

# *Institutional Evaluation*

**2004-2005 SUGGESTIONS  
FROM GRADUATES ON  
IMPROVING TRI-COUNTY  
TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**[May, 2005]**



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From January, 2005, through April, 2005, diploma and associate degree graduates obtaining degrees from 7/1/03 through 6/30/04 were surveyed by the Institutional Advancement 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. The following report lists their responses to the question.

Of the 544 graduates surveyed, 92 or 17% provided suggestions for improving Tri-County Technical College. The top five suggestions from highest to lowest frequency of response were (1) 27% addressing parking concerns, (2) 24% increasing availability of courses, (3) 14% improving availability and effectiveness of advisors and instructors, (4) 11% updating and maintaining equipment and facilities, (5) 7% improving organization and communication of office staff.

### **Arts and Sciences Graduates**

#### **Associate in Arts and Associate in Science - 63 Graduates Surveyed**

- I know there is a photography course offered at Tri-County Technical College. I would like to see more courses, maybe even offer a commercial photography degree. I transferred to North Georgia Technical College to major in this, yet due to the long drive and high gas prices, I was forced to drop my classes.
- Have more activities to help students find career goals such as career planning activities like “Career Days”.
- Implement a no smoking rule. Better parking lot situations. The hills are awful.
- An escalator for that darn hill! I’d rather walk ten miles on a flat surface than to climb that hill from the parking lot.
- You need at least one more lower level math class that counts as full credit and would better bridge the gap between high school and college mathematics. This a big problem, and reflects in students grades.
- Implement a debit card system.
- Update the classrooms.
- Fix floors in the auditorium. The rain floods the auditorium and causes damage, and we also need more parking.
- “The smoking policy”.
- I believe Tri-County Technical College waits too late to decide to cancel a class which often renders students with little or no choices. (cancel due to limited enrollment).
- More informed advisors.

## **Business and Human Services Graduates**

### **Accounting - 16 Graduates Surveyed**

- More color printers in the lab areas.
- None! It's a great school, stay focused on what can a person with an associate degree can perform.
- It's a great school, keep it up!
- Better parking.
- More student involvement with alumni association.

### **Computer Technology - 38 Graduates Surveyed**

- Expand to a four-year college and improve the parking lot.
- Informal transcripts to be seen on the web/campus pipeline after graduating. Campus pipeline needs to be available to students always.
- More parking, get the school off of the hill.
- Add another campus.

### **Criminal Justice Technology - 34 Graduates Surveyed**

- The only problem I have had was one instructor was from Russia. There was terrible language barrier. She was very hard to understand.
- Additional parking.
- Class availability and more majors.
- Using past graduates in the classroom to mentor in the major.
- Some improvement for the walk up the hill, ski lifts, elevators, or some accommodations made for walking from parking lot.
- The school overall was very well operated. I enjoyed the experience and would recommend Tri-County Technical College to anyone.
- Tighten up, make students more accountable.

### **Management - 48 Graduates Surveyed**

- Offer more business and computer classes.
- A better computer lab is needed. Most of the time the computers sit broke for weeks and nobody cares to come and fix the computers, also more computers are needed.
- Provide class schedules to students and allow them to sign up for classes on line like Clemson University.
- University transfer screwed up my chances of succeeding after Tri-County Technical College. I received an “F” flat out for a class that I signed up for and was unable to attend. The grade was not removed, although I never attended the class. The instructor did not teach there when I tried to have the “F” removed. That one class screwed up my chances at attending a university after Tri-County Technical College. My advisor never advised me, and I was very unaware of the policies of Tri-County Technical College and other universities regarding transfers and admissions. Chris Sirola was not available to answer my questions or advise me of decisions regarding my future. I guess since he already had a career and was making money, he could care less about my future. Thank you for the “F” I received and could not remove. Also, thank you for taking my dreams of attending a “real college” and flushing them down the drain. I might add, the business department was very wonderful. They had time for my insignificant problems and questions. They are also skilled in the respective teachings.
- Get a handicap ramp for Oconee Hill.
- Another off-site campus.
- Offer more real estate courses and mix them up by offering more evening classes.
- Seek more qualified instructors.

#### **Office Systems Technology - 44 Graduates Surveyed**

- Need to help find graduates good paying jobs. Students need to have experience so they can compete in the job market.
- One of the instructors was not knowledgeable at all. There should be a check and balance on instructors to make sure they are educated enough to teach.
- Need to offer classes the same as Greenville Technical College. More Saturdays and one night per week for lectures for working parents to finish school.
- Hold instructors to higher standards. Some had expertise in the field, but did not demonstrate good people skills or communicate well with students.
- More parking spaces and online classes.

## **Radio and Television Broadcasting - 9 Graduates Surveyed**

- Try to get a radiology technician program at Tri-County Technical College.
- More classes needed in writing. The students should be served better food for a cheaper price.
- More activities for students, student clubs and organizations.
- Have vending machines located in all the different halls. Some classrooms are quite a distance from the cafeteria.

## **Health Education Graduates**

### **Associate Degree Nursing - 74 Graduates Surveyed**

- When the president of the college states “We are here to help each student and their success”, you need to stand beside every graduate all the way. Right now the students don’t look bad for failing; the College does. The percent rate for failure on the NCLEX is so high.
- Better parking.
- Stop worrying so much about money, and focus more about people.
- We are working in a South Carolina nurse’s program, although it is geared for passing boards on national level. What we do and practice does not help us to get and keep a job.
- More parking spaces needed, and a shuttle bus for parking that is so far away.
- Availability of classes.
- Get rid of instructors who are worn out and don’t really care about teaching anymore. Instructors who do not fall asleep in class!
- Just fix the Associate Degree Nursing Program!
- Need to take a good look at the nursing program.
- Mini buses to go up the hills to go to parking lots.
- More day or night classes, more classes other than at the main Campus. I think that progress is being made in that area.
- It would be helpful to offer a variety of times for courses.
- Improve parking and do not give out tickets. Tuition and books cost enough already.



- I can only speak for nursing students. There needs to be a visible and available third party, outside of the nursing department, that a student can go to if he or she does not feel that he or she is being treated fairly. A type of arbitrator or corporate compliance officer.

#### **Early Childhood Development - 6 Graduates Surveyed**

- Parking and safety.
- Some improvement in the parking lot.

#### **Expanded Duty Dental Assisting - 13 Graduates Surveyed**

- No suggestions.

#### **Medical Assisting - 15 Graduates Surveyed**

- Organization of the office staff.
- Communication is very bad.
- Review instructors and make sure they are teaching not depending on the students to teach themselves and to know what to do. One of my instructors never taught what he tested on. I am a very good student and science is my best subject. I don't understand my instructor.
- To be more adult friendly.
- Greenville Technical College accepts three times the students and can do clinical night and weekends.

#### **Medical Laboratory Technology - 13 Graduates Surveyed**

- Easier access to the College from the parking lot. More computer areas, more online classes, and more computer use in classrooms.
- Offer more online classes and a bachelor of science degree. More instructors like Dallas Jones and Polly Kay, and shuttle service from the parking lot to the College.

#### **Practical Nursing - 20 Graduates Surveyed**

- The Associate Degree Nursing Program needs to be a little more organized and have some better instructors.
- Increase registered nurse's slots and teach registered nursing in the evenings.
- Some improvement with the communication between advisor and students.

### **Respiratory Care - 10 Graduates Surveyed**

- Offer more variety of majors.

### **Surgical Technology - 25 Graduates Surveyed**

- Provide transportation to and from the College from different areas.
- Have more open night classes for all programs.
- Offer more majors.
- Get rid of the cardiac hills and better parking.

### **Veterinary Technology - 14 Graduates Surveyed**

- I think the only suggestion I have for Tri-County Technical College is that even though it is a technical college, they need to take their students into consideration instead of how good they look in the public eye. People need to know we are getting an education, not what the College is going to receive money- wise, unless it is being use to buy equipment for the students
- Let veterinary technology students be able to participate in students activities. Our schedule wouldn't allow us to be there.
- Be more concerned with how students are doing while they are still attending, rather than giving an evaluation of the "College" once they have graduated. You give us evaluation forms on instructors and the curriculum, but not of the college while we are attending. When we needed assistance from the College personnel, it wasn't there.

## **Industrial and Engineering Technology Graduates**

### **Electronics Engineering Technology - 5 Graduates Surveyed**

- Improve and expand parking.
- Some of the classrooms have air circulation problems, need some fresh air to come in, gets really stuffy in some rooms.

### **Engineering Graphics Technology - 8 Graduates Surveyed**

- More adequate parking closer to buildings is needed because of the mountain around Tri-County Technical College.
- Offer more classes at night.

- The College should give more information about the career choices available to the people to gain attention to majors where there is little enrollment like Engineering Graphics Technology.

#### **General Engineering Technology - 3 Graduates Surveyed**

- No suggestions.

#### **General Engineering Technology/Quality Assurance - 6 Graduates Surveyed**

- No suggestions.

#### **Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Technology/Industrial Maintenance - 21 Graduates Surveyed**

- Teach the students to have more respect for school property. During my two and half years, it seemed to be the “norm” for students to prop their feet on tables.

#### **Industrial Electronics Technology - 37 Graduates Surveyed**

- Expand the online classes into other fields of study.
- Work more closely with Clemson University to help graduates know what program courses can transfer. Very good instructors.
- Class availability needs improvement.

#### **Machine Tool Technology - 7 Graduates Surveyed**

- Don't forget that this is technical college that people attend to get or learn a trade and start earning a living or advance their position. Please don't turn it into a liberal arts transfer service.
- Offer some type of shuttle from parking lot to top of the hill, perhaps a fee could be charged to offset cost. The climb up and down those steps was often tough for us older students.

#### **Textile Management Technology - 4 Graduates Surveyed**

- The parking is horrible, offer more classes in the evening and daycare for the evening students. Be more flexible with adults and their attendance.

#### **Welding - 11 Graduates Surveyed**

- Trolley system to move around the campus.