

# NEWSLETTER

December 2020

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## SACAD Announces New Professional Development Activity

### SACAD Luncheon Format Changed

The Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees (SACAD) will not be hosting its annual membership luncheon due to the SACSCOC decision to move their Annual Meeting to a virtual format. Obviously, with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, most organizations have decided to exercise an abundance of caution in bringing together large groups of people.

Instead, the SACAD board has accepted a recommendation of the professional development committee to solicit proposals from member colleges for a special interactive newsletter to be published no later than March 15, 2021. The proposal is entitled "Promising Practices for Community Colleges during a Pandemic." The complete proposal follows.

### Promising Practices for Community Colleges during a Pandemic

The Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees is soliciting proposals for submission to a special edition of the SACAD Newsletter. Member institutions are invited to submit proposals for an interactive newsletter that will be published by March 15, 2021. The overarching theme will be "Promising Practices for Community Colleges during a Pandemic."

#### The Process:

- Institutions will be asked to submit a 250 word description of a practice or program initiated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The SACAD Professional Development Committee will review the submissions and choose 2-5 for inclusion.
- The institutions chosen for inclusion in the Newsletter will be asked to develop a 5-7 minute video about the practice that has been

submitted.

- The video will become part of the March 15, 2021 interactive SACAD Newsletter. The Newsletter will include an introductory narrative with a link to the institution's video.

#### The Topics:

- Institutions may focus their submission on one of the following topics as it relates to the theme of the Newsletter:
  - ◇ Safety and Health Practices
  - ◇ Impacts on Policy
  - ◇ Academic Practices
  - ◇ Student Needs
  - ◇ Recruitment and Retention of Students

#### Submission Process:

- Institutions will provide written submissions by January 15, 2021 to Dr. George D. Edwards, SACAD Executive Secretary-Treasurer at [gdedwards930@gmail.com](mailto:gdedwards930@gmail.com).
- The SACAD Professional Development Committee will review submissions and notify institutions of inclusion in the newsletter by February 1, 2021.
- Videos created by institutions for inclusion in the newsletter will be due no later than March 1, 2021.

For more information, please contact Dr. George D. Edwards, SACAD Executive Secretary-Treasurer at [gdedwards930@gmail.com](mailto:gdedwards930@gmail.com) or at (606) 424-8867.

### CURRENT MEMBERS RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

The SACAD dues for 2020-2021 are \$150.00. If you have not yet paid your membership dues for 2020-2021, 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.

## ALABAMA

### Calhoun Launches Free Tuition Scholarship for Spring

Calhoun Community College has announced a new buy one, get one VISION Scholarship for the Spring 2021 semester. This scholarship is due to the substantial hit that higher education has taken with wide-spread enrollment declines across the nation due to COVID-19. The financial impact of the ongoing pandemic left many people without means to pay for college expenses.

The scholarship was derived from Calhoun's Vision Statement, "*Success for every student, the community, and the College,*" which is also incorporated into the culture across all campuses. In an effort to fulfill that statement, the College has created the VISION Scholarship, which is designed to provide eligible students with a 50% tuition match. No application is required for the scholarship. Eligible students will receive a 50% off credit towards every tuition dollar paid by them up to 9-credit hours.

The VISION scholarship is a perfect opportunity for individuals who are interested in getting started by enrolling into college or for those who need to get back on track. The scholarship is open to all students, as well as high school students participating in the Dual Enrollment Program.

### Chancellor Baker Appoints Dr. Kathy Murphy as President at Gadsden State Community College



Dr. Kathy L. Murphy

Chancellor Jimmy H. Baker recently named Dr. Kathy L. Murphy President of Gadsden State Community College (GSCC). Dr. Murphy, will begin her appointment January 1, 2021.

GSCC is an open door, comprehensive community college comprised of five campuses and educational centers across Calhoun, Cherokee, Cleburne, Etowah and St. Clair counties. The College offers degrees and certifications across 17 programs of study and is among the latest of Alabama's community colleges to host the Alabama Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (F.A.M.E.) apprenticeship program with area companies.

Dr. Murphy, who currently serves as Superintendent of Hoover City Schools, has an educational background that spans 30 plus years. Prior to her service in Hoover City Schools, she was Superintendent of Monroe County Schools. She served as a principal at Charles Henderson and Greenville high schools and Greenville Middle School, and as a professor at the University of West Georgia and Judson College.

Dr. Murphy obtained both a Doctor of Education in Physical Education (with an Emphasis in Program Administration and Curriculum Development) and a Master of Education in Physical Education from Auburn University, and both a Master of Education in Educational Leadership and an Educational Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from Auburn University Montgomery. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in Education from Troy University.

### NACC Announces Community Scholarship Program for Spring 2021

Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) has established the NACC Community Scholarship program to help local residents train for a new career or return to college after an extended break. Many residents of DeKalb and Jackson Counties have been impacted by job loss and setbacks due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This program is funded through tuition NACC waivers and the NACC Foundation. The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) initiated this program to assist Alabama residents in recovering from the pandemic.

The scholarship will cover a maximum of six (6) hours. For instance, if the student pays for six hours, the student will be eligible for a maximum of 6 hours of scholarship funding. The scholarship covers tuition only. Any fees are the responsibility of the scholarship recipient.

To obtain a scholarship under this program, the applicant must meet one or more of the specific criteria set forth by the College:

- Non-Traditional Age Student – Age 24 or older; new student or students who have not been enrolled at NACC within the past two years
- Dual Enrollment – Available to 10<sup>th</sup> grade new students; pay for one class, get the second one under this scholarship
- Success Plus Scholarship – Applicable to high-demand fields such as Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, Engineering Technology, Industrial Systems, Machine Tool Technology, and more. Available to new students and student who have not been enrolled in NACC within the past two years. Scholarship funds may only be used to pay for technical courses.
- Career Tech Scholarship for Non-Traditional Gender Careers – In an effort to encourage students to enter non-traditional gender occupations, the college will offer a buy one-get one offer in selected fields, such as females in HVAC, drafting, and welding and males in child development, cosmetology, and massage. Available to new students and students who have not been enrolled in NACC within the past two years. Scholarship funds may only be used to pay for technical courses.

## JumpStartAIProgram

Five of Alabama's community colleges will pilot a private-public partnership for virtual reality education and training with JumpStartAL, a move that further projects the state toward reaching 500,000 highly skilled workers by 2025. Coastal Alabama Community College, Enterprise State Community College, Jefferson State Community College, Lawson State Community College and Shelton State Community College will serve as the first community colleges in the state to provide virtual reality training and other technology solutions through JumpStartAL. The partnership will use TransfrVR to provide industry-specific job training simulations that use engaging, hands-on instruction to help students master job skills.

Similar to the pilot of the F.A.M.E. (Alabama Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education), JumpStartAL is expected to expand to other colleges over time. Current statewide industry-credentialed partnerships within the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) include Ready to Work, MSSC (Manufacturing Skills Standards Council) and Swift App Development.

## FLORIDA

### U.S. News Ranks PSC Among Nation's Best Colleges in 2021 Report

U.S. News and World Report has ranked Pensacola State College among the nation's best postsecondary institutions in its 2021 annual report.

The College was the No. 1 Top Performer on Social Mobility and No. 2 in Least Debt in the Regional Colleges South category in the publication's "Best Colleges 2021 Edition." In the All Regional Colleges category, Pensacola State also ranked No. 5 in Least Debt, and the College was a top achiever in several other rankings.

Published annually, the 2021 report ranks more than 1,400 private and public colleges and universities and is a guide to help parents and students select schools.

According to the "Best Colleges 2021 Edition," economically-disadvantaged students are less likely than others to finish college. However Pensacola State is among the colleges that are successful at advancing social mobility by enrolling and graduating large proportions of students awarded Pell Grants. Most federal grants are awarded to students whose adjusted gross family incomes are under \$50,000, U.S. News reported.

Using data gathered from the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. News and World Report reported that 2019 Pensacola State graduates incurred no student loan debts.

In the Regional Colleges South category, Pensacola State was listed No. 11 in the Top Public Schools category. The College also ranked No. 30 in the Best Regional Colleges South group among public and private schools. And PSC scored 51 percent in the Economic Diversity Score category which evaluates students from different economic backgrounds.

The magazine gathered data from each college on up to 15 indicators of academic excellence. Institutions also were ranked based on graduation and retention rates, student-to-faculty ratio, undergraduate academic reputation, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, graduation rate performance and alumni giving.

The complete "Best Colleges 2021 Edition" report was released September 14, 2020 and is available at [www.usnews.com/best-colleges](http://www.usnews.com/best-colleges).

### JobX Website Allows PSC Students, Alumni to Connect With Employers

If you're looking for employment in the information technology, health care, skilled labor, child care, administrative or even fast-food sector, Pensacola State College's JobX website may be able to help.

So far, about 20 employers have posted more than 50 local and regional job openings on the College's JobX site which is open to Pensacola State students and alumni.

The JobX site also includes information on the company that is hiring, wages, hours, job location, number of openings and, in many cases, an actual link to a job application. Hourly wages for the currently-listed positions range from \$8.46 for Domino's Pizza to \$15 for an assistant cook and tops out at \$22 for licensed practical nurses.

Before JobX went live, Pensacola State administrators reached out to about 1,200 employers to register and use the website to find qualified students or alumni to fill positions.

A product of Next Gen Web Solutions, JobX is used on many college and university campuses. According to Next Gen, the JobX site also offers users:

- Single sign-on with university/college portal. Potential employees do not have to remember another username and password.
- Easy-to-use online on-campus and off-campus job search engine available 24 hours a day, every day.
- To apply for multiple jobs with a single application.
- Application validation: Ensures eligible applicants have access to limited number of high-demand.
- Resume and cover letter upload capabilities.
- JobMail which enables students to receive immedi-





ate notification of jobs listed that match customized job preferences.

## GEORGIA

### Dr. Michele Shirley Named North Georgia Technical College Interim President



Dr. Michele Shirley

Dr. Michele Shirley was recently named North Georgia Technical College's (NGTC) Interim President after the death of NGTC President Dr. Mark Ivester from COVID-19.

Dr. Shirley has served as NGTC's Vice President of Administrative Services since February, 2020 and previously was the Director of Administrative Services for the college since 2017. She has served in various administrative and instructional roles at the college for more than 14 years.

A native of Habersham County, Dr. Shirley received a Doctorate of Education degree in adult education from the University of Georgia in 2009, a Master of Business Administration degree from Brenau University in 1997 and a Bachelor of Business Administration with a minor in accounting from Piedmont College in 1994. Dr. Shirley lives in Clarkesville with husband John and two daughters, Julianne and Ellison, and attends Shirley Grove Baptist Church.

### EGSC President Robert G. Boehmer Retires



Dr. Bob Boehmer

President Bob Boehmer has announced his retirement from East Georgia State College, effective December 1, 2020.

The Board of Regents named Dr. Boehmer EGSC's fifth president in September 2013 after one year as interim president. Prior to coming to EGSC, Dr. Boehmer served as the University of Georgia's associate provost for academic planning, associate provost for institutional effectiveness and professor of legal studies, among other academic and administrative roles.

During Dr. Boehmer's tenure at EGSC, the college's foundation grew from \$987,000 in assets to nearly \$3 million. The Correll Scholars Program was established and overall scholarship awards went from \$79,669 to \$308,466 annually. For the first time in the college's history, bachelor's degrees were offered, and the annual College Readiness Tour of local high schools was launched.

### Dr. Dawn Hall Cartee Named Interim President

Dr. Dawn H. Cartee has been appointed interim president of East Georgia State College.



Dr. Dawn Hall Cartee

Dr. Cartee has extensive higher education experience in Georgia, serving in key leadership positions at three institutions over a nearly 30-year career.

She most recently served as director of the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education and Hotel. In that role she initiated a strategic planning process resulting in the first strategic plan for the Georgia Center since 2009. Dr. Cartee also sought and secured \$15 million to fund an extensive facilities renovation project of the interior and exterior of the Georgia Center.

Prior to leading the Georgia Center, Dr. Cartee led the reaffirmation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) for two different institutions while she served as president of Ogeechee Technical College and vice president for academic affairs at Southeastern Technical College.

Under Dr. Cartee's leadership as president, Ogeechee earned Technical College of the Year honors twice, in 2015 and 2011. Ogeechee was cited for achieving the highest graduation rate in the system, the largest growth in high school enrollment, increased overall student enrollment, higher than average retention, high performance on adult education postsecondary entrance goals, superb licensure pass rate among graduates, and continued strong delivery of specialized workforce training.

Dr. Cartee earned four degrees from Georgia Southern University: an Ed.D. in Educational Administration, Ed.S. in Educational Leadership, an M.Ed. in Adult Education and a BBA in marketing.

## KENTUCKY

### West Kentucky Community and Technical College is Named One of 10 National Finalists For Aspen Prize

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program yesterday announced that West Kentucky Community and Technical College (WKCTC) is one of 10 finalists for the 2021 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among community colleges.

This is WKCTC's fifth time as an Aspen Prize finalist. In 2011 and 2015, the College was honored as a Finalist with Distinction.

The 10 Aspen Prize finalists were selected from the na-

tion's 1,000 community colleges in a process that included qualitative and quantitative data analysis and engaged more than 30 experts in the field. These finalists all effectively identify, develop, and scale strategies to propel all students to not just complete college but also succeed after graduation.

WKCTC has earned a place on Aspen's Top ten finalists' list in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017. The college did not participate in 2019.

In November, The Aspen Institute announced that WKCTC, Big Sandy Community and Technical College (BSCTC) and Southcentral Community and Technical College (SCTC) were among more than 150 community colleges in the nation eligible to compete for the \$1 million 2021 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

What community colleges do has a significant impact on our nation's ability to develop diverse talent and promote social mobility, given that they enroll 6 million students-about 40 percent of all U.S. undergraduates-and disproportionately serve low-income and minority students.

For the rest of 2020, the Aspen Institute will work with a team of national experts to complete a rigorous review process to determine the eventual winner of the prize. This encompasses a comprehensive examination of outcomes data as well as multi-day virtual site visits to each of the 10 finalist institutions.

In early 2021, a distinguished jury will convene to select the prize winner, finalists with distinction, and a rising star and allocate a \$1 million award among them. The winner will be announced at a May 2021 event in Washington, D.C.

## The American Congressional Exchange Visits Madisonville Community College

Rep. James Comer of the 1st Congressional District in Kentucky and Rep. Joe Cunningham of the 1st Congressional District in South Carolina visited the campus of Madisonville Community College as a part of the American Congressional Exchange Program sponsored by the Bipartisan Policy Center.



Representative  
James Comer



Representative  
Joe Cunningham

Rep. Comer, a Republican, and Cunningham, a Democrat, toured the Health Sciences Campus and the Brown Badgett Energy and Advanced Technology Center to

learn about MCC's efforts to train healthcare workers and to provide a technically skilled workforce for industry, manufacturing, and mining.

The American Congressional Exchange Program seeks to build a sense of bipartisanship in Congress through building relationships outside of the political environment of Washington, D.C. The Exchange allows members of Congress to visit another member from the opposing party in their home district.

## KCTCS sets new records for graduates and credentials

Despite the significant disruption to the spring semester, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) awarded a record number of credentials to a record number of graduates. Additionally, the awarded credentials pushed the total number of credentials awarded to half a million since KCTCS was created.



For the 2019-20 academic year the 16 KCTCS colleges awarded 39,291 credentials, which included degrees, diplomas and certificates. This is up nearly 6 percent over last year, which itself was a record year.

The system also saw an increase of 7 percent in the number of credentials awarded to underrepresented minorities. Since the implementation of performance-based funding in 2015-16, KCTCS has seen a 40 percent increase in credentials awarded to underrepresented minorities, which helps continue to close the achievement gap. This compares to a 26 percent increase for other students.

Credentials in science, technology, engineering, math and health care (STEM+H) also increased from 13,155 in 2018-19 to 13,787 in 2019-20. Further, credentials in the state's top demand segments increased from 28,944 to 31,143. In 2019-20, nearly 92% of non-transfer degrees KCTCS awarded were in the five key job sectors.

KCTCS also had 19,423 graduates, up more than 7 percent over last year.

After moving to all remote instruction in March, several KCTCS colleges set up wi-fi hot spots in their parking lots to assist students who had no access to broadband. Faculty also worked to accommodate students who finished their courses on their phones because they did not have laptops or home computers.

Colleges kept food pantries stocked and gave away gift cards to help students who needed food or other necessities.

## KCTCS President Retires

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) Board of Regents celebrated the accomplish-



Retiring KCTCS  
President Jay Box

ments of their retiring president, Dr. Jay Box, during their quarterly board meeting. During his time at KCTCS, Dr. Box held four positions – president of Hazard Community and Technical College, KCTCS vice president of technology, KCTCS chancellor and almost six years as system president. Dr. Box was involved in or led many of the system's successes.

## Dr. Czarapata Begins Term as KCTCS Interim President



Dr. Paul Czarapata

Paul Czarapata, vice president of technology solutions for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), is now serving as interim president of the KCTCS system.

Dr. Czarapata joined KCTCS in 1999 as director of enterprise systems.

He was named chief technology officer in 2007 and became vice president and chief information officer in 2011. Dr. Czarapata earned a bachelor's degree in operations management and information systems from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois. He received a master's degree in business administration from Morehead State University and a doctorate in instruction technology leadership also from Morehead State University.

Dr. Czarapata joined KCTCS in 1999 as director of enterprise systems. He was named chief technology officer in 2007 and became vice president and chief information officer in 2011. Dr. Czarapata earned a bachelor's degree in operations management and information systems from Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois. He received a master's degree in business administration from Morehead State University and a doctorate in instruction technology leadership also from Morehead State University.

A national search is underway for a replacement for Jay K. Box, who retired after 18 years with KCTCS, five of which he served as president. The goal is for a new president to be announced at the end of January.

KCTCS is the commonwealth's largest postsecondary institution with 16 colleges and more than 70 campuses. It also is Kentucky's largest provider of workforce training and online education. Since its creation, it has served nearly one million Kentuckians.

## New Advanced Manufacturing and Construction Center Established at HCTC

United States (US). Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross announced that the Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded a \$3.9 million grant to the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, Versailles, Kentucky, to renovate an existing technological building at Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC) in Perry County to house the College's new Advanced Manufacturing and Construction Center of Excellence. The EDA grant, to be located in a Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Opportunity Zone, will be matched with \$970,000 in local funds and is expected to retain 610 jobs.

This project was made possible by the regional planning efforts led by the Kentucky River Area Development District, which EDA funds to bring together the public and private sectors to create an economic development roadmap to strengthen the regional economy, support private capital investment, and create jobs.

This project is funded under the Assistance to Coal Communities (ACC) program, through which EDA awarded funds on a competitive basis to assist communities severely impacted by the declining use of coal through activities and programs that support economic diversification, job creation, capital investment, workforce development, and re-employment opportunities.

## LOUISIANA

### LCTCS Launches Short-term Training to Boost Louisiana Workforce

The Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) recently launched Reboot Your Career, a program designed to support workers who may be unemployed due to COVID-19 and re-train them for available jobs on high-wage career pathways.

Each institution is responsible for providing reduced cost, short-term training with the goal being to increase the number of credentialed individuals entering or reentering the workforce.

LCTCS colleges propose to train no less than 5,000 individuals in the 2021 fiscal year in short-term, high-demand programs. Training programs will be aimed at no more than 12 weeks in length, with most programs in the 8-week timeframe. Certification programs will be focused on those that 1) place completers in jobs earning a target salary of \$50,000 annually and 2) are part of a career path where additional certifications and education will allow for advancement. The certifications will be focused on those skill sets most in need in their respective regions, such as industrial technology, healthcare, transportation and logistics, manufacturing, and information technology.

In July, Governor John Bel Edwards prioritized federal CARES Act funding for this critical initiative, which is available now through the spring of 2021. This investment will result in the training of about 5,000 of Louisiana's people in short-term, high-demand programs, resulting in millions of dollars in recurring annual sales tax, property tax and income tax collections from those who complete training.

LCTCS have been some of the most productive colleges in the nation over the last five years. In fact, since 2014, LCTCS colleges have shown an increase of over 60% in completers. Collectively, LCTCS colleges produced over 33,428 graduates in 2019-20 encompassing a significant



growth in short term credentials and certificates to 15,083. These completers come from every corner of the state, both rural and urban communities, and represent every aspect of our state’s demographic. Nearly half of those graduates completed short-term, high-demand certifications with an average annual income of over \$50,000.

## Dr. Dale Doty Announces Retirement From River Parishes Community College



Dr. Dale Doty

Dr. Dale Doty, chancellor of River Parishes Community College (RPCC), recently announced his retirement from the position. Dr. Doty’s retirement is effective December 31, 2020.

The Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) Board of Supervisors will discuss the pending vacancy in future meetings. Dr. Doty has served as chancellor since 2013.

Under his leadership, the college has increased business partnerships and opened three new educational and workforce development facilities to serve more than 3,700 non-credit students in the last year.

## MISSISSIPPI

### Co-Lin supports students with Laptop Loan Program

To assist current Copiah-Lincoln Community College students impacted by COVID-19, the college has purchased 50 laptops and backpacks for qualified students to stay on track with hybrid coursework while on and off campus. The Laptop Loan Program was partially supported through a grant from the Woodward Hines Education Foundation and the CARES Act.

Each laptop was internet ready with wireless access. The laptops were also linked to the Co-Lin network so that students had access to all the college resources. At the end of the semester, students will return the laptops.

Information about the program and opportunities were shared with students on all three Co-Lin campuses. The students were required to apply and answer several questions while demonstrating a need. Each applicant was evaluated by financial need, registered for current term, enrolled full time, and in good academic/financial aid standing.

Applicants could not be a 100 percent online student (as these students are expected to have access to technology when they sign up). The college discovered that some students were “sharing” a computer with other family members or friends or in some cases, did not have access to a computer at all and were unable to complete

their assignments during the spring semester. Therefore, after identifying the need and with the assistance of Woodward Hines Education Foundation and CARES Act funds were able to assist students.

After the laptops have been collected at the end of the fall semester, the college will clean, reset, and prepare the laptops for a new application process in the spring semester. This will provide the opportunity for a new set of qualified students to apply.

### Next Class of Community College Leadership Training Gets Underway

The Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy (MCCLA) has launched its twelfth class of leadership training despite COVID-19. The MCCLA, run by the Mississippi Community College Foundation, was developed in the spring of 2009 to address the projected need for upper-level leaders in the Mississippi community college system.

The MCCLA is organized around the practical needs for future community college leaders specific to the Mississippi community college system. Each Mississippi community college has the opportunity to participate in this training to invest in future college leaders.



### Student Relief Fund Established at Mississippi Community Colleges

The Mississippi Community College Foundation has received a grant of \$310,000 from the Woodward Hines Education Foundation (WHEF) to help qualifying Mississippi community college students impacted by COVID-19 stay on track towards graduation.

The grant will establish student relief funds at all 15 Mississippi community colleges. Funds can be used to help students with the costs associated with in-home internet access, fuel cards, credential fee stipends, to establish campus tablet or computer loan programs, or other costs that may be a barrier to college completion.



## NORTH CAROLINA

### Dr. Bill Carver Named Interim President



Dr. Bill Carver became interim president of the North Carolina Community College System on Aug. 1, 2020.

Dr. Carver was president of Nash Community College for 14 years until his retirement last year. He spent much of his career in a variety of roles at Nash, where he served as an instructor, director of the Small Business Center, director of business and industry services, dean of continuing education and vice president of instruction. He became president there in 2005.

Dr. Bill Carver

During Carver's tenure as president, Nash Community College expanded its campus and grew enrollment by 42 percent, while increasing online enrollment by 30 percent. He launched successful strategic planning and fundraising initiatives at the college.

He earned a bachelor's degree at NC State University, a Master of Business Administration from Campbell University and a Doctor of Education degree from Nova Southeastern University.

### Three SCC Students Make NC Latinx 20 Under 20 List



Surry Community College students: (left to right) Nancy Garcia-Villa, Mariana Vasquez Gallardo and Leslie Hernandez

Current Surry Community College students Nancy Garcia-Villa of Dobson, and Mariana Vasquez Gallardo of Boonville, as well as 2020 SCC graduate Leslie Hernandez of Yadkinville were recently named to the NC Latinx 20 Under 20 list for their academic achievements and contributions to their community.

Each year, LatinxEd launches North Carolina's only competition, Latinx 20 Under 20, focusing on elevating the best and brightest Latinx students across the state. Recipients are selected with scholarship, community, and leadership as the main criteria.

Nancy García Villa is from Dobson, and calls Michoacán, Mexico home. Villa is a proud advocate for immigrant rights, furthering education for undocumented students, climate change reform, and abolishing institutional racism. She plans to be an immigration lawyer after she finishes school.

Mariana Vazquez Gallardo is a proud immigrant born in Oaxaca, Mexico, and has lived in Boonville for most of her life. She wants to help the underrepresented and give a voice to those that help this nation grow. In the future, she hopes to be able to help those in her community as a nurse practitioner and offer them the proper care they need.

Leslie Hernandez, a proud Mexican American, is in her first year at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She plans to major in Political Science to bring civil reformation to her communities and represent Latinos, especially Latinas.

A July 2020 article from EdNC reports for the first time that North Carolina has appeared on the list maintained by the national group Excelencia in Education of institutions who are considered "emerging" in terms of becoming Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), which carries a Department of Education designation.

Surry Community College has the sixth highest enrollment of Latinx students in the state, though several colleges maintain a similar percentage. Excelencia in Education's data shows that Latinx students comprise 16.6 percent of Surry Community College's enrollment.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### South Carolina Launched New Statewide Marketing Campaign

In May 2020 South Carolina's technical colleges launched a new marketing campaign, – *I Defy* –, designed to redefine how the world thinks about technical education by celebrating the power of South Carolina (SC) technical colleges and spotlighting the spirit of students defying tradition, norms, and expectation through a technical education. The landing page for the campaign is [www.idesfysc.org](http://www.idesfysc.org).

The campaign launched with a letter to high school graduates from the governor and included information about the campaign. The second phase of the launch began in fall 2020 with radio, billboard, social media, and television advertising. The campaign also includes an interactive career explorer component of the website, which is a crucial piece of the outreach.



Also, the South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) worked with the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce to reach out to the state's unemployment claimants. The *I Defy* messaging and Career Explorer were shared via an email with this group and has garnered a great deal of interest in our technical colleges.

## South Carolina Continues to Open Doors for Graduates

For more than 60 years, South Carolina's technical colleges have been the workhorses of higher education in our state. They are affordable and accessible, with a little over half of all undergraduates attending one of our colleges.

Many see SC colleges as places where South Carolina's workers can retrain, add technical skills, and earn job certifications. While this is a large part of what our colleges do, we also have a quieter role – helping students earn two-year degrees that prepare them to transfer smoothly to a four-year college or university.

The System's transfer programs smoothly transition students from any of our 16 technical colleges to the four-year South Carolina college or university of their choice. We have agreements in place with most colleges and universities in the state, allowing students to achieve their educational ambitions in a timely and affordable manner.

Currently, the System has transfer agreements with 18 different colleges and universities in South Carolina. These agreements ensure that our graduates seamlessly transition from our technical colleges to their institution with junior status and their general education requirements complete.

## TENNESSEE

### Leadership Institute Announced

Seven of the 30 members of the Complete Tennessee Leadership Institute class of 2020-21 announced recently by the State Collaborative on Reforming Education represent Tennessee community and technical colleges and the College System of Tennessee. SCORE invited the 30 leaders from across higher education, K-12 education, business and industry, and nonprofit organizations to participate in the 5th Complete Tennessee Leadership Institute.

SCORE continues to partner with The Hunt Institute, an affiliate of the Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy, to help design learning opportunities for CTLI and serve as an out-of-state voice to lead participants in translating their learning into action.

## We All Rise

Nearly 500 faculty, students, administrators and staff from colleges and universities across the state participated in the College System of Tennessee's We All Rise Biennial Conference on Equity and Completion Oct. 5 - 6, 2020 with a focus on improving college success and completion for all students.

We All Rise is the biennial convening around issues of equity and completion for Tennessee's community and technical colleges and the state's locally governed public universities. Starting with the first conference in 2008, the event has brought together faculty, staff, administrators and students to share and learn about evidence-based approaches to creating welcoming environments, ensuring equitable access to services and opportunities, and eliminating equity gaps.

Although this year's conference was held virtually, it included 33 breakout sessions and 105 speakers, presenters and panelists discussing a broad range of teaching and learning practices to help students successfully complete college.

The context for the emphasis on equity, diversity and inclusion is the realization that these are key elements to each public higher education institution's ability to deliver on its mission and to further the state's goals of having more Tennesseans with postsecondary credentials, a workforce that is globally competitive, and an enhanced quality of life for every Tennessean.

## TEXAS

### College's Risk Management Institute Distributes COVID-19 Safety Supplies

The Midland College Risk Management Institute (RMI) distributed safety supplies, including hand sanitizer and face masks, to MC students and employees to ensure that the campus community has the health and safety tools needed for a successful fall semester.



Midland College Students

The distribution was part of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Energy Campaign launched on October 1. The safety supplies were purchased and provided by Texas Mutual Insurance Company, the state's largest workers' compensation insurance provider, who has partnered with TxDOT on this campaign to further its mission of building a safer Texas during the current health pandemic.

In addition to the sanitation supplies, TxDOT provided copies of its 2020 Road Tips Handbook to encourage safe driving as part of a smart, complete safety plan.

## Group Behind Dallas College's New Branding Shares Insights on 'How We Got Here'

The shift to Dallas College's single accreditation not only brought with it a new unified structure, it also ushered in the need for a new brand identity.

When plans took shape last year to become Dallas College, merging seven colleges into one, the college's Office of Marketing and Communications undertook the tall task of creating a new institutional identity.

Led by Joanna Jordan, the brand group started by conducting an awareness survey with a broad swath of people, including students, employees, community members and campus leaders, to answer a seemingly simple question: Who is Dallas County Community College District?

The feedback was somewhat expected considering the district's previous structure, which featured seven separate colleges, each with their own version of just about everything from orientation to accreditation, even logos, mascots and colors. A new, simplified flow would have to unify the approach of departments districtwide.

Early on, the marketing group knew they would also have to come up with a unified brand. Working with branding agency Push, the team leveraged survey results and findings from focus groups to help translate the written ideas into reality.

## Honoring the Past While Aiming for the Future

With approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) — the school's accrediting agency — Dallas County Community College District got the greenlight to become Dallas College, and the planned branding campaign kicked into high gear.

At macro level, accreditation as a single institution means an improved student experience at Dallas College, which encompasses Brookhaven, Cedar Valley, Eastfield, El Centro, Mountain View, North Lake and Richland as campuses, not colleges.

The final version, was approved by the board of trustees in May 2020. The rollout of the college's new brand will take place over the course of several months, with im-

mediate use of the new logo, new name and new website, featuring a refreshed look with enhanced navigation and architecture.

And that's not including new television, radio, social media, billboard and bus advertising campaigns, where planning and execution have been even more deliberate than usual, a side effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rebranding an entire institution is a huge undertaking, Jordan said. But it is also a chance for the public to look forward and reflect positively on the large role community college has played in educating, employing and defining lives in Dallas County, a key part of Dallas College's mission.

## Texarkana College Utilizes Cares Act Funding to Transition Into The Future

When Texas Governor Greg Abbott dedicated \$57 million in CARES Act funding to help college students stay enrolled during the COVID pandemic, Texarkana College (TC) received \$2.5 million. TC utilized this funding to provide student disbursements and make campus technological improvements, specifically assisting in the transition of virtual learning environments.

Key technology implemented in this virtual transition were cameras specialized for online instructional methods, specifically Aver TR230 PTZ (point, tilt, and zoom) cameras and iPads with Swivl technology. The new cameras made significant improvements in the quality of online instruction for both TC students and faculty members.

With community college students facing more obstacles to education than normal, these implementations are making the path to learning smoother as they ease the transition into the future of higher education.

## VIRGINIA

### Thomas Nelson Community College Names New President



*Dr. Towuanna Porter Brannon*

Dr. Towuanna Porter Brannon will become the next president of Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC).

Dr. Porter Brannon has more than 20 years of higher education experience. She began her career as an assistant director and academic adviser at St. John's College in New York in 1999. Four years later, she moved to the New York Institute of Technology to become its Central Advising Center coordinator.

Dr. Porter Brannon joined the Borough of Manhattan Com-

munity College/City University of New York in 2006 as a coordinator for Academic Advising and Transfer for a year before moving to Berkeley College where she worked as a dean and then assistant vice president. In 2010, Brannon moved to LaGuardia Community College/CUNY where she served as a registrar for two years and then as an assistant dean of Student Affairs for four years.

Dr. Porter Brannon moved to Mitchell Community College in Statesville, North Carolina, in 2016 to become the college's vice president of student services – the position she currently holds. Brannon earned a bachelor's and master's degree from St. John's University and a doctorate from Fordham University.

Dr. Porter Brannon will become the college's ninth president when she assumes the position at the beginning of 2021.

## **VCCS Strategic Planning**

The VCCS is in the process of developing a strategic plan for the next six years. While the plan is still in development, Chancellor Glenn DuBois has noted that the system's next six-year plan will include a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. The plan will include goals and strategies to achieve equity in outcomes for all students and will position Virginia's Community Colleges to remain sustainable and relevant in a post-pandemic economy. The six-year strategic plan task force is chaired by Dr. Anne Kress, President of Northern Virginia Community College, and Dr. Sharon Morrissey, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic and Workforce Programs.





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