

SACJTC Southern Association of Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges

NEWSLETTER

June 2009

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Dr. David Spence Announced as Speaker for Annual SACJTC Luncheon



Dr. David S. Spence will be the featured speaker for the SACJTC annual luncheon to be held on December 6, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Spence currently serves as President of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). SREB, headquartered in Atlanta, was created in 1948 by southern governors and legislatures to help leaders in education and government work cooperatively to advance education and to

improve the social and economic life of the region. SREB has 16 member states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. Each state is represented by its gov-

ernor and four gubernatorial appointees. Dr. Spence assumed the SREB presidency in August of 2005.

Dr. Spence has a long and distinguished record in higher education, having served as executive vice chancellor and vice chancellor for academic programs of the State University system of Florida. He has been the executive vice chancellor for the University System of Georgia. Additionally, he was an SREB staff member on two separate occasions, including a stint as vice president for educational policies in the mid 1980's. Just prior to taking the SREB presidency, he was serving as executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer of the California State University system, then a system of some 400,000 students.

A native New Yorker and a graduate of the University of Rochester, Dr. Spence earned his doctoral degree in higher education from SUNY/Buffalo. He and wife Marie have adult children and numerous relatives in several SREB states.

SACJTC Announces Theme for 2009-2010

At the spring meeting of the SACJTC Board of Directors, the theme and focus for 2009 was selected. The theme for 2009 is "Strategies for Success in Challenging Times." Recent economic conditions in the nation have challenged educational leaders to serve the citizens with increasingly limited resources. Difficult choices must be made, creative solutions to problems must be sought, and greater advocacy for two year colleges must be a priority.



Dr. Sheryl Smith Kappus, President of Hill College in Texas, elected as President of Southern Association of Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges for 2009

Current Members Renew Membership Today

The SACJTC Board has agreed to maintain the membership dues structure for 2009-2010. Institutional membership dues remain at \$100.00. Dues notices will be mailed to current and potential members in June, 2009. For more information, please contact Dr. George Edwards, secretary-treasurer at (606) 886-7332 or please see the SACJTC website at www.sacjtc.org.

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SACJTC Journal: From the Editors

Announcing the publication of the winning proposals and some recent research!

Please find below the table of contents for the upcoming special edition on SACS accreditation slated for publication later this summer (volume 33, number 8) in the Community College Journal of Research and Practice.

Chapter 1--***Introduction to the Special Edition on SACS Accreditation***

Dale F. Campbell, Ph.D., University of Florida and Matthew J. Basham, Ph.D., University of Texas-Arlington

Chapter 2—***Internationalizing the Curriculum***

Improving Learning Through International Education: Preparing Students for Success in a Global Society

Stephen H. Guerin, Psy.D., Motlow State Community College

Chapter 3—***What Does CCSSE have to do with Learning?***

S. Renea Akin, West Kentucky Community & Technical College

Chapter 4—***QEP Writing Across the Curriculum Professional Development Program***

Margaret Patton Hampson, Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute

Chapter 5—***A Best Practice for Selecting Your QEP***

Techniques for facilitating mission-based stakeholder involvement in the selection of the Institutional Quality Enhancement Plan

Lynn Tincher-Ladner, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

Chapter 6—***Serving as a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) Evaluator:***

Notes from a Novice

David J. Silva, Ph.D., The University of Texas at Arlington

Chapter 7--***Navigating the Changes in the Legal Landscape for Accreditation (Texas)***

Thomas Graca, J.D., Ph.D., University of Texas-Arlington

Chapter 8--***What K-12 Leaders Can Learn From Accreditation; What Higher Education Can Learn From K-12***

David M. Stader, Ed.D., South East Missouri State University, Ava Munoz, Ph.D., The University of Texas-Arlington, and Charles Rowett, M.A.

Chapter 9—***Conclusion***

Stephen Katsinas, The University of Alabama and J.Clint Kinkead, Dalton State College

Setting the Agenda for the Next Couple of Years...Notes from the Editors

Over the next year the upcoming theme for SACJTC will be "*Strategies for Success in Challenging Times.*" Over the next year we will be soliciting articles and proposals on best practices addressing this theme with a goal of selecting one "best practice" per quarter (Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Summer 2010, Fall 2010) and one overall winner per year. We have proposed to invite the overall winner, if possible, to present at the 2011 SACS annual conference in Orlando, Florida and to possibly be awarded a cash prize. The four quarterly winning articles could be showcased on the website and possibly in another special edition of the Community College Journal of Research and Practice in 2011 or early 2012.

With that being said our first call for papers on the theme is now OPEN! Please send us your research or practice addressing the theme no later than August 15th. Please send your submission to mbasham@uta.edu. We will be announcing the winner in the Fall 2009 semester.

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2008 Annual SACJTC Meeting in San Antonio a Great Success



The SACJTC annual membership meeting was held in San Antonio on December 7, 2008. Over 250 attendees enjoyed an excellent lunch, a wonderful speaker, and cash awards were presented to two individuals judged to have submitted the two best papers for the SACJTC Journal.

Dr. Joe D. May, President of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, was the luncheon speaker. Dr. May's topic was "Competing with the For-Profits: What can Community Colleges Learn?" The two award winning proposals for the SACJTC Journal were from Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, in Mississippi, and Caldwell Community College in North Carolina.

During the business session portion of the meeting, new offi-

cers for the association were selected and the corporate sponsors for the meeting were recognized. SACJTC officers for 2009 include: Dr. Sheryl Smith Kappus, President of Hill College in Texas, President; Dr. Tom Wilkerson, President of Bainbridge College in Georgia, Vice-President; Dr. George Edwards, President of Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Kentucky, Secretary-Treasurer; and Dr. Chuck Mojock, President of Lake-Sumter Community College in Florida, Past-President.

Corporate partners for the 2008 luncheon included SSC, Sodexo, Barnes and Noble, and BB&T. Due to the generosity of these partners the cost for luncheon attendees is kept to a minimum.

Make plans now to attend the 2009 Annual SACJTC Luncheon and Membership Meeting on December 6, 2009 in Atlanta, Georgia. Remember to register for the SACJTC luncheon as you register for the SACS annual meeting through their normal process. The cost for the luncheon in 2009 remains at \$30. Please check the website (www.sacjtc.org) for additional information as it becomes available.

News From The States

ALABAMA

Lawson State Becomes Newest Member of NAFTC

The Alabama Center for Automotive Excellence at Lawson State Community College is the newest member of the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC). Tommy



Obbbs, Business and Industry Liaison, will accept the College's membership plaque in Dallas, Texas on December 12, 2008 and was featured on Fox 6 Television Station in January 2009 while attending the Consortium's newest training on hybrid vehicles.

"The College is diligently working to bring the leading transportation technology to Alabama," said Dr. Perry W. Ward, president of Lawson State Community College. "The National Alternative Fuels Training Center and the Snap-on Diagnostic Training Center are our two newest training opportunities at

the Alabama Center for Automotive Excellence."

One of the newest classes to be offered through the Consortium will be First Responder Safety Training: Hybrid Electric Vehicles. Additional classes and workshops to be offered by Lawson State include a wide array of topics such as biodiesel, ethanol, hybrids, hydrogen, fuel cells, natural gas (CNG cylinder inspection, LNG, and light- and heavy-duty vehicles), battery-powered electric vehicles, and propane. Courses on transient emissions testing and AFV applications for forklift and material handling will also be available. This new technology is especially relevant to automotive technicians, employers, fleet operators, training institutions, public interest groups, and private entrepreneurs.

The National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium is a national leader in promoting programs and activities designed to cure America's addiction to oil and to ultimately lead in energy independence and cleaner transportation practices. The NAFTC is the only nationwide alternative fuel vehicle and advanced technology vehicle training organization in the United States.

Founded in 1992, the NAFTC is headquartered at West Virginia University and presently consists of 36 National Training Centers spanning the country from New York to California. Each center provides training with impact through its experienced instructors and real-world shop facilities. Approximately 70 affiliate and associate members also support the NAFTC's mission to provide the training infrastructure for implementing the widespread use of alternative fuels, alternative fuel vehicles, and advanced tech-

nology vehicles. The Consortium's effort to increase the nation's energy security, as well as improve air quality by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, is embodied in its motto, "Because Clean Air and Energy Independence Matter."

Lawson State leads the southeast in transportation programs. The Alabama Center for Automotive Excellence at Lawson State offers associate degrees in automotive technol-

ogy with specializations in GM, Ford, or Toyota technology. The Center also has excellent auto body/collision repair and medium/heavy truck technology programs.

For more information about Alternative Fuel classes or other automotive educational opportunities contact Tommy Hobbs, 205-929-3521.

FLORIDA

Like most of our counterparts throughout the south, Florida has been grappling with significant budget challenges. State revenues have continued to fall short of estimates, causing mid-year budget reductions. At the same time, the economic conditions continue to fuel strong student demand statewide resulting in an 8.3% increase during 2008-09. This equates to some 26,000 FTE or the equivalent of adding a new major state university with no funding!

The House proposed a budget based on no new revenues from fees or the proposed Gaming Agreement with the Seminole Indians whereas the Senate included such new revenues. The result was a yawning chasm between the Senate budget at 1.8% increase and the House with a 13.6% reduction or a \$143 million cut in funding – even with federal stabilization funds included! This dire prospect led to major cost cutting and layoff contingency planning among our colleges. The expectation was the best we could hope for, a compromise in the middle, which would still be another 7% cut. Thankfully, the Senate held firm and the House moved to a position that is just \$2 million less than current year funding. Although no funding was provided for new enrollment. A tuition increase of 8% was approved and these funds will help the System address the next wave of new enrollment expected in the Fall.

The state's ability to support Capital Projects through the Pub-

lic Education Capital Outlay (PECO) Trust Fund has also been severely restricted. Last year was actually one of the better years for PECO with \$365 million distributed to the colleges. This year began with an estimate of just \$228 million and plunged from there to the final appropriation of \$84.2 million, or a drop of 77%. Florida's colleges will be sorely tested in trying to provide space for the thousands of new students coming to our doors.

You might notice that I refer to the "colleges" in the System rather than community colleges. That is because the Legislature passed a bill formally changing the name to the Florida College System in recognition of the authority to offer bachelor's degrees. While over half have retained the community college name, including large colleges like Hillsborough and Valencia, colleges accredited by SACS to offer four year degrees now may use the name college or state college. However, the "Open Door" mission must remain first and foremost.

Other legislative activities included passage of limits on the state lottery funded Bright Futures Scholarship. The scholarship maximum has been held at current year levels which means current recipients will have to pay the difference out of pocket. With state universities getting the go ahead on a plan to raise tuition up to 15% per year until the national average is reached, this will become significant and will likely result in even more students choosing the Florida College System.

GEORGIA

The deteriorating economy has dominated the news for higher education in Georgia since the beginning of Fiscal year 2009 in July of this year. Governor Sonny Perdue (R) and the General Assembly have reduced funding for higher education by 12 ½ %.

At this writing, state revenue collections have continued to suffer, with the deepest cut being a 20.6% decline in April 2009 over April 2008. That steep loss will trigger additional reductions in June of 2009. By all accounts, these reductions will carry over into Fiscal year 2010.

At the same time, Georgia, like its sister states, continues to experience significant enrollment increases. The two-year

colleges in Georgia, for the most part, have seen double increases for fall 2008 as well as spring 2009. Additional increases are anticipated for fall 2009. The needs of the students will be met even as the colleges struggle to provide services for many more students with fewer and fewer resources. Huge increases in the number of online courses are common as well as significantly more utilization of adjunct faculty members. Our colleges are scrambling to find space for classes. Tuition rates will be constant for the 2009-2010 academic year.

The other topic that dominated much of the news in recent months is the question of merging the two-year units of the University System of Georgia (USG) with the units of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSGA). Governor Perdue appointed a blue-ribbon committee chaired by former University of Georgia president Charles Knapp to develop a "Tough Choices for

GEORGIA CONTINUED

Tough Times” plan for Georgia. Early drafts of the report suggested merging the two-year units of the two systems. Almost immediately difficulties began to emerge: conversion of the TCSGA curriculum to a semester basis, meeting SACS criteria for faculty credentials, and finding funding to support such a merge in bleak economic times. By the time the report was officially released in April of 2009, the merger talk had largely disappeared. The final version of the report called for closer cooperation between the two boards and as much seamlessness as could be generated. Additionally, Governor Perdue has expressed strong interest in ease of transfer between the two systems and expansion of the availability of post-secondary options into currently underserved areas of the state.

KENTUCKY

This spring, The Kentucky Community and Technical College System, the leading provider of online education in the state of Kentucky, launched KCTCS Online, a virtual learning initiative designed to attract more adult learners to online education.



Since the KCTCS Online product launch began -- with a soft rollout in late January and a public launch in late March over 750 people have applied including one applicant from Taichung City, China. Currently there are 72 enrollments in KCTCS Online.

The initial offerings included associate degrees in business administration and information technology, certificates that address specific workforce needs plus general education courses to support the associate degrees. In total, 241 modules were offered this spring, with additional modules in Nursing and Industrial Maintenance Technology to be added during the 2009-2010 academic year.

KCTCS realized a need for KCTCS Online in 2006 after conducting an extensive statewide market research study among prospective students that indicated the state could triple the number of adults interested in pursuing higher education by offering online college degrees in a format more conducive to working adults.

Additionally, dialogues with CEOs across the state revealed the need among businesses and industries for modular on-line course offerings that would allow employees to take classes anytime, anyplace and anywhere.

Georgia is also experiencing some transitions. Young Harris College, a two-year Methodist-related school, received approval at the December 2008 SACS meeting of its first four bachelor's degrees to include: biology, business and public policy, English, and music.

Dr. Valerie Hepburn had been serving as interim president of the College of Coastal Georgia, formerly the Community College of Georgia (Brunswick, GA). This spring the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia appointed Dr. Hepburn permanent president. At the same time, the Regents made the temporary appointment of Dr. Virginia Carson permanent at South Georgia College (Douglas, GA). Prior to her interim appointment at South Georgia, Dr. Carson had served as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Georgia Highlands College in Rome, GA.

As a result of these studies, KCTCS Online provides students with a college experience that does not require them to physically open the door of any of our 16 colleges and provides additional, flexible program options targeted to the working adult.

Specific product highlights include:

With KCTCS Online, students will never need to physically visit a KCTCS campus. They can access KCTCS Online courses and support services 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. Enrollment, academic advising, technical assistance, textbooks and library resources are all available to students via online or by phone.

KCTCS Online classes are divided into modularized courses completed in timeframes of 3-8 weeks. Students can enroll in the number of modules that is right for their schedule. The modules build toward credits, and credits build toward certificates and degrees.

If employers need to provide training in a specific skill, they can enroll their employees in the module needed to complete that skill –wasting zero time and money on unneeded training.

KCTCS Online will offer the same, low tuition as regular KCTCS course offerings. Plus, the modular approach breaks tuition into even smaller increments.

KCTCS Online courses are offered through our KCTCS colleges and are fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Students may be eligible to receive credit for prior knowledge on KCTCS Online course modules.

The KCTCS online learning initiative is designed to give thousands of working Kentuckians the opportunity to pursue a flexible, accredited, and affordable higher education.

LOUISIANA

Jindal Address Opens Education Meeting



Gov. Bobby Jindal opened the Louisiana Community and Technical College System's annual conference held in April 2009 in Shreveport with a pep talk. In it, he extolled the state's virtues as a place to live and work, and said he has faith in its people and work ethic, but stressed that

efforts still need to be made to accomplish ethics reform and improve the state's image to the rest of the nation. He also cited five tools he has requested from state lawmakers to streamline and strengthen the state's posture in the educational arena.

Gov. Jindal addresses LCTCS conference (KTBS News - video) http://www.ktbs.com/player/player.cfm?video_id=17917¤t_zone=3&video_zone=3

LCTCS Recognizes All Louisiana Academic Team

Nine Community College Students Honored for Academic Excellence

The Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) along with Phi Theta Kappa International recently hosted a luncheon and recognition ceremony honoring nine community college students who were named to the All Louisiana Academic Team. The students were recognized and presented medallions of honor by legislators from their local communities and chancellors from their respective campuses. The ceremony was sponsored by the Custom Solutions Group of Pearson, the world's leading education publishing, services and technology company.

The All State Team is a program started by Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, the American Association of Community Colleges and *USA Today*. The program serves as a means of recognizing excellence and high academic achievement in students attending community and technical colleges, as well as providing opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming. Independent judges review the students' applications and select the team members. The students are recognized by the awarding of medallions, certificates and scholarships. On an annual basis, the LCTCS hosts the All Academic Team Ceremony to recognize the students selected for the team.

The nine students named to the All Louisiana Academic Team were: Cedric K. Hampton, Jr., Baton Rouge Community College; Ashley Mayes, Bossier Parish Community College; Bambarendage Pinithi Upekka Perara, Delgado Community College; Benjamin C. Wilkins, Louisiana Delta Community College; Danielle Morgan, Louisiana State University - Eunice; Jake Trahan III, Louisiana State University - Eunice; Tryna Dalton, River Parishes Community College; Sherlyn Malveaux Alexander, South Louisiana Community College; and Belle Menard, South Louisiana Community College.

In addition to receiving the All Academic Team honor, Cedric K. Hampton, Jr. was also named the 2009 New Century Scholar. The New Century Scholar is awarded to the student in each state who receives the highest All-Academic Team application score, and they are awarded a \$2,000 scholarship.

"The students we recognized today have received one of the highest honors a community college student can receive. They have worked diligently to get where they are today and we are proud of them for their commitment to excellence and all that they have accomplished academically. We look forward to seeing them continue their success as they proceed with their educational pursuits or move directly into the workforce," said LCTCS President Dr. Joe D. May. "Also, we are appreciative to Pearson Custom Solutions Group for their recognition of community and technical colleges and their generous contribution and partnership in making this event a success for our students."

"Educational opportunity is the foundation for professional success," said Don Kilburn, CEO of Pearson Custom Solutions Group. "At Pearson, we are continually investing in learning solutions that will improve lives through education. We are honored to partner with LCTCS to increase access to career opportunities for students across Louisiana, and we applaud these LCTCS students for achieving the highest standards in their studies."



Tryna Dalton, center, is congratulated by RPEC's chancellor, Dr. Joe Ben Welch, at right, and state representative Nickie Monica, at left, during the LCTCS All Academic Team award ceremony.

NORTH CAROLINA

Budget cuts are hitting the North Carolina System pretty drastically. Employee furloughs, pay cuts, a reduction in force, revenue “enhancements,” and program eliminations are all on the table. Like most states, community colleges will be pressed to do more while at the same time they receive less support. One new program that will receive funding relies on stimulus money for support.

North Carolina Community Colleges are on the forefront in the effort to respond to the tremendous need to get people back to work. The Community College System, comprised of 58 colleges located across the state, will work with the NC Department of Commerce on a new workforce development initiative dubbed “**12 in 6.**” The initiative, which is part of Governor Bev Purdue’s larger job creation initiative entitled, **JobsNOW**, will create community college programs in 12 careers that each require less than six months to complete.

The 12 career options fall within the areas of health care and technical education. To date, the approved occupational areas include: Nursing Assistant, Phlebotomy, Medical Coding, Office/Clerical Support, Carpentry, Welding, Food Service, Autobody Repair, Masonry/Tile Cutting, Manufacturing/Materials, Plumbing and HVAC/Industrial Maintenance. Col-

leges will have the flexibility to identify additional short-term occupational training options to meet local/regional labor market demands.

The funding source for this ambitious program is \$13.4 million in federal stimulus funds. The programs are slated to begin at all 58 community colleges by the end of September. Employment Security Commission offices and career centers will connect job seekers with the training programs.

The umbrella JobsNOW initiative is a resource for anyone looking for a job, a new career, or to expand or create a business in North Carolina. Again, community colleges will play a significant role in this effort. With state agencies, local governments, business leaders and citizens working together, the goal is to create new jobs, put people back to work, and train workers for success - laying the foundation for a strong and sustainable economic future.

In an effort to reinforce the value of the role of community colleges, a new webpage highlighting the success stories of past and present students across the state is now available. Each college offers stories of triumph over tragedy, educational growth, and business success. The stories can be found at <http://www.nccreatingsuccess.org/morestories.aspx>. New stories are added regularly.

TENNESSEE

The thirteen community colleges in TN are scheduled to receive American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to compensate for budget reversions and appropriation reductions in 2008-09 and to compensate for proposed reductions in the next two fiscal years.

The funds for 2008-09 total \$14,629,100. In order to receive the funds for 2009-10 and 2010-11 the State of Tennessee has to provide Maintenance of Effort (MOE) dollars. In 2009-10 there will be \$31,185,000 from ARRA and \$8,552,700 from the MOE for a total of \$39,737,700.

In 2010-11, the same MOE and ARRA will be available as was provided in 2009-10. The grand total for the 13 community colleges for 2008-09 through 2010-11 will be \$94,104,500 with \$17,105,400 from MOE and \$76,999,100 from ARRA.

The TN Community Colleges will also be preparing a three year (2009-2012) budget plan which addresses the net financial gap that will need to be covered in the 2011-12 budget which will contain no revenue from ARRA. The Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) has issued General Guidelines for 2008-09 and 2009-10. They state that the funds provided for under the ARRA's State Fiscal Stabilization section are non-

recurring and must be spent on items that are of a one-time nature, that are likely to be phased out or that are scheduled to be funded with non-state sources in future years such as tuition revenue. In general, a public institution of higher education that receives funds under this title (Section 14004) shall use the funds for education and general expenditures, and in such a way as to mitigate the need to raise tuition and fees for in-state students, or for modernization, renovation, or repair of institutions of higher education facilities that are primarily used for instruction, research, or student housing, including modernization, renovation, and repairs that are consistent with a recognized green building rating system. The guidelines may be revised by THEC if necessary while the ARRA funds are in effect.

Cleveland State Community College in Cleveland, TN was the only community college in the State to receive an additional Stimulus Grant which totaled \$328,000. This grant will enhance the Energy Efficient Construction program which was developed with a grant of \$861,840 in 2005 from the U. S. Department of Labor's Community Based Job Training Grant.



TEXAS

The 81st Texas legislature adjourned on June 1, 2009. Enrollment growth in community colleges funding increased somewhat. Alternative teacher certification programs were funded for the first time.

VIRGINIA

Virginia Education Wizard Offers one-stop college, career planning

With Virginians increasingly looking for educational resources that deliver value and align with jobs in today's economy, Virginia's Community Colleges unveiled an online tool to guide prospective students and their families in making informed college and career choices. The Virginia Education Wizard is a one-stop, online resource that brings together real-time information to help students walk through the front door to post-secondary education.

"Choosing a career and finding the educational path and financial resources to get you there has become increasingly complicated over the years – and it doesn't need to be that way," said Dr. Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia's Community Colleges.

"The Wizard brings together all the information prospective students and families need today to make smart choices about their future. Everything is available with a simple keystroke, whenever and wherever users are in their journey."

The Virginia Education Wizard (www.vawizard.org) provides: **Assessments:** The Wizard assessment tests ask users to rank what is important to them on the job and to identify their strongest work-related interests. Based on data provided during the assessments, the Wizard recommends career options that align with users' interests and work values, such as jobs linked by investigative interests or those that align with artistic or enterprising interests.

Career paths: The Wizard leverages real-time data to report what current jobs are paying in local Virginia markets, highlighting jobs where workers are in demand. Users who already know their career interests can explore either individual or clusters of careers to learn more about job requirements, including education and training.

College curriculum: The Wizard outlines the community college curriculum, including options at local campuses closest to each user and workforce training opportunities for people seeking to begin or restart a career quickly. The tool dovetails information from public and private four-year institutions to

Still undetermined is a resolution for the healthcare-eligible designation sought for community college employees. Last session, in 2007, Governor Rick Perry vetoed state healthcare funding for community college employees. The definition of eligibility has remained undefined.

help students take the right courses to qualify for guaranteed transfer agreements to continue their education. The Wizard also connects users directly to the community colleges' online application and registration process.

Financial aid and college costs: Users receive a projection of their expected college costs based on the curriculum and schools they select. The Wizard also guides users through applying for financial aid and provides equivalent tuition at other Virginia state colleges for applicants to compare and assess which education plan they can best afford.

Moving forward, Virginia's Community Colleges are exploring partnerships with organizations such as the Virginia Department of Education, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), the Education Credit Management Corporation and the Virginia College Savings Plan to develop an expanded version of the Wizard, to be released later in 2009. The Wizard can help students pick the right curriculum and earn an associate's degree, making it easier for students to go on to complete a bachelor's degree, or complete workforce training programs and find a job.

Virginia's Community Colleges served more than one third of last year's bachelor's degree earners. More than one third of those who graduated with a four-year degree in 2008 in Virginia got their start at or supplemented their college experience with courses from Virginia's Community Colleges.

A recent research report compiled by the Virginia Community College System's Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness and the National Student Clearinghouse shows that more than **36 percent** of bachelor's degree recipients at Virginia's public and private colleges and universities had attended a Virginia Community College.

One in four – **27 percent** – had earned an associate's degree before earning their bachelor's degree. And three in five – **57 percent** – of students "swirl," or follow non-traditional enrollment patterns moving back and forth or co-enrolling in Virginia's Community Colleges and four-year colleges and universities. Of those students who earned an associate's degree and went on to earn their bachelor's degree, nearly half – or **48 percent** – took developmental education coursework.

Students who were among the group of bachelor's degree recipients studied were predominantly female (59 percent) and attended part-time (69 percent).



About 38 percent of the students in the study had participated in dual enrollment courses.

About one quarter (24 percent) of the students in the sample took developmental education coursework.

The research is based on 28,222 student records identified by the National Student Clearinghouse as receiving a bachelor's degree from a Virginia public or private institution between Sept. 1, 2007 and Aug. 31, 2008.

For more information on student success, visit <http://myfuture.vccs.edu/studentsuccess>.

VCCS Enrollment Highlights

- ***Minority Students: Virginia's Community Colleges are serving an additional 4,482 minority students than a year ago – an increase of 7.6% as minority enrollment is outpacing the overall growth of VCCS enrollment. The VCCS minority student enrollment of 63,691 has increased 17% over the past two years, and minority students now represent 36% of all VCCS students.***
- ***Full-Time Equivalent Students: FTES have increased by 4,817 – or 5.3% over the past year - an indication that individual students are taking heavier course loads.***
- ***18-21-Year-Old Students: The 64,697 traditional age students served by the VCCS are up 4,367 from one year ago, an increase of 7.3%. Students between the ages of 18 and 21 currently make up 37% of all VCCS students.***
- ***The number of high school students taking Dual Enrollment classes, which allows them to earn college credit while in high school, increased 3,468 (14.6%) to a total of 27,289 across the state.***



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2009 Annual Luncheon Scheduled

Mark your calendars now for the 2009 Annual Luncheon and membership meeting. The event is scheduled for Sunday, December 6, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Atlanta, Georgia. As you register for the SACS Annual meeting, please register for the SACJTC Annual Luncheon. The cost for the luncheon is \$30.00. Please check the website at www.sacjtc.org for additional information about the luncheon as it becomes available.

SACJTC gratefully acknowledges the sponsors for the 2008 annual luncheon

SILVER LEVEL



BRONZE LEVEL



PARTICIPATION LEVEL

There's opportunity here



BARNES AND NOBLE