

# CareerFocus™

## Get It Right the Second Time

Make your next career  
your best career

## Hello, Anybody Out There?

Don't limit your job search  
to the internet

## Start Growing a Career

Ag students get off  
to the right start

## Making a Difference

Early Care and Education  
program raises the bar



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## Facts and Finds

### Who Goes to Community College?

Plenty of famous people and high-achievers started out at a community college. Here's a short list of stellar alum:

- Gwendolyn Brooks, Pulitzer prize-winning poet
- Eileen Collins, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut
- Joyce Luther Kennard, California Supreme Court justice
- Jeanne Kirkpatrick, former United Nations (UN) ambassador
- Jim Lehrer, news anchor
- Robert Moses, choreographer and dance company founder
- Sam Shepard, Pulitzer prize-winning playwright
- James Sinegal, CEO of Costco
- Maxwell Taylor, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

#### - The College Board

#### Community College: Myth vs. Reality

# Facts AND Finds

### Starting at a Community College: A Smart Choice

For most people, the rising cost of a college education is a major concern.

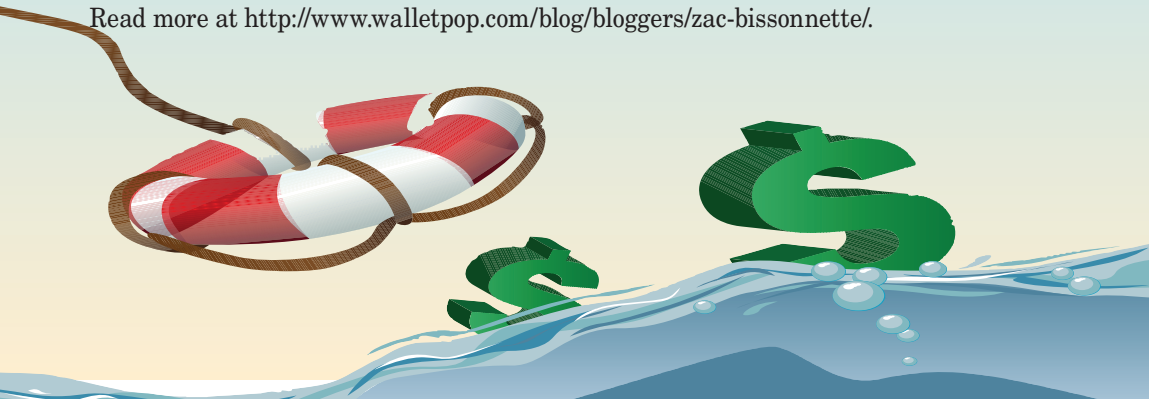
According to AOL Money & Finance writer and editor Zac Bissonette, starting at a community college like Piedmont Tech is one of the smartest decisions students pursuing a bachelor's degree can make.

He says:

Bottom line: unless you're rolling in cash or receive a huge amount of scholarship money, beginning your college career at a community college is a prudent step to take into consideration.... And remember, the main difference between the diploma of someone who went to Harvard for four years and someone who did the first two years at a community college before transferring is: nothing.

Bissonette, a junior at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, contributes to *College on a Dime*, an AOL series about college finance and smart strategies for getting the most out of higher education. His book *College on a Dime* will be published by Penguin in the fall.

Read more at <http://www.walletpop.com/blog/bloggers/zac-bissonette/>.



### Don't Gamble Your Future

How much should you pay for your education?

That question is an important part of the equation for the majority of students who take out student loans to finance college. There's

nothing worse than discovering that your shiny new college degree resulted in more debt and less income than you'd dreamed.

The People Capital Web site offers a tool to help you determine how much you can expect to earn in your future career—and therefore how much you can comfortably repay. This “human capital score” is based on your major, college, test scores and GPA.

Try it for yourself at [humancapitalscore.com](http://humancapitalscore.com).

### Careers of Tomorrow

The future is always unknowable and unpredictable, but that never stops anyone from trying to see what lies ahead.

Experts everywhere attempt to predict what the jobs of the future will be so that we can prepare for them today. If you're going to invest time and money into preparing for a career, it would be nice to know where the opportunities are.

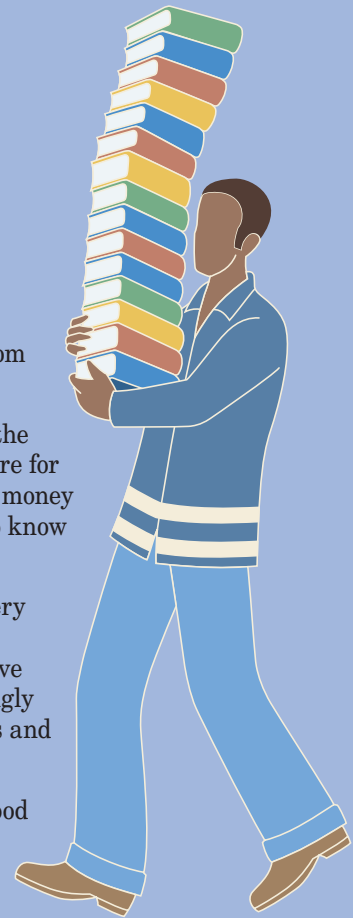
Today many prognosticators see a slow recovery for the economy, taking at least five years for the overall unemployment rate to fall below five percent. And they see a workforce that's strongly divided between good paying professional jobs and poor-paying service jobs.

Economic experts warn us that some of the good jobs of the past have disappeared and will never return. And they predict that many existing occupations will have to adapt to new trends. For example, social networking will transform public relations and marketing; alternative energy will create a new niche in engineering; health care and finance will both put more emphasis on risk management; and technology will continue to change nearly everything it touches.

Looking even farther into the future, some visionaries have predicted the new careers that will exist in 2030. Among the job titles your grandkids may hold: space pilot, vertical farmer, climate change reversal specialist, weather modification police and memory augmentation surgeon.

Read more at:

- “Where The Jobs Will Be In This Decade” Jan. 4, 2010 [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org)
- “Best Careers 2010” [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com)
- “Landing a Job of the Future Takes a Two-Track Mind” Dec. 28, 2009 [online.wsj.com](http://online.wsj.com)
- “Even in a Recovery Some Jobs Won't Return” Jan. 12, 2010 [online.wsj.com](http://online.wsj.com)
- “Jobs of 2030” [www.fastcompany.com](http://www.fastcompany.com)



### College Raises Women's Wages

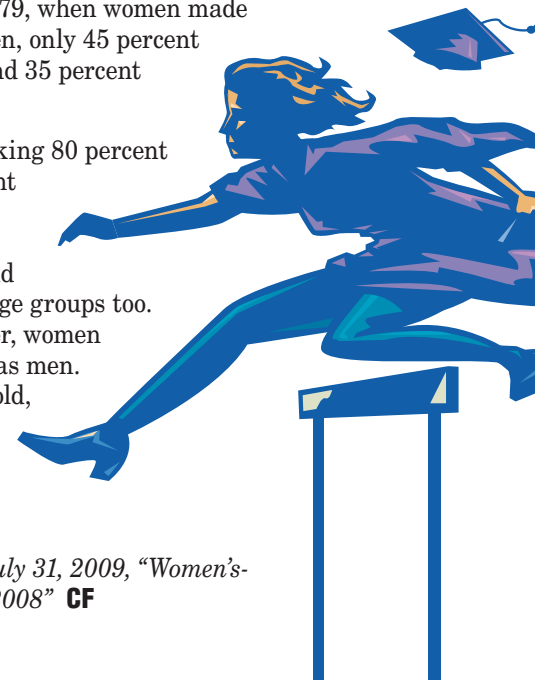
One important reason why women make more money today than they did 30 years ago is that they have more education. In 1979, when women made

just 62 percent as much as men, only 45 percent were high school graduates and 35 percent had any college education.

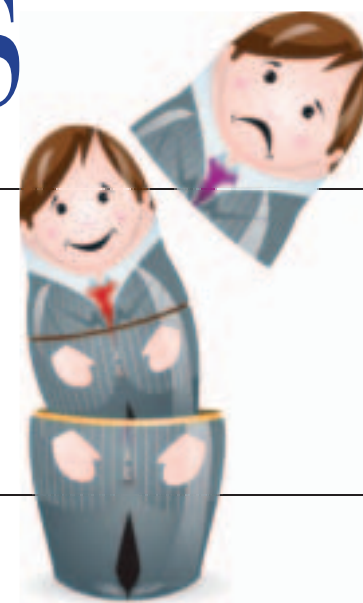
But by 2008, women were making 80 percent as much as men and 93 percent had a high school degree and 66 percent had some college.

That pay gap between men and women varies widely among age groups too. Among people age 35 and older, women earn just 75 percent as much as men. Among people 25 to 34 years old, women earn 89 percent as much as men, and for 16- to 24-year-olds, it's 91 percent.

From the Bureau of Labor Statistics, *The Editors Desk* July 31, 2009, “Women's-to-men's earnings ratio, 1979-2008” **CF**



# CareerFocus™



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## PTC A TO Z

## 10 Your goals. Our mission.



**On the cover:**  
Kentoya Gunter  
ECD Major, Class of 2010

Questions about the PTC programs and services described in this publication should be directed to the Office of Admissions at (864) 941-8369. Comments or questions about the publication itself can be directed to the PTC Office of Marketing and Public Relations at (864)941-8541.

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#### Institutional Mission

Piedmont Technical College transforms lives and strengthens communities by providing opportunities for intellectual and economic growth.

The College, a member of the South Carolina Technical College and Comprehensive Education System, is a public comprehensive two-year post-secondary institution. Piedmont Technical College contributes to the economic growth and development of the largest and most diverse region of the technical college system, Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties and to the state. The College enrolls approximately 4,500 to 5,500 credit students. The college responds to the academic, training and public service needs of the community through excellence in teaching and educational services. Piedmont Technical College's open admissions policy provides accessibility for individuals with diverse backgrounds the opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills for employment in engineering technology, industrial technology, agriculture, business, health, and public service. Piedmont Technical College graduates develop competencies in communication, mathematics, problem solving and technology.

The college offers university transfer; associate degrees, diplomas and certificates in technical and occupational areas; developmental education programs; student development programs providing academic, career and individual support; and custom-designed Continuing Education programs provide training for business and industry.

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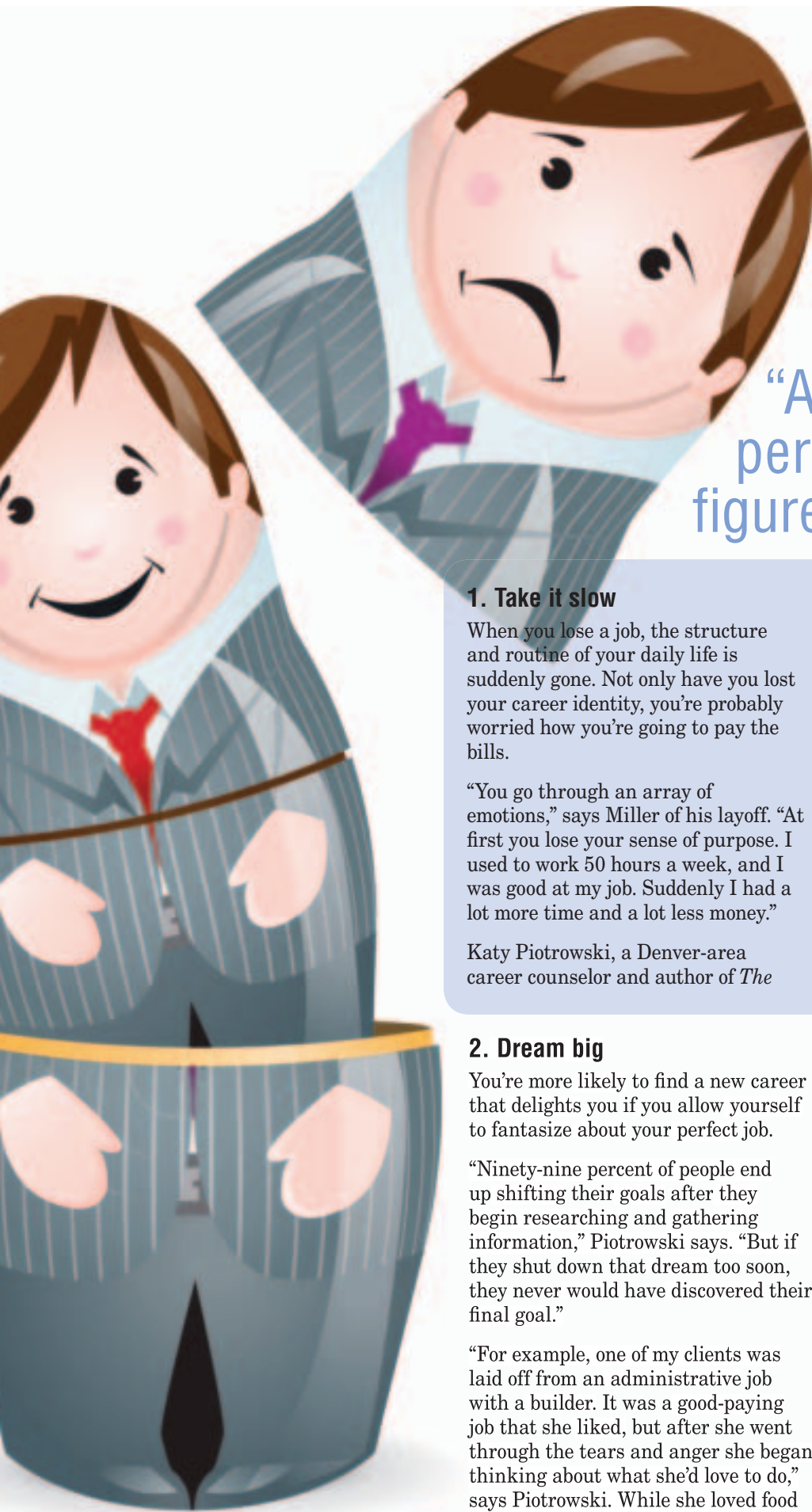
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# Get It Right **THE SECOND TIME**

## Make your next career your best career



**D**on't think anyone should assume that they won't have to find a new career at some point," says Robert Miller. He should know. After 20 years as a Teamster's truck driver, he was in his mid-40s when he was laid off. Now he's retraining for a new career in biomedical engineering technology at Schoolcraft College in Livonia, Mich.

Miller has plenty of company, too. Today the average worker will

change jobs 10 times by the age of 38—and probably even more times than that over a lifetime.

Whether your career move is by choice or because of a layoff, taking the time to plan the next step can mean the difference between finding a job that makes you really happy and one that just pays the bills. Reviewing your options first will equip you to make better choices than you would if you dived straight into the help wanted ads.

**“Accept that you’re in a transition period, and that you need time to figure out the best move.”**

### 1. Take it slow

When you lose a job, the structure and routine of your daily life is suddenly gone. Not only have you lost your career identity, you're probably worried how you're going to pay the bills.

“You go through an array of emotions,” says Miller of his layoff. “At first you lose your sense of purpose. I used to work 50 hours a week, and I was good at my job. Suddenly I had a lot more time and a lot less money.”

Katy Piotrowski, a Denver-area career counselor and author of *The*

*Career Coward's Guide to Changing Careers* says you may not be in any condition to make good choices for a while.

“As a rule of thumb, I estimate that every year you spend in a career, you'll need a month to reach the point in which you can embrace a new opportunity. If you were in a career for 20 years, it can take 20 months to really be ready for the next thing.”

However, that doesn't mean you should do nothing. Keeping a journal about your job loss can speed up the

recovery, Piotrowski says, so write about what you're going through.

And if you have to take a less-than-ideal interim job to pay the bills, don't sweat it. Just getting out and working will keep you in touch with the world and moving toward your end goal.

“Accept that you're in a transition period, and that you need time to figure out the best move,” she says. “Give yourself permission to try things out and acknowledge that you don't have all the answers yet.”

### 2. Dream big

You're more likely to find a new career that delights you if you allow yourself to fantasize about your perfect job.

“Ninety-nine percent of people end up shifting their goals after they begin researching and gathering information,” Piotrowski says. “But if they shut down that dream too soon, they never would have discovered their final goal.”

“For example, one of my clients was laid off from an administrative job with a builder. It was a good-paying job that she liked, but after she went through the tears and anger she began thinking about what she'd love to do,” says Piotrowski. While she loved food

and cooking and was interested in sustainable agriculture, she couldn't figure out how she could turn those things into a job.

So she began talking to everyone in businesses related to her interests, researching ideas and interviewing people about their work. Eventually

she found a job with a community-supported agriculture group coordinating sales of organic produce to local restaurants and organizing cooking classes. This was a job she never knew existed and would never have found had she not started out with a dream rather than a plan.

**This was a job she never knew existed and would never have found had she not started out with a dream rather than a plan.**

### 3. Learn about yourself

While most people enjoy dreaming about a new career, many are terrified of the process of getting there. After all, it can be difficult; you may have to acquire new skills, or take a pay cut, or prove yourself all over again.

Carl Wellenstein, a Los Angeles, California career coach who specializes in working with mid-life career changers and is the author of *12 Steps to a New Career* helps his clients overcome some of those fears by asking them to tell him “achievement stories,” the stories of their successes—both small and large. The stories help them identify their strengths and how those strengths transfer to new jobs. “If clients begin this process with low self-

esteem, by the end of it they’re energized and enthusiastic,” he says.

“You can’t take charge of your career unless you know who you are, what you want and where you’re going,” he adds.

One of the advantages of a career search in mid-life is that you now have a better sense of your values and priorities than you had starting out in your 20s. You’re more likely to recognize that your happiness at work affects your entire life.

Robert Miller knew that he wanted to find a job that fit his skills and interests. He initially considered jobs in health care because the field offers plenty of

opportunities and job stability. “My girlfriend suggested nursing, but I just didn’t think I’d be good at that,” he says. “But because I like repairing things and working on my own, it made sense to pick a career in which I can use my talents working on medical equipment.”

“You can’t take charge of your career unless you know who you are, what you want and where you’re going.”

### 4. Investigate your options

Once you’ve identified your skills and thought hard about what you’d love to do, it’s time to cross-check your perceptions with reality.

Get out and talk to people in the businesses you’re interested in, try a few projects, volunteer, intern, take a class, and experience what it’s like to do what you’ve been dreaming.

“Your idea of what’s out there will change with this kind of interaction,” says Piotrowski. By gathering real-life information, you’ll learn about opportunities you’ve never considered and get clear on your preferences and priorities.

She also recommends “practice projects” in which you try your hand at the job on your own time. Interested in construction? Start

by building something small. Considering photography? Get out your camera. See yourself as a social worker? Spend some time volunteering.

You’ll get a much better sense of what you like and what you don’t like if you talk to professionals and visit their workplace.

Wellenstein gives the example of a podiatrist who started out believing he wanted to be a veterinarian.

While both professions use similar skill sets, he realized the day-to-day of veterinary medicine wasn’t for him, while the detailed focus of podiatry was a good fit.

“It’s not just important to talk to people in the profession, but to also SEE what they do and get an idea if you can see yourself doing that, too.”

By gathering real-life information, you’ll learn about opportunities you’ve never considered and get clear on your preferences and priorities.

### 5. Get realistic

“I never thought I’d be going back to school in my 40s,” says Miller.

“I felt competent in my old job and now I’m challenged with learning new things. It’s not exactly comfortable, although in the long term it’s probably good.”

If you do have to go back to school, says Piotrowski, you may be surprised to find that it’s not as complicated as you first thought.

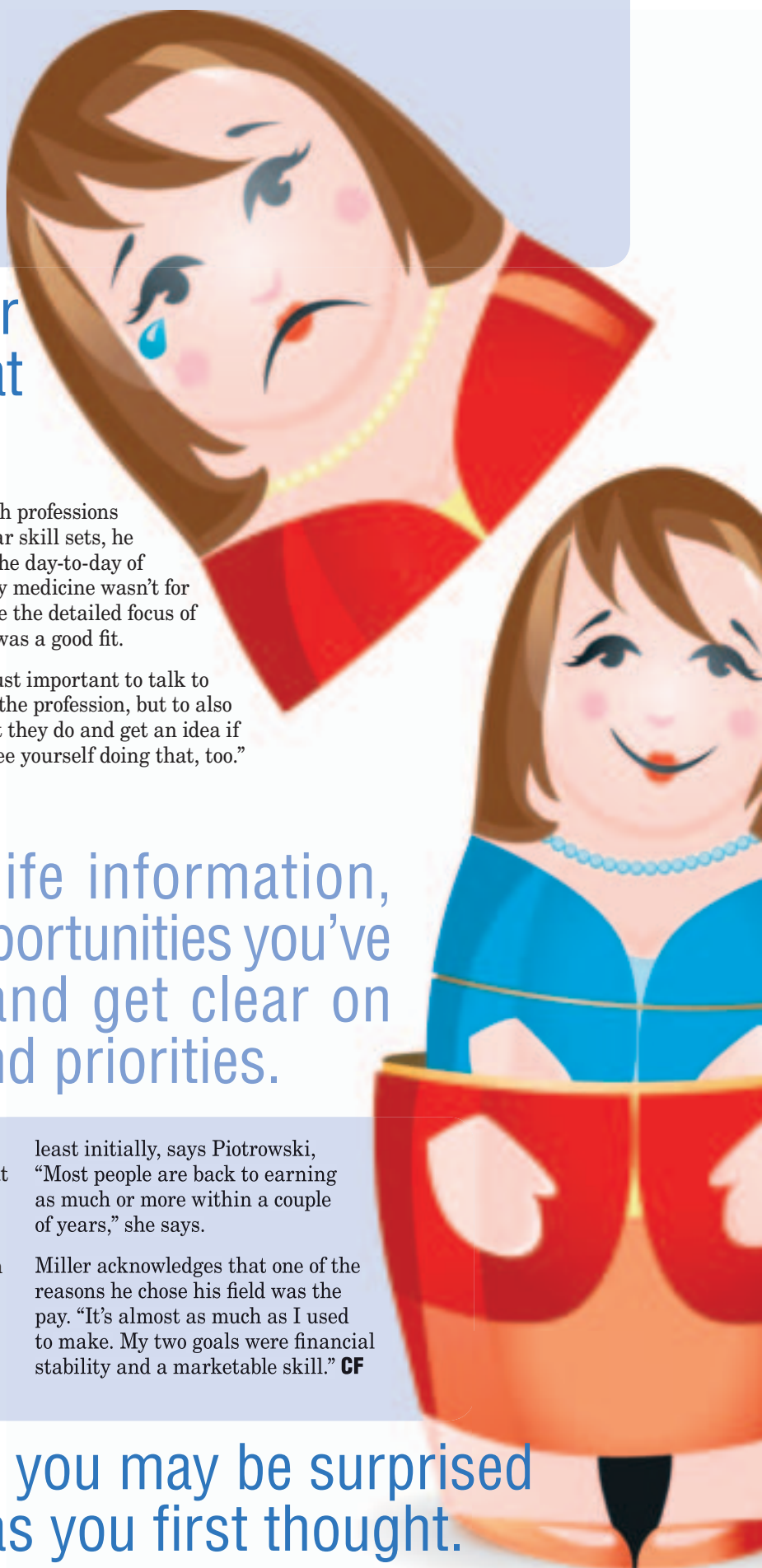
“I find that about 25 percent of career-changers have to get extensive training such as a certificate or a degree, but many people can take a few classes to get up to speed.”

Although starting over in an entirely new profession may mean taking a pay cut—at

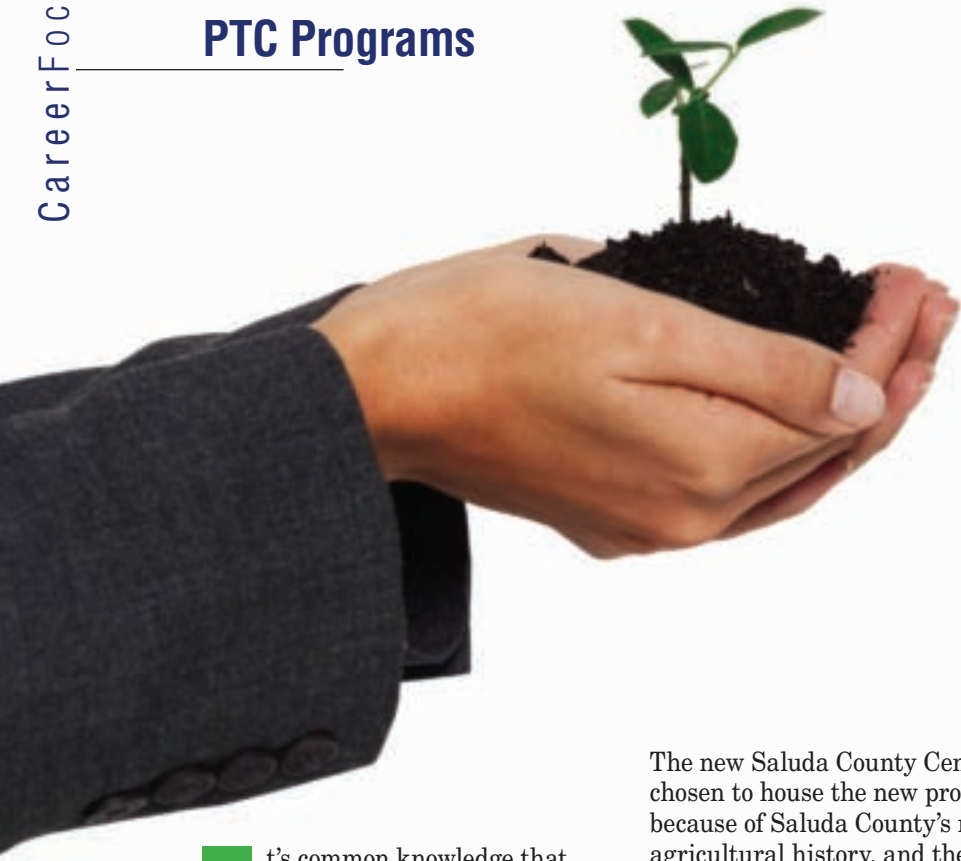
least initially, says Piotrowski, “Most people are back to earning as much or more within a couple of years,” she says.

Miller acknowledges that one of the reasons he chose his field was the pay. “It’s almost as much as I used to make. My two goals were financial stability and a marketable skill.” **CF**

If you do have to go back to school, you may be surprised to find that it’s not as complicated as you first thought.







It's common knowledge that agriculture is an important part of South Carolina's heritage. Today, it's more important than ever.

According to the South Carolina Department of Agriculture, farming generates over two billion dollars a year at the farm level, but the impact on the state's economy goes far beyond the farm gate. Agriculture has a direct and indirect economic impact of \$33.9 billion a year, provides \$7.5 billion in labor income and creates and supports almost 200,000 jobs across the state.

Over the past few years, many of the counties within Piedmont Technical College's seven county service area have seen dramatic growth in agriculture-based businesses—from the expansion of Louis Rich, to new businesses like SPF. This growth, in a region that's already rich with agribusiness, led PTC to launch a Diversified Agriculture program in the Fall of 2009 to support the industry's continuing growth.



The new Saluda County Center was chosen to house the new program because of Saluda County's rich agricultural history, and the number of working farms in the surrounding area.

For Joshua Nicholson, that made the new program a perfect fit.

"Originally, I was enrolled at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Georgia, which I loved," he says. "But when I found out that Piedmont Technical College was offering an Ag program in my hometown, I was excited, because one of the disadvantages of being out of state is being away from your family, so I decided to come back here to Piedmont Tech to finish my program."

Nicholson's ultimate goal is to use the hands-on training he's getting at Piedmont Tech in combination with a bachelor's degree in English or marketing to work as a Public Relations representative for an agricultural company.

Melvin McClellion, a student from Hickory Tavern, saw the program as a logical next step to build on the interest he's had in agriculture since his childhood. "I was in FFA for four years, and I've been in 4H for most of my life. I took all the agriculture classes that Laurens High School had to offer," he says. After completing the program at Piedmont Tech, he's planning to transfer to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College to major in Fish and Wildlife Biology.

Although their goals are different, they have one thing in common: a love for agriculture, and a desire to stay in the field.

Hugh Bland, the instructor for the agriculture program and a well-

# Start Growing a Career

## Diversified Agriculture students get off to the right start



known face throughout South Carolina's agriculture education community, knows from experience that these kinds of students are exactly the ones that can benefit most from the PTC agriculture program.

"We try to bring students in who feel like they're a part of the earth," says Bland, "the kind of people who want to make working with the land their livelihood and their life's work. This program gives them an opportunity to stay in the area while they learn about how technology has changed modern agriculture."

He sees several distinct advantages for students who choose to begin at Piedmont Tech.

### High Technology. Hands-On Experience.

Bland thinks it's critical for students to get direct experience with what's going on in the modern farming community. "I want them to see it. To handle it. To touch it," he says.

This direct experience is important because of the dramatic changes

in agriculture over the past few decades. PTC's Diversified Agriculture program devotes a significant portion of time to giving students a well-rounded view of how modern, precision farms work. Bland regularly invites some of the younger crop of farmers who are involved in production agriculture to speak to his classes about the influence of computers and information technology.

Students also spend a large part of their time on working farms. "You can't stay in the classroom to fully understand the dynamics of the agriculture industry today," says Bland.

For those who are interested in a specific facet of agriculture, the program can be tailored to meet the needs of individuals. "We're small enough to structure the program around each student's goals to make sure they're getting the training they'll need for whatever direction they'd like to move in," Bland says.

The program consists of an associate degree that's built on two





## Student Profile

### Caleb Miller

#### Agriculture program provides a doorway for students

Agriculture has always been part of Caleb Miller's life. Raised on a small farm in Saluda, he developed a love for the family business and the desire to pursue a career in agriculture. But he wasn't sure how to accomplish that goal.

"I wasn't going straight to Clemson because I wasn't ready financially," Miller said. "I just wasn't ready for that big of a step yet."

Miller enrolled in the new Diversified Agriculture program at the Piedmont Technical College Saluda County Center. He plans to continue his education at Clemson University to either enter the field or become a teacher.

"I'd love to teach high school students and let them see agriculture today," Miller said. "Hopefully, they will want to get into the field."

Even though he has a farming background, Miller said he has been most impressed with the hands-on experiences he has had while in the program.

"I'm learning things about agriculture that the average person can't see just by riding down the road," he said.

Though he came into the program with some experience, Miller said that it isn't necessary to succeed. "Coming in with experience doesn't put you ahead, it just gives you a good understanding of what is involved," he said.

Miller said he enjoys the variety of approaches to learning. Class instruction varies from researching cattle breeds on the computer to spreading gravel to learning about the mechanics of the farming vehicles. The program's goal is to present students with an in-depth view of production agriculture.

"Every day is something different, but it's always related to what you've already learned and builds from one day to the next," he said.

Miller said he would recommend the program to anyone wanting to begin their education close to home.

"By coming to Piedmont Tech, you can save money over attending a four-year university," he said. "You can take classes here to get more hands-on time and more one-on-one time with the teacher, while you're getting the classes you need for your bachelor's degree." **CF**

**"We try to bring students in who feel like they're a part of the earth," says Bland, "the kind of people who want to make working with the land their livelihood and their life's work. This program gives them an opportunity to stay in the area while they learn about how technology has changed modern agriculture."**

certificates. The first can be finished in about a year. Bland says the certificate is enough to get an entry-level job in any area of agriculture, but that he encourages students to go beyond the certificate level.

The second year course provides a more immersive experience. During the summer of the second year, students participate in an internship on a working farm or in an agricultural

business. Because of the additional depth in this second year, the college prefers students to complete the entire two-year program.

#### Cost Savings and a Solid Foundation

Although students can finish in two-years with an in-depth understanding of agriculture, Bland pushes all of his

students to achieve at the highest levels they can.

Because PTC has a wide variety of courses approved to transfer to any state college or university in South Carolina, students have the option to transfer after they receive their associate degree. For students interested in agriculture, this is the ideal path to a bachelor's degree. They graduate from PTC with real-world experience in production agriculture and enter a four-year institution after saving thousands in tuition and fees.

Piedmont Tech has the lowest tuition rate of any institution within its service area and offers lots of financial aid options to help students lower the cost of attendance. And in general, South Carolina's technical colleges have a much lower cost of attendance than their four-year counterparts.

PTC is working very hard to make additional transfer options available to

students, particularly with Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Georgia, as well as Clemson University here in South Carolina.

For Bland, who's spent the past 33 years of his life teaching agriculture to high school students in Edgefield and Aiken counties, the job is ultimately all about seeing his students succeed.

"When a student contacts me, I want to work to get them where they want to go," Bland says, "What we do in this program is to take small family farm students who love it and to give them the skills they'll need to continue in the field and succeed in the modern marketplace." **CF**

For more information about the Diversified Agriculture program, contact Hugh Bland at 864-445-3144, ext. 3104 or bland.h@ptc.edu.

# Hello, Anybody Out There?

## Why it's a mistake to limit your job search to the Internet



In many ways, Amazon.com's recent job fair looked like a typical event. Applicants lined up to network with recruiters in a well-lit room. Résumés were exchanged and follow-up interviews scheduled. But every now and then, someone would spontaneously float to the ceiling.

The job fair took place in the online world Second Life, and the participants were interacting in the form of avatars – virtual characters they manipulated through their computers. In spite of accidental levitation and other technical mishaps, virtual career events have become increasingly common. Along with resume blasters, online job boards and networking sites like LinkedIn and Facebook, they're another sign of the Internet's growing importance as a job-hunting tool.

In fact, now that they can reach millions of employers with the click of a mouse, job seekers may wonder if offline networking is still necessary.

"Absolutely," says Ford R. Myers, career expert and author of *Get the Job You Want, Even When No One's Hiring*. "There is no better way to make progress in your job search than to have personal connections with people in your network. If you send out things cold to a large group of people who you don't know, the response rate is so infinitesimally small that it's practically nonexistent. So answering ads online, sending out blind resumes to companies and applying for positions all day long on the Internet is a fool's game. It has no productivity, no response rate, and no success."

Jason Alba, social media expert and CEO of jibberjobber.com, agrees that networking is key—but he believes it needs an online component. "Having a profile on LinkedIn is absolutely critical, because the people you need to be in front of—HR recruiters, hiring managers, business owners, decision makers—are using it to some degree," he says. "If you're going into a niche profession or industry, you should also find the Web sites that are specific to it, and start getting involved there as much as you can. And you can start to make a name for yourself as an expert in your field by starting a blog that's centered around your profession." Since blogs are updated regularly, he says, search engines rank them higher, and they're more likely to be seen by employers and recruiters.

### Get Real

But though the Internet offers many networking tools, Alba advises job seekers not to depend on it exclusively. "I discounted face-to-face networking for the first couple months of my job search, and it was a complete failure. I sent out as many resumes as I could, but I didn't get any interview requests because I was not able to establish any deep and meaningful relationships. So you might start making contacts online, but it makes sense for you to eventually go offline and actually meet people on a different level."

According to Duncan Mathison, career counselor and co-author of *Unlock the Hidden Job Market*, the depth of your relationships with your contacts can make or break your

network. "We have all heard that there is an average of six degrees of separation between people," he says. "But research shows that the vast majority of job search networks die after two degrees of separation—a friend of a friend.

"This is because people in your network have to care enough about you and your search to make introductions to the next connection. And people will care more about you if you actually meet them—or at the very least have a phone conversation to establish who you are and what types of employers would value your skills the most."

### The Human Network

As Alba describes it, job fairs are just one of many places where you can make these connections. "Go to Chamber of Commerce meetings. There are technology councils or employer associations in most big cities—go to those. But no matter where you do it, one of the key things with networking is the concept of following up. Put your contacts in one central place, where you record who you talked to, when you talked to them, and what you talked about. Let your connections know what you need, and ask them specifically, 'Who do you know? Can you give me an introduction?'" Getting an

introduction to somebody is far more powerful than doing a cold contact."

Myers agrees, but he cautions that job seekers shouldn't view networking merely as a pathway towards the boss or hiring manager. "The main reason to get a networking meeting is so you can find out what a company's needs and challenges really are," he says.

"Employers couldn't care less about the fact that you're unemployed. All they care about is what you can do for them, and networking is the perfect opportunity to find out what that is. So you're looking for people who can lead you into organizations where there are potential problems and needs that are aligned with your own strengths and assets.

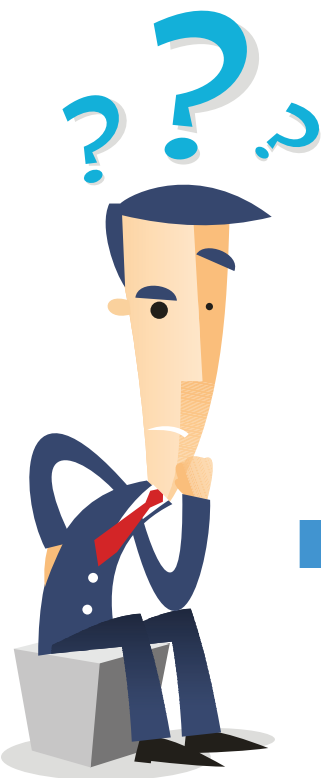
"Networking is all about getting warm referrals, communicating with the people with hiring power, seeing what they want, and finding ways to give it to them," he says. "Uncover an employer's needs, then show how you'll successfully address those needs, and you'll always have a job." **CF**





# Test Your Networking Know-how

## Smart job seekers know when to put down the mouse



**T**he Internet can be a convenient tool in your job search, or it can become a crutch that lets you avoid personal encounters. These true/false questions will help you use online and offline networking effectively.



**1** The most efficient way to job hunt online is to post your resume and respond to positions advertised on job boards.

- TRUE
- FALSE

**2** You should resist the urge to write in informal texting style when networking online.

- TRUE
- FALSE

**3** The first thing you should ask in a networking meeting is, "Do you know of any available jobs?"

- TRUE
- FALSE

**4** It's important to control your online brand.

- TRUE
- FALSE

**5** If you're not comfortable interacting in face-to-face encounters, you should avoid them and stick to online networking.

- TRUE
- FALSE

**6** If you network by e-mail, it's more efficient to send general messages to multiple contacts instead of personal messages to individuals.

- TRUE
- FALSE

**7** While networking, you should avoid specifying which type of job you're looking for, in case an employer has a different position available.

- TRUE
- FALSE

### The Answers

**1 FALSE:** "One of job seekers' biggest mistakes is that they're sitting behind a computer sending out resumes to Monster.com and then passively waiting by the phone," says Myers. "The percentage of my clients who find their jobs that way is less than one percent." Instead, he says, you should use the Internet mainly to research companies and to arrange and conduct personal networking encounters.

**2 TRUE:** Online communication should be concise, but that doesn't mean "OMG R U hiring?? ;-)" is an appropriate networking message. "Sending emoticons or abbreviated writing right off the bat sends kind of a sloppy message," Alba says. "And remember that in written communication, it's hard to discern that someone is joking. So if you use humor, it's really easy to screw up your intentions."

**3 FALSE:** "People need to stop acting like job applicants, and start acting like solution providers," Myers says. "It's not about you. If you start by saying, 'I need a job, I want more career growth, blah, blah, blah,' you've got it completely backwards. What you should be talking about is what you can contribute to the employer, starting on day one."

**4 TRUE:** Alba recommends that all job seekers google their names, to see what other people can learn about them online. "If you find a Facebook profile or a Twitter tweet full of foul language or inappropriate conversation, is that the message you want to put in front of a prospective employer?" Fortunately, he says there's a remedy for an embarrassing Internet history. "If it's stuff like Facebook pictures, stuff you have control of, just take them down. But if it's stuff you don't have control of, start a professional blog; blog every single day, and make sure you put your name in the blog posts. Those

posts will start appearing towards the top of the Google search results, and they'll push the junk down."

**5 FALSE:** On the contrary, Mathison says, you should do even more face-to-face networking as practice. "These days, job interviews are hard to come by. When they do happen you need to be prepared. Networking conversations give you essential practice in describing who you are and what you do. With practice, you are less likely to say something stupid in a high-stakes job interview."

**6 FALSE:** "I have had clients who networked effectively through e-mail, but it was very personalized, focused e-mail, not big blast e-mail campaigns," Myers says. "You can get good networking going through personal e-mail, referrals, warm leads and introductions. But when you do get a response, the first thing you say is, 'Can we get together and meet, or can we follow up with a phone call?'"

**7 FALSE:** According to Mathison, "It is lame to put yourself out there with some general and vague request that you are looking for a job with a stable employer, great benefits and plenty of growth opportunity. We're all looking for that job, and we will take it first before we pass it on to you! Be specific. Help your network help you. They need to know specifically the one or two types of jobs you are looking for, as well as the names of possible employers."

### Scoring

**6 or 7 right:** Your networking skills are solid—use them regularly and your job search will end well.

**4 or 5 right:** More knowledge could help—try reading some networking books, articles and Web sites.

**3 or fewer right:** Your networking skills need work—read books, seek guidance from a career coach or counselor, then get out there and start practicing. **CF**



# Making a **DIFFERENCE**

## PTC Early Care and Education program raises the bar for child care

If you love working with children and you're looking for a job where you can make a difference, Piedmont Tech's Early Care and Education program is an excellent way to get your career off to the right start.

With a combination of classroom instruction and supervised hands-on experience, the program prepares students for direct entry into a variety of early care and education positions. It also provides students headed toward a bachelor's degree with a convenient, affordable way to get started with the knowledge that their work at PTC will transfer seamlessly to some of South Carolina's top education programs.

### An Evolving Curriculum

Although the program focused predominantly on how to be an effective care-giver to children when it was launched many years ago, today, the Early Care and Education program at Piedmont Tech is about more than day care—it's about teaching students how to effectively educate young children.

"We're evolving as the requirements and needs of child care change,"



says Ashley Hollingsworth, Program Coordinator for PTC's Early Care and Education program.

The program now offers two associate degrees: a major in Early Care and Education and a major in Early Care and Education with a concentration in Infant and Toddler Care. In addition, there are two certificate programs designed for those who'd like to complete a credential more quickly.

While providing students with child care fundamentals is still a very important part of the curriculum, it has grown to encompass much more in response to the increasing emphasis on the quality of early childhood education across the United States—driven in part by No Child Left Behind.

"Children between the ages of birth through 5 years of age are at a

**"Long term educational outcomes start with early childhood, so effective education during these formative periods is critical to a child's success," says Rhonda Pendergrass. "Our program is about teaching our students the strategies they'll need to prepare the children under their care for success later in life."**

critical stage in their development," Hollingsworth says. "So it's never too early to start building a child's skills."

Research shows that children with early language and literacy experiences are more likely to be effective readers and succeed in later years. In fact, most reading problems faced by adolescents and adults have been shown to be the result of problems that could have been prevented through good instruction in their early childhood years.

"Long term educational outcomes start with early childhood, so effective education during these formative periods is critical to a child's success," says Rhonda Pendergrass, Early Care and Education instructor. "Our program is about teaching our students the strategies they'll need to prepare the



children under their care for success later in life."

As a result of this increased focus on educational outcomes for young children, the Early Care and Education program worked to receive accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), an organization dedicated to improving the well-being of all young children, with particular focus on the quality of educational and developmental services for all children from birth through age 8.

NAEYC has granted accreditation to only 51 associate degree programs nationwide since 2006.

"Having this accreditation at the technical college level allows students to take more classes closer to home with the confidence that they'll be able to move on to a four-year institution," said Hollingsworth.

### Bridge to a Bachelor's Degree

Part of PTC's push to increase access to higher education for students throughout its service region, the Early Care program's focus on transferability makes it an excellent choice for students who are looking for a practical, cost-effective way to begin their college careers.

Because students are able to successfully complete such a large portion of their bachelor's degree requirements at PTC, and because of PTC's low tuition, the total cost of a four-year degree is greatly reduced.

PTC currently has Early Childhood Education bridge agreements





how much they can save, we'll see the number of people on the transfer track continue to grow," says Pendergrass.

### Flexibility and Affordability

Because the program offers a variety of flexible scheduling options, it's also an excellent choice for students who have family or work obligations that would make starting a traditional bachelor's degree program difficult to manage.

The associate degrees and certificates are offered in both day and night format, and courses are offered on a rotating basis in all seven counties via Piedmont Tech's county centers. The program also uses technology to provide students with increased access.

A full third of the course work is available through the Piedmont Education Network, a system that allows students to take part in live classes from any campus location, including all six county center locations. Several courses are available in a hybrid format that mixes online coursework with live classes. Hollingsworth and Pendergrass are actively working on adding more online versions of courses.

"Ultimately, we're about improving the quality of child care in our region," says Hollingsworth. "And we want everyone involved in educating young children to enjoy the advantages that come along with a college education." **CF**

For more information about the ECD program, contact Ashley Hollingsworth at 864-941-8787 or [hollingsworth.a@ptc.edu](mailto:hollingsworth.a@ptc.edu) or Rhonda Pendergrass 864-941-8507 or [Pendergrass.r@ptc.edu](mailto:Pendergrass.r@ptc.edu).

with the widely respected education programs at the University of South Carolina, Columbia College and Newberry College. PTC is also actively working on an Early Childhood transfer agreement with Lander University that would allow Piedmont Tech graduates to transfer seamlessly to Lander in the Early Childhood Program after completing their associate degree course work.

Over the last few years, Pendergrass says that the program has seen an unprecedented degree of collaboration with four-year institutions all over the state. In the end, she says, it's students who win.

"I hope that as people realize the quality of the program that's in their backyard here at PTC, and as they see

## The T.E.A.C.H. Program: A Great Opportunity for Child Care Workers

"The T.E.A.C.H. program is a great way for people already working in child care to go back to school" says Ashley Hollingsworth, program coordinator for Piedmont Tech's Early Care and Education program.

In many cases, Hollingsworth says that the program allows people to continue their education at Piedmont Tech for free, and even to move on to a bachelor's degree program at little to no cost.

For individuals working a minimum number of hours per week in a child care program licensed or registered with the South Carolina Department of Social Service, the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Project provides scholarships to complete course work in early childhood education courses toward the South Carolina Early Childhood Credential, a Certificate, a Diploma, or an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education.

For more information about the T.E.A.C.H. Program, contact Kimberly Sparks at 1-866-845-1555.

## Student Profile

### Darlene Saxon

#### PTC graduate makes her mark

Darlene Saxon, a 2009 PTC graduate, had always wanted to be a teacher. Little did she know how she would accomplish that goal, especially since she didn't attend college right after high school.

"I remember being very excited at my high school graduation," she says. "But I noticed that many of my friends were making plans to further their education. They were making plans for college."

Saxon didn't think college was an option for her. But later, when she and her husband decided to home school their children, she began receiving compliments on how well-educated and well-mannered her children were. These conversations led her to re-think her assumption that college wasn't for her.

She began to think about how she could further her dream to teach, and she enrolled in the Early Care and Education program at PTC. She now plans to continue her studies toward a bachelor's degree.

"My program of study has benefitted me greatly. It has caused me to strive for improvement daily," said Saxon. "I have a passion to teach children and it has never left me despite various circumstances that have happened in my life."

While at PTC, Saxon served as presidential ambassador for two years and was a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She was also recognized in *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges*.

"Piedmont Tech puts me in an emotional state because it has been such a blessing to me," Saxon said. "At age 44, stepping on that campus was the most horrifying experience I could imagine. But I soon discovered that, yes, you can begin college later in life. And yes, you can graduate with double honors."

Upon graduation in May 2009, she put her skills to work. Saxon is the founder and pastor of The Kingdom Works Ministries and CEO of The Kingdom Academy Christian School and The Kingdom Kidz Tiny Tots Child Care and Development Center.

As she prepared to expand the child care and development center, Saxon



turned to her PTC instructors for help. Rhonda Pendergrass, an ECD instructor, worked with Saxon on developing an exemplary facility.

"They didn't just leave me when I graduated," said Saxon. "They're still here for me."

The child care and development center opened in April. Saxon is still expanding. She is currently working with the city and the county to open a community center.

She is also searching for a new facility for the child care and development center. "We've already reached capacity for the new facility, and we're looking for ways to expand again," Saxon said.

Her love of Piedmont Tech has been passed on to her staff. All of the caregivers, instructors and even business office personnel within the school and child care and development center are either enrolled at Piedmont Tech or are recent graduates.

"Paving the pathway to success for children is the driving force for my success," she said. "I knew this was what I was meant to do and Piedmont Tech prepared me." **CF**



## PTC Programs

# Your goals. Our mission.



**F**or over 40 years, Piedmont Tech has been providing a college education to thousands—make that hundreds of thousands—of students in Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood, Laurens, McCormick, Newberry and Saluda counties. High quality, affordable, college education that's close to home.

In these turbulent economic times, PTC continues to provide training

for displaced workers, occupational training for trade and technical jobs and an affordable academic foundation for students who plan to transfer to four-year colleges.

Piedmont Tech's programs provide students with options in numerous career fields. Thinking about a career in business? Our business curriculum has programs in accounting, administrative office technology and entrepreneurship. Interested in a career in art or design? Our commercial art program

integrates animation, graphic design and photography.

For students planning on a four-year degree, PTC's University Transfer programs provide a solid two-year start on a bachelor's degree. Transfer students who haven't decided on a career path yet can fulfill their general education requirements at PTC before moving on to a four-year school to concentrate on a major. And students who've already decided on a career path can build a foundation of specific transfer courses in

diverse fields such as education, law enforcement and engineering.

Look over the full range of options in this PTC programs listing to find an associate degree or transfer program that fits your talents and interests.

To find out more about how to prepare for your future at PTC call 1(800)868-5528 or visit our Web site at [www.ptc.edu](http://www.ptc.edu). **CF**



### UNIVERSITY TRANSFER PROGRAMS

If you're headed toward a bachelor's degree, we can help you get there. Piedmont Tech offers more than 80 courses that transfer to any public university or college in South Carolina, and hundreds of PTC students transfer credits earned at Piedmont Tech to universities throughout the state each year.

#### Associate in Arts

The Associate in Arts program prepares students for four-year baccalaureate majors in fields such as business, accounting, management, English, journalism, social work, education, music, psychology, history, pre-law, humanities, fine arts and social sciences.

#### Associate in Science

The Associate in Science degree stresses mathematics, as well as natural and physical sciences, and prepares students for four-year baccalaureate majors in those fields, plus engineering, pre-med, veterinary medicine, chiropractic and education.

#### General Studies Certificate

This certificate program provides an integrated option for students seeking an introduction to various academic disciplines.

#### Transfer Partnerships & Career Path Transfers

PTC has established specific transfer agreements with more than 15 colleges and universities, as well as specific career path transfers in areas such as business, criminal justice, engineering technology, education and many more. Talk to your advisor to decide which path is right for you.

For more information, visit [www.ptc.edu/transfer](http://www.ptc.edu/transfer)



### AGRICULTURE

We all know that agriculture is an important part of South Carolina's heritage. But did you know that agriculture-based businesses play a critical and expanding role in the growth of the state's economy? In fact, agribusiness is one of the largest economic clusters in the state and a critically important part of the knowledge based economy.

#### Diversified Agriculture

Provides students with advanced technical knowledge in sustainable agriculture, field crop production, pest management, soil and water management, hydraulics and pneumatics, agriculture economics and marketing related to the agricultural industry.

#### Basic Diversified Agriculture Certificate

#### Advanced Diversified Agriculture Certificate

#### Horticulture Technology

Students are prepared for supervisory, middle management and technical positions in horticulture, including landscape design, implementation and maintenance.

#### A.A.S., Major in Horticulture Technology

#### Horticulture Landscape Management

#### Agriculture Education Transfer Option to Clemson

#### Horticulture and/or Turfgrass Transfer Option to Clemson

#### South Carolina Median Salaries

Farmer - \$33,600  
Horticulturist - \$35,600  
Landscaping Supervisor - \$37,100



### BUSINESS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

If you're a good communicator who enjoys solving problems, a career in business might be right for you. Computers have also become an indispensable part of everyday life. Majoring in Computer Technology at Piedmont Tech will give you the knowledge and skills you'll need to get started in Information Technology and computer science.

#### Administrative Office Technology

Actual work experience and instruction in keyboarding, word processing, spreadsheet applications, transcription, office procedures, communication, accounting and more give graduates the ability to work independently and handle the details of office administration.

#### A.A.S., Major in Administrative Office Technology

#### Microcomputer Software Specialist Certificate

#### Office Technician Certificate

#### Business

Probably no other occupational area encompasses a more diverse range of activities than the business field.

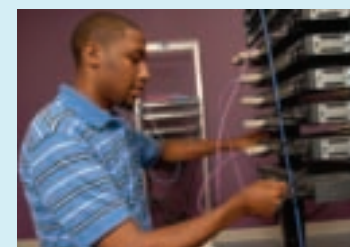
#### A.A.S., Major in Business

#### Accounting Certificate

#### Entrepreneurship Certificate

#### South Carolina Median Salaries

Accounting - \$49,800  
Administrative Office Technology - \$27,000  
Office Manager - \$38,900  
Network Administrator - \$53,600  
Funeral Director - \$48,200





**Computer Technology**

Students study computer maintenance, local and wide area networks and popular programming languages. Graduates are truly prepared to take their place in the Information Age.

**A.A.S., Major in Computer Technology**

**Advanced Web Development Certificate**

**PC Technician Certificate**

**Commercial Art**

If you have an artistic streak and you enjoy solving problems by thinking creatively and interacting with computers, you should consider a major in Commercial Art.

**Advertising Design Certificate**

**Desktop Publishing Certificate**

**Digital Rendering and Gaming Development Certificate**

**Illustration Certificate**

**Photography Certificate**

**Funeral Service**

This program provides the educational foundation needed to seek South Carolina licensure both as an embalmer and as a funeral director.

**A.A.S., Major in Funeral Service**

**Funeral Service Education Certificate**

**Professional Pottery**

Located in historic Edgefield County, the Professional Clay program is designed to offer a comprehensive education in the craft of pottery, and in the discipline of making a living doing what you love.

**Advanced Professional Clay Certificate**

**Professional Clay Certificate**

If you're fascinated by technology and enjoy a hands-on approach to problem solving, Engineering Technology may be the right career path for you.

**Electronic Engineering Technology**

The graduate is skilled in the operation, troubleshooting, calibration and repair of electronic instruments and systems found in process control, communications, computers, manufacturing, programmable logic controllers and microprocessors.

**A.A.S., Major in Electronic Engineering Technology**

**Engineering Graphics Technology**

All phases of manufacturing or construction require the conversion of new ideas and design concepts into the basic line language of graphics.

**A.A.S., Major in Engineering Graphics Technology**

**General Engineering Technology**

Students will learn how computers and robotics are used in industry to operate automated manufacturing systems. They will also learn to program computers, robots, computer numerical control (CNC) machines, programmable logic controllers and automated equipment.

**A.A.S., Major in General Engineering Technology**

**Mechanical Engineering Technology**

The Mechanical Engineering Technology curriculum equips the graduate for: performing a key role in the mechanical design process; installing, troubleshooting and repairing mechanical and electro-mechanical equipment; programming CNC machine tools, computers, programmable controllers and robots; and performing general maintenance functions.

**A.A.S., Major in Mechanical Engineering Technology**

**Certificate Programs**

**Computer Aided Drafting Design**

**Electrical Engineering Transfer**

**Mechanical Engineering Transfer**

**South Carolina Median Salaries**

Drafter - \$41,300  
Electronic Engineering Technician - \$49,900  
Mechanical Engineering Technician - \$48,600

Students enrolled in any of the Industrial Technology curricula will gain practical experience and technical knowledge. Well-equipped labs, broad-based programs and hands-on opportunities make the difference in their futures.

**Automotive Technology**

Students are trained to perform quality maintenance, diagnosis and repair of complex modern vehicles.

**A.A.S., Major in Automotive Technology**

**Automotive Fundamentals Certificate**

**Advanced Automotive Fundamentals Certificate**

**Building Construction Technology**

Students gain practical training in estimating building costs, carpentry, cabinet making, residential wiring, blueprint reading, brick masonry, construction, building codes and safety.

**A.A.S., Major in Building Construction Technology**

**Construction Management Certificate**

**Carpentry Certificate**

**Gunsmithing**

**Advanced Gunsmithing Certificate**

**Gunsmithing Certificate**

**Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Technology**

Students are educated in the installation, maintenance and repair of air conditioning, refrigeration and heating systems.

**A.A.S., Major in Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning Technology**

**Heating Fundamentals Certificate**

**Refrigeration Applications Certificate**

**Industrial Electronics Technology**

Instruction covers DC and AC voltages; basic hydraulics; machine shop practice; motor control; and the generation, distribution and utilization of electrical power.

**A.A.S., Major in Industrial Electronics Technology**

**Electronic Maintenance Technician Certificate**

**Machine Tool Technology**

Students in this program get training and practical experience in machining operations used in the manufacturing industry. The graduate is skilled in the use of precision equipment and can make intricate parts.

**A.A.S., Major in Machine Tool Technology**

**D.A.S., Major in Machine Tool**

**Computerized Numerical Control Certificate**

**Electrical Discharge Machining Certificate**

**Machine Tool Operator Certificate**

**Mechatronics Technology**

Combining electronic, mechanical, robotics and information system technologies, this program provides the graduate with the skill set needed for today's automated manufacturing facilities.

**A.A.S., Major in Mechatronics Technology**

**Mechatronics Technology I Certificate**

**Mechatronics Technology II Certificate**

**Welding**

Students learn to join metal by use of gas-fueled torches and electric arc processes.

**D.A.S., Major in Welding**

**Journeyman Welding Certificate**

**South Carolina Median Salaries**

Automotive Technician - \$30,000  
Carpenter - \$31,100  
HVAC Technician - \$34,600  
Electronics Technician - \$42,300  
Machinist - \$31,700  
Mechatronics Technician - \$57,100  
Welder - \$29,400





With the complexity and diversity of today's health care system, varieties of health care professionals are needed. To function effectively by providing safe, knowledgeable patient care, the health care professional needs a thorough understanding of basic sciences and individual curriculum theory.

**Cardiovascular Technology**

The cardiovascular technologist performs diagnostic tests which are used in the diagnosis, treatment, and serial follow-up of patients with cardiovascular disease.

**A.A.S., Major in Cardiovascular Technology**

**General Health Science**

The General Health Science certificate offers students awaiting program entry a sequence of courses that meet the general education requirements of health science programs.

**General Health Science Certificate**

**Massage Therapy**

Massage Therapy is one of the fastest growing professions in the health care field. There is an ever increasing acceptance of massage as a holistic approach to health care and health maintenance.

**Massage Therapy Certificate**

**Medical Assisting**

The Medical Assisting program prepares a multi-skilled graduate to function in clinical and administrative areas of the physician's office and ambulatory care centers.

**D.A.S., Major in Medical Assisting**

**Nursing**

The Nursing program will assist students in developing the intellectual, technical and professional competencies necessary to practice. Upon successful completion of the NCLEX-RN licensure exam by the State Board of Nursing for South Carolina, graduates can seek employment as licensed registered nurses.

**A.A.S., Major in Nursing**

**D.A.S., Major in Practical Nursing**

**Advanced Placement Nursing Program**

**Associate in Arts with Nursing Focus/ADN to BSN**

**Patient Care Technology**

Because health care is changing at an unprecedented pace, new or varied approaches to patient care are emerging. One such approach is the use of multi-skilled individuals known as patient care technicians who are a part of the health care team.

**Patient Care Technology Certificate**

**Pharmacy Technician**

Graduates of the Pharmacy Technician diploma are health care professionals who assist the pharmacist in a hospital or clinical setting to provide quality health care related to medication administration in an institutional setting.

**D.A.S., Major in Pharmacy Technician**

**Phlebotomy Technician**

This certificate program provides students with the basic skills necessary for the collection of laboratory blood specimens.

**Phlebotomy Technician Certificate**

**Radiologic Technology**

The Radiologic Technology curriculum is designed to assist students in acquiring the general and technical competencies necessary to enter the radiography field.

**A.A.S., Major in Radiologic Technology**

**Respiratory Care**

The respiratory care practitioner is trained to assist the medical staff with the treatment, management and care of patients with cardiopulmonary abnormalities or deficiencies.

**A.A.S., Major in Respiratory Care**

**Surgical Technology**

Surgical technologists are members of the operating team who work closely with surgeons, anesthesiologists, RN's and other personnel to deliver patient care before, during and after surgery.

**D.A.S., Major in Surgical Technology**

**South Carolina Median Salaries**

- Cardiovascular Technologist - \$44,000
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) - \$35,800
- Medical Assisting - \$25,900
- Pharmacy Technician - \$24,000
- Radiologic Technologist - \$46,100
- Respiratory Therapist - \$36,800
- Registered Nurse (RN) - \$54,300
- Veterinary Technologist - \$27,200

**Veterinary Technology**

The veterinary technician works under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian. The specialized training received will allow the graduate to seek employment in such areas as clinical medicine, laboratory animal medicine, emergency medicine, pharmaceutical sales, food inspection and government agencies.

**A.A.S., Major in Veterinary Technology**

**Health Science Transfer**

**Biotechnology Certificate**

**Health Science Transfer Certificate**

Students interested in a career in Public Service may choose majors in Criminal Justice, Human Services or Early Care and Education.

**Criminal Justice**

This program is designed to prepare professionally-educated and competent criminal justice practitioners for careers within the criminal justice system.

**A.A.S., Major in Criminal Justice**

**Early Care and Education**

The Early Care and Education program offers a combination of classroom instruction and supervised, hands-on experience that prepares students for direct entry into the field of Early Care and Education.

**A.A.S., Major in Early Care and Education**

**A.A.S., Major in Early Care and Education, Infant/Toddler Care Concentration**

**Early Childhood Development Certificate**

**Infant-Toddler Certificate**

**Human Services**

The program prepares students to work in diverse settings such as group homes; correctional, mental retardation and mental health settings; family, child and youth service agencies; and programs concerned with alcoholism, drug abuse, family violence and aging.

**A.A.S., Major in Human Services**

**Special Needs and Disabilities Certificate**

**South Carolina Median Salaries**

- Police Officer - \$34,900
- Corrections Officer - \$34,900
- Preschool or Daycare Director - \$34,600
- Preschool Teacher - \$20,400
- Human Services Assistant - \$22,100

The Occupational Technology degree is designed to provide students with an opportunity to upgrade diploma or certificate programs. The program is designed to be substantially individualized to meet the needs of employees who have or seek to have broad technical responsibilities.

**General Technology**

The major in General Technology requires that a student have completed or be in the last term of a diploma or certificate program of 28 hours. Students in the following programs, with general education courses and a secondary specialty, may earn an Associate in Applied Science with a major in General Technology: Advanced Agriculture, Advertising Design, Desktop Publishing, Horticulture Landscape Management, Illustration, Machine Tool, Mechatronics Technology I, Medical Assisting, Pharmacy Technician, Photography, Surgical Technology and Welding.

\*Salary data is based on information from the South Carolina Employment Security Commission.

A.A.S. = Associate in Applied Science

D.A.S. = Diploma in Applied Science



# Upcoming Classes...

## Personal Enrichment Classes (Just for Fun!)

- Belly Dancing (Basic, Intermediate)
- Cake Decorating (Basic, Intermediate)
- Pottery in Edgefield
- Defensive Driving
- Dog Obedience
- Motorcycle Safety (Beginner, Intermediate, Experienced)
- Driver's Education
- Green Living (Beginner's Guide) **NEW**
- Go Green at Home **NEW**
- Beginner Bridge-Newberry Center **NEW**

## Health Care Classes (For a Career)

- Emergency Medical Technician (Basic)
- Health Unit Coordinator Training
- Medical Receptionist w/Medical Terminology & HIPAA
- MISYS Advanced Computerized Medical Billing
- Nursing Assistant
- Medical Coding for Medical Workers **NEW**

## Professional Development Classes (For a Career)

- Weatherization BPI Certifications
  - ❖ Envelope Professional
  - ❖ Manufactured Housing
- Wedding Planning Certification
- Certified Pool & Spa Operator

## Professional Development Classes (For CEUs)

- James Waslaski's 5-Day Intensive Orthopedic Massage Seminar
- "Connect the Dots"- Networking Strategies **NEW**
- Supervisory Development

## Computers

- Social Media 101 **NEW**
- Buying & Selling on EBay **NEW**
- Computer Skills 101 Series
- Microsoft Word 2007-Basic
- Microsoft Excel 2007-Basic
- Microsoft PowerPoint 2007-Basic
- Basic Digital Photography Series **NEW**
  - ❖ Introduction to Digital Photography
  - ❖ The Digital Camera
  - ❖ Photographic Composition
  - ❖ Proper Exposure Techniques
  - ❖ Basic Adobe Photoshop Image Editing
  - ❖ Digital Printing Techniques

## Licensing

- Commercial Driver's Licensing (CDL)
- Real Estate

## Summer Camps/Activities

- Girls Achieving in Technology & Engineering day camp (G.A.T.E.)
- Automotive Technology Camp
- Engineering & Industrial Technology Camp

## Many Online Classes Available

For Class Dates/Times or to learn more about these courses, visit us online at <http://www.ptc.edu/coned> or Register by calling 864-941-8400.



*Instructor, Annette Miller, assists a Nursing Assistant student as she practices caring for a patient.*

## Nursing Assistant Instructor's Childhood Dreams Become Reality

When we asked 72 year-old Annette Miller why she enjoys teaching Nursing Assistant classes at Piedmont Technical College, we received a simple, but enthusiastic answer. "It's all I've wanted to do since I was a small child," she said, "It's my calling and I love to help people in need."

A veteran in the medical field, Annette Miller has worked as a Nursing Assistant, Head Nurse, in Nursing Staff Development, as a Nursing Supervisor, and as Nursing Director in various health care settings. Though each career step inspired her to share her knowledge with others, it was while in a staff development position at the Medical College of Georgia that she realized her passion for teaching.

"I still remember my nursing instructors," said Miller, "I still use the principles they taught me every day in my classroom." "I hope that I can have that kind of impact on my students," she said.

Nursing Assistant student, Laverne Zimmerman, insists that Miller is intentional about training students to excel in the field. "The professionalism she [Miller] expects from us and the knowledge she requires is amazing,"

she said, "She trains us to treat our future patients with the respect they deserve."

One of Miller's favorite things about the Piedmont Technical College classroom is its diversity. "Classroom diversity is very important because you work with all kinds of people in this field," Miller said, "I have students who are seniors in high school and others who are in their 60s and everywhere in between."

Miller loves the work that she does, and contends that it is rewarding to see the results of her efforts. "I occasionally run into CNAs and Nurses that I have trained when I take students in for clinical days," she said, "It is a great feeling to know that I helped get them where they are today." **CF**

## Group Travel Opportunities:

Colors of New England (October 7-14, 2010)

From the Outback to the Glaciers (April 7-26, 2011)

Free Information Session May 18, 2010

James C. Self Conference Center at PTC

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