

Alabama Community College Association

Journal



Through Education and Workforce Development

ACCA 2015 Spring Journal • Volume 42 • No. 1

ACCA President's Message



Hello to everyone! It is my honor and privilege to serve as your 2015 ACCA President and to work along with some of our Alabama Community College System's finest personnel who serve on the Executive Committee.

We will be holding our conference at the Sheraton Hotel and Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex (BJCC) in Birmingham again this year, November 22-24, 2015. Our Executive Committee is working diligently on your behalf to provide an outstanding conference filled with professional development activities that will impact your work and be beneficial to personal growth and development. We are continuing with some additions from last year – wi-fi for all meeting spaces and hotel guests and “Birds of a Feather” sessions to meet the unmet needs of attendees who have common interests and would like to meet. We are looking into a new addition to the conference by instituting a pre-conference event centered on leadership development. Get ready for this because it will be powerful and very impacting. Stay tuned for future developments and

make your plans early to attend.

Our conference theme this year is Building Alabama's Future Through Education and Workforce Development. As we know, community college graduates are the backbone of Alabama's workforce and its future economic development opportunities. Nationally, there is an upward mobility trend proving that credentials, certificates, and degrees earned by our students make a tremendous difference in the quality of life they may have as fellow citizens. Attainment of these milestones has proven to be an incentive to propel our students toward advanced degrees. Therefore, the professional growth and development of those who contribute so much to the success of graduates and the satisfaction of our clients are essential to our success as a System guided by three pillars – Adult Education, Academic Education and Workforce Development.

I encourage you to submit a proposal for a presentation at our conference. Five learning tracks in support of our mission and vision for the 2015 ACCA Conference include - Teaching and Learning, Leadership Development, Workforce Development, Student Success and Services, and Support Staff Development. Really outstanding work is going on at our System Colleges. It benefits us all to know of this work so that we may be better equipped to “Build Alabama's Future Through Education and Workforce Development!”

Again, I look forward to working with you and seeing you in Birmingham later this year!

Sincerely,

Bruce Crawford, Ph.D.
President, Alabama Community College Association

A group of diverse young adults, likely students, are gathered around a laptop computer. They are all smiling and looking at the screen, appearing engaged and collaborative. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the group.

November 22 through 24
Sheraton Birmingham Hotel and
Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex

Registration is \$175.00 per person until Nov. 2nd
and \$200.00 per person afterwards.

Visit www.alabamacca.org for all conference
deadlines, updates, and speaker information

Call for Conference Presentation Proposals

Presentations should relate to one of the following professional development tracks:

- Leadership Development
- Student Success and Services
- Support Staff Development
- Teaching and Learning
- Workforce Development

Suggested Topics Include:

Transformative and Innovative Teaching/Learning Strategies, Student Success, Retention and Completion, Student Engagement, Mental Health and Awareness, Safety and Campus Security, Academic and Technical Partnerships and Collaborations, Professional Learning Communities, Mentoring and Coaching, Outcome Assessments, Workforce Development, Credentialing, Apprenticeships, Technological Enhancements, Funding Opportunities, and Best Practices.

Presentation topics other than the suggested topics above are welcomed; however, all presentation topics should support one or more of the five professional development tracks (areas of interest) listed.

To submit a proposal, use the online submission form available on the ACCA website.

Visit www.alabamacca.org/accaproposals

For additional information, contact

Dr. Chris Franklin, ACCA First Vice President at acca@bscc.edu

Deadline for submissions: August 17, 2015

Want to get involved in ACCA? Become a facilitator.

Duties include the following:

- Pick up facilitator folder and evaluation materials
- Locate the scheduled room
- Assist presenter with set-up
- Distribute handouts and evaluations
- Welcome participants and monitor time
- Collect completed evaluation forms
- Assist presenter with removing materials
- Return completed evaluations and unused materials

If interested, please contact:

Jennifer O'Linger

jennifer.olinger@drakestate.edu

256-551-3127

President Obama Speaks at Lawson State

President Barack Obama made a recent trip to Alabama, one of a few during his presidency, and selected Lawson State Community College as the site for his presentation on the economy. He greeted the crowd, "Hello Alabama. Hello, Lawson State...Let me just say, first of all, thank you to Dr. Ward, who is not only your president; we named him a White House "Champion of Change" for the very work he's done here at Lawson State."



Before a cheering audience of approximately 2,100 students, faculty, staff and invited guests, President Obama touted his main message on the budget, middle-class economics, and the hazards of payday loans and title loans. Addressing a component of what middle-class economics means in this economy, the President said, "It means preparing Americans to earn good jobs and higher wages, which means every child getting a great education at the earliest age -- making college more affordable so young people can afford to go to college without getting burdened with debt."

Jeff State Holds Inaugural Fun Walk



"The event raised more than \$5,000 and it will help students by funding the Judy M. Merritt Memorial Scholarship," said Jefferson State Interim President Keith Brown. "This will be Jefferson State's largest scholarship awarded each year."

Dr. Judy Merritt served as president of Jefferson State for 35 years and passed away in October 2014. Merritt was the first female two-year college president in Alabama. The 5K Run and Fun Walk will be an annual event to raise funds for the scholarship.

The faculty and staff of Jefferson State Community College recently held the Inaugural Judy M. Merritt 5K Run on March 14, 2015, at the Shelby-Hoover Campus.

The 5K Run, along with a One-Mile Fun Walk and family fun day, not only helped the Jefferson State family celebrate the 50th anniversary of the college but also served to honor the tremendous life and legacy of President Judy Merritt.



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Alabama Southern Student Named New Century Scholar



Alabama Southern Community College has announced that Catherine Kennedy has been named a New Century Scholar as part of the annual All-USA Academic Team competition.

Catherine is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Kennedy from Leroy, Alabama. She will transfer to University of South Alabama in the fall where she will earn a bachelor's of

science in secondary education with a concentration in mathematics.

As president of Student Government Association and vice president of Leadership for Phi Theta Kappa on Thomasville Campus, Catherine is an active member of the student activities on and off campus. Catherine plans to pursue a master's in administration and change students' lives in the process.

New Century Scholars are the highest scoring students in each state, plus one student from among one of the seven sovereign nations where Phi Theta Kappa is represented internationally.

Each scholar received a \$2,000 scholarship presented at the American Association of College Presidents (AACC) Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Catherine stated, "Winning New Century Scholar is enormous, and I really cannot comprehend the enormity of winning this award. I am excited about the opportunities that will arise from this experience, and I will represent Alabama Southern Community College and Phi Theta Kappa to the best of my ability."

Wallace Hanceville President Named Citizen of the Year

The Cullman Times honored Wallace State Community College president Dr. Vicki Hawsey Karolewics, this spring as the 2015 Distinguished Citizen of the Year.

Karolewics was moved to tears during the awards ceremony for the Citizen of the Year and Unsung Heroes hosted by the newspaper at St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church.



"This means a lot to me," she said. "There's no more important work than to take a child, or even an adult, wherever he or she is and show him or her the possibilities that are there for him or her through education and an encouraging word. I've always said the most important thing a teacher can do is put their hands on a child and say, 'You can do this.' It changes the world for them."

"We are only limited by the limits we place on ourselves," she added. "I know that from personal experience. I love Cullman. I love Cullman County. I love Wallace State. And I appreciate the fact that one of the most important things I do is to surround myself with the great people in the world to work with. What Wallace State does is made possible by the members of our team."

She also thanked her husband, Dr. Vince Karolewics, for his support of her work, and *The Cullman Times* for her recognition and for that of the six individuals who were chosen as Unsung Heroes.

David Palmer, editor of *The Cullman Times*, cited Dr. Karolewics' leadership at Wallace State as a factor in choosing her as this year's Distinguished Citizen of the Year.

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Bevill Instructor Inspired by Work and Goals

A desire to serve the less fortunate and to improve classroom methods led a nursing instructor to further her education, resulting in the recent achievement of a doctorate.

Bevill State Community College Nursing Instructor Emily Burleson, who recently completed her doctoral studies by defending her dissertation, was inspired by work as a missionary and by a goal to improve her classroom pedagogy.

Dr. Burleson's experience as a member of a medical mission team both influenced her doctoral pursuit and inspired her dissertation's topic. "In 2011 and 2012, I worked in Haiti as a medical mission team member. These powerful experiences later led to the focus of my dissertation - Understanding Nurse Educators' Experiences of International Mission Participation," she explained.

Using a qualitative description approach, Dr. Burleson's research explored the perceptions of nurses who have participated in international missions and addressed the impact of these experiences in their personal and professional lives. In particular, the study identified ways they inform different approaches to teaching. The study showed that as a result of their experiences, the nurses reported being able to teach from a more globally diverse perspective and empowered them to make cultural awareness more meaningful in the classroom.

"Earning a doctorate became a personal and professional goal

once I became a nurse educator. I searched for a doctoral program that specializes in nursing education. My master's degree in nursing provided some courses with a focus towards teaching. I quickly learned that the nurse educator role was unique to anything I had ever done before, and I wanted to be a better teacher. I wanted to enhance and improve my instruction both within the classroom and the clinical setting," said Dr. Burleson.



During her doctoral studies, Dr. Burleson also had the opportunity to gain firsthand experience in cross-cultural perspectives when she traveled to Yorkshire, England. She took a class in Comparative Higher Education and was able to present her research while there.

"I gained a new awareness about the issue of global healthcare through this experience. It broadened my knowledge in nursing education and different teaching methods too. I can now incorporate these experiences into the classroom by using stories, case studies, and virtual simulations to enhance lectures and reinforce the concepts of nursing. This all leads to helping achieve Bevill State's overall mission," said Dr. Burleson.

Enterprise Signs Reverse Transfer Agreement

Troy University and Enterprise State Community College officials signed an agreement Monday that would enable transfer students to complete their associates degrees while pursuing their bachelor degrees.

The Reverse Transfer agreement permits former Enterprise State students who transfer to Troy University to transfer eligible credits back to Enterprise State Community College for the purpose of attaining an associate degree. Students qualified for reverse transfer will have earned at least 15 semester credit hours from Enterprise State Community College, will have earned at least three semester credit hours from Troy University, and will be in good standing at both institutions.

Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., chancellor of Troy University, said there has always been a strong link between the Alabama Community College System and Troy.

Dr. Cynthia T. Anthony, interim president of Enterprise State, said entering the agreement with Troy was fitting given the relationship the two institutions enjoy.



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Calhoun Announces New President

Last November, Dr. Mark Heinrich, chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, recommended and the Alabama State Board of Education unanimously approved Dr. James S. Klauber, Sr. as the new president of Calhoun Community College. Klauber officially began his duties as the college's new head on February 1, 2015.

In recommending Dr. Klauber for the presidential position, Chancellor Heinrich spoke to the experience, leadership and commitment he brings to the post. "I am very pleased to have Dr. Klauber on board as the leader of Calhoun Community College," said Heinrich. "He brings a wealth of knowledge to the position, and I am confident that his level of knowledge coupled with his experience will ensure that Calhoun continues on a very positive track," added Heinrich. "I know that he will be a great asset to the college and the system."

Klauber comes to Calhoun with many years of experience in military, legal, legislative and academic leadership. Just prior to coming to the college, he served as president of Owensboro Community and Technical College in Owensboro, Kentucky.

During his career in higher education, he has served in numer-

ous positions ranging from vice president and general counsel, to adjunct faculty member, to executive assistant to the president.

Prior to his career in higher education, Dr. Klauber served in the South Carolina Army National Guard for more than 27 years, served in the South Carolina House of Representatives for a decade, practiced law for several years, served on the city council in Greenwood, South Carolina, and taught as a secondary educator.



"I am honored to be selected as the new president of Calhoun Community College," said Dr. Klauber. "To be able to lead a superior institution like Calhoun is a true honor, and I am ready to do everything I can to move us forward in education, workforce and economic development," he stated. "My wife Teresa, our sons Jake and Wyatt, and I are excited to join and become part of the community."

CACC Partners with Italian-based Company

Central Alabama Community College held a press conference to announce a public-private partnership with the Italian-based company 2A s.p.a. to create a Center for Precision Machining on the Alexander City campus. This center will be designed to immerse faculty into the professional and technical aspects of machine tool technology, tool and die processing, welding, electronics, and industrial maintenance; engage students in hands-on technical applications; advance dual enrollment opportunities for area high school students in related career and technical education fields; and develop a curriculum to meet the current needs of related industries. "We are very excited to be partnering with such a wonderful company," Dr. Susan Burrow, president of CACC, stated.

2A s.p.a. is a multinational corporation, headquartered in Torino, Italy, that began in 1974 as a small zamak die-casting foundry integrated in the zippers production department of the mother company; roughly ten years later, the company started to sell its own casting technology to the national automotive industry and to Telecom and computer application. In order to follow the growing demand of customers, who were asking for bigger parts made by aluminium alloys, in 1989 2A bought four different foundries and consolidated them. Today, 2A is the first aluminium die-casting foundry in its region and owns the biggest existing die-casting press worldwide.

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Trenholm State Now SACSCOC Accredited

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Board of Trustees announced on December 9, 2014, in Nashville, Tennessee, at the 2014 SACSCOC Annual Meeting that H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College has been granted its initial accreditation as a Level I institution.

As a Level I institution, Trenholm State is now accredited by the Commission to award associate degrees. SACSCOC is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the Southern states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia and Latin

America and other international sites that award associate or higher degrees.

This decision comes after the college was granted candidacy status toward accreditation in June 2013 and then participated in an on-site visit in September 2014, during which the on-site visiting committee gave the highest possible evaluation with no recommendations or need for follow-up during their visit. Overall, the team was very impressed with Trenholm State. As a member institution of SACSCOC, Trenholm State has demonstrated that it has quality academic and support programs and is accountable to the SACSCOC standards through a peer-reviewed evaluation process.

Northwest-Shoals Student Named Gold Scholar

Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) student, Markisha Spearman, a Hamilton native, has been named a 2015 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Gold Scholar.



The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver, and 50 Bronze Scholars, and providing nearly \$200,000 in scholarships annually. Each Gold Scholar receives a \$1,500 scholarship and a special medallion.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society administers the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team program and recognizes Coca-Cola Community College scholars during All-State Community College Academic Team Recognition ceremonies held in 38 states. Student scholars also receive recognition locally during ceremonies held on campus and internationally for those who are able to attend Phi Theta Kappa's Annual Convention.

Snead State Inducts Record Number into Phi Theta Kappa

Snead State Community College inducted a record number of students into the Theta Iota chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society during the spring induction held Tuesday, March 10.

The officers for the student organization set a goal of increasing its membership by 50 percent at the spring induction.

To support the group's efforts, the Snead State Foundation committed up to \$4,000 to help students with a financial need to pay the membership dues into the honor society.



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Gadsden State Bids Farewell to Musical Legends



The Gadsden State Community College family bid farewell in the fall semester to musical legends, Billy E. “Rip” Reagan and George “Mr. Mac” McSpadden.

Reagan, who began his tenure at Gadsden State in 1986, worked as a full-time band director and music instructor from 1986 until his retirement in 1996. He remained band director at Gadsden State part-time until February 2014. While at Gadsden State, he was

inducted into the Alabama Music Educators Hall of Fame, and the Reagan Park located in Alabama City was dedicated in his honor. The band room in Wallace Hall also bears his name. He was teacher, musician, and entertainer to many showcasing the talents of his students throughout the community. Many of his students have become music educators or perform professionally.

Reagan shared his musical talent internationally by conducting the Dixie American Youth Band, a goodwill musical tour which took students from seven southern states to Europe to entertain audiences at schools and public events. He is also known inter-

nationally for his music adjudicating abilities in Europe and Holland as well as throughout the United States. He is definitely known as a legend throughout the community and will be remembered fondly for his dedication to music education and helping others.



McSpadden played Mendelssohn’s Priest’s March for as many years as there were commencement ceremonies at Gadsden State. Beginning with the first graduating class in 1967, McSpadden missed only one ceremony due to an illness. That first ceremony was held at Convention Hall in Gadsden. Since then, ceremonies have been held at Wallace Hall in Gadsden, McClellan Center Auditorium, Word of Life Church in Anniston, and the Oxford Civic Center. McSpadden worked as a full-time music instructor from 1966 until his retirement in 1996.

LBW Welcomes New Dean

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College welcomes Jason Jessie as the new dean of student affairs. Jessie holds a master’s degree in collegiate scholarship and service, and a bachelor’s degree in education, both from the Northeastern State University (NSU) in Tahlequa, Oklahoma. In his new role at LBWCC, he is responsible for the overall coordination and management of the student affairs division of the College at all locations. His experience includes working in recruitment, admissions, and enrollment management. His achievements include reversing a three-year decline in freshmen class enrollment with an eight percent increase at NSU, hosting the largest recruitment event, recruiting the largest freshmen honors program class, and implementing a client relationship management tool.



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Shelton State Program Receives Certification

Shelton State Community College's tutoring program, which is part of the SOAR Institute (Student Opportunities for Achievement and Resources), has received Level 2 certification from the College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). CRLA's International Tutor Training Program Certification granted SOAR Tutoring Services Level 2 certification through 2016 and Level 1 certification through 2017.

The certification signifies that Shelton State's tutoring program meets national standards for tutor training, data collection, and program elements. The certification also illustrates that the tutoring program is a vital component in student learning.



Shelton State is the only two-year school in Alabama that is currently certified. SOAR began in 2011, and since that time has had over 23,500 tutor sessions with students.

Jeff Davis and Reid State Recognized

Central Gulf Industrial Alliance (CGIA), a consortium of industrial businesses and contractors spanning the Gulf Coast counties in Mississippi, Alabama and Northwest Florida, partnered with the Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council (SAWDC) to identify and promote industrial construction workforce development programs, which are training to industry standards, in the SAWDC eight-county region through its Industrial Trades Program Review and Endorsement Program.

As part of the CGIA mission to improve industry performance in the areas of workforce development, safety, and productivity, CGIA developed a process for training programs to become CGIA-endorsed programs.

“The intent of this tool is to identify and provide increased support to quality training programs that ultimately lead to employment by CGIA member companies,” said Eddie Clayton, senior labor consultant for Southern Company – E&CS, and CGIA vice chairman.

The tool consists of two parts: an on-site program review and an employer survey, and results in an overall score leading to a possible endorsement level of gold, silver, or bronze.

Lawson State Leads Consortium

As the transportation industry continues to experience growth and demand in the workforce, companies are faced with challenges in attracting and retaining qualified talent. To meet this need, the Southeastern Transportation Network, a consortium of four neighboring-state institutions, was awarded a four-year, \$10 million federal grant to prepare skilled job candidates through innovative education and career training programs.

The consortium includes Lawson State Community College, Birmingham/Bessemer, Alabama, the lead institution; Atlanta Technical College, Atlanta, Georgia; Central Louisiana Technical Community College, Alexandria, Louisiana; and Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Wesson, Mississippi. Each institution will receive \$2 million and Lawson State will receive an additional \$2 million for administrative purposes.

“As we intensify workforce development training efforts, I am truly excited to have received this grant award as it will provide numerous training and employment opportunities and begin to transform lives,” said Dr. Perry W. Ward, president of Lawson State Community College. “I also look forward to the new educational consortium that we have developed and the collective influence as well as statewide impact that we will make in each of our respective states.”



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Southern Union Offers Reverse Transfer Option

Southern Union State Community College (SUSCC) has entered into a formal partnership with several four-year universities that will establish a “reverse transfer” option for students.

The agreement between SU and the respective institutions allows SUSCC students who transfer to these colleges an avenue to transfer credits back to SUSCC to complete the associate’s degree. The agreement is beneficial to transfer students and to both colleges as well as to local workforce development.

“I’m very pleased that we could formalize these agreements,” said Dr. Glenda Colagaross, interim president of SUSCC. “More than 50 percent of community college students transfer without earning an associate’s degree. Many times, they are just a few classes shy of the degree. By applying credits earned at a four year institution back to the community college, students can increase their earning potential and have a tangible milestone in their quest to earn a bachelor’s degree,” said Colagaross.

Southern Union has reverse transfer agreements in place with Jacksonville State University, Auburn University Montgomery, Troy University, Huntingdon College, and Auburn University.



Faulkner State Basketball Team Named Champions

Faulkner State Community College’s Men’s Basketball team shared an emotional ending to the ACCC Men’s Basketball Tournament in March as they celebrated a 93-76 victory over Gadsden State Community College.



Athletic director and Men’s Basketball head coach Jack Robertson said this was a season he would never forget. “Early in the season, we set goals to win the Southern division and to win every home game, and they were so dedicated to reaching those,” Robertson said. “They were determined to make that happen. Then after that, we set the next goal to win the state tournament.”

This is the third time in the College’s history the men’s team has won the State Tournament. “I knew they could do it, and they proved it Saturday night,” Robertson said. “The guys represented the College, the city of Bay Minette, and Baldwin County so well. It was a special tournament because we were able to show off Faulkner State and the community, and it was the best tournament I have been to in my 43 years at the College.”

A promotional graphic for Cengage Learning. At the top is the Cengage Learning logo. Below it are four circular icons representing different services: "Eliminate Redundancy", "Easily Set Your Course", "Promote Better Outcomes", "PERSONALIZED SERVICES", "PRODUCT DESIGN", and "LEARNING SOLUTIONS". At the bottom, there is a block of text: "Like you, our passion is to engage students and challenge them to think critically. Cengage Learning uniquely brings together people, products and personalized services to help you prepare your students for success in the classroom—and in life."

A promotional graphic for Jacksonville State University. It features the large, stylized "JSU" logo in red. Below the logo, the text reads "JACKSONVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY" and "www.jsu.edu • 256-549-8390".

Snead State Shares Virtual Welding Trainer

Snead State Community College has partnered with Marshall Technical School to provide programs for students in both credit and non-credit programs. Located in Guntersville, Marshall Technical School provides a convenient location for students, and the facility and equipment at MTS allows for a partnership that benefits the high school students attending the technical school during the day and Snead students attending in the evening. Snead State began offering academic credit courses during the 2012-2013 academic year. The classes offered included math, English, history, and political science/economics. Enrollment rose from the initial 22 to a total of 31.



“For 2015-16, we are planning to do math, English, political science/economics and history. That puts us at the maximum we can do at the Marshall Technical School right now,” said Chief Academic Officer Dr. Jason Watts.

Snead State also launched career and technical programs – nursing assistant/home health aide and child development - at the Marshall Technical School, and enrollment has continued to grow each academic year. The nursing assistant/home health aide program is a blended program for the MTS students. They complete the work online but have a dedicated class period at the technical school to work on assignments and seek assistance from the instructor available. The students complete their clinical requirements at area nursing homes.

Wallace Dothan Selected as Bellwether Finalist

Wallace Community College-Dothan was selected as one of ten finalists for the 2015 Bellwether Awards in the Instructional Programs and Services (IPS) category. The finalists, who were selected by the Community College Futures Assembly at the University of Florida, competed in January for the top prize in their category.



The Bellwether Awards recognize outstanding and innovative programs that are successfully leading community colleges into the future. Over 300 Bellwether applications were submitted nationwide for the annual competition. WCC’s program, “A holistic instructional approach to effectively closing the student achievement gap by significantly improving student learning,” is based on the I-CAN (Improvement, Constant And Never-Ending) instructional initiative. Using this approach, student success rates increased 22.7 percent from fall 2011 to fall 2013 in the top ten enrollment classes by providing a more engaging, active learning environment.



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Northeast Signs Partnership

Officials from Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) and the University of Alabama-Huntsville recently signed partnerships to provide pathways to college completion, particularly in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. The partnership permits NACC students to enroll simultaneously at both institutions to work toward the completion of their associate's (NACC) and bachelor's (UAH) degrees.

"We are very pleased to announce this partnership," stated NACC president, Dr. David Campbell. "UAH is an outstanding educational institution with highly respected programs. Indeed, UAH graduates receive among the top starting salaries among universities throughout the state and Southeast region. This partnership is a great opportunity for our students."

Officials at both institutions are hopeful that the Pathways agreement will result particularly in a larger number of engineering graduates to serve the workforce in Huntsville and the North Alabama region. Indeed, under the terms of the Pathways program agreement, NACC students may take their basic engineering course (EGR 101) through Northeast and transfer the course for credit to UAH. Not only that, but UAH provides a tuition scholarship to make up any difference between the course costs at the two colleges. Other courses signed off on through the Pathways agreement will receive the same tuition scholarship from UAH. Northeast students may enroll up to 12 hours of UAH coursework to be delivered on-site at NACC or via online education.

Northeast students must maintain a 3.00 grade point average to qualify for this program.

This dual enrollment arrangement permits participating NACC students to receive a UAH Chargers Student ID Card and allows them to attend UAH events and utilize other UAH resources. As a part of the Pathways program, students at area high schools will be encouraged to pursue engineering careers and to pursue them by enrolling at UAH or NACC. In essence, acceptance into the Pathways program is equivalent to be enrolled as a student at both institutions. As a complement to this partnership, NACC and UAH officials also signed a Reverse Transfer Agreement whereby students may transfer credit back to Northeast from UAH to complete their associate degrees.



Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition Visits Trenholm

On August 19, Trenholm State's Automotive Technology program was host to a Train the Trainer Workshop for first responders sponsored by the Alabama Clean Fuels Coalition.

The Alabama Clean Fuel Coalition promotes the use of alternative fuels to decrease the United States' dependence on foreign oil. These fuels include electricity, natural and propane gas, biodiesel, and hydrogen.

When vehicles using these fuels are involved in an accident, they present a very different problem for first responders. This workshop allowed them to know how to safely respond to these accidents.



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Chattahoochee Valley Foundation Exceeds Expectations

The Chattahoochee Valley Community College Foundation is once again excited to share its final numbers from the annual Hall of Fame celebration and fundraising event. The Hall of Fame event at the Courtyard by Marriott Columbus-Phenix City on March 5, 2015, raised over \$44,000 to benefit student scholarships. This is the second largest amount raised by the Foundation in one event in its 30 year history. Last year's Hall of Fame and 40th Anniversary Celebration brought in \$55,772. Those totals combine to amount just under \$100,000 in two years to benefit student scholarships.



Angela Fowler is a CVCC Foundation scholarship recipient and current student in the licensed practical nursing program. She and her husband both attend college full-time, all while he works as a police officer in Columbus. In a video addressing the attendees of the event, Fowler stated, "I hope to become a certified nurse midwife in the future, and there is no place else I'd rather get the base of my education than here at Chattahoochee Valley."

In addition to the highlighted need for student scholarship support at the College, the evening recognized three individuals for its Hall of Fame induction. Distinguished Alumna Teresa Whitaker, anchor and Healthwatch reporter for WRBL, attended CVCC from 1979-1983, earning her Associate of Arts. Athletic Award - Rodney Rutherford, deputy sheriff for Muscogee County, attended CVCC from 2003-2005. Though he was drafted for the Florida Marlins right out of high school, he opted to play baseball for both the 2004 and 2005 seasons at CVCC. Distinguished Service - Pat Waldrop, president of The Heritage Agency Inc., has been a dedicated member of the CVCC Foundation Board since 2010. She was very involved in the 2014 Hall of Fame and 40th Anniversary Celebration event fundraiser. She is an enthusiastic supporter of the community, chairing the Phenix City/Russell County Chamber Board of Directors.

Enterprise Hosts Technology & Learning Day

Alabama Consortium for Learning and Technology's (ALACTL) director, Dr. Bobbie Jo Carter, speaks with attendees during the 2015 Technology and Learning Day at Enterprise State Community College. Approximately 18 different colleges were represented at the event, which was sponsored by ALACTL. The Technology and Learning Day was designed to help educators learn and spread innovative practices in order to ensure that all students in the Alabama Community College System have access to high-quality digital learning opportunities. Sessions were held to discuss best practices and give instructors and instructional technology staff the opportunity to network and discuss ways to ensure that college classrooms are meeting the needs of the "digital student."





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Northeast Continues Winning Streak

Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) continues its national award winning streak. The college was notified recently that it is the recipient of nine awards, four of which were top Gold Awards, in the Thirtieth Annual Educational Advertising Awards competition by the National Higher Education Marketing Report (HEMR). Earlier in February, Northeast also won four awards, one gold, two silver and one bronze, in the national 2014 Collegiate Advertising Awards competition.

In the HEMR awards, *The Aurora* literary magazine “Aurora—Art and Literature 2014” received the gold award in the category of Publication/Internal Group 2: School with 2,000-4,999 students. “What an honor to have all our hard work recognized at a national level,” said Joan Reeves, chair of the English and Fine Arts division. “We are so proud to be recognized by a national organization which places us in competition with universities as well as other community colleges. The literary magazine at NACC is so much more than just a forum for our students, for it also serves as a recruiting tool.” The literary magazine is published annually by the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Sigma Kappa Delta and the English and Fine Arts department of NACC. “Through the writing competition, we sponsor for area middle and high schools, we reach out to potential students, and we offer those ‘budding’ authors a chance to see their work in print,” continued Reeves. “*The Aurora* has truly been a labor of love and continues to reflect the amazing work being done by Alabama community colleges.”



The 2014-2015 NACC Catalog/Student Handbook was a gold award winner in the category of Catalog, Group 2: School with 2,000-4,999 students. “We are honored and pleased to be awarded in this category with the competition being so tough,” said Debra Barentine, director of promotions and marketing.

The Northeast Recruitment Video won a gold award in the category of Special Video, Group 2: School with 2,000-4,999 students. “Many hours of work went into our recruitment video to allow potential students to actually see what a difference NACC makes in the lives of so many. We are so thrilled to see that others recognize all of that work. What an honor it is to have received this award,” said Andrea Okwu, coordinator of high school relations and recruiting.

LBW Coach Inducted Into Hall of Fame

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College’s Steve Helms, athletic director and head baseball coach, was inducted in the Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in January.

During his 23 years at LBWCC, Helms led the Saints baseball teams to an overall 826-425 record. In 2004 and 2009, he took teams to the NJCAA Division II World Series as regional champions.

In 17 regional tournament appearances, his teams have been runners-up four times. More than 200 of his players transferred to play baseball at four-year colleges, and 28 played professional baseball.

He was named Coach of the Year by the NJCAA Division II National Tournament, the Alabama Community College Conference, the Southern Division, and the Southeast District.





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Calhoun Names Gold Scholar

Ms. Taylor Peters, a student at Calhoun Community College, has been named a 2015 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Gold Scholar. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver, and 50 Bronze scholars nationally and providing nearly \$200,000 in scholarships annually. As a Gold Scholar, Peters will receive a \$1,500 scholarship and a special medallion.

With a perfect 4.0 grade point average, Peters is active in a number of student organizations and activities at Calhoun. She currently serves as Huntsville campus SGA president, is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, as well as a member of the Warhawks, Calhoun's official student ambassadors. She was also selected from the over 11,000 students at the college to serve as student representative on Calhoun's Presidential Advisory Search Committee.

Peters also serves as a mentor/tutor for first-time freshmen at Calhoun and is very involved in various activities within her community. While at Calhoun, she has been listed numerous times on the President's List for top academic achievement and

is the recipient of several academic scholarships.

"As one of the nation's Top 150 Community Colleges, we know that many of our students at Calhoun are among the top community college students in the country.

This recent honor which Taylor has very deservedly earned is further evidence of the quality of our students," commented Calhoun president, Dr. James Klauber, Sr.



Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society administers the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team program and recognizes Coca-Cola Community College scholars during All-State Community College Academic Team Recognition ceremonies held in 38 states. Student scholars also receive recognition locally during ceremonies held on campus and internationally for those who are able to attend Phi Theta Kappa's Annual Convention.

Wallace Selma Receives Grant

Through an innovative grant funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, 22 Dallas county students are moving forward with a goal of attaining a high school diploma and an associate in science degree by 2016. The Howard Hughes Medical Institute selected Tuskegee University as one of 47 colleges and universities in the United States to create more engaging science classes, bring real-world research experiences to students, and increase the diversity of students who study science. The plan includes a collaborative agreement with Wallace Community College-Selma to provide an innovative educational experience for high school students that exposes them to collegiate level STEM curricula and research-based activities with the WCCS-Alabama Black Belt High School Bridge Initiative and a summer program initiative, Discovery TREK -Tuskegee Research and Enrichment Kamp.

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) is a United States non-profit medical research organization based in Chevy Chase, Maryland. It was founded by the American businessman Howard Hughes in 1953. It is one of the largest private funding



organizations for biological and medical research in the United States. The partnership with WCCS hopes to increase the participation of underrepresented minority students from Alabama's Black Belt counties. It is also designed to increase the enrollment of undergraduate science majors by serving as one of several science and research pipelines for Tuskegee University.

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Tiny Soldiers Arrive at Drake State

New Orleans may have saints marching in, but Huntsville and J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College in particular, has former Tiny Soldiers decidedly marching on to its main campus to take higher education by storm. Brother and sister, Christian and Tiffany Kirkpatrick were Tiny Soldiers cadets at Lincoln Elementary School and are now students at the community and technical college thanks to the life-altering program. In 1996, an after-school program called Tiny Soldiers assisted fifth-grade students at various low-income schools throughout Huntsville to overcome negative behaviors derived from fatherless or single-parent homes, where a strong positive male influence was non-existent. The original program had multiple goals. Among them to encourage high standards of academic achievement; help students strengthen character and interpersonal skills; and foster friendliness, understanding, fairness and good will.

Tiny Soldiers founder, Ms. Janice Summerhill, was a talented Special Education teacher who started her career at Terry Heights Elementary School in 1975. She saw the need to change the conditions of students who she observed dropping out of school, entering prisons, walking the streets in the surrounding communities, and becoming hopeless and homeless. “That became a

problem for me,” she stated. After much thought, she decided to recruit volunteer members of the Armed Forces to instill the military structure and values in these young minds, but without the actual boot camp experience or military service expectation. “I sought to find a way to fulfill a need without focusing on the need,” said Ms. Summerhill. “The result of my soul-searching, knowledge and observations was a program that was fun and provided a format for any topic, while affecting and changing negative behaviors.” Thus, Tiny Soldiers was born.

Graduates from the program received either a computer or a scholarship to attend Drake State after completing their secondary education. The latter award was thanks to a partnership between the program and Drake State president, Dr. Helen T. McAlpine, then assistant superintendent with Huntsville City Schools. Dr. McAlpine saw the value of the initiative in fostering continuing education beyond high school. Those former soldiers, including the Kirkpatrick siblings, are now cashing in their chips as first year students at Drake State this year. It was a road almost 20 years in the making.

Enterprise Scholars Bowl Wins First Place

The Enterprise State Community College Scholars’ Bowl program has one of the best teams in the nation, and this year’s students have the trophies to prove it. The ESCC students have won first place in the three different tournaments this year.

The Scholars Bowl “A” Team opened the year with a first place finish at the ACBL Gulf Coast Kickoff Tournament at Faulkner State Community College in Gulf Shores on October 17. The “B” Team placed third in the event, which also landed three ESCC students on the all-tournament team. They were: 1st place, Taylor Murray; 3rd place, Daniel Larson; and 5th place, Laine Dillard.

Additionally, the ESCC “A” Team won first place in the 2015 NAQT Alabama Community College Sectional Tournament at Jefferson State Community College on January 23. ESCC sponsor Kathy Pattie was the first place coach. Larson was the second highest scorer on the all-tournament team, and Murray was the event’s third highest scoring all-tournament team member.



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Shelton Hosts HBCU Deputy Director

Dr. Ivory A. Toldson, deputy director for the White House Initiative on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, visited Shelton State Community College on Tuesday, March 10, 2015, and Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Joining Dr. Toldson were Morgan Curry, Jeraun Pogue, and Justin Wells, three local college students currently serving as HBCU All-Stars. Speaking to local high school students, community leaders, and Shelton State faculty and staff, Dr. Toldson and the HBCU All-Stars shared valuable information and experiences as they related to current college climate and practices.



In addition to serving as deputy director for the initiative, Dr. Toldson is an associate professor at Howard University, senior research analyst for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, and editor-in-chief of *The Journal of Negro Education*. He is the author of “The Breaking Barriers Series,” which analyzes academic success indicators from national surveys that together give voice to more than 10,000 black male pupils from schools across the country. In addition, he is the co-editor of the book, *Black Male Teachers: Diversifying the Nation’s Teacher Workforce* and the author of the novel, *Black Sheep*. Through his consulting firm, CREATE, LLC, he routinely works with schools to increase their capacity to promote academic success among black students.

Wallace Dothan Nursing Students Participate in Collaborative Session

Students from The Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (ACOM) and Wallace Community College-Dothan recently participated in an Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC) session designed to acquaint healthcare students with collaborative teamwork and problem solving. The participants, including Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) students, Associate Degree Nursing students, and Practical Nursing students, were placed in Interprofessional groups for the session. This is the first in a series of collaborative events between ACOM medical students and WCC’s students.



After participating in communication and team building exercises, the students were challenged with a case study analysis in which team members were assigned non-traditional roles. The exercise was based on an actual transplant operation that went terribly wrong due to miscommunication. The case resulted in rule changes for organ transplants.

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Bevill Alumnus Recognized by AACC

Bevill State Community College alumnus Dr. Luke Dollar was recognized April 21 by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) as one of the 2015 Outstanding Alumni Award recipients. The award is given annually to exceptional community college alumni. Dr. Dollar was one of only seven honorees in the nation this year. He was presented the award at a special ceremony during AACC's Annual Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Dollar is the director of National Geographic's Big Cats Initiative and an associate professor of Biology at Pfeiffer University in North Carolina. Dr. Dollar has dedicated his professional life to wildlife biology and conservation. His work has become identified with the fossa, a catlike nocturnal mammal found in Madagascar. Dr. Dollar first came to Madagascar as an undergraduate field assistant in 1994 and went on to conduct more than a decade's research there on the fossa. The rate of habitat loss for the animals he witnessed convinced him that scientists must find effective ways to educate people if wildlife conservation is to succeed.



"I am convinced that I would not be at this point in my career if I had not started my education at a community college," remarked Dr. Dollar during the awards ceremony.

Gadsden State is Now Virtual

Gadsden State Community College's Health Science division now offers students the latest in learning environments which incorporate a hands-on approach and the utilization of virtual scenarios necessary in health care education. The College acquired the BodyViz 3D MRI/CT Anatomy software through Alabama State Workforce Development grant funding in November. The grant provided for the acquisition of two BodyViz portable stereoscopic 3D cart solutions as well as two BodyViz laptop solutions. Faculty and students began using BodyViz spring semester 2015.

Approximately 600 students now have the opportunity to learn with this very interactive, technologically advanced software. Students will utilize the software to learn anatomy in 3D through real patient MRI and CT imaging data. Connie Meloun, assistant dean for the division of Health Sciences said, "Gadsden State is the first college in Alabama that will be utilizing the new BodyViz Program, and we're excited to get going. Student success is our priority at Gadsden State."



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