### Background
I-BEST (Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training) is a nationally recognized workforce development program designed by Washington State community colleges and adapted for Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens Counties by Tri-County Technical College. Local I-BEST programs are created, offered, and enhanced through collaborative partnerships between the College, School Districts, Adult Education Centers, and employers throughout Tri-County’s service area.

### Student Focus
I-BEST programs focus on students 17 and older who can benefit from non-traditional education pathways in preparation for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) careers that require postsecondary technical education.

### Eligibility and Enrollment
All I-BEST students must meet residency requirements in order to enroll. There are three categories of eligibility and enrollment:
- Students between the ages of 17-20 who are approved for sponsorship by a public high school in Anderson, Oconee, and Pickens counties.
- Adults who have completed a high school credential or who are enrolled in an Adult Education program and have demonstrated progress towards earning a GED or who are close to completion of an adult high school diploma.
- Students who meet standard admission criteria for the specific program for which they plan to enroll.

### Program Duration
Currently, I-BEST programs are offered every fall, spring, and summer term. Duration depends on a student’s individual needs and program goal. Those who meet standard admission and completion criteria can finish in one semester. A semester is equal to 14-weeks (Fall and Spring terms) and 10-weeks (Summer term). Students who are working on their high school diploma through sponsorship with a public high school may spend one to several terms in the program.

### Outcomes
I-BEST programs are designed around specific STEM-related career clusters. Each program has outcomes that include, but are not limited to:
- Industry-recognized skill certification(s)
- WorkKeys skill certification
- College credit
- College credential (either a technical education credit certificate or a contact-hour skills certificate of completion)
- High school credential (diploma or GED) – for individuals entering I-BEST through Adult Education or high school sponsorship

### Comprehensive Support
- Individualized advising and educational/career planning
- Personal Success Plan development
- Job placement services (during and after I-BEST enrollment)
- Access to all Tri-County Technical College services and resources

### Costs (Program-provided)
- Tuition
- Textbooks
- Parking decal
- Student ID
- National skill certification testing (as appropriate for the specific I-BEST pathway)

### Expectations of Students
- Attend all required classes and advising sessions
- Complete all required class assignments and individualized career planning documents and processes
- Cover costs for transportation and child care
- Cover costs for standard school supplies
- Pay any fees as applicable in a timely manner (e.g., student fees, parking fines, library fines, etc.)

### Additional Information
Interested students should contact the I-BEST Programs Office at 864-646-1461 or ibest@tctc.edu

### Program Staff
- Tiffany Carpenter, I-BEST Support Specialist and Graduation Coach, 864-646-1541; tcarpenter@tctc.edu
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