Trenholm State Community College is appreciative of the impact of the Title III funds received from the U.S. Department of Education. For this budget period, the College was awarded a total of $1,627,076 to uphold the College’s commitment to meeting the objectives and goals of the grants.

Trenholm State Community College’s Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (SAFRA) award is used primarily to improve academic programs and services. The College was awarded $500,000 for fiscal year 2016-2017.

The Title III Part B, Strengthening Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program was established by the U.S. Department of Education to establish or strengthen their physical plants, financial management, academic resources, and endowment-building capacity. The grant award for fiscal year 2016-2017 is $1,127,076.00.

Funds are used to strengthen institutional effectiveness, enhance instructional facilities, strengthen management information system, enhance library resources and services, and strengthen a culture of student success through tutoring, counseling and student service programs designed to improve academic success, and professional development.

The 2016-2017 Part B award provides funding for six activities.

(continued on page 2)
The Office of Institutional Research and Advancement (OIRA) has the primary mission of conducting research within the college to provide information that supports institutional planning, policy formation, and decision-making. The purpose of this unit is multifunctional in that it maintains a historical database of college data; assists with the systematic evaluation of educational support services, administrative processes, and fiscal resources in order to identify the strengths and challenges of the college; and serves as a repository for information that may be used to support planning, policy formulation, and strategic decision making. Further, OIRA facilitates Trenholm State’s planning and institutional effectiveness processes.

Enhancing Instructional Facilities
Activity Director: Mr. Robert Allen
Director of Physical Plant

Activity II will alleviate the deficiencies in the physical facilities of the College. The activities to be undertaken will focus on repairs/renovations of existing campus buildings that currently house academic programs/courses; enhancement of physical facilities will include classrooms, laboratories, and instructional offices to ensure a conducive learning environment.

Strengthening Management Information Systems
Activity Director: Mrs. Regina Rudolph
Director of Management Information Systems

This activity is designed to address the problems in the College’s current system of managing and collecting information. This activity will promote improved internal and external institutional communication systems; training opportunities for administration, faculty, and staff; and technological updates to the records management system to attain a more efficient delivery of services. Since the computer system is the pivotal component of this activity, the administrative computing system will continue to be enhanced and secured through utilization of needed software and hardware updates.

Enhancing Library Resources and Services
Activity Director: Mr. Paul Blackmon
Head Librarian

The primary objective of this activity is to strengthen and improve library resources by acquiring additional library books, periodicals, microfilm, audiovisual materials and equipment, computer software, telecommunications software and equipment and other educational materials.

Strengthening a Culture of Student Success Through Tutoring, Counseling and Student Service Programs Designed to Improve Academic Success
Activity Director: Dr. Gregory Hudson
Dean of Students

This activity is designed to improve academic success through tutoring, counseling, and other student service programs. This activity will address critical issues pertaining to retention. Through retention monitoring and early warning intervention systems, high-risk students will be identified and provided the assistance needed to enhance their learning experience. Activity V will also seek to increase student engagement and promote social learning through planning, designing and hosting activities and programs designed to enhance career counseling and student engagement.

This activity will initiate, implement, and maintain tasks related to enrollment management. The activity will be the focal point in the College’s system for recruiting, retaining, and graduating students.
This activity is designed to provide ongoing and systematic professional development opportunities to faculty and staff to increase productivity and effectively meet the needs of students. Its aim is to engage faculty, staff, and administrators in professional development opportunities through workshops, seminars, and conferences. In addition, this activity will support guest lecturers, speakers, and consultants. Special emphasis will be placed on professional development for faculty. With the knowledge base expanding in many fields of study, it is important to provide opportunities for faculty to keep current with the latest developments in their fields.

Dr. Gregory Hudson is a native of Tutwiler, Mississippi, and now resides in Montgomery. Dr. Hudson is a graduate of the Harvard University Graduate School of Education—Institute for Educational Management. He is also a graduate of the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy. Dr. Hudson attended Delta State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Education, a Master of Education in Health Physical Education and Recreation, and a Doctor of Education in Educational Administration. He has also done additional studies at the United States Sports Academy in Daphne, Alabama.

Professionally, Dr. Hudson currently serves as the Dean of Students at Trenholm State Community College, and additional duties include serving as an Activity Director for Title III programs. He continues to serve as an educational consultant for K-12 schools and also serves as an adjunct professor at The University of Phoenix’s doctoral program. Dr. Hudson serves as an experienced evaluator for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Prior professional experiences include his service as the Vice President of Student Affairs and Support Services, Dean of Students, Tech Prep Coordinator, and adjunct instructor at Coahoma Community College; the Regional Director for America Reads Mississippi at Delta State University; and teacher, Director of Personnel, Director of Public Relations and Special Projects for the Cleveland School District and the Benoit School District respectively.

Civically, socially, and spiritually, he is a member of the Brown Missionary Baptist Church Family of Southaven, Mississippi, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated; a member of the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals; and a member of several other civic and professional organizations. He is a 2007 Phi Beta Sigma Image awards recipient for outstanding work in education and was featured in Mahogany Magazine’s professionals’ piece as a top 40 under 40. He has been also featured in the Mississippi Delta Business Journal for Outstanding Leadership in Education.

His motto is, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Monica Robinson is the Director of the Student Success Center at Trenholm State Community College. In this role, Ms. Robinson will coordinate the activities of the Student Success Center, including tutoring, counseling, retention monitoring, and other student service programs that promote and strengthen student success.

Before joining Trenholm State, Robinson was Director of Counseling, ADA & Title IX Coordinator at Reid State Technical College. Ms. Robinson has also served as a course instructor, college recruiter, and college compliance officer. Ms. Robinson has over six years of experience in higher education, serving at both two-year and four-year institutions. She also brings over four years of program management experience at the state and federal levels, including being awarded a fellowship with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Robinson holds an earned Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Tuskegee University, and the Master of Science degree in Counseling and Psychology from Troy University.

Dr. Gregory Hudson
Activity V Director

Ms. Monica Robinson
Director of Student Success Center
Annual President’s Cabinet Planning Meeting

The President’s Cabinet meeting was held on August 3, 2016, at the Hilton Garden Inn-Eastchase. Dr. Mimi Johnson gave a brief overview of the 2017-2019 Strategic Plan to include showing the cabinet members how to access the strategic plan and performance indicators in the Compliance Assist planning module. The planning workshop also included a myriad of information and data presented by Dr. Mimi Johnson to include enrollment trend data, student outcome data, assessment status, retention data, and program viability data. Mr. Lee Ammons, Dean of Instruction, presented a partial review of the 2015 Program Review findings to the Cabinet. The Cabinet also heard from Mr. Danny Perry, SACSCOC Liaison, on the timeline for the Off-Campus Substantive Change Application visit scheduled for November 2016. Dr. Stephanie Barnes Taylor, the CEO of the Fruition Group, a company that specializes in personal excellence, leadership, and strategic planning solutions, facilitated a session on “Corporate Culture: Ensuring Organizational Success.”

The goal of the annual planning workshop is to allow the College’s leadership an opportunity to review its accomplishments, examine areas that need improvement, address student concerns and use data and information provided to make decisions to improve collegiate operations and enhance student success.

Title III Funds Used to Support Professional Development Faculty and Staff

Trenholm State faculty and staff employees attended an all-day annual faculty and staff retreat on Monday, May 9, 2016, at the Legends located in Prattville, Alabama, which began with a welcome by President Munnerlyn. The theme for this year’s retreat was “Honoring the Past, Treasuring the Present and Shaping the Future.” Judging by the feedback from many of those in attendance, the event was a resounding success.

With the retreat being scheduled into the regular work schedule of the College, it served as a source of great unity and inspiration. Faculty and staff learned to be with each other in different ways. They developed a deeper understanding of who we are as individuals and as a group. The retreat was a time to pause from the frantic pace of our actions and spend time with co-workers in a way that was fun, relaxing, productive and educational.

The opening session started with a presentation from representatives from Auburn University Montgomery (AUM). They shared information regarding the newly formed partnership between (AUM) and Trenholm State. Representatives from Stamp Idea shared information related to work regarding the rebranding and imaging campaign. Dr. Penn Armistead also provided an overview of the status of the new Strategic Plan.

After this very informative session, employees participated in concurrent workshops. Topics included “Raising Your Diversity and Inclusion IQ” presented by Mrs. Melva Tate of Tate and Associates, LLC. Dr. Lee Farrow, Director of the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching at AUM, emphasized the importance of “Positive Student Interaction” through her presentation. Each presentation was well received by all who were in attendance. Employees described the presentations as useful and energizing.

Using the topic, “Raving Fan Strategy,” Mr. Gary Soriano, Owner/Operator of Chick-Fil-A focused on the importance of quality customer service.
Faculty and Staff Gain Beneficial Knowledge through Professional Development

Dr. Regina Okeowo and Dr. Marilyn Whiting traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, on June 7–8, 2016, to attend the meeting of the evaluation review panel conducted by Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN). This meeting was the second phase of the accreditation process for continuing accreditation of the Practical Nursing program. The Evaluation Review Panel evaluated the documentation of the site team for consistency of the evaluation process for all programs accredited by ACEN. The Review Panel recommended continuing the accreditation status of the Nursing program.

Dr. Tracie Carter attended the Preparing a Competitive HBCU Applicant Pool for Health Science Careers in Nashville, Tennessee, on June 27 and 28, 2016. The conference focused on how HBCUs can better prepare students to be competitive in applying for health science careers. The conference was able to give Dr. Carter much insight from her peers and colleagues concerning the unique challenges that are faced by HBCUs and students that are served at Trenholm State.

Title III funds supported recent professional development for Mr. Danny Perry to travel to Grapevine, Texas, to attend the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) 2016 Institute on Quality Enhancement and Accreditation on July 17 - July 20, 2016. The Institute on Quality Enhancement and Accreditation is held in July of each year in various locations throughout the Southeast. Each year, the conference includes a wide variety of topics on accreditation, institutional effectiveness, academics, quality enhancement, and substantive change and provides networking opportunities. The SACSCOC Institute on Quality Enhancement and Accreditation meeting provides benefit to the college through enhanced understanding of accreditation requirements, best practices, and networking opportunities with representatives from other colleges and universities throughout the Southeast to assist in ongoing compliance with accreditation standards at Trenholm State.

On June 13–15, 2016, the Alabama Association of College and University Business Officers held their annual meeting at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Alabama. In attendance was Mr. Billy Merrill, Comptroller, and Mrs. Katrina Beckham, Payroll Accountant, representing Trenholm State. Some of the areas that were highlighted at the conference were legislative updates, risk mitigation, data breaches, professional communication, Federal Title Four update, NACUBO update, risk trends in higher education and RSA & GASB updates. The conference provided valuable information that is pertinent to the function of the Business Office and the College overall.

Mrs. Regina Rudolph took part in the Alabama Community College System’s Information Services conference on June 12–15, 2016, in Orange Beach, Alabama. The conference allowed Mrs. Rudolph to learn more about future updates planned for Campus Key and the Alabama Community College System’s DAX data maintenance system. During this conference, she attended sessions on offsite backup solutions, cloud communications, emergency notification system, canvas learning management system, data center hardware maintenance, classroom hardware, SMART classroom solutions, wireless technology and voice communications.


One of the seminars he attended was fruit carving; this was a hands-on seminar where each participant learned modern techniques in carving and carved melons, apples, and other fruits into various items including swans, baskets, birds, seahorses, and flowers. Since Chef Cawley teaches garde manger all of the information he gathered can be incorporated into that class.

While there, Chef Cawley was also a presenter at three seminars: The Benefits of ACFEF Accreditation and Apprenticeship; The Ins and Outs of ACFEF Accreditation; and Becoming a part of the ACFEF Evaluation Team.

Other classes included the following: How diversity in the workplace can lead to success; Principles of Wine and Cheese Pairing; Umami: The Intersection of Taste and Biology; and The Secret History of Ceviche, Mousseline Cream, Brioches, Coconut Crisp and Tropical Domes. Some others were Hydro-colloids: A 21st Century Approach; Vegan Charcuterie; and The Interaction of Wine and Food.

All of the classes and seminars he attended can be directly related to the culinary curriculum. Below is the dessert he created in the seminar Mousseline Cream, Brioches, Coconut Crisp and Tropical Domes.

Ms. Maria Richardson, Coordinator of Job Placement and Follow-Up, attended the Alabama Association of Colleges and Employers Summer Conference on July 26-28, 2016, hosted by Gadsden State Community College in Gadsden, Alabama, with over 50 employers, cooperative education, and career services staff.

AACE is a network of educational institutions, businesses, industries, and government agencies that work together to help Alabama’s college graduates embark upon successful careers. This year’s theme was “Ties that Bind,” and the sessions focused on changes and trends in the workplace; challenges faced by career centers across the state and possible solutions; economic trends in Alabama; employer and college partnerships; best practices and available resources; and tools that will motivate students in the job search process. The association celebrated 40 years of service to employers, students, and career professionals around the state.

Dr. Cawley teaches garde manger all of the information he gathered can be incorporated into that class.
The Culinary Arts Program Received New Computers

In a joint effort between Title III and the IT department, Santa Claus came early to the culinary arts department and left 20 new computers for the existing computer lab.

This is the first time the department has received new computers since leaving the Culinary Arts Centre on Mobile Highway over ten years ago. The students noticed the change in the lab on their first day back to class and were very excited. Some of the comments from the students include “They are so much faster,” “They allow me to be more productive,” and “The new computers are awesome!”

Of course, the access to the Trenholm library database is much improved with the new computers speed. The students are very grateful since this is the semester they have four research projects in Chef Cawley’s Orientation to the Hospitality Profession class.

The CUA instructors are also very happy with the updates since it allows them to incorporate more computer projects into their classes.
Technology Improved with the Purchase of Servers and Software

Title III funding allowed Activity III to purchase technological items beneficial to the College. Among these purchases was a robust server for the Culinary Arts program to house the ChefTec client/network application. Also, a new server was purchased to maintain the College’s learning management system. This server has more than double the capacity of the previous server used in that capacity.

Activity III was also able to renew the cost of the Microsoft Campus license contract for Office 365 for students, Windows Server, Windows Client, Microsoft Project and Visio software. Title III funds also supported the cost of the Campus Key software support contract.

Activity IV Strives to Provide Quality Library Resources

During the third quarter, the library renewed two databases and renewed periodical subscriptions for EBSCO. Also, 69 books were ordered from MidWest and two memberships were renewed for Lyris and HBCU Library Alliance. In addition, the Reference/Information Literacy Librarian attended the Alabama Library Association Conference and the American Library Association Conference. All in all, it was a productive quarter for the library.

Films on Demand is a streaming video platform that provides students with valuable video resources in the career and technical fields. This database is a collection of thousands of titles from more than 800 producers and is available online anytime, anywhere. Students and faculty can use this database to increase their knowledge in a particular subject matter as well as enhance presentations for classroom projects or professional conferences.

Wolters Kluwer OVID recently changed its name to Wolters Kluwer but still offers quality resources for research usage. Hundreds of journals are available in Journals@Ovid, and this number continues to grow. Currently, the library subscribes to 55 journals related to the study of health sciences. In addition, Wolters Kluwer contains thousands of eBooks. The library currently owns 153 eBooks, which cover a diverse collection of health science topics.

The library recently ordered 69 books to enhance the growing collection of books in the sonography and ultrasound programs. Titles include Sonography: Principles and Instruments/Kremkau, Frederick W; Callen's Ultrasonography in Obstetrics and Gynecology/Callen, Peter W; Examination Review for Ultrasound: Sonography Principles & Instrumentation/Steven M. Penny; Diagnostic Ultrasound, 2-Volume Set – Mosby; Ultrasound Teaching Manual: The Basics of Performing and Interpreting Ultrasound Scans/Hofer, Matthias. These books and others will support the curriculum of the sonography and ultrasound programs, allowing for a greater comprehension of knowledge and skills in these programs.

EBSCO periodical subscription renewals provide 52 magazines and journals, covering a wide range of programs at the college. These periodicals are essential to the programs as they provide the most current knowledge and up-to-date happenings in their programs. Journals such as The American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing and The Journal of Dental Education are frequently used by faculty and students to find articles related to current events in the field. Magazines such as Working Mother and Time magazine give a realistic view of the world around us. These magazines offer a wide range of professional and personal pleasure in reading.

The library maintains membership in the HBCU Library Alliance and Lyris. The HBCU Library Alliance is a consortium that supports the collaboration of information professionals dedicated to providing an array of resources designed to strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their constituents. LYRASIS partners with member libraries, archives and museums and other cultural heritage organizations to create, access and manage information with an emphasis on digital content, while building and sustaining collaboration, enhancing operations and technology, and increasing buying power. The library is proud to maintain membership in both organizations.

The Reference/Information Literacy Librarian attended the Alabama Library Association Conference in Gadsden, Alabama, in April. This was an informative one-day conference in which information was shared on a variety of topics including information literacy instruction, library management, and reference services. On June 3, 2016, this exciting information was shared the library division at its division meeting. Then in June, the Reference/Information Literacy Librarian attended the American Library Association’s annual conference in Orlando, Florida. This conference expanded the knowledge on topics such as strategies for information literacy success, implementation of a successful information literacy program, modern management of library services, and the management of reference materials. Also, this gave the Reference/Information Literacy Librarian an opportunity to speak with vendors such as Mango Languages, America’s News, and EBSCO. This personal interaction with library vendors helped to solidify a better working relationship with each. Then lastly, the attendance at this conference provided an opportunity to research integrated library management systems. The library is interested in possibly purchasing a more user-friendly ILMS in the future.
The Career Center hosted its second Ice Cream & Conversations event on July 6 and 7, 2016, in the Student Center on the Trenholm Campus. Forty-seven students came out over the two-day event to provide feedback through a survey that asked students what Career Center services they have utilized, workshops they have attended, workshops/events they would like to attend, how they heard about the Career Center, and what the Career Center could do to improve its services and events. Overall, students stated that they were satisfied with the workshops/activities hosted by the Career Center but would like to see more outreach about events and services. The Career Center has plans to introduce new and innovative training for students during the 2016-2017 academic year.

The Career Center sponsored a Business Etiquette Luncheon on July 13, 2016, conducted by our very own Chef Robert Cawley and the Culinary Arts program. This workshop is typically offered during the spring or fall semester; however, Ms. Pinkston, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) advisor, advocated the workshop for FBLA members to give them the opportunity to learn proper etiquette when dining with employers, colleagues, and recruiters.

The training provided 14 currently enrolled students the opportunity to enjoy a four-course meal prepared by the students in the Culinary Arts program. Chef Cawley covered topics such as place settings, eating styles, ordering, do’s and don’ts of dining, paying the bill, and provided some additional helpful hints. The students were eager to learn and were astonished at the things they were doing wrong.

Dr. Gregory Hudson, Dean of Students; Lee Ammons, Dean of Instruction; and Ann Vernon, Office Administration instructor, were also in attendance. Students received a certificate of completion for 1.5 credit hours of professional etiquette training that they can add to their portfolios.
On Wednesday, June 29, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., the division of Student Services presented the Smooth Sailing Student Success Workshop. The morning sessions included currently enrolled Trenholm State and Job Corps students, whereas the afternoon sessions included new and transfer students of Trenholm State. With topics ranging from leadership development to effective communication strategies, all presenters were both engaging and informative. Dr. Gregory Hudson, Dean of Students, gave the welcome/occasion and introduced university partners from Alabama State University (ASU), Auburn University Montgomery (AUM), and Troy University. All three were extremely informative and made sure students were aware of the transfer agreements and qualifications with their universities.

After the brief presentations from the above-listed partner institutions, Ms. Kenisha Shelton, Dean of Career and Technical Education at Hinds Community College, presented “College Survival 101: Tools and Skills for a Successful Freshman Year.” Through both lecture and interactive activities, Ms. Shelton kept students attentive and on task. In conjunction with the workshop of Ms. Shelton, Mr. Daniel Vasser, County Administrator for Coahoma County, Mississippi, energized students with a series of interactive collaborations that kept students both engaged and on their toes literally. Mr. Vasser presented a series of communication and leadership exercises that all students thoroughly enjoyed.

During the lunch hour, students were treated to several brief yet informative presentations from Mr. Ty Holston, Assistive Technology Coordinator for Montgomery Public Schools; Mr. Damon K. Blythe, Trenholm State Retention/Advising Specialist; Mrs. Maria Richardson, Trenholm State Coordinator of Job Placement and Follow-Up; Mr. Paul Blackmon, Trenholm State Head Librarian; and Mr. Lee Ammons, Trenholm State Dean of Instruction.

The afternoon sessions were as lively and engaging as the morning sessions. Dr. Steve Smith, Director of Alumni and Constituency Relations at Jackson State University, presented “Setting Goals for Community College Success.” Mr. Daniel Vasser also returned to present another set of collaborative activities to reinforce leadership and communication skills. All in all, students thoroughly enjoyed the day and were looking forward to the fall 2016 semester.

Title III funds supported the EMS Department in the purchase of a renewal of testing software entitled “EMSTesting” for use to help better prepare students for their national certification. The software platform has over 5,000 questions that have been validated by over 31 million responses from around the nation. All questions are developed and reviewed by educators, and content experts, as well the company’s medical director. Questions are coded to Bloom levels and reading levels. Items have been evaluated for cut score, difficulty, discrimination, p values, and point biserials. The software allows instructors to develop examinations based on selected criteria chosen by them. The software has been used for the past three years in the EMS program and there has been a notable increase in the pass rate of the national certification examination.

Title III funds supported the EMS Department in the purchase of an Infant Airway trainer. This item features realistic size anatomy and is perfect for practicing airway management skills on an infant. This training aid will be used to teach oral and nasal endotracheal intubation procedures on infants.
Enhancing Resources for Retention Initiatives

Activity V with Title III funding has allowed the Student Success Center to renew the annual membership with Magna Publications for their recruitment and retention newsletter. This newsletter provides the latest information on national retention initiatives, best practices and innovative products that boost retention and completion rates.

Another valuable resource that was funded by Title III is Financial Literacy 101 software that has been renewed for the 2016–2017 academic term. For the fall 2016 semester, students have the option to complete the web-based, self-paced module that will not test but will enhance their ability to be better stewards of their personal finance.

Title III funding has also provided funding for the DropGuard/SmartEvals software renewal for the third academic term. The Student Success Center has diligently been working with the developers of DropGuard/SmartEvals to launch a user-friendly scheduling feature.

Academic Enrichment in Action

The 2015-2016 academic year was nothing short of transformative for the Student Success coaches of the Trenholm State Student Success Center. Staffed with no less than five Student Success coaches for both the fall 2015 and spring 2016 terms and four during the summer 2016 term, the Student Success Center did its best to provide services to all Trenholm students. As the funding for the success coaches is provided via the Title III grant, the Student Success Center has been fortunate to employ an excellent group of success coaches. Student Success coaches in reading, English, math, Medical Radiologic Technology and Diagnostic Medical Sonography made classroom visits to introduce Student Success Center services, assisted with New Student Orientation and provided academic enrichment in the following areas:

- Math: all levels
- Reading: all levels
- English: all levels
- CIS: basic to intermediate
- Accounting: all levels
- Medical Radiologic Technology: all levels
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography: all levels
- Nursing: all levels
- Science: all levels

Furthermore, to ensure streamlined communication with the Student Success coaches and the Trenholm State family, the Student Success Center provides additional information on the tutoring page of the Student Success Center webpage: http://www.trenholmstate.edu/current-students/ssc_tutor_2.cms

Finally, in keeping with the mission of the Student Success Center, it is imperative that students are allowed the opportunity to assess Student Success Center services. Per the results of the fall 2015 Student Success Center satisfaction survey, 73.69 percent of students were satisfied to very satisfied with Student Success Center services and coaches. The same survey given during the spring 2016 term yielded 71.88 percent of students were satisfied to very satisfied with Student Success Center services. The summer 2016 survey results show that 87.5 percent of students were satisfied to very satisfied with the services of the Student Success Center and success coaches. As the Student Success Center is committed to providing academic enrichment services of the highest quality, it will continue to improve and become a long-standing resource for the students of Trenholm State.
In order to maintain industry standards, the Culinary Arts program (CUA) recently used Title III funds to purchase new baking equipment. The items purchased will be used in the new Baking and Pastry option that will be offered in the spring semester of 2017. This purchase will allow us to offer classes that we have not had the equipment to offer in the past. The chocolate enrober and chocolate tempering machine will be used in CUA 130 Chocolate and Truffles and CUA 220 Introduction to Patisserie. They will also be used in the existing CUA 208 Advanced Baking class.

The rest of the equipment, the proofer, dough rounder and dough sheeter will be used in CUA 208 Advanced Baking and the following new classes: CUA 142 Specialty Bread, CUA 165 Cake Decorating, and CUA 217 Introduction to Pastries.

We will also incorporate the use of the equipment into Harper’s production. The purchase of this equipment not only allows the CUA program to keep up with industry standards, it will also help the program to meet ACFEF accreditation standards.

The Practical Nursing program is most appreciative of the funding received from Title III to purchase two full-electric beds, an auscultation trainer, and training arms, along with other equipment to teach medication administration. The nursing facility will utilize this equipment to assist in the training of students on the skills needed to provide safe and competent nursing care in the workplace.

Interview Skills Seminar with Hyundai Mobis

Student professional development is a major focus for the Career Center and the Student Services Division. We believe that our students should be provided opportunities to aid in their skill development as well as their personal development. The training will not only prepare them for their career job but teach them how to keep it.

The Career Center kicked the semester off with recruiting specialist, Tanner McGinn, from Hyundai Mobis Alabama on September 8, 2016. Thirty-four students from the automotive collision and repair program, the welding program, and the computer information systems programs arrived eager and with open minds to receive the information Mr. McGinn shared.

Mr. McGinn shared tips on the application and interview process with Mobis and some of the things they look for when reviewing applications, resumes, and references. He also shared tips on how to dress for the interview, how to respond to questions during the interview, and what to do once the interview is over.
Have you ever been in “The Hot Seat”? You may ask, what is that? According to author Zachariah Ballinger, “The Hot Seat” is the “dreaded interview that gives a job candidate a brief opportunity to impress the person in the hiring chair.” It was an honor to host the author of “The Hot Seat,” Zachariah Ballinger on September 13, 2016. Mr. Ballinger travels to schools throughout the southeast teaching and training faculty, staff, and students. Fifty-one students were welcomed by the aroma of fresh, hot doughnuts and coffee before the event began.

Mr. Ballinger shared the three phases of the interview process; phase one: before the interview; phase two: during the interview; and phase three: after the interview. Some key points from the process included discover your passion, have a positive attitude, do your research on the company, dress professionally, be mindful of social media posts, use the STAR method to answer interview questions, ask questions during the interview, ask for the job, participate in a mock interview prior to the real interview, and send a thank you note.

There was time for a group activity about networking and even an interview skit in which I had the pleasure of being a participant. The skit demonstrated to students what not to do when going on an interview. The students were very engaged and were able to identify all the things Mr. Ballinger (the job applicant) did wrong during the interview. This was an amazing training opportunity for our students and for the College.

A new initiative by the Career Center is the Developing Your Professional Brand Sessions. Students receive strategies on how they can begin developing their personal and professional brand from business and industry professionals. The first session featured representatives from Wind Creek Hospitality. We have a long-standing partnership with them; in fact, Ms. Veronica Taylor, the Employment Specialist for Wind Creek Hospitality Montgomery, is a 2004 Office Administration graduate from Trenholm State. She continued her education upon graduation and has since received her bachelor’s degree with plans to pursue her masters. We also welcomed Ms. Tracy Hart, Employment Supervisor, and Ms. Alicia Hayes, Training Specialist Supervisor. The team presented students with information regarding their recruitment, hiring, and training practices, as well as four recommended steps to building your personal brand which included dress for success, purpose of your resume, interview do’s and don’ts, and what to do after the interview. Students were very engaged and asked very essential questions that will assist them as they plan for their career upon graduation.