

## SACAD Activities at 2019 Annual Meeting a Big Success

The Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees (SACAD) hosted its annual membership luncheon as well as a concurrent session at the SACSCOC Annual meeting in Houston, Texas. The luncheon was held on Sunday, December 8, 2019 and featured a business session as well as an excellent presentation by Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, President of Amarillo College in TX. His presentation was entitled "Making Dramatic Changes in Retention and Graduation Rates." He provided numerous examples of activities at Amarillo College that demonstrated their employee's love and care for each of their students and how these acts of kindness created a bond between the students and the College.

Immediately following the luncheon, SACAD hosted a concurrent session entitled Effectiveness: Making Dramatic Changes in Retention and Graduation Rates. Dr. Karen Bowyer, SACAD Board Member and Chair of the Professional Development Committee established the framework for the session and introduced the three panelists, Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Dr. Edwin Massey, and Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart.

Dr. Brenda Hellyer is the chancellor of San Jacinto College, Texas. She has served 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 Col-

lege. 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.

Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, President of Amarillo College previously 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.

The session was well attended and participants received some outstanding examples of strategies to improve both retention and graduation rates at their Colleges.



*Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart, Dr. Brenda Hellyer, and Dr. Edwin Massey, panel of College Leaders at SACAD Concurrent Session*

### SACAD ANNUAL LUNCHEON SCHEDULED

The SACAD Annual Luncheon is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 6, 2020 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm at the SACSCOC meeting site in Nashville, Tennessee. The SACAD Professional Development Committee is planning the meeting and expects to announce final details in late Summer, 2020.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$35. Registration for the SACAD luncheon is now available. Please mail all payments to SACAD at Post Office Box 942, Verona, Virginia along with the following information: Name, Email address, Job title, and College. As an option see the SACAD.org website and conveniently pay via PayPal.

#### CURRENT MEMBERS RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

The SACAD Board invites current members to renew their membership with SACAD. Institutional membership dues are \$150.00. Dues notices will be mailed to all potential members on June 1, 2020. Dues may be paid by check or credit card.

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.

## **SACAD BOARD AND OFFICERS SELECTED FOR 2020**

**PRESIDENT:** Dr. Dean Sprinkle  
Wytheville Community College

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Dr. John Enamait,  
Stanly Community College

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Dr. Patricia Lee  
Williamsburg Technical College, SC

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER:**  
Dr. George D. Edwards (Non-board member)



*Dr. Dean  
Sprinkle*



*Dr. John  
Enamait*



*Dr. Patricia A.  
Lee*



*Dr. George D.  
Edwards*

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Class of 2020**

Dr. Jane G. Hulon, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, MS  
Dr. Cynthia S. Kelley, Madisonville Community College, KY

#### **Class of 2021**

Dr. James David Campbell, Northeast Alabama Community College, AL  
Dr. Patricia A. Lee, Williamsburg Technical College, SC  
Dr. Ed Meadows, Pensacola State College, FL  
Dr. Dean Sprinkle, President, Wytheville Community College, VA

#### **Class of 2022**

Dr. John Enamait, Stanly Community College, NC  
Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers, South Georgia State College, GA  
Dr. Michael Torrence, Motlow State Community College, TN  
Dr. Jason Smith, Texarkana College, TX



*Dr. David  
Campbell*



*Dr. Jane G.  
Hulon*



*Dr. Cynthia S.  
Kelley*



*Dr. Edward  
Meadows*



*Dr. Jason  
Smith*



*Dr. Ingrid  
Thompson-  
Sellers*



*Dr. Michael  
Torrence*

## ALABAMA

### ALABAMA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS CHOOSE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OVER FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITIES

Recently released data shows that more high school seniors who graduated in 2018 chose to attend Alabama's community colleges last year than those who chose four-year universities.

According to the Public Affairs Research Council of Alabama, which pulled data from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) compiled from the National Student Clearinghouse, 62% of Alabama's 50,528 high school graduates in 2018 chose to attend a college or university. Of that number, 32 percent – or 16,085 – enrolled in an Alabama community college. That represents 951 more students than the previous year and the highest number over the past five years, according to PARCA. More than 112,800 students chose Alabama's community colleges in 2018. That number included more than 16,000 dually enrolled students who experienced a community college before high school graduation.



Alabama Graduates

Students who started at a community college before obtaining their associate degree may also be eligible for reverse transfer, which awards the students their associate degree while they're at the university after the student has completed a number of courses at their university.

## FLORIDA

### PSC VET TECH GRADS ACHIEVE 100 PERCENT PASS RATE ON NATIONAL COMPETENCY EXAM

Troy Moon, from Pensacola State College, pointed out that they studied together. They struggled together. And when it was time for 12 Pensacola State College veterinary technician students to take a national competency exam, they all passed together.



Christina Zaccardi, a 2019 graduate, is now a certified veterinary technician at the Auburn University Veterinary Teaching Hospital. She is pictured with her dog Doc.

It's the first 100 percent passing rate for a class from the PSC Veterinary Technology Program since 2013, when all nine students passed the 150-

question Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE).

The exam is used by most states and agencies to evaluate competency of entry-level veterinary technicians. The passing rate for PSC students taking the exam over the previous three years was 88 percent. The national average for passing the VTNE over the same three-year period was 70.31 percent.

### ONLINE BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM AMONG NATION'S BEST

For the second consecutive year, Pensacola State College's online Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program has been listed among the best in Florida and nation by U.S. News and World Report.



PSC student with simulator

In the "Best Online Bachelor's Programs 2020 Edition" listing, Pensacola State's online BSN program was ranked third among Florida College System institutions. Pensacola State also tied for 9<sup>th</sup> with Florida Atlantic University among Florida colleges and universities and was ranked 73rd in the United States.

In 2019, the college's online BSN program was ranked 10<sup>th</sup> in Florida and 114<sup>th</sup> in the nation. PSC scored 73 out of a possible 100 points.

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. However that data represented the median of graduates owing debts – not the median of all graduates.

In its 2019 Best Online RN to BSN Programs rankings, Pensacola State was listed at No. 4 in the state by RegisteredNursing.org, a nursing advocacy organization. In 2015, the BSN program also was ranked third in the nation by Affordable Colleges Online for offering academic rigor, student support and affordability for online learning. The Pensacola State BSN program also was the first in the region to earn accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

In its 2020 listings, the college also was ranked in several other categories by U.S. News and World Report. Pensacola State tied for No. 9 in Best Colleges for Veterans and No. 26 in the Regional Colleges South categories. It also ranked No. 20 in the Top Performers on Social Mobility category.



## GEORGIA

### UNIVERSITY WAIVES TUITION DIFFERENTIALS, CERTAIN FEES FOR SUMMER COURSES

The University System of Georgia Board of Regents approved a Kennesaw State decision Tuesday, April 14, 2020 to waive tuition differentials and certain mandatory fees for summer courses due to the coronavirus. Students were first informed on Monday, April 20, 2020.

Tuition differential fees are additional charges per credit hour for online courses that have historically been applied to students, Assistant Vice President of Strategic Communication Tammy Demel said.

Certain mandatory fees will also be waived for summer 2020 courses. These include the activity fee, athletic fee, health fee, international fee, parking fee, Recreation Center fee, Sports and Recreation Parks fee, transportation fee and wellness fee, Demel said. These mandatory fees will resume for online courses in the Fall 2020 semester.

## KENTUCKY

### KCTCS MEETS COVID-19 CHALLENGES

As COVID-19 changes lives, the 16 colleges of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System are meeting new challenges this year, proving they are an important part of their communities.

One example is Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) is partnering with TEC Biosciences, Inc. (TECbio) to further COVID-19 research.

TECbio, a Lexington-based biotech startup, is using a BCTC lab and equipment to further COVID-19 identification and research. Using the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protocol, TECbio researchers are conducting tests within bio safety cabinets to identify coronavirus nucleic acid on sample swabs.

All 16 colleges stepped up to donate personal protective equipment along with beds and ventilators that hospitals and other medical providers needed for current or future patients. Colleges use these items in nursing, respiratory therapy and other health care programs. Students are volunteering their services to local hospitals and some are making masks at home.

Additionally, colleges that offer 3D printing programs are using their 3D printers to create face shields for local hospital staff. Some faculty members are making face shields from home as well.

Faculty are stepping up in other ways, too. For example, a commercial driver's license (CDL) instructor took a tractor and trailer to pick up produce in another state and deliver it to a local organization.

A college also offered lab space to a local bioscience research company to identify coronavirus nucleic acid on sample swabs. In addition, researchers will conduct genome sequencing studies with the college's equipment and the data obtained from these experiments will be useful in helping the vaccine development effort.

Because many KCTCS students have food insecurity, all 16 colleges created food pantries over the last several months. Even though students are not on campus, pantries are stocked, and students are receiving necessary food, personal care items and school supplies. One college partnered with a local grocery store to provide \$25 gift cards for students.

### KCTCS DELAYS PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH



*Dr. Jay K. Box*  
*KCTCS President*

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, The Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) Board of Regents is delaying the search for a new system president. The work to prepare for the search has been postponed with the goal of posting the job at the end of August and having a new president announced in January 2021.

Additionally, KCTCS President Jay K. Box approached the board chair about staying in his position through the end of September to continue to lead the system through this uncertain time and ease the transition for Interim President Paul Czarapata. Czarapata is a KCTCS vice president who oversees the system's technology. The board named him interim at the March board meeting and planned for him to assume the role when Box retired.

"The members of the KCTCS Board of Regents Executive Committee are unanimously supportive and appreciative of President Box's proposal," Board of Regents Chair Gail Henson said. "In this unprecedented time, President Box has been working tirelessly to help the 16 Colleges, employees and students transition to their new off-campus realities, and it would've been very easy to walk away and turn it over to someone else. This is another example of the dedication he's shown to this system and its students."

## LOUISIANA

### LCTCS COLLEGES ANSWERED THE CALL DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As Louisiana and the nation manages the ongoing COVID-

19 pandemic, Louisiana's Community and Technical Colleges (LCTCS) stepped up to provide support and additional services to help the state in its response to the pandemic. During the crisis, LCTCS college leadership, faculty, and staff have balanced transitioning instruction to an online environment, supporting their local communities in a time of need, and remaining committed to the mission of building Louisiana's workforce. As widely reported, hospitals experienced staff exhaustion and a shortage of personal protection equipment (PPE). To help address both issues, LCTCS colleges answered the call.

Nursing and Allied Health Deans at all LCTCS colleges focused on graduating more than 2,000 health care students in an accelerated fashion to get them into the workforce. The College also worked directly with the Louisiana State Lab to fill immediate job openings with recent or soon to be graduates.

Through its years-long partnership with Ochsner, Nunez Community College dedicated its newly designed Skill-Shop to rapidly produce essential parts for face shield manufacturing. Ochsner approved the face shield prototype, and production at Nunez began with the goal of producing approximately 3,000 units per week. Nunez is also using its 3D printers and Laser Cutter to produce respirator prototype parts. Nunez worked collaboratively with the other 11 community and technical colleges across the state to share files and design concepts so 3D printing could be brought to scale statewide.

Northshore Technical Community College provided Slidell Memorial Hospital with its Mobile STEM Lab to be used as part of the hospital's drive-through testing center. Specifically, the mobile lab was used by doctors as an emergency response center.

Delgado Community College offered online workshops for small businesses applying for Small Business Administration (SBA) disaster loans. More than 100 small businesses participated. LCTCS colleges arranged for all remaining PPE products to be donated to local hospitals.



*A recent graduate of Nunez Community College currently working on the frontlines and the face shield currently in production*



*Staff members from Delgado Community College, Central Louisiana Technical Community College, South Louisiana Community College delivering PPE products, and the Northshore Technical Community College Mobile STEM Lab.*

## MISSISSIPPI

### MISSISSIPPI NAMES NEW PRESIDENTS



Dr. Brent Gregory has been named the new president of East Central Community College.

Dr. Gregory previously served as vice president for student affairs at Southwest Mississippi Community College in Summit.

He will assume his duties as president on July 1, 2020. Dr. Gregory will replace Dr. Billy Stewart, the college's eighth president who announced his retirement in November 2019 effective on June 30, 2020.



*Dr. Stephen Vacik*

Dr. Stephen Vacik has been selected as the next Hinds Community College president.

Dr. Vacik served as president of Maysville Community and Technical College in Maysville, Ky. However, he is no stranger to Mississippi. He was chief instructional officer at East Mississippi Community College in Scooba for seven years.

Dr. Vacik will begin his duties at Hinds July 1, 2020, replacing retiring president, Dr. Clyde Muse.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### DRIVE-THRU CORONAVIRUS SCREENINGS OFFERED AT BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A mobile screening site for coronavirus was open on the main campus of Blue Ridge Community College in Flat Rock. Pardee UNC Health (Pardee) and Henderson County Government, working with the Henderson County Department of Public Health, Henderson County Emergency Management and the Mountain Area Healthcare Preparedness Coalition, coordinated to offer the screening site.

The screening site was set up for community members exhibiting symptoms of cough, fever greater than 100 degrees and shortness of breath, and had already spoken with the Pardee COVID-19 Helpline to determine if symptoms qualified for flu and/or COVID-19 testing.

Pardee officials said the site “is an extremely important step in preventing community spread and minimizing patient surges within the hospital setting.”

David Ellis, chief medical officer for Pardee, said the screening site will continue to evolve, and asked that the community have patience with all parties involved as they navigate uncharted territory.

### SCC DONATED VENTILATORS TO ATRIUM HEALTH STANLY

While hospitals and healthcare systems around the nation are reporting huge shortages of medical supplies to meet the growing Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Stanly Community College (SCC) has stepped up to help.

SCC donated four Siemens Maquet Servo-i Ventilators and other Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to Atrium Health Stanly to help battle the spread of COVID-19. These mechanical breathing devices help to support lung function for patients who become seriously ill and develop breathing difficulties.



*Dr. John Enamait and Greta Baucom, Senior Administrative Assistant, Atrium Health Stanly, prepare to transport donated medical supplies from Stanly Community College to Atrium Health Stanly to help battle the spread of COVID-19.*

## A-B TECH NAMED NEW PRESIDENT

On March 19, 2020, the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges approved Dr. John Gossett as president of Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College, with a start date set for July 1, 2020. Dr. Gossett, 57, currently serves as president of McDowell Technical Community College.



*Dr. John Gossett*

Former president, Dr. Dennis King announced he would retire in January 2020. Dr. Gossett will be the seventh president in school history.

Dr. Gossett earned his doctorate degree in Adult and Community College Education from North Carolina State University, where he examined the relationship between community colleges and economic development. Dr. Gossett has spent 32 years working in community colleges, first at Mayland Community College in Spruce Pine, and then at McDowell. He became president of McDowell Technical in 2016.

## GASTON COLLEGE NAMES NEW PRESIDENT



*Dr. John Hauser*

The Gaston College Board of announced the selection of Dr. John Hauser (pronounced Who-zer) as the College’s seventh President. He will assume the position on Monday, June 1, 2020.

Dr. Hauser currently serves as President of Carteret Community College, and will bring to Gaston College over thirty years of leadership and administrative experience in the North Carolina Community College System. Prior to his appointment at Carteret, Dr. Hauser spent over 20 years at Wilkes Community College in a variety of leadership roles.

Dr. Hauser began his higher education journey by first earning an A.A.S., Drafting and Design Technology, from Surry Community College. He later earned a B.S.E.T., Mechanical Engineering Technology, from University of North Carolina Charlotte; an M.Ed., Training and Development, from North Carolina State University; and an Ed.D., Educational Leadership, from Appalachian State University. He is a Phi Theta Kappa Paragon President and holds numerous leadership certifications from North Carolina State University, University of North Carolina, and the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Institute.



## DR. JOEL D. WELCH NAMED WPCC PRESIDENT



*Dr. Joel D. Welch*

On March 19, 2020, the Western Piedmont Community College Board of Trustees named Joel D. Welch, Ph.D., PE, the seventh president of the college, succeeding Michael S. Helmick, Ed.D. who announced he would retire on June 30, 2020, following a ten-year career with the college.

Dr. Welch has extensive community college experience having spent the past twenty-one years in roles at Greenville Technical College and most recently at Forsyth Technical Community College.

Dr. Welch grew up in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina and received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina, Master of Engineering in Civil Engineering from The University of South Carolina, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership from Clemson University.

Dr. Welch will begin full-time duties on July 1, 2020.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### HENRY C. GILES ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



*Mr. Henry C. Giles*

Spartanburg Community College (SCC) President Henry C. Giles, Jr., announced his retirement at the January 2020 meeting of the Spartanburg County Commission for Technical and Community Education, effective June 30, 2020.

Prior to being named the sixth president of SCC, Mr. Giles served as interim president as well as vice president and executive vice president of business affairs at SCC for 18 years.

A native of Cowpens, South Carolina, Mr. Giles earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics at Wofford College and a master of arts in teaching degree in mathematics at Converse College. Mr. Giles continued his educational pursuit by completing graduate work in higher education administration from Nova University in Florida and in management from the University of South Carolina. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Education from the University of South Carolina Upstate and an Honorary Doctorate in Humanities from Wofford College. He has served as chair of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education's Chief Business Officers Peer.

## GTC HEALTH PROGRAMS DONATE PPE SUPPLIES FOR CORONAVIRUS EFFORT

A personal protection equipment (PPE) drive for Bon Secours St. Francis Health System at Greenville Technical College (GTC) and in the community resulted in 23 respirator facepieces, 800 caps, 4,100 gloves, 20 Fluidshield masks, 5,000 surgical masks, 600 coveralls, and 450 shoe covers. The drive was spearheaded by Wendy Walden, associate vice president for executive affairs at GTC, who also serves on the board of directors for the Bon Secours St. Francis Health System.

Through the college's School of Health Sciences and Economic Development and Corporate Training division, GTC has trained many of the people now serving on the front lines, helping the community in the pandemic battle. Programs in nursing, respiratory care, emergency medical technology, and patient care technician are among the health care programs that provide graduates for Bon Secours St. Francis Health System and other providers.

## DUKE ENERGY GRANT

The SC Technical College System Foundation awarded the final allotment from a \$1M Duke Energy Line Worker Grant program in May. The initial gift was designed to expand or create line worker programs at colleges in the Duke Energy Service area. Tri-County Technical College, York Technical College and Horry Georgetown Technical College were awarded grants. Tri-County Technical College was able to build a new program over the last two years while York Technical College and Horry-Georgetown Technical College were able to expand their programs.

## SC WINS

South Carolina's SC WINS Scholarship Program began in Fall 2019 and has helped just over 20,000 students across South Carolina. SC WINS 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. 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.

## STATEWIDE MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Through a private/public partnership, the South Carolina Technical College System is launching a statewide innova-

tive marketing campaign May 18th. The campaign is designed to raise the visibility of South Carolina's technical colleges, changing current perceptions and common misconceptions related to a technical college education and, ultimately, grow enrollment in two distinct areas: traditional first-year undergraduates and non-traditional undergraduates. The voice and tone of the campaign is rooted in a spirit of storytelling that celebrates overcoming limitations, labels and circumstances. Rather than focusing on those negatives, the messaging reflects a spirit of positivity, progress and forward momentum found in the success stories that grew from those moments of defying whatever has held us back.

## TENNESSEE

### TENNESSEE STEPS UP IN FIGHT WITH COVID-19

Tennessee's community and technical colleges are playing a major role in a crash project by the state's public higher education system to manufacture face shields to help protect Tennessee health professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Using 3D printers, Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology at Elizabethton, Jackson, Morristown, Murfreesboro and Shelbyville, and Jackson State and Pellissippi State community colleges manufactured 858 headbands from Saturday through Monday afternoon that will be used for plastic face shields. Other campuses are supplying 3D printers, materials and supplies for the ongoing effort.

The project, announced by Gov. Bill Lee, is part of the governor's work to find new and innovative ways to serve Tennesseans during the COVID-19 crisis. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC), in concert with the Tennessee Board of Regents and respective universities, began to locate 3D printers for the production of personal protective equipment (PPE) face shields. After only three days of intensive efforts that included a range of community and business partners, the overall effort has produced a total of more than 1,500 critically needed pieces of PPE for health care professionals. The work will continue in the coming days and weeks.

The headbands were sent to Austin Peay State University, which THEC says originated the prototype and where the headbands will be attached to transparent plastic face shields. THEC says the first batch of assembled face shields were delivered to the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency for distribution to healthcare facilities and professionals facing shortages of the equipment.

Tennessee's 27 public colleges of applied technology and 13 community colleges also provided other protec-

tive gear, including protective suits used in certain health and other technical fields.

### STUDENTS AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS UNDERGRADUATE TRANSFER SCHOLARSHIPS BY JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION

Nearly 1,500 students from 311 community colleges applied for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's prestigious Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships for 2020 – which provide up to \$40,000 a year to complete their bachelor's degrees.

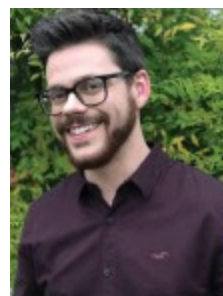
Only 50 students from 17 states were selected as recipients. Two of those are College System of Tennessee students Samantha Benavides at Cleveland State Community College and Gary Satin at Chattanooga State Community College.

The Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship is a highly selective scholarship for the nation's top community college students seeking to complete their bachelor's degrees at four-year colleges or universities. Each Cooke Scholar has access to generous financial support for two to three years, college planning support, ongoing advising, and the opportunity to connect with the thriving community of more than 2,700 fellow Cooke Scholars and alumni. Scholars will also receive opportunities for internships, study abroad, and graduate school funding.



Samantha Benavides

Samantha Benavides served as president of Cleveland State's chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of two-year colleges, played clarinet in the Cleveland Pops Band and attended the Tennessee Honors in Action Academy. As captain of the debate team, she won two outstanding speaker awards, one team award, one best college debate award, and has been invited to compete at the Novice Nationals Forensic tournament for two years running.



Gary Satin

Gary Satin, a student in Chattanooga State's Global Scholars Honors Program, will graduate this year with an Associate of Science degree in pre-health. With the goal of becoming a neurosurgeon, his dream is to help find a cure for Alzheimer's Disease. He is a Tennessee Reconnect scholarship recipient and a Chattanooga State Foundation First in the Family Scholar.





## TEXAS

### COLLEGE DISTRICT SHIFTED 60K STUDENTS TO ONLINE LEARNING IN A WEEK

In less than a week, Dallas County Community College District moved entirely online. COVID-19 presented a Catch-22 to institutions of higher ed across the nation: Should they continue in-class sessions and risk spreading the virus, or close down until the pandemic subsides?

Dallas County Community College District chose a third option, which amounted to a Herculean technological workaround in a short time span. In a single week, the district of 80,000-plus students toggled from a brick-and-mortar operation to a 100-percent online institution of higher ed.

The college district is primarily using the Blackboard online system for its virtual classroom instruction. They are still working with a small percentage of teachers and students to create a seamless transition.

District Chancellor, Dr. Joe May, said the decision to continue classes online, rather than shutting down, was based on prior experience where students experienced interruptions in education.

Dr. May, who had served as a head of a community college in Baton Rouge, has ridden out hurricanes, and he said the COVID-19 pandemic gives him a similar feeling. That experience helped prepare his thinking for what was next.

Dr. May indicated the district will eventually resume in-person classes when the pandemic ends, but he believes that online learning will be a stronger component of the district's learning model moving forward.

### ACD AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Alamo Colleges District (ACD) is one of only two community colleges in the nation to receive the 2020 Leah Meyer Austin Award from Achieving the Dream (ATD). This national recognition is given annually to a college or colleges in the ATD network that show measurable improvement in student outcomes driven by top-to-bottom cultural change in the institution.

"To be selected as a Leah Meyer Austin Award winner, a college must have the commitment to make big, bold changes throughout the institution," said Dr. Karen A. Stout, president and CEO of Achieving the Dream. "Alamo Colleges has the courage to make those changes in everything that impacts the ability of their student to be successful."

"At the Alamo Colleges District, we are increasingly focused on economic and social mobility because we know



Dr. Mike Flores

that a college credential provides a ticket to the American middle class," said Alamo Colleges District Chancellor Dr. Mike Flores. "We use discovery, incubation and acceleration to build proof-of-concept at one college, then develop it and bring it to scale at another," he added.

Alamo Colleges District showed how a system of colleges can work together to intentionally build a structure and culture organized around student success. Fifteen years ago, the colleges recognized their single-digit graduation and completion rates were untenable, given the context of a growing community, a struggling local economy, and high levels of poverty.

Joining Achieving the Dream in 2004 served as the catalyst for the district colleges to accept working together to align processes, become data-informed and clearly focus on student success and performance excellence. They formed teams to collaborate, innovate, and apply what they were learning from ATD network experiences. At the same time, their independence made the colleges natural laboratories for experimentation.

Among the district's many student success achievements, from academic year 2005-2006 to academic year 2017-2018, the district saw an increase from 6 percent to 25 percent in the three-year graduation rate; from nine percent to 25.6 percent in the four-year graduation rate; and an increase in the overall graduation rate between 2014 and 2017 of 50 percent. Graduation rates for Hispanic, African-American and Pell grant students also increased significantly.

The Leah Meyer Austin Award was established in 2008 to recognize outstanding achievement in supporting and promoting student success through the creation of a culture of evidence, continuous improvement, systemic institutional change, broad engagement of stakeholders and equity, with particular attention to low-income students and students of color.

### TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES' RESPONSE TO COVID -19

To help Texas community colleges stay informed on the latest state-level conversations on COVID-19 and create a mechanism for colleges to share and learn from each other, the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) hosts a daily CEO conference call. CEOs are encouraged to share their planning experiences and ask questions from their peers or education partners. TACC has also scheduled a series of webinars on topics to support colleges as

they assess their options on how to address the pandemic. The webinars are recorded and are available for members to access at their convenience along with downloadable PDFs of the presentations and resources. Topics include: Transitioning to Online Instruction, Supporting Students' Basic Needs, and Supporting Students in Times of Crisis. TACC maintains a COVID-19 resource page on their website which includes direct links to the Governor's executive orders, FAQs from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and other pertinent information. The webpage can be accessed at [www. https://tacc.org/tacc/covid-19-resources](https://tacc.org/tacc/covid-19-resources).

Scott Vanderkooi, EMS program instructor.

Items donated were valued at over \$2,100 including 17,100 Nitrile gloves in various sizes, 550 disposable gowns, 450 faces shields with masks, 400 N-95 masks, 350 surgical masks, 18 goggles, 17 vinyl aprons, and hand sanitizer and disinfecting soap.

In addition, to help support students without internet access at home, the Technology Services department installed WiFi in the parking deck on campus.

## **VIRGINIA**

### **POST-PANDEMIC TASKFORCE**

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Virginia Community College System Chancellor Glenn DuBois has announced a task force to examine and propose how Virginia's community colleges operate in a post-pandemic environment. Noting that it is essential that our community colleges continue to meet the needs of students and businesses in the "new normal" environment, the task force offered recommendations for the Fall 2020 semester.

Chancellor DuBois raised a number of points that the task force will consider:

- ◆ What do we need to be, and to do, to help those who have lost their jobs retrain for their next career?
- ◆ What about university-bound students having second thoughts because of health concerns or changing family finances?
- ◆ What about the families in rural Virginia who lack convenient high-speed Internet service?
- ◆ How do we on-board students, and provide services?

These and other topics, such as how remote teaching and support services affect equity, academic success, and delivering hands-on practical training in a time of social distancing, are among those that were considered by the task force.

### **BRCC DONATES CLASSROOM SUPPLIES TO LOCAL HOSPITALS**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, several academic departments and offices at Blue Ridge Community College collected and delivered personal protective equipment and supplies to Augusta Health and Sentara RMH.

"Our programs receive valuable support from our field and hospital partnerships continuously. The agencies we are donating supplies to are also current and future employers of our students. This is an opportunity for us to give back during a time of greatest need," explained



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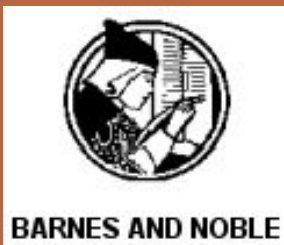
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**SACAD gratefully acknowledges the sponsors for the 2019 annual luncheon**

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