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12 High School Seniors Recognized as Technology Champions Students Offered Scholarships to Pursue Technical College Education

Karen Owens

The Silver Crescent Foundation partnered with the Office of Career and Technology Education and the state Department of Education to recognize 12 outstanding high school seniors who have excelled in career and technology education at a Technology Champions Celebration on Sunday evening at the Carolina First Center in Greenville.

The awards ceremony highlighted the accomplishments of graduating high school seniors who have participated in technology areas ranging from accounting and general business management to welding and environmental and natural resources to interactive media. In addition, the honorees also demonstrated other valuable skills such as individual and team leadership in school organizations, athletic teams and church and community organizations.

"These exemplary young people are truly champions for their achievements in the classroom as well as their extracurricular pursuits, and we hope to nurture their continued career and educational development through a unique scholarship program with our state's two-year technical colleges," explained Gary Foster, chairman of the Silver Crescent Foundation Board of Directors. "The Silver Crescent Foundation places a high value on the benefits of a technical college education as an important component of preparing the state's future workforce pipeline, and we're excited to provide these champions with an opportunity to pursue their dreams and become the skilled and knowledgeable workers our society needs to grow and prosper."

The Silver Crescent Foundation in conjunction with the state's technical colleges has made available to each of the 12 students a \$2,000 scholarship to pursue a two-year degree at the technical college of their choice.

According to the SC Department of Education, 65 percent of today's jobs require a two-year technical degree, yet only 32 percent of South Carolina students currently enroll in an associate degree or advanced training program.

Another important component of Sunday's celebration event was the recognition of the students' parents, high school principals and local business partners who all play an important role in supporting and encouraging these young people to excel in their education and career development. The Technology Champions program also demonstrates the value of education and business partnerships, rewards those businesses that believe in the promise of career and technology education, and encourages others to follow suit.

The mission of the Silver Crescent Foundation is to promote manufacturing vitality and career opportunities in South Carolina. This is accomplished through a number of initiatives, including the Salute to Manufacturing, the Silver Crescent Award for Manufacturing Excellence, and Camp Success, which highlight South Carolina's rich manufacturing heritage and foster interest among young people, educators and parents the value of careers in manufacturing and technology innovation.

Technology Champions

AMANDA MARIE BERGERON
Accounting

T.L. Hanna High School
Pendleton
David and Dorinne Dubois
Tri-County Technical College

DENNIS LEE BREWER, JR.
Welding
Wade Hampton High School
Greenville
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Brewer
Greenville Technical College

RICKEY HUGH CARVER
Marketing
York Comprehensive High School
Catawba
Angela Simonds
University of South Carolina

KACIE D. CUDD
Health Science Technology
Broome High School
Upstate
Cookie and Ron Cudd
Spartanburg Community College

LINDSEY CULLEY
Business
Brookland-Cayce High School
Midlands
Mike and Terri Culley
University of South Carolina

SHANEKA DIGGS,
Accounting and General Management
Cheraw High School
Pee Dee

Tametha Lindsey
Coastal Carolina University

MAGDALENE BAHIA

LAURSEN
Health Science Technology
Orangeburg-Wilkinson High School
Lower Savannah
Pamela & William Laursen
Francis Marion University

ANGELIQUE ASHTON MOLE
Health Science Technology
Wade Hampton High School (HCSD # 1)
Lowcountry

Edwin & Phyllis Mole
Clafin University

LISA MARIE MORRIS
Health Science Technology
North Central High School
Santee-Lynches
Wayne & Deborah Morris
Midlands Technical College

PARR, LEONA
Environment and Natural Resources Management
Newberry High School
Upper Savannah
Calhoun & Louise Parr
Clemson University

JALISA PORCHEA
Health Science Technology
Hemingway High School
Waccamaw
Curtis & Wilhelmenia Porchea
Francis Marion University

ANDREW RAMBERT
Interactive Media
North Charleston High School
Trident
Ms Ferrell Uzoh
4-year college or university