

SACJTC Southern Association of Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges

NEWSLETTER

November 2008

Volume 42, Number 2

SSC Announced as Major Sponsor for SACJTC Luncheon

SSC Service Solutions is proud to be a sponsor of the SACJTC Annual Luncheon. Founded in 1969, SSC Service Solutions is the largest employee-owned facility service company in the country. Headquartered in Knoxville, Tennessee, SSC employs over 6,500 people and services over 1,000 customers across 36 states in four specialized divisions; higher education and K-12 schools, industrial and shopping centers. The business model at SSC is based on a simple philosophy called The Fairness Triangle. By treating our Customers and our Employees fairly, our Company will prosper.

With sales topping \$160 million in 2008, SSC averages a 20% organic growth rate annually, with a 95% customer account retention rate. Every employee undergoes a thorough background check prior to hiring. All employees are bonded in the amount of \$50,000 and a unique benefits package is designed to reduce employee turnover to half the industry average. Each

account manager undergoes a 14-week extensive training program and SSC provides a proven custodial training program for hourly employees. These training sessions, coupled with supportive management, unparalleled wage and benefit packages and career advancement opportunities, give SSC a workforce that sets it apart from its competitors.



As industry experts, SSC will assist administrators by offering free site surveys that will identify your housekeeping needs and determine the best solution for your organization. SSC Service Solutions will handle your day-to-day custodial responsibilities, allowing you to focus on your top priority, educating students. SSC Service Solutions is different from any other facility service company you've worked with. We're the People Company. That Cleans.

Dr. Joe D. May To Speak at SACJTC Annual Luncheon



Dr. Joe D. May currently serves as President of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. The LCTCS governs seven commu-

nity colleges, two technical community colleges and one technical college with forty campuses across the State of Louisiana. The System provides educational programs and services each semester to approximately 59,500 students on fifty campuses statewide. The System has an operating budget of \$285 million and employs over 4,500 employees.

During his career, Dr. Joe D. May has provided leadership for suc-

cessful organizations throughout the United States and abroad. His background includes serving in leadership roles in business organizations, public colleges and universities, and private colleges and universities. His experience ranges from having served as a counselor and a faculty member to his current role as President of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

In his role as the Senior Vice President for Best Associates (Higher Ed Holdings, LLC), he provided operational leadership for new colleges in Illinois, Massachusetts, Panama and Colombia, focusing on helping create a new community college system in the country of Colombia. Serving as the System President for the Colorado Community College

System, he provided leadership to over 116,000 students enrolled in thirteen colleges throughout the state. Prior to that role, he served as the president of Pueblo Community College.

Before moving to Colorado, Dr. May held positions as the Dean of Instruction and Student Development at Danville (Virginia) Community College and at Vernon College (Texas); Dean of Student Services at Navarro College (Texas); and Assistant Professor of Education at Sul Ross State University (Texas). He earned a doctorate in education at Texas A&M-Commerce and a Master's of Education and Bachelor of Science from Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas.

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ANNUAL MEETING
AGENDA

Sunday, December 7, 2008
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

SACJTC Annual Meeting

Sunday, December 7, 2008
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Henry B. Gonzalez
Convention Center
Room 103

San Antonio, Texas

PRESIDING

Dr. Chuck Mojock

President, Lake-Sumter Community College

WELCOME

Dr. Chuck Mojock

INVOCATION

Dr. Tom Wilkerson

President, Bainbridge College

BUSINESS SESSION

Financial Report

Dr. George D. Edwards

President, Big Sandy Community and Technical College

Election of Board Members and Officers

Dr. Sheryl Smith Kappus

Recognition of Sponsors

Dr. Sheryl Smith Kappus

Recognition of Journal Winners

Dr. Chuck Mojock

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Dr. Joe Ben Welch

President, River Parishes Community College

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Dr. Joe D. May

President, Louisiana State Community and Technical College System
"Competing with the For-Profits: What Can Community Colleges Learn?"

DOOR PRIZES

Dr. Helen McAlpine

President, J.F. Drake State Technical College

Limited number of SACJTC luncheon tickets available

The response by the representatives of member institutions for the annual SACJTC luncheon has been good. For those who registered for the luncheon through the SACS Convention registration process, your ticket will be included in your packet as you pick up your SACS registration materials.

For any who have not registered for the luncheon but wish to attend, please contact Margarita Hampton (margarita.hampton@kctcs.edu) at 606-886-7332 to reserve a ticket. The tickets will be available for pick-up at the door prior to the luncheon on December 7, 2008. There are only approximately 40 tickets available for the luncheon at this time.

SACJTC Journal Winners to be Recognized

For the first time in 2007 SACJTC began the practice of requesting scholarly work from employees of member institutions and awarding cash prizes for the “best papers” as judged by the SACJTC editors and the editorial board. The best papers in 2007 were from West Kentucky Community and Technical College (S. Renea Akin) and Motlow State Community College.

Executive summaries of their papers are posted on the website at www.sacjtc.org.

Papers have been solicited in 2008 on QEP best practices and the winners will be announced at the Annual Luncheon on December 7, 2008 in San Antonio, Texas.



Dr. Chuck Mojock, SACJTC president, Dr. Sheryl Smith-Kappus, SACJTC vice-president, Renea Akin, winning paper award recipient from Western Kentucky Community and Technical College, Dr. Matt Basham and Dr. Dale Campbell, SACJTC Journal co-editors.

News From The States

ALABAMA

Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT) provides comprehensive workforce recruiting and training for employers who commit to create new jobs in Alabama through startup or expansion. AIDT services result in better employees and higher profits, while improving the quality of life and providing better jobs for Alabama citizens.

From automotive to aerospace and maritime and warehousing to biomedical, AIDT researches and identifies the needs of each company served and uses that information to develop a full range of technical pre-employment selection programs uniquely customized to each company.

AIDT services, provided at no cost to trainees or employers, include:

- identification of employee work skills and knowledge, training curricula, and behavioral and performance criteria needed to meet company expectations;
- recruitment of applicants for training to determine qualified candidates for employment.

- program development, instructors, equipment, consumable supplies, and training materials such as manuals, workbooks, videotapes, and films.

AIDT also provides leadership development, industrial maintenance assessment, and industrial safety assessment. Leadership development conducted by AIDT is designed to develop and retain quality leaders, improve retention and create loyal and dedicated employees. AIDT's certified manager training for mid- to upper-level managers improves awareness, understanding, sensitivity and involvement based on current management principles. Industrial maintenance and safety assessment services identify candidates best qualified for effective and efficient operations through corrective and preventive maintenance of equipment and processes.

Consistently recognized for excellence, AIDT ranks as one of the top U.S. state workforce training programs based on site consultant surveys. AIDT is also the first state workforce training entity to earn international ISO 9001:2000 certification for its quality management system.

FLORIDA

Transitions:



Representative Joe Pickens has been selected as the fourth president of St. Johns River Community College (SJRCC). The vote by the SJRCC Board of Trustee members was unanimous during the September 17th meeting.

Pickens, 49, will succeed **Dr. Robert L. McLendon Jr.**, who is retiring after serving 36 years as president. Pickens is expected to begin in November pending Board

approval of his contract.

Pickens said it is an honor to be chosen to lead the college and again serve the communities he calls home. "I grew up with a great respect for this college and the impact it has on our communities," Pickens said, praising Dr. McLendon for four decades of unparalleled growth and success.

All of us in the Florida College System join in saying a hearty thanks and farewell to Dr. McClendon, Dean of Florida Presidents, and a "Welcome Aboard" to Joe.

Enrollment:

True to the maxim that community college enrollments react counter-cyclically to the economy, Florida's enrollments continue to surge this year. Following an 8% increase last year, the statewide average is projected at 7% this year, with some colleges seeing double digit increases. The Florida College System Presidents pledged their commitment to maintaining the "open

GEORGIA

Like her sister states in the southern United States, Georgia is experiencing serious economic difficulty. This summer Governor Perdue ordered a six percent reduction in the budgets for all state agencies. Given erratic revenue collections for the first three months of Fiscal year 2009, it appears that there will be additional reductions to come when the Georgia General Assembly convenes next January. Reductions may well reach the 10% mark early next year. Some relief from the 6% reductions has been provided by increasing enrollments at most of the two-year colleges in Georgia, but any additional cuts will create serious problems for the education community.

Raises scheduled to begin in January for staff personnel

door" access even during these times of severe and continuing budget reductions. However, the stresses and strains have taken their toll, with most Presidents fearing that additional cuts currently being discussed will result in reductions in course offerings that will impact access.

Florida College System Study

The Task Force and Pilot Colleges have been very active this Fall as they strive to meet the deadlines for completing their reports regarding the future development of the system and four year degree granting colleges and state colleges. The Task Force will review final drafts at its November 13 and December 4 meetings. The Pilot College Group has issued a draft of its final report as well. The Florida College System Website has extensive information available for review at <http://www.fldoe.org/cc/college-task-force.asp>. Dr. Richard Richardson of New York University gave an excellent presentation to the Task Force on "Higher Education Systems in Transition". A copy of his remarks may be found on the SACJTC website at <http://sacjtc.org>. Dr. Richardson was the founding president of Northampton Community College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Voter Registration:

Many of our colleges were engaged in "Get out the Vote" and "Voter Awareness" campaigns. It was fun to see our Student Government and clubs become so involved in these efforts. Several of our colleges enjoyed visits from the presidential candidates as well. Although we are still not satisfied with the voter turnout for young people in particular, it is gratifying to know that many new voters were able to exercise this privilege for the first time thanks to the assistance and encouragement of their peers. It's wonderful to see our democracy in action.

may or may not be granted, but it does appear that faculty members, because of the nature of their contracts, will get the 2.5% raises passed in the 2008 legislative session. Additionally, there have been significant increases in insurance premiums for both faculty and staff.

Our friend and colleague, Dr. Dorothy Lord, stepped down from the presidency of Coastal Georgia Community College this summer, thus concluding a seventeen-year period of distinguished service to two-year college education in Georgia. She will be sorely missed, but she has earned a wonderful retirement.

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia has now altered the mission of Coastal Georgia CC to being a state college offering both associate and bachelor's degrees. The College has also been renamed the

GEORGIA (continued)

College of Coastal Georgia. Negotiations are underway between the College and the Technical College System of Georgia for TCSG to take over the technical studies programs currently offered by the College of Coastal Georgia. Dr. Valerie Hepburn is currently serving as interim president of the College of Coastal Georgia.

There are major changes also underway in the Technical College System of Georgia. Fourteen colleges are being combined into seven colleges in an attempt to produce cost savings and to streamline services. These combinations are scheduled to produce a \$3.5 million savings for the TCSG.

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Community and Technical College System

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System celebrated its 10th anniversary at the annual President's Gala Benefactors Awards Dinner on November 1 in Lexington with a special recognition of former Kentucky Governor Paul E. Patton, who is credited with the creation of the two-year college system. Gov. Patton masterminded the 1997 Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act, House Bill 1, which called for 13 two-year community colleges and 15 technical schools to be governed by one board of regents. In recognition of the success of this 10-year metamorphosis of Kentucky higher education, KCTCS founding President Michael B. McCall presented Governor Patton with the first President's Medallion for Distinguished Service.

Highlights of the evening included the announcement of a \$100 million goal for the system's *Fulfilling the Promise* Campaign and the unveiling of a special 10-year anniversary book, "Metamorphosis: Kentucky Community and Technical College System 10th Anniversary, 1998-2008." The 120-page hard-cover book chronicles the development of the KCTCS System during its first 10 years and features the history and growth of each of the 16 colleges.

KCTCS ranks *first* in the nation among community college systems in charitable contributions, according to a national survey by Voluntary Support of Education (VSE), released by the Council for Aid to Education (CAE). KCTCS charitable contributions totaled more than \$13.6 million in 2007. The CAE collects and disseminates data on private giving to education, and pro-

Details of the consolidation are still being worked out, but the institutions being combined are:

- Appalachian Technical College and North Georgia Technical College
- Chattahoochee and North Metro Technical College
- Coosa Valley Technical College and Northwestern Technical College
- East Central Technical College and Valdosta Technical College
- Flint River Technical College and Griffin Technical College
- Southeastern Technical College and Swainsboro Technical College
- West Central Technical College and West Georgia Technical College

motes effective corporate support of education each year.

KCTCS had five colleges with contributions above \$1 million. Those colleges include:

Madisonville Community College	\$3,338,038
Bowling Green Technical College	\$2,380,279
Ashland Community & Technical College	\$1,464,217
Hazard Community & Technical College	\$1,283,109
Somerset Community College	\$1,045,266

The Kentucky Coal Academy

In Fiscal Year 2005, the Kentucky General Assembly appropriated \$3 million to the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) for the establishment of the Kentucky Coal Academy (KCA) to expand and improve mining career and technical education and training. Each fiscal year following the initial appropriation, the Kentucky Coal Academy has received an additional \$3 million and will continue to receive this funding to further the goals of the Academy. In addition to the fiscal year 2005 funding, the KCTCS received \$120,000 from the Kentucky Commerce Cabinet to provide administrative support and operating costs for the academy. Coal industry sources indicate that there is a need for some 3,500 miners state-wide as the demand for coal increases while more than half of the current mining workforce is nearing retirement.

The intent of the program is to operate an open entry/exit statewide training program to meet the workforce

KENTUCKY (continued)

needs of the coal industry. The first program goal is to provide short-term training for new miners to satisfy the industry need for skilled workers. A second is the creation of a career path in mining to sustain the viability of the coal mining career and support the coal industry. The Kentucky Coal Academy is comprised of four of KCTCS' community and technical colleges located in the eastern and western Kentucky coalfields.

Kentucky Coal Academy programs were established at Big Sandy Community and Technical College, Hazard Community and Technical College, Madisonville Community College and Southeast Community and Technical College. Each college has developed training programs to meet the needs of the communities they serve.

Training is offered in both underground and surface mining with certification classes being taught for both new and experienced miners. Mine Emergency Technician (MET) training is available for miners who wish to train to be emergency responders. One of the latest offerings of the Kentucky Coal Academy is the Smoke Expectation Training that offers training in a realistic smoke environment and meets the requirements of MSHA for emergency mine evacuation training and drills.

Simulator training with virtual reality laboratories and live work co-ops have added to the hands-on training available through the Kentucky Coal Academy. Partnerships with coal mining companies have provided valuable advice, up-to date information, and employment for graduates of the coal programs.

LOUISIANA



River Parishes Community College (RPCC) students Vincent Liotto, left, and John Barber, right, walk in front of a renovated 1860s-era cypress home that now houses the

College's administrative offices.

Plans to find a more permanent home for River Parishes Community College are progressing, according to Chancellor Joe Ben Welch. A second appraisal of the property being leased for the school is underway.

Bill Martin, Executive Vice Chancellor of RPCC, said if the land is purchased, a new building could be built that doubles the college's 30,000 square feet of available space. Legislation approved in 2007 designates \$17 million to "acquire land and facilities and construction of additional facilities" for RPCC.

"Over the last couple of (legislative) sessions, we were able to get a project together that's really going to help the community college and also the technical school," Smiley said. "It's going to help it by the tune of around \$14 million. We've got \$14 million to either buy the facility that they have or to build a new facility."

The RPCC work is a part of a larger improvement program funded through the Technical College-Community College Capital Enhancement Fund, which is funneling more than \$150 million into new campuses or renovations for 13 other two-year institutions.

Welch said additional facilities are needed to deal with an exploding enrollment. According to Welch, there are a record 1,400 students attending classes on campus this semester. "We have a bright future whether we stay where we are or move to another location," Welch said.

RPCC opened in August 1999 with 117 students attending classes in a fire station, a church and on the campus of the technical college because its main campus was unfinished.

Enrollment at Community and Technical Colleges Increases by 13 Percent

Overall enrollment at the colleges within the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) has increased again according to 14th class day credit enrollment figures. Enrollment is up 13.6 percent from 52,405 students in Fall 2007 to 59,506 students in Fall 2008. The growth primarily fell in two main areas - partnerships with K-12 programs, and adults ages 30 - 34 that are new to college and enrolling as first time students.

"Once again, these latest enrollment numbers show the impact that community and technical colleges are having in our state and will continue to have on the workforce. As we continue to grow and train students, we put people to work and the economy of Louisiana benefits," said Dr. May.

Six colleges experienced record enrollments in Fall 2008. They include: Baton Rouge Community College, Louisiana Delta Community College, River Parishes Community College (Sorrento), South Louisiana Community College, SOWELA Technical Community College (Lake Charles) and the Louisiana Technical College regions.

LOUISIANA (continued)

LCTCS is the second largest higher education system in Louisiana. The system is comprised of seven community colleges, two technical community colleges, and 38 technical college campuses in eight regions across the state.

LTC system receives \$1 million grant

The Louisiana Technical College (LTC) Greater Acadiana Region recently received a federal grant of more than \$1 million that it plans to use to enhance hands-on training courses for students entering the oil and gas industry.

Several campuses, including the Teche Area campus in

New Iberia, will receive a virtual platform to simulate exercises and accompany three new courses. The money also will be used to incorporate new welding courses and three new solar courses, which range from a basic understanding of solar energy to the installation of residential solar panels.

“Additionally, the college plans to devote some of the grant money to outreach and improving the image of the oil and gas industry,” said Annette Faulk, Associate Dean of the Greater Acadiana Region campuses.

The grant, \$1,151,287, is the largest of just 11 such grants issued nationwide. Faulk said this is the first federal grant the region has received outside of a partnership.

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Governor Announces Cuts to State '09 Budget

On November 12 Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour announced \$41.9 million in budget cuts due to a 2.3 percent shortfall in revenue collection over the first four months of fiscal year '09. State agencies from higher education to the Governor's Office are affected by the cuts, but the Mississippi Adequate Education Program, student financial aid and Medicaid were spared the reductions for the time being.

According the Northeast Mississippi Community College president Johnny L. Allen, Ed.D., the cuts do not come as a surprise to community college administrators, but that doesn't make them much easier to absorb.

“While we understand the necessity of the cuts,” Allen explained, “they have a devastating effect on the Mississippi Community Colleges who are struggling with a history of inadequate funding.”

Barbour indicated more cuts could come after the first of the year. Despite a state law calling for mid level funding for the states community colleges, the cuts will severely hinder the legislature's efforts in that area when it convenes in January 2009.

Mississippi Community/Junior College All-Star Classic Scheduled

Mississippi's thirty-fifth annual Community-Junior College Classic football game is set for Saturday, December 6 at 1 p.m. at Keenum Stadium on the Booneville campus of Northeast Mississippi Community College.

The game will feature 66 of the states most talented sophomore football players in a “battle between the North and South.” Following two consecutive wins by the North squad, the series record stands at 17-15-2 in favor of the North.

Northeast has played host to the All-Star Game since 1987.



NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Community Colleges hosted its biennial conference in October. More than 2,500 instructors, administrators, students, trustees and supporters gathered at the new Raleigh Convention Center. The theme of the conference, “Beyond the Horizon: Preparing Students for a Global Advantage,” reflected the system-wide priority to continue to provide educational experiences for learners that prepare them to work competitively in a global market.

R. Scott Ralls, Ph.D., NC Community Colleges President was part of a state team that traveled to Washington in September to receive the 2008 Harvard Innovation in American Government Award for the *Learn and Earn* Early College initiative. North Carolina Community Colleges are an integral part of this initiative. Ralls and a graduate of a Learn and Earn Early College made the winning presentation before the awards committee in June. In addition to a key role in Learn and Earn Online, 54 of the 60 Early College High Schools in the state, which is equal to approximately one-quarter of all the Early College High Schools in the United States, are operating on North Carolina Community College campuses.

North Carolina Community Colleges, in partnership with the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Division of Workforce Development, was selected to receive a US Department of Labor grant totaling \$1.6 million to assist dislocated workers in rural areas to develop entrepreneurship skills. Six colleges will participate in the Entrepreneurship Opportunities for Dislocated Workers, - Project GATE (Growing America Through Entrepreneurship) for Dislocated Workers in Rural Areas: Lenoir Community College (Lenoir, Greene and Jones County); Randolph CC; Richmond CC; Robeson CC; Surry CC; and Western Piedmont CC (Burke County).

Halifax Community College was awarded a \$600,000 Office of Secondary Education’s Predominantly Black

TEXAS

In Texas, we are preparing for the 82nd legislative session which begins in January and runs through May. Every two years, the legislators reconsider the funding formula for Texas Community Colleges. In general, the state has funded a low percentage of the median cost of each program at Texas Community Colleges. The remainder is supposed to be covered by tuition and fees and local taxes. At this session, as costs have continued to rise and local taxpayers feel squeezed by the economy, we hope to better acquaint the legislators

Institutions Program federal grant to begin the “Freedom to Learn Initiative” at the college. This grant is made possible by the U.S. Department of Education. This is a one-time grant opportunity, however, there is a possibility that the grant could extend into a second year and a second award of \$600,000. The grant will be used to focus on the educational outcomes of African American males to increase satisfaction, retention and graduation rates at the college.

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) recognized three North Carolinians with regional awards. Patricia Skinner, Ph.D., president of Gaston College, is the recipient of the 2008 Southern Regional Chief Executive Officer Award. Dr. Stanley Edwards, chairperson of the Halifax Community College Board of Trustees, has been chosen as the recipient of the 2008 Southern Regional Trustee Leadership Award. Mrs. Wanda Brown, administrative assistant at Randolph Community College is the recipient of the 2008 Southern Regional Professional Board Staff Award. Each will compete for the national award in his or her respective category at the national conference.

Community Colleges President Scott Ralls and Independent Colleges and Universities President Hope Williams signed a comprehensive articulation agreement in July that spells out the requirements and process community college students must meet to successfully transfer to 24 specific private colleges and universities in the state. The agreement mirrors the agreement between the community colleges and the 16 public universities. Wake Technical Community College and North Carolina State University have launched a program that guarantees NCSU admission to some Wake Tech graduates. The program, called the Partnership for Access to College, allows students to receive guaranteed admission to N.C. State after finishing an associate’s degree at Wake Tech and completing certain program requirements. Wake Tech has similar deals with Campbell University and East Carolina University.

with both the positive benefits of local higher education, both in training and retraining for economy-proof jobs such as health care and the ramifications to the Texas economy if we can no longer afford to provide that education and training.

In Texas, “students at state-supported universities have seen tuition and fees rise 53 percent over the past five years, far above the inflation rate”, according to the Ft. Worth Star-Telegram. Enrollment in local community colleges is rising. This places additional burden on the local, poorly funded community colleges.



VIRGINIA

Legacy Scholars Named

Thirty students representing Virginia's 23 community colleges were honored October 21, 2008 as Commonwealth Legacy Scholars in a luncheon ceremony at the Omni Hotel in Richmond.

The scholarships recognized students who demonstrated academic excellence during high school as well as a commitment to developing their leadership skills. They will become mentors to future Legacy Scholars as they move through their academic programs and graduate from a Virginia Community College. Each scholarship bears the name of one of many philanthropy leaders who support VA's Community Colleges.

More than 100 students across the Commonwealth have received the Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship, established in 2006 through the generosity of private donors to the Virginia Foundation for Community College Education. It provides up to \$3,000 for a full year of tuition and fees at one of the 40 campuses of the 23 colleges in the Virginia Community College System.

Governor Kaine Announced 67% Increase in Community College Nursing Program Graduates

Governor Timothy M. Kaine announced a dramatic 67 percent increase in the number of students graduating from nursing programs throughout Virginia's Community Colleges over the last five years. He also applauded the partnership between the Virginia Community College System and the Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) as a model for meeting critical workforce shortages in career and technical fields.

In an effort to help fill the critical nursing shortage, the VCCS and the VHHA worked together on a special task force to explore what can be done. The 2005 report of that task force, *Virginia's Nursing Crisis: A Call to Action*, produced a number of recommendations. The implementation of those findings and the partnership with VHHA are being credited for an increase in both the number of students entering community college nursing programs as well as the number of graduates those programs are producing.

"Hospitals and health systems have committed themselves for the long-term to provide funding, clinical training and support to increase Virginia's nursing workforce," said Laurens Sartoris, president, Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association. "Nurses are a valued and valuable part of the health care team, and it is vital we continue to educate dedicated and qualified

individuals to care for our patients. VCCS is a valued partner in educating nurses and other critically needed caregivers."

In 2002-03, 817 students graduated from nursing programs at Virginia's Community Colleges. Last year, that number has increased to 1,365. National data from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) show that more than 60% of new RNs are educated in associate degree programs. Further, AACC states that RNs with associate degrees are more likely to remain and work in communities where they are educated.

Virginia First Lady Anne Holton & Best-Selling Author Andrew Bridge Moderate Inaugural Great Expectations Education Forum

Anne Holton, Virginia's First Lady, and Andrew Bridge, author of the best-selling memoir *Hope's Boy*, moderated the inaugural *Great Expectations* Education Forum on September 13.

An estimated 8,000 children are in Virginia's foster care system. And since 2000 the commonwealth has led the nation every year with the highest percentage of foster care youth who "age out" of the system without permanent family support.

Those who leave the system often struggle in their new independence. Information published by the Pew Charitable Trusts and Casey Family Programs indicates that foster care alumni are twice as likely to be homeless or incarcerated as they are to attend college. Statistics also show that fewer than six out of ten children who are or have been in foster care graduate from high school. Less than three percent of them earn a college degree.

Great Expectations

The *Great Expectations* program is a new community college effort to help foster care youth pursue and complete a college program. The initiative is operated mostly through private funds and grants. It begins this year as a pilot program in five of the commonwealth's 23 community colleges:

- Danville Community College;
- Germanna Community College in Fredericksburg;
- J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College in Richmond;
- New River Community College in Dublin; and
- Southside Community College in Alberta.

The program also includes plans for an online resource center for foster care youth and families.





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SACJTC gratefully acknowledges the sponsors for the annual luncheon



BARNES AND NOBLE



There's opportunity here

