

# SACJTC Southern Association of Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges

## NEWSLETTER

June 2010

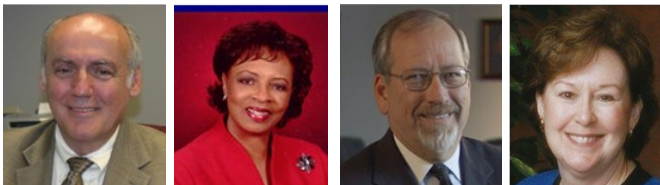
Volume 44, Number 1

### SACJTC Annual Luncheon Meeting in Atlanta a Huge Success

The SACJTC annual membership luncheon was held in Atlanta on December 6, 2009. More than 230 attendees enjoyed an excellent lunch, and listened to speaker Dr. David Spence, President of the Southern Regional Education Board. He focused on many of the challenges facing higher education, particularly in the southern states.

During the business session portion of the meeting, new officers for the association were introduced and the generous corporate sponsors for the luncheon were recognized. Corporate partners for the 2009 luncheon included: SSC, Sodexo, Barnes and Noble, Valley, BB&T, and Great Western Dining. Due to the generosity of these partners, the cost for luncheon attendees was kept to a minimum.

SACJTC Officers for 2010 include: Dr. Tom Wilkerson, President of Bainbridge College in Georgia, President; Dr. Helen McAlpine, President of J. F. Drake State Technical College in Alabama, Vice-President; Dr. George D. Edwards, President of Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Kentucky, Secretary-Treasurer and Dr. Sheryl Smith Kappus, President of Hill College in Texas, Past President.



Dr. Wilkerson    Dr. McAlpine    Dr. Edwards    Dr. Kappus

Outgoing board members Dr. Cheryl Thompson Stacy, President of Lord Fairfax Community College in Virginia, Dr. Joe Ben Welch, Chancellor of Rivers Parrish Community College in Louisiana, and Dr. Chuck Mojock, President of Lake-Sumter Community College in Florida, were recognized for their outstanding service to the Southern Association of Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges.



Dr. Stacy



Dr. Welch



Dr. Mojock

New board members for Virginia, Louisiana, and Florida were introduced at the meeting. They are: Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover, President of Eastern Shore Community College in Virginia; Dr. Luke Robins, Chancellor of Louisiana Delta Community College in Louisiana, and Dr. Jim Kerley, President of Gulf Coast Community College in Florida.



Dr. Thomas-Glover



Dr. Robins



Dr. Kerley

#### Current Members Renew Membership Today

The SACJTC Board has agreed to maintain the membership dues structure for 2010-2011. Institutional membership dues remain at \$100.00. Dues notices will be mailed to current and potential members in June, 2010.

For more information, please contact Dr. George Edwards, Secretary-Treasurer at (606) 886-7332 or please see the SACJTC website at [www.sacjtc.org](http://www.sacjtc.org).

#### 2010 Annual SACJTC Luncheon To Be Held in Louisville

Make plans now to attend the 2010 Annual SACJTC Luncheon and membership meeting on December 5, 2010 from 12:00 to 1:30 pm in Louisville, Kentucky. 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 2010 remains at \$30. Please check the website ([www.sacjtc.org](http://www.sacjtc.org)) for additional information as it becomes available.

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## News From The States

### ALABAMA

#### Student Success Is a Top Priority

Dr. Freida Hill, the Georgia educator unanimously chosen by the nine-member State Board of Education to lead the Alabama Community College System, is the first woman to serve as a permanent chancellor of the system. She took the helm on December 1, 2009, replacing Bradley Byrne who left the chancellor's post the previous May to run for governor.



Dr. Freida Hill

Dr. Hill serves as the chief executive officer of Alabama's two-year college system, which consists of 21 community colleges, four technical colleges, Athens State University - the system's only upper division university, Marion Military Institute - the oldest military junior college in the nation, and various workforce development initiatives including Alabama Industrial Development Training Institute (AIDT) and Alabama Technology Network (ATN). Underscoring the system's importance to the state's economic well-being, the Alabama Community College System also hosts the Governor's Office of Workforce Development and the chancellor chairs the State Workforce Planning Council.

"I believe the system's mission of improving lives through access to academics, adult education and workforce development is the key to Alabama's economic recovery," said Dr. Hill. "I am excited that I have this opportunity to articulate and promote the philosophy and mission of the two-year institutions, especially their active role in community, economic, and workforce

development."

Previously, Dr. Hill served as the deputy commissioner for the Technical College System of Georgia. She has spent most of her career in community and technical colleges, including five years as a president and six years as a vice president of economic development.

A native of Tennessee, Dr. Hill holds an associate degree from Hiwassee Junior College in Tennessee, a bachelor of arts in English from Samford University in Alabama, and a master of science in Marketing Education and a doctorate in Adult Education from the University of Georgia.

Dr. Hill is passionate about student success, believing that getting an education is the most important thing people can do to improve their lives and those of their families.

"Their success is essential for the vitality of the state," she says. "There are many reasons why our students and adults don't succeed in achieving their educational or occupational goals. One of my goals is to remove the barriers to that success."

Dr. Hill asserts that she wants Alabama's community colleges to work more closely with secondary schools to better prepare students for college-level work, encourage them to enroll right after high school, and boost retention and graduation rates. While the Alabama Community College System remains committed to its mission of preparing students for academic transfer, Dr. Hill says she wants to increase the number of technical and workforce training programs, working closely with business and industry to develop programs and courses that will provide a skilled and knowledgeable workforce. But most of all, she wants to help students meet their goals - whatever they may be.

"Student success is a top priority for the Alabama Community College System," she says. "Striving to be the best at student success is a goal for which we all can be proud."

### FLORIDA

#### Florida's SmartNet

Florida's colleges remain the primary point of access to higher education in Florida, with 66 percent of the state's high school graduates pursuing postsecondary education beginning at a Florida college, and 81 percent of freshman and sophomore minority students in public higher education attending one of Florida's 28 colleges.

The Florida College System (FCS), one of the nation's largest community college systems, has teamed up with the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida (ICUF), and the 26 public broadcasting stations in Florida (FPBS), to apply for a \$103 million federal grant that will create a statewide network to boost and sustain broadband access and education for all residents in Florida. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration-Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (NTIA-BTOP), through the U.S. Department of Commerce and

U.S. Department of Agriculture, offered this grant opportunity to help eliminate the digital divide.

The joint group, also referred to as Florida SmartNet, is a partnership of 55 higher education institutions and 26 FPBS stations, with the majority of the organizations having little to no access to high speed broadband. Florida SmartNet aims to benefit all Floridians by improving the connectivity within their communities, as it will encompass more than seven million households, 1.5 million businesses and 47,000 community anchor and public safety institutions. Each of the participating institutions will serve as an entry point for the broadband technology, which will enable every Floridian living within 50 miles of those locations to gain access to the Internet.

The \$7.2 billion Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program will raise the country's global standing regarding high-speed broadband penetration. The BTOP grant winners will be announced in September.

## FLORIDA continued

### Seminole State Honors Student

Seminole State College of Florida Honors student Tatiana Viecco is one of only 40 students in the country to be named a Jack Kent Cooke Scholar for 2010. The scholarship award to Viecco makes Seminole State the only college in the nation with five consecutive Jack Kent Cooke scholarship winners.

Viecco, 21, arrived in the United States from Colombia six years ago speaking no English. This year she competed against almost 500 applicants for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, the largest private scholarship in the country for community and state college students. She will receive up to \$30,000 per year to complete her bachelor's degree. Viecco, who works in the college's Academic Success Center, plans to attend UCF and pursue joint bachelor's-master's degrees in industrial engineering.

The Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Foundation focuses on academic achievement and critical thinking ability, as well as unmet financial need, the will to succeed and students' breadth of interests and activities.

### Baccalaureate Degrees in Florida Update

On March 26, 2010, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved seven baccalaureate programs for four colleges applying for approval the first time. New colleges are Central Florida Community College, Gulf Coast Community College, Pensacola Junior College, and St. Johns River Community College. SBE

## GEORGIA

Georgia's higher education community has been busily engaged in the 2010 legislative session, which ended at the end of April. The primary focus of the session was the Fiscal 2011 budget and the amended Fiscal 2010 budget. Beginning in July of 2008 and ending in February of 2010, Georgia has seen significant revenue collections each of those twenty months. State revenues declined at alarmingly high rates, some as high as 30% in that period. Thankfully, there was a very modest increase of 1% in March of 2010 over that same period in March of 2009. While it is still entirely too soon to know the exact impact of the Fiscal 2011 budget just passed by the General Assembly, it appears likely that the higher education community will take another 8% reduction in state appropriations – added to the cuts already sustained.

At the same time, the two-year colleges in Georgia, as elsewhere in the region and the country, are experiencing huge enrollment growth, placing additional demands on instructional budgets and campuses already squeezed for space. Funds for new construction are limited at best, and the colleges are meeting the enrollment demands with more weekend classes, huge increases in on-line instruction, and so-called hybrid classes using a combination of classroom and on-line instruction. Some institutions are talking about enrollment caps.

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia operates eight two-year colleges and sets tuition and fees for those institutions. There may be tuition increases to help offset

also approved five baccalaureate programs for three additional colleges which already offer baccalaureate degrees. Two programs were deferred by SBE, one each for Daytona State College and State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota. One baccalaureate program was denied for Edison State College.

### Florida to Use New Test

The Florida College System announced recently that it will develop, deliver and score a dynamic new Florida Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) that will be used to better gauge a student's readiness for college and accurately place students in classes to increase their progression rates and help them graduate sooner. McCann Associates, a company that develops assessments, certifications, and diagnostic learning tools for public and private organizations, has been selected through a competitive bid process to devise the new test for Florida.

The new test will provide placement and diagnostic capabilities, customized by Florida faculty to align with the Florida Common Core College and Career Readiness Standards. This tool, combined with the test's diagnostic capability in math, reading and writing will provide targeted feedback to help educators better identify students' specific strength areas, as well as areas where improvement is needed.

The assessment will be available to high school and college students in August 2010, and will be the primary placement assessment used by The Florida College System.

the loss of state revenues, but it is too soon to tell. The Technical College System of Georgia operates 28 two year technical colleges (and 31 satellite locations) and sets the tuition and fees for those institutions. It seems likely that both boards will consider such increases. The General Assembly did not mandate any furlough days for colleges in Georgia for Fiscal 2011. The respective boards may set such days should they be necessary to balance budgets.

A major concern for all of the colleges and universities in Georgia, as in other parts of the region and the country, is what will happen when Federal stimulus funding ends in Fiscal 2012. If Federal funding is not renewed and the state's revenue collections have not rebounded to pre-recession levels, the higher education community will face another round of severe cuts.

### Wilkerson to Retire

Tom Wilkerson, President of Bainbridge College and current



Dr. Tom Wilkerson

president of SACJTC, will retire at the end of this calendar year. He has served as president at Bainbridge since July of 2005. When he steps down in December, that will cap a 47 ½ year career in education.

## KENTUCKY

### Governor Signs KCTCS-Supported Transfer Legislation

Governor Steve Beshear officially signed landmark transfer bill – House Bill 160 this spring. Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) students will greatly benefit from this legislation, which will ease the transfer of community college credits to four-year universities in the state. The governor signed the bill into law at a formal signing ceremony at the State Capitol Building in Frankfort. Speakers at the event included KCTCS President Michael B. McCall, along with bill sponsor Rep. Carl Rollins and Senate Education Committee Chair Sen. Ken Winters. HB 160 was approved unanimously by both the House of Representatives and Senate. “We are extremely pleased and thankful that House Bill 160 has become law. Thank you to the governor and the state legislature for their support of this significant legislation. The transfer bill eliminates many of the barriers our students have experienced when they try to transfer credit from community college courses to public four-year universities in our state,” Dr. McCall said.



The KCTCS legislative agenda has been a success as shown by the signing of this bill, and by the more than 10,000 citizens who have joined the Kentuckians for Community and Technical Colleges campaign to increase access to four-year degrees by eliminating many of the barriers for transfer students. “This remarkable legislation will transform the lives of Kentuckians by creating a more clearly defined path to a bachelor’s degree for KCTCS students who plan to transfer to a four-year university in our state,” Dr. McCall said.

HB160 will take effect in the 2012-2013 academic year for first-time students. It will help provide students with a clear-cut understanding of which courses will apply toward a four-year degree. It creates consistency among core courses students need in order to succeed. It also includes stipulations for maintaining the agreement once passed into law, requiring advance notice to KCTCS and the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) when course changes are proposed that would have an effect on transfer. KCTCS, in preparation for the advent of HB160, is creating a common course numbering system among each of its 16 colleges on 68 campuses across the state.



Dr. Michael B. McCall  
KCTCS President

KCTCS students represent more than half of the undergraduate students in all of Kentucky’s public postsecondary institutions combined. KCTCS is where higher education begins for most Kentuckians. The passage of the transfer legislation will make it easier for students to receive baccalaureate degrees and thereby improve the overall economy of the state by attracting

more businesses and industries that will put Kentucky state on a trajectory path towards economic prosperity. “Kentucky’s future economic health depends upon higher education because some form of postsecondary credential is needed for the high wage, high demand jobs that are critical for our state to not only survive, but thrive in today’s global marketplace,” Dr. McCall said.

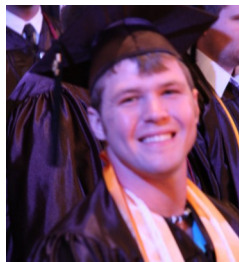
### Enrollment and Graduation

As with other states, Kentucky faces the challenges of providing quality education during an economic downturn and state mandated budget reductions. However, the negative economic conditions have encouraged many Kentuckians to seek refuge in the state’s colleges and universities, especially in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). KCTCS is comprised of 16 colleges, all of which are facing significant increases in enrollment. From Fall 08 to Fall 09, enrollment increased from 89,942 students to 100,248 students, representing a 12% enrollment increase. KCTCS is on target to see similar growth during the Spring 2010 and Summer 2010 semesters as well.

KCTCS experienced significant enrollment growth in Distance Learning courses. Enrollment growth increased from 123,204 credit hours in 2008 to 184,313 credit hours in 2009, which represents a 50% increase in distance learning enrollment. In 2008, KCTCS launched a new Virtual Learning Initiative called KCTCS Online in an effort to provide more Kentuckians with an affordable, flexible college education. KCTCS Online courses are offered in a flexible module system to better accommodate students. Enrollment in distance learning courses is expected to increase even further in the upcoming years.

KCTCS targets high school and workforce enrollment as well. Approximately 16% of the KCTCS enrollment is derived from high school enrollment, with 15,948 high school students enrolled in KCTCS colleges in 2009. The workforce enrollment in 2009 was 52,577. Also, the businesses served increased from 4,919 in FY08 to 5,808 in FY09, which represents an 18% increase in businesses served. High School and workforce enrollment is expected to continue to increase.

While it is encouraging to see the increase in enrollment, challenges exist to fund the enrollment increase during this time of an economic downturn and state mandated budget reductions. However, the graduation ceremonies enhance the reason for the existence of KCTCS and reiterate to all the positive aspect that lives are being changed for the better. During May 2010, KCTCS honored 16,333 candidates for graduation at their 16 college ceremonies across the state.



Dallas Ward  
BSCiC graduate



Christopher Hinkle and Dr. George  
D. Edwards, President of  
Big Sandy Community and  
Technical College

## LOUISIANA

Enrollment at Louisiana's community and technical colleges continues to soar, as the Louisiana Community and Technical College System once again experienced record-breaking enrollment during the spring semester. Based on 14<sup>th</sup> class day credit enrollment figures, system-wide enrollment was up 16.3 percent, from 58,454 students in spring 2009 to 67,862 students in spring 2010.

All of the system's colleges experienced an increase in enrollment. Three colleges' enrollment increased by more than 30 percent. The most significant increase occurred at the South Central Technical College, which experienced a 39.8 percent surge from 1,943 students to 2,716 students. Closely following was Northshore Technical College, which increased by 39.1 percent from 2,668 students to 3,712. Rounding out the three was River Parishes Community College in Sorrento which added an additional 423 students for a 31.2 percent increase from 1,354 students to 1,777 students.

The LCTCS System continues to grow with new facilities projects as well. Louisiana Delta Community College's new \$45 million campus is nearing completion in Monroe, and will welcome students this coming fall. During a press conference on Wednesday, March 11, Governor Bobby Jindal announced his commitment and support for higher education as he unveiled his plan to use \$98.4 million from the 2007-2008 fiscal year surplus to fund Priority 5 capital outlay projects at two-year and four-year higher education institutions across the state, which included \$5.1 million for L.E. Fletcher Technical Community College in Houma. Additionally, Governor Jindal announced the state's commitment of \$2.38 million for debt service toward funding of \$65 million for the first phase of community and technical college bond projects authorized through Act 391 during the 2007 Legislative session.

The 23 bond projects for 14 local community and technical colleges will be completed in three phases from 2009 - 2011. Six projects will be funded in phase one: Huey P. Long Campus of Louisiana Technical College in Winnfield, Young Memorial Campus of Louisiana Technical College in Morgan City, Shelby M. Jackson Campus of Louisiana Technical College in Ferriday, Gulf Area Campus of Louisiana Technical College in Abbeville, and Elaine P. Nunez Community College in Chalmette.

The remaining bond projects are proposed for two additional phases in August of 2010 and 2011.



*Louisiana Delta students will enjoy a new \$45 million campus with state of the art technology beginning fall 2010.*

## MISSISSIPPI

### NEMCC Staffer Elected to MPE Board of Directors

Northeast Mississippi Community College dropout recovery coordinator Lynn Smither has been elected to a three-year term on the Mississippi Professional Educators (MPE) Board of Directors.



*Lynn Smither*

Recently, the 2010-2011 officers and new board members were chosen at the MPE 2010 Convention held April 10 at the Jackson Hilton. Smither will represent the state's 15 community/junior colleges on the Board.

Founded in 1979, the Mississippi Professional Educators is a professional association of more than 9,200 teachers, administrators and support personnel. MPE serves members in pre-K through graduate education in both public and private institutions with the purpose of promoting better education for the children of Mississippi. For additional information regarding MPE, please visit [www.mpe.org](http://www.mpe.org).

### NEMCC Receives Good Marks During Re-Accreditation Site Visit

Officials at Northeast Mississippi Community College began preparing administrators, faculty and staff for the school's re-accreditation process two years ago, and judging from the SACS review team's report, that preparation has paid dividends.

Northeast is a fully accredited member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions in the southern states. Every 10 years that accreditation must be renewed and part of that process is a visit from an on-site committee, which for Northeast was September 28-30, 2009.

During the three-day visit the committee, which is made up of peer professionals, spent time on the main campus in Booneville, as well as the Corinth and New Albany campuses. It examined data and conducted interviews to assess the educational strengths and weaknesses of the institution and evaluated the soundness of the school's Quality

## MISSISSIPPI continued

Enhancement Plan (QEP), the newest component of the accreditation or re-accreditation process.

According to the Commission, quality is at the heart of the organization's philosophy of accreditation. The newest component of the accreditation process is the development of a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). QEP is a faculty driven initiative which allows the institution to focus on an issue that will impact student learning. Each member institution applying for accreditation or renewal of accreditation is required to develop a QEP.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Enrollment

Spring 2010 marks a history-making, system-wide enrollment growth of 31,000 full-time equivalents (FTE), which is equal to the size of the entire student body at NC State University, the largest public university in North Carolina. In order to support this explosive surge in enrollment, NC Community Colleges will require an additional \$85 million in funding, which Governor Bev Perdue included in her recently released budget recommendations. With the N.C. General Assembly beginning their short session May 12, our colleges will be working hard to make the case for full enrollment support as well as other key budget issues.

### Excellence

NC Community Colleges honored more than 65 individuals during its excellence event, "The Great Within the 58" April 14, 2010. The event included the presentation of the I.E.



*Carolyn Hunt stands with husband Gov James B Hunt Jr as Board Chair Hilda Pinnix-Ragland presents the I.E. Ready Award*

Ready Award to Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., for his contributions to the establishment and growth of North Carolina's community colleges. Hunt served as North Carolina's governor from 1976-1984 and again from 1992-2000 and developed an international standing for his groundbreaking work in education. The I.E. Ready Award is the highest honor bestowed by the State Board of Community Colleges.

In addition to Governor Hunt, student recognitions included Academic Excellence Award recipients, one from each of the state's 58 colleges; the Gov. Robert Scott Student Leadership Award presented to Antonio McNeill from Johnston Community College; the inaugural Dallas Herring Achievement Awards presented to Brian Timothy Long from Mitchell Community College and Chastity Amanda Holt from Wilkes Community College; the Excellence in Art Awards presented to student Nam Nguyen of Central Piedmont Community College and faculty member Stewart Campbell of Lenoir Community College. Additionally, the President of the Year award was presented to Dr. William Aiken of Sampson Community College; the Excellence in Teaching Award to Robin Harris, lead nursing instructor at College of The Albemarle; the Staff Person of the Year to Dr. James Kelley of Fayetteville Technical Community College; and two Distinguished Partners for Excellence awards, one to Pharr Yarns and Gaston

At Northeast the focus of the QEP is reading, which was selected by the faculty and staff, based on institutional research and widespread participation of Northeast's constituencies. The title of the QEP is *Reading ROARS (Raising Our Academic Reading Success)*.

The re-accreditation process officially began with the submission of a Compliance Certification document that demonstrated the institution's judgment of the extent of its compliance with each of the core requirements, comprehensive standards and federal regulations.

College and one to Wake Med Health and Hospitals and Wake Technical Community College.

Dr. Scott Ralls, president of the NC Community College System said, "North Carolina's community colleges are experiencing growth like never before. But even though our faculty and staff continue to do more with fewer resources, time and time again they exemplify excellence through their instruction, service, and partnerships. This also is reflected in the academic success of our students."



*Gaston College President Dr. Pat Skinner and Pharr Yarns CEO William Carstarphen accept the award with their delegation*

Pharr Yarns, a yarn manufacturer based in McAdenville, and Gaston College were named Distinguished Partners for Excellence.

### Code Green Initiative

In continuing work on the Code Green initiative that focuses on both campus sustainability and green workforce development, NC Community Colleges are undertaking a two-year, "super" curriculum improvement process (CIP) to "green" programs, courses and curriculum in five technical education areas: environment, energy, building sciences, engineering and transportation. Five colleges have been selected to implement the process, one for each curriculum area (Blue Ridge CC, Central Carolina CC, Davidson County CC, Haywood CC, and Wilson CC) with Wake Technical Community College serving as the lead for CIP project management.

### SuccessNC

As part of the system's long-term strategic planning process titled "SuccessNC," Dr. Scott Ralls, president, in conjunction with the State Board of Community Colleges, began a statewide Listening Tour with plans to visit all 58 colleges to learn about best practices and barriers related to student success. Three teams of system office staff are leading the sessions with each community college president localizing their college stop to include internal and external stakeholders such as trustees, community partners, faculty, staff and students. To date, 25 listening sessions have been held. Plans are under way to develop a "best practices" database and to use the findings from these tour stops as the basis for planning on both state and local levels, as well as a review of the system's current performance metrics.

## Leadership Updates

Dr. Sharon Morrissey, most recently serving as President of Richmond Community College, became the system's Senior Vice President and Chief Academic Officer, a position that was vacant by the retirement of Dr. Delores Parker. Dr. Morrissey, who assumed her new role on March 1, 2010, has served 10 years in academic, instructional and student-support services positions at community colleges, first as Vice President of Academic and Student Services at Fayetteville Technical Community College and then as Vice President of Instructional Services at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. Additionally, she has served as Acting Vice President for Academic and Student Services, as well as Associate Vice President for Academic and Student Services in the System Office.

## New Presidents

Several new presidents have taken the helm of institutions this year.

Dr. Hank Dunn, a community college graduate who describes himself as an "unabashed student advocate" began his new post as the fifth president at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College March 1. Dunn had served as chancellor of Ivy Tech's Central Indiana Region, the largest in that state's network of 14 community college regions, since July 2006.

Dr. Kandi W. Deitemeyer was named the ninth president at College of The Albemarle and began work April 19. She has served as Vice President of Academic Programs and Services at Davidson County Community College in Lexington, North Carolina since May 2008.

Dr. W. Dale McInnis was named the seventh president at Richmond Community College in January 2010. McInnis joined the RCC administration in July 2002 as Vice President for Administration. He was named executive vice president in October 2006.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

### System Foundation Received \$100,000 Grant From the Bank of America Charitable Foundation

The SC Technical College System's Foundation recently announced a \$100,000 grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation. The funds will assist students throughout the 16 technical colleges across South Carolina, as the state's most accessible and affordable higher education alternative is experiencing record number enrollment.

"As unemployment rises and decreasing state budgets present challenges to our students, this generous support from Bank of America is critical to ensuring those struggling receive a quality education," said Richard Heaton, president of the System Foundation. "The ASSIST (Additional Student Support for Instruction, Supplies, and Training) Fund will help by providing a supplemental, emergency source of funds to cover the costs of textbooks, instructional supplies, tools or uniforms for our low to moderate income students."

"With more South Carolinians than ever turning to 2-year colleges to learn new skills, Bank of America is pleased to help economically disadvantaged students with school fees and expenses during these challenging times," said Kim Wilkerson, South Carolina president for Bank of America. "The cost of textbooks and instructional supplies is one of the largest barriers to student attendance and retention. Bank of America is proud to support the System's goal of providing a quality education that is both accessible and affordable."

With the bank's support, a minimum of 200 low to moderate income technical college students across the state will receive assistance.

The general guidelines that the 16 technical colleges will use to administer The ASSIST Fund include:

- Priority to technical college students receiving the Pell Grant award;
- Students receiving Pell Grants or Lottery Tuition Assistance, who have exhausted their financial aid and cannot

pay out-of-pocket expenses for textbooks and instructional supplies, such as nursing kits or automotive tools;

- Low to moderate income students maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better;
- Evidence of enrollment in a program at the local technical college that leads to a degree, diploma, or certificate;
- Maximum award of \$500 per semester, although each college may establish award ranges for textbooks and supplies based on part-time and full-time enrollment, as well as instructional programs with higher costs.

"South Carolinians rely now more than ever on the SC Technical College System to learn new skills and enhance their overall employability. A technical college education offers students the lowest tuition cost available and the greatest flexibility," said Barry Russell, president of the SC Technical College System.

The SC Technical College System educates and trains more than 250,000 South Carolinians. Many of the students attending technical colleges receive tuition assistance in the form of Pell Grants, which are awarded to students who have demonstrated financial need. In the academic year 2008-09, 38.7% of the 122,516 students enrolled in credit programs across the System received Pell Grants. More than 50% of these Pell Grant recipients receive the full Pell Grant amount — these students comprise the neediest category of students for the purposes of the Pell Grant program.



*Richard Heaton, System Foundation President; Dr. Barry Russell, System President; Kim Wilkerson, SC President for Bank of America; and Montez Martin, Chairman of the Board*



*Judy Everett, System Foundation Director; Dr. Barry Russell, System President; Kim Wilkerson, SC President for Bank of America; and Melissa Drescher, Bank of America*

## SOUTH CAROLINA continued

### WTC Hired A New President

The Williamsburg Technical College Area Commission Board recently hired Dr. Kim McGinnis from the Morehead City, NC, area as the college's eighth president. She is currently serving as Vice President of Continuing Education at James Sprunt Community College in Kenansville, NC.



Dr. McGinnis

Dr. McGinnis holds a Bachelor of Science degree in landscape horticulture from North Carolina State University in Raleigh, NC; a Masters of Arts degree in education from Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC; and a Doctorate in educational leadership and policy analysis from East Tennessee State

University in Johnson City, TN. Previous positions in the educational field include Director of Occupational Extension Training, Corporate and Community Education with Carteret Community College in Morehead City; Dean of Technical and Vocational Programs at Mayland Community College in Spruce Pine, NC; and Horticulture Programs Department Head and Instructor at Mayland.

Her background in educational administration includes overseeing such programs as occupational extension, adult basic skills, human resource development, a small business center, a customized training center, business and industry training, and fire and emergency medical responder training. Under her leadership, enrollment has grown annually while she has spearheaded increased grant funding, improved relationships with school systems as well as business and industry, developed summer youth programming, and initiated green technology course offerings, among other things.

## TENNESSEE

### New Higher Education Law in Tennessee

In January 2010, the Tennessee General Assembly enacted and Governor Bredesen signed into law the Complete College Act of 2010. Section 8 of this new law calls upon the TN Board of Regents in consultation with the TN Higher Education Commission to establish a comprehensive statewide community college system of coordinated programs and services to be known as the Tennessee Community College System. The new law states that it is the legislative intent that the Tennessee Community College System operate as a unified system with individual campuses, teaching centers and teaching sites as necessary to maximize the effectiveness of the system in enhancing student success and increasing the numbers of college degrees held by Tennesseans. The law calls for consolidation of services among institutions and standardization of processes between institutions in order to improve efficiency and effectiveness in all functional areas, including, but not limited to, student services, academic support and institutional support. The law also requires that block scheduling and cohort programming be used as a means of delivering educational programs within the TN Community College System.

There are several elements of this new unified system in place.

Dr. McGinnis will begin her duties as president of Williamsburg Technical College on July 1, 2010.

### New President Announced for SC Technical College System

The State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education announced recently that an offer has been extended to and accepted by Dr. Darrel Staat. Staat comes to the System most recently from Central Virginia Community College where he serves as president.

"We are extremely pleased that Dr. Darrel Staat has accepted the position as president of the SC Technical College System. His varied resume includes 33 years of successful administrative success in a variety of executive positions and 18 years as college president," said Montez Martin, chair of the State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education.



Dr. Staat

Staat earned his doctorate of arts degree in English from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI. Most recently, he served as president of the Central Virginia Community College since 1999. Prior to that, Staat served in the Maine Community College System as president of both York County Community College and Eastern Maine Community College.

Staat assumes the position on August 1, 2010. Until that time, Dr. Jim Hudgins has agreed to serve as interim president. Hudgins currently serves as director of the Community College Leadership Alliance at the University of South Carolina. Prior to that, he served as president of the SC Technical College System.

The elements include a common 41 hour General Education core and a common course numbering of the General Education courses. All community colleges are working on the redesign of developmental studies courses.

The Complete College Act of 2010 requires a new funding formula based on outcomes. Outcomes being considered are the following:

- Number of associate degrees and certificates conferred during an academic year
- Graduates per FTE
- Remedial and Developmental Success
- Job Placements
- Transfer Activity
- Student Progression

At this time definitions are being developed and a ranking of importance of the outcomes is being considered.

### Economic Impact Study

An analysis of the economic impact of Tennessee's 13 community colleges revealed that the value of business volume and individual income generated amounted to about \$5.2 billion in the 2004-2009 period. In addition, more than 192,000 jobs were created.



## TENNESSEE CONTINUED

The study also estimated that an associate degree graduate could expect to earn about \$350,000 more over their work life-time than if they only had a high school diploma. For the most recent class of community college graduates, this difference could mean an additional \$2.38 billion in lifetime earnings, plus about \$12.9 million in additional annual tax payments. Finally, the study described a number of benefits to society that are proven to accompany higher levels of education, including lower

unemployment, reduced poverty and decreased crime.

## Mexican Art Work from Michoacan Displayed at Several TN Community Colleges

The TN Consortium for International Studies and the Ministry of Culture of Michoacan, a Mexican state, sponsored the traveling exhibit. Paintings, photography, ceramics and sculptures comprised the 50-piece exhibition, which focused on images of women in Mexico, primarily indigenous women of Michoacan.

## TEXAS

### Achieving the Dream

Achieving the Dream is a multi-year national initiative to help more community college students succeed (earn degrees, earn certificates or transfer to other institutions to continue their studies). The initiative is particularly concerned about student groups that have faced the most significant barriers to success, including low-income students and students of color. The initiative includes 14 national partner organizations, 82 community colleges in 15 states and many dedicated individuals.

### Achieving the Dream Colleges in Texas 2004 Colleges (Funded by Lumina Foundation for Education)

- Alamo Community College District, San Antonio
- Brookhaven College, Dallas County Community College District, Dallas
- Coastal Bend College, Beeville
- El Paso Community College, El Paso
- Galveston College, Galveston
- Houston Community College System, Houston
- South Texas College, McAllen
- Southwest Texas Junior College, Uvalde

### 2006 Colleges (Funded by Houston Endowment Inc.)

- Alvin Community College, Alvin
- Brazosport College, Lake Jackson
- College of the Mainland, Texas City
- Lee College, Baytown
- North Harris Montgomery Community College District, The Woodlands
- San Jacinto College, Pasadena
- Wharton County Junior College, Wharton

### 2007 Colleges (Self-Funded)

- Paris Junior College, Paris

### Texas Universities (Funded by Houston Endowment Inc.)

- Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View
- Texas Southern University, Houston
- University of Houston-Downtown, Houston
- University of Houston-Main Campus, Houston

### Texas Transfer 101 Initiative

Many students plan to transfer to a university after each semester, but have not done their homework on how to do it. Texas policy makers are extremely interested in boosting the rate of successful transfers. A web site called Transfer 101 is available that can answer most of the students' questions and lead them in the right direction. The site includes a number of interesting features, including testimonials of former community college students who have transferred successfully.

Transfer 101 was created by The University of Texas System in partnership with The Texas A&M University System and the Texas Association of Community Colleges.

In Texas, more than 50 percent of students begin their higher education journey at a community college. However, available data shows that students are not realizing the full potential of these educational pathways. Texas is losing an intellectual talent pool, communities are losing economic development opportunities, and families are not moving from poverty to the middle class.

The UT System and its partners seek to increase the number of students transferring from community colleges to four-year institutions. These students are proven to have the capability and motivation needed to succeed as statistics show that students who transfer from a community college to a university are graduating at higher rates than first-time, full-time freshman.

One critical way Transfer 101 will facilitate success is by ensuring students have easy access to the information and tools they need to make the transition to a senior institution.

### El Paso Community College celebrates 40th Year Anniversary

On June 28, 1969, the citizens of the County of El Paso voted to create a Junior College District that would become El Paso Community College. Forty years later, EPCC provides educational opportunities to over 30,000 students in over 130 career opportunities. Throughout the Fall 2009 semester, we will feature pictures of articles on and interviews with important people and events covering EPCC's past, present and future.

*The County of El Paso proclaimed June 29, 2009 as "El Paso Community College 40th Anniversary Celebration Day." Present at the ceremony were from the left, Belen Robles, EPCC Board of Trustees member, Joe Foster, the first EPCC Board of Trustees Chairman (1969-1977), Dr. Richard Rhodes, EPCC President and Art Fierro, EPCC Board of Trustees Chairman.*



## TEXAS continued

### Hill College to become the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Center for Snap-On Tools

Hill College will open the nation's third Snap-On Automotive Center of Excellence this August at the Cleburne campus! The

## VIRGINIA

### VCCS Cited as Leader in Developmental Education Reform

There is nothing easy about developmental education. Equipping students with the tools they need to successfully do college work is labor and resource intensive. But the clear and present need for this work outweighs any obstacles or excuses not to do it. Virginia, and America, needs to produce more college graduates, period. There is simply no way to do that without elevating the skills of people who are otherwise under prepared for the rigors of college classes. That's why it feels good for Virginia's Community Colleges to be cited in a *USA Today* story as a national leader in reforming developmental education.

The Virginia Community College System is the process of re-designing its English, mathematics and reading developmental education programs. Eventually, it will "develop mechanisms and methodologies to hold colleges accountable for the success of developmental education." An annual institution tracking system is planned to be in place by July. Though the details of this accountability system remain vague for the moment, as they are still being finalized, state officials agree that the conversation surrounding remedial education has changed substantially in recent years.

"It's been a culture change for Virginia," said Gretchen Schmidt, the community college system's director of education policy. "Talking about developmental education within our Department of Education is a shift. Just like we talk about student success all the time, we're now talking about college readiness and developmental education all the time at meetings. It's not like Achieving the Dream, where some colleges are participating and some are not. When the statewide recommendations come out [for the redesign] and they're proofed by the presidents, everyone will be on board. We've really built an internal culture of evidence."

Gretchen and her boss, Susan Wood, have been doing some outstanding work in this area. It will take some time to see the results of the work they and others are focused on. But it is coming.

### Award-winning Blue Ridge Students Seek to Re-build Haiti School

Blue Ridge Community College students who participate in the SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) team – some of whom were in Haiti when a massive earthquake struck in January 2010 — are on their way to more regional and national awards. BRCC's team returned from Charlotte, NC recently as the regional champions, and will move on to the national competition in Minneapolis in May for a third shot at the national title. Virginians were doubly touched by the stories of devastation in Haiti, knowing that two BRCC students and two staff members so

Dudley campus of Hill College has become a county-wide technical center for college students as well as community and high school students to acquire and update their technical skills. This, the third Center of Excellence in the United States, will offer all certifications that Snap-On provides.

narrowly escaped being injured there, and knowing that the school that was their base was entirely destroyed. They were touched again when team members presented their experiences at the *Chancellor's Award for Leadership in Philanthropy* luncheon on April 20.



*School students and BRCC team member before the earthquake in January in Haiti*

Team sponsor Rebecca Evans says the teams' real impact on individuals, particularly through their projects in Haiti, sets them apart in the awards competition. She said: "Haiti has been one of the focal points of several of our team's projects since 2007. Not only is it a country that truly benefits from any form of microbusiness, but its people genuinely appreciate the hand up they are given. The experience also has a profound affect on our students; opening their eyes to the privileges they are afforded everyday simply by living in the U.S."



*After the earthquake at the school in Riviere Froide*

The school the students visited in Riviere Froide was destroyed by the earthquake while they were there. It was a place that not only educated 1,000 children each day but was the place they were guaranteed a meal each day.

The SIFE team and students from BRCC are now hoping to rebuild the school with donations through the Blue Ridge Educational Foundation. Students have posted the cause on Facebook and at [www.Truehero.org](http://www.Truehero.org) as well.



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## SACJTC gratefully acknowledges the sponsors for the 2009 annual luncheon

### SILVER LEVEL



### BRONZE LEVEL



### BARNES AND NOBLE



### PARTICIPATING LEVEL

There's opportunity here

