

# NEWSLETTER

December 2019

Volume 5, Number 2

## SACAD LUNCHEON ANNOUNCED



Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart

The Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees is pleased to announce the plans for the Annual Luncheon. The speaker for the annual luncheon will be Dr Russell Lowery-Hart, President of Amarillo College in TX. His presentation is entitled "*Making Dramatic Changes in Retention and Graduation Rates*"

Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart is president of Amarillo College. Prior to that, he served as Amarillo College's vice president of academic affairs. In just four years as vice president of academic affairs at AC, Lowery-Hart spearheaded or helped facilitate a number of important initiatives that led to his being named the 2014 recipient of the National Academic Leader of the Year Award by the National Council of Instructional Administrators.

However, the extent of Lowery-Hart's academic leadership extends well beyond Amarillo College—from his presidency of the Panhandle Twenty/20 consortium for the Top 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle, to his past chairmanship of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Undergraduate Advisory Committee.

Dr. Lowery-Hart's successes include: AC's immersion in Achieving the Dream, a national and select network of community colleges devoted to student success, AC's success in becoming the nation's first "No Excuses" community college, AC's efforts to pilot the Benefit Bank for the state of Texas, to create on-campus food pantries, and to hire a social-services coordinator, and AC's redesign of gatekeeper courses in mathematics and English, each aimed at improving student success.

The luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2019 from 11:30 am to 1:15 pm at the Hilton Americas Hotel in Ballroom of the Americas, Salon A (2nd Floor). Individuals may register for the luncheon through the regular SACSCOC registration process. For more information, contact Dr. George D. Edwards, Executive Secretary-Treasurer at [gdedwards930@gmail.com](mailto:gdedwards930@gmail.com).

### LIMITED NUMBER OF SACAD LUNCHEON TICKETS AVAILABLE

The response by representatives of member institutions for the annual SACAD luncheon has been very good. For those who registered for the luncheon through the SACSCOC Convention registration process, your nametag will provide entrance to the luncheon.

For any individual who has not registered for the luncheon, reserve your ticket by contacting Dr. George D. Edwards at [gdedwards930@gmail.com](mailto:gdedwards930@gmail.com).

The ticket will be \$35 and available at the door. No tickets will be available after December 3, 2019.

## SACAD HOSTS CONCURRENT SESSION

The Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees will host a concurrent session at the SACSCOC Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 8, 2019 from 1:30 to 2:30 pm, in Room 340 A, Level 3 of the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas.



Dr. Karen Bowyer



Dr. Brenda Hellyer



Dr. Edwin Massey

The session is entitled Effectiveness: Making Dramatic Changes in Retention and Graduation Rates. Dr. Karen Bowyer, Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Dr. Edwin Massey, and Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart will be presenting the session.

Dr. Karen Bowyer is President of Dyersburg State Community College. She has served on the Executive Council of the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, member of the Commission on Colleges of SACS, and she served as chair of the Committee on Latin American Schools of SACS. She has held leadership positions with the Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees and currently is chair of the Professional Development Committee.

Dr. Bowyer earned a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from the University of Alabama, a Master's Degree from Rutgers University and a Bachelor of Arts from Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois.

Dr. Brenda Hellyer is the chancellor of San Jacinto College, Texas. She served  
(Continued on page 2)

## SACAD Annual Meeting

December 8, 2019  
11:30 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Hilton Americas Hotel  
Ballroom of the Americas  
Salon A (2nd Floor)

Houston, Texas

### ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

#### PRESIDING

**Dr. Patricia A. Lee**  
President, Williamsburg Technical College, SC

#### WELCOME

**Dr. Patricia A. Lee**

#### INVOCATION

**Dr. John Enamait**  
President, Stanly Community College, NC



#### BUSINESS SESSION

*Financial Report*  
**Dr. George D. Edwards**  
SACAD Executive Secretary-Treasurer

*Recognition of Sponsors*

**Dr. Patricia A. Lee**

*Recognition of Board Members and Officers*

**Dr. Patricia A. Lee**



#### INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

**Dr. Pam Boehm,**  
President, Hill College, TX

#### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**Dr Russell Lowery-Hart**  
President, Amarillo College, TX

*"Making Dramatic Changes in Retention  
and Graduation Rates"*



#### DOOR PRIZES

**Dr. James David Campbell**  
President, Northeast Alabama Community College, AL

(Continued from page 1)

in a number of executive positions at the college, Executive Vice President for Resource Development, Vice Chancellor for Fiscal Affairs, Chief Financial Officer, and Executive Vice Chancellor, before being appointed chancellor. Prior to joining San Jacinto College, Hellyer worked in the corporate world as an accountant in both the private and public arena. Her experience ranged from mom and pop businesses to Fortune 500 companies to governmental agencies to entrepreneurial ventures in East Harris County.

Dr. Edwin Massey is the President of Indian River State College. He earned his Ph.D. in Zoology, with an emphasis in Marine Biochemistry from the University of Southern Mississippi and completed advanced studies in Evolutionary Biochemistry at Duke University.

Dr. Massey currently serves as the Chairman of the Florida Articulation Coordinating Committee and has served on several boards including the American Association of Community Colleges, National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship and Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

### LEAD SPONSOR AT LUNCHEON

The SACAD Board is pleased to announce that EdFinancial will once again be the lead sponsor for the Annual Luncheon to be held at the Ballroom of the Americas, Salon A (2nd Floor) in Houston, Texas on December 8, 2019 from 11:30 am to 1:15pm.

EdFinancial is a company that for more than 20 years, has provided servicing solutions for higher education. Over the years, they have changed and evolved in response to the needs of their customers. EdFinancial leverages its expertise in customer service and federal financial aid to deliver third party solutions that help colleges increase operational efficiencies and improve service to students.

Their suite of services includes:

- \* Call center solutions for admission, financial aid, registrar and bursar offices
- \* Proactive outreach for enrollment/retention
- \* Financial aid outsourcing
- \* Default prevention software and services
- \* Consulting

Today, EdFinancial works with over 150 colleges nationwide. Community colleges account for more than half of the customer base. Please visit their website at [www.edfinancial.com/HES/CaseStudies](http://www.edfinancial.com/HES/CaseStudies) to review recent community college case studies and learn how their experience, talent and technology can promote student success at institutions like yours.

## ALABAMA

### ACCS RECEIVES \$12 MILLION GRANT TO EXPAND APPRENTICESHIPS

The U. S. Department of Labor (DOL) recently awarded the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) a grant to expand private-public apprenticeship partnerships across the country. The \$12 million Scaling Apprenticeship Through Sector-Based Strategies grants grant received by ACCS and the Manufacturing Institute of the National Association of Manufacturing focuses on advanced manufacturing.

Alabama's community colleges will specifically use the grant for the following efforts:

- To expand the nationally-awarded earn-and-learn, Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education or F.A.M.E. program at Calhoun Community College and to extend that program to three additional colleges (Northwest-Shoals Community College, Wallace State Community College – Hanceville and Bishop State Community College);
- To implement quick-start pre-apprenticeship programs that lead to nationally recognized Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) certifications that prepare residents for in-depth apprenticeships or entry-level jobs in manufacturing;
- To implement short-term apprenticeship programs that place residents in one of several high-wage, in-demand occupations in advanced manufacturing.

### ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGES LAUNCH CLEAN HOME ALABAMA INITIATIVE

Governor Kay Ivey recently launched the Alabama Community College System's (ACCS) Clean Home Alabama initiative. Alabama's community colleges are partnered with residents and community organizations in every county of the state for this college-led effort to help beautify the state's natural landscapes, growing infrastructure, and expanding communities.

Clean Home Alabama was established by Alabama Com-

#### CURRENT MEMBERS RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

The SACAD dues for 2019-2020 are \$150.00. If you have not yet paid your membership dues for 2019-2020, you may still do so.

Please contact Dr. George D. Edwards, Executive Secretary-Treasurer at [gdedwards930@gmail.com](mailto:gdedwards930@gmail.com), 606-424- 8867, or see the SACAD website at [www.sacad.org](http://www.sacad.org) for more information.

munity College System Chancellor Jimmy H. Baker, with the mission of continuing to serve communities both inside and outside of campus walls.

## FLORIDA

### LEARY NAMED COORDINATOR OF DIVERSITY INITIATIVES AT PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE



Dr. Rameca V. Leary

Dr. Rameca Vincent Leary has been named Coordinator of Diversity Initiatives at Pensacola State College. Her duties encompass student and employee minority recruitment endeavors, public awareness as well as assisting and leading various Cultural Diversity Committee initiatives and activities.

Dr. Leary was recognized as the 2018-2019 Outstanding New Faculty Member. She has an extensive background in television news and diversity initiatives. While at Trident Technical College in Charleston, she served as assistant director of recruiting, and spearheaded numerous community projects.

Leary received a master's degree in management with an emphasis in public relations from the University of Maryland. She earned a doctor of philosophy in communication from Regent University. Her dissertation focus was colorism (intra-racial discrimination) in film. The study was entitled: "Colorism in Media Content: A Qualitative Study Focusing on Film and Perception." She explored its impact on African-Americans in the industry and society as a whole.

### PSC NURSING PROGRAM RANKED AS NO. 4 IN FLORIDA BY REGISTEREDNURSING.ORG

Pensacola State College's RN to BSN program has been ranked Number. 4 in the state by the nursing advocacy organization.

Nursing programs were assessed on several factors which represent how well a program supports students during school, towards licensure and beyond. Undergraduate programs' assessments were based on:

- Accreditation (5 points)
- Availability of online programs (20 points)
- Ratio of total nurse program completions vs. total program completions awarded by the institution (25 points)
- Annual tuition and fees adjusted for each county's cost of living (25 points)
- Ratio of tenured instructional faculty (5 points)
- Acceptance rate percentage for the college/university (10 points)
- Graduate rate at 150 percent of normal time (10 points)

State College of Florida was ranked No. 1 by RegisteredNursing.org. The University of South Florida was No. 2, Sante Fe College of Gainesville No. 3 and the University of North Florida No. 5.

## GEORGIA

### COLUMBUS TECHNICAL COLLEGE NAMES NEW PRESIDENT



Martha Ann  
Todd

Columbus Technical College (TCSG) has named Martha Ann Todd as president.

Ms. Todd was TCSG's deputy commissioner for adult and technical education before taking on her role at Columbus Tech. Her previous jobs include executive director of the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, assistant superintendent of Meriwether County Schools and associate superintendent for teacher and leader effectiveness with the Georgia Department of Education.

Todd earned a bachelor's degree from Emory University, a master's degree from Columbus State University and a specialist's degree from Georgia College & State University.

## KENTUCKY

### AACC AWARDS GRANT TO KCTCS TO EXPAND APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) has received a \$420,000 grant from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) to participate in its Expanding Community College Apprenticeships project.

Advanced manufacturing will be the primary targeted industry sector under the grant. KCTCS will work with many of its existing partners including the Kentucky Manufacturers Association, labor unions, the Kentucky Auto Industry Association and AMTEC, a National Science Foundation Center of Excellence. Partnerships with organizations in healthcare and construction will be sought.

KCTCS has a long-term relationship with State Apprenticeship Offices, now a part of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet. In 2017/18, KCTCS collaborated with the Cabinet in a Department of Labor grant to expand registered apprenticeships in the Commonwealth, identifying 21 employers who were working with KCTCS colleges to provide training for their employees in registered apprenticeship programs and 424 apprentices receiving apprenticeship training.

### KCTCS RANKED IN THE TOP 10 COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEMS NATIONALLY

For the second straight year, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) has been named one of the top 10 community college systems in the United States by WalletHub. Coming in at number nine, KCTCS outranked all neighboring states in the study.

For KCTCS, the ranking is due to the extraordinary achievements of its 16 colleges. For example, Hopkinsville Community College is ranked 18th and Madisonville Community College is ranked 28th in WalletHub's list of 710 colleges.

According to WalletHub, "University education is out of reach for many Americans, especially those from low-income households. But thanks to community colleges, higher education is more accessible than ever. Compared with public four-year institutions, where tuition and fees cost almost three times as much on average, community colleges offer many savings for students."

### KCTCS FIRST HIGHER ED SYSTEM IN THE NATION TO SIGN FUNDRAISING ETHICS PLEDGE

Fundraisers and presidents from all 16 colleges of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) recently signed the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Code of Ethics pledge. They were joined by KCTCS President Jay K. Box and AFP President/CEO Mike Geiger along with KCTCS Vice President Benjamin Mohler and the development staff in Versailles.



KCTCS College Presidents

"This occasion marks the first time that an entire college system has comprehensively addressed the issue of ethics and ethical fundraising by taking on the mantle and standards of the AFP Code of Ethics, the only enforceable ethical code in the entire global fundraising profession," said AFP President/CEO Mike Geiger. "The Kentucky Community and Technical College System has

taken the leadership role not just among community colleges, not just in the state, but in the country—by abiding by the highest ethical standards in the fundraising profession. No other university or college or system has come close to what KCTCS is doing today."

According to Mohler, the signing is not to introduce these standards into the KCTCS culture, but rather to publicly and formally reflect the organizational and individual commitment to ethics.

## Four KCTCS Colleges Receive U.S. Department of Education grants

Four colleges of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) recently received grants totaling more than \$7.75 million from the U.S. Department of Education. The grants are a result of the department's Title III Strengthening Institutions Program competition. Colleges will receive the funds over a five-year period.

Big Sandy Community and Technical College was awarded \$2.25 million for its Achieving Academic Excellence through Advisement, Apprenticeship and Academic Innovation.

Madisonville Community College was awarded \$2.1 million to improve student academic advising, enhance the use of technology and software to support student success and improve the delivery of instruction by adjunct faculty members.

Owensboro Community and Technical College was awarded \$2 million to expand the number of internships the college offers its students.

Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College was awarded nearly \$1.4 million to help alleviate transportation costs for students, incorporate financial literacy into a mandatory first-year experience course and create scholarship funds to reduce the need for student loans.

## DR. ALISSA YOUNG NAMED NCMPR PACESITTER



Dr. Alissa Young

Hopkinsville Community College President Dr. Alissa Young was named the 2019 Pacesetter by the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR) for District 2 which includes community colleges from: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands and The Bahamas.

The Pacesetter of the Year Award recognizes a chief executive officer at a two-year community or technical college or district office who has demonstrated leadership and support in the area of college communication and marketing. Emphasis is placed on accomplishments within the past year.

The Pacesetter Award is presented annually in each of NCMPR's seven districts, and district winners are then considered for the national award. Dr. Young now qualifies to be considered for the 2020 National Pacesetter Award, which will be announced at NCMPR's national conference in Orlando, Florida in March.

## LOUISIANA

### NUNEZ STUDENTS WITH BUSINESS AND ACCOUNTING DEGREE CREDITS CAN NOW TRANSFER CREDITS TO UHC

The University of Holy Cross (UHC) and Nunez Community College have signed an agreement with the goal of making it easier for students to transfer into UHC's Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree and Bachelor of Science in Accounting degree.

With the execution of the agreement, the newly instituted 2+2 program will allow students to complete the Associate of Applied Science – Business Administration Concentration and Accounting Concentration at Nunez and transfer credit hours to UHC for completion of the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree and Bachelor of Science in Accounting degree.

## MISSISSIPPI

### MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION UPDATE



Dr. Ronald E. Nettles

Former SACAD board member and retired President of Copiah-Lincoln Community College Dr. Ronald E. Nettles is now serving as the Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Foundation (MCCF).

MCCF works to promote, encourage and assist all forms of education, research and economic development conducted by the 15 community and junior colleges in the state.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD ACADEMY

In 2017, the MCCB spearheaded the Early Childhood Academy (ECA) Initiative. This is a collaboration with the Mississippi community, the Mississippi Department of Human Services, and child care providers to ensure that Mississippi's family-based unified and integrated early childhood system connects and integrates resources and services for both parents/caregivers and their children.

Each community college that participates in the initiative

must have an Early Childhood Academy with a Resource and Referral Center for delivering professional development, managing technical assistance and coaching, and providing leadership to the Resource and Referral offices.

## WORK READY COMMUNITIES

The ACT Certified Work Ready Community Initiative empowers counties and states with process, data and tools deployed in a common workforce development framework to drive economic growth by certifying counties as work ready communities when established goals are attained. The entire process hinges on individuals taking the ACT WorkKeys Assessment which measures their individual skills and abilities on three core tests.

The ultimate goal of the ACT Work Ready system is to create a community-based workforce development process that links, aligns and matches the county's workforce development efforts to the needs of business and industry. In Mississippi, 63 percent of the state is current participating in the initiative.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGES STATE BOARD NAMES NEW PRESIDENTS

#### Melissa Singler



Melissa Singler

Melissa Singler has been named as the sixth president of Robeson Community College, effective November 1, 2019.

Ms. Singler has been serving as Executive Vice President at Cape Fear Community College in New Hanover and Pender Counties. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

#### Dr. William Aiken



Dr. William Aiken

Dr. William Aiken has been named interim president of Southeastern Community College.

Dr. Aiken served as President of Sampson Community College for 12 years from 2000-2012. He's also served as Interim President for six other community colleges. Dr. Aiken brings over 40 years of experience in higher education with 20 of those years in the North Carolina Community College System.

Dr. Aiken earned his bachelor's degree from Tennessee Wesleyan University. He holds both a master's degree and doctorate of education from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

#### Dr. Jack Bagwell



Dr. Jack Bagwell

Dr. Jack Bagwell was named the eleventh president of College of The Albemarle, effective December 2, 2019.

He previously served as vice president for academic affairs and chief academic officer at Piedmont Technical College.

#### Dr. Shelley White



Dr. Shelley White

The Haywood Community College (HCC) Board of Trustees named Dr. Shelley White as its seventh President. She will assume her role as President on January 1, 2020.

Dr. White, has served as Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development/Continuing Education at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College for five years.

Dr. White received her Doctorate in Education from Western Carolina University.

#### Dr. Lew Hunnicutt



Dr. Lew Hunnicutt

Dr. Lew Hunnicutt began as Nash Community College's (NCC) fifth president on Friday, November 1, 2019. Prior to joining NCC, Hunnicutt served as assistant provost and campus director for the University of Georgia – Griffin Campus.

Dr. Hunnicutt graduated from Tarleton State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science and a Master of Science Teaching Degree in General Agriculture. He holds a Master of Science degree in Animal Science from New Mexico State University. Dr. Hunnicutt also has a Master of Science in Reproductive Biology from the University of Wyoming and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Animal Science from the University of Wyoming.

#### Dr. Anthony J. Clark



Dr. Anthony J. Clark

Dr. Anthony J. Clark was named president of Guilford Technical Community, effective November 1, 2019.

Dr. Anthony J. Clarke, president of Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, was selected by the GTCC board of trustees in July, 2019. He brings 15 years of experience at the community college level, having filled various roles from faculty member to senior leadership posi-

tions in Kentucky and in North Carolina.

Dr. Clarke is a graduate of West Point. He earned his doctorate in organizational behavior at Union Institute and University of Cincinnati.

## Dr. Audre Levy



Dr. Audre Levy

Dr. Audre Levy was named interim president at Roanoke-Chowan Community College in Ahoskie, North Carolina.

Dr. Levy has been in positions of leadership at community colleges in California, Texas and Florida. She recently retired after serving more than six years as president of Lone Star College-CyFair in Cypress, Texas.

She earned a doctorate in institutional management at Pepperdine University.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### **SOUTH CAROLINA OFFERS SC WINS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM – MAKING COLLEGE MORE AFFORDABLE**

SCWINS is a statewide technical college scholarship program designed to address workforce shortages in South Carolina. The scholarship supplements Lottery Tuition Assistance to help cover any tuition and mandatory fees left after applying all other scholarships or grants.

The scholarship became available in Fall 2019 through a \$17M allocation in the FY2019-20 legislative budget. In order to qualify for the SCWINS scholarship, students must be receiving Lottery Tuition Assistance and meet one of the following two criteria: (1) Major/A student must be majoring in a critical workforce area as defined by the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education or (2) Income/A student must meet the USDA income eligibility guidelines for free and reduced-priced meals.

The State Board has identified the following critical workforce areas: Construction, Healthcare, Hospitality/Tourism, Information Technology, Manufacturing and Transportation/Distribution/Logistics

For the upcoming Spring 2020 semester, recipients will receive \$100 per credit hour after applying all other scholarships or grants. The scholarship may cover the cost of tuition and mandatory fees. There is also a book allowance of up to \$300 per year if a student qualifies by the critical workforce major.

### **PRIVATE/PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP MAKES A STATEWIDE AWARENESS AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN POSSIBLE**

A recent 2:1 private/public partnership has made it possible to invest significantly (\$1.5M) in a multi-year statewide awareness and education campaign. The System has begun working with Brains on Fire, a Greenville-based marketing and creative agency - to develop a comprehensive marketing strategy designed to educate South Carolinians about the benefits of a technical college education, build awareness of the high-demand jobs available to graduates of technical colleges, address common misconceptions about a technical college education and ultimately grow enrollment at the System's 16 colleges across the state. This strategy will emphasize moving South Carolina's technical colleges to a top-choice option for higher education pursuits.

The majority of South Carolinians aged 25-64 do not have a post-secondary credential or degree. In order to successfully meet the needs of business and industry, a skilled, trained, ready workforce is essential. Compounding this, 42% of South Carolina's workforce is over 50. The seasoned, skilled workers are retiring, and their essential knowledge must be transferred effectively to younger workers in order to sustain competitiveness.

In order to successfully meet these workforce challenges, South Carolina's technical colleges must move to a first-choice option for the state's younger generations. They must be made aware of these in-demand jobs and the fast, flexible, affordable path to them. A significant investment in education and awareness is necessary to successfully create the needed paradigm shift in thinking about these jobs.

## TENNESSEE

### **THEC RECOMMENDS CHANGES IN FUNDING**

The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) has recommended a recurring increase of \$9,698,000 in state appropriations for 2020-21 for the 13 community colleges. This increase recognizes growth in outcomes productivity. The funding recommendation would provide \$304,244,700 in total for the 13 community colleges. With this funding the THEC appropriations formula would be funded at a rate of 68.9%. This recurring recommendation does not include a salary component but THEC staff are utilizing an estimated 2 percent salary increase for some of their other calculations. Community Colleges produced nearly 11,000 associate degrees in 2018-19 compared to 9,400 degrees in 2015-16. Community Colleges awarded 15,000 total credentials in 2018-2019, a 10 percent increase since 2015-2016. Community Colleges in coordination with the universities awarded over 800 reverse transfer associate degrees. Community Colleges provided nearly 1 million hours of workforce training to local residents and businesses.

THEC also recommended funding for two special initiatives involving the 13 Community Colleges. The first is recurring funding of \$3.9 million to expand community college advis-

ing capacity to improve student success. The second is \$750,000 in funding to support faculty as they convert their courses to the competency-based education model.

All 13 Community Colleges are involved with the Achieving the Dream of Student Success initiative. This initiative is focused on improving student success outcomes.

On November 7, 2019, Governor Lee announced projects receiving a total of \$25 million in funding through the Governor's Investment in Vocation Education (GIVE) program which prioritizes learning opportunities in rural counties and enhances career and technical education statewide. Earlier this year, the General Assembly approved \$25 million in the governor's budget to incentivize collaboration at the local level among stakeholders such as higher education institutions, K-12 and economic development partners. The following 9 community colleges received grants of approximately \$1.0 million each – Chattanooga State, Cleveland State, Columbia State, Dyersburg State, Motlow State, Northeast State, Pellissippi State, Roane State and Volunteer State.

## DR. ALLANA R. HAMILTON NAMED VICE CHANCELLOR



Dr. Allana R.  
Hamilton

The Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) named Dr. Allana R. Hamilton as the board's new vice chancellor for academic affairs. She has been president of Jackson State Community College for nearly three years and has a total of 28 years of experience as a faculty member and academic officer.

The vice chancellor leads the Office of Academic Affairs at the TBR system office and is the chief academic officer for the College System of Tennessee, working with the presidents, faculty and academic officers of the 13 community colleges and 27 colleges of applied technology governed by the board.

Dr. Hamilton began her career as an adjunct professor of biology in 1991 at Northeast State Community College, where she became a full-time faculty member the following year and rose through the ranks to become the college's vice president of academic affairs in 2008. She served in that role to January 2017 when the Board of Regents appointed her president of Jackson State.

Hamilton earned her Bachelor of Science degree in biology at Tusculum University, her Master of Sci-

ence in biological sciences at East Tennessee State University and her Doctor of Education in educational leadership and policy analysis at ETSU.

## TEXAS

### SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE RECEIVES ACEN ACCREDITATION

South Texas College recently received accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) for its Associate Degree in (ADN) program. The designation makes STC's ADN Program the only ACEN-accredited program in the Rio Grande Valley region.

Accreditation standards and criteria for academic quality needed to be met adequately to obtain accreditation. Among the benchmarks considered by ERP, STC was evaluated on its mission and administrative capacity, faculty and staff, students, curriculum, resources, and outcomes.

South Texas College was founded in 1993 and is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

### ASPEN INSTITUTE NAMES AC IN TOP 150

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named Amarillo College as one of 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

Since launching its Culture of Caring, Learning and Innovation, Amarillo College's gains have outpaced those being recorded nationally in A-to-C pass rates and fall-to-fall retention, three-year graduation and transfer rates, percentage of students who attend full time, and more.

Earlier this year, AC was a recipient of Achieving the Dream's Leah Meyer Austin Award, a significant national accolade contingent upon measurable improvements in student outcomes.

Data show that over the last two years, student retention, graduation rates, and degree completion have improved at the top tier of 150 Aspen Prize-eligible colleges.

The top ten finalists for the 2021 Aspen Prize will be named in May 2020. The Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data, including employment and earnings data. A distinguished jury will make award decisions in spring 2021.

The Aspen Prize is generously funded by ECMC Foundation, Joyce Foundation, The Kresge Foundation, and Siemens Foundation.





## SAN JACINTO COLLEGE ELIGIBLE FOR ASPEN PRIZE

San Jacinto College was named as one of the top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the 2021 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance in America's community colleges.

The Aspen Prize, Awarded every two years since 2011, recognizes institutions based on strong and improving student outcomes, including learning, completion rates, employment rates and earnings, and equity. Fifteen percent of community colleges nationwide have been invited to apply for the Aspen Prize.

San Jacinto College earned the Aspen Rising Star Award in 2017, as one of the top five community colleges in the nation. In 2019, The Aspen Institute named San Jacinto College as one of the top 10 community colleges in the country.

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## VIRGINIA

### NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE NAMES NEW PRESIDENT



*Dr. Anne Kress*

Dr. Anne M. Kress was recently named president of Northern Virginia Community College.

Dr. Kress is currently the president of Monroe Community College in Rochester, New York, and has 30 years of community college experience.

Dr. Kress became the president of Monroe Community College in 2009. Kress is serving her second term on the board of directors of the American Association of Community Colleges and as a member of the Presidents' Trust of the Association of American Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Kress earned two bachelor's degrees, a master's degree, and a doctorate from the University of Florida.

### VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE NAMES NEW PRESIDENT



*Dr. Adam Hutchison*

Dr. Adam C. Hutchison, currently of Elm Mott, Texas, has been named the next president of Virginia Highlands Community College. He will assume the role at the beginning of 2020.

Dr. Hutchison has nearly 20 years of higher education experience. He spent most of his early career at Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in Harlingen, Texas.

In 2014 he became the college's provost and vice president for Student Learning before transferring to the TSTC System Office to become the associate vice chancellor for Student Learning. In 2016, he returned to TSTC Waco to be the college's provost.

Dr. Hutchison holds an associate and bachelor's degree from Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina; a master's degree from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia; and a doctorate from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia.

### DR. MARCIA CONSTON NAMED PRESIDENT OF TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE



*Dr. Marcia Conston*

Dr. Marcia Conston, has been named the next president of Tidewater Community College (TCC). She will assume the role at the beginning of 2020.

Dr. Conston is the sixth President of Tidewater Community College. She has worked in higher education for more than 30 years. She began her career as the director of Institutional Research at Jackson State University, in Mississippi in 1987.

Dr. Conston holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Jackson State University in Mississippi; a master's degree from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, North Carolina; and a doctorate from the University of Southern Mississippi.



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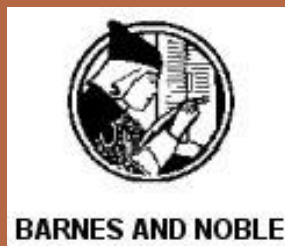
Email: [gdedwards930@gmail.com](mailto:gdedwards930@gmail.com)

## SACAD gratefully acknowledges the sponsors for the annual luncheon

Silver Level



Bronze Level



Participating Level

