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Melissa J. Stowasser

Assistant Vice President of Community Partnerships

As Assistant Vice President of Community Partnerships at Trident Technical College, Melissa Stowasser is passionate about the need to ensure educational opportunities exist to assist all students in meeting their full potential. To that end, she works with public and private high schools, homeschool associations, employers and community partners to develop and provide seamless educational opportunities for students in the Trident Region. She has served on numerous cross-sector collaborative initiatives aimed at improving education and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce and as a member of the Regional Education Council, Tri-County Cradle to Career High School Graduation Network Guiding Team, and the Career and Technical Education Advisory Boards for the area school districts.

Melissa has been engaged in the development and implementation of the Charleston Regional Youth Apprenticeship Program, a collaborative initiative involving area businesses and industries, local high schools, Apprenticeship Carolina, the Chamber of Commerce and Trident Technical College. As a result, more than 180 companies have registered youth apprenticeship programs designed to employ area high school students as apprentices who are dually enrolled in post-secondary education while pursuing careers in automotive, business, engineering, health, hospitality, HVAC, information technology, law enforcement and manufacturing sectors.

As this program has become a national model, Melissa is now engaged with New America in the Partnership to Advance Youth Apprenticeship (PAYA), a multi-year, collaborative initiative that will support the success of efforts in states and cities to expand access to high-quality apprenticeship opportunities for high school age youth.

Stowasser holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Oral Communication and English Education and a Master of Arts degree in Speech Communication from Marshall University in Huntington, WV.