dante Blakeney, Mark Leonard, Josh Price and Rafi Vazquez*

**East Carolina University**  
Josh Price

**Elon University**  
Adam Spurlin

**Erskine College**  
Kyle Benjamin

**Francis Marion University**  
Austin Moody

**Tennessee Tech University**  
Mark Leonard

**USC Aiken**  
Blake Whiting

**UNC Charlotte**  
Rafi Vazquez

## DCIS Is Offering Courses In Partnership With FDTC

**S**tudents at the Darlington County Intervention School (DCIS) can now take college courses through Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC).

Dr. Zenobia Edwards, director of DCIS, said she is excited to bring more opportunities to prepare students to be career- and college-ready.

“This is an initiative I’ve wanted to come to fruition for a couple of years,” Edwards said. “I’m very pleased that our students are getting this opportunity for early exposure to college coursework. I am hopeful this will enhance their academic



confidence, and they will pursue college degrees after completing high school.”

Nine students at DCIS are already enrolled in classes such as English 101, Sociology and College Skills. The classes are taught by FDTC instructors. Students began their coursework and concluded the first classes in

December.

“We are thrilled to offer this opportunity to the students at DCIS, and we hope this is just the beginning of our partnership,” said Maggie Gause, director of K-12 Relations at FDTC.

The partnership is the newest college-credit offering in the Darlington County School District, following others such as Darlington High School’s Early College Honor Program with FDTC and Hartville High School’s International Baccalaureate program.

## FDTC Educational Foundation Honors Local Entrepreneurs

The Florence-Darlington Technical College Educational Foundation held its 3rd Annual Entrepreneurial Forum Gala on Thursday, November 16, 2017, at 6 p.m., at the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT).

This event celebrated the entrepreneurial spirit of the Pee Dee region by recognizing seven entrepreneurs from Darlington and Florence counties whose hard work, leadership and dedication to the community have greatly influenced the local economy. Combined, they represent a very diverse group of companies and professions.

This year's inductees into the Entrepreneurial Forum were nominated by the previous year's class. The seven new Forum members included husband and wife, James and Karen Aikens. He's the Senior Director of Government Relations for ADP and Co-owner and Operator of Rita's Italian Ice. Karen is also Co-owner and Operator of Rita's; other inductees included Wanda James, Co-owner of



*(left) Grey Raines; Wanda James; Danny Johnson, Jr.; Karen Aikens; James Aikens; Jim Poston; Dr. Ben Dillard; Britt Poston*

Florence McDonald's; Danny Johnson Jr., Vice President of Hartsville's North Industrial Machine; brothers, Britt and Jim Poston, Co-owners of area Zaxby's; and Grey Raines, President of Raines Hospitality in Florence.

"These individuals have set the benchmark of working towards the prosperity and growth of our region, and we want to celebrate their spirit of entrepreneurship," said Jill Lewis, Executive Director of FDTC's Educational Foundation. "We are engaging these leaders with our students to

ensure that the Pee Dee continues to prosper."

The evening began with a reception at 6 p.m., followed by a dinner and the awards ceremony. Ron Glancy emceed the ceremony and afterwards, he entertained guests with his Elvis impersonation.

The FDTC Educational Foundation would like to thank all of the sponsors and guests who made the gala possible. All proceeds from the gala will benefit scholarship funds for students at FDTC.

## Marion County Healthcare Foundation Gifts \$7,000 to FDTC

On October 11, the Marion County Healthcare Foundation presented the Florence-Darlington Technical College Educational Foundation with a \$7,000 check for the college's Bus Passes for Education program.

This program is a result of a partnership with PDRTA, and it will help students access transportation between FDTC campuses. The Bus Passes for Education program has also received support from the Darla Moore Foundation.

Pete Mazzaroni, Executive Director of

Marion County Healthcare Foundation presented the check to FDTC President Dr. Ben Dillard and FDTC Educational Foundation Executive Director Jill Lewis.



*(left) Nick Lyerly, Pete Mazzaroni, Jill Lewis and Dr. Ben Dillard*

Also present was Nick Lyerly who oversees FDTC's satellite sites, including the Mullins Technology Center.

The FDTC Educational Foundation would like to express its gratitude and appreciation to the Marion County Healthcare Foundation for this vital partnership. Their generous support will go far in helping students access higher education in the Pee Dee.

# Darlington's Goodson Family Helps FDTC Reach Its Students

Auto racing's deep roots in the Pee Dee region has given Florence-Darlington Technical College (FDTC) an edge in reaching its students each semester.

In 2015, FDTC reached out to Darlington native and former NASCAR XFINITY Series driver Hal Goodson about sponsoring his No. 13 Super Truck that competed around the region and the No. 16 Pro All Stars Series (PASS) Super Late Model that ran in select races throughout the Carolinas. The idea behind the partnership is to support the local racing culture and to also reach out to students in the region who may be interested in taking automotive or welding classes at the college. As for the result of the unique marketing campaign, the Super Truck that serves as a 110-plus mph billboard has since proven to be an incredible success.



*Hal Goodson rounds Turn 1 at Myrtle Beach Speedway during a Super Truck race at the NASCAR sanctioned half-mile track.*

“The Goodson family has done a wonderful job representing Florence-Darlington Technical College at the race-track throughout the past few years,” said FDTC President Dr. Ben Dillard. “Not only are they helping spread the word about the college, but they are winning while doing so. Many former, current and hopefully future students attend local races on a weekly basis,



so we're definitely excited to play a role in the local racing community.”

The first outing for the partnership with Goodson resulted in a victory at Myrtle Beach Speedway in the Super Truck feature that kicked off the 2015 season. Later in the year, Goodson won multiple races, and he captured the regional Super Truck championship. What made the dominating season even more special was that after several decades of racing, Goodson hung up the helmet and handed over the steering wheel to his son, Hayes Goodson.

Hayes is a third-generation driver and a former student at FDTC. He took summer classes at the college just prior to climbing behind the wheel for the 2016 racing season. He had found success in several divisions prior to the year, but the 2016 season marked his first full effort while driving a Super Truck. Goodson, following in the footsteps of his father, also captured several victories throughout the season; however, he came up

just short of the championship. So far this season, Goodson has added even more victories to his all-time wins list, and he's in the championship hunt at Myrtle Beach Speedway.

Aside from the on-track action, partnering with the Goodson family's race team has proven to be an incredible marketing tool for the college. The partnership has provided the most exposure for the college since the Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT) opened its doors in 2007.

From newspaper articles and television features, to being displayed in front of thousands of people, the black and gold Super Truck has developed a brand of its own and has become a recognizable vehicle in the Carolina racing community thanks to the Goodsons' talent on the track over the years.