

SACJTC Southern Association of Community, Junior, and Technical Colleges

NEWSLETTER

November 2009

Volume 43, Number 2

SSC Announced as Major Sponsor for SACJTC Luncheon



SSC Service Solutions is proud to be a sponsor of the SACJTC Annual Luncheon to be held on Sunday, December 6, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The

event will be held in Grand Ballroom C of the Hilton Atlanta. Celebrating 40 years of service this year, SSC is the largest employee-owned facility service company in the country. With headquarters in Knoxville, TN, SSC services over 1,000 customers across 36 states and employs over 6,500 people, including nine higher education customers in Texas.

The company is divided into four specialized areas to best provide for the customers' needs: Colleges and Universities, K-12 Schools, Industrial Facilities and Malls. The business model at SSC is based on a simple philosophy called The Fairness Triangle; treat our customers and employees fairly and with respect, and our company will prosper. With sales topping \$155 million in

2008, SSC averages a 20% annual organic growth rate and maintains a 95% customer account retention rate.

SSC has been on the forefront of sustainability efforts and is providing ALL GREEN cleaning programs to their college customers at no additional cost. Training is a major focus of SSC. Every account manager undergoes a 14-week extensive training program, and all hourly employees are taken through a proven custodial training program focused on green cleaning techniques. Each employee undergoes a thorough background check prior to hiring, and all employees are bonded in the amount of \$50,000. In this industry, great employees are the key to success. With SSC, exceptional training sessions, supportive management, top of the line equipment, unparalleled wage and benefit packages and career advancement opportunities, give SSC a workforce that sets it apart from its competitors.

SACJTC is pleased to have SSC as it's major luncheon sponsor for 2009.

Dr. David Spence To Speak at SACJTC Annual Luncheon

Dr. David S. Spence currently serves as President of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), headquartered in Atlanta. SREB was created in 1948 by southern governors and legislatures to help leaders in education and government work cooperatively to advance education and to improve the social and economic life of the region. SREB has 16 member states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.



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

presidency, he was serving as executive vice chancellor and chief academic officer of the California State University System, then a system of some 400,000 students. A native New Yorker and a graduate of the University of Rochester, Dr. Spence earned his doctoral degree in higher education from SUNY/Buffalo. He and wife Marie have adult children and numerous relatives in several SREB states.

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SACJTC Annual Meeting

Sunday, December 6, 2009
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Hilton Atlanta
Grand Ballroom C

Atlanta, Georgia

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 6, 2009. There are only approximately 20 additional tickets available for the luncheon at this time.

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Sunday, December 6, 2009
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

PRESIDING

Dr. Sheryl Smith Kappus
President, Hill College

WELCOME

Dr. Sheryl Smith Kappus

INVOCATION

Dr. Johnny L. Allen
President, Northeast Mississippi Community College

BUSINESS SESSION

Financial Report
Dr. George D. Edwards
President, Big Sandy Community and
Technical College

Recognition of Sponsors

Dr. Patricia A. Skinner
President, Gaston College

Recognition of Board Members and Officers

Dr. Tom Wilkerson
President, Bainbridge College

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

Dr. Tom Wilkerson

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Dr. David S. Spence
President, Southern Regional Education Board
“Access and Success in the 21st Century Community,
Junior, and Technical Colleges”

DOOR PRIZES

Dr. Helen T. McAlpine
President, J.F. Drake State Technical College

News From The States

ALABAMA

Progress abounds at Wallace Community College in Selma, Alabama

Wallace Community College Selma's President James M. Mitchell is no stranger to hard work. Under his leadership, the college has seen a sharp boost in enrollment, a revitalized campus, and an increased endowment. More significant to Mitchell's legacy, are the improvements made to the campus and major increases in the college's endowment. Numbers tell part of the story:



WCCS's endowment grew from a little over a half million in 1998 to more than \$16 million to date. The growth in student enrollment has led to two major construction projects that began in 2006: The Hank Sanders Technology Center and the construction of the Health Sciences building, which has an anticipated completion date of December 2009. The projects were the first to emerge from WCCS' comprehensive facilities planning process. "Construction of the Health Sciences Building is attributed to the continual growth in the Nursing Programs. There are approximately 300 students enrolled in the programs

annually and a waiting list exists because of limited space," said Mitchell. "The \$5.5 million, 36,000 square foot two story building is based upon student needs and it will enable us to continue to meet the health care needs of our region."

The College continues to expand its work through the Selma Early College High School, which is the first of its kind on a college campus in the state of Alabama; the Early College initiative, an innovative partnership with Wallace Community College Selma, Tuskegee University, Alabama State University, and Selma City Schools; along with initial funding from SECME, Inc. through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Selma Early College High School graduated 65 students in 2008 and 37 students in 2009. Of these, 34 students received an Associate's degree from WCCS in 2008 and 25 students earned an Associate's degree in 2009.

The vast majority of the previous year's graduates of the program received scholarships to other universities — 28-of-32 — and this year is no different. Many have already been awarded scholarships for their next degree. Among colleges accepting Selma Early College High School graduates are Florida A & M University, Tuskegee University, Alabama State University, University of Alabama, Alabama A & M University and Stillman University.

FLORIDA

Florida Community Colleges Rank High

Florida's public two-year colleges lead the nation in graduation and progression rates, according to a recent release of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) 2009 Fact Book.

The Florida College System's three-year college graduation rate of 30 percent is nearly double the southern region's average of 16 percent, and the highest among all 16 SREB member states. Florida's average also greatly exceeds the national average of 20 percent. These rates are inclusive of full-time freshmen who first enrolled in public two-year colleges to pursue an associate's degree or vocational certificate.

Florida's College System is also touted for leading the region in three-year student progression rates. This measure tracks full-time freshmen enrolled in degree or certificate programs who graduated, were still enrolled, or who transferred to another college within three years. At 59 percent, the state's progression rate is the highest in the region, and 12 percentage points above the SREB state average. This reflects a 14-point increase in student success rates since 1999.

For the seventh year in a row, several Florida colleges rank among the top producers of associate degrees in the United States. According to Community College Week's annual Top 100 report conducted by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Florida institutions lead America's more than 1,200 community colleges in an array of degree categories.

FLORIDA continued

Bill and Melinda Gates Award

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and MDC, Inc. has awarded over \$1 million to the state of Florida and Valencia Community College to expand groundbreaking remedial education programs that promise to boost the college completion rates of low-income students and students of color. Florida is one of five states to be awarded a three-year grant under the Developmental Education Initiative.

Online College Textbooks Now Available

Florida postsecondary students will now have online access to free textbooks through University Press of

Florida's Orange Grove Texts Plus (OGT+). Through a partnership with the Florida Distance Learning Consortium, the initiative addresses the rising cost of textbooks by providing students and researchers with high-quality textbooks and manuscripts that are affordable, accessible and adaptable to reader preferences.

Astronaut's Journey Began at St. Petersburg College

Astronaut and St. Petersburg College alumni Nicole Passonno Stott was the International Space Station after launching into orbit on Aug. 28, 2009. The space shuttle Discovery delivered her and seven other astronauts to the space station where the crew made repairs and delivered supplies. Stott will remain on board the space station until November to live and work.

GEORGIA

Like her sister states, Georgia continues to struggle with the ravages of the unprecedented economic turmoil of the past two years. The state unemployment is currently 10.3% with much higher rates in many of the communities serviced by two-year units of the University System of Georgia and by units of the Technical College System of Georgia. In some areas the unemployment rates are in the 16% to 20% range.

At the same time, enrollments at Georgia's colleges and universities are at all-time high records. The total enrollment of the Technical College System of Georgia has broken the 100,000 mark and the enrollment at University System institutions is above 300,000. Many institutions have experienced enrollment growths from August 2008 to October 2009 in the 30% to 40% range. Such explosive growth has been met in a variety of ways to avoid turning students away: increases in class size, more variety in class times, including Saturday and Sunday classes, more use of part-time instructors, and more reliance on on-line instruction.

As the enrollment crunch increases, funding from state resources decreases. In Fiscal 2009, Georgia's colleges experienced a 10.5% reduction in state allocations. Those reductions were carried over into Fiscal 2010. Currently, all state agencies have been notified of an 8% reduction for Fiscal 2010 although the cut has not yet actually occurred. Many fear that FY 2010 reductions will meet or exceed the 10% level. State revenue collections since

July 2009 have averaged 20% below the collections for the same period one year ago.

There have been layoffs and more may occur. Additionally, the Georgia education community has been required to take furlough days as have other units of state government. So far, all colleges and schools have been able to schedule furlough days without having to damage class schedules. If additional furlough days are required, officials will be hard pressed to avoid the impact on class time.

When the Georgia General Assembly convenes in January of 2010, it will, as always, face the impossible task of dealing with more needs than available funds to meet those needs. 2010 will be an election year for Georgia, including all members of the House and Senate as well as a new Governor. Election years tend to result in increased support for education. Georgia educators will be watching the signs for economic improvement in the state as well as the activity at the State Capitol.

KENTUCKY

KCTCS Achieves Record Enrollment

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) announced an estimated record enrollment of 106,000 students for the 2009 fall semester, an 11.2 percent increase over fall 2008. This represents the third largest annual enrollment increase since the statewide system of 16 colleges and 67 campuses was formed in 1998, and the largest since 2001.

“This increase in enrollment clearly shows KCTCS is providing Kentucky what it needs right now; real opportunity for individuals to transform their skills and knowledge in order to meet the workforce demands of today’s economy,” said KCTCS President Michael B. McCall.

Advocacy Initiative Launches in Kentucky

A new Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) advocacy Web site has been launched to encourage citizens, students, faculty, business leaders and policymakers to join the statewide advocacy campaign *Kentuckians for Community and Technical Colleges*. The Web site <http://transform.kctcs.edu> includes a direct link with a request to sign the petition that will be sent to Kentucky’s legislative body, including the governor, state senators and state representatives. There is also an opportunity for participants to join the discussion and tell their own story about the impact KCTCS has made *Transforming Lives. Transforming Kentucky.*

Kentuckians for Community and Technical Colleges want to ensure that our state makes smart investments in our students, our workers and the state’s economy, and for policymakers to recognize and support KCTCS as Kentucky’s engine of opportunity.

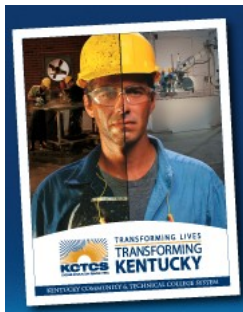
As part of the campaign, KCTCS President Michael B. McCall is visiting each

college. The statewide tour will include a stop at each of the 16 KCTCS colleges. Every college will host a series of forums where faculty, staff, students and members of the community will have an opportunity to discuss the KCTCS advocacy campaign and legislative agenda.

President’s Gala and Benefactors’ Awards Dinner

President and Mrs. Michael B. McCall hosted the 10th Annual President’s Gala and Benefactors Awards Dinner at the Lexington Convention Center on Saturday October 17, 2009. This year’s event drew more than 600 state and local dignitaries throughout Kentucky to honor an impressive list of the state’s leading individuals, businesses, and foundations for their voluntary support of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS).

A total of 32 benefactors were honored for their contributions, partnerships and support. To date, more than \$92 million has been raised in the *Fulfilling the Promise* Capital Campaign.



encourage citizens, students, faculty, business leaders and policymakers to join the statewide advocacy campaign *Kentuckians for Community and Technical Colleges*. The Web site <http://transform.kctcs.edu> includes a direct link with a request to sign the petition that will be sent to Kentucky’s legislative body, including the governor, state senators and



Dr. Michael B. McCall, President of KCTCS, visited Big Sandy Community and Technical College as part of a state wide tour of all 16 KCTCS colleges. He spoke to faculty, staff, local superintendents and students as pictured here. He discussed the KCTCS Advocacy campaign and legislative agenda.

LOUISIANA

LCTCS Enrolls Nearly 70,000 Students for 2009 Fall Semester

Fall credit enrollment numbers for Louisiana's community and technical colleges are in, representing another record year for the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. The System's enrollment has again risen significantly, with all of the colleges continuing to operate in their mission of addressing workforce shortages and serving as an essential part of the solution to the state's current economic situation. Based on 14th class day credit enrollment figures, system-wide enrollment is up by 17.6 percent, from 59,480 students in fall 2008 to 69,967 students in fall 2009.

"At a time when Louisiana citizens need retraining and access to educational opportunities the most, our fall enrollment numbers represent positive news for the State of Louisiana," said LCTCS President Dr. Joe D. May. "As we continue to see the enrollment rise at our local colleges, we know we are equipping Louisiana citizens to help meet the ever growing workforce needs of this state, and we are providing the much needed solutions to help meet the demands of local employers and business and industry. As Louisiana continues to be faced with numerous economic, budget and workforce challenges, we recognize that the services provided by our state's community and technical colleges are critical to solving those issues. "

Nearly all of the colleges experienced double digit growth. The most significant increase occurred at River Parishes Community College in Sorrento, which experienced a 35.3 percent surge in enrollment from 1,343 students to 1,817 students. The Louisiana Technical Colleges experienced the second largest growth in enrollment, with an impressive 24 percent increase, which represented an addition of 5,112 students. The regionally accredited technical colleges are now serving 26,372 students, up from 21,260 students last fall. The LTC Florida Parishes Area saw an increase of 28.2 percent, from 2,922 students being served in 2008 to now having an enrollment of 3,745 students. In that particular area, LTC Hammond saw the largest increase of 35.4 percent.

Additionally, colleges impacted by Hurricane Katrina in 2005 continue to rebound. Delgado Community College,

which linked with the Jefferson and West Jefferson Technical Colleges in 2003, together have a total combined enrollment of 19,138 students. Nunez Community College also continues its recovery efforts and had an enrollment of 1,835 students.

Louisiana High Schoolers Jump Start College Careers in River Parishes

Almost 1,000 Louisiana high school students in the River Parishes are taking advantage of the state's Early Start Program, giving them the opportunity to earn college credits while still in high school—and for many of them—without paying a dime.

While dual enrollment was available to eligible 11th and 12th grade public high school students prior to the Louisiana Board of Regents' Early Start Program's inception, course fees were not covered. When the Early Start Program went into effect in 2008, more students were given the opportunity to enroll in up to 6 hours of college credit each year at participating public or private colleges or universities with the state picking up the bill.

The potential benefits for state-paid dual enrollment are nowhere more evident than in the community and technical colleges serving Louisiana's River Parishes, an area with high drop-out rates and a lack of a skilled workforce. This year, the Louisiana Technical College-River Parishes Campus has 602 of their 1,427 students dually enrolled in high school and college courses; LTC-Ascension Campus has 49 of its 353 students dually enrolled; and River Parishes Community College has 167 of their 1,817 students dually enrolled. Many of these students are also cross-enrolled between RPCC and LTC-River Parishes and LTC-Ascension campuses, allowing students access to a wider array for courses while paying tuition at their "home" institution.

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Community Colleges experienced **unprecedented enrollment growth** for two straight academic years. Based on preliminary data for the fall semester, NC Community Colleges are educating and training more than 20,000 additional full-time students than they did in the 2008-09 academic year. The 58 community colleges are funded for only 216,500 full-time students but have welcomed at least 236,500 since the beginning of the fall semester. For the 2008-09 academic year, NC Community Colleges experienced an increase in enrollment of 15,000 students.

Despite historic rates of growth, NC Community Colleges continue to focus on program excellence and student success. The 2008 National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) results show the passing rate of nurses graduating from a North Carolina community college **surpassed both the state and national average**. North Carolina community colleges prepare graduates to qualify for application to sit for both licensure exams for nurses -- the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses (NCLEX-PN) and the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN). All NC Community Colleges' practical nursing (PN) programs reported individual passing rates at 80 percent or above. Of the 32 North Carolina community college PN programs reporting scores, twelve posted a perfect passing rate of 100 percent for 2008, resulting in an overall passing rate of 94 percent for the North Carolina Community College System. That's one percent higher than the state average and seven percent higher than the national average.

Accountability measures for North Carolina's 58 community colleges based on 2007- 08 academic year data confirm that **community college students found success** in college readiness, workforce preparedness and as college transfers. Eleven community colleges met the standards for "Exceptional Institutional Performance." Annually, the NC Community College System measures colleges' performance in eight core areas using the most recently available data, which is from the previous academic year. The *2009 Critical Success Factors* report shows that, taken as a system, the community colleges produced students well prepared to:

- Pass 23 different licensure and certification exams as

first-time test takers (Forty-five colleges met the system standard of an 80 percent passing rate with 9,007 out of 10,490 students succeeding on their first try.)

- Be successful as college transfer students at four-year institutions (Forty-four colleges met or exceeded the system's standard of 83 percent of students in four-year institutions having a 2.0 or better after two semesters. Thirty colleges met or exceeded the 87 percent success rate of students who began in, rather than transferred into, the UNC System.)
- Move successfully from developmental to college-level courses (Fifty-seven colleges combined for a system average of 88 percent of students who were doing well in college-level courses after having started at the developmental level.)

The 11 colleges that achieved the "**Exceptional Institutional Performance**" standards in the 2009 report met or exceeded all 8 system standards. They also met the additional performance goals of achieving the college performance rates of students who began in, rather than transferred into, the UNC System and attaining at least a 70 percent passing rate for students who sit for a licensure or certification exam for the first time. The EIP colleges in the 2009 report were: Alamance, Asheville-Buncombe, Blue Ridge, Central Piedmont, Coastal Carolina, McDowell, Mitchell, Pitt, Randolph, Wake and Wilkes.

NC Community College System Office and Forsyth Technical Community College are working with the National Association of Manufacturers and The Manufacturing Institute as part of their 10-state effort to develop and deploy a system of skills certifications for the **manufacturing workforce**.

The goal is to provide industry's voice and expertise in helping North Carolina and the United States provide competency-based, customized education and training for manufacturing employees and to align community college curriculum with industry standards.

The State Board of Community Colleges and Gov. Bev Perdue welcomed **nine newly appointed and reappointed members** to the board in July. It was the largest class to take the oath of office since the State Board was created in 1981. The group included four appointments from the Governor, two each from the House and the Senate and one ex-officio board member. Those reappointed included Hilda Pinnix Ragland of Raleigh, who was also reelected State

NORTH CAROLINA continued

Board Chair; Dr. Linwood Powell of Fayetteville, re-elected as State Board Vice-Chair; Dr. Stuart Fountain of Asheboro and Joanne Steiner of Raleigh.

New appointees were Ann Whitford of Morehead City, Dr. Sam Powell of Burlington, K. Ray Bailey of Asheville and

TEXAS

Texas community colleges welcomes new presidents at a number of institutions. Dr. Michael Elam from College of the Mainland, Dr. Michael Murphy with Lee College, Dr. Johnette McKown at McLennan Community College, Dr. Brenda Hellyer from San Jacinto Community College District, Dr. Bill Campion from Ranger, and Dr. Alan Rasco at Texarkana College.

Texas' latest legislative session ended sine die in May, 2009 and we are preparing for the 2011 session and the issues in higher education. In the last session, enrollment growth was funded at the state "formula" rate, which is approximately 48% of the cost of instruction. Alternative teacher certification programs were funded for the first time.

Community Colleges in Texas want to thank the legislators who relentlessly champion our efforts on behalf of quality of education, formula funding, and health care. Senator Judith Zaffirini, Representative Burt Solomons,

TENNESSEE

The community colleges in Tennessee(TN) grew on average of 16% this fall. The fastest growing institution was Dyersburg State Community College with 28%. Unemployment of over 10% in TN contributed to this unprecedented enrollment growth. Some counties have unemployment rates of over 20%. For the first time in the Tennessee Board of Regents System the 13 community colleges enrolled more students than the six regional universities, 92,000 in the community colleges compared to 90,000 in the universities.

Governor Bredesen, as he approaches his 8th and last year in office has stated that he thinks strategies need to be put in place to attract more students to the community colleges. In the October 30, 2009 issue of The Tennessee Journal mentioned proposed strategies: "provide elements

James Woody of Roxboro. Jonathan Furnas, President of the Comprehensive Community College Student Government Association (N4CSGA) and a student at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College, was sworn in as an ex-officio member and student representative.

Representative Dan Branch, Representative Jim Pitts, Governor Rick Perry and his Legislative Liaison, Ken Armbrister, as well as Representative Leo Berman. Many others as well. Two new Multi-Institution Teaching Centers were recently approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for Collin College and the Alamo Colleges. Coordinating Board members lauded the extensive efforts at collaboration by these two college districts.

A sum of \$15 million in state formula funding for the current fiscal year came from federal stimulus funds and carry new reporting requirements. This is not additional funding to the colleges, but is included in state funds as stimulus funds for special projects.

The Texas comptroller's office has indicated that the state collected \$1.75 billion in sales tax in August, down 12.5 percent compared to a year ago. Monthly sales tax collections continue to decline as most major sectors of the economy, including oil and gas, construction and retail trade, continue to struggle.

of a traditional college experience such as student centers and perhaps dormitories." Lottery scholarships of \$2000 to attend a community college and \$4000 to attend a university have not attracted students to the community colleges. Currently only about 21% of the Hope Lottery Scholarship recipients attend a community college. The Governor is also thinking about offering more flexible start-up times for classes in community colleges much like you find in proprietary schools.

In 2007-08 the Tennessee Board of Regents institutions received a state appropriation of \$757,141,000. The projected appropriation for 2011-12 after the Stimulus funds expire is \$577,440,000. This reduction of approximately \$180 million will be very difficult given the growth this fall. Unfortunately the state financial picture continues to deteriorate. Tax collections this past August and September are \$70 million below the budgeted estimate.

VIRGINIA

Education Coalition to bring Virginia Education Wizard to middle school students

Virginia's Community Colleges launched the Wizard in March 2009 as a one-stop resource to help students and parents explore career paths, identify college programs to reach those goals and find ways to pay for continued education.

The largest coalition of educational agencies and services in Virginia history is supporting the continued development of the innovative Virginia Education Wizard (www.VaWizard.org) – with a goal of making the online college and career planning tool available to all middle-school students in 2010. With the support of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Virginia Department of Education, the Virginia 529 Savings Plan and the Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC), Virginia's Community Colleges are developing Wizard 2.0 – with new capabilities that will make it easy for younger students to assess their skills and explore related careers, prepare for college admission and attendance, explore public and private colleges and universities across Virginia, and build resumes and prepare for interviews. Wizard 2.0 also will allow guidance counselors and teachers to work with students as they create their career and educational goals with the Wizard.

The Wizard delivers comprehensive information about careers, education programs, and financial resources in ways that students can tailor to their interests and talents. The Wizard also supports seamless partnerships among different government agencies. For example, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia was exploring how to build a resource that could aid high school students with the transition to college, according to Lee Andes, SCHEV's assistant director for financial aid. Since its March debut, the Wizard has attracted more than 171,800 people.

Virginia Tobacco Commission awards \$300,000 to VCCS Great Expectations program.

The Virginia Tobacco Commission has awarded a two-year, \$300,000 grant to the *Great Expectations* program to benefit current and former foster youth. The grant will allow Virginia's Community Colleges to expand *Great Expectations* to four additional community colleges in

southwest and southern Virginia.

"The Tobacco Commission was really intrigued by the *Great Expectations* program," said state Senator William Wampler, a member of the commission. "We believe that this grant will pay dividends immediately. Participating students in the four colleges will now have a distinct advantage in being able to complete their education and stay on track for a successful career."

Mountain Empire, Patrick Henry, Southwest Virginia and Wytheville community colleges will use the grant to establish *Great Expectations* Transitional Education Programs. The new *Great Expectations* programs will be launched in summer 2010 and will join the area's three existing *Great Expectations* programs at Southside, Danville, and Virginia Highlands Community Colleges.

Virginia's Community Colleges Experiencing Record Enrollment for Fall 2009 Semester

With more Virginians seeking affordable education choices or looking to build new skills for jobs in today's tighter economy, Virginia's Community Colleges are projecting a 13.7 increase in enrollment this fall.

Reports show that enrollment is up at each of the 23 schools that make up the Virginia Community College System. "We are serving more students than ever before, which is requiring some innovation in how we address Virginia's unmet needs in higher education and workforce training," said Dr. Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia's Community Colleges. "At the same time, it has never been more important to preserve the fragile public funding that community colleges depend on to operate."

The reasons for the significant enrollment gains include the affordability of community college, where tuition and mandatory fees cost about a third of average tuition at Virginia's public four-year universities, and increases in Virginia's overall population. More students also are looking to build new job skills as the nation prepares for economic recovery, and the new 9/11 GI Bill is supporting military veterans who have served since Sept. 11, 2001 with generous benefits, such as upfront tuition, a living allowance and book stipend. Veterans can transfer those education benefits to their spouse or children.



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SACJTC gratefully acknowledges the sponsors for the annual luncheon

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PARTICIPATING LEVEL

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