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SACAD Virtual Session at SACSCOC Annual Meeting a Huge Success



Dr. Joe May

The SACAD virtual session that was part of the SACSCOC Annual Meeting in December was a huge success. The zoom session was facilitated by Dr. Cynthia Kelley, President of Madisonville Community College, who serves as chair of the professional development committee for the Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees. The session featured a presentation by Dr. Joe May, Chancellor of Dallas College. The title of the presentation was "Quality Higher Education: Student Support Post-pandemic and Beyond." More than 130 individuals participated in the session and numerous questions and positive comments followed the presentation.

The session described how a community college district of seven colleges was transformed into one unified institution to better support students. The presenter stated that "individuals, employers and communities all have needs, but colleges do not have needs. As our society evolves, so will the needs of students, employers and communities. Colleges must stand ready to respond."

In developing a new student focused model, the College saw the students in Dallas County with a bleak pathway. More than 80% of Dallas County students came from underserved populations and less than 10% were expected to complete a college degree 6 years after graduating from high school. Too many students were being left behind with 77% of the students being economically disadvantaged and with the College producing less than 5% of the needed employees in the highest demand jobs.

The previous structure was plagued with confusion and inefficiency. Outdated processes, changing demographics, students being uninformed about career pathways, and unmet student need were some of the reasons for the pre-pandemic pivot. District leadership were aware that in order to solve the talent problem, it would require the entire community to address the equity and poverty challenge.

Several barriers to student success were identified and programs were implemented to remove the barriers. Because transportation for students was a significant problem the DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit) program was implemented on all campuses and marketing and communication to students was improved. More than \$2 million in emergency aid funding for transportation and car repairs was given to nearly 5,000 students. 68% of the students who received transportation aid re-enrolled or graduated at high rates in fall, 2020 through summer, 2021. Food insecurity was experienced by 42% of the students in College surveys. A partnership with the North Texas Food Bank enabled 76 food truck visits at all campuses, 1263 food cards were distributed and more than 50,000 families were served through the food bank with nearly 3 million pounds of food delivered to students and their families. Other barriers discussed in the presentation included health, well-being, and housing with programs and partnerships being developed to remove the barriers.

Clear objectives guided the way to true transformation. The College had to first address the many challenges posed by their previous structure. They accomplished the following: implemented a student care network, aligned with employers, developed clear career pathways, developed consistent programs and course content across all campuses, focused on more credential completers, and streamlined their processes and systems.

Dr. Joe May served as Chancellor for Dallas College for more than seven years and became Chancellor Emeritus on March 1, 2022. He has held major leadership in roles in Texas, Colorado, Louisiana and Virginia.

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, 2022. Dues may be paid by check or credit card.

Please contact Dr. George D. Edwards, Executive Secretary-Treasurer at gdedwards930@gmail.com, 606-424-8867, or see the SACAD website at www.sacad.org for more information.

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ALABAMA

DR. JEFF GOODWIN NAMED PRESIDENT OF NORTHWEST-SHOALS COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Dr. Jeff Goodwin

Dr. Jeff Goodman was named President of Northwest-Shoals Community College. His tenure at the college began January 3, 2022.

Dr. Goodwin's 30 years of experience span from classroom educator to superintendent in Alabama's public schools. He has served since 2005 as Superintendent of Oxford City Schools.

Dr. Goodwin began his career in education as a science teacher and coach at Oxford High School. He served as an assistant principal in both Talladega County Schools and Oxford City Schools, and as a principal at Oxford High School. Prior to serving as Superintendent of Oxford City Schools, he served as Director of Operations at Talladega County Schools.

Dr. Goodwin holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Political Science Education from Jacksonville State University. He earned a Master of Science in Educational Administration from Jacksonville State University. He earned both an Educational Specialist in Educational Leadership and Doctor of Education in Educational Administration from The University of Alabama.

DR. KEMBA CHAMBERS NAMED NEW PRESIDENT OF H. COUNCILL TRENHOLM STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Dr. Kemba Chambers

Chancellor Jimmy H. Baker announced the appointment of Dr. Kemba Chambers as President of H. Councill Trenholm State Community College. Dr. Chambers is the first female to serve in this capacity at the college. Her tenure as President at H. Councill Trenholm State Community College began on December 15, 2021.

Dr. Chambers has 25 years of higher education experience and currently serves as Interim President at Tren-

holm. She previously served as Interim Associate Vice Chancellor of Teaching and Learning and Chief Instructional Officer at the Alabama Community College System, and Executive Vice President and Vice President of Instructional Services at Trenholm State. Chambers has served in various leadership roles at four of Alabama's community colleges including serving as Interim President at Coastal Alabama Community College in Bay Minette and J. F. Drake State Community and Technical College

in Huntsville. She also served at Calhoun Community College in Decatur and Chattahoochee Valley Community College in Phenix City.

Dr. Chambers earned an Associate of Arts degree from Chattahoochee Valley Community College and a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Mathematics Education from Columbus State University. She earned a Master of Science in Secondary Mathematics Education from Troy University, an Educational Specialist in Educational Leadership from Troy University, and a Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Administration from Auburn University.

ACCS OPENS INNOVATION CENTER

The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Innovation Center, a \$10 million investment aimed at rapidly training workers for the state's highest-demand industries, has launched its first of several industry-designed programs to help students find immediate employment.

ACCS leaders, students and industry partners kicked off the Innovation Center's opening and demonstrated some of the training at an event on Monday. The training includes short-term classes that students can start from anywhere in the state and finish with an in-person lab in a regional ACCS location. Once students complete the trainings, they are job-ready and are awarded a credential and an opportunity to earn more certifications at their local community college.

Business leaders say that rapid training is key as Alabama faces supply chain issues and the nation's 11th largest worker shortage, according to a study.

"America's commercial trucking industry is facing a critical shortage of about 80,000 professional drivers," said Mark Colson, President and CEO of the Alabama Trucking Association. "Here in Alabama, trucking already provides 112,000-plus jobs – about 1 out of 15 in the state. These are high-quality jobs offering great pay and endless career path opportunities. We are proud to partner with the Alabama Community College System to ramp up efforts to attract and connect job-seekers with the training they need to enter the trucking industry. The ACCS Innovation Center is the right program to supercharge the availability of CDL offerings in our state and enhance the existing programs that are already preparing our future workforce."

The Innovation Center has already successfully collaborated with the Alabama Tourism Department to help workers train for and find jobs in the state's \$16 billion hospitality industry, thanks to a \$1 million grant from Gov. Kay Ivey. All graduates of this pilot training project hosted by Coastal Community College were matched with jobs and 100 percent of students were hired upon completion of the training.

In addition to hospitality, the first in-demand industries targeted for Innovation Center rapid training include butchery,

commercial drivers license (CDL), recreation, heavy equipment, plumbing and facilities maintenance.

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGES LAUNCH NEW NURSING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Alabama's community colleges are working with the Alabama Office of Apprenticeship, hospitals and healthcare employers to meet the high demand for nurses. New rules went into effect March 17, 2022, that allow healthcare employers to enter into an apprenticeship agreement with a sponsoring community college. Students who are accepted as nurse apprentices serve as employees of the healthcare facility and work alongside an experienced nurse. Nurse apprentices can continue their employment by completing their apprenticeship and passing the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) that certifies nurses.

The first cohort of the new nurse apprenticeship program will begin in summer 2022 at Coastal Alabama Community College and Gadsden State Community College. The nursing apprenticeships will help meet a high demand for nurses across Alabama. Nurses are listed as one of the top 25 highest demand positions in Alabama, with more than 4,500 annual openings in the state for RNs and LPNs.

Twenty-one of Alabama's 24 community colleges offer a nursing program. The Alabama Legislature approved amendments to the Nurse Practice Act last year to allow nursing apprenticeships in the state.

FLORIDA

DR. HEATHER BIGARD NAMED FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT IN LSSC HISTORY



Dr. Kathleen Bigard

The Lake-Sumter State College (LSSC) District Board of Trustees recently named Dr. Heather Bigard as the College's 7th president and the first female president in LSSC history.

Dr. Bigard, who has been at the College since 2016, currently serves as the Provost and Executive Vice President.

Dr. Bigard brings 25 years of experience from a wide portfolio of higher education leadership to this role. As a first-generation college student who worked on campus to help fund her undergraduate education, Bigard understands first-hand the realities that students face when enrolling in college.

Dr. Bigard has overseen the implementation of several significant projects at Lake-Sumter State College including the expansion of academic programs, development

of a five-year strategic plan, technology and service improvements, and a new resource allocation process. That new budgeting model allowed for the identification of surplus funds to be invested strategically across the institution, including an updated salary and compensation model for faculty and staff, information technology enhancements, facilities and capital improvement, and student support services.

Dr. Bigard received her doctorate in higher education and organizational change and master's degree from Benedictine University and her bachelor's degree from Lambuth University. She resides in the Clermont area with her husband and has two children.

DR. KATHLEEN PLINSKE NAMED 5TH PRESIDENT OF VALENCIA COLLEGE



Dr. Kathleen Plinske

Dr. Kathleen Plinske was recently named as the 5th President for Valencia College, marking the beginning of a new era.

Before becoming Valencia's 5th President, Dr. Plinske served as executive vice president, provost, and campus president of the Osceola, Lake Nona, and Poinciana Campuses at Valencia College in Orlando, Florida.

A graduate of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, Dr. Plinske attended Indiana University as a Herman B Wells Scholar, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and Physics with the highest distinction and honors. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she completed a Master of Arts in Spanish from Roosevelt University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of Florida, and a Doctorate in Educational Technology from Pepperdine University. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering from the University of Florida.

Dr. Plinske replaced Dr. Sandy Shugart, who announced that he would retire in June 2021 after 21 years of service.

GEORGIA

DR. DAVID SCHECTER FINALIST FOR EAST GEORGIA STATE COLLEGE PRESIDENCY

East Georgia State College Board of Regents announced recently that Dr. David Schecter was the sole finalist for president of East Georgia State College.

Dr. Schecter is the provost and senior vice chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of South Carolina (USC) – Upstate.



Dr. David
Schechter

Prior to serving at USC – Upstate, Schechter served as associate vice president for faculty affairs and then vice provost at California State University – Bakersfield. He provided oversight for the university's Office of Research and Grants as well as the Kegley Institute of Ethics.

Before joining the administration at CSU-Bakersfield, Schechter was chair of the Department of Political Science

at California State University – Fresno where he was granted tenure as a full professor and earned the prestigious Provost's Award for Faculty Service. He also previously taught at the University of Nevada — Las Vegas.

A Florida native, Dr. Schechter holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Florida, a master's degree in political science from Florida State University, and a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies and history from Florida State University. He also holds an MBA from Fresno State.

TRACY BRUNDAGE NAMED PRESIDENT OF ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE



Dr. Tracy L.
Brundage

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has named Dr. Tracy L. Brundage president of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, effective August 1, 2022.

Dr. Brundage currently serves as the president of Keystone College, a private institution with more than 50 fields of study located in La Plume, Pa. She has been Keystone's president since 2018.

ABAC President David Bridges announced plans last year to retire after serving as president for 16 years.

A native of Scranton, Pa., Dr. Brundage holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Gettysburg College, as well as both a master of education in training and development and a doctorate in work force education and development from Penn State University.

A recognized expert in the work force development field, Dr. Brundage has 30 years of overall experience in a wide variety of academic and operational leadership, strategic planning and organizational development positions both in higher education and the private sector.

Before being named president, Dr. Brundage served as Keystone's provost and vice president for academic affairs. In that capacity she supervised the Library, Advising & Disability; Career Services; Institutional Research & Planning; Office of Grants & Specialized Programming; the Keystone College Environmental Education Center, and Adult & Online Learning. She managed a budget of \$10 million, had a team of 13 employees, served on the president's cabinet and performed the chief administrative officer duties in the absence of the president.

Dr. Brundage served as vice president of work force development at the Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, Pa. A former faculty member at Penn College and the Harrisburg Area Community College, she served as director of Continuing Education at Penn State — York.

KENTUCKY

WKCTC SELECTED FOR NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION MENTOR-CONNECT PROGRAM

West Kentucky Community and Technical College (WKCTC) has been selected to participate in a national mentoring program funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). The purpose of the program is to increase the involvement of two-year community and technical colleges in the NSF's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grant program.

The WKCTC grant project proposal will focus on adding SMART manufacturing skills and capabilities to the college's Advanced Manufacturing Technology (AMT) program, to address the regional workforce need for more technicians with these qualifications. The NSF created the ATE program to improve and expand educational programs for technicians to work in high-tech, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) fields which drive the national economy.

AUTO SUPPLIER INVESTS \$27 MILLION IN KENTUCKY EXPANSION

A manufacturer of aluminum auto components will expand its facility in Kentucky in order to support production for electric vehicles. NemaK USA will invest \$27 million to install new equipment and make building upgrades at one of its two locations in Glasgow, Kentucky.

NemaK said production of new parts is expected to begin in early 2022 and hit full capacity by the third quarter of 2022. The project is expected to create 170 new jobs.

NemaK provides components for lighter-weight powertrain, e-mobility, and structure applications. Its other U.S. facilities are located in Alabama, Michigan, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

MADISONVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE HEALTHCARE SIMULATION PROGRAM RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

The Society for Simulation in Healthcare and the Council for Accreditation of Healthcare Simulation Programs recently granted full accreditation status in teaching and education to the Interprofessional Simulation Program at Madisonville Community College.

The college's Interprofessional Simulation Program provides a safe learning environment where MCC nursing and allied health students can participate in simulated healthcare experiences in both a hospital setting as well as in a simulated home care environment. Using high-fidelity simulators, faculty manipulate vital signs to simulate life-threatening conditions, forcing students to respond appropriately as a team. Exercises are captured on video and faculty immediately debrief students using structured formative assessment techniques.

The college's simulation hospital is housed on the fifth floor of Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville. The simulation home, a 2,400 square foot single family residence, is located on the college's Health Sciences Campus.

DR. VIC ADAMS DELIVERS PRESENTATION AT NATIONAL CONVENING



Dr Vic Adams

Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKCTC) President, Dr. Vic Adams participated in Achieving the Dream's Annual Convening 2022 On February 17, 2022. Over 3,000 educators from across the country registered for this week-long virtual event to discuss best practices in higher education. Dr. Adams led a breakout session in which he shared the College's efforts towards recovery to work.

Achieving the Dream (ATD) is a nonprofit organization founded in 2004 that leads a non-governmental reform movement for student success in higher education. Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College was chosen as one of seven institutions nationally to participate in the Building Resiliency in Rural Communities for the Future of Work cohort, collaborating with ATD professionals to find new ways to build on current success.

KCTCS UNVEILS GROUNDBREAKING GIS APPLICATION TO FORECAST FUTURE WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION NEEDS IN KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Community & Technical College System (KCTCS) recently unveiled a first-of-its-kind online GIS (mapping) program that visualizes, aggregates and analyzes education, workforce and socioeconomic data in every county across the Commonwealth. This tool is de-

signed to improve lawmakers', community leaders', researchers' and other stakeholders' understanding of the trends emerging at the intersection of education and workforce development.

The GIS tool was designed to provide clear alignment between KCTCS-offered programs, workforce needs and challenges facing Kentucky's industries to better identify and respond to ever-evolving, location specific situations.

The Kentucky Education to Workforce GIS Application combines data integration, data analysis, research and dissemination to project answers to key questions, including but not limited to: (1) how many jobs will be available in 2030; (2) what is the ratio of graduates to jobs in a Kentucky county; (3) what are the state's future economic conditions; and (4) how is population changing/shifting.

KCTCS NAMES NEW ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF LEARNER SUCCESS



Dr. Brian Selmeski

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) has named Brian Selmeski associate vice president for learner success. He began his duties at the system office in Versailles on January 4, 2022. He is responsible for supporting the 16 KCTCS colleges in various academic initiatives and supporting the success of students, faculty and staff.

Dr. Selmeski grew up outside of New York City, the eldest child of a school librarian and autobody repairman. He attended Bucknell University on an Army ROTC scholarship, then served in the U.S., Honduras and Panama. In 1996, he received a graduate fellowship from Syracuse University. After studies at the Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs and three years of fieldwork in Ecuador, Selmeski completed his doctorate in anthropology.

He spent four years as a full-time faculty member in Canada. In 2007, he was recruited to Air University, the intellectual and leadership development center of the U.S. Air and Space Forces. There he served in a variety of administrative roles, including quality enhancement plan director, department chair, assistant vice president and director of strategic initiatives. In addition, he regularly taught and published on military diversity, Latin American politics, and cross-cultural competence.



LOUISIANA

MJ FOSTER PROMISE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ELIGIBLE LOUISIANA ADULTS

Governor John Bel Edwards signed Senate Bill 148, also known as the MJ Foster Promise Program, which will bring education opportunities to eligible Louisiana adults.

The bill is named after former Governor Mike J. Foster who founded the state's community college system. The MJ Foster Promise Program brings \$10.5 million annual state funding to provide workforce training opportunities to Louisiana adults.

The program, sometimes referred to as "Tops for adults," will be available to Louisiana residents 21 years or older on a first-come-first-served basis. Eligible residents must meet a family threshold of 300% of the federal poverty level or be unemployed or underemployed for six months. Eligible students will be awarded up to \$3,200 per year to apply to the tuition and required fees of each award recipient enrolled full-time or an amount proportional to the hours enrolled if the recipient is enrolled part-time. The award will be capped out at \$6,400 per student.

The program will provide financial support for adults to earn credentials that align with high-demand jobs in industry sectors such as construction, healthcare, and information technology. Credentials will be earned through short-term workforce training as well as more traditional academic degree programs that are no longer than 60 credit hours. The program is only available for three years. These opportunities will provide eligible residents with financial support that may not have been available previously.

The MJ Foster Promise Program will be administered by the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) at the Board of Regents. The program will be available starting in July 2022.

MISSISSIPPI

TWO MISSISSIPPI COLLEGES RECOGNIZED AS ASPEN PRIZE SEMIFINALISTS

The Aspen Institute recently announced that Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College and Itawamba Community College were selected as two of the 25 semifinalists for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, adding a milestone in the award selection process. The \$1 million Aspen Prize is the nation's signature recognition of community colleges that are achieving high, improving, and equitable outcomes for students. In years past, only ten finalists have been named on the road to the winner, and this change is designed to highlight the

increased number of colleges across the country doing excellent work.

Awarded every two years, the Aspen Prize honors colleges with outstanding performance in five critical areas: teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer and bachelor's attainment, workforce success, and equitable outcomes for students of color and students from low-income backgrounds. The winner will be announced in the spring of 2023.

The Prize selection process began in October 2021 when the Aspen Institute invited 150 community colleges to apply, based on data showing strong and improving student outcomes in key areas such as retention, completion, transfer, and equity. Applications went to a diverse selection committee of 16 higher education experts who reviewed extensive data and application narratives. Next, the committee will review interviews with leadership teams and narrow this selection of 25 semifinalists to 10 finalists, to be announced in early June 2022.

After 10 finalists are announced, next steps include:

- Fall 2022: Multi-day site visits to each of the 10 finalists, when teams of experts collect even more student outcomes data and gather insights about effective practices
- Winter of 2023: A distinguished jury decides who wins the Aspen Prize, based on quantitative data and qualitative information from each of the 10 finalists
- Late spring 2023: Announcement of the Aspen Prize winner

NORTH CAROLINA

NEW PARTNERSHIP ANNOUNCED

Students graduating from Stanly Community College (SCC) have another great reason to stay close to home while obtaining their bachelor's degree. On March 7, 2022, officials from SCC and Pfeiffer University signed an agreement allowing SCC graduates with a qualifying GPA to receive a tuition discount to attend Pfeiffer University as juniors.

John Bowman, Head of University Transfer at SCC, shared details from the agreement, which states, "Students in traditional programs who have at least a 2.5 GPA will automatically receive a \$20,000 per year Transfer Scholarship, while online students with at least a 2.5 GPA will receive a 20% tuition discount." In addition, Bowman pointed out other highlights of the agreement, which include:

- Students in the online RN to BSN pathway with a 2.5 or higher GPA will be charged only \$189 per credit hour.
- Students entering on the Elementary Education pathways must hold a GPA of 2.75 or higher for admission in order to receive the automatic \$20,000 per year Transfer Scholarship.
- Students who enroll at Pfeiffer University under this articulation agreement will also receive a waiver from



the “Residential/Off-Campus Housing” policy which requires Pfeiffer students to live on campus.

SCC NAMED TO RURAL COLLEGE LEADERS PROGRAM

Stanly Community College is among 10 North Carolina community colleges selected to participate in the Rural College Leaders Program (RCLP) – a capacity-building program designed to close equity gaps and improve student outcomes for community colleges serving rural communities in the state. The program is led by the Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research, in partnership with Achieving the Dream.

The three-year program, supported by Ascendium Education Group, will immerse community college presidents, boards of trustees and senior leadership teams in a professional learning community aimed at removing systematic barriers, improving pathways for learners and increasing completion rates for low-income students and students of color. As part of the program, participating colleges will engage in a series of six professional learning events focused on driving transformational change through collaboration and data-driven, equity-minded decision-making. Additionally, colleges will partner with coaches from Achieving the Dream for coaching tailored to their specific community college contexts and needs.

In addition to SCC, the RCLP cohort includes Carteret Community College, Catawba Valley Community College, College of the Albemarle, Davidson-Davie Community College, Isothermal Community College, McDowell Technical College, Roanoke-Chowan Community College, Vance-Granville Community College and Western Piedmont Community College.

\$635,012 GRANT FROM NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION TO EXPAND BIO BLEND PROGRAM



Johnston Community College has been awarded a \$635,012 grant from the National Science Foundation to expand its Bio Blend program. The first National Science Foundation award received by the college, funded the pilot Bio Blend project, which blended applied engineering and biotechnology curriculum. The pilot was so successful, Johnston Community College and local industry partners saw the need to expand the program.

Bio Blend 2.0 aims to provide the unique curriculum to all Applied Engineering and Bioprocess Technology degree students, instead of a just a small cohort. The project will also address the need to increase diversity and inclusion in the STEM field as it relates to the neurodivergent population with a specific emphasis on individuals with autism.

Local educators will help identify individuals with autism who are interested in the program. Local employers have agreed to provide internships and to promote a neurodivergent work environment by encouraging staff to attend JCC-sponsored training provided by local autism services providers.

Another aspect of the program, is that DeltaV training will be embedded into the curriculum. DeltaV is the distributed control system used by many biotech companies. Johnston Community College already offers certification in DeltaV operations.

Bio Blend 2.0 will allow students to enter the workforce with the necessary training to build our local Multi-skilled STEM Technician Pipeline.

GTCC'S CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM RECEIVES HIGHEST RANKING FROM THE AMERICAN CULINARY FEDERATION EDUCATION FOUNDATION



Guilford Technical Community College's (GTCC) culinary arts program recently received the American Culinary Federation Education Foundation's (ACFEF) highest ranking while its newest culinary program, the Baking and Pastry Arts diploma, was accredited by the organization. The ACFEF deemed the GTCC Culinary Arts program as "Exemplary," the organization's premier ranking. GTCC is one of just four community colleges in North Carolina to receive exemplary status.

To qualify as an ACFEF Exemplary Program, a program must be confirmed in full compliance with ACFEF standards on two consecutive team reports, which covers a period of 14 years. Those programs receive a grant of accreditation and the exemplary status for seven years.

The GTCC Culinary Arts program offers an Associate in Applied Science in culinary arts in addition to diplomas in

baking and pastry arts, mobile catering and food truck management and a culinary arts certificate.

SOUTH CAROLINA

SOUTH CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM RECOGNIZED DURING GOVERNOR HENRY MCMAS-TER'S STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Governor Henry McMaster recognized the South Carolina Technical College System's on its successful use of GEER funding in his 2022 State of the State Address citing the tremendous numbers of nursing assistants, commercial truck drivers, EMTs and welders retrained and employed through the efforts. In addition, he recognized four students of the technical colleges with their personal stories of successfully overcoming obstacles and challenges to find new and better opportunities through short-term, high-demand training.

SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE FUTURE



Governor Henry McMaster invested \$17 million into South Carolina's workforce through the creation of the Workforce Scholarships for the Future pilot program.

The program, funded through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund is designed to address South Carolina's labor shortage by providing scholarships to cover the cost of tuition and required fees at any

of the state's 16 technical colleges. Any adult or recent high school graduation in South Carolina is eligible. Scholarship funds may only be used for associate degrees or industry credentials in high-demand careers like manufacturing, health care, computer science and information technology, transportation, distribution and logistics or construction.

This year, Governor McMaster has awarded \$12 million in GEER funds to the SC Technical College System to provide short-term training programs in critical workforce areas such as transportation, manufacturing, and healthcare. In the first 12 months 5,000 South Carolinians were retrained in high-demand careers.

PARTNERING WITH THE SOUTH CAROLINA EMS ASSOCIATION TO ADDRESS EMT SHORTAGE

A recent study by the South Carolina EMS Association found that 13 percent of EMT and 13 percent of paramedic positions statewide went unfilled in the last quarter of 2018. The SC Technical College System began work-

ing with the state's EMS Association to address these EMT shortages across all 46 counties in our state.

Through the GEER Funding and the SC Workforce Scholarships for the Future, all EMS programs at any of our 16 technical colleges are at no-cost tuition. In addition, a workgroup was formed comprised of both credit and non-credit representatives to address best practices and concerns regarding EMT delivery across the 16 technical colleges. A pilot program was also launched in coordination with the SC EMS Association to deliver EMT Basic training.

TENNESSEE

WALTERS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE & TCAT ELIZABETHTON TAKE HOME COLLEGE OF THE YEAR HONORS AT FOURTH ANNUAL SOAR AWARDS

The College System of Tennessee honored its outstanding students, faculty, staff and supporters of the year at the 4th annual Statewide Outstanding Achievement Awards (SOAR) celebration recently in Nashville, Tennessee.

In addition to individual SOAR award winners, **Walters State Community College** won the **Community College of the Year** cup and the **Tennessee College of Applied Technology Elizabethton** took home the **Technical College of the Year** honors.

The College System, governed by the Tennessee Board of Regents, is composed of the state's public community and technical colleges. Launched in 2019, SOAR celebrates the colleges' outstanding students, faculty, staff, colleges, advisors, benefactors, volunteers and partnerships.

The 2022 individual award winners announced at the SOAR Awards Dinner are:

- **Community College Student of the Year: Zennia Nesmith**, a psychology major pursuing an Associate of Science degree at Chattanooga State Community College
- **College of Applied Technology Student of the Year: Clifton Alex Floyd**, an information technology student at TCAT Shelbyville
- **Community College Faculty Member of the Year: Dr. Elvira Eivazova**, associate professor of biology at Columbia State Community College
- **College of Applied Technology Faculty Member of the Year: James Cochrane**, information technology and infrastructure management instructor at TCAT Shelbyville
- **Community College Staff Member of the Year: Rob Keel**, human resources analyst at Motlow State Community College
- **College of Applied Technology Staff Member of the Year: Karen Larsen**, curriculum and compliance coordinator at TCAT Jackson

Advisor of the Year: Pedro Martinez, an advisor/counselor for 11 years at Volunteer State Community College.

TEXAS

DR. JOE MAY BECOMES CHANCELLOR EMERITUS



Dr. Joe May

Chancellor Joe May became Chancellor Emeritus at Dallas College on March 1, 2022. He is succeeded by Dr. Justin Lonan as the new Chancellor at Dallas College.

Dr. May became the seventh chancellor of the former Dallas County Community College District in February 2014. Under his leadership, the institution tackled many of the community's most challenging issues, including regional workforce needs, providing opportunity equality, the negative impacts of income disparity and growth of minority-owned businesses. Realizing that Dallas College couldn't address these issues alone, May created the Career Connected Learner Network, a partnership of more than 200 area organizations including Independent School Districts (ISDs), universities, employers and community organizations, all with a common goal, to provide real opportunities to earn a living wage for Dallas County residents.

Prior to his role at Dallas College, Dr. May served as president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, president for the Colorado Community College System and Pueblo Community College president before accepting the system's CEO position.

A native of East Texas, Dr. May earned his Doctorate in Education from Texas A&M-Commerce. He also holds a Master of Education and a Bachelor of Science degree from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas.

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DR. PAM BOEHM ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



Dr. Pam Boehm

Dr. Pam Boehm is retiring as Hill College's 10th president after over 40 years of service, effective May 31, 2022.

A native Texan, Dr. Boehm attended Hill College for a secretarial certificate. After working three years in the legal department for the corporate attorneys at Mary

Kay Cosmetics in Irving, she returned to Hill County, enrolled at McLennan Community College and earned an Associate of Arts degree.

In July 1978, she was hired at Hill College as an administrative assistant to the Dean of Instruction. Dr. Boehm went on to earn a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree in business management and a Masters of Education degree in guidance and counseling degree from Tarleton State University. In 1993, she obtained a professional counselor's license from the State of Texas, as well as a professional counselor's supervisor's license. She completed her Doctorate of Education degree in supervision, curriculum and instruction in higher education from Texas A&M University at Commerce in 2006.

Dr. Boehm has served at Hill College in the capacity of vocational counselor, director of counseling and testing, dean of students, vice president of student services, coordinator of behavioral science department, psychology instructor, crisis counselor, the SACSCOC accreditation liaison and most currently serves as the tenth president of Hill College.

PRESIDENT MILLICENT M. VALEK ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



Dr. Millicent M. Valek

Dr. Millicent M. Valek, president of Brazosport College (BC), retired in January 2022. She became the fourth president of BC in 1996 and is the college's longest serving president, now in her 25th year.

Prior to joining BC, Dr. Valek served as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Arizona Western College and as Director of Faculty Development at Austin Community College. She is a proud

Longhorn, having earned her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.

VIRGINIA

RUSSELL A. KAVALHUNA, J.D. NAMED CHANCELLOR FOR VIRGINIA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES

The State Board for Community Colleges has named Russell A. Kavalhuna, J.D. to serve as the next chancellor of Virginia's Community Colleges. Dr. Kavalhuna, a former federal prosecutor, and aviation workforce expert, is currently president of Henry Ford College (HFC) in Dearborn, Michigan.

Mr. Kavalhuna has been the president of HFC for more than three years. He is the son of an immigrant who attended a Michigan community college, and believes that



*Russell A.
Kavalhuna, J.D.*

community college is the gateway to the American Dream.

Prior to becoming president at HFC, Mr. Kavalhuna served as Executive Director of Flight Operations at the Western Michigan University College of Aviation. Before beginning his education career, Mr. Kavalhuna worked as a federal prosecutor and a commercial airline captain.

Last year, Mr. Kavalhuna was selected as part of the inaugural cohort of the Aspen New Presidents Fellowship for Community College Excellence.

DR. JEAN RUNYON NAMED PRESIDENT OF PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE



*Dr. Jean
Runyon*

Dr. Jean Runyon was recently named as the next president of Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC). Runyon's hiring concludes a national search that attracted nearly 100 candidates. Dr. Runyon will officially begin in her new role in July 2022.

Currently, Runyon is the campus vice president of Front Range Community College in Colorado, where

she is the top executive of the Larimer campus, a role she has had since 2015. From 2007 to 2015, she worked at Anne Arundel Community College in Maryland, holding successive leadership roles in the college's Learning Advancement and the Virtual Campus. Prior to this in 2000, she became the director of the Innovative Teaching Center at the College of Southern Maryland where she was also a professor.

She earned her bachelor's degree from Bloomsburg University, her master's degree from George Washington University, and her doctorate from Northcentral University. Runyon will succeed Dr. Frank Friedman, who is retiring this year after having served as the college's president since 1999. Runyon will be the sixth president in PVCC's history.

DR. JERRY WALLACE NAMED PRESIDENT OF DANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia's Community Colleges, announced Dr. Jerry Wallace as the next presi-



*Dr. Jerry
Wallace*

dent of Danville Community College (DCC). Following a national search, Wallace was selected as the top candidate from a pool of sixty-three applicants.

Currently, Wallace is the campus president of the Hastings Campus of Nebraska Central Community College, where he has worked since 2019. Prior

to that, he was dean of Workforce, Technical and Community Education from 2017 to 2019 at New River Community and Technical College in Beckley, West Virginia.

Dr. Wallace earned a bachelor's degree from Grand Valley State University; a master's degree from Western Michigan University; an MBA from Maryville University; and doctorate from St. Thomas University.

Dr. Wallace will succeed Dr. Muriel Mickles who served as DCC 's interim president for the past several months.



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