

## SACAD Schedules Annual Luncheon Meeting

The SACAD board is pleased to announce that the annual luncheon meeting for 2021 will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2021 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in Dallas, Texas. The meeting will occur in conjunction with the SACSCOC Annual meeting which is scheduled for December 4-7, 2021 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas, Texas.

At the SACAD Spring Board Meeting, the Professional Development Committee was charged with developing the theme for this year's luncheon meeting and to secure an excellent keynote speaker for the event. The committee expects to announce final details for the luncheon by late summer. The luncheon meeting traditionally includes a banquet style meal, a brief SACAD business session, a keynote speaker presentation, and door prizes donated by SACAD board members.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$35.00 and registration for the luncheon is now available. Please mail all payments to SACAD at PO Box 942, Verona, Virginia 24482 along with the following information: name, email address, job title, and college. As an option, please see [www.SACAD.org](http://www.SACAD.org) website and conveniently pay via PayPal.

### PANDEMIC IMPACTS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

Several regional and national news outlets have been reporting the significant impact on Community College student enrollment during the Pandemic. Overall, college enrollment was down nationwide for the Fall, 2020

semester but Community Colleges saw a much greater impact than did 4-year schools. Public two-year colleges were down more than 10 percent in enrollment compared to Fall, 2019.

North Carolina reported that all but 4 of its 58 Community Colleges saw enrollment declines between Fall, 2019 and Fall, 2020. Virginia reported that fewer students enrolled in the VCCS this Fall than in any year since 2002. And at Southwest Tennessee Community College, a loss of nearly 20% in enrollment occurred during the past year.

Enrollment among Black and Hispanic students has declined significantly with a 19% decrease among Black Students and a 16% decrease among Hispanic students. AACC data indicates that around 40% of all Community College enrollment is either Black or Latino. Also nearly 50% of the nation's nearly 5 million Community College students are low-income.

Clearly, there are many reasons why students chose not to attend Community Colleges during the pandemic. The most common reason cited by students for cancelling plans to attend was not being able to pay for it. Others had child care issues since their school age children were involved with virtual learning at home. Some cited their fear of contracting Covid-19 or that they had the virus and thus unable to attend. Some worried about how the classes would be impacted and what kind of instructional methods would be employed. Some did not have access to technology to engage in virtual learning.

As things begin to return to some degree of normalcy, Community Colleges will reopen and begin to develop creative strategies to effectively attract students back to college. The SACAD board intends to focus on publicizing many of these colleges and their strategies to recruit and retain students after the pandemic. Information will be shared in the near future among SACAD member institutions regarding a process to seek these creative strategies.

### 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 by June 1, 2021. 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 2021**

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

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

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

**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 2021**

Dr. James David Campbell, Northeast Alabama Community College, AL  
Dr. Patricia A. Lee, Williamsburg Technical College, SC  
Dr. Dean Sprinkle, 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

**Class of 2023**

Dr. Jane G. Hulon Sims, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, MS  
Dr. Cynthia S. Kelley, Madisonville Community College, KY  
Dr. Tonjua Williams, St. Petersburg College, FL



*Dr. David Campbell*



*Dr. Jane G. Hulon Sims*



*Dr. Cynthia S. Kelley*



*Dr. Jason Smith*



*Dr. Ingrid Thompson-Sellers*



*Dr. Michael Torrence*



*Dr. Tonjua Williams*

## ALABAMA

### ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGES ANNOUNCE TUITION FREEZE FOR FALL SEMESTER

Tuition at colleges across the Alabama Community College System will remain frozen for Fall 2021.

Recently Chancellor Jimmy Baker announced that tuition will not increase for the 2021-2022 academic year. In addition, all community college campuses across Alabama will resume normal, on-campus operations for the fall semester.

“This year has been difficult for many Alabamians and access to education and skills training shouldn’t be something that makes it harder. By freezing tuition and ensuring online, in-person, and hybrid classes are available at Alabama’s 24 community colleges, we’re doing our part to expand opportunities for coursework and training to help Alabamians build a better future,” Baker said in a written statement. “From the beginning of the pandemic, our number one priority has been the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff, and it will continue to be our primary focus as we work to safely reopen our campuses across the state.”

The freeze is one of several efforts the ACCS have rolled out this year to expand access amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Efforts have included giving out 10,500 laptops to students to keep up with classwork, as well as a statewide scholarship program featuring a tuition discount for buy-one-get-one free classes at ACCS colleges for the spring semester.

### DR. DAVID CAMPBELL JOINS ROUNDTABLE OF REGIONAL COLLEGE PRESIDENTS



North Alabama Community College (NACC) President, Dr. David Campbell was recently invited to join a roundtable of college presidents from the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Dr. Campbell will be one of twelve presidents selected to participate in the roundtable discussions.

*Dr. David Campbell*

Developed by the Higher Education Research and Development Institute (HERDI-South) and supported by the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE), this roundtable initiative will consist of monthly, hour-long professional development discussions. The discussions will be held virtually through Zoom and will focus on current and future community college issues, challenges, and finding creative solutions to those challenges. These discussions are representative of a nationwide endeavor

supported by the ACUE.

The ACUE’s mission is to ensure student success through quality instruction. It provides logistics and research support, as well as assistance in bringing expert facilitators to sessions when requested.

The Southern region’s roundtable initiative will be chaired by Dr. Karen Bowyer, President of Dyersburg State Community College in Dyersburg, Tennessee. Dr. Ed Meadows, President of Pensacola State College in Florida, will serve as the initiative’s Co-Chair.

Campbell, through his career, has been active in Southern regional educational activities, serving as chair of SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges) committees. He has also served on more than 30 accrediting committees at campuses in six Southern states. In 2015 he was presented the SACSCOC Award for Meritorious Service. Regionally, Campbell is on the Board of Directors for the Community Colleges of Appalachia and Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees, a SACSCOC affiliate.

Under Campbell’s leadership, the Aspen Institute has named NACC one of the top community colleges in America five times!

## FLORIDA

### SAINT PETERSBURG COLLEGE RANKED AMONG THE TOP

Saint Petersburg College (SPC) was recently listed among the top-ranked schools in U.S. News & World Report’s 2021 Best Online Programs. SPC achieved rankings in three categories – Best Online Bachelor’s Program Overall, Best Online Bachelor’s Program in Business and Best Online Program for Veterans.

Not only did SPC rank nationally for Best Online Bachelor’s Programs in Business for the first time, but it tied for No. 1 within the Florida College System (FCS). The college placed third for Best Online Bachelor’s Program Overall and Best Online Bachelor’s Program for Veterans, compared to other FCS institutions.

Among all participating Florida colleges and universities, SPC placed No. 6 for Best Online Bachelor’s Program in Business, No. 8 for the Best Online Bachelor’s Program for Veterans, and No. 11 for Best Online Bachelor’s Program Overall.

SPC is Florida’s first two-year college and the first to offer bachelor’s degrees. The college offers more than 110 degree and certificate programs, including many high-skill,

industry-recognized workforce certifications.

In September 2020, the college announced it ranked third among FCS institutions for the U.S. News & World Report 2021 Best Colleges study.

SPC also ranked #21 among public colleges in the southern region. These are the highest-ranked public colleges out of schools that participated in the 2020 study in the 12 states that make up the regional south.

## GEORGIA

### WEST GEORGIA TECH NAMES NEW PRESIDENT



*Dr. Julie Post*

The Technical College System of Georgia Commissioner Greg Dozier announced Dr. Julie Post, Vice President of Student Affairs at Gwinnett Technical College, as the next president of West Georgia Technical College.

Dr. Post has a rich educational background in secondary and post-secondary education as well as higher education administration. After serving as a high school teacher and then an adjunct instructor, she joined Gwinnett Technical College in 2005.

Dr. Post holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Education from Northern Kentucky University, a Master of Arts in the Art of Teaching from Marygrove College and a Doctor of Education from the University of Georgia. She began her duties at West Georgia Tech on April 16.

Dr. Post was awarded Outstanding Dissertation of the Year by The University Council on Workforce and Human Resource Education for her work on “The Role of Dual Enrollment in the Educational Achievement of Technical College Students.”

### GEORGIA HIGHLANDS COLLEGE NAMES INTERIM PRESIDENT

University System of Georgia Chancellor Steve Wrigley has named Dr. Dana Nichols as interim president of Georgia Highlands College, effective July 7, 2021. Dr. Nichols is currently the college’s chief academic officer and provost.

She will succeed President Don Green, who has accepted a new position as president of Point Park University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



*Dr. Dana Nichols*

Dr. Nichols has served in her current role since August 2018. Among other duties, she supervises the deans in each academic area including Health Sciences, STEM, Humanities, Social Sciences and Education, Business and Professional Studies and Libraries and Testing, as well directors for the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Enrollment Management and Student Support Services.

Dr. Nichols previously worked as vice president for academic affairs at Chattanooga State Community College. She began her academic career at Gainesville State College, serving first as a tutor in the Foreign Language and Writing Labs and then as associate professor of both English and Spanish.

A native of northeast Georgia, Nichols has also served as assistant vice president and dean of Academic Affairs at Lanier Technical College. She earned a doctorate in English from Georgia State University, dual bachelor’s degrees in English and Spanish from Mercer University and two associate degrees from Gainesville College.

In her role as provost, Nichols has been focused on retention and graduation efforts at GHC with a strong commitment to student success strategies, creating new degree programs and certificates that complement local workforce needs and pursuing strategic scheduling across GHC’s five locations in Rome, Cartersville, Dallas, Douglasville and Marietta.

## KENTUCKY

### DR. PAUL CZARAPATA SELECTED AS KCTCS PRESIDENT



*Dr. Paul Czarapata*

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) Board of Regents selected Dr. Paul Czarapata as the new president of KCTCS after a national search. He is the third person to serve as KCTCS president. The system was created by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1997.

Dr. Czarapata has been serving as the interim president of the system since October. Prior to that he was a KCTCS vice president and chief information officer responsible for the technology needs of the 16 colleges and Versailles office. He joined KCTCS in 2000 and has served in technology leadership roles leading up to his appointment of vice president. Be-

fore joining KCTCS, he was a software consultant and served as a manager with PeopleSoft. He also served as an adjunct professor at Bluegrass Community and Technical College and University of the Cumberlands.

Dr. Czarapata earned a bachelor's degree in operations management and information systems from Northern Illinois University. He earned a master's degree in business administration and a doctorate in instructional technology leadership both from Morehead State University.

"I'm incredibly humbled and honored to become the third president of KCTCS," he said. "As soon as it's safe to do so, I plan to get out to all corners of the state and make sure everyone knows the face of KCTCS. We are Kentucky's largest provider of postsecondary education, and I want to make sure Kentuckians understand what we offer them."

## HOPKINSVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Hopkinsville Community College's Advancement, Public Relations and Marketing team took home the Gold Award in the category Fundraising on a Shoestring during the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's (CASE) District III virtual awards ceremony held on Thursday evening, January 28. HCC was one of only three community colleges receiving an award, and the only community college in District III, which includes Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia to receive a Gold Award.

## WESTERN KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

In December 2020, WKCTC was among more than 350 colleges, universities, and organizations to receive multi-million dollar grants from author and philanthropist MacKenzie Scott to support diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), and creating national, state, and local excitement. Ms. Scott utilized a donor-advised fund at the National Philanthropic Trust (NPT) to disburse the grant funding.

In announcing the largest gift from a single donor in the college's history, Dr. Reece presented a seven-sector conceptual framework at a press conference in December. The official name for the seven-sector framework for utilizing the Scott/NPT grant is "*The WKCTC Guarantee: Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.*"

## SOUTHCENTRAL KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKYCTC) was designated as one of the "Best Places to Work in Kentucky" by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, the Kentucky Society for Human Resource Management (KYSHRM) and ClearPath Mutual Insurance Company. This is the seventh year SKYCTC has

been awarded this recognition.

"Receiving this honor is a tribute to employee excellence, and their commitment to serving our students, communities, and institution. I'm very proud of our team, who are the foundation of the 'culture of caring' we have built at Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College," states Dr. Phillip Neal, SKYCTC President and CEO.

## ELIZABETHTOWN COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Elizabethtown Community and Technical College has been awarded a \$300,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to support expansion of the Advanced Manufacturing Army Career Skills Program.

Through a partnership with Fort Knox, the Career Skills Program offers training to transitioning soldiers so they are certified to begin careers in computer aided drafting and design, electrical technology, and engineering and electronics technology, according to a news release, the three-year Advanced Technological Education grant allows ECTC to add a robotics and automation certification pathway and support a career skills program coordinator who will facilitate recruitment and retention plans.

ECTC faculty played a role in securing this competitive grant, according to a news release. Professors Tim Cordova and Brent Doty were selected to participate in the National Science Foundation's Mentor Connect program in 2019, which provides training and technical assistance to organizations seeking National Science Foundation grant money.

## LOUISIANA

### DR. VINCENT JUNE SELECTED AS SOUTH LOUISIANA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S NEXT CHANCELLOR



Dr. Vincent G. June

Dr. Vincent G. June was unanimously selected as the Chancellor of South Louisiana Community College by the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) Board of Supervisors. Dr. Monty Sullivan, LCTCS president, made the recommendation to the board during its December meeting. After a comprehensive national search, the recommendation was made, which included virtual interviews and virtual public forums with students, faculty, staff, and community members. June's appointment is effective immediately.

Dr. Vincent G. June currently serves as Interim Chancellor of South Louisiana Community College. Dr. June provides oversight for all academic and operational functions of a multi-campus (8 Parishes) college operation serving more than 17,000 students annually. As a visionary leader with a keen sense for strategy and forward-thinking, he has successfully worked with faculty and staff to develop and implement a college-wide COVID-19 Response and Reopening Plan while also executing strategic efforts to support summer and fall 2020 enrollment initiatives.

Dr. June has worked closely with the executive leadership to develop and complete SLCC's strategic goals and priorities for the 2020-21 academic year while also aligning fiscal recommendations. He has dedicated his career to serving diverse communities in public higher education for over two decades in progressively responsible leadership positions. His experiences include serving as Dean of Student Services for the Division of Student Affairs at Florida Gulf Coast University; Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services at Florida A&M University; Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services at Georgia Perimeter College; Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs at South Louisiana Community College. Dr. June also served as a 2014-2015 American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio.

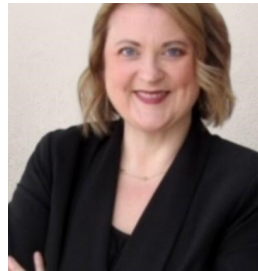
As a chief academic officer and chief student affairs and enrollment officer at SLCC, Georgia Perimeter College, Florida A&M University, and Florida Gulf Coast University, respectively, Dr. June has brought great energy and commitment to establishing innovative strategies and successful programs for engaging prospective, new and continuing students in the college experience. He has successfully connected and partnered with local school districts, alumni, business and industry, chambers, community members, correctional units, faculty, and staff to recruit new students and increase institutional awareness and engagement within their respective communities.

Dr. June earned a BS in business and economics from Florida A&M University and received an MBA and Ph.D. in educational leadership from Washington State University.

## NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED AT MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP OF LOUISIANA

Dayna Blanchard, a longtime leader with nearly two decades of experience with the MEP Center, has been named as the next director of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana.

Ms. Blanchard leads Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana (MEPOL) as it works to help all Louisiana manufacturers grow and compete. As director, she leads efforts to identify the needs mostly of small and medium-size manufacturers and build MEPOL's capabilities to meet those needs.



Dayna  
Blanchard

Ms. Blanchard held several roles during 18 years with MEPOL where she has been responsible for a number of leadership functions including adherence to compliance standards, budgetary analysis and reporting, and formulation of organizational positions and performance goals. Most recently, she maximized the yearly federal obligation and led the integration of six community colleges into the foundation of the MEP

Center through sub-recipient contracts expanding the service/delivery model to a statewide footprint.

Her previous work experience includes Business Analyst and Accountant at Accenture in Houston, TX and Financial Assistant for the US Geological Survey, National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette, LA.

Ms. Blanchard has an MBA and a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She is a Kaplan native, lives in Broussard, and has two children.

## MISSISSIPPI

### CLCC PRESIDENT NAMED TO SACSCOC BOARD



Dr. Jane  
Hulon Sims

Copiah-Lincoln Community College President Dr. Jane Hulon Sims has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of College and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Dr. Hulon Sims will serve as a member of the Mississippi Delegation of the Board of Trustees.

### ONLINE WORKFORCE COLLEGE FOR VIRTUAL TRAINING LAUNCHED



Dr. Andrea  
Mayfield

The Online Workforce College (OWC), a virtual workforce training developed at Jones College in Ellisville, Mississippi, is a customizable, self-paced training tool for businesses and individuals. The OWC has the potential to make the state of Mississippi the workforce training hub for the world. It also provides an opportunity for individuals to gain industry-required

skills, beyond a high school or college degree. The goal is to bridge the skills gap, by utilizing technology in a cost-effective manner.

“The state’s 15 community colleges are part of the catalyst that will help change the face of workforce training. A newly created community college consortium will be instrumental in providing OWC training for each community college’s business partners,” said Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board, Dr. Andrea Mayfield.

## MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGES AWARDED \$5.9 MILLION DOLLARS IN TRANSPORTATION GRANTS

Five Mississippi community colleges were awarded nearly \$6 million in federal Transportation Alternatives (TA) funds. TA funds are for non-roadway improvements such as sidewalks pedestrian lighting, and multiuse paths. The funds flow through the Mississippi Department of Transportation.

Copiah-Lincoln Community College received \$873,594 to construct sidewalks with lighting and to add speed tables on campus. East Mississippi Community College- Mayhew Campus was granted \$1 million for pedestrian improvements including lighting, ADA street crossings, sidewalks, and ADA building access. East Mississippi Community College- Scooba Campus was granted \$1.9 million to add a pedestrian/bicycle corridor around the entire perimeter of campus. Itawamba Community College received \$1.1 million for the addition of new sidewalks and lighting. Northeast Mississippi Community College received \$800,000 to construct new sidewalks to meet ADA requirements and lighting. Northwest Mississippi Community College received \$250,000 for sidewalk improvements and extensions.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM NAMES NEW PRESIDENT

Thomas Stith III became president of the North Carolina Community College System (NCCCS) on Jan. 11, 2021. Stith, a leader with two decades of experience in public service and business in North Carolina, was previously district director of the U.S. Small Business Administration, where he led the federal agency’s response to COVID-19 in North Carolina.

Dr. Stith served as chief of staff to former Governor Pat McCrory from 2013 to 2017 and was a three-term city council member in Durham from 1999 to 2007. During his time in the Governor’s Office, he led special initiatives



Dr. Thomas Stith III

including the establishment of the Venture Capital Multiplier Fund (a \$60 million venture fund), the Governor’s initiative on historically black colleges and universities and Hurricane Matthew recovery. Dr. Stith has extensive experience in economic development and government relations. He was chief executive of several businesses and consulting firms, including the Michael Thomas Group in Durham and LJP Lab, a toxicology lab and health care consulting company in Kernersville.

His higher education experience includes five years as economic development program director at UNC-Chapel Hill’s Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise at the Kenan-Flagler Business School, from 2008 to 2013. There he focused on improving Eastern North Carolina economies, securing grant funds and managing renewable energy projects. Dr. Stith holds a bachelor’s degree in management and a Master of Business Administration in marketing from North Carolina Central University, as well as a certificate in non-profit management from Duke University. He has served on the boards of the Golden LEAF Foundation, the Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise, the North Carolina Institute of Political Leadership and the United Way of the Greater Triangle. He is a member of the North Carolina Leadership Forum.

### ISOTHERMAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE NAMES NEW PRESIDENT



Dr. Margaret Annunziata

Dr. Margaret Annunziata has been named the sixth president of Isothermal Community College.

Dr. Annunziata began her duties at Isothermal February 1, 2021. She replaced Walter Dalton, who retired in February after serving as Isothermal’s president since May 2013.

Dr. Annunziata recently served as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Davidson County Community College in Thomasville, North Carolina. She previously served as Director of Student Success and Institutional Assessment at Davidson County Community College in Thomasville, North Carolina.

Dr. Annunziata earned a Doctorate of Education in Community College Executive Leadership from Wingate University in Wingate, North Carolina; an Education Specialist in Community College Executive Leadership from Wingate



University in Wingate, North Carolina.; a Master of Science in Family and Child Development from Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama; and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Psychology from Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky. Dr. Annunziata also recently completed the prestigious Aspen Fellows Program for Aspiring Community College Presidents.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### SOUTH CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM AND SOUTH CAROLINA CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACADEMY ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP

The South Carolina Technical College System (SCTCS) and the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy (SCCJA) recently announced a partnership that provides a new career pathway for law enforcement. This pathway is designed to address the industry's current workforce shortage and enhance the policing profession overall.

The new Police Pre-Academy Training Certificate will provide a simple path to becoming a law enforcement officer. First, candidates apply to one of the state's 16 technical colleges and complete the 14-week certificate program. Over the 14 weeks, candidates will learn basic and introductory law enforcement training, tactics, and procedures. In total, they will complete four courses totaling 12 credit hours that can apply toward the 66 credits required to earn an associate degree should candidates decide to further their studies.

Next, candidates secure employment with a South Carolina law enforcement agency within one year. Once employment is secured, candidates must pass a cumulative exam and physical assessment test administered by the SC Criminal Justice Academy. If candidates pass the exam and physical assessment test, they complete an eight-week training program at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia. They are then certified as law enforcement officers.

### SOUTH CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM RECEIVES AWARD FOR "I DEFY" CAMPAIGN

The South Carolina Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America (SCPRSA) annually celebrates the creative work of public relations practitioners and communicators through the recognition of its Mercury Award winners. This year, the SC Technical College System was honored to accept an Award of Excellence in the category of Crisis Communications for its I Defy: Back to Work campaign. This partnership with creative marketing agency Brains on Fire and the SC Department of Employment and Workforce (SCDEW) aimed to raise

awareness of the SC Technical College System's offerings and get the unemployed back into the workforce. In two months, the team built out an online Career Explorer tool, created 30- and 60-second promotional videos, highlighted student stories on the Back to Work landing page, and conducted digital outreach via an email series. All of this work translated to approximately 9,400 pageviews, 3,000 form completions, 250 applications, and 100 enrolled students for the Spring 2021 semester. The Mercury Award is a testament to the I Defy: Back to Work campaign's success in sharing solutions to the unemployment crisis, being proactive during a time of pandemic, and promoting the System and its offerings to new audiences.

## TENNESSEE

### PRESIDENT JERRY FAULKNER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



Dr. Jerry Faulkner

Dr. Jerry Faulkner, president of Volunteer State Community College, has announced that he will be retiring this summer. Dr. Faulkner will have served as president for more than nine years, guiding the college through a period of growth and challenge.

Dr. Faulkner began his term on May 15 of 2012. He welcomed the addition of the new Wallace South Health Sciences Building in 2014. It provided new state-of-the-art labs for five programs. He

was instrumental in the design and construction of the Steinhauer-Rogan-Black Humanities building in 2016, which brought new classrooms, studios, and performance spaces to the Gallatin campus. The teaching facilities were greatly needed as the college grew steadily throughout his tenure, reaching a record high enrollment of 9,227 in fall of 2019. Dr. Faulkner also negotiated a plan that made Vol State the community college operating a campus in Cookeville, eventually adding more than 900 students to the college each semester.

In academic programs, notable additions included the RN Nursing associate of applied science degree program. The first graduating class had a 100 percent pass rate on licensing exams. Classes are taught in specialized labs in Gallatin and Livingston. Mechatronics expanded from Cookeville to the Gallatin campus in 2018. It soon moved to a dedicated facility in the renovated Warf Math and Science Building, a project that also brought updated lab facilities for science courses on the Gallatin campus.





Most recently, Dr. Faulkner led the college through the COVID-19 pandemic. That included a sudden move to online learning in March of 2020 and the development of a comprehensive screening and tracking program on the campuses to help protect student, faculty and staff from the coronavirus. The celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the college will be marked this year with virtual events because of the pandemic.

Dr. Faulkner served as the vice president for Academic Affairs at Cleveland State Community College from 2008-2012. Prior to that, he was a faculty member, then Department Head for Life Sciences and later Teacher Education Coordinator at Chattanooga State Community College. He also held a two-year term as associate vice president for Academic Affairs at Tennessee Temple University.

### TEXAS

#### TEXAS RESKILLING & UPSKILLING THROUGH EDUCATION (TRUE)-A BOLD RESPONSE IN A PANDEMIC ECONOMY

The COVID-19 pandemic delivered a devastating blow to the global economy deepening the gap between workforce needs and skilled workers. Of the record number of Texans who lost their jobs and filed initial claims for unemployment, many lack skills to quickly reenter the workforce. The unemployment rate for individuals with a high school diploma or less remains significantly higher than for individuals with post-secondary credentials. As the current provider of more than 90% of credit-bearing career and technical education certificates, Texas community colleges are best positioned to close the skills gaps to good-paying jobs.

Led by Dr. Joe May, Chancellor at Dallas College, community college presidents developed a strategy to deliver an accelerated response that will reskill and upskill the state workforce by directly addressing the plight facing Texas workers and employers.

The Texas Reskilling & Upskilling through Education Initiative, better known as TRUE, is a proposed \$50 million investment in community colleges to quickly reskill and upskill the Texas workforce and put Texans back to work in high-demand occupations. TRUE is the highest policy priority of the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC).

TRUE is demand driven with employer engagement and labor market data informing education and training. The initiative is guided by a new Business Advisory Council comprised of key business and industry leaders. TRUE will leverage existing local business partnerships to ef-

fectively scale and advance the work.

“It’s a simple concept: align industry needs with quality training programs that provide Texans with an efficient and effective path to in-demand skills for the 21st century”, says Justin Yancy, President of the Texas Business Leadership Council. “Having employers collaborate with the development of new industry-aligned credential programs is a recipe for success and will lead to a more prosperous economy.”

The TRUE initiative aims to generate the following important outcomes:

- Provide training in existing, new, or redesigned accelerated programs that teach high-demand skills and lead to postsecondary industry certifications or other workforce credentials valued in growing occupations.
- Develop new, or redesign existing, industry-aligned, high-demand postsecondary industry certifications or other workforce credentials and certificate programs or other courses of instruction leading to those certifications or credentials that can be completed in six months or less.
- Provide high-demand credentials that are stackable in TRUE career pathways aligning with regional or statewide targeted occupations lists.

As TACC works to advance this initiative at the state capitol, Texas colleges have already begun to take action. Austin Community College launched *Fast Track Careers* in fall of 2020 to offer quick-turnaround workforce certificates at half price to help people who lost jobs during the pandemic gain a certification in a high-demand field. The college began with about a dozen programs and expanded to more than 25 programs in the spring of 2021.

“TRUE will reskill and upskill the Texas workforce to living-wage occupations”, said Dr. Brenda Hellyer, San Jacinto College Chancellor and TACC Board Chair. “Productivity gains will be realized as workers acquire the skills needed for success.”

### VIRGINIA

#### VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES SET TO IMPLEMENT G3

Virginia’s Legislature approved \$34.5 million in funding for Governor Ralph Northam’s Get Skilled, Get a Job, and Give Back (G3) program, and additional funding for promoting the program as well as for advisors to assist those wishing to enroll at Virginia’s community colleges. The last-dollar tuition assistance program is available to those who qualify for in-state tuition, have a household income of less than or equal to 400% of the Federal Poverty Level and

are enrolling in high demand fields. Eligibility requires application for the FASFA, and G3 funding will cover gaps for the costs of tuition, fees and books for eligible G3 programs.

The high demand fields include Healthcare, Information Technology, Manufacturing and Skilled Trades, Early Childhood Education, and Public Safety. G3 programs are designed to be “stackable,” meaning that each program starts with skills training that leads to a certificate with immediate value in the labor market. Because the certificate is part of an associate degree, a working student can continue to “stack” additional certificates on the pathway to an associate degree.

Students may attend part-time (minimum of 6 credit hours) or full-time (minimum of 12 credit hours), and have up to three years to complete an associate degree. There are provisions, however, to allow for continuing if a student has to stop out for a time after completing a certificate.

G3 will launch at each of Virginia’s 23 community colleges on July 1, 2021.

### **VCCS ROLLS OUT NEW STRATEGIC PLAN**

Following from the VCCS Mission, giving “everyone the opportunities to learn and develop the right skills so lives and communities are strengthened,” the VCCS has developed a new strategic plan. The plan, *Opportunity 2027*, states:

Virginia’s Community Colleges will achieve equity in access, learning outcomes, and success for students from every race, ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic group.

Involving multiple strategies, there are five Supporting Goals for the plan:

1. Ensure that Virginia’s Community Colleges are equipped to deliver on the promise of the equity goal by ensuring that all internal and external constituencies understand why the goal is necessary to provide a talent pipeline for Virginia employers.
2. Provide all students with access to high impact practices that support educational excellence and equity in student success through the development of a world-class cadre of diverse employees focused on equity-minded principles and practices.
3. Provide all students with a culture of care that responds to the needs of our diverse student population and supports and inspires their educational and career success.

4. Provide all students with the knowledge, skills, credentials, and degrees that enable them to thrive in dynamic and emerging 21<sup>st</sup> century careers shaped by the future of work.
5. Provide all students with access to affordable college educations that support their need for financial flexibility while also supporting the vitality and sustainability of our colleges.

The VCCS *Opportunity 2027* will officially roll out in July.

### **VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES WILL NOT INCREASE TUITION**

The State Board for Community Colleges, by a unanimous vote, elected to maintain the current in-state tuition and mandatory fees for the 2021-2022 academic year. The Board’s decision, holding tuition and mandatory fees at current levels, keeps costs at approximately one-third of those comparable of attending Virginia’s public four-year universities. This marks the fourth year in a row that the Board has voted to hold tuition and fees steady for in-state students, who account for more than nine out of every ten students served by our community colleges.

“Our Board has had some tremendous partners in the Virginia General Assembly in working to keep our courses and programs as accessible and affordable as possible, and I applaud them,” said Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia’s Community Colleges. “As we take our vaccines and move beyond the pandemic, we know that plenty of Virginians need our help beginning, or re-starting, their careers and we are here to help them do just that.”



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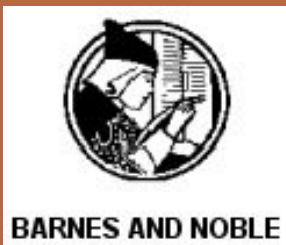
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