Dr. Thomas C. Leitzel  
President

Commencement represents the ultimate culmination of efforts. It’s the pinnacle moment in the life of an academic enterprise. To our graduates, we wish you a most heartfelt congratulations.

Our students bring life to our institution. As employees organized to serve them, commencement becomes a very sacred time, and we relive precious moments as we reflect fondly on our own graduation events. We also intentionally preserve culture and honor tradition through planned celebrations of accomplishment. Students and guests alike who participate in the formal commencement exercises will see symbols, and those symbols have deep meaning. For example, symbolism occurs in the colors of the faculty’s commencement hoods, which convey academic programs and disciplines. Symbolism shows in the bands that surround our college mace, which represent the four counties we serve. Tradition is proudly reflected in our own college seal as we honor our founding dating back to 1868.

Consider this charge: Let your symbol be honorable. Let it emanate from your heart, a heart dedicated to serve others through the knowledge you acquired. Become benevolent and reflect proudly on your dedicated TCL faculty who shaped your mind and challenged you to seek truthful ways of acquiring knowledge. We salute all graduates and wish you Godspeed.

CONGRATULATIONS

TECHNICAL COLLEGE OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

CLASS OF 2012
TCL Proudly Presents
2012 Graduation Commencement Speaker

Clifton Taulbert
Entrepreneurial leader and
Pulitzer-nominated author

Clifton Taulbert is one of America’s foremost thought-leaders on the “Power of Community” and views community in the workplace as a powerful leadership asset. Taulbert was chosen by CNN at the turn of the millennium to represent one of the voices of ‘Community.’ Taulbert, a member of Phi Beta Kappa and a Trustee for the University of Tulsa, Okla., has been recognized by Time Magazine as one of the nation’s outstanding Entrepreneurs. Prior to his present role as a highly sought after seminar leader and keynote speaker, Taulbert, in 1989, gained international recognition with the publication of the best-selling memoir, Once Upon A Time When We Were Colored, which became a major motion picture. In addition to the Pulitzer-nominated Last Train North which followed, Taulbert also authored several nationally recognized picture books for children and the widely acclaimed Eight Habits of the Heart. Taulbert also authored Who Owns the Icehouse?, a powerful and compelling story that draws on the entrepreneurial influence and eight essential life-lessons he gained from his Uncle Cleve, an unlikely entrepreneur in the segregated South. Taulbert then created the Ice House Entrepreneurship Program, an interactive online program that features modern-day examples of those who, like Taulbert’s Uncle Cleve, have triumphed over hardship and adversity by embracing an entrepreneurial mind set. He and his wife Barbara reside in Tulsa.

Laurie Woods
2012 Commencement Student Speaker

Laurie June Woods was born in Albany, Ga. Her father, Winfred Seitz, Jr., instilled in her a love of reading that she has carried throughout her life. In 1983, her father’s job brought her to Beaufort, S.C. She was educated in Beaufort County Schools. Laurie is an active member of the Beaufort community and volunteers for fundraisers for Caroline Hospice Festival of Trees and HELP of Beaufort. In 1990, Woods became employed at a local preschool, where she finally discovered what she wanted to do with her life. In 2000, with help from the Technical College of the Lowcountry Foundation, Woods successfully graduated from TCL, with honors, earning her certificate and diploma in Early Childhood Development. Soon after, she was promoted to Assistant Director of her preschool. With the addition of TCL’s associate degree program and child care management certificate, she returned to college with the financial help of First Steps and The TEACH Scholarship. She is now graduating again, this time with the class of 2012. Currently, she is employed by Lowcountry Building Blocks, Inc., where she is Director of Hobbit Hill Preschool in the Shell Point area of Beaufort. She is married to Brian Russell Woods.
2012 Student Award Recipients

**Student Awards**

**Arts & Sciences**
- Dwana McLamb - Associate of Arts
- Laurie Woods - Early Care & Education
- Michele Duran - Computer Technology
- Tyrone Johnson - Paralegal
- Joshua Edenfield - Criminal Justice
- Denardi Singleton - Culinary Arts
- Benjamin Griffin - Administrative Office Technology

**Business Technologies**
- Jerry Green - General Business
- Andre Massey - Administrative Office Technology
- Laurie Hawkins - Early Care & Education
- Dorian Phillips - Administrative Office Technology

**Health Sciences**
- Cory Johnson - Radiological Technology
- Robin Poe - Physical Therapist Assistant
- Brook Dempewolf - Nursing

**Industrial Technologies**
- Rusty Trahan - Building Construction Technology
- Joshua Bolster - Civil Engineering Technology
- Christopher Chamlin - HVAC
- Andrew Carr – Computer Assisted Design/Drafting

**Alumni Awards**

**Arts & Sciences**
- Donna Perry

**Business Technologies**
- Andre Massey

**Health Sciences**
- Laurie Hawkins

**Industrial Technology**
- Dorian Phillips

**Special Awards**

**Trooper Bruce Smalls Award**
- Raymond Hamilton

**Student of the Year**
- Benjamin Griffin III

**Outstanding Graduate Awards**

**Arts & Sciences**
- Dwana McLamb - Associate of Arts
- Laurie Woods - Early Care & Education

**Business Technologies**
- Jerry Green - General Business
- Michele Duran - Computer Technology
- Tyrone Johnson – Paralegal
- Joshua Edenfield - Criminal Justice
- Denardi Singleton - Culinary Arts
- Benjamin Griffin - Administrative Office Technology

**Health Sciences**
- Cory Johnson - Radiological Technology
- Robin Poe - Physical Therapist Assistant
- Brook Dempewolf - Nursing

**Industrial Technologies**
- Rusty Trahan - Building Construction Technology
- Joshua Bolster - Civil Engineering Technology
- Christopher Chamlin - HVAC
- Andrew Carr – Computer Assisted Design/Drafting

Congratulations Student Achievers
One of my favorite quotes of all time is by a man you may have heard of - Thomas Edison. He said that, when working on the light bulb, he had not failed 10,000 times - he just found 10,000 ways that did not work. In that one quote, I have always found the difference between a winning attitude and a quitting attitude: if you can learn from your failures, and even find them positive in some ways, you will always be ahead of the curve.

Several years ago when I attended freshmen orientation, I was not really quite sure if I would be able to make it to this point today. It was not necessarily that I doubted my own ability, but it seemed like such a lofty goal, this idea of a college degree. On May 11th, I become the first in my family to achieve this milestone. I am proud, but I also understand that the piece of paper that will be handed to me does not define me or make me better. It is simply one more tool that I can use to help me to keep dreaming.

I understand that this means something different for each of us. Some will be teachers, guiding the next generation to their own dreams. Others will be doctors, helping to salvage the broken. Some will go into business and will have the ability to help those who need it most.

I pray that you understand the importance of what you can contribute to the world, and that you work to become the person that you should be. Before we know it, one thousand tomorrows will have come and gone. This day will be a distant memory and we will be forced to look back and evaluate how we spent our years since stepping off the college campus and into the world. Start making decisions today that will not cause you regret tomorrow.

There will be challenges on our way, but I leave you with the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson.

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”

Know what lies within you and go make your dreams come true. Thank you graduating class of 2012!