

Biographical Summary

Dr. Tim Hardee

President, SC Technical College System

Dr. Tim Hardee's story is a true testament to the South Carolina spirit. Born and raised on a farm in Conway, he has spent his life championing affordable, accessible, and relevant education for all South Carolinians. From our larger cities to our small rural towns, Dr. Hardee has never wavered in his efforts to ensure that all South Carolinians have equal opportunities to flourish and create a better life for themselves and their families. His unwavering commitment to education has left an indelible mark on the state's educational fabric, impacting countless lives today and shaping the future for generations to come. Dr. Hardee's noble work and dedication make him a well-deserving candidate for the State of South Carolina's highest civilian award, the Order of the Palmetto.

Personal

For 43 years, Dr. Tim Hardee has been a devoted and loving husband. He and his wife have raised three compassionate and exceptional adult children, and they truly embrace their roles as doting grandparents to six adorable grandchildren.

Deeply engaged in the thriving community of NewSpring Church in Conway, Dr. Hardee selflessly dedicates his time and energy to various volunteer roles. He leads a home group Bible study for married couples, fostering spiritual growth and connection. Moreover, he assumes the responsibility of guiding the Royal Ambassador Young Boys, offering mentorship and guidance. Dr. Hardee also serves as a deacon.

Beyond his leadership roles, Dr. Hardee generously volunteers as a bus driver for senior adults. Additionally, he imparts his wisdom and knowledge as an adult Sunday school leader, creating an enriching environment for spiritual learning. Dr. Hardee also puts his culinary talents to work, helping to prepare meals for the Fellowship Service on Wednesday nights.

In all these endeavors, Dr. Tim Hardee exemplifies a true pillar of love, devotion, and service within his family and church community.

Education

Dr. Hardee completed his undergraduate studies at Coastal Carolina University in 1978, where he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree. Subsequently, he pursued his advanced degrees at the University of South Carolina, graduating with a Master of Education in 1980 and a Doctorate in Education in 1988.

Chronological Work History

Dr. Tim Hardee's professional journey in education is incredibly diverse, encompassing both K-12 and higher education. With extensive background in and comprehensive knowledge of South Carolina's educational landscape, he has played a pivotal role in establishing meaningful relationships and true collaborations throughout his career.

SC Technical College System

President, 2016 – Present

Central Carolina Technical College

President, 2007 – 2016

Vice President for Administration, 2005 – 2007

Director of F.E. DuBose Campus, 1998 – 2005

F.E. Dubose Career Center

Director, 1992 – 1998

Clarendon County School Districts 1, 2 and 3

Director of Adult Education, 1986 – 1992

Horry County School District

Community Education Coordinator, 1980 – 1986

South Carolina Employment Security Commission

Employment Interviewer, 1978 – 1980

Accomplishments:

Dr. Hardee's steadfast dedication to expanding opportunities for South Carolinians through affordable and accessible higher education is evident through a remarkable series of accomplishments:

Central Carolina Scholars Program

In 2011, Dr. Hardee established a collaboration that would have a long-lasting positive impact on the lives of high school graduates from Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, and Sumter counties. His creation of the groundbreaking Central Carolina Scholars Programs, a scholarship initiative unparalleled in the state, was truly visionary.

This program offers the first two years of college education at Central Carolina Technical College tuition-free, through partnerships with local school districts, city and county governments, and corporate sponsors. This initiative benefited over 10,000 students by granting them an incredible opportunity. It was also a game-changer for the local economy, serving as an economic development tool that helped the region's existing and new industries.

Kershaw County Campus Expansion

Dr. Hardee is one of those educators who always has students' best interests at heart. With his relentless determination to make the journey to higher education as smooth as possible, he took bold steps to expand access to Central Carolina Technical College's Kershaw County Campus in 2016.

Thanks to his visionary leadership, students can now earn an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree entirely at the Kershaw County Campus. In addition, the campus also offers top-notch welding and mechatronics programs.

He rallied different partners and stakeholders to make this dream a reality. The Kershaw County Council pitched in \$5 million, while the State of South Carolina chipped in another \$3 million. And the college's own capital funds contribution brought the project's total cost to \$10 million.

Located on an existing 24-acre site at the intersection of Interstate 20 and Highway 521, the new academic building expansion added approximately 40,000 square feet of classrooms, laboratories, and faculty office space, making the Kershaw County Campus a genuine hub of learning and innovation.

Resilient Leadership through Adversity at a Struggling College

Amid concerns about the financial viability and future competitiveness of one of the System's colleges, Dr. Hardee's leadership played a pivotal role in safeguarding a quality higher education for the students and local community. In May 2017, the Governor transferred oversight of the college from the local-area commission to the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education. Over the course of 18 months, Dr. Hardee worked closely with the college to secure its financial viability and align program offerings with the demands of local businesses and industry. This involved discontinuing underutilized programs and revitalizing others to bring them up to date with industry standards. In addition, he worked alongside the college's executive staff to streamline and automate processes, develop comprehensive tracking and reporting systems and ensure compliance with state and federal laws. Throughout the challenges, Dr. Hardee provided consistent leadership dedicating himself to the college's self-sufficiency within the given timeframe and ensuring that citizens within the college's service area received the high-quality technical education necessary for their future success.

Tour de Tech

An incredible feat that shows just how committed Dr. Hardee is to our state's technical colleges and their students was Tour de Tech, and it's one of the most unique and challenging endeavors he's ever taken on.

Dr. Hardee combined his passion for cycling with his love of South Carolina and his commitment to education by embarking on a two-week bicycle tour of the state, with celebratory stops at each of our sixteen college campuses.

Tour de Tech South Carolina covered a staggering 800 miles over 12 days, spanning our state's beautiful Upstate, Midlands, and Lowcountry regions. Dr. Hardee raised nearly \$90,000 in scholarship funds for our students while increasing the visibility of our state's educational gem - the SC Technical College System and its 16 colleges.

It was an amazing journey that showcased Dr. Hardee's unyielding dedication to making higher education accessible and affordable for everyone.

SC Workforce and Industrial Needs Scholarship (SC WINS)

Always a champion of affordable higher education, Dr. Hardee has worked tirelessly to ease the financial burden that many of our students face. His efforts paid off when he

collaborated with the state legislature to bring about the SC Workforce Industry Needs Scholarship (SC WINS) in 2019. This program, which expanded on a successful 2018 pilot initiative in rural parts of the state, has made the dream of attending college a reality for many students who might otherwise have struggled to afford it.

SC WINS is a statewide technical college scholarship program specifically designed to address workforce shortages in South Carolina. The scholarship supplements SC Lottery Tuition Assistance and helps further reduce tuition costs for eligible students majoring in critical workforce areas like health care, computer and information technology, advanced manufacturing, or construction. Traditionally enrolled and dual-enrolled high school students are eligible for the SC WINS scholarship receiving up to \$50 per credit hour to offset tuition costs and an annual book allowance of up to \$300.

Exemplary Leadership During Pandemic

Under Dr. Hardee's leadership, the SC Technical College System navigated the daunting challenges posed by the global pandemic with expertise. As the fastest, most flexible path to the workforce, the System's mission took on an even greater significance during these unprecedented times. South Carolina's technical colleges, uniquely positioned, swiftly responded and adapted to the hurdles presented by COVID-19.

Dr. Hardee's leadership facilitated a smooth transition to online education in March 2020. The colleges creatively arranged for socially distanced labs to fulfill graduation requirements in high-demand fields, adhering to CDC safety protocols. Embracing a blended learning approach in Fall 2020, the System effectively met educational and training needs while prioritizing safety.

Throughout the pandemic, the System remained steadfast in its commitment to the people of South Carolina. Dr. Hardee ensured that our colleges stood firmly as pillars of support for students' dreams and aspirations, regardless of seemingly insurmountable challenges. Moreover, the System was instrumental in swiftly assisting those negatively impacted by the pandemic, offering training in new fields and fostering stability amid the economic downturn.

SC Workforce Scholarships for the Future

Dr. Hardee's unyielding efforts to make higher education more accessible and affordable have yielded impressive results. His work with Governor Henry McMaster and his team has been key to leveraging the System's success with the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funding to expand scholarships beyond short-term training to include longer-term certificates, diplomas, and associate degrees.

In November 2021, the Governor announced a groundbreaking \$17M investment in South Carolina's workforce by creating the Workforce Scholarships for the Future pilot program. This initiative was designed to provide no-cost tuition to nearly 15,000 South Carolinians seeking an associate degree or industry credential in a high-demand career field.

Dr. Hardee expanded the pilot program further by working closely with the Governor's Office and the state legislature. As a result, funding for FY2022-23 was increased from \$17M to an impressive \$63M and increased again to \$95M in the FY2023-24 budget.

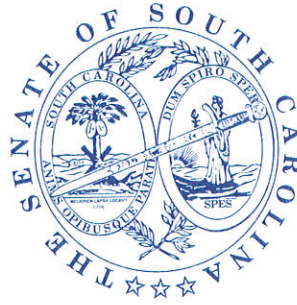
The impact of Dr. Hardee's incredible dedication simply cannot be overstated. Today, accessing a high-quality education at one of the System's 16 colleges is more affordable and accessible than ever before. What's more, Dr. Hardee's relentless efforts have ushered in new opportunities throughout the entire state and opened doors for so many South Carolinians. As a result, they now have the chance to receive the essential training and education required to thrive in high-demand fields. Dr. Hardee's visionary, transformative leadership has created an affordable, accessible pathway to a promising career, all while enhancing the quality of life and ability to secure a bright future for countless citizens of the Palmetto State.

Memberships and Awards

South Carolina Coordinating Council for Economic Development, 2018-Present
Commission of Higher Education Council of Presidents, 2016-Present
SC Leadership South Carolina Graduate, 2002
South Carolina Economic Developers School Graduate, 2006
Furman University Riley Institute Diversity Leadership Program Graduate, 2012
Sumter Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Achievement Award, 2011
Sumter NAACP Humanitarian of the Year, 2010
Coastal Carolina University Alumnus of the Year, 2012
Chair, South Carolina Technical College Presidents Council, 2013
South Carolina Workforce Development Board, 2015-2017
Executive Board of SC Association of School Administrators, 1998-2000
President of SC Association of Adult Education Directors, 1998
Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, 2011-2014
Sumter Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, 2010-2012
Kershaw County Committee of 100 Economic Development Board, 2012-2016
Santee-Lynches Workforce Development Board, 2007-2015
Santee-Lynches Regional Education Center Board, 2007-2016
Sumter Career and Technology Advisory Board, 2012-2016
Shaw-Sumter Community Council, 2007-2016
Member of Rotary International, Paul Harris Fellow, 2002-2016

SENATOR J. GREGORY HEMBREE
CHAIRMAN, EDUCATION COMMITTEE
SENATORIAL DISTRICT 28
HORRY AND DILLON COUNTIES

COMMITTEES:
CORRECTIONS & PENOLOGY
EDUCATION
FINANCE
RULES
TRANSPORTATION



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PHONE: (803) 212-6350
EMAIL: GREGHEMBREE@SCSENATE.GOV

DISTRICT OFFICE:
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N. MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA 29597
PHONE: (843) 222-1001

July 19, 2023

The Honorable Henry McMaster
State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, S.C 29201

Dear Governor McMaster,

I am writing to recommend Dr. Tim Hardee, president of the SC Technical College System, for the Order of the Palmetto.

I have had the honor of working with Dr. Hardee for many years. And over that time, I have observed his exceptional character, professionalism, and deep commitment to improving the lives of all South Carolinians through education and workforce training. South Carolina's technical college system has thrived under his astute leadership, continually anticipating, adapting, and responding to the workforce needs of new and existing businesses and industries across our state.

Our state's technical colleges are integral to South Carolina's workforce and economic development efforts. Dr. Hardee understands this critical role and works diligently to build collaborative relationships, both public and private, that will help build a talent pipeline that is skilled and ready to work.

Dr. Tim Hardee is dedicated to the mission of the SC Technical Colleges System. He has devoted most of his life to advancing our great state by empowering individuals through education and training. I believe he is an ideal candidate and highly deserving of this most esteemed award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Greg Hembree". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "J." and last name "Hembree" clearly legible.

Greg Hembree, Senator



Tim Hardee
System President

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Ex Officio

Harry M. Lightsey III
Ex Officio



June 27, 2023

The Honorable Henry McMaster
Governor
South Carolina State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor McMaster:

I am writing to recommend Dr. Tim Hardee for the esteemed Order of the Palmetto. Dr. Hardee serves as the president of the SC Technical College System. In that capacity, I have had the privilege of collaborating with him as a board member of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education since 2016 and as board chair for the past two years.

The SC Technical College System is committed to advancing workforce development, fostering economic growth, and ensuring the attainment of student learning goals. By effectively enhancing the employability of South Carolinians, the System ultimately improves the overall quality of life for our state's citizens. Dr. Hardee has consistently prioritized this mission in every operational decision he has made within the System and in all the policy recommendations he has presented to the State Board.

With unwavering dedication, Dr. Hardee has tirelessly worked towards making a quality higher education affordable and accessible to all. His remarkable leadership has steered the System through various challenging times, including effectively managing a struggling college to achieve financial viability and skillfully navigating the unprecedented challenges posed by the global pandemic. Under his guidance, the System has emerged stronger and more united, fully prepared to tackle future challenges.

Dr. Tim Hardee is an inspiration to all who have worked with him. His unwavering commitment to serving others makes him the embodiment of servant leadership principles. Throughout his career, Dr. Hardee has devoted himself to improving the lives of others. I firmly believe that there is no individual more deserving of the prestigious recognition represented by the Order of the Palmetto.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Roger P. Schrum
Board Chair



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 12, 2023

MARILYN MURPHY FORE, Ed.D.

The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor
South Carolina State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor McMaster:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Dr. Tim Hardee for the Order of the Palmetto. Having known Tim for over 20 years, I have witnessed his unwavering commitment to enriching people's lives through affordable and accessible quality higher education.

As the current president of the SC Technical College System, Tim has proven himself an outstanding leader and stalwart champion for the state's technical colleges. His adeptness as a skilled negotiator has allowed him to find fair and sustainable solutions unanimously regarded as satisfactory resolutions by our 16 colleges. Moreover, Tim's exceptional ability to listen to and understand diverse perspectives has enabled him to effectively reconcile differences of opinions that occasionally arise among college presidents, even when dealing with deeply entrenched viewpoints. Through his guidance, the 16 colleges have united as a cohesive System and achieved numerous statewide initiatives for the betterment of our colleges.

In addition to being highly regarded by all college presidents within our System, Tim has earned the respect of key stakeholders across the state, including four-year colleges, universities, and state legislators. He is recognized as a true partner and leader in endeavors that shape the landscape of higher education in our state.

The excellent leadership displayed by Dr. Tim Hardee can be attributed, in large part, to his tremendous character. Tim is respected for his hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to doing what is right. He consistently strives to build connections in his pursuits and tirelessly prioritizes serving the greater good. Tim ensures that all voices are heard and inspires others to give their best effort. As a true servant leader, he embodies the qualities deserving of the Order of the Palmetto.

I wholeheartedly recommend Dr. Tim Hardee for this prestigious award based on his exceptional contributions to higher education in our state. Thank you for considering my recommendation.

Respectfully,

Dr. Marilyn Murphy Fore, President

cc: Mr. Joe T. Branyon, Jr., Chair, Area Commission

HORRY-GEORGETOWN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

PO Box 261966 · Conway, SC 29528-6066 · www.hgtc.edu

Conway Campus: 843.347.3186 · Georgetown Campus: 843.546.8406 · Grand Strand Campus: 843.477.0808



May 30, 2023

The Honorable Henry McMaster
Governor
South Carolina State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, SC 29201

I am writing to recommend Dr. Tim Hardee, the President of the SC Technical College System, for the Order of the Palmetto.

I have worked professionally with Dr. Hardee for more than two years. During that time I have observed his high character, his professionalism, his astute political acuity and his commitment to improving the lives of all South Carolinians through education and life-long learning. Under his leadership, the South Carolina Technical College System enjoys a well-deserved reputation as one of the very best in the United States.

Dr. Hardee's role, and that of the organization he leads, is critically important to the business community in our state. Workforce Development is by far the number one challenge facing business. Without the good work of the system, and without Dr. Hardee's steady leadership, we simply cannot meet this challenge. He and his team are impressively attuned to the needs of employers and specific industries that fuel our economy as they look to fill the jobs of today and tomorrow.

It is with much enthusiasm that I share this recommendation and thank you for your consideration of this honor to a deserving leader in the Palmetto State.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Morgan
President & CEO



June 4, 2023

The Honorable Henry McMaster
Governor
South Carolina State House
1100 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Re: Recognition for Dr. Tim Hardee, President, SC Technical College System

Dear Governor McMaster,

I respectfully submit a letter of recommendation for Dr. Tim Hardee, the presiding President of the South Carolina Technical College System, for consideration of the Order of the Palmetto award. I have had the distinct pleasure of watching Tim dedicate his life to increasing the educational attainment of South Carolinians across the state since our mutual graduation from Leadership South Carolina in 2002.

Tim's career began as a K12 teacher, principal and administrator before joining Central Carolina Technical College and serving as their President. He developed a passion for understanding the institutional challenges of delivering an affordable education and the increasing sophistication of the workforce needs of business and industry. His impact today, as the President of the South Carolina Technical College System includes the development of affordable and diverse workforce opportunities for more than 160,000 students across the state. In his humble and thoughtful way, Tim represents us all as citizens of this state. He wisely encourages collaboration and compromise. His ability to listen, appreciate different perspectives, and develop solutions for various stakeholders has earned him respect throughout the educational system, local and state government, business and industry.

Tim and his wife, Tammy, recently took to the road to advocate for the technical college system in a very personal and meaningful way. They cycled over 800 miles in their own "Tour de Tech", visiting each technical college in the state and raising money for scholarships. He has received numerous honors, including Coastal Carolina's Outstanding Alumni award and an Outstanding Achievement Award from the Sumter Chamber of Commerce. Tim currently serves on the State Workforce Development Board, the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development and the South Carolina Council on Competitiveness. He is a graduate of the South Carolina Economic Development Institute and the Furman Diversity Leaders Institute. He recently won the SC Biz Icon Award and the Champion of Manufacturing Award, given by the Upstate Manufacturing Network.

Tim's lifelong commitment to excellence and service to others has contributed to the business competitiveness and success of South Carolina and has impacted the economic trajectory of thousands of families who call this great state home. His impact

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mcmillanpazdansmith.com



on economic development cannot be overstated. Thank you for your careful consideration of this honor to our friend and fellow citizen.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Calhoun". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Karen Calhoun
Principal
McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture