

Institutional Evaluation

**2003-2004 SUGGESTIONS
FROM GRADUATES ON
IMPROVING TRI-COUNTY
TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

[August, 2004]



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From January, 2004, through April, 2004, diploma and associate degree graduates obtaining degrees from 7/1/02 through 6/30/03 were surveyed by the Institutional Development Division. The survey consisted of two mailings followed by a telephone interview of nonrespondents. One question asked graduates for suggestions for improving Tri-County Technical College. A total of 491 graduates were surveyed and 77 or 16% provided suggestions. The following lists their responses to the question.

Arts and Sciences Graduates

Associate in Arts and Associate in Science - 52 Graduates Surveyed

- You are doing a good job.
- Have more people that deal with the students one-on-one.
- More windows in classrooms, alumni parking, or transform parking lots into classrooms.
- Advisors should help students understand what classes transfer.
- Add an automotive program. Greenville Technical College has one, and you are losing students to them that could attend here.
- More parking for students only.
- Don't get too caught up in the online classes and trendy new stuff. Tri-County Technical College's best asset is the people, especially the faculty. Keep using that asset to the maximum.

Business and Human Services Graduates

Accounting - 15 Graduates Surveyed

- The cafeteria needs improvement, add a study environment, and provide a better recreation area. Stop raising tuition.
- Have more social interactions for evening students. I never felt like I was a student and felt very isolated.
- Better parking for students.
- Get some elevators.
- There needs to be more computer labs available for work outside of class.

Computer Technology - 46 Graduates Surveyed

- Hire more instructors like John D. Benard.
- Parking.
- I plan to try job placement. The way it stands right now, the College will not even hire me part-time.
- Keep up the good work.
- Need to offer intermural/recreation league sports.
- Need help getting job experience.
- The remodeling interfered with my learning.
- Better parking.
- Do something about the stairs.
- More parking.
- Make the area between the buildings and parking lot easier to travel.

Criminal Justice Technology - 38 Graduates Surveyed

- More parking areas, larger classrooms, more emphasis on student safety, and more extension campuses throughout the counties.
- Have a bigger bookstore with more cashiers to help get you in and out.
- Hire better instructors that do more than recite verbatim passages from dry textbooks and then have you spend the entire period doing desk work while they run to Kentucky Fried Chicken for lunch and come back and eat while the class fills in questionnaires.
- South Carolina Tech Online availability needs to be made more publically aware because this option could be invaluable to many students.
- Provide more disability parking to students.
- Better variety of classes and a more flexible time schedule.

Management - 40 Graduates Surveyed

- More room in classrooms.

- More parking.
- Hire better qualified adjunct instructors.
- I feel that more majors need to be added to Tri-County Technical College's curriculum. I would be interested to see a whole marketing program as well as human resources.
- Offer more programs like mechanical engineering.
- The College needs to be able to offer a four-year degree.
- Offer more online and weekend classes.

Office Systems Technology - 24 Graduates Surveyed

- Better parking.
- Better advising.

Radio and Television Broadcasting - 8 Graduates Surveyed

- No comments.

Health Education Graduates

Associate Degree Nursing - 57 Graduates Surveyed

- A parking garage and quit raising tuition every semester.
- I have two associate degrees from Tri-County Technical College. I've recommended the College often. I had two excellent educational experiences here.
- Put in an escalator from the parking lot.
- Make more classes available for more students at one time.
- Be positive. There were some instructors who were great and helpful. They encouraged you as a student and person. They were good mentors. Encourage the instructors to be helpful.
- Encourage students to participate in student government more. One student did and she felt like it really helped her with her leadership skills.
- Do something about the hill.

Early Childhood Development - 12 Graduates Surveyed

- The only thing is the parking and the hike to classes, but I can deal with it.

Expanded Duty Dental Assisting - 14 Graduates Surveyed

- I was satisfied with my previous experience attending, but the dental classes were not up to standard.
- Better job placement.

Medical Assisting - 26 Graduates Surveyed

- Stop raising tuition every semester. Make more financial aid available for those whose parents make mediocre money, but do not live with their parents. It is not fair.
- Offer the courses needed for the program the whole year.
- More class schedule flexibility. Many required classes are spread so far apart between classes, they are inconvenient for students that live far away.
- Need to have a basketball team for men and women.
- If I could change or improve the Practical Nursing program at Tri-County Technical College, I would fix it so if a student wasn't successful, there would not be a limit as to how many times a student can enter the program. That is why people attend college.

Medical Laboratory Technology - 12 Graduates Surveyed

- Treat international students like equals to other students. We paid a lot of money to come here and we do not get any scholarships at all.

Practical Nursing - 19 Graduates Surveyed

- I was very happy with my experience at the College.
- Additional parking.
- Offer short and long-term loans for everyone.

Respiratory Care - 7 Graduates Surveyed

- Add more medical and healthcare programs.

Surgical Technology - 12 Graduates Surveyed

- No comments.

Veterinary Technology - 13 Graduates Surveyed

- More flowers.

- Better parking.
- More parking.
- Consider remodeling or renovating Halbert Hall to make the whole institution look better and to utilize its teaching facilities to the fullest.
- Give more money to the Veterinary Technology Program to allow it to grow and prosper.

Industrial and Engineering Technology Graduates

Electronics Engineering Technology - 4 Graduates Surveyed

- Market the institution better. It is the best kept secret in South Carolina.

Engineering Graphics Technology - 5 Graduates Surveyed

- No comments.

General Engineering Technology - 2 Graduates Surveyed

- Better parking areas.

General Engineering Technology/Quality Assurance - 3 Graduates Surveyed

- Broaden the availability of online classes.

Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Technology/Industrial Maintenance - 14 Graduates Surveyed

- Help students develop long term goals. Many students in technical classes never speak with an academic advisor outside of their department. These students, myself included, do not think about taking classes for future transfer.
- Parking and be more lenient with parking tickets.
- Put a cap on the costs.

Industrial Electronics Technology - 32 Graduates Surveyed

- Return the pool tables.
- Get rid of the hill.
- All suggestions have since been implemented.

Machine Tool Technology - 12 Graduates Surveyed

- Install escalators from the parking lot.

Textile Management Technology - 10 Graduates Surveyed

- Better parking.
- Better pizza place in cafeteria.

Welding - 14 Graduates Surveyed

- Be forthcoming about everything.
- More parking.

Summary Statement

Of the 491 graduates surveyed, 77 or 16% provided suggestions for improving Tri-County Technical College. The top five suggestions from highest to lowest frequency of response were (1) addressing parking concerns, (2) increasing availability of courses (3) updating and maintaining equipment and facilities, (4) improving availability and effectiveness of advisors and instructors, and (5) offering more social interaction for students.