

2023 SACAD ANNUAL LUNCHEON HELD IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

The 2023 SACAD Annual Membership Luncheon was held in conjunction with the SACSCOC Annual Meeting and was well received by more than 100 attendees. The event was held on Sunday, December 3, 2023 in Orlando Florida. The session was entitled: "Higher Education Inflection Point: Leveraging AI for Efficiency and Innovation." The presentation was described as follows: In a rapidly changing landscape, institutions of higher education are under constant and immense pressure. This session offered a holistic view of the current challenges, cultural barriers to innovation, and the urgent need for higher education transformation. It also explored how Artificial Intelligence (AI) can play a pivotal role in enhancing efficiency and effectiveness across institutions.

Speakers for the luncheon included Dr. Hernan Londoño and Dr. Christopher Howes.



Dr. Hernan Londoño

Dr. Hernán Londoño is a distinguished figure in the realm of technology and education, currently holding the prestigious role of Chief Technology and Innovation Strategist for Education at Dell Technologies.

Dr. Londoño earned his PhD in Computer Science from Nova Southeastern University in 2013. He conducted research in the area of Software

Engineering, specifically on the Evolvability of Aspect Oriented Software.

Dr. Chris Howes serves as the Vice President and Chief Information Officer of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. Dr. Howes joined KCTCS in 2021 and provides leadership, service, and strategic technology direction for the system. An



Dr. Christopher Howes

experienced technology leader, his career includes working with technology startups, healthcare organizations, and serving in technology leadership roles at the University of Kentucky. Most recently, he served as Chief Information Officer at Morehead State University.

PowerPoint slides from their presentation can be accessed through the sacad.org website under "Annual Luncheon."

The SACAD Board will be planning the 2024 Annual Membership Luncheon which will be held in Austin, Texas on December 8, 2024. The cost for the annual luncheon is \$40 and can be paid for by check or credit card through PayPal on the sacad.org website. Detailed information about the 2024 luncheon will be communicated to all SACAD members in late summer. Please mark your calendars for the 2024 SACAD Annual Membership Luncheon in Austin, Texas!

CURRENT MEMBERS RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

The SACAD Board invites current members to renew their 2024-2025 membership with SACAD. Institutional membership dues are \$150.00. Dues notices will be mailed to all potential members by May 20, 2024. 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.

SACAD BOARD AND OFFICERS SELECTED FOR 2024

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Dr. Cynthia S. Kelley



Dr. James David Campbell



Dr. John Enamait



Dr. George D. Edwards

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Dr. Cynthia S. Kelley, President, Madisonville Community College, KY
Dr. Vincent Solis, President, Brazosport College, TX
Dr. Tonjua Williams, President, St. Petersburg College, FL
Louisiana Board member to be determined, LA



Ms. DeAnnia Clements



Dr. Brent Gregory



Dr. Patricia A. Lee



Dr. Vincent Solis



Dr. Dean Sprinkle



Dr. Michael Torrence



Dr. Tonjua Williams

ALABAMA

Dr. Aaron Milner Named President of Coastal Alabama Community College



Dr. Aaron Milner

The Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees recently approved the appointment of Dr. Aaron Milner as President of Coastal Alabama Community College (CACC). Dr. Milner previously served as Superintendent of Saraland City Schools.

Dr. Milner began his career in education as a middle school teacher in Eufaula City Schools, and within six years, he started his tenure in leadership as an assistant principal at Enterprise High School. He was Superintendent of Enterprise City Schools from 2010 to 2013, when he began his tenure as Superintendent of Saraland City Schools. In addition to his experience in K-12, he has served as an adjunct professor for both master's and doctoral courses in educational leadership at the University of South Alabama and for various courses in educational leadership at Troy University.

Nominated as District 1 Superintendent of the Year in both 2016 and 2018 and recently named President Elect of the School Superintendents of Alabama, Dr. Milner's service to education across Alabama spans across executive committees for both K-12 administrators and government entities.

Milner is an alum of the University of Alabama, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Education. He earned a Master of Science from Troy State University and a Doctor of Education from Auburn University. His dissertation focused on the level of knowledge Alabama's high school principals had in regard to the disciplinary mandates of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Enrollment increases at Alabama's community and technical colleges surpassing national average

Spring registrations for classes throughout the Alabama Community College System are higher than they were this time last year, building on the momentum from increased fall semester enrollment and marking the third consecutive year for enrollment increases statewide.

Fall semester enrollment in for-credit academic and technical programs rose more than 6 percent from 78,524 students in 2022 to 83,509 in 2023. This year's fall enrollment is the highest the system experienced since Fall 2017, when for-credit enrollment was 81,139.

For-credit college enrollment defines enrollment in courses

that are applied toward earning an associate degree or bachelor's degree. About 40 percent of current ACCS students are earning credit to transfer to a four-year institution, while the largest number of career technical students are pursuing credentials in registered nursing, computer and information sciences, business administration and management, or manufacturing engineering technology. Dual enrollment, which allows high school students to earn college credit at little to no cost, has increased nearly 17 percent from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023. Dual enrollment has increased more than 159 percent since the 2014-15 school year.

The current enrollment growth represents the third consecutive year of for-credit enrollment increases across the Alabama Community College System, bucking national trends for community colleges. According to the National Student Clearinghouse, community colleges nationally grew by about 4 percent in the fall term.

Registrations in noncredit workforce-connected programs offered through the Alabama Community College System are also on the rise. More than 27,700 residents are currently participating in training programs that yield industry-recognized credentials within weeks, contributing to Alabama's workforce development. Programs such as Adult Education's Alabama Career Essentials (ACE), Mobilizing Alabama's Pathways (MAPS), and the Innovation Center's Skills for Success rapid training classes are playing a pivotal role in upskilling the workforce.

Spring registration at Alabama's community and technical colleges is already showing a remarkable increase of more than 17 percent compared to the same period last year.

FLORIDA

Dr. Tashika Griffith Selected for the Aspen Institute's Rising Fellowship



Dr. Tashika Griffith

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program (Aspen) recently announced that Dr. Tashika Griffith, Provost of the Clearwater Campus at St. Petersburg College (SPC), is one of 40 leaders selected for the 2024-25 Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship. Applying lessons from over a dozen years of researching exceptional community colleges, the Aspen fellowship aims to select and prepare the next generation of presidents who can lead institutions to higher and more equitable levels of student success.

Many sitting community college presidents plan to retire in the next decade, creating an opportunity for college trustees and system heads to select leaders with the skills and

knowledge to achieve better student outcomes. Aspen Presidential Fellows represent the next generation of college leadership: this incoming class of Aspen Rising Presidents Fellows is 58% women, and 55% are people of color. The institutions they represent are also diverse, located in 20 states, from small rural colleges to large urban campuses.

The fellows, selected through a competitive process, will work closely with highly accomplished community college presidents and thought leaders over 10 months to learn from field-leading research, examine demographic and labor market conditions in their communities, assess student outcomes at their colleges, and advance a clear vision for excellent and equitable outcomes for students while in college and after they graduate.

Rising Presidents Fellows aspire to enter a college presidency within five years of completing the fellowship. As fellows, they join a network of over 350 forward-thinking peers, 175 of whom are sitting college presidents, who are applying concrete, grounded, and innovative strategies to meet student success challenges in their colleges.

GEORGIA

Dr. Ryan Foley Named President of Savannah Technical College



Dr. Ryan Foley

The Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) recently announced the appointment of Dr. Ryan Foley as the new President of Savannah Technical College. The decision by TCSG Commissioner Greg Dozier to name Dr. Foley as President was announced at the April 2024 State Board Meeting of the Technical College System of Georgia in Albany.

Dr. Foley's journey in technical education spans more than two decades, with a remarkable tenure at Ogeechee Technical College. Starting as a Human Resource Coordinator in 2003, Dr. Foley has demonstrated his dedication and passion for empowering students. He has held various leadership roles at Ogeechee Tech, including Director for Enrollment Services, Vice President for Student Affairs, and most recently, Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs.

Dr. Foley holds a bachelor's degree in management and a Master of Business Administration degree from Georgia Southern University. He also earned his Doctor of Education Degree in Higher Education Management from the University of Georgia.

Dr. Ryan Foley assumed his role as President of Savannah Technical College on April 5, 2024.

Donald J. Green Named President of Gordon State College



Dr. Donald J. Green

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) recently named Dr. Donald J. Green president of Gordon State College, effective Nov. 15, 2023. Dr. Green currently serves as Gordon State's interim president.

Before replacing Dr. Kirk Nooks at Gordon State in May, Dr. Green was president of Point Park University in Pittsburgh, Pa. He has 33 years of leadership experience in education, seven of them with USG. In September 2014, the board named Dr. Green the fourth president of Georgia Highlands College, where he served until taking the helm at Point Park in 2021.

Dr. Green holds a bachelor's degree in public administration from Michigan State University, a master's in labor and human resource management from Ohio State University, and a Doctor of Educational Leadership degree from Western Michigan University.

KENTUCKY

KCTCS Names Interim Presidents for Two Colleges

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System has named interim presidents to lead two of its 16 colleges. Todd Brand will serve as interim president of Big Sandy Community and Technical College, and Patsy Jackson will serve as interim president of Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College. Combined, the selections bring more than 50 years of experience in higher education.

Dr. Todd Brand



Dr. Todd Brand

Dr. Brand has more than 20 years of experience with community colleges and currently serves as chief academic officer at Ashland Community and Technical College where he maintains the day-to-day operations of all academic programs across the college's three campuses.

Previously, Dr. Brand served in several capacities at Meridian Community College in Mississippi, including arts and letters series director, division chair of fine arts and communication, and lead

speech faculty of the Fine Arts/Communication Division. He earlier served as a high school teacher, and he has on-air experience in broadcast journalism.

Dr. Brand earned his doctorate from Mississippi State University in Community College Leadership and bachelor's and master's degrees in communications, both from Mississippi College.

Dr. Patsy Jackson



Dr. Patsy Jackson

Dr. Jackson brings 30 years of diverse experience in higher education to this role and a demonstrated history of strong leadership and fiscal and budgetary compliance proficiency. Jackson, a member of the KCTCS Board of Regents, will step down as regent to assume the interim position.

She has previously served in several roles at Big Sandy Community and Technical College including

dean of healthcare, program administrator for the associate degree in nursing, program coordinator of health science technology, associate dean of academic affairs, and program administrator for licensed practical nursing. Dr. Jackson has held faculty positions in nursing at Indiana Wesleyan University, University of Pikeville and Morehead State University. She was also a presidential fellow for the Tennessee Valley Corridor Consortium Council of Presidents.

Dr. Jackson earned a doctorate in nursing practice from the University of Kentucky, a doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies from Eastern Kentucky University, a master's degree in nursing from the University of Kentucky, a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Kentucky and several post-master's certifications in her field. She is also a community college graduate, earning her associate degree in applied science nursing from Prestonsburg Community College, the forerunner of Big Sandy Community and Technical College.

Both interim presidents will assume their roles on May 6, 2024

KCTCS Names Leaders for Finance, Communications, and HR

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) recently announced new leaders. The appointees include Todd J. Kilburn, chief financial officer. Blair Hess, vice president of communications and marketing; and Bridget Canter, vice president of human resources.

Todd J. Kilburn

Mr. Kilburn presently serves as the chief financial officer and business administrator for Fourth Baptist Church and



Todd Kilburn

Christian School and as vice president for institutional finance for Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Plymouth, Minnesota.

From 2019-2022, Kilburn served as the chief financial officer for the Idaho State Board of Education, which oversees K-12, public community colleges, four-year colleges and universities, and career and technical education.

Other higher education experience includes serving as vice president for finance and administration at Lewis-Clark State College and at Naropa University as vice president for business affairs and chief financial officer.

Mr. Kilburn earned a bachelor's from Faith Baptist Bible College, a Master of Business Administration from Plymouth State University and is pursuing a doctorate at Idaho State University.

Mr. Kilburn will begin his duties July 1, 2024.

Blair Hess



Blair Hess

Ms. Hess comes to KCTCS after serving as the Council of State Governments' director of communications, national, since 2019. Earlier, she was employed as the media and communications manager for Kentucky State University's land grant program and college of agriculture. She began her duties April 1, 2024.

She earned a bachelor's in agriculture communications from the University of Kentucky and has completed coursework toward a master's degree in public administration at Kentucky State University.

Bridget Canter



Bridget Canter

Ms. Canter began serving as acting vice president of human resources at KCTCS in January, before being named as vice president. She served at West Kentucky Community and Technical College in similar roles since 2006, both as director of human resources and later as vice president of business affairs and human resources. She begins her duties May 16, 2024.

Ms. Canter earned a bachelor's in human resources from Miami University and a Master of Business Administration from Geor-

gia Southern University.

LOUISIANA

Celebrating Success: Dr. Jayda Spillers' First Year as NLTCC Chancellor



Dr. Jayda Spiller

Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTCC) looks back on a successful year led by Dr. Jayda Spillers, who celebrated her first anniversary as chancellor at the start of the year. Throughout 2023, NLTCC has experienced significant growth and success.

One standout achievement this year was the successful launch of the New Lineman Certification Program in collaboration with AEP SWEPCO. This program has gained significant traction,

offering students valuable skills and career opportunities. To support eligible students participating in the program, the Gulf Research Program has awarded NLTCC the Workforce Development for the Energy Transition grant.

In November of 2023, NLTCC also received a grant from the Lumina Foundation's "Tell Your Story" project, which will be used for the design and creation of a school mascot and rural campus signage, which will foster a stronger sense of community and identity.

NLTCC's commitment to community partnerships under Dr. Spillers' leadership is evident in new collaborations between the Automotive Technology program and the Shreveport Fire and Police departments. The partnership aims to increase the pool of qualified automotive technicians within the city departments. Students in the last six months of their training will have the opportunity to work in these city automotive shops that serve the Fire and Police Departments.

In addition to these accomplishments, NLTCC underwent various physical transformations in 2023, with renovations still ongoing at the Shreveport campus. The LPN program has expanded to now include an Associate Degree in Practical Nursing, and the Mansfield campus is one step closer to expanding its nursing wing.

In Fall 2023, NLTCC introduced the Industrial Maintenance Technology Program at both the Mansfield and Shreveport Campuses. This addition of new programs aligns with the college's commitment to providing diverse educational opportunities that meet industry needs.

Another significant milestone for NLTCC was the successful visit from the Council on Occupational Education

(COE), paving the way for reaccreditation. NLTCC also achieved reaccreditation with ATMAE for the Industrial Instrumentation & Electrical Technology programs. ATMAE accreditation plays an important role in ensuring the high quality and industry relevance of NLTCC's programs, which provide the college with recognized credentials that enhance students' career prospects.

To further support its journey, NLTCC has now established a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation to support students' workforce endeavors and other college initiatives.

MISSISSIPPI

Dr. Suzi Brown Named Aspen Fellow



Dr. Suzi Brown

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program (Aspen) proudly announces the selection of Dr. Suzi Brown, Vice President of Institutional Advancement at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC), as one of the 40 distinguished leaders chosen for the 2024-25 Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship.

Starting her career at MGCCC in 2002 as a Language Arts instructor, Dr. Brown has ascended through various leadership positions, including Language Arts Chairperson, Dean of Business Services, and Dean of Teaching and Learning, before assuming her current role as Vice President of Institutional Advancement in 2019. As an alumna of MGCCC, Dr. Brown holds a Bachelor of Arts in Paralegal Studies, a Master of Arts in English, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration.

The Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship seeks to prepare the next generation of college presidents to lead institutions towards higher levels of student success and equity. Fellows will engage in a ten-month program, collaborating with accomplished community college presidents and thought leaders, to develop innovative strategies for advancing student outcomes and fostering excellence and equity in higher education.

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Empowering Women in STEM

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Pearl River Community College STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Club for the Poplarville Campus hosted a Women in STEM Symposium on Thursday, March 28. Dr. Verba Moore, a retired Colonel from the United States Air Force, was the special guest speaker tackling the focus of Innovate, Demonstrate, Elevate & Advance Women in STEM.



Moore shared her unique experience, from the decision to pursue a medical degree to her shift into implementing electronic health records for NASA. In her class at Tulane University with 157 graduates, she was one of four African Americans and one of 48 women. Her choice to become a flight surgeon in the United States Air Force catapulted her into a career where she was often a trailblazer.

EMCC Awarded U.S. Department of Labor Grant to Boost Training in Select Advanced Manufacturing Programs of Study

The U.S. Department of Labor has awarded East Mississippi Community College (EMCC) a \$1.56 million grant that will bolster efforts at The Communiversity to meet employer demands for skilled workers in industrial and engineering technology sectors while increasing enrollment and retention of female and minority students in advanced manufacturing programs of study.

EMCC is among 16 colleges in 14 states collectively awarded \$55 million in the latest round of Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants through the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. Grantees will work with industry stakeholders to identify workforce needs in selected industries within the colleges' labor markets. EMCC was the only college in Mississippi awarded one of the grants.

EMCC applied for the grant to meet an anticipated uptick in demand for workers with advanced technical skills at the \$2.5 billion Aluminum Dynamics plant under construction in Lowndes County. Slated to open in the summer of 2025, plans are to eventually hire up to 750 employees for the mill that that is a joint venture with Steel Dynamics, Inc., a metal manufacturing company with eight locations, including one in Lowndes County.

Aluminum Dynamics and Steel Dynamics are two of the industry partners in the grant program, as are PACCAR Engine Company and Yokohama Tire Company. The project title is the EMCC Advanced Manufacturing Sector Initiative, or EAMS.

The grant funds will be used to enhance enrollment efforts and provide support to EMCC's Mechatronics Technology, Industrial Maintenance and Systems Based Automations programs at The Communiversity, where training in advanced manufacturing fields of study takes place.

EMCC serves a six-county region that includes the counties of Oktibbeha, Clay, Lowndes, Lauderdale, Noxubee and Kemper. Student demographic data reveals an equity gap in the enrollment, retention and eventual graduation and employment of black/African American and female students in the college's industrial and engineering technology career pathways programs.

This is the fourth round of Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grants, which has to date provided funds

to 170 colleges in multiple sectors, including advanced manufacturing, health care, IT and infrastructure projects such as construction, transportation, broadband expansion and renewable energy. In addition to the \$55 million awarded in the latest grant disbursement, a selected number of the grant recipients will participate in an evaluation study and share an additional \$10 million in funding. That group of recipients will be announced in the fall.

ECCC Partners with Mississippi Power to Enhance Campus

East Central Community College President Dr. Brent Gregory recently accepted a Deeply Rooted, Future Focused capital campaign contribution from Chris Phillips, the District General Manager for Mississippi Power, in a partnership to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics at the community college level.

With both organizations, ECCC and Mississippi Power, having served the residents of Mississippi for almost 100 years, the college looks forward to building upon the foundation of past leaders to benefit future generations with the help of donations and partnerships such as this.

Mississippi Power understands the importance of giving back to the communities and customers that they serve. Dating from the company's inception in 1925, providing financial support has been of key importance to make the communities the company serves better places to live and work. The company's giving strategy guides its foundation to the focus areas customers have told us are important including education, community relations, economic development and environmental efforts.

NORTH CAROLINA

Dr. Tabitha Miller Named President of Martin Community College



Dr. Tabitha Miller

Dr. Miller was appointed president of Martin Community College (MCC) on Friday, March 15, 2024 by the State Board of Community Colleges.

Dr. Miller has an extensive background in education including experience in secondary education and higher education within the North Carolina Community College System. Most notably, Dr. Miller has served as the Vice President/Chief

Academic Officer at MCC since July 2019.

Dr. Miller served on the MCC President's Executive Cabinet and has made significant contributions to the college's growth, success, and commitment to serve students. Her



exceptional leadership and knowledge were instrumental in MCC being named the #1 community college in North Carolina for College Transfer Success with a 95.7% success rate on the 2023 Performance Measures for Student Success Report.

Dr. Miller holds a PhD in English and a Master of Arts in English from East Carolina University and a Bachelor of Science in Education from The Ohio State University.

Dr. Miller began her role as MCC's 10th president on May 1, 2024.

Dr. Ken Ingle Named President of ACC



Dr. Ken Ingle

The Alamance Community College Board of Trustees has selected Dr. Ken Ingle as the next president of Alamance Community College (ACC).

Dr. Ken Ingle brings with him an extensive background in higher education leadership and a deep commitment to advancing educational excellence. Most recently, Dr. Ingle served as the Chief Officer of Information Services at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

where he played a pivotal role in spearheading strategic planning, enhancing institutional effectiveness, and leveraging information technology to advance educational objectives. Notably, Dr. Ingle served on the president's executive cabinet, contributing significantly to the college's growth and success.

Under Dr. Ingle's leadership, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College received accolades as a top ten digital community college for four consecutive years, a testament to his relentless pursuit of innovation in education. His strategic vision and collaborative approach positioned the college at the forefront of technological advancements and academic excellence.

Dr. Ingle was the recipient of the 2022 cohort of the Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship and the Belk Center Fellowship for the 2021 Achieving the Dream conference.

Dr. Ingle earned his bachelor's degree at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and his master's degree at Bellevue University. He earned his Doctorate in Community College Leadership from North Carolina State University, where he also served as a North Carolina State University Graduate Ambassador. His diverse educational background and professional experience in both the public and private sectors reflect his dedication to lifelong learning and his multifaceted approach to leadership in the ever-evolving landscape of higher education.

Dr. Michael Rodgers Named President of WCC



Dr. Michael Rodgers

The Wilkes Community College (WCC) Board of Trustees has appointed Dr. Michael Rodgers as the next president of WCC, effective June 3, 2024.

Dr. Rodgers has over 23 years of experience in higher education, having taught for ten years and served as the automotive program coordinator for Piedmont Technical College before joining Owensboro Community and Technical College (OCTC). He has been responsible for technical education programs in STEM-related areas such as Automotive, Diesel, Construction, HVAC, Veterinary Technology, Healthcare Facilities Leadership, Agriculture, Tech X Fabrication, and Welding.

Dr. Rodgers holds a Doctor of Education in Higher Education Leadership from Maryville University, a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Western Kentucky University, a bachelor's in chemistry from the University of South Carolina-Aiken, and an Associate Degree of Applied Science in Automotive Technology from Piedmont Technical College in Greenwood, South Carolina.

Ms. Jenny Varner Named President of (DCC)



Ms. Jenny Varner

Ms. Jenny Varner was named the fifth president of Davidson-Davie Community College (DCC) on November 17, 2023. She succeeds Dr. Darrin L. Hartness, who passed away in July 2023.

Ms. Varner has been at the college since 2008 and was previously vice president for external affairs and executive director of the college's foundation. In these roles, she led the Davidson-Davie Foundation through its years of greatest growth, celebrated the college's history and milestones including the 50th Anniversary year in 2013, and oversaw the renaming of the college from Davidson County Community College to Davidson-Davie in 2021.

Ms. Varner graduated from Duke University with bachelor's and master's degrees in public policy.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Dr. Gregory D. Little Named President of Midlands Technical College

The Midlands Technical College Commission recently named Dr. Gregory D. Little as the college's seventh presi-



Dr. Gregory D. Little

dent. With nearly three decades of experience in education across the Carolinas, Little brings a wealth of expertise to the role. Dr. Little will start July 1, 2024.

Before joining MTC, Dr. Little was the acting Executive Director/President at the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. He has also held positions such as Vice President for Strategic Partnerships and Innovation for the

South Carolina Technical College System and superintendent for Mount Airy City Schools in North Carolina and Lexington County School District One in South Carolina.

Dr. Little earned his undergraduate degree in English from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and he holds both a Master's Degree and a Doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Vicky Wood Named President of Trident Technical College



Dr. Vicky Wood

The Trident Technical College Area Commission has named Dr. Vicky Wood to lead the college as its sixth president. Dr. Wood will start July 1, 2024.

Before coming to Trident, Wood served as president of Washington State College of Ohio in Marietta since 2017 and made significant strides in transforming WSCO.

Dr. Wood succeeds Dr. Mary Thornley whose retirement was announced in September 2023. Wood has previously held positions such as provost and vice president of academic affairs and student services at Marion Technical College.

She has a doctorate in higher education leadership from The University of Toledo, a master's degree in education from Bowling Green State University, a bachelor's degree in business education from Ashland University, and an associate degree in business from Marion Technical College.

TENNESSEE

Dr. Wendi W. Tostenson Named President of Volunteer State Community College

The Tennessee Board of Regents recently appointed Dr.



Dr. Wendi Tostenson

Wendi W. Tostenson as the next president of Volunteer State Community College (VSCC), effective July 1, 2024.

Dr. Tostenson currently serves as vice chancellor of education and student services at Louisiana Delta Community College. She has held that role since 2021, after joining the college in 2019 as its executive director of workforce/economic development. Previously, from 2011 to 2019, she served in administrative roles at Southern Regional Technical College in Georgia – lastly as executive director of student affairs/registrar.

Dr. Tostenson earned a Doctor of Public Administration from Valdosta State University, a Master of Business Administration from the University of West Georgia, and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Georgia.

Dr. Andrew W. White Named President of Cleveland State Community College



Dr. Andrew White

Dr. Andrew White was recently named President of Cleveland State Community College (CSCC). Before this appointment he served as senior director of the Fast Forward program at Belmont University and was previously dean of the business and technology division at Volunteer State Community College.

He earned a doctor of education degree in education leadership at the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California, a master of science in public administration from Central Michigan University, and a bachelor of arts in political science from the University of Tennessee.

Dr. White assumed his duties at Cleveland State April 1, 2024, succeeding former President Ty Stone and interim President Ray Brooks.

TEXAS

Dr. Stephen Benson Named New President of Paris Junior College

Paris Junior College has named Dr. Stephen Benson as its new president, the ninth since it began in 1924. He will start his new position in June, 2024.

Dr. Benson has a twenty-seven-year career as an adminis-



Dr. Stephen Benson

trator at various higher education institutions. He came to McLennan Community College in April 2017 after serving three years as the Vice President for Business Services at Florida Gateway College in Lake City, Florida.

Before the position in Florida, Dr. Benson served as Vice President for Finance and Administration at New River Community and Technical College in Beckley, West Virginia, and as Director of Administrative Services at West Virginia Wesleyan College.

Dr. Benson received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1997, a Master of Science in Strategic Leadership from Mountain State University in 2010, and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Keiser University in 2016.

Francisco Solis, J.D. Named Interim President



Francisco Solis, J.D.

Alamo Colleges Chancellor Dr. Mike Flores has appointed Francisco Solis, J.D., as Interim President following the announcement that Dr. Naydeen González-De Jesús will begin a new role at the Alamo Colleges District office.

Mr. Solis, who retired from SAC in May 2023, previously served as Interim President from June 2022 to January 2023 when former SAC President Dr. Robert Vela was named president of Texas A&M Kingsville.

Mr. Solis is a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin School of Law, St. Edward's University, San Antonio College, and Central Catholic High School.

Texas Launches Second Leadership Academy for Student Success

Recently, the Texas Success Center announced the second cohort of the Texas Leadership Academy for Student Success. This leadership development program is designed to provide mid-level community college faculty and staff with the critical skills and knowledge to improve student outcomes.

Nationally, community colleges often struggle to attract and retain the talented leaders they need to implement evidence-based reforms that help more students succeed. This project, which is made possible by generous funding from the Ascendium Education Group, the ECMC Foundation, and the Kresge Foundation, aims

to address this challenge by strengthening the pipeline of leaders within colleges.

The second cohort of the Texas Leadership Academy for Student Success is comprised of 23 faculty and staff from 12 Texas community colleges.

The National Center for Inquiry & Improvement is leading this project with colleagues at the Aspen College Excellence Program.

VIRGINIA

Dr. Bill Fiege Named President at Brightpoint Community College



Dr. Bill Fiege

Dr. Bill Fiege became the eighth president of Brightpoint Community College (BCC) in January 2024.

Before joining Brightpoint, Dr. Fiege held positions at Germanna Community College and Longwood University, serving in a variety of roles including division dean, speech communication faculty member, assistant director of alumni relations, and assistant director of athletics.

Dr. Fiege completed his bachelor's degree in political science at Longwood University; master's degree in speech communication from Bloomsburg University; and Ph.D. in community college leadership through Old Dominion University.

Virginia's Community Colleges Fuel State's Economy

According to a new study, Virginia's community Colleges generated \$11.6 billion annually in economic activity around the state in FY 2021-22, an amount equal to nearly two percent (1.8%) of Virginia's total gross state product.

The study, conducted by [Lightcast](#) and titled **The Economic Value of the Virginia Community College System**, concluded that VCCS alumni and the businesses they work for saw \$10.6 billion in added income. For perspective, Virginia would have to host the Super Bowl thirty times to achieve a similar economic boost. VCCS generates an additional \$1 billion in income through operational spending and attracting new students into the state.

Dr. Doré, Virginia's Community Colleges Chancellor, noted the study estimates that for every \$1 invested in the community college system, students gain \$5.70 in higher future earnings, and taxpayers see a net benefit of \$2.70 in added tax revenue stemming from students' higher lifetime earnings and increased output by businesses and public sector savings.

When compared to a person with a high school diploma or equivalent, the average community college graduate with an associate degree will see an increase in earnings of \$12,200 annually. Separate from the Lightcast report, research by the VCCS reveals that students who complete FastForward short-term workforce training programs and go on to earn the resulting industry recognized credentials see average wage gains of \$11,746 per year.

“This study makes it clear that the Virginia Community College System is an economic engine in its own right,” said State Board for Community Colleges Chair Peggy Layne. “The myriad of positive contributions to state coffers and Virginians in particular cannot be understated.”

Long term Return on Investment for the commonwealth:

In Fiscal Year 2021-22, the period which was the basis for the Lightcast report, state and local government funding for Virginia’s Community Colleges totaled \$605.5 million.

The total investment made by VCCS students in FY 2021-22 amounted to a present value of \$1.1 billion, equal to \$433.8 million in out-of-pocket expenses (including future principal and interest on student loans) and \$632.8 million in forgone time and money.

Over the long term, for every dollar invested in the VCCS, the people of Virginia will receive a cumulative value of \$8.80 in benefits. Altogether, the social benefits of VCCS equal a present value of \$18.7 billion. These benefits include \$12.6 billion in added student income over a 40-year working career, \$4.7 billion in added business income, \$1.1 billion in added income from college activities, as well as \$319.7 million in savings related to reduced government spending for health, the justice system, and income assistance in Virginia, thanks to a more educated workforce.

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