

## Director's Report

For the tenth consecutive year, the Abbeville County Career Center received the Palmetto Gold Award from the South Carolina Department of Education. The Career Center also received an Absolute Rating of Excellent and an Improvement Rating of Good on the Annual School Report Card. The school continues to perform well in the areas of Vocational Skill Proficiencies, Academic Achievement, Graduation Rate and Placement Rate. We must continue to be diligent in areas of recruitment and retention, as well as non-traditional recruitment and retention. As we move forward, our task is to continue to recruit quality students and to increase the expectations of those students. By introducing a more rigorous curriculum in the areas of math and science, maintaining dual credit and articulation agreements with the local technical college, and providing more internship opportunities for students in their chosen fields, we are placing our students more firmly on the path to success.

Our Project Lead the Way Program for Engineering is well established and places the school in the forefront of the STEM initiative (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). This project-based curriculum is heavy in math and science and is dual credit. Dual credit means the students completing the course with an 85 or better will receive high school and college credit. By adding dual credit to an already rigorous curriculum, we have raised the level of achievement in our programs. Students directly benefit from the enhanced curriculum. As a result, students will be much better prepared for the post-secondary experience. Students also benefit by accumulating nearly one year's worth of college credit resulting in a savings of time and money. PLTW serves as an outstanding example of the opportunities provided by dual credit enrollment.

Demands on all of our programs have increased. The Automotive Technology program is certified by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation. Project Lead The Way achieved full program certification in 2011. The other programs at the school maintain the same high standard. Equipment is the latest and best available. Technology is cutting edge. Coursework continues to be challenging. Instructors, in an effort to establish work-based competencies, will focus more on soft skills. These are workplace skills commonly learned through character education and sought by employers. All courses participate in end of course testing.

We encourage partner participation at the Career Center. Business partners and members of the community are active on Advisory Councils. Students participate in community events and charitable causes. Several students are taking advantage of cooperative work opportunities. Parents are encouraged to participate in school activities and to serve on the School Improvement Council. Tours for individuals or groups can be arranged by calling the school's main office.

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