

TCTC police earn state accreditation

By Riley Morningstar

The Journal

PENDLETON — The Tri-County Technical College campus police force is now the first technical college system in the state to become accredited.

A special event was held at the Pendleton campus on Friday morning, marked with a visit and kudos from South Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation (SCLEA) chairman John Tucker. The SCLEA has been the official accrediting body in the



S.C. Law Enforcement Accreditation chairman John Tucker presents Tri-County Technical College Police Chief Marcus Guess with the department's framed accreditation certificate Friday morning in Pendleton. Caleb Gilbert | The Journal

state since 1999, requiring departments to go through a multi-layered process to meet the high standards of accreditation. Tucker noted there are 340 agencies in the state and only 55 are accredited, while another 41 are working toward it — a process that typically takes three years, but was accomplished by Tri-County in two.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment, tremendous accomplishment,” Tucker said. “I’d like to compliment the staff, the chief, on the outstanding work that they did to get this done within the time limit. ... That’s something to be proud of.”

“But I’d also like to thank the leadership — your school and all the support staff — that supported the police department, because they would not be able to do this without supportive leadership and support staff to help them accomplish this mission.”

TCTC Police Chief Marcus Guess praised his 14 officers and others involved in the tedious process.

“We want to be the best technical college when it comes to policing and we want to be one of the best police departments in South Carolina,” he said. “This is a team effort.”

Tech president comments on achievement

Tri-County president Galen DeHay, who has been with the technical college for years and president since 2019, thanked the officers for their work so everyone could celebrate “a very momentous occasion.”

“We’re really proud of our police department’s work, because we pride ourselves at Tri-County on delivering a transformative student experience to students who come to us in Anderson, Oconee and Pickens County communities,” he said. “But we really can’t do that without creating a safe environment for our students and our employees, and our police department does that every day.”

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