Jackson

to the bone. The TCSG is proud to be the people's colleges, yet money issues mean that our campuses must struggle to assist the many aspiring students who simply cannot afford even the modest tuition necessary to be trained for a good job.

The TCSG is committed to a day when no deserving student must abandon the dream of a career and a better life just because he or she cannot afford a college education. To do that, though, Georgia's technical colleges need the same zealous and generous support that has for years backed traditional universities and colleges. The Technical College System of Georgia is a worthy investment that needs your appreciation and support.


Ron Jackson is commissioner of the Technical College System of Georgia. Find out more about the TCSG at www.tcsg.edu

In 2011, community members and local organizations came together to help support the Georgia Rural Medical Scholar Program (GRMSP) through a fundraiser called Lock, Stock and Barrel. This novel gun and garden event was a huge success, raising over $20,000 for the GRMSP - enough to support the program for the past two years. And now, we are excited to invite you to Lock, Stock and Barrel 2013, which will be held March 9 at the Sheppard Farm.

Launched in July 2010, the GRMSP recruits medical students to receive medical training in the Washington/Johnson County area, with hopes that the professional and personal relationships they build while here will encourage their return after graduation. Recognizing the continued need for quality medical care in rural Georgia, the Washington County Archway Partnership Health Committee, the Georgia Statewide AHEC Network, Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) and other Georgia medical schools established the GRMSP to strengthen the healthcare system by attracting young physicians to our medical community. The GRMSP has maintained a strong partnership with MUSM's Macon and Savannah campuses and is now exploring opportunities for medical students attending Georgia Regents University's Medical College of Georgia – Southeast Georgia Clinical Campus. The program maintains cohorts with an average of four medical students, each completing two to three clinical rotations yearly in the Washington/Johnson County area.

Students who participate in this program are encouraged to experience life outside the medical practice. To ensure this, students are housed locally and are often included in dinner parties, recreational activities and events by members of the community.

Funds for the program are used for housing costs to relieve some of the students' financial burdens while experiencing all that the Washington/Johnson County area has to offer.

With your help, Lock, Stock and Barrel 2013 was extremely successful at raising the financial support this program needed, and now we'd like to do it again! Lock, Stock and Barrel 2013 will be held March 9 at the Sheppard farm and will include a skeet shooting tournament, silent auction, oyster roast, and dinner with classic southern fare. Featured guests will be lifestyle and food editors Gena Knox and James Farmer III, both hailing from Perry, Georgia. Their presentation will feature a Classic South Farm-to-Table cooking and table-escaping demonstration, Gena, a landscape architect and author of Southern My Way: Simple Recipes, Fresh Flavors, and James, a published author and Editor-At-Large for Southern Living will have you in awe as they teach you how to satisfy your palate and beautify your home.

As a thank you to all of our sponsors ($250, $500, $750 or $1000), a reception with Gena Knox and James Farmer III will be hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Cummings at their home in Warthen. This reception will be held on March 9 as well, prior to the Lock, Stock and Barrel 2013 event.

Tickets for LSB 2013 are available at The Geo. D. Warthen Bank and Citizens Bank in Sandersville. For more information about sponsorship or any other event details, please contact either Deana Tanner Bibb at 478-232-4021 or Trey Sheppard at 478-552-5127. Make sure to mark your calendar for March 9, and we'll see you at the Sheppard Farm for Lock, Stock and Barrel 2013!