

SACJTC Southern Association of Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges

NEWSLETTER

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SACJTC BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP VOTES TO CHANGE NAME

Historically, the mantra of associate degree granting institutions has been one of rapid response to ever-changing work force needs at the local, regional, and national levels. As associate degree granting institutions expanded their career and technical programs to accommodate millions of returning servicemen from World War II, the name of institutions changed to better identify the focus of the institutional mission. For example, some junior colleges expanded the traditional university transfer mission to include a much stronger focus on career and technical programs and as a result changed their names and technical training. Thus, the Association (SACJC) saw the need to be viewed as more inclusive of all associate degree granting institutions and in 1988 voted to include the word "technical" in its name (SACJTC).

In response to local and regional workforce needs, associate degree granting institutions once again are answering the call to adopt and respond rapidly by offering work force baccalaureate degrees, in addition to associate degrees, certificates, and diplomas. Currently, of the eleven member states of SACSCOC, Florida, Georgia, and Texas associate degree granting institutions offer, to some extent, baccalaureate degrees, with many other states engaged in this discussion.

The SACJTC Board and its membership voted to adopt the proposal for this revised mission statement and name change at the annual meeting in December, 2013. Revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws will be made and a final vote will be cast at the annual meeting in December 2014.

(The revised mission and goals can be found on page 2.)

CURRENT MEMBERS RENEW MEMBERSHIP TODAY

The SACJTC Board has agreed to maintain the membership dues structure for 2014-15. Institutional membership dues remain at \$100.00. Dues notices will be mailed to current and potential members in June, 2014.

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 REQUEST FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Southern Association of Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges is soliciting papers on the best practices in community college administration for their online journal at sacjtc.org. We are asking 1-2 page abstracts be received by August 1, 2014 and 10-15 page final papers be submitted by October 1, 2014. A blind double review will select one paper, based on the merits of their paper and their applicability to addressing a current issue for many community colleges for a \$500 honorarium. The honorarium will be awarded at the annual banquet at the SACS conference in December 2014 in Nashville, Tennessee. All submissions may be published online if the reviewers feel there is academic and practical merit in the paper.

Please submit your intention to apply to editors@sacjtc.org and we will follow up with you throughout the process and answer any questions you may have.

The content of the SACJTC online journal is distributed electronically to the community college presidents in the SACS region.



Dr. Matt Basham, editor of the SACJTC journal; Dr. Eric Roe, Polk State College; and Dr. Karen Bowyer, past-president of SACJTC. Dr. Roe was a co-author of the winning paper submitted to the SACJTC journal in 2013.

**THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES WITH ASSOCIATE DEGREES
MISSION STATEMENT**

The Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees (SACAD) provides a unified professional voice to address regional and national issues that have an impact on policies, procedures and practices related directly to associate degree granting institutions. The SACAD consists of accredited member institutions served by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges who offer more than 50% of their total degrees at the associate degree level. The SACAD provides opportunities for its membership to engage in professional development activities through scholarly publications, activities and events. The SACAD advocates and embraces the mission and goals of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

GOALS

1. Annually recognize and publish outstanding practices among member institutions.
2. Develop forums for the exchange of ideas among CEOs, administrators and faculty.
3. Increase participation in submission of scholarly articles to the SACAD Journal.
4. Increase participation in submission of news to the SACAD Newsletter.
5. Increase attendance at the annual December membership meeting.
6. Increase membership in the Association.
7. Increase opportunities for professional development activities and events among the Association membership.
8. Establish ad hoc committees to address and recommend strategies to achieve each of the above goals.

2013 SACJTC ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING HELD IN DALLAS

The SACJTC annual membership luncheon was held in Atlanta, Georgia on December 8, 2013. Attendees enjoyed an excellent lunch, and listened to speaker Dr. Belle S. Wheelan, President, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. Her topic was "Success Takes Courage."

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 2013 luncheon included: SSC, Sodexo, Barnes and Noble, Valley, Ed Financial Group, and Follett Higher Education Group. Due to the generosity of these partners, the cost for luncheon attendees was kept to a minimum.

SACJTC Officers for 2014 include: President, Dr. Gary A. McGaha, Atlanta Metropolitan State College, GA; Vice-President, Dr. Ed Meadows, Pensacola State College, FL; Secretary/Treasurer, Dr. George D. Edwards, Big Sandy Community and Technical College, KY; Dr. Karen Bowyer, Past President, Dyersburg State Community College, TN.



Dr. Gary McGaha



Dr. Edward Meadows



Dr. George Edwards



Dr. Karen Bowyer

New board members include: Dr. Beth Lewis, President, College of the Mainland, TX; and, Dr. Ronald E. Nettles, President, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, MS.



Dr. Beth Lewis



Dr. Ronald E. Nettles

ALABAMA

ACCS PLAYS MAJOR ROLE IN TAKING CARE OF ALABAMA'S NURSING NEEDS

The Alabama Community College System (ACCS) is delivering a steady supply of trained workers for the state's most in-demand occupation -- registered nurse. The System's colleges also are preparing students for careers in other fast-growing health care occupations.

According to the Alabama Department of Labor, registered nurse is the state's Number 1 high-demand occupation with nearly 2,000 job openings projected annually through 2020. ACCS colleges currently have over 5,700 students enrolled in the System's 20 separate college registered nursing programs.

"We are Alabama's workforce delivery system for nurses. More than 75 percent of the practical and registered nurses in Alabama are a product of the Alabama Community College System," Chancellor Mark Heinrich said. "When you visit your doctor or health care agency, you will likely receive care from a nurse who received their degree from one of our community colleges."

Other health care occupations are also in high demand in Alabama, according to the Alabama Department of Labor. Some of these include medical assistants and health information technologists, which together should see more than 1,100 openings annually through 2020. ACCS colleges currently have more than 2,000 students majoring in these programs alone.

The ACCS offers 31 different allied health programs in occupations such as diagnostic imaging, radiology, emergency medical services, and physical and occupation therapy assistants.

Many ACCS nursing graduates take advantage of articulation agreements that lead to a bachelor's or master's degree in nursing from a four-year Alabama university. Upon completing an associate's degree, ACCS nursing graduates are prepared to work as nurses in a variety of settings from physician offices to acute care hospitals. Average annual earnings for nurses in the U.S. top \$65,000, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

TRENHOLM STATE ACHIEVES CANDIDACY STATUS

H. Councill Trenholm State Technical College is now a candidate for accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Candidate institutions have demonstrated compliance with Core Requirements 2.1-2.11, three Comprehensive Standards (3.3.1, 3.5.1, and 3.7.1), and the Federal Requirements of SACSCOC's Principles of Accreditation.

The college's candidacy status is the result of an intensive self-study process followed by a candidacy visit conducted in April by representatives of SACS-accredited institu-

tions from other states. That team's report was then reviewed by the Commission on Colleges' Committee on Compliance and Reports, which voted to grant candidacy based on their review.

The college is now undertaking a second self-study that will incorporate all Comprehensive Standards. SACS membership will require completion of that self-study; a second peer visit with a much larger review team in which Trenholm demonstrates compliance with all Core Requirements, Comprehensive Standards and Federal Requirements; and review and approval by the Committee on Compliance and Reports. SACS candidacy does not guarantee that membership will follow.

NEW TAX CREDIT EXPECTED TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR STATE'S CAREER TECHNICAL DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM

State lawmakers and representatives with the Alabama Community College System predict a new tax credit will help boost funding and enrollment in the state's career technical dual enrollment program for high school students.

The bill enacted during the regular legislative session earlier this year would give an income tax credit beginning in 2015 to individuals and businesses that make contributions to cover tuition, fees, books and other costs associated with participation in the Career Technical Dual enrollment program. The act allows the contributors to direct as much as 80 percent of their donations to a particular career technical program or courses at a specific two-year campus. The two-year system will work with business and industry partners, the state's workforce training council and the Regional Workforce Development Councils ensure the donations for the dual enrollment program address regional workforce needs, according to the speakers.

Terry Waters, executive director of economic and workforce development for the Alabama Department of Post-secondary Education, said taxpayers can contribute as much as \$10 million annually under the new tax credit program, which allows them to receive a credit for as much as 50 percent of their total contributions. The tax credit cannot exceed 50 percent of the taxpayers' total state income tax liability or \$500,000 in any year. The act caps the annual tax credits given by the state at \$5 million.

In a best-case scenario, the tax credit could lead to as many as 300 to 350 scholarships and waivers per two-year campus in the state, with a third being needs-based awards, according Allen.

Waters said the combination of an additional \$5 million line item for the program included in the fiscal year 2015 education budget for the dual enrollment program and the tax credit are expected to allow the program to expand. The \$5 million will help buy new equipment and assist with transportation needs in rural areas, Waters said



FLORIDA

MEDALS AWARDED AT HOSA CONFERENCE

Pensacola State College students earned two Gold Medals, five Silver Medals and one Bronze Medal at the recent Health Occupations Students of America State Conference in Orlando that drew more than 1,000 high school and college students from across Florida. State Conference winners also qualify to attend the HOSA National Conference in June. HOSA is a national career and technical student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education.

Gold Medal winners were Laura Fletcher, Medical Law and Ethics; and Paul Tran, Courtesy Corps. Silver Medal winners were Jovy Carambas, Pharmacology; Laura Fletcher, National Health Care Issues Exam; Karla Kuznetsov, Dental Terminology; Ashley Lambert, EMT; and Noel Taylor, EMT. The Bronze Medal winner was Jessica Gilmore, Nutrition.

TCC AND UNIVERSITY OF WEST FLORIDA ANNOUNCE NEW PARTNERSHIP

Tallahassee Community College (TCC) and the University of West Florida (UWF) announced a new partnership recently as the two institutions established the TCC2UWF program. This program will provide students the opportunity to complete an Associate of Arts degree at TCC and transfer to UWF to complete a bachelor's degree.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh and UWF President Judy Bense introduced the program recently at a signing ceremony. TCC and UWF will share joint coordination of the program, which includes outreach to high school students and other members of the community in an effort to encourage them to pursue an associate's degree through TCC while providing tailored, intensive advising that will place students on a path toward a bachelor's degree from UWF.

"We are delighted to sign this partnership today with Tallahassee Community College," said Bense. "It provides an excellent opportunity for students in this region to complete their bachelor's degree at a mid-size regional comprehensive university in Northwest Florida. At UWF, we can focus on providing both a high-touch and quality education with personalized attention, small class sizes, and a unique student experience."

The TCC2UWF program is part of TCC's Golden Guarantee Program, which includes various university partners.

"We are excited to be able to offer students another opportunity to create a relationship with a great four-year

institution that will help them plan for and attain success," said Murdaugh.

Students enrolled at TCC will be offered admission to UWF early in their academic career in order to receive personalized and attentive transition services for a seamless transfer.

GEORGIA

USG BOARD OF REGENTS ADOPTS TOBACCO AND SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS POLICY

On March 19, 2014, the Board of Regents voted to create a policy that will prohibit the use of all forms of tobacco products on property owned, leased, rented or in the possession of the University System of Georgia (USG).

The policy applies to all employees, students, contractors, subcontractors and visitors and is applicable 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Also, all events hosted by a USG entity or on behalf of the USG shall be tobacco and smoke free, according to the policy. The policy will go into effect on October 1, 2014.

"Our aim with this policy is to preserve and improve the health, comfort and environment of employees and any persons occupying USG facilities," said Marion Fedrick, the USG's vice chancellor for Human Resources. The overall policy follows the lead of more than half of all USG institutions that already are tobacco and/or smoke free.

TCSG STATE BOARD APPROVES TUITION INCREASE

The state board that oversees the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) has approved the system's request for a tuition increase of \$4 per credit hour starting with the upcoming fall semester.

When the increase goes into effect, students at the 24 TCSG colleges will pay \$89 per credit hour in a standard program. The average tuition for a full, 15-hour course load in the fall will cost \$1,335, plus books and fees.

TCSG Commissioner Ron Jackson told the board members that the system has done all that it can to hold down enrollment costs but that operational expenses, including those for cutting-edge technology programs, keep rising.

"Georgia's technical colleges still offer great value for the students that we serve, and our programs result in high job placement rates for our graduates. TCSG tuition, even with the increase, remains relatively low compared to other states. Still, we understand the concerns that our students and their families may have regarding any additional cost. Our college presidents and their staff are committed to continuing to help their students obtain the financial help that they deserve, including some valuable new assistance from the state," said Jackson.

STEPHEN G. DANIEL APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF WEST GEORGIA TECHNICAL COLLEGE



Stephen G. Daniel

Commissioner Ron Jackson informed the State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia today that he selected Stephen G. “Steve” Daniel to become the next president of West Georgia Technical College (WGTC).

Daniel is currently the provost of Southern Crescent Technical College, which serves Butts, Fayette, Henry, Jasper, Lamar, Pike, Spalding, Taylor and Upson counties. Last year,

Southern Crescent Tech, which has its main campus in Griffin, had the fifth-largest enrollment of the 24 colleges in the TCSG. WGTC had the third-largest enrollment in the system last year, serving more than 9,800 students in credit programs.

Daniel assumed the position of president of WGTC on June 1, 2014. Former President, Dr. Skip Sullivan resigned to become the president of Alfred State College in Alfred, New York.

SAVANNAH TECH GETS FEDERAL OK TO EXPAND AVIATION TRAINING

Savannah Technical College received Federal Aviation Administration approval recently to teach an aviation maintenance technology program, which will make it the eighth college in the state and the only one in Coastal Georgia authorized to offer the training.

The 29,152 square-foot training center includes a hangar, four training labs and five classrooms. The college also owns three fully-functional aircraft that are used for instructional purposes and housed at the training center.

College officials expect classes to begin this summer and said classes will be structured in cohorts of 24 students, the maximum allowed by the FAA based on the requirement of a 8-to-1 ratio of students and specialized equipment.

KENTUCKY

KCTCS LAUNCHES BUILDSMART INITIATIVE



In just four years, more than half the jobs in Kentucky will require some type of postsecondary training. To meet the needs of students and keep Kentucky’s workforce competitive, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) needs to build and upgrade facilities.

The KCTCS BuildSmart Investment for Kentucky Competitiveness is a \$194 million initiative using agency bonds in concert with local communities and employers, where each community college is located, to raise 25 percent of the funds to help finance critical projects at all 16 colleges.

Students benefit from BuildSmart through new or expanded top-of-the-line facilities and new programs that further enhance their educational experiences and prepare them for a job in a high wage, high demand career.

BuildSmart is a perfect example of a public/private partnership and builds upon the strong connections the colleges have forged with their local business communities. Communities benefit from the partnerships, enhanced economic development and workforce development, which will result from new and renovated facilities.

BuildSmart also benefits the entire state because it includes the top capital project at each of the 16 colleges. These projects range from new construction and renovation to planning for future construction.

KCTCS NAMES NEW PRESIDENT OF HOPKINSVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Dr. Jay Allen

Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) President Michael B. McCall has announced the appointment of Jay S. Allen, Ph.D. as the president of Hopkinsville Community College (HCC).

Dr. Allen has served as vice president of the Perkinson Campus and George County Center of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College System since 2011. He has 18 years of experience as a community college administrator.

Dr. Allen is a community college graduate who earned an associate degree from Hinds Community College and went

on to hold the position of Dean of Enrollment Services at his alma mater. He received his doctorate from the University of Mississippi, and both a master's degree in counselor education and student development and a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Mississippi State University. He completed the Mississippi Community College Leadership Academy and the Education Policy Fellowship Program through the Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University. Dr. Allen began serving as president January 1, 2014.

"I am honored to have been selected as the fifth President of Hopkinsville Community College," said Allen. "I look forward to providing leadership for such a quality institution. My family and I are excited about moving to the great Commonwealth of Kentucky and joining the Hopkinsville community."

DR. MICHAEL B. MCCALL, FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF KCTCS, ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



Dr. Michael B. McCall founding president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) announced that he will retire January 15, 2015 after 16 years in leading the System that was created in 1997.

"I have been privileged to work with a dedicated Board, outstanding cabinet, committed college presidents along with extraordinary faculty and staff," Dr. McCall said. "I am extremely proud of the work we have accomplished to enhance the educational attainment in the state. The last 15 years as president have truly been the most rewarding of my career. I believe now it is time to complete my tenure and for the System to begin the transition to new leadership."

Dr. McCall will remain as president until a successor is named and in place to ensure a smooth transition between the current and future administrations. Board of Regents Chair P.G. Peeples is developing a presidential search process and working with a search firm to develop a plan and timeline for a nationwide search.

Dr. McCall's career spans 44 years of experience in comprehensive community colleges. His resume includes an educational career as a professor of physics and assistant dean of instruction at New River Community College in Virginia. From there, McCall went to Tidewater Community College as division chairman and on to Paul D. Camp Community College as dean and president. He later became president of Florence Darlington Technical College and then executive director of the South Carolina State Board for Technical and Comprehensive Education.

In addition to Dr. McCall's leadership at KCTCS, he has been at the forefront of many state and national organizations serving on or leading boards and advisory committees. He also has won a variety of state and national awards.

LOUISIANA

COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS TRAVEL TO SALZBURG FOR GLOBAL SEMINAR



Eleven students from six of Louisiana's community and technical colleges traveled to Salzburg, Austria to participate in the Global Citizenship Program: Ethics and Engagement, 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 took place at Schloss Leopoldskron, an 18th century castle in Salzburg that is the home of the Seminar. This is the sixth year that LCTCS colleges have participated in the Salzburg program.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our students," said Monty Sullivan, president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. "The academic and workforce training our students are receiving in globally competitive fields has prepared them for this opportunity. By sharing and applying what they've learned, they will gain an appreciation of international perspectives in an immersive learning environment that will have a lasting impact."

An additional group of six 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, 2014.

DAVIS ASSUMES DELGADO TOP POST

The Louisiana Community and Technical College System Board of Supervisors unanimously selected Joan Davis as the next chancellor of Delgado Community College System.



Dr. Joan Davis

After a competitive and comprehensive nationwide search that began in February, 2014 and included public forums and interviews with community partners and the search committee, Davis emerged from a talented and diverse pool of candidates as the top applicant for the Delgado chancellor position.

“I am honored to have been selected chancellor of Delgado Community College, and I greatly appreciate Dr. Sullivan's and

the Board's appointment”, said Davis. “A wonderful stage has been set by my predecessors for my work with faculty and staff in moving the College to the next level and beyond in providing quality academic and workforce training for the greater New Orleans community.”

Davis currently served as the interim president of Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and was most recently the director of the Alabama Technology Network (ATN), where she provided workforce development training and assistance. Prior to her work at ATN she served as general counsel and vice-chancellor for Legal and Human Resources at the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education. For nine years, she served as legal counsel to the Alabama State Board of Education, the system's chancellor, and major administrators. During her tenure with the department, she also served as interim chancellor of the Alabama Community College System. Davis will assume responsibilities as Delgado chancellor in early July, 2014.

“Joan Davis is a proven leader who has worked at the system level and institution level for many years,” said Dr. Sullivan. “She brings a very unique combination of skills and experiences having served as a system president, college president, attorney and educational and workforce development professional. Her background and experience will be invaluable in leading Delgado Community College at this critical moment, as the College continues to work to meet the needs of the Greater New Orleans region.”

Delgado is renowned as Louisiana's largest community college, serving individuals of all ages who reflect the diversity of the New Orleans metropolitan area. Delgado serves a 10-parish region in Southeast Louisiana. The College is the epicenter for professional and advanced career and technical education, academic pre-baccalaureate education, and workforce development training.

MISSISSIPPI

The 2014 legislative session concluded on April 2, 2014, and included approving the state's budget and issuing new state bonds. For FY 2015, the overall increase for Mississippi community colleges compared to FY 2014 is approximately \$11 million, or 4.6%. The general fund increase is \$10.7 million, with \$1.5 million going to the Dropout Recovery Program for a total of \$3 million. The balance is going to the funding formula, which divides money among the 15 community colleges based primarily on student enrollment. Additionally, \$3 million was included for construction and/or repair and renovations on community and junior college campuses.

“Technology Un-Masked” was the theme of this year's Creating Futures Through Technology Conference in Biloxi. Approximately 480 people attended the event from the community colleges and universities in Mississippi. The conference offered concurrent sessions presented by educators and exhibitors that focused on technological innovations and its impact on teaching and learning.

Five community colleges have recently formed the South Mississippi Alliance for Workforce Solutions (SMAWS) consortium to align existing training programs for efficiency and to create new training programs to support south Mississippi industries and workers. The five community colleges in the consortium are Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Jones County Junior College, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Pearl River Community College, and Southwest Mississippi Community College. Combined, these colleges encompass 29 counties in south Mississippi and serve more than 47,800 individuals in workforce training each year.

Congratulations to Jones County Junior College men's basketball team for recently winning the national championship in Hutchinson, Kansas. The team won five games in five days to claim Mississippi's first-ever men's basketball national championship. This was the second national championship title earned this year. The first was East Mississippi Community College's football title.

NORTH CAROLINA

CFCC RECEIVES \$147K GRANT FROM DUKE ENERGY

Duke Energy and Cape Fear Community College (CFCC) recently announced a \$147,592 investment from the Duke Energy Foundation to establish certified metal inert gas (MIG) and tungsten inert gas (TIG) welding training programs at CFCC's Burgaw Center in Pender County.

Grant funds will be used to outfit a new welding lab at the Burgaw Center, including purchasing specialized equipment and modifying the facility. The Duke Energy grant will also cover part of the costs of materials.

“Cape Fear Community College is excited to expand our

course offerings in Pender County, and we look forward to making these training programs more accessible to our students. This grant underscores Duke Energy's commitment to job training in our area," said Dr. Ted Spring, CFCC president.

This grant is part of Duke Energy's \$6.7 million investment in North Carolina Community Colleges' focus on technical education and support of business and industry. Since 2004, Duke Energy has awarded \$15 million in grants to 24 community colleges within the Duke Energy Carolinas service area. This new \$6.7 million investment also includes community colleges located in the Duke Energy Progress service area.

Individual community colleges can apply for funds through the Foundation for the Carolinas (Duke Energy Carolinas customers) or NC Community Foundation (Duke Energy Progress customers).

Duke Energy Foundation makes charitable investments on behalf of Duke Energy, the largest electric power holding company in the United States with 7.2 million customers in six states. Over the foundation's long history in local communities, it has identified focus areas that maximize the foundation's dollars and guide the foundation's giving. The foundation makes grants supporting the environment, economic development, education and community vitality. In North Carolina, Duke Energy Foundation invests \$16 million annually for community support and charitable contributions.



John K. Elliott, Director of East Region Government and Community Relations for Duke Energy (at left) presents a check for \$147,592 to Cape Fear Community College President Dr. Ted D. Spring surrounded by CFCC faculty and staff.

BOOST PROJECT IMPLEMENTED

U.S. Congressional Representative Richard Hudson recently announced the selection of Robeson Community College in Lumberton, North Carolina as a participant in a U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Round 3 project. Robeson Community College will join six colleges in Alabama, North Carolina and South Carolina implementing : Better Occupational Out-

comes with Simulation Training (BOOST)-- New Pathways to Healthcare Careers. While, Robeson Community College is the only North Carolina College in this project all consortium members face similar challenges in training and educating a rural student population. The BOOST project provides many innovative solutions and will be led by Midlands Technical College in South Carolina.

While there are many student support activities in place at Robeson Community College, BOOST will create a structured learning community for participants served through the grant. Activities will target the successful completion of academic goals in allied health programs. BOOST curricula will be developed and redesigned by cross-faculty work teams. Faculty members are encouraged to collaborate to develop an integrated curriculum. Robeson Community College serves a large rural student population, as a result many students must travel great distances to attend classes.

Therefore, the program design utilizes a strong online component to reach students in outlying areas while reducing the time to completion, simultaneously meeting the unique needs of rural adult learners.

BOOST provides short-term, stackable credentials designed to prepare students to enter entry-level healthcare jobs. Robeson Community College is fortunate to have the support of many local healthcare organizations, employers, universities, and community organizations. The BOOST program structure is guided by employers and infused with technology to enhance student outcomes. BOOST participants will gain valuable academic and employment skills through simulation training. The program seeks to assist Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) workers and other adult learners in acquiring work-based education and skills that will enrich their chances of employment and quickly prepare them for re-entry into the labor force.

The BOOST consortium will serve a total of 2,016 TAA workers, veterans, and other adult learners. Features of the program include innovative course delivery methods, new applications in simulation technology (including 3D/ Visual Reality), alignment with employer partners and real-time student services. Robeson Community College will serve at least 336 students with first enrollment beginning Fall 2014. The consortium has a target of a 75% employment rate and an 80% credential attainment rate among completers. The college is excited about the opportunity BOOST will provide students and the area workforce. Robeson Community College is a member of the North Carolina Community College System.

RCC ANNOUNCES PROJECT EXTENTION

Robeson Community College in Lumberton, NC, recently learned that its U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Round 1 project has been extended for one

year. Robeson is the lead of the 10 college consortium that was originally fund 18.8 million dollars to promote advanced manufacturing in the state.

Known as The North Carolina Advanced Manufacturing Alliance, the consortium's primary goal is to increase the number of North Carolinians with industry-recognized credentials for advanced manufacturing. The community colleges partner closely with industry to meet an existing shortfall of workers for this growing sector in the state.

According to the group's website, <http://advancedmanufacturingalliance.org>, "Using state-of-the-art equipment for hands-on training and a new approach to learning, students with appropriate certificates, degrees or diplomas are being placed as interns with local advanced manufacturing companies where they can obtain the necessary workplace experience for full-time employment."

Project Director DeRay Cole said, "This extension will allow us to do two things. First, the consortium will be able to serve an additional 200 students in the state over the next year. Also, the additional year will allow us to better track those students who have been, or are currently in the program. The additional year to gather data will allow us to more accurately report the outcomes of the project."

SOUTH CAROLINA

NEW CHIEF LEADING SOUTH CAROLINA'S TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM



Dr. James C. Williamson

Educating 58 percent of all the college undergraduates in South Carolina is a daunting task, but newly appointed technical system president, Dr. James C. "Jimmie" Williamson, sees it as a distinction to be enjoyed.

"In 1961, the system's founding fathers had the vision that technical education should be available to every citizen in the state of South Carolina and accessible within a 30-mile radius," said Dr. Williamson.

"Today, our system enjoys the distinction of being the largest provider of undergraduate education in South Carolina. Over 91 percent of our students are South Carolina residents, with a large majority remaining in the state after graduation."

Dr. Williamson, has a history with the state's technical school system, having been president of two of the state's 16 technical colleges, Williamsburg and North-

eastern Technical colleges, and he has worked at two others.

Most recently, Dr. Williamson, worked as chief human capital officer at Agape Senior, a residential and health-related network of companies in Columbia, where he developed the state's first apprentice program for health care.

Traditionally, apprenticeships were applied mainly to construction trades and vocations such as brick masonry, carpentry, plumbing and other such skills. Today, apprenticeships run the occupational gamut, embracing everything from information technology and advanced manufacturing to energy, healthcare, transportation, logistics and even tourism, according to the technical college system.

TENNESSEE

NORTHEAST STATE GRADUATES 1,127 STUDENTS

Northeast State Community College celebrated the Class of 2014 on May 12, awarding 1,127 degrees and certificates at commencement exercises. The event was held at the Mountain States Health Alliance Athletics Center on the East Tennessee State University campus.

Northeast State awarded 12 academic certificates, 199 technical certificates, 387 associate of applied science degrees, 21 associate of arts degrees, 17 associate of science in teaching degrees, and 491 associate of science degrees. A total of 119 students graduated cum laude (3.6 - 3.74 GPA), 80 received magna cum laude distinction (3.75 - 3.89 GPA), and 83 students were summa cum laude (3.9 - 4.0 GPA) graduates.

The Honorable Ron Ramsey, lieutenant governor of Tennessee, delivered the commencement address. Ramsey was the founding chair of Northeast State's Foundation. Ramsey is the first GOP Senate Speaker in Tennessee in 140 years and the first from Sullivan County in more than 100 years. He was elected to his four term as Speaker of the Senate in 2013.

A small business owner, Ramsey started his own surveying company just three years after graduating from East Tennessee State University with a degree in industrial technology. His business has since grown to a real estate and auction company – Ron Ramsey and Associates – a well-respected land company in northeast Tennessee.

MUSIC PROFESSOR JAMES STORY HONORED BY GRAMMY FOUNDATION

James Story, professor and performing and visual arts chair at Volunteer State Community College, is one of 222 quarterfinalists in the nation for the Music Educator Award™ presented by The Recording Academy® and the GRAMMY Foundation®. Story was selected from more than 7,000 initial nominations. According to the GRAMMY

Foundation, “the Music Educator Award was established to recognize current educators who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in the schools.”



James Story

Story has taught music at Vol State for 17 years. He began his teaching career as band and choir director at White House High School in 1977, and continued teaching at Gallatin High School from 1981 to 1997. He is also Music Director at Gallatin First United Methodist Church.

The semifinalists will be announced in September, 2014. The winner will be flown to Los Angeles to accept the award, attend the GRAMMY Awards ceremony, and receive a \$10,000 honorarium.

TEXAS

CREATING A COLLEGE-GOING CULTURE THROUGH GULF COAST PARTNERS ACHIEVING STUDENT SUCCESS

College of the Mainland (COM) is dedicated to making dreams a reality in the communities which it serves. The College is one of eight community colleges in the Gulf Coast region participating in work funded by Gulf Coast Partners Achieving Student Success (GC PASS), a three-year grant provided by Houston Endowment to The University of Texas at Austin’s Student Success Initiatives. This grant requires each community college to continue its work begun as part of Achieving the Dream, a national initiative focused on improving community college student outcomes, especially among low-income students and students of color. But it also requires each community college to partner with a local independent school district to help develop a college-going culture and to help students make the transition successfully from high school to college.

COM chose Hitchcock Independent School District (HISD) with whom to partner in 2012, and several key interventions were implemented. One of the interventions initiated at Hitchcock High School (HHS) was Psychology 1300, COM’s student success course, which is designed to help students examine the choices they make, manage time more successfully, and take control over their education and their lives. COM’s data shows that students who take this course are more likely to stay in school: for example, 65% of students in the fall 2012 cohort who successfully completed Psychology 1300 were still enrolled at COM the following fall vs. only 43% of those who did not complete Psychology 1300. Further evidence of the student success course’s positive impact pertains to the completion of developmental education

coursework: for example, 99% of students in the fall 2012 cohort who successfully completed Psychology 1300 also successfully completed their developmental reading class vs. only 68% of students who did not successfully complete Psychology 1300. Thus, it is expected that HHS students will experience similar benefits by taking the course while still in high school.

Another key intervention implemented as part of COM’s GC PASS grant work is the placement of an advisor on the HHS campus. The advisor does more than help students complete college applications or applications for financial aid. He takes the students on field trips to various colleges in order to expose them to college culture in a non-threatening way. He works with the Psychology 1300 instructor to reinforce course concepts among the student body. He attends school events and promotes the value of higher education. He has established what is essentially a college center on the high school campus. This “high touch” approach is reaping positive outcomes: This spring 94% of HHS students were accepted for admission into a college or university, up from 60% last year, which, in turn, represented a substantial improvement from a baseline figure of 25% of HHS graduates who enrolled in college two years ago, when the grant began.

Of course, COM recognizes that the establishment of a college-going mindset really needs to begin long prior to the high school years. To that end, the College is engaging the Hitchcock community in a literacy intervention, in which volunteers will read to preschoolers and give the children the books to take home. In order to make sure that each child feels that he or she truly has the makings of a home library, a small bookcase will also be given to each child. It is the College’s hope that this intervention will set the stage for the children in the community to develop not only a love of learning but also the firm belief that each is college material.

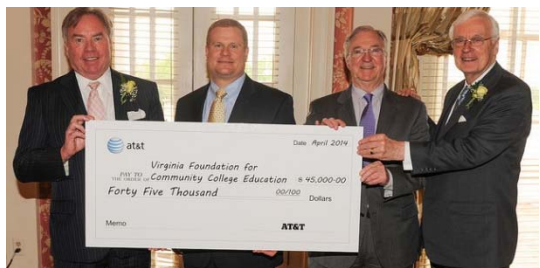
It is COM’s mission to be a “learning-centered, comprehensive community college dedicated to student success and the intellectual and economic prosperity of the diverse communities we serve.” As an Achieving the Dream Leader College and through its work with GC PASS, COM truly hopes that it is fulfilling that mission in a way that changes a community by changing lives – for the better.

VIRGINIA

AT&T CONTRIBUTES TO RURAL VIRGINIA HORSESHOE INITIATIVE

AT&T is contributing \$45,000 to support the Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative. The effort, led by the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education (VFCCE), aims to help underserved students in rural Virginia complete high school and pursue advanced education. The announcement was made at the 9th Annual Chancellor’s Award for Leadership in Philanthropy Luncheon.

More than one in four of the 2.1 million Virginians across parts of the Rural Horseshoe have less than a high school education, according to VFCCE. And, while Virginia ranks in the top 10 for higher education attainment, the Commonwealth ranks 19th from the bottom in percentage of the population with at least a high school equivalency. The VFCCE hopes to change those statistics by leveraging the programs and resources of 14 of Virginia's Community Colleges: Blue Ridge, Dabney S. Lancaster, Danville, Eastern Shore, Lord Fairfax, Mountain Empire, New River, Patrick Henry, Paul D. Camp, Rappahannock, Southside, Southwest Virginia, Virginia Highlands, Wytheville.



VCCS Chancellor Glenn DuBois; Vince Apruzzese, regional vice president for AT&T in Virginia; Virginia Senator Walter Stosch; and former Governor Gerald Baliles, currently chair of the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education display check for the foundation to benefit the Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative.

The Rural Virginia Horseshoe Initiative (RVHI) seeks to address the lack of educational attainment across rural Virginia, where nearly one in four adults lack a high school education and fewer than one in five have a bachelor's degree. The focus will be providing full-time career coaching assistance to middle majority students and those from underrepresented populations, who are often overlooked by traditional guidance counselling but are critically needed to provide a trained workforce in most rural areas.

The 10-year goal is to cut in half (one in eight) those lacking a high school diploma and double from 26 percent to 52 percent the population in rural Virginia holding an associate's degree or other college certification.

"With one in four Virginians across parts of the state's rural crescent having less than a high school education, preparing them for the jobs of the future is of paramount importance," said Dr. Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia's Community Colleges. "AT&T's contribution will enable us to help more Virginians develop the skills necessary to compete in today's ever-changing work environment."

"If students complete high school and develop new skills, they'll be better prepared for jobs and opportunities – and employers will be more inclined to start or grow businesses in our rural communities because of the stronger pool

of local talent," said Stosch. "AT&T's contribution is a much-needed boost for this program."

Vince Apruzzese, regional vice president for AT&T in Virginia, said the program will prepare students for success and help grow rural communities. "At AT&T, we see supporting education as investing in the future because a well-educated workforce may be the single most important thing businesses can do to help Virginia succeed in a digital, global economy," said Apruzzese. "This contribution will provide VFCCE with the additional resources they need to help students complete high school, pursue college studies, and grow Virginia's rural economies."

Apruzzese added that the contribution is aligned with AT&T Aspire, one of the largest corporate commitments focused on helping more students graduate from high school ready for college and careers. In 2012, AT&T announced an additional quarter-billion-dollar expansion to the program, bringing the total commitment to \$350 million since the program was launched in 2008.

DR. SHARON E. MORRISSEY TO LEAD ACADEMIC SERVICES & RESEARCH



Dr. Sharon E. Morrissey

Virginia's Community Colleges have hired Dr. Sharon E. Morrissey to be the next vice chancellor for academic services and research. The position opened with the recent retirement of Dr. Susan Wood.

Morrissey currently works as the executive vice president for programs and chief academic officer at the North Carolina Community College System Office, a position she has held for four years.

"We are delighted to have Sharon joining our team," said Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia's Community Colleges. "I have a great deal of respect for our colleagues in the North Carolina Community College System and the work that they do. Sharon has established herself as a leader there and brings with her some terrific experience."

Morrissey, assumed her new role June 2, 2014. She has served nearly 15 years in academic, instructional and student-support services positions throughout North Carolina's community colleges, first as vice president of Academic and Student Services at Fayetteville Tech and then as vice president of Instructional Services at Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College. Before assuming her current position, Morrissey served as president of Richmond Community College in North Carolina. She began her community college career as an English faculty member at Central Carolina Community College in Sanford, N.C.



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