

Wm. Weston J. Newton, Chairman
October 26, 2006
TCL Dedication, New River Campus

It is my privilege to stand before you today as we recognize the significance of this event. I speak for all members of Beaufort County Council as I applaud Dr. Anne McNutt and the TCL Foundation for this accomplishment, which will benefit our entire region economically, professionally and individually.

On July 20, 2005, we stood proudly on this site with shovels in hand and officially began the physical process of building. Today, we gather to dedicate this new campus and to honor the commitment and love of community that created it. But the effort began long ago.

It has been a journey of 138 years, beginning when Mather School first opened its doors in Beaufort in 1868 as a school for the daughters of former slaves, offering classes in domestic skills. Today, TCL offers numerous programs from nursing and radiology to law enforcement, cosmetology, hospitality and tourism, golf instruction and management, paralegal, video production, computer technology and others -- as well as traditional associate's degrees and certifications. The college has 7 locations including online and web enhanced courses.

There have been many milestones along the nearly 150 year path to today's tribute. I won't list them here, but it is important to recognize the impact of this long-range investment upon our entire region. TCL is a pivotal asset in the social and economic advancement of the Lowcountry and your county council is extremely proud of this new campus.

Council enacted the New River Tax Increment Finance District Ordinance in December of 2001 to establish a funding instrument for higher education at this location. It was strongly believed that increasing post secondary education would expand both employment and cultural opportunities, increase diversity, and enrich the lives of our citizens. Furthermore, building a campus at this site prevented sprawl from encroaching upon this undeveloped location.

The goal was to promote quality, planned development within the TIF district and there is no greater asset to any community than an institution of higher learning. Our people are our greatest resource. This campus represents an investment in our people. Through education, our lives are enriched in a multitude of ways, ultimately benefiting commerce, industry, the arts and the general well-being of our families and neighbors throughout this region.

An institution of learning is a non-polluting industry that creates jobs and enhances a workforce. The funding provided through the formation of the New River TIF is a sound financial investment that will reap payback many times over and long into the future. It is our

expectation that it will help enable TCL to continue its valuable service and meet the needs of the business community, our workforce and the people of the Lowcountry for a long time.

As we assemble here together to dedicate this facility -- this investment -- this asset let us look to the future... to the next 138 years and know that we worked together today to secure the success of tomorrow.

Thank you and congratulations.