

November 2015

Volume 1, Number 2

## SACAD Luncheon Speaker Announced



David Baime

The Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees is pleased to announce that the speaker for the Annual Membership Luncheon will be David Baime. His topic will be "Community Colleges and Washington Policymaking: How Are They Faring?"

David Baime is a well known published author, keynote speaker, and guest lecturer. He currently serves as Senior Vice President for Government Relations and Policy Analysis for the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) in Washington, DC. He leads the advocacy and research activities for the nation's primary association of community colleges. His responsibilities also include developing and implementing a comprehensive legislative and regulatory agenda impacting institutions and students. He works closely with Congress and the Executive Branch as well as the higher education policymaking community.

Mr. Baime supervises AACC's research function and ensures that AACC's research is high quality, relevant, and well-coordinated with AACC's advocacy priorities. He oversees development of AACC's Voluntary Framework of Accountability.

Mr. Baime provides regular briefings to community college presidents and policymakers.. He is frequently quoted in the Chronicle of Higher Education and Inside Higher Education, with media appearances on CNN, PBS, C-SPAN's "Washington Journal," National Public Radio and many other media outlets.

In addition to his current position, Mr. Baime has served as Director of Government Relations for the American Association of Community Colleges, Director of Education Funding at the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and Assistant Director for the Office of Government Relations at the Association of American Medical Colleges. Prior to that, he served as Lobbyist/Government Liaison at Edward Blankstein, Inc. and as an intern for Congressman Douglass Walgren.

Mr. Baime holds a Master's Degree from the London School of Economics, London, England in Public Administration and Public Policy. He earned a Bachelor's Degree at Haverford College in Haverford, Pennsylvania.

The annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 6, 2015 from 11:30 am - 12:50 pm in the Ballroom of the Americas AB on the second level of the Hilton Americas Hotel in Houston, Texas.

### LIMITED NUMBER OF SACAD LUNCHEON TICKETS AVAILABLE

The response by representatives of member institutions for the annual SACAD luncheon has been outstanding. For those who registered for the luncheon through the SACSCOC Convention registration process, your nametag will provide entrance to the luncheon.

For any individual who has not registered for the luncheon, reserve your ticket by contacting Dr. George D. Edwards at [gdedwards930@gmail.com](mailto:gdedwards930@gmail.com). The ticket will be \$35 and available at the door. No tickets will be available for sale after November 20, 2015.

### CURRENT MEMBERS RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

The SACAD Board has agreed to maintain the membership dues structure for 2015-16. Institutional membership dues remain at \$100.00. If you have not yet paid your membership dues for 2015-16, you may still do so.

Please contact Dr. George D. Edwards, Executive Secretary-Treasurer at [gdedwards930@gmail.com](mailto:gdedwards930@gmail.com), 606-424-8867, or see the SACAD website at [www.sacad.org](http://www.sacad.org) for more information.

#### Inside this issue:

Annual SACAD Luncheon Program Agenda	2
SACAD Transition News	2
News From The States	2-11
Sponsors	12

## SACAD Annual Meeting

December 6, 2015  
11:30 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

Hilton Americas Hotel  
Ballroom of the Americas AB, Level 2

Houston, Texas

### ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

December 6, 2015  
11:30 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.

#### PRESIDING

**Dr. Ed Meadows**

President, Pensacola State College, FL

#### WELCOME

**Dr. Ed Meadows**

#### INVOCATION

**Dr. Walter Bartlett**

President, Piedmont Community College

#### BUSINESS SESSION

*Financial Report*

**Dr. George D. Edwards**

SACAD Executive Secretary-Treasurer

#### *Recognition of Sponsors*

**Dr. Gary A. McGaha**

President, Atlanta Metropolitan State College, GA

#### *Recognition of Board Members and Officers*

**Dr. Ed Meadows**

#### INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

**Dr. Karen Bowyer**

President, Dyersburg State Community College, TN

#### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**David Baime**

Senior Vice President for Government Relations  
and Policy Analysis

American Association of Community Colleges

“Community Colleges and Washington

Policymaking: How Are They Faring?”

#### DOOR PRIZES

**Dr. James David Campbell**

President, Northeast Alabama Community College, AL

## SACAD TRANSITION NEARLY COMPLETE

At the December, 2014 Annual Meeting the Board received endorsement from the association's membership to move forward with the name change for the organization from SACJTC (Southern Association of Community, Junior and Technical Colleges) to SACAD (Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees). Additional steps in the transition process have been ongoing during the year. A new logo has been developed, a redesigned website is in progress, and all correspondence as well as the data base of members and potential members is being refined.

The SACAD Board appreciates all who have continued to support the new mission and goals of the association and look forward to completing the transition by 2016.

## News From The States

### ALABAMA

#### NACC PERSONNEL VISIT GOOGLE DATA CENTER

Personnel from Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) were among a group from Jackson County, Alabama, and the Tennessee Valley Authority who visited the Google Lenoir Data Center and Caldwell County in North Carolina to gather information and insight for planning the announced Google Center in Jackson County. Dr. David Campbell, NACC President, and Ms. Patricia Combs, NACC Director of Educational Technology, were the college's representatives in the group. Google announced on June 24, 2015 that they had chosen the former Widow's Creek Steam Plant to build the data center. Google officials at the time said this would be a \$600 million investment to result in 100 jobs.

In order to gain information on workforce training, Dr. Campbell and Ms. Combs, along with others on the trip, met with officials from Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute, a college in Hudson, N.C. that has worked closely with Google. “We gained some valuable insights from these meetings and made connections that will help us develop programs in the future.” Google officials also provided information on applying for grants for education projects, particularly involving STEM. “Google is a great supporter of education anywhere they are located and their employees are very active in their communities.”

Dr. Campbell pointed out that Northeast already has done some things to prepare for upgrades to their information technology program such as adding Cisco and Linux instruction. The college, too, is working to add an HVAC program which can be useful to data center training. “While in North Carolina, we met the newly appointed

Operations Manager of what will be the Data Center in Jackson County. We will be working with her to develop programs and ideas along data center needs," Campbell said.

The North Carolina Department of Commerce says that although the Google Data Center in Lenoir, North Carolina employs only 150 workers, for every billion dollars invested in a data center there are 3,000 or more support, service, and other jobs.

## GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP TO ENSURE A MORE COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE IN ALABAMA

Governor Robert Bentley announced a cooperative effort between business and education to ensure that Alabama has a competitive workforce that is trained not only in technical skills, but also in essential interpersonal or soft skills.

Joining Governor Bentley in their support of this effort were Dr. Mark Heinrich, chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, Dr. Tommy Bice, state superintendent of education, Dr. Robert Witt, chancellor of The University of Alabama System and chair of the Alabama Council of College and University Presidents, Mrs. Ella Bell, Vice-President of the State Board of Education, as well as other educators and business leaders.

"I pledged to the citizens of Alabama that creating jobs would be one of my highest priorities as governor," Gov. Bentley said. "I have remained true to that pledge, and we have aggressively recruited new industries and worked closely with our existing businesses and industries to create 60,000 new jobs in Alabama.

Most of the jobs being created today and in the future will require education and training beyond the high school level. Without exception, employers in every segment of business and industry have also told us that they need something else. They need a greater pool of workers who possess the 'soft skills' or the 'essential workplace skills' to be successful in the competitive global economy," Governor Bentley said. "I've often said that you can teach a skill, but you can't teach attitude."

As Dr. Heinrich explained, "Research suggests that 85 to 90 percent of those who lose their jobs do so because of poor essential workplace skills. Without question, soft skills can make all the difference between success and failure in a career."

"Just as students must be prepared to meet the academic and skilled-labor expectations of colleges and industry, they must also possess the soft skills to succeed and be leaders in their chosen fields," Dr. Bice said. "A strong work ethic, positive attitude and the ability to think critically and communicate effectively are invaluable traits for anyone expecting to get ahead in life."

## FLORIDA

### IN MEMORY OF DR. ROBERT L. MCSPADDEN



*Dr. Robert L. McSpadden*

Bay County lost a leader and friend on Aug. 2, 2015 when former Gulf Coast State College president Bob McSpadden died after a brief illness. He was 71. Robert L. "Bob" McSpadden, known affectionately by many as "Dr. Bob," served as president of then-Gulf Coast Community College from 1987 until 2007.

Before that, he had served in various administrative roles at the school, where he first arrived as a student in 1963.

In addition to his work with the college, Dr. McSpadden served on the board of directors for The United Way, Bay County Chamber of Commerce, Anchorage Children's Home, Bay Defense Alliance, Florida's Great Northwest and the Florida State University Alumni Association. He was a lifetime member of the Gulf Coast Community College Foundation and was president of the Florida Council of Community Colleges.

McSpadden's tenure as president saw an expansion of what is now the Gulf Coast State College Foundation, which provides scholarships to Gulf Coast students. When McSpadden became president of the college, the foundation had about \$1 million in its coffers. He and new foundation trustee Bill Cramer pitched a major fund-raising effort to the rest of the board and over the years raised more than \$30 million for scholarships. When McSpadden retired in 2007, the foundation was able to provide about 1,000 scholarships a year, something he said he thought might be his legacy.

### PSC BACHELOR IN NURSING PROGRAM RANKS THIRD IN NATION

Affordable Colleges Online recently ranked the bachelor of science in nursing (BSN) degree program at Pensacola State College (PSC) third in the nation for offering academic rigor, student support and affordability for online learning.

According to AC Online, data analysts and college experts ranked private and public not-for-profit colleges based on cost-to-quality criteria including student-faculty ratio, percent of students receiving financial aid, academic and career counseling, and 6-year graduation rate.

"PSC has been a leader in providing nursing education

for more than half a century. We are pleased that our new bachelor of science in nursing program is receiving national recognition for meeting educational needs in the health care community," said President Edward Meadows.

Pensacola State's BSN program is designed for students with an associate degree in nursing and a license as a registered nurse. It is presented online to specifically accommodate working students who require a flexible schedule and the ability to self-pace themselves through the program.

"Health professionals value the notion of lifelong learning as it is essential in delivering competent patient care. The Registered Nurse (RN) to BSN program allows the working nurse to further their education while complementing his or her nursing profession. We are proud of the RN to BSN program with PSC and honored to be recognized on a national level," said Dusti Sluder, PSC Director of Nursing.

### GRANTS AND ENDOWMENTS

#### College of Central Florida

The Ocala Royal Dames for Cancer Research presented \$25,000 to the College of Central Florida (CF) Foundation to provide scholarships to talented and deserving students who are pursuing a health occupation degree and have an interest in cancer research, education and or treatment. The Ocala Royal Dames for Cancer Research endowed scholarship was established with the CF Foundation in 2002.

Munroe Regional Medical Center has pledged \$120,000 to purchase patient simulators for the College of Central Florida's new Health Sciences Simulation Lab. The \$120,000 pledge by MRMC highlights a tradition of support. Earlier this year, the hospital began making donations toward a \$2 million, 40-year pledge.

#### Broward College

Designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a Hispanic Serving Institution, Broward College was awarded a \$2.2 million Title V grant to strengthen and expand educational opportunities for Hispanic and low-income students.

#### Florida Gateway College

Florida Gateway College (FGC) received a \$1.1 million TRIO Student Support Services grant that will assist the college in its educational efforts for first-generation, low-income, and disadvantaged students.

#### Indian River State College

The Indian River State College Foundation recently received \$9,000 from Wells Fargo Foundation for the Take Stock in Children Scholarship Program. This grant will be used to fund a four-year tuition scholarship for one deserving student.

#### Palm Beach State College

Palm Beach State College (PBSC) cybersecurity students

have a new tool which gives them hands on training to deal with computer hackers. A new Cybersecurity Lab was launched on September 16 which allows students to engage in real-world simulations to strengthen cyber defense skills. PBSC \$1.2 million Cybersecurity Lab is part of a \$10.2 million U.S Department of Labor TAACCT grant to a consortium of Florida colleges led by the College of Central Florida. The consortium - Florida XCEL-IT focuses on developing programs in cybersecurity, manufacturing, logistics and supply management.



*Jesse Pulliam, David H. Talley, Board of Trustees; PBSC President Ava L. Parker; Richard Chance, John W. Dowd, III, Jose Ortiz, and Wendy Guedner*

### GEORGIA

#### DR. MARGARET VENABLE NAMED PRESIDENT OF DALTON STATE COLLEGE



*Dr. Margaret Venable*

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia named Dr. Margaret Venable as president of Dalton State College. The Board's decision followed a recommendation by Chancellor Hank Huckaby and ends the interim status Venable has held at Dalton State since January 2015.

Dr. Venable was serving as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at Gordon State College when she was asked to assume interim-presidential responsibilities at Dalton State upon the retirement of former President John Schwenn.

Dr. Venable's experience within the University System of Georgia also includes the University of North Georgia's Oconee Campus, where she served as vice president and chief executive officer. Before that Dr. Venable held a range of roles at Georgia Perimeter College, including: assistant vice president of early colleges and academic initiatives, interim dean of sciences and physical education, interim dean of academic services and department chair of science and physical education.

## GOVERNOR DEAL OPENS BIOSCIENCE TRAINING CENTER NEAR SOCIAL CIRCLE, GEORGIA

Gov. Nathan Deal officiated at the grand opening of the new \$14 million Georgia BioScience Training Center in Newton County, Georgia.

The new training center is located directly across from the site of Baxalta's \$1 billion biomanufacturing facility in Social Circle, Georgia. The training center is owned by the state of Georgia and operated by Georgia Quick Start, a division of the Technical College System of Georgia. Overall, the facility will be a key component of the state's long-term initiative to promote and grow the life science industries. The new training center is currently dedicated to Baxalta training and includes flexible space to accommodate the training needs of additional life sciences companies that choose to locate or expand in Georgia.

## LARRY CALHOUN NAMED PRESIDENT OF SOUTHEASTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE



Former Provost Larry Calhoun has been named the next president of Southeastern Technical College after the board of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) voted during its monthly meeting to accept the recommendation of Commissioner Gretchen Corbin.

Mr. Calhoun has served as provost of Southeastern Technical College, since the 2009 merger of Swainsboro Technical College and Southeastern Technical College. He had previously served as president of Swainsboro Technical College.

Calhoun is a native Georgian and received a B.S. in zoology from the University of Georgia, an M. A. in public administration from Golden Gate University, and an Education Specialist degree in Occupational Studies from the University of Georgia.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR GEORGIA FILM ACADEMY ANNOUNCED



University System of Georgia (USG) Chancellor Hank Huckaby and Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) Commissioner Gretchen Corbin today announced the appointment of Jeffrey Stepakoff as the executive director of the Georgia Film Academy.

The concept and rationale for the Georgia Film Academy was identified through Governor Nathan Deal's High Demand Career Initiative (HDCI) which was launched in January 2014 by Deal and led by Commissioner Chris Carr and the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) to address Georgia's important

workforce needs. The HDCI focuses on the future needs of strategic industries in Georgia, including film, television and interactive entertainment.

## KENTUCKY

### RETIRING KCTCS PRESIDENTS



Dr. Tony Newberry

**Dr. Tony Newberry**, president and CEO of Jefferson Community and Technical College since July 2002, retired effective June 30, 2015.

Dr. Newberry joined Jefferson as president after serving as chancellor for community colleges of the newly formed Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), which came into being following passage of the Kentucky Higher Education Reform Act in 1997. Newberry was tasked with helping to lay the groundwork for the new system, which combined the community colleges, formerly operated by the University of Kentucky, and the state's technical schools. In 2002, then new KCTCS President Michael B. McCall, appointed Newberry president of Jefferson, the system's largest college. It was a homecoming of sorts for Newberry, who began his community college career teaching history at Jefferson in 1976. Later he was dean of academic affairs at Southeast Community College and president of Ashland Community College. Newberry said he plans to return to the classroom part-time to teach history and plans some writing projects.



Dr. Ed Hughes

**Dr. Ed. Hughes** announced his retirement from Gateway Community and Technical College (GCCTC) effective September 16, 2015. In an email to the college and community, Hughes wrote, "My retirement has been planned for some time but recent events have helped me decide to accelerate the timing of it...I believe more than ever, that for many citizens in our region,

Gateway remains the only hope they have to rise from lives of insufficiency and despair to lives of contribution and joy. While I will not be part of the college, be assured that I will remain an ardent advocate for Gateway and the collective impact it is making in the region."

Dr. Hughes was the founding president when GCTC was established in 2001. Previously he had been at Hazard Community and Technical College for 16 years as President and CEO; starting his presidency at HCTC as one of the nation's youngest college president's at age 34. Dr. Hughes and his wife, Sarah, will remain in Northern Kentucky.

## NEW KCTCS PRESIDENTS



Dr. D. Devin Stephenson

**G. Devin Stephenson, Ed.D.**, was appointed president of Big Sandy Community and Technical College (BSCTC) beginning June 1, 2015. Stephenson has nearly 40 years of higher education experience and recently served as president/CEO of Three Rivers College of Missouri from 2009-2014. He has previously held other leadership positions including vice president of external affairs and dean of students at Bevell State Community College, CEO of Snead State Community College and dean of students at Walker State Technical College.



Dr. Scott Williams

**Scott Williams, Ph.D.**, began the presidency of Owensboro Community and Technical College (OCTC) on July 1st, 2015. Williams has 15 years of experience at OCTC and was the vice president of academic affairs and chief academic officer, a position he has held since 2008. Williams came to OCTC in 2000 as an associate professor and agriculture technology and biotechnology coordinator after 10 years as an associate professor at the University of Georgia.



Dr. Keith Bird

**Dr. Keith Bird**, KCTCS Chancellor Emeritus, serves as interim president of Gateway Community and Technical College (GCTC) beginning Oct. 1, 2015. Dr. Bird served as the first chancellor of KCTCS and was named chancellor emeritus when he retired in 2009. Most recently he has been serving as Senior Policy Fellow for Workforce and Postsecondary Education at Corporation for a Skilled Workforce in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



Dr. Ty J. Handy

**Dr. Ty J. Handy** was recently named president of Jefferson Community and Technical College (JCTC) beginning January 1, 2016. Dr. Handy is an experienced leader who has served as president of Northwest Florida State College since 2010. Dr. Handy also served as president of Vermont Technical College, chancellor at Ivy Tech State College in Indiana and chief academic officer and dean for academic affairs at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College from 1993-1998.

## MADISONVILLE PROFESSOR RECEIVES ACORN AWARD



Loretta J. Elder

Loretta Jean Elder, a professor of nursing at Madisonville Community College (MCC), has been selected as a recipient of the 2015 Acorn Award.

The annual Acorn Awards recognize outstanding faculty at Kentucky's public and independent colleges and universities. The program is sponsored by the Council on Postsecondary Education and Kentucky's colleges and universities. Recipients receive a \$5,000 honorarium and are selected based on information they provide about their reasons for selecting college teaching as a profession, their teaching philosophy, their professional achievements and recommendations by faculty and students.

Elder has taught nursing at MCC's integrated nursing program for nine years. She is co-chair of the Baptist Health Medical Center Nursing Education Council, president of the Hopkins County Community Clinic's executive board, district president of the Kentucky Nurses Association and a member of several national organizations including the National League for Nurses, and American Nurses Association.

Elder earned an associate degree in nursing in 1987 from MCC. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from Murray State University in 1998 and a master's degree in nursing from the University of Southern Indiana in 2006. She is currently working toward a doctorate of nursing practice in organizational leadership from Eastern Kentucky University with an anticipated graduation of May 2016.

## LOUISIANA

### PUBLICATION LISTS DELGADO AMONG TOP-RANKED COMMUNITY COLLEGES NATIONWIDE

Delgado Community College is included on several Top 10, Top 50, and Top 100 lists that chart community college size and performance nationwide. The lists were published in the August 31, 2015 edition of *Community College Week* and are available at [www.ccweek.com](http://www.ccweek.com).

Established in 1921, Delgado is the oldest community college in Louisiana. Enrolling more than 30,000 students in academic and job-training programs each semester, Delgado is the largest community college in the state and is second only to Louisiana State University among all higher education institutions statewide in the number of students enrolled.

Delgado awards accredited associate degrees, certificates and diplomas through 113 programs at eight loca-

tions in the greater New Orleans region and online. The college has credit-transfer agreements with public and private four-year colleges and universities in Louisiana and Mississippi, and it offers the Louisiana Transfer Degree for students wishing to complete their bachelor's degree studies at a public university within the state's borders after earning an associate degree at Delgado.

Delgado is ranked by *Community College Week* among the Top 10 community colleges nationally for the number of two-year career certification credentials awarded: 1,537. Also, Delgado is among the Top 100 community colleges nationwide for 1-year career certificates awarded: 918.

Delgado is ranked in the Top 25 among community colleges nationally for associate degrees awarded in nursing (registered nurses): 301. The Delgado Charity School of Nursing is the only nursing school at a community college in Louisiana to appear among the Top 25 or Top 50 on the list. Delgado graduates about half of all new registered nurses in the greater New Orleans area each year, and graduated the most RNs among the 13 associate degree-awarding nursing schools in the state last year—accounting for 13 percent of the statewide total. Of the Delgado nursing graduates, 93 percent passed the licensing examination and 97 percent were employed within six months of graduation.

Delgado is ranked in the Top 50 among community colleges nationally in the following areas: associate degrees awarded to African-American students (331); associate degrees awarded in health professions and related programs (373); associate degrees awarded in family and consumer sciences or human sciences (39).

## MISSISSIPPI

### DR. ANDREA SCOTT MAYFIELD NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MCCB



Dr. Andrea Scott Mayfield

The Mississippi Community College Board (MCCB) selected Dr. Andrea Scott Mayfield to serve as the fifth Executive Director of the MCCB beginning December 1, 2015. Dr. Mayfield brings a wealth of community college experience to the MCCB, having worked at East Mississippi Community College for 18 years and most recently serving as president at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, AL.

### DR. THOMAS HUEBNER NAMED PRESIDENT OF EAST MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The board of trustees at East Mississippi Community College (EMCC) named Dr. Thomas Huebner as its next



Dr. Thomas Huebner

president. Dr. Huebner comes from Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, where he served as dean of student services.

Dr. Huebner assumed his new duties July 1, 2015. He succeeds Dr. Rick Young, who retired after 11 years leading EMCC.

## KELLOGG FOUNDATION GRANT APPROVED

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation recently approved a grant for \$6 million during the next three years for the Mississippi Community College Board, to implement the Mississippi Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (MI-BEST) program at each of the state's fifteen community colleges. MI-BEST is a highly adaptive, accelerated learning program that primarily targets high school dropouts, low-income persons, and other non-traditional students by simultaneously offering Adult Basic Education courses and Career and Technical Education courses. This parallel track will allow students the opportunity to quickly enter the workforce compared to previous models.

## MISSISSIPPI COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM RANKED HIGH BY WALLETHUB

WalletHub ranked Mississippi's community college system the top community college system in the nation. Factors that were analyzed in the study included cost and financing, classroom experience, education outcomes, and career outcomes.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### HCC RECIPIENT OF THE SOUTHERN REGION EQUITY AWARD

Halifax Community College (HCC) was presented the 2015 Southern Region Equity Award by the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) on October 16, at their annual awards gala in San Diego, CA. ACCT is a non-profit educational organization of governing boards, representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical, and junior colleges in the United States and beyond.

The ACCT Equity Award recognizes exemplary commitment by a community, technical, or junior college governing board and its chief executive officer to achieve equity in the college's education programs and services and in the administration and delivery of those programs and services.

The award honors the late Charles Kennedy, a trustee of

Joliet Junior College in Illinois, who was a founder of the ACCT Minority Affairs Assembly, which became the ACCT Diversity Committee.

HCC is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a Minority Serving Institution. The student demographics reflect the service regions population, which is 58.4 percent minority. Moreover, the gender breakdown is 66 percent female and 34 percent male. In 2013, HCC ranked 12<sup>th</sup> among the top 50 community college in the nation by Washington Monthly magazine.

HCC is one of 58 institutions within the North Carolina Community College System.



*Dr. Ervin V. Griffin, Sr. President,  
Mr. Michael Felt, Chair Board of Trustees  
and Dr. Stanley Edwards, Member of Board of Trustees*

## HCC RECEIVES U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GRANT

Halifax Community College (HCC) recently received a \$1,647,110 grant from the US Department of Education.

The Trio Student Support Services program grant will serve 250 first-generation, low-income and disabled students and assist them in retention and completion from HCC. The grant is for the performance period of Sept. 1, 2015 – Aug. 31, 2020. Sherida Gholston is the project director.



*Dr. Ervin Griffin, Sr., president  
and Sherida Gholston, project director*

## INSTRUCTOR SPENDS SUMMER “GOOGLING”



*Teddie Barrier*

Teddie Barrier, a Networking Technology Instructor at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute wanted to spend her summer doing something worthwhile. When the opportunity arose to spend the summer working as an intern at Google’s Lenoir Data Center, she jumped at the chance.

The opportunity was offered as part of the North Carolina Business Committee for Education (NCBCE)

Teachers@Work Initiative, a program that helps local teachers gain

a better understanding of business skills needed in their region and highlights the relevance of those skills to their classroom curriculum.

Locally, Google extended the concept and offered several Caldwell County teachers the opportunity to work in the Lenoir Data Center for the summer. The “interns” worked alongside Google’s Hardware Operations team, learning hands-on processes and technologies used to maintain the infrastructure in a Google production data center.

According to a statement from Google about the program, they hoped to help local teachers “take some of the concepts learned over the summer, and integrate those into lesson plans and classroom instruction.” Ultimately, the goal for the program and the industries involved is to inspire interest in science and technology careers, and help to build a future workforce for companies like Google.

## STUDENT MOVES TO LEARN FROM THE BEST

Mary Opila, an architect and former college instructor, recently decided to make a career change and dive into the world of furniture upholstery. The Midwest native knew that training was in order and sought out the best in the country. Appropriately, she landed in Western North Carolina, the furniture capital of the world.

Opila made the move to North Carolina in summer of 2014 and began learning manual cutting and sewing. She also



*Mary Opila*

apprenticed with a local upholstery shop owner, with plans to stay in the area through June 2015 and learn all she could about the trade. While in the area, she visited the “Furniture. Well Crafted” exhibit at the Catawba Science Center in Hickory and found a flier about an upholstery class be-



ing offered at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. Opila says that the information could not have fallen into her lap at a better time. “I jumped at the opportunity to start upholstery class in January 2015,” said Opila. “I’d allocated one year to my upholstery education, so I needed to step up my training and learn as much as possible prior to returning to Minneapolis in June.”

Opila enrolled in CCC&TI’s Upholstery course and says that the class was exactly what she was looking for when she relocated to North Carolina for her training. “The thing that stands out the most to me is the commitment of the instructors and the quality of education they provide due to their experience in upholstery. They’re experts at teaching others their craft,” she said. “Plus, they also have the ability to flex their teaching style to fit any type of student that takes the class whatever their goals or skill sets. The atmosphere is relaxed and they’re open to answering any questions.”

Now that her training is complete, Opila has returned to her neighborhood in Minneapolis. She and a friend who has upholstered as a hobby for the past 25 years, opened their re-upholstery business on July 1. “It’s called Encore Upholstery Studio, and we focus on custom reupholstering furniture, sewing indoor and outdoor cushions and pillows, as well as fabricating accent upholstered furniture pieces such as ottomans and headboards,” said Opila.

As for her success in the new venture, her CCC&TI instructors have no doubt that her talent and drive will help her go far. “Mary was a special student. She was very determined and dedicated to the craft. I have no doubt in my mind she will succeed,” said CCC&TI Upholstery Instructor Dennis Smith. “I’m hoping that she’ll cut me in when she makes her first million,” he added with a smile.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

#### **SC APPRENTICESHIP INITIATIVE**

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded the SC Technical College System a \$5M grant to expand apprenticeship in the state. The System’s grant (SC Apprenticeship Initiative) is designed to increase the number of manufacturing apprenticeships and lay the foundation for future scaling of new programs in professional and information services. The two primary goals for the SC Apprenticeship Initiative are to 1) increase registered apprentices in the state by 1,000 in the targeted high-growth, high-tech industries of manufacturing, professional and information services and 2) increase access to post-secondary training and credentials for target industries and underrepresented groups in sponsored apprenticeships, namely veterans, minorities and women.

All 16 colleges across the System will benefit from the grant. 52 percent of the grant funds (\$3.2M) will go toward scholarships for training and education. These

scholarships will apply to credit and some continuing education programs and will be ready for issue as early as Spring 2016. A return on investment (ROI) study will be a critical component of the grant.

#### **COORDINATED TRANSFER ADMISSION AGREEMENTS**

The SC Technical College System has signed letters of intent with nearly every public four-year institution in the state to offer coordinated admission – streamlining the transfer process for students graduating from in-state technical colleges to participating colleges and universities. Once implemented, the program would aid students in making a more seamless transfer between institutions, help reduce lost time to graduation and relieve some of the added financial burden now associated with transferring. Participating students must graduate from a transfer-oriented associate degree program at a South Carolina technical college with an agreed-upon cumulative grade-point average.

#### **YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS**

Youth apprenticeship is a forward-focused component of Apprenticeship Carolina that is growing in popularity. Youth apprenticeships in South Carolina have contributed to the state’s growth over the past two years.

Businesses see the benefits of selecting high school juniors and seniors to become youth apprentices in order to build the foundation for their workforce pipelines. An Apprenticeship Carolina youth consultant coordinates cooperation between school districts and business leaders to register programs. Over the last two years, the number of companies who have registered youth programs in South Carolina has grown to 91. Youth programs now exist in 24 of South Carolina’s 46 counties. High school apprentices can earn a wage while they learn as well as enhance their employability by obtaining critical work skills. Youth apprenticeship also works to strengthen students’ academic skills and in turn their academic success. High school completion is a requirement of the program.

In some instances, the students graduate with: a high school diploma, a nationally-recognized DOL credential and credit hours toward education at a local technical college and/or certificates of study. Youth apprenticeships are creating exciting opportunities for South Carolina businesses to be matched with highly qualified students who have the ability to transition into the next generation of work-ready employees.

### **TENNESSEE**

#### **INITIATIVES LAUNCHED**

##### **Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program**

The 60,000+ high school graduates in Tennessee last



spring had the opportunity to attend a Tennessee Community College tuition free in the fall of 2015 using the Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program which is funded by the Tennessee Lottery. Over 57,000 of the graduates applied in November of 2014. Only 21,000 met all the required deadlines and meetings by August 1, 2015. Approximately 16,000 actually enrolled in one of the 13 Tennessee Community Colleges or 27 Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology and used this last dollar scholarship program. Students were required to enroll in at least 12 credit hours which helped boost the overall full-time equivalent enrollment in community colleges by 6.6%. The First-time Freshmen enrollment of Full-time, Recent High School Graduates grew in Community Colleges from 10,329 in Fall 2014 to 16,381 in Fall 2015. Growth in the Fall of 2016 is expected to be greater as the Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program becomes more widely known.

### Accessibility Initiative

Tennessee Community Colleges along with the 6 state universities in the Tennessee Board of Regents System have launched an Accessibility Initiative to afford persons with disabilities the opportunity to use instructional materials and technologies to acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions and enjoy the same services as a person without a disability in an equally effective and equally integrated manner, with substantially equivalent ease of use.

### Co-Requisite Remediation Model

Tennessee Community Colleges have implemented a Co-requisite Remediation model to address the low rate of success of the many students who enter community colleges with a need for remediation in mathematics, reading and/or writing. Overall only 12.3% of the students who began in a remediation course completed a credit-bearing mathematics class within an academic year, and only 30.9% completed a credit-bearing writing class. In Fall 2014 and Spring 2015, there was a substantial Tennessee pilot of the co-requisite model of instruction in 9 of the 13 TN Community Colleges. In mathematics, 1019 students who would otherwise have been placed into learning support mathematics were enrolled directly into an Introductory Statistics class, and were required to also attend a supplementary instruction experience (in some cases, it was the remedial math class). The results of the pilot were extremely encouraging. In mathematics, of the 1019 enrolled students, 63.3% received a passing grade in Introductory Statistics compared to 12.3% under the old model. Fall to Fall Retention also improved for the students in the Co-requisite Mathematics Pilots (68.5%) compared to the Traditional Remediation Model (47.3%).

All of the initiatives are targeted to help Tennessee reach the goal of 55% of the adults (25 and older) earning a postsecondary credential by 2025 in the Drive to 55 Campaign. Currently approximately 35% of the adults in the workforce have earned a postsecondary certificate or

degree. The qualifications of the workforce continue to increase to include higher level skills.

## TEXAS

### COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND RECEIVES HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION GRANT

A new \$2.6 million grant at College of the Mainland (COM) will help Hispanic students succeed from typing a college application to striding across the stage to receive a diploma.

COM is one of only two Gulf Coast colleges selected by the Department of Education to receive funding under the Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI) Program. This grant will be in the amount of \$524,149 for the first year, projected for five years.

“The grant is a collaboration to create clearer pathways for all students, particularly those of Hispanic descent, to succeed,” said Vice President for Student Services Dr. Vicki Stanfield. “It will help students from initial advising to career counseling and helping them understand their end goal.”

Only 96 institutions across the nation received an HSI grant in 2015. A Hispanic-Serving Institution is an eligible institution of higher education that has at least 25 percent Hispanic students. Of COM’s 4,015 credit students enrolled in fall 2015, 27.1 percent are Hispanic.

The HSI grant at COM will provide a financial aid advisor who will visit high schools in the college’s service area and assist students in completing the Federal Application for Student Aid, which is used to determine financial aid at any college or university. This will be in addition to the COM College Connections advisors at Texas City, La Marque, Dickinson, Santa Fe and Hitchcock High Schools who help students apply to the college of their choice. At COM, students will learn about maintaining financial aid, financial literacy, credit cards and budgeting.

“Advisors and faculty will be working closely together to help students,” said Dr. Pam Millsap, Vice President for Instruction. “For example, faculty and student services staff will together identify struggling students early in each semester so that together we can offer early intervention. All of these efforts ensure students are not overwhelmed by choices but have a clear understanding of what they need to do to finish their degrees or certificates.”

COM will also make online courses more accessible to more students. Other planned projects include software expansion, professional development for advisors and enhanced services in the Student Success Center. The Hispanic-Serving Institutions Program provides grants to help colleges to expand educational opportunities for Hispanic students and for colleges to enhance their academic offerings, program quality and institutional stability.



## VIRGINIA

### LORD FAIRFAX COMMUNITY COLLEGE DESIGNATED NATIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN CYBER DEFENSE

Governor McAuliffe recently announced that the United States National Security Agency (NSA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have officially designated Lord Fairfax Community College (LFCC) as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense. This designation recognizes schools that excel in training students to become leaders in cyber defense and establishes LFCC as one of the nation's academic trailblazers in the area of cybersecurity.

"This prestigious designation for LFCC is not only good news for the school, it is good news for the Commonwealth," Governor Terry McAuliffe said. "We need young people receiving training in high-tech, high-paying sectors like cybersecurity, and we need them receiving that training right here in Virginia. I'm proud of LFCC's hard work in earning this designation, and I look forward to the dividends it will pay as we work to build the New Virginia Economy."

Currently, there are only a small number of educational institutions nationwide with this specific designation, and LFCC is one of two community colleges in the state of Virginia.

"LFCC's designation as a National Center of Excellence in Cyber Defense speaks volumes about the commitment our community colleges have to innovation and career readiness," Secretary of Education Anne Holton said. "They are on the front lines, preparing our students to take on the challenges of the 21st century and embrace the careers pathways of the future."

"Filling Virginia's cyber workforce pipeline is paramount to advancing Virginia's cyber-leadership position," said Secretary of Technology Karen Jackson. "By achieving this certification, Lord Fairfax Community College has expanded opportunities for their students in Virginia's growing cyber-community."

LFCC offers a full cybersecurity career studies certificate (CSC), and an Associate of Science degree in Information Systems Technology with a Cybersecurity CSC as the focus.

### TIDEWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE GETS DRIVER TRAINING GRANT

Tidewater Community College has received nearly \$200,000 in federal funds to help train military veterans as truck and bus drivers.

The college says it received the grant from the U.S. De-

partment of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. It provides for 40 students at the college in its Truck Driver Training Program, administered through the Center for Military and Veterans Education.

According to the college, a report from the American Trucking Association found the U.S. will experience a shortage of nearly 50,000 truck drivers by the end of 2015. Last year, Tidewater received \$107,000 for the same program.

### VIRGINIA RECEIVES GRANT TO HELP TRAIN RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Virginia has received a \$4.3 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education to help Virginians with disabilities train for and seek employment in high-demand jobs.

The five-year grant will be used to address needed enhancements to the commonwealth's existing career pathway systems to ensure access for Virginians with disabilities. The project will start in south Central Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley.

The DARS Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center in Fishersville will work with the Virginia Manufacturers Association to create a one-week training program. Blue Ridge Community College also is expected to partner on the project.

The commonwealth and other partners will contribute a minimum of \$506,891, or 11 percent of the project's five-year budget.



Southern Association of Colleges with Associate  
Degrees  
PO Box 942  
Verona, VA 24482

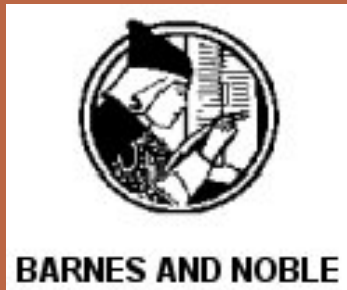
Email: [gdedwards930@gmail.com](mailto:gdedwards930@gmail.com)

## SACAD gratefully acknowledges the sponsors for the annual luncheon

### Silver Level



### Bronze Level



### Participating Level

