

SACJTC Southern Association of Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges

NEWSLETTER

June 2013

Volume 47, Number 1

DR. BELLE WHEELAN TO SPEAK AT 2013 SACJTC ANNUAL MEETING



Dr. Belle Wheelan

The Southern Association of Community, Junior and Technical College's Board is pleased to announce that the speaker for the Annual Membership Luncheon will be Dr. Belle Wheelan, President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges. Dr. Wheelan currently serves as President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and is the first African American and the first woman to serve in this capacity. Her

career spans over 30 years and includes the roles of faculty member, chief student services officer, campus provost, college president and Secretary of Education. In several of those roles she was the first African American and/or woman to serve in those capacities.

Dr. Wheelan received her Bachelor's degree from Trinity University in Texas (1972) with a double major in Psychology and Sociology; her Master's from Louisiana State University (1974) in Developmental Educational Psychology; and her Doctorate from the University of Texas at Austin (1984) in Educational Administration with a special concentration in community college leadership.

The luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 8, 2013 from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. in Atlanta, Georgia. The cost for a luncheon ticket is \$35 and you may register for the luncheon through the regular SACSCOC registration process. Additional information regarding the luncheon will be available at a later date.

Please join us this year for the Southern Association of Community, Junior, and Technical College's Annual Membership Luncheon.

CURRENT MEMBERS RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

The SACJTC Board has agreed to maintain the membership dues structure for 2013-14. Institutional membership dues remain at \$100.00. Dues notices will be mailed to current and potential members in June, 2013.

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

SACJTC JOURNAL

CALL FOR PAPERS

The editors and advisory board of the Southern Association of Community, Junior and Technical Colleges is seeking papers for their annual online journal on this topic:

Student Success

Papers focusing on minority audiences are especially encouraged to apply. One paper will be selected by a peer reviewed panel for presentation at the 2013 SACS conference along with a monetary award. Papers of note will also be accepted for publication in the online journal (without compensation). Papers will be accepted until August 1, 2013. Please direct questions or submissions to george.edwards@kctcs.edu or matt.basham@ufl.edu.

SACJTC ANNOUNCES THEME FOR 2013

At the spring meeting of the board of directors, "Student Success" was chosen as the theme for 2013. The board concurred that this emphasis was illustrative of the focus of most comprehensive two-year colleges and one that relates directly to effectiveness and accreditation. In choosing this theme, the association will publicize it widely through its call for papers, in correspondence, and in its electronic publications.

Inside this issue:

SACJTC Journal	1
Theme for 2012	1
Annual Meeting Scheduled	1
News From States	3
Sponsors	12

2012 SACJTC ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING HELD IN DALLAS

The SACJTC annual membership luncheon was held in Dallas, Texas on December 9, 2012. Attendees enjoyed an excellent lunch, and listened to speaker Joshua Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program, whose topic was "Community College Excellence: Building Culture and Practice for Student Success."

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 2012 luncheon included: SSC, Siemens, Sodexo, Barnes and Noble, Valley, and Cengage Learning. Due to the generosity of these partners, the cost for luncheon attendees was kept to a minimum.

SACJTC Officers for 2013 include: President, Dr. Karen Bowyer, President of Dyersburg State Community College in Tennessee; Vice-President, Dr. Gary McGaha, President of Atlanta Metropolitan College in Georgia; Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. George D. Edwards, President of Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Kentucky; and Past President, Dr. Johnny Allen, President of Northeast Mississippi Community College in Mississippi.



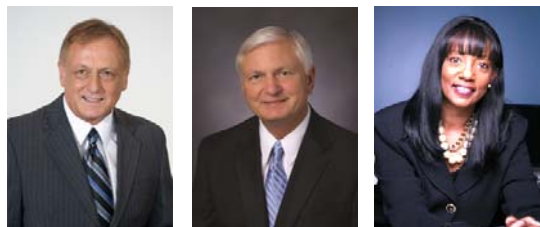
Dr. Karen Bowyer

Dr. Gary McGaha

Dr. George Edwards

Dr. Johnny Allen

New board members include: Dr. David Campbell, President of Northeast Alabama Community College in Alabama; Dr. Edward Meadows, President of Pensacola State College in Florida; and Dr. Andrea Lewis Miller, Chancellor of Baton Rouge Community College, in Louisiana.



Dr. David Campbell

Dr. Edward Meadows

Dr. Andrea Lewis Miller

Returning board members are: Dr. Ronnie Booth, President of Tri-County Technical College in South Carolina; Dr. Walter Bartlett, President of Piedmont Community College in North Carolina; Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover, President of Eastern Shore Community College in Virginia; and Dr. Sheryl Smith Kappus, President of Hill College in Texas.



Dr. Ronnie Booth

Dr. Walter Bartlett

Dr. Linda Thomas-Glover

Dr. Sheryl S. Kappus

LONGTIME SACJTC BOARD MEMBER AND OFFICER TO RETIRE



Dr. Marshall Smith

Dr. Marshall Smith, current president of John Tyler Community College (JTCC) in Virginia and former secretary/treasurer and president of the Southern Association of Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges is retiring on August 1, 2013 after 23 years of service as the longest serving president in the college's history. Dr. Smith served 12 years as secretary-treasurer and one year as president of SACJTC.

Under Dr. Smith's leadership, JTCC built a second campus; added a Nursing Education Center; nearly doubled in enrollment; became the first Virginia community college to construct an environmentally friendly building that received a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification; and expanded its offerings and partnerships. Dr. Smith is active in accreditation work for the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, chairing the Virginia delegation to the Commission for three years, serving on the Executive Council of the Commission for three years, and chairing over 30 reaffirmation and special committees.

Before beginning his career at John Tyler Community College, Dr. Smith was vice chancellor for academic and student affairs at the Virginia Community College System; president of Germanna Community College; and dean of instruction and then dean of the college at Calhoun State Community College in Alabama. He also served as dean of students and assistant professor of education at South Georgia College; director of residence halls at The University of Alabama; and assistant director of housing at West Georgia College. In addition, he has been an adjunct member of the graduate faculty of Old Dominion University and George Mason University. He holds a BA from The University of Alabama, a M.Ed. from West Georgia College, and a Ph.D. from The University of Alabama.

ALABAMA

UAB AND 4 COMMUNITY COLLEGES FORM ASSOCIATE-TO-BACHELOR'S DEGREE ADMISSIONS PIPELINE, SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

If you can earn an associate's degree at one of four Alabama community colleges, you will earn automatic admission to the University of Alabama at Birmingham for two years to complete a bachelor's degree, and a \$2,000-a-year scholarship.



Lawson State President Perry Ward, Wallace State-Hanceville Vice President for Students Tomesa Smith, UAB President Ray L. Watts, Jefferson State Dean of Career and Technical Education Norma Grant Bell, and Gadsden State President Raymond Staats

That's the gist of an admissions partnership initiative UAB President Ray L. Watts announced Wednesday with leaders from four Alabama community colleges - Gadsden State, Jefferson State, Lawson State, and Wallace State-Hanceville.

While enrolled and participating in the program, students at the colleges will have access to UAB facilities, including libraries, and to staff as well. UAB counselors stationed at the four community colleges will aid students in transitioning to UAB in their junior year.

According to Watts, more than 75 students have already accepted offers to participate in the program in the fall, but he expects enrollment in the pipeline program to expand in coming years. Brent Gage, UAB Associate Provost for Enrollment Management, said that a similar program in another state was able to accommodate 200 to 400 students per feeder campus. Watts described the joint admissions program as a "serious undertaking," and said it had been in the works for more than a year.

An anonymous donation is funding the \$2,000 scholarship for the junior and senior year. Students are also eligible for other scholarships.

Tomesa Smith, vice president for students at Wallace-Hanceville, said the scholarship offer makes the partnership a very "attractive opportunity" for students. "To have access to a scholarship like that for their last two years - that does give them a lot of incentive to finish at our institution and then have some guaranteed funds when they move on."

DRAKE STATE -TRANSFORMING THE ALABAMA TWO YEAR COLLEGE LANDSCAPE

In June of 2012, The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) granted initial accreditation to J.F. Drake State Technical College in Huntsville, Alabama. The college then petitioned the Alabama State Legislature and was granted unanimous approval to become the state's first community and technical college. The college officially changes its name on July 1, 2013 to J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College.



Dr. Helen McAlpine

Drake State President Helen T. McAlpine said of the SACS accreditation, "This is an important milestone in the life of our college, and I am so grateful to our faculty and staff who worked as an incredible team to make this a dream realized."

Once SACS accreditation was approved, the path was cleared for the college to adopt the word "community" into its name. However, the State of Alabama had no legal provision to approve a college as both a community and technical college. Approval was sought from both the state board of education and then a bill made its way through the House of Representatives, State Senate and then onto the Governor's desk where it was finally put into law.

"We wanted our name to be a true reflection of the college's mission. We have worked hard over the years to build partnerships with our community, including local universities, businesses, industries, and government agencies. Our mission is aimed at satisfying the broad range of educational needs of our residents and employers. With the addition of the transfer component to our mission, we felt that our name needed to incorporate the significance of our community commitment while preserving the connection to the importance of our technical programs. We are overwhelmed by the support received from our community, our state board of education and our legislative body," says Dr. Helen McAlpine, President of Drake State.

As part of its transformation to a more comprehensive mission, over the past six years, Drake State secured transfer of credits for its graduates into targeted engineering and business programs through articulation agreements with universities located in its region, including Alabama Agricul-

ture and Mechanical University, Athens State University, Oakwood University, and the University of Alabama-Huntsville.

With its historical focus on employment opportunities for its graduates, the college has always worked closely with Huntsville area business and industry firms. Industry partnerships include internship, apprenticeship, and placement programs with Boeing Aerospace, Northrop Grumman, Parker Hannifin, PPG Industries, Rolls-Royce Instrumentation & Controls, Tennessee Valley Authority, and numerous other national and international aerospace, medical, engineering and manufacturing firms. Our strong relationships with these growing industries have provided us with the opportunity to achieve a high placement rate for our graduates.

Drake State is committed to maintaining its high standard of workforce development which has been an integral part of its fifty year history - while SACS accreditation expands upon the opportunities for graduates to transfer credits to four year institutions across the country.

FLORIDA

PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE HOSTED THOUSANDS AT SKILLS-USA

It is often said that good things do not come easily. That was certainly the case in bringing the Florida Skills-USA Conference to Northwest Florida. It took an arduous competitive process of two years to convince the Florida Skills-USA board that Pensacola could deliver.



Florida Skills-USA 2013

As a result of the tremendous success of the 2012 conference, Pensacola State College, along with more than 50 community partners and sponsors, hosted the 2013 Florida Skills-USA State Competition and Worlds of Possibilities Career Expo for the second consecutive year.

On April 29 and 30, more than 6,500 students from middle schools, high schools, and colleges across Florida arrived in Pensacola to participate in the conference. The Skills-USA competitions showcased the technical skills, knowledge and leadership abilities of Florida's best and brightest students in a multitude of career pathways. The Worlds of Possibilities Career Expo engaged students with exciting hands-on and interactive experiences.

Throughout the two-day conference, students were introduced to real work force opportunities. At a time when employers are struggling to find qualified electricians, carpenters, machinists and many other skilled workers, it's important for students to see the possibilities and the values of these needed careers.

The public was also invited to tour the Worlds of Possibilities Career Expo, as well as to participate in the area's largest job fair with more than 60 local employers, all hiring for multiple positions, in attendance. Health care, communications, retail, education, transportation, manufacturing, hospitality and accounting were just a few of the careers represented at the fair. Several hundred people interviewed for openings, and many were hired on the spot.

Back by popular demand in 2013 was the Electrathon Vehicle Race at a local speedway, where college and high school competitors raced their electric cars through an endurance race to determine how far they could travel on electric batteries. The event was once again co-hosted by Skills-USA and sponsored by the Gulf Power Engineering Society.

Besides participating in the competitions and career expo, thousands of these students and their families explored Pensacola's rich history, local cuisine, the National Naval Aviation Museum and, of course, our picturesque beaches and sparkling Gulf of Mexico.

The importance of hosting the Skills-USA State Conference and Worlds of Possibilities Career Expo is easily seen in the numbers. Two years ago, 1300 students participated in the competitions and this year more than 1700 participated. Last year's event added more than \$2.5 million to our local economy. This year's economic impact exceeded \$3 million.

Pensacola State has played a vital role in educating and training our local work force for more than six decades, and will continue to listen to the needs of our business and industry leaders and provide opportunities for our young people to become skilled workers, ready for jobs close to home.

GEORGIA

ALBANY TECHNICAL COLLEGE SIGNS TWO PATHWAYS PROGRAM AGREEMENTS

Albany Technical College officially signed two Pathways Program agreements with Valdosta State University on May 28, 2013.

Through the Pathways Program agreements, students graduating with an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree in 22 selected programs from Albany Tech can begin working on a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree with a major in Technical Studies from Valdosta State University. In addition, students graduating from Associate of Applied Science (AAS) from Albany Tech can begin work toward a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree from Valdosta State University in Organizational Leadership.

ATLANTA TECHNICAL COLLEGE IS 2012 COLLEGE OF THE YEAR

The State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) has chosen Atlanta Technical College as their college of the year for 2012.

Dr. Lynn Cornett, chair of the TCSG board, presented Atlanta Technical College President Alvetta Thomas with the Perdue Award for the TCSG Technical College of the Year during the board's monthly meeting in Atlanta on December 6, 2012.

The award is named in honor of former Governor Sonny Perdue, who has been a strong supporter of Georgia's technical colleges and their mission to develop the state's workforce through world-class technical and adult education programs.

GOVERNOR DEAL SIGNS BILL TO EXPAND ACCESS TO TECHNICAL COLLEGES

At the Technical College System of Georgia 2013 Leadership Summit, Governor Nathan Deal signed into law legislation that will lower the GPA requirement for the HOPE Grant, which goes to students in the technical college system. By expanding access to the HOPE Grant, HB 372 will strengthen the state's workforce development efforts.

This bill will drop the GPA requirement for the HOPE Grant back to a 2.0 after it increased to 3.0 two years ago for budgetary reasons. Recent growth in Lottery revenues will cover the additional \$5 million to \$8 million this expansion will cost. In the first six months of this fiscal

year, deposits were up \$32 million, a 7.6 percent increase over the same period the year before.

DUAL CREDIT CLASSES INCENTIVIZED IN NEW GEORGIA ACT

Governor Nathan Deal recently signed a bill that will give high school students extra credit for attending dual-credit, college courses.

House Bill 131 became law on April 19, 2013 and allows bonus points to be added to dual-credit students' GPAs and counts towards the "rigorous coursework" requirement the HOPE scholarship now asks of students. The bill goes into effect on July 1, 2013.

The bill applies this incentive to dual enrollment, joint enrollment and ACCEL courses. Southeastern Technical College officials applauded the bill's signing, citing the success of programs like ACCEL.

Deal said that by 2020, 60 percent of job openings in Georgia will require postsecondary education and Georgia must increase the percentage of people holding degrees in order to create a workforce to meet that need.

"These partnerships allow high school students to earn college credits before graduating from high school, making their transition to postsecondary education smoother and their likelihood of graduating from college greater," said Deal.

ATLANTA METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY AWARD RECIPIENT



Ehiremen "Martins" Iyoha and Dr. Gary McGaha

Ehiremen "Martins" Iyoha was recognized with the Distinguished Chapter Member Award during the 2013 Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society Annual Convention held in San Jose, California in April 2013.

Martins is one of 30 students across the country to be honored. He also won the Distinguished Chapter Member Award during the Georgia Regional Phi Theta Kappa Convention earlier this year.

KENTUCKY

DR. LYNN MOORE CHOSEN TO SUCCEED DR. BRUCE AYERS AS SOUTHEAST KENTUCKY COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT

Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) President Michael B. McCall recently announced the appointment of Dr. F. Lynn Moore as president of Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKCTC).

After consideration of three candidates, the SKCTC Board of Directors unanimously recommended Dr. Moore for the position. Board Chair Reecie Stagnolia commented, "Dr. Moore is the best candidate for the job. She has a lot to offer this area and the Southeast Board, Foundation, faculty and students all gave her high marks." Dr. Moore will begin serving as president effective July 8, 2013 following the retirement of long-time SKCTC president Dr. Bruce Ayers.



Dr. Lynn Moore

Dr. Moore has served as the vice president for student development at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon since 2008, and took on an additional role as vice president of administrative services in 2011. Prior to that she was the dean of students and an adjunct instructor at Hill Community College District in Texas, and the supplemental education services director at Texas State Technical College. In addition to her experience in higher education Dr. Moore has also held positions with the Texas Comptroller's Office, the Texas Department of Corrections and she is a former co-owner and manager of a private dental clinic.

"Dr. Moore brings a range of skills and experience to the position," said Dr. McCall. "We are pleased to welcome her to SKCTC and KCTCS."

Dr. Moore earned a doctorate of philosophy in educational administration from the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin. She holds a master's degree in business administration from Baker College with a concentration in human resource management and a bachelor of science degree in business management from the University of Phoenix. Dr. Moore is a member of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC) and has experience in community service and fundraising for a variety of organizations.

KCTCS APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT OF SOUTH-CENTRAL KENTUCKY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) President Michael B. McCall recently announced the appointment of Dr. Phillip Neal as president of South-central Kentucky Community and Technical College (formerly Bowling Green Technical College).



Dr. Phillip Neal

Dr. Neal is an experienced leader who has served as the Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKYCTC) provost since 2008. After consideration of four candidates the SKYCTC Board of Directors unanimously recommended Dr. Neal for the position. Dr. Neal will begin serving as president effective July 1, 2013 following the retirement of Dr. Nathan Hodges.

"I am excited the next president of SKYCTC already has a history of leadership with the college," said Dr. McCall. "I am confident Dr. Neal will continue the success of SKYCTC and this will be a smooth transition."

Dr. Neal has 25 years of experience in higher education. His career includes positions at community colleges and universities in Kentucky, Texas and Wyoming in the areas of academics, student affairs, institutional effectiveness and corporate training. Prior to taking the position of SKYCTC provost in 2008, Dr. Neal was a resource development coordinator for the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) and he was a faculty member and chief student affairs officer for Laramie County Community College in Wyoming from 1995-2006.

Dr. Neal earned a doctoral degree in educational administration from the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin, and completed his master's degree in education and bachelor's degree in psychology at the University of Wyoming. Dr. Neal is co-author of, *The Creative Community College: Leading Change Through Innovation*, a Community College Press best seller, and he is active with numerous regional, state and national boards and organizations promoting academic success and economic development.

KCTCS CONFERENCE DRAWS NATIONAL SPEAKERS, INCORPORATES COLLABORATION AND NEW IDEAS

More than 650 faculty and staff from all 16 Kentucky Community and Technical Colleges recently had the opportunity to network with their colleagues and share innovative ideas, techniques and technologies at the 2013 KCTCS New

Horizons Conference – *Redesign*. The conference was held May, 2013 at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington, Kentucky.

Like the conference theme, KCTCS continues to redesign and improve education for Kentuckians in order to prepare them for the most highly-skilled and high-demand occupations, particularly in key industry growth segments such as healthcare, manufacturing, energy, banking and financial services and construction and trades.

KCTCS President Michael B. McCall shared with employees national and state data indicating that retention is one of the greatest challenges facing community colleges today. He introduced his vision of “momentum” for the 2013-14 academic year designed to improve college completion rates. “We need to build the momentum for our students to ensure they successfully navigate their way through the entire student lifecycle from prospect to applicant to successful graduate to a successfully employed worker or transfer student to a four-year institution,” said Dr. McCall.

The conference welcomed two nationally-known speakers. The keynote speaker was Dr. Jim Applegate, vice president for program development for the Lumina Foundation. Dr. Applegate shared new models and strategic direction for redesigning colleges and programs to improve education.

Another well-known educator to speak was Dr. Walter Bumphus, president of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Dr. Bumphus discussed the recent launch of AACC’s game-changing publication, *Reclaiming the American Dream* that illustrates the challenges and opportunities community colleges face as they redesign, reset and transform.

In addition to the enrichment opportunities provided at the conference, awards were presented to KCTCS faculty and staff. Fifty faculty and staff were recognized for their innovative and significant achievements, as well as service to students and their communities. Each of the 16 KCTCS colleges selected an outstanding administrative staff member, support staff member and faculty member. Two individuals (one support staff and one administrative staff) from the KCTCS System office were also honored. Students also took center stage at New Horizons. Thirty-two of Kentucky’s top college students were honored as members of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System’s 2013 All-Academic Team. Students from each of the 16 KCTCS colleges were chosen for the All-Academic Team based on a rigorous selection process that focuses on academic performance and campus involvement. Each member of the All-Academic Team received a \$500 gift from their college, as well as scholar-

ship opportunities to continue their education from 29 Kentucky public and private universities. Together, the scholarships are valued at more than \$500,000.



Ebony Nava

The 2013 New Century Scholar was also named during the student awards luncheon. The New Century Scholar is part of a national program sponsored by the national honor society Phi Theta Kappa, USA Today and the American Association of Community Colleges. Ebony Nava from Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) was named the New Century Scholar for Kentucky.

In addition, Nava was the recipient of the KCTCS Martha C. Johnson Scholarship for \$2,500. The scholarship is named in honor of Martha Johnson, a native of Ashland and a graduate of Ashland Community and Technical College. She is retired from Ashland, Inc. and is the founding chair of the KCTCS Board of Regents.

Nava will graduate from BCTC in spring 2014 with an associate in science degree.

LOUISIANA

FIFTEEN STUDENTS GEAR UP FOR ‘ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY’ IN SALZBURG THIS SPRING

Fifteen students and 12 faculty members and administrators from Louisiana’s community and technical colleges will travel to Salzburg, Austria this spring and summer to participate in the Global Citizenship Program, a week-long international study experience sponsored by the Salzburg Global Seminar.

The purpose of the program is to allow participants to explore pressing issues of global concern and to view such issues from a perspective outside the borders of the United States. Study will take place at Schloss Leopoldskron, an 18th century castle in Salzburg that is home of the Seminar.

“The opportunity for our students to study abroad is invaluable,” said Joe May, president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS). “No longer are our students’ competing with their peers from Louisiana or the U.S. They are competing with the very best from around the world. As educators we must enrich the college experience and the Salzburg Global Seminar helps us to do that.”

According to Dr. Natalie Harder, chancellor of South Louisiana Community College (SLCC) in Lafayette, the seminar

will expose the students to international issues and provide them with the tools to understand developments in world affairs.

"Often it is students who focus on technical education who find themselves in global situations after college," she said. "Their training may lead to jobs offshore, perhaps in other countries or working for supervisors from other nations, and an appreciation of international perspectives will equip them to be better employees." For Adam Broussard, a freshman at SLCC, the chance to travel and study outside the U.S. is "a once in a lifetime opportunity."

An additional group of eight LCTCS faculty and administrators will travel to Austria later this summer to participate in a seminar titled, "Education for Global Citizenship: What, Why and How?" in July, 2013.

"One of the roles of a faculty member is to promote cultural awareness in students," said Michele Lyons, dean of health sciences at Northshore Technical Community College in Bogalusa, who is attending the July session. "We have the opportunity to bring perspectives from the Salzburg seminar and incorporate them into our programs here, which will benefit even more of our students."

This is the fifth year that LCTCS colleges are participating in the Salzburg program. According to Harder, the LCTCS has a higher percentage of students, faculty and administrators attending than any other college, university or educational system at the seminar.

Funding for the program has been made available by the LCTCS Foundation, AT&T, Dow Chemical, and Student Government Associations from around the state. "We rely heavily on two-year degreed professionals at our manufacturing facilities, and they come from the community and technical college system," said Stacey Chaisson, public affairs leader for Dow in Louisiana. "We are happy to support the Salzburg program because it exposes current students to an international perspective that will make them more valuable employees when they enter the workforce."

MISSISSIPPI

MGCCC HOLDS SCHOLARSHIP GALA, SILENT AUCTION AND CELEBRITY ROAST

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College held its annual Scholarship Gala, Silent Auction and Celebrity Roast at the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino in Biloxi. The gala raised more than \$75,000 for student scholarships. Annually, the Foundation gives out more than \$200,000 in scholarships.

Jerry St. Pé, former president of Ingalls Shipbuilding and retired executive vice president of the shipyard's parent company, Litton Industries, was the guest of honor. Those roasting St. Pé included Royce Cumbest, chairman of the board, president and CEO of Merchants & Marine Bank; Rep. Manly Barton, Mississippi House of Representatives, District 109; George Schloegel, mayor of Gulfport; Don Massengale Jr., retired director of Industrial Relations Services at Ingalls Shipbuilding and MGCCC Board of Trustees member; and Joann St. Pé, of Pascagoula. Joe Martin, Jackson County Circuit Clerk, was the roastmaster. Nathan Woodward provided the musical entertainment.

MGCCC president, Dr. Mary Graham, said the gala is an important source of funding for student scholarships. "We are committed to success and academic excellence for our students, and the funds raised for scholarships through this annual event are an integral part of that. Many of our students cannot attend college without this kind of support." She added, "We appreciate Jerry St. Pé, the roasters, our sponsors, the businesses and individuals who donated the wonderful silent auction items and all of those who attended. They are truly making a positive difference for our students and our four-county district."

The MGCCC Foundation is the oldest community college foundation in the state. It was established on July 24, 1974.

NORTH CAROLINA

PIEDMONT CC'S WORKFORCE CERTIFICATION ACADEMY BEING TOUTED AS MODEL PROGRAM



Linda Weaver of Roxboro receives a standing ovation from the North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges

Linda Weaver of Roxboro was the most nervous person in the room, hands-down. But she held on to the podium set up in the large board room, leaned into the microphone, looked at the faces of the members of North Carolina State Board of Community Colleges, and in a crystal-clear voice said, "I'm Linda Weaver, and I am the face of the recession of 2009-2010."

And then she told her story—how she, a 50-something single female lost her construction job and then applied for every possible job she could find, only to be turned down again and again. She shared how she was almost destitute when, one day at the local unemployment office, she learned about Piedmont Community College's Workforce Certification Academy® (WCA), a new program to help individuals such as Linda earn industry-recognized credentials for manufacturing jobs available in her area.

PCC customized the credential program offered through the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC), offering face-to-face instruction, an orientation course, and classes to help students with their job-seeking skills. And then instructors and staff set about helping students get jobs. For Linda, that meant landing a job at Eaton Corp. where she earns enough money to support herself once again.

The WCA[®] offers training in two primary areas: Certified Production Technology and Certified Logistics Technician leading to MSSC credentials. Participants also may earn their North Carolina Career Readiness Certificate. Over 60% of the graduates who completed the program during its first year obtained employment earning more than \$12 per hour.

As Piedmont CC staff began to make presentations about the program to their peers, others became interested in replicating the model at their colleges. North Carolina Community College System President Dr. Scott Ralls brought his staff to Roxboro to learn more about the program and how it could benefit others across the state. He also met Linda Weaver and was touched when she told him, "This program saved my life."

As Linda later shared her story with State Board of Community Colleges in Raleigh, some of those listening had moist eyes as they saw for themselves the difference a community college can make when its staff and faculty work together to identify effective solutions to solve today's economic challenges.

For more information about Piedmont Community College's Workforce Certification Academy, contact Dr. Doris Carver, Vice President, Continuing Education at doris.carver@piedmontcc.edu or (336) 322-2111.

SOUTH CAROLINA

MR. HENRY C. GILES, JR. NAMED PRESIDENT OF SPARTANBURG COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Spartanburg Community College (SCC) has named Mr. Henry C. Giles, Jr., to the position of president. The Spartanburg County Commission for Technical and Community Education, the governing body of SCC, announced Giles' selection making him the College's sixth president in its almost fifty years of educational service to residents of Spartanburg, Union and Cherokee counties.

"On behalf of the Spartanburg County Commission, I am delighted to announce that Mr. Henry C. Giles, Jr. is the unanimous choice of our commissioners as SCC's next president," said Mr. Bruce Johnson, Commission chair. "After a nationwide search, we are confident that Mr.

Giles' leadership, experience and vision will move the College forward in the coming years as we fulfill our vision and mission of 'changing the lives and building the futures of our students while acting as a catalyst for economic development through innovation, collaboration and excellence in educational programs and services.' "



Mr. Henry C. Giles Jr.

Giles previously served as SCC's interim president and executive vice president for Business Affairs, and has been employed at the College since 1969 when he began his career teaching mathematics. He was first promoted at the College to the position of program coordinator for programs funded with the U.S. Department of Labor training grants, which is where he began his administrative career. Giles has also served as the College's vice president for Development and vice president for Academic Affairs before being promoted to his current position of executive vice president for Business Affairs.

A native of Cowpens, South Carolina, Mr. Giles received a bachelor's degree in Mathematics from Wofford College and a Master's of Teaching in Mathematics from Converse College. He continued his educational pursuit by completing graduate work in Higher Education Administration with Nova University in Florida and management through the University of South Carolina.

"Spartanburg Community College is an outstanding institution of higher education, and I look forward to continuing my work with an institution that makes such a difference in the lives of students and the livelihood of our local and state economy," explains Giles. "Thank you to our dedicated Commission for this tremendous opportunity to continue working with our faculty and staff, all of whom share my dedication to serving our students as well as our business and industry partners."

TENNESSEE

The 13 community colleges in Tennessee (TN) enrolled approximately 92,750 students this past year which is 23% of the postsecondary enrollment of 400,908 students this year. There has been a decrease in enrollment in the community colleges over the past three years from a high of 98,500 in 2010 to 96,780 in 2011 to the current 92,750. The percent of decrease since 2010 is 5.8%.

Since funding is now based on outcomes, there has been an increase in appropriations for some community colleges. Overall appropriations have grown from \$198,336,400 in 2012-13 to \$211,149,400 or 6.6%. Measures of these

outcomes include, but are not limited to: (1) number of degrees and certificates awarded, (2) student retention and progression points (earning 12, 24 and 36 credit hours), (3) workforce training hours and (4) graduation rates.

The Governor and the Tennessee General Assembly have approved a 1.5% salary increase for state employees. Community colleges are responsible for funding one-third of this increase. It is estimated that a tuition increase of 1.7% is needed to fund this share of the raise. The TN Higher Education Commission has recommended that the TN Board of Regents limit the tuition increase to 3% for community college students. If approved by the Board on June 21, tuition would increase from \$135 per semester hour to approximately \$139.

Money for workforce training equipment was approved for the TN Community Colleges and the TN Technology Centers (Colleges of Applied Technology will be their name after July 1). The non-recurring funds of \$16.5 million will provide the 16,800 students in the TTCs and the 92,750 students in the community colleges with up-to-date equipment for hands-on training.

Among the TBR universities, community colleges and TTCs benefiting from \$163.9 million in state capital outlay funding are Nashville State Community College and Northeast State Community College. All of the community colleges will benefit from \$33.8 million in capital maintenance funding for 28 projects.

Governor Bill Haslam proposed and the General Assembly approved \$5 million non-recurring for Western Governors University to expand its operations in Tennessee. Western Governors University does not offer Associate Degrees. The TN Higher Education Commission will receive \$3 million non-recurring to establish an Online Innovation Fund aimed at expanding the opportunities for Massive Open Online Courses.

An appropriation of \$300,000 non-recurring for dual credit articulation was approved. This appropriation is associated with Public Chapter 967 passed in 2012. Colleges and universities will prepare high school teachers to teach college level courses in high school. If students pass the End of Course examination in high school they will receive college credit. The General Assembly adjourned in record time on April 19, 2013.

TEXAS

MCLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S HIGHLANDER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

A recent addition to the instructional experience at McLennan Community College is the Highlander Undergraduate Research Institute (HURI) which was formally created in the fall semester of 2012. The mission of HURI is to establish a culture of undergraduate research to foster interactive student learning through discovery and exploration. A multi-disciplinary faculty committee leads this effort promoting research and "applied learning" on the campus. Research encompasses introduction to graduate level research projects. Projects include field work, case based research built into the curriculum, Science field trips, independent research courses, and student presentations and publications. Most of the research is accomplished in the classroom, on campus, and in the local community.



Mars Desert Research Station

HURI's main work is promoting research in the curriculum. Projects are student-designed and implemented. Faculty and students engage in projects, with both learning from the exchange. Students first learn how to ask questions, formulate hypothesis/null hypothesis, and gather data through lab activities in various disciplines. Most students have not been asked to think scientifically before, so the process itself is new to them as they collect and analyze their data. Results of their work are presented at campus-wide forums which include both poster sessions and formal presentations.

An example of this effort is an ongoing collaborative effort with a local school district to offer dual credit Science courses that address water conservation. Faculty from HURI have shared their work through professional development opportunities for faculty in both the college and local high schools through courses such as "How to Use Case Studies." They have also presented in local and national

educational forums on our work with students. We continue to grow the program and expect more exciting results and a positive impact on our students in the coming year.

W.W. CARUTH, JR. FOUNDATION AT COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION OF TEXAS AWARDS \$1.8 MILLION GRANT TO DALLAS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT FOUNDATION

W.W. Caruth, Jr. Foundation at Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT) has announced a \$1.8 million grant to the Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) Foundation to train the best and brightest students in the DCCCD STEM Institute.

The STEM Institute helps high-achieving students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) earn degrees and prepare for careers in their respective fields. Caruth Foundation's grant will help reduce the shortage of workers and future teachers in STEM fields. Educate Texas, a public-private initiative of CFT, will work closely with the DCCCD STEM Institute to aid in its long-term sustainability program, evaluation and alignment to the statewide STEM effort.

TEXAS BIOSCIENCE INSTITUTE AT TEMPLE COLLEGE



Biotechnology is the use of living organisms and/or biological processes to solve problems or to make useful products such as vaccines and therapeutic drugs. Created to prepare students as scientists to enter rapidly evolving STEM related, bioscience and medical fields, the Texas Bioscience Institute (TBI) provides strong academic and technical education that can be applied to real world situations, and affords students a foundation for upper-level studies in many STEM, biosciences, medicine, engineering, or mathematics fields.

The TBI allows students to reach their full potential in a learning environment that favors problem solving, interdisciplinary instruction and integration of theory and practice. This fosters success in college STEM, health science and biotechnology programs, ensures high standards and challenging opportunities, and allows students to be active partners in education.

The Texas Bioscience Institute facility is located on Scott and White's West Campus alongside world-class medical

research and bioscience commercial laboratories. State-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories provide vast educational opportunities for high school students, traditional college students, and nontraditional college students in the same facility.

VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRANTS SPUR PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH

Nearly three dozen organizations are working together in eight regional partnerships to connect veterans who have recently finished their military service, and their eligible spouses, with jobs and careers in high-growth, high-demand fields.

Virginia's Community Colleges are funding the partnerships with \$1.8 million in grants. Individual grant awards range from \$142,500 – \$250,000. Taken together, the innovative partnerships are expected to serve more than 700 people annually.

"We have worked to make Virginia the best state for military families to live and find work after they finish their service," said Governor Bob McDonnell. "I am pleased to announce another cost-effective strategy to serve those veterans and their families. By knocking down walls between programs and agencies and leveraging the great work these terrific organizations serving veterans already do, we can better help our heroes find good-paying jobs and promising careers."

The projects selected for funding include regional and statewide strategies and tools to train and employ veterans in healthcare, advanced manufacturing and information technology, among other fast-growing industry sectors. These career pathways for veterans include additional tools to reward veterans with college credits for prior learning and for skills obtained in the armed forces.

"Community colleges are at their best when they can bring together various groups and organizations to answer a community challenge, and that's what we're doing here," said Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia's Community Colleges. "We were impressed by both the quantity and the quality of the proposals we received. The selected proposals contained smart and creative ways to serve our veterans better. We're excited to put those ideas to work."

Award recipients include: Alexandria Workforce Investment Board, Greater Peninsula Workforce Development Consortium, Opportunity Inc. of Hampton Roads, Patrick Henry Community College, South Central Workforce Investment Board, The Skills Source Group, Virginia Industry Foundation, Western Virginia Workforce Development Board.

VIRGINIA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES WORK TO SLASH TEXTBOOK COSTS

Full-time students, on average, spend nearly \$1,000 a year on textbooks and other learning resources, according to the College Board. That is increasingly seen as a barrier to both student enrollment and student success. New grants made by the VCCS are tapping community college faculty expertise and creativity to reduce those costs by adopting "Open Educational Resources."

The initiative is one of many embraced by the Chancellor's Reengineering Task Force as a way to reduce barriers to student success.

"One significant obstacle hindering the success of our students is the rising cost of textbooks," said Chancellor Glenn Dubois. "To fully succeed, our students need access to inexpensive, high quality course materials on the very first day of class."

A dozen grants – each worth \$3,000 – are being awarded to faculty members teaching in community colleges across Virginia to boost the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) – teaching and learning materials freely available online for everyone to use – in high enrollment courses including English, psychology, biology, business, chemistry, history, mathematics and information technology (see list below). Those projects aim to increase the awareness of OERs as well as create classes for which OERs will be the only required material.

The grant program is one of several strategies aiming to slash the cost of textbooks for Virginia Community College students. Others include:

- Tidewater Community College's OpenTCC project, where business faculty are developing the first ever associate's degree in business administration with no textbook costs (<http://www.tcc.edu/news/press/2013/TextbookFreeDegree.htm>).
- A team of math faculty and instructional designers developed a web site to help students prepare for several units in developmental math (<http://vccsblogs.com/math>).
- Faculty members at New River Community College have created free, web-based resources for English 111 & 112 courses.
- Northern Virginia Community College's Extended Learning Institute (ELI) is creating a series of general education course options that will become part of an OER-based general education certificate program. The courses will be open to NVCC students as well as distance learning students from other Virginia Community Colleges; the open materials will be available system-wide as well as licensed through the Creative Commons.

NEW PRESIDENTS IN VIRGINIA



Dr. John J. Rainone

Dr. John J. Rainone will become the fourth president of Dabney S. Lancaster Community College in Clifton Forge, Virginia, effective July 8, 2013. Rainone, of Cape Neddick, Maine, is dean of institutional advancement at York County Community College, in Wells, Maine, a position he has held since 1999. He succeeds Dr. Richard Teaff, who retires this year after 18 years at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College.



Dr. Edward E. Raspiller

Dr. Edward E. "Ted" Raspiller will become the 7th president of John Tyler Community College (JTCC) beginning August 5, 2013. Raspiller is currently president of the Brazos County Campuses at Blinn College in Bryan, Texas. Previously, he directed the Community College Leadership doctoral program at Old Dominion University.

Raspiller succeeds Dr. Marshall W. Smith, who retires this year after serving as John Tyler Community College president for nearly 23 years.



Dr. Bruce R. Scism

Dr. Bruce R. Scism will become the 5th president of Danville Community College (DCC) beginning August 1, 2013. Scism is currently vice president of academic affairs at Volunteer State Community College in Gallatin, Tennessee, a position he has held since 2008.

Scism served as interim president at Volunteer State from October 2011 to May 2012. He was chief academic officer at Lee College, a comprehensive community college in Baytown, Texas from 2006-2008, where he directed academic affairs including transfer, technical/vocational programs, and workforce development. He also served as vice president for academic affairs and student services at Triton College in River Grove, Ill., (2002-2006) and as associate vice president – instructional technology at Triton College (2001-2002). He was coordinator of the Illinois Prairie Higher Education Consortium and the Illinois Prairie Internet Consortium from 1999-2001, and served as director of virtual learning at Lake Land College in Mattoon, Ill., from 1998-2000.

Scism will succeed Dr. B. Carlyle Ramsey, who retires August 1, 2013, after 21 years as the president at DCC.



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