

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

## NEWSLETTER

November 2014

Volume 48, Number 2

### Changing the Culture: The Tennessee Promise



Mike Krause

The Southern Association of Community, Junior and Technical Colleges' Board is pleased to announce that the speaker for the Annual Membership Luncheon will be Mike Krause. His topic will be "Changing the Culture: The Tennessee Promise."

Mike Krause serves as assistant executive director for academic affairs at the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and is the executive director of the governor's *Drive to 55* initiative to push the percentage of Tennesseans with post-secondary credentials to 55 percent by 2025. That includes launching and implementing Tennessee Promise, which beginning in 2015 will offer free tuition at community colleges to the state's high school graduates.

Krause, a former policy analyst for the General Assembly who completed three combat tours in Iraq as a member of the 101st Airborne Division, coordinated the state's Drive to 55 efforts while at the higher education commission.

"Now that the Tennessee Promise is law, the hard work of making it a reality begins, and I can't think of anyone better suited to bring expertise and enthusiasm to its launch than Mike Krause," Governor Haslam said. "Mike has played a key role in developing and implementing *Drive to 55* initiatives and the Tennessee Promise so far, and I'm excited to see these efforts grow with his guidance."

Krause, who lives in Thompson's Station, earned his bachelor's degree from Austin Peay State University and a master's in public policy from Vanderbilt University.

The luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2014, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Nashville, Tennessee, at the Legends Ballroom ABC, OMNI Hotel.

#### BOARD TO PRESENT NEW CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS AT ANNUAL MEETING

The SACJTC Board of Directors will present the revised constitution and by-laws for SACAD (Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees) and ask for endorsement of the association's membership at its annual luncheon meeting on December 7, 2014. The meeting is scheduled to be held in the Omni Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee in the Legends Ballroom ABC. We are expecting the largest attendance at this event that we have seen in many years. At this time, no further registrations for the luncheon are being accepted through the SACSCOC process since the maximum capacity for the Ballroom has been reached. The revised draft constitution and by-laws are included in this edition of the newsletter on the following pages.

A final vote on the change in name and mission for the association will occur at the luncheon meeting as well.

#### Inside this issue:

Rationale for Name Change	2
SACAD Mission and Goals	2
Constitution (Draft)	3-4
By-Laws (Draft)	4
Annual Meeting Agenda	5
News From the States	5-12
Sponsors	13

## **RATIONALE FOR ADOPTION OF THE SACJTC NAME CHANGE AND MISSION CHANGE**

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 to community colleges. Other associate degree granting institutions remained focused solely on career 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 work force 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. Thus, it is time to once again consider a mission revision and name change for our association. The goal of this proposed change is to recapture lost membership and perhaps open the opportunity for other institutions who have not been members in the past to realize the value of membership in our association.

At the December, 2013 annual meeting the membership voted unanimously to adopt the new name, mission statement, and goals for the Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees. The Board is recommending that the membership take a final vote on December 7, 2014 on the name and mission change as well as vote on the revised constitution and by-laws for SACAD.

### **Proposed for Adoption**

#### **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.

**DRAFT**  
**CONSTITUTION**

**of the**  
**SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES WITH ASSOCIATE DEGREES**  
**NAME**

The name of this Association shall be the "Southern Association of Colleges with Associate Degrees."

**MISSION**

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.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Any member institution accredited 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 may become a member of SACAD by paying the annual dues.

Each member institution shall be entitled to one vote in all matters brought before the meetings of the Association.

**OFFICERS**

The officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, and Immediate Past President, who shall perform the usual duties associated with their offices.

The President and Vice President, shall be elected at the December meeting of the SACAD Board. All officers may serve either one or two-year terms.

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER**

An Executive Secretary-Treasurer will be selected by the Board and may be a current Board member or a non-Board member that is under contract to provide services for the Board.

If a non-Board member is selected to serve in this capacity, a memorandum of agreement that outlines scope of services and appropriate compensation will be documented in a written format.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The SACAD Board shall consist of eleven (8) members; namely, President, Vice President, Immediate-Past-President, and eight to eleven (11) other chief executives of member colleges to be elected to terms of three years. Each state shall have one Board member.

The SACAD Board of Directors shall have full authority to act for the Association when the Association is not in session. It shall, however, seek at all times to make its actions conform to the general policies of the Association.

The meetings of the SACAD Board of Directors shall be called at the discretion of the officers of the Association.

All officers and all members of the SACAD Board shall be Chief Executive Officers of eligible member institutions in the Association.

**MEETINGS**

There shall be one Annual Meeting of the Association to be held at the time and place of the Annual Meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges. A quorum shall consist of those members present at the annual meeting.

Other meetings may be called by the SACAD officers as circumstances may require.

**DUES**

Changes in the dues shall be fixed by a vote at the Annual Meeting of the Association. Any institution that fails to pay dues for a period of two years, after receiving dues notice from the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, shall be dropped from the roll.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

Standing Committees may be appointed by the President. The President shall also appoint a Committee on Nominations for Officers and Board Members, an Audit Committee, and such special committees as the SACAD Board may create.

**AMENDMENTS**

This Constitution may be changed on one year's notice by majority vote at an Annual Meeting. The By-Laws may be changed at the Annual Meeting by majority vote of those present.

**DRAFT**

**BY-LAWS**

**of the**

**SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES WITH ASSOCIATE DEGREES**

**ARTICLE I**

**Election of Officers**

At the Spring Board Meeting, the President of the Association shall appoint a Nominating Committee, subject to the approval of the full Board. The Nominating Committee shall submit to the SACAD Board at its December meeting, nominations for the following offices of the Association: President and Vice President and Executive Secretary-Treasurer unless that position has been filled in an alternate manner by a non-board member. Following a report of the Nominating Committee, the President shall call for additional nominations from the floor.

If, for any reason, the December Meeting of the Association is omitted, the officers shall continue to serve for one additional year.

**ARTICLE II**

**Duties of the Officers**

Section I. PRESIDENT. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at meetings of the Association and meetings of the SACAD Board and to perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to this office.

Section II. VICE PRESIDENT. It shall be the duty of the Vice President to preside at meetings of the Association and meetings of the SACAD Board in the absence of the President; and to perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to this office.

Section III. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER. It shall be the duty of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer to keep a record of the membership; to send out notices of meetings of the Association and meetings of the SACAD Board; to record and preserve the minutes of the meetings; to conduct all necessary correspondence; to collect and have custody of all funds of the Association; and to render an accounting of all funds to the Association at its Spring and December Meetings. If this position is filled by a non-board member, the Executive Secretary-Treasurer will have the same duties but will not be considered an officer of the association.

**ARTICLE III**

**Meetings**

Meetings of the Association shall be held during the Annual Meeting of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and at the same place. Ordinarily there shall be a board meeting prior to the annual Association meeting.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Dues**

Each member institution shall pay dues as set by the Association.

### SACJTC Annual Meeting

December 7, 2014  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

OMNI Hotel  
Legends Ballroom ABC

Nashville, Tennessee

### ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

#### PRESIDING

**Dr. Gary A. McGaha**  
President, Atlanta Metropolitan State College

#### WELCOME

**Dr. Gary A. McGaha**

#### INVOCATION

**Dr. Walter Bartlett**  
President, Piedmont Community College

#### BUSINESS SESSION

##### *Financial Report*

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

##### *SACAD Transition*

**Dr. Ed Meadows**  
President, Pensacola State College

##### *Recognition of Sponsors*

**Dr. Ed Meadows**

##### *Recognition of Board Members and Officers*

**Dr. Gary McGaha**

#### INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER

**Dr. Karen Bowyer**  
President, Dyersburg State Community College

#### KEYNOTE ADDRESS

##### **Mike Krause**

Executive Director, Tennessee Promise  
Office of Governor Bill Haslam  
*"Changing the Culture: The Tennessee Promise"*

#### DOOR PRIZES

**Dr. James David Campbell**  
President, Northeast Alabama Community College

### ALABAMA

#### GROUNDBREAKING EVENT HELD FOR THIRD PHASE OF ALABAMA ROBOTICS TECHNOLOGY PARK



*Groundbreaking for Alabama Robotics Park*

Alabama Secretary of Commerce Greg Canfield and Senator Arthur Orr were among the officials on hand for groundbreaking activities for the Integration, Entrepreneurial and Paint Dispense Training Center, Phase III, of the Alabama Robotics Technology Park (RTP).

The RTP's third phase will be a 50,000-55,000-square-foot, \$8,000,000 building which will allow companies to build and adapt automation for new and existing manufacturing processes. The facility will allow companies to train in manual paint spraying techniques and robotic dispense training. Following the bid process, Consolidated Construction Company of Huntsville was selected as the contractor for the project. Construction for Phase III is expected to take 10 months.

The construction of Phase III of the RTP completes the vision to create a three-phase educational, training, R&D, and entrepreneurial robotics park that would serve as a catalyst to enhance and support the state's economic and workforce development initiatives. Once complete, the three facilities will have a total investment of over \$73 million.

"We are seeing the fruition of a dream which began over six years ago to create a robotics education and training facility which would serve to enhance our region and state's economic development initiatives," commented Calhoun President Dr. Marilyn Beck. "Through the combined efforts of many, we have worked together to make the RTP one of the nation's premier training facilities, where we are now equipped to provide training to a growing list of top companies from around the country," Beck added.

"With Governor Bentley's leadership, Senator Orr's leadership and the commitment by the north Alabama Legislative Delegation, we have funding for Phase 3 and break ground



today on our final phase. For those manufacturers that call Alabama home and for those manufacturers that will locate in Alabama going forward, the Robotics Technology Park is a benefit that will assist them with their current employee's technical development and for developing future employees who are students in Alabama schools and colleges today," said Ed Castile, executive director of AIDT.

Phase I (the Robotic Maintenance Training Center and Phase II (the Advanced Technology Research and Development Center) of the RTP have been fully operational for several years, with Phase I officially opening in November 2010 and Phase II coming on line in August 2011.

In addition to the Secretary Canfield and Senator Orr, others participating in the groundbreaking event included RTP Board Chair Dale Thomas, AIDT Executive Director Ed Castile, Calhoun President Marilyn Beck, and state elected officials and business leaders from across the region.

### FLORIDA

#### PENSACOLA STATE COLLEGE NAMED A MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOL

Pensacola State College has been named a 2015 Military Friendly® School by Victory Media. The Military Friendly® Schools designation is awarded to the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace military students and to dedicate resources to ensure their success in the classroom and after graduation.

Military Friendly® provides data-driven survey ratings that capture more than 50 leading practices in supporting military students. The service is available free to more than 8,000 schools approved for Post-9/11 GI Bill funding.

"Pensacola State has welcomed tens of thousands of military service members since we opened our doors in 1948," says PSC President Ed Meadows. "Currently, more than 2,600 veterans, active duty personnel and their dependents are enrolled for fall classes and play a vital role in our college community."

PSC offers veterans many benefits including the Dr. G. B. Tamburello Endowed Scholarship; Ross C. Shiver Endowed Scholarship; Purple Heart Waiver; My Career Advancement Account; Veterans Upward Bound; Scholarships for Children and Spouses of Deceased or Disabled Veterans and Service Members; GI Bill and Pell Grant.

For more information about veterans' programs at PSC, contact Veteran Services at 850-484-1670, veterans@pensacolastate.edu; or Veterans Upward Bound at 850-484-2068, vetsupbound@pensacolastate.edu. The Military Friendly® Schools survey, methodology, criteria and weightings are developed with the assistance of an independent academic advisory board comprised of educators from across the country. Criteria can be found at <http://www.militaryfriendly.com>, and a complete list of schools can be found through the Schools Matchmaker tool on <http://www.gijobs.com>.

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### GEORGIA

#### DALTON STATE PARTICIPATES IN PROJECT SEARCH



Scarlett Brooks, Aime Goolsby, Janusz Adamczyk, Tomeka Carter, and Brandon Keener. They are Project SEARCH interns at Dalton State College.

For some disabled adults, gaining work experience and training is a challenge. But with Project SEARCH, several participants have found it easier at Dalton State College. Dalton State has partnered with Cross Plains Community Partner, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, and the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities for an employment training program for young adults with disabilities.

"Because the program provides real-life work experience combined with classroom instruction and career exploration, it equips the participants to make a seamless transition into competitive employment and adult life," said Elizabeth Hunter, Cross Plains Community Partner Supported Employment Manager.

Taking place over a nine-month period, Project SEARCH places students in various jobs throughout Dalton State, where they can learn various work skills such as customer service, data entry, maintenance, money skills, and public speaking.

"Project SEARCH is a great post-secondary option for young disabled adults to acquire the skills needed to enter the work force," Hunter said.

Potential candidates must go through an interview and assessment process before entering the program, according to Hunter.

Participants must be between the ages of 18 and 30, must have completed high school credits necessary for graduation, and must meet the eligibility requirements for Vocational Rehabilitation, among other requirements. Candidates do not have to be enrolled as a Dalton State student to participate in the project. After meeting the criteria for the program, participants will complete three 10-week rotations to work towards their individual professional goals.

## ATLANTA METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE HOSTS FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER



President Jimmy Carter

Former President Jimmy Carter spoke to students at Atlanta Metropolitan State College on October 29, 2014 regarding civic responsibility and the importance of voting. He told students, "You have a responsibility as Americans and as citizens of Georgia to change things, and you can do that by voting." President Carter was invited to speak by the Atlanta Metropolitan State College Student Government Association.

## DR. D. GLEN CANNON NAMED PRESIDENT OF GWINNETT TECHNICAL COLLEGE



Dr. D. Glen Cannon

Commissioner Ron Jackson informed the state board that oversees the Technical College System of Georgia that he selected Dr. D. Glen Cannon, the president of Chattahoochee Valley Technical College in Phenix City, Alabama, to become the next president of Gwinnett Technical College.

Jackson announced his choice today during the board's monthly meeting at the TCSG headquarters in Atlanta. Board member Michael Sullivan of Lilburn, who serves as the representative from the state's Seventh Congressional District, made the motion to approve the appointment of Cannon. The full board followed by unanimously approving the selection.

The position has been open since Sharon Bartels retired in May. Cannon's first day on the job was September 1.

## DR. CRAIG WENTWORTH NAMED TO LEAD NEWLY MERGED COLLEGE



Dr. Craig Wentworth

The State Board of the Technical College System of Georgia voted August 8, 2014 to approve Commissioner Ron Jackson's selection of Dr. Craig Wentworth to be president of the college that will be created by the merger of Southwest Georgia Technical College (SWGTC) and Moultrie Technical College (MTC).

Wentworth and Jim Glass, the acting president of Moultrie Technical College, are currently leading the process to merge the administrations of their respective colleges. The consolidation will be complete in July 2015.

Jackson told the TCSG State Board that Wentworth has provided outstanding leadership for SWGTC since he was first appointed to the position in 2010. "Dr. Wentworth is passionate about his students and cares for his faculty and staff. He's constantly working to provide them with the best programs in a quality learning environment, and I know that the merged college will be well-managed under his direction," said Jackson.

## KENTUCKY

### KCTCS COLLEGES RECEIVE MILLIONS FOR JOB-DRIVEN TRAINING GRANT

The U.S. Departments of Labor and Education have awarded six Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) colleges \$10 million to support job-driven programs within the information technology industry. The grant is part of an overall \$450 million program that partners colleges with employers for job training. Hazard Community and Technical College (HCTC) will receive more than half of the grant to lead the consortium. The funding is part of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) competitive grant program.

In addition to HCTC, the consortium includes: Big Sandy Community and Technical College, Jefferson Community and Technical College, Somerset Community College, Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College, and West Kentucky Community and Technical College. Together, these colleges will work to expand a new program within KCTCS' online Learn on Demand program, a

personalized competency-based learning system, called Enhancing Programs for IT Certification (EPIC). EPIC will create four major information technology (IT) pathways in computer and medical information curriculum that will lead to five degrees and 13 certificates, all of which will be developed in concert with regional and national employers.

“The training provided by EPIC will pay big dividends for Kentuckians,” said KCTCS President Michael B. McCall. “It will guide students toward high demand, high wage jobs that will offer them an opportunity for a more secure economic future.”

EPIC will provide more than 720 trade-impacted workers and other adult learners with a flexible, supportive structure to earn credentials in less time and at a lower cost than conventional semester-length, classroom-based programs of study thereby, strengthening their transitions to high-demand IT career fields.

Students who participate in EPIC can train for jobs such as network administration, medical coding, programming, electronic health records management, and IT security.

The consortium will also implement already proven, evidence-based models from Per Scholas (a U.S. nonprofit that provides education, access and job training for low-income communities) and Jobs for the Future’s Jobs to Career program in training low-skill individuals for IT jobs with strong job placement and retention rates and wage gains.

In addition to KCTCS, the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) Foundation, a national industry association for Health Information Technology, as well as the Kentucky Workforce Development Cabinet and the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, will assist the EPIC consortium in these efforts.

## DR. VACIK NAMED NEW MAYSVILLE COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE PRESIDENT



Dr. Stephen Vacik

Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) President Michael B. McCall has announced the appointment of Stephen Vacik, Ed.D. as the next president of Maysville Community and Technical College (MCTC).

Dr. Vacik has served as president of Colby Community College in Kansas since 2011 and his career at community colleges spans 18 years. Dr. Vacik is a former Academic Dean and

Vice-President of Instruction at East Mississippi Community College and he previously held several faculty and administrative positions at Beville State Community College.

“We are pleased to welcome Dr. Vacik to MCTC and KCTCS,” said President McCall. “He has the qualifications,

experience and leadership skills to continue the success of MCTC.”

Dr. Vacik earned an Ed.D. in higher education administration, a master’s degree in history and a bachelor’s degree English, all from the University of Alabama. Following his appointment Dr. Vacik said, “I am both humbled and thrilled to accept this offer to serve as the next president of MCTC. Likewise, I am excited to work with the faculty, staff, students and local communities to continue the effort to make MCTC the first choice for higher education in northeastern Kentucky.”

## FOUNDING PRESIDENT/CEO OF BSCTC ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



Dr. George D. Edwards

After 14 years, Dr. George D. Edwards, founding president and CEO of Big Sandy Community and Technical College (BSCTC), will step down as college president and CEO on January 5, 2015. He will work on a special assignment through June 30, 2015.

“This is a bittersweet day for our family,” said Dr. Edwards. “I have had the honor of working with a dedicated

board of directors, foundation board, a great leadership team, and a group of passionate faculty and staff who are committed to our mission. Together, we have made great strides in providing the people of the Big Sandy region a comprehensive community and technical college that is devoted to student success, access and transfer.”

Dr. Edwards and his wife, Dr. Joyce Edwards, plan to relocate to Verona, Virginia upon his retirement. “This will allow us to be within two hours of all of our children and grandchildren,” he said. “Family is very important to Joyce and me, and we look forward to spending time with them, traveling and volunteering in the community.”

Dr. Edwards became the third president of Prestonsburg Community College and the founding president of Big Sandy Community and Technical College in November 2000, shortly after the passage of House Bill 1 which created KCTCS. Under his leadership, Prestonsburg Community College and Mayo Technical College together formed BSCTC in 2003.

Dr. Edwards has been the Kentucky representative on the SACJTC Board since 2005 and has served as secretary-treasurer for SACJTC since 2006.



### MCTC PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT



*Dr. Ed Story*

After 52 years of service in education, Maysville Community and Technical College (MCTC) President Dr. Ed Story has announced that he will retire December 31, 2014. Dr. Story was named President in May 2008. He is a 32-year employee of the College, having also served as professor of biology, division chair and chief academic officer.

“It has been my privilege and honor to be a part of this great college,” said Dr. Story. “I have loved every minute of my time at MCTC, but the last six years as president have truly been the most rewarding of my career. I believe now it is the right time to complete my tenure. My wife Barbara and I look forward to spending more time with our family and grandchildren. It’s time for MCTC to begin the transition to new leadership.”

“Dr. Story has shown great leadership during his tenure as president at Maysville Community and Technical College,” said KCTCS President Michael B. McCall. “We are currently working with Dr. Story to ensure a seamless transition plan is in place as we move forward in our mission to provide Kentuckians with a quality postsecondary education that is both accessible and affordable.”

### LOUISIANA

#### JPMORGAN CHASE & CO. ANNOUNCE \$1 MILLION INVESTMENT TO FUND STATEWIDE WORKFORCE TRAINING

JPMorgan Chase & Co. recently announced it is committing \$1 million to the Foundation for Louisiana’s Community & Technical Colleges to fund statewide workforce training and connect more students with the state’s powerful industrial expansion.

Once approved for matching funds by the Louisiana Board of Regents, the grant would tap into the state’s \$40 million Workforce and Innovation for a Stronger Economy Fund, or WISE Fund. Through a 4-to-1 matching formula, the JPMorgan Chase grant would be transformed into a \$5 million combined contribution. The investment is part of the bank’s unprecedented five-year, \$250 million global New Skills at Work initiative.

“We are in the midst of the greatest economic expansion of our time,” said Monty Sullivan, president of Louisiana’s Community and Technical Colleges. “The workforce demand is unprecedented, and for JPMorgan Chase, a global financial leader, to quickly respond is verification of their commitment to the long term success of Louisiana and its people. Today’s investment will help our colleges meet the demand and improve lives. This is yet another example of

the kinds of partnerships that are required to provide our citizens the training they need to be successful in this economy.”

“Helping people gain the work skills they need will transform lives and strengthen our state’s economy,” said John Kallenborn, President of JPMorgan Chase in Louisiana. “Every day, employers tell us they can’t fill good-paying jobs because there simply aren’t enough trained workers. Working with the WISE Fund, we can provide great careers for our citizens and continued economic prosperity for Louisiana.”

Governor Bobby Jindal said, “Today is a great day for our state and for higher education in Louisiana. Because of the many companies expanding in our state, tens of thousands of jobs are now in the pipeline that must be filled, and our challenge is to ensure we have the skilled workforce to fill these jobs of the future. Economists have said they have never seen an industrial expansion like the one currently underway in Louisiana, but have also warned that we will need many more skilled workers to fill the demand for jobs at the major industrial and high-tech projects coming to Louisiana.

“That’s why our top priority must be making sure we partner with private companies like JPMorgan Chase to ensure we have the resources to prepare our students and train them for these jobs- and it’s why the WISE fund was created. Today’s commitment by JPMorgan Chase will go a long way to help train our students for the jobs of the future and continue moving our economy forward.”

The Louisiana Workforce Commission’s Occupational Forecast predicts that in the next 5-10 years, the state will experience a shortage of more than 80,000 skilled workers. The investment by JPMorgan Chase and the WISE Fund will allow Louisiana’s Work Ready U (Adult Education) program to expand innovative credentialing courses specifically designed to meet the workforce training needs of Louisiana residents who lack a high school equivalency, underserved populations and employers.

Workforce training will be specifically provided in high-demand, high-wage industries across the state such as welding, pipefitting technology, electrical, advanced manufacturing, petroleum technology and process technology.

### MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Community College System is leading the charge in complying with the Legislature’s new Statewide Strategic Planning initiative. While the Mississippi Performance Budget and Strategic Planning Act of 1994 mandated the development of 5-year strategic plans for all state agencies, beginning this year, state agencies are being asked to establish clear priorities that reflect a the statewide vision, mission and philosophy outlined in Building a Better Mississippi, The Statewide Strategic Plan for Performance and Budgetary Success.

This requires the alignment of agency strategic plans to achieve established statewide priorities and the integration of statewide goals and benchmarks.

This past April two Mississippi community college presidents were recognized with the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction at the International Phi Theta Kappa Convention. Award recipients included Dr. Scott Elliott, President at Meridian Community College and Dr. Rick Young, President at East Mississippi Community College.

Holmes Community College in Goodman, Mississippi has named Dr. Jim Haffey as its new president. Dr. Haffey will be replacing Dr. Glenn Boyce, who took a position as Assistant Executive Director of Mississippi's Institutions of Higher Learning. Dr. Haffey has worked at Holmes Community College since 2003, most recently serving as Vice-President at the Grenada Center.



Dr. Jim Haffey



Dr. Glen Boyce

The 2013-2014 academic year was a banner one for athletics programs in Mississippi. In December, East Mississippi Community College claimed its second football national championship in three years. In March, Jones County Junior College claimed the state's first men's basketball national championship. In May, Hinds Community College's baseball team finished runner-up in the national championship tournament.

Copiah-Lincoln Community College and East Central Community College were recently awarded a total of 4.6 million dollars as part of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) competitive grant program. Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant said, "The training and career tech programs at the community college level in Mississippi are helping to make sure that's a reality, and we've seen major successes lately with companies like Yokohama Tire choosing Mississippi as their new home. The TAACCCT grant for Copiah-Lincoln and East Central will be instrumental in expanding these efforts at each college."

Executive Director of the Mississippi Community College Board, Dr. Eric Clark announced his plans to retire as on June 30, 2015. Dr. Clark just completed 40 years in state service including time as a state representative and



Dr. Eric Clark

Secretary of State of Mississippi. Dr. Clark recently stated "when I was hired at MCCB in January 2008, I commented to the press that our community college system is one of the great treasures of our state. I know far better now how true that is. I have loved being part of the CJC team." A search to replace Dr. Clark is ongoing at this time.

## NORTH CAROLINA

### ALAMANCE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (ACC) FORMS PARTNERSHIPS



Dr. Algie Gatewood

ACC began a year of renewed commitment to student success and positioning itself as a crucial player in workforce training and economic development in the local community under the direction of first-year President Dr. Algie Gatewood.

College faculty and staff worked to reverse a four-year decline in enrollment that resulted in a 2.5% rise this fall. ACC's curriculum headcount exceeded 4,500 students, and FTE (Full-time Equivalent) increased by a similar percentage--an important measure on which the College's state funding is based.

Construction of ACC's proposed Advanced Applied Technology Center won unanimous support from the Alamance County Board of Commissioners—a \$15 million project that will provide state-of-the-art technology and an expansion for Air Conditioning/Heating/Refrigeration, Automotive Systems Technology, Welding, Carpentry, and Computer-Integrated Machining.

Dr. Algie Gatewood said, "This project represents a significant investment in workforce training and economic development for Alamance County as we prepare our citizens for jobs in a knowledge-based, 21st century global economy." This project is a top priority on the College's long-range capital plan because most of these "legacy" industrial programs have seen significant increases in enrollment since 2001 due to enhanced job prospects in these programs.

ACC targeted partnerships and collaborations in 2014 with other educational institutions such as the Alamance-Burlington School System, Guilford College, Elon University,

ty, and UNC-Greensboro--all in an effort to streamline student access and student success. These included an historic arrangement with Guilford College to streamline the transfer of credits for ACC students enrolling at the four-year institution. The agreement with UNC-Greensboro will allow graduates of ACC's Associate Degree Nursing program to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing on the community college's campus via both online classes and face-to-face classes. The ACC students will be charged UNCG distance learning rates and not have to pay some of the fees required of residential students.

Finally, ACC students transferring to Elon University gained an opportunity to qualify for a new annual scholarship that will pay \$67,500 toward the cost of tuition, fees, room and board. The scholarship was established in 2013 by an anonymous donor committed to helping students fulfill their dreams of a higher education.

ACC continued its strong partnership with Alamance-Burlington Schools System (ABSS) as the focus on the Career & College Promise (CCP) program grew. The College witnessed 380 ABSS high school students taking CCP college courses last year, a state-funded initiative which lets qualifying high school students earn college and high school credits at the same time for free. Tuition is waived by the state and students are responsible only for textbook costs. Most who complete the program transfer to a four-year institution with up to 64 credit hours and junior status.

### SOUTH CAROLINA

#### SPARTANBURG COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOLDS BENEFIT FOR ARBORETUM, HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT

A visit to Spartanburg Community College by a renown gardener last year has blossomed into a partnership between the college and one of the best known gardens in the world.

Fergus Garrett, head gardener of the 15th century estate, Great Dixter, in East Sussex, England, spoke at the college last year during a gardening symposium. During that event, he encouraged SCC horticulture instructor Kevin Parris to send a student to Great Dixter and told him to come along as well.

Parris and student Tanner Howell will shared their experiences during "Arboretum Adventures," a yearly fundraiser for the college's arboretum and horticulture department. "It was almost overload," Howell said of the trip. "It was phenomenal, the gardening there. I tried to soak up ideas and find all the inspiration I could."

Great Dixter is the lifelong home of the late gardener and



*Spartanburg Community College horticulture faculty member, Kevin Parris, and student, Tanner Howell visits gardens at Great Dixter in East Sussex, England*

writer Christopher Lloyd, and is regarded as "the epitome of English plantmanship." Parris noted the age of the architecture and gardens, how well preserved they are and the respect people have for them in England.

"There are lessons we can learn about holding on to things with intrinsic value like that," Parris said. "We need to do a better job of that."

Howell said he studied the different styles of gardening and the palette of Great Dixter. "Dixter is a learning garden," Howell said. "Their main focus is the teaching. Meadows are their thing. It was interesting to see what plants held value. They use dog fennel, which is a weed here."

### TENNESSEE

#### TENNESSEE PROMISE

The Tennessee Promise Scholarship Program offers two years of tuition-free community or technical college to Tennessee high school graduates beginning with the Class of 2015.

Tennessee Promise is a last-dollar scholarship, meaning it will cover college costs not met from Pell, the Tennessee Lottery Scholarship named HOPE, or a grant from the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation for students with Expected Family Contributions that are low or zero. As part of the program, students will be paired with a partnering organization serving their home county and will be provided with a mentor who will support them during the college application process.

Student demand in Tennessee has been enormous. *The Tennessean*, a Nashville newspaper, reported that 57,000 high school seniors have applied to the program. This is almost triple the original estimate of 20,000 applications. Many students are applying as an insurance policy in case



they are not accepted by a university. State officials estimate by the time we get to Fall Semester 2015 there will be 12,000 students who attend a community college using the Tennessee Promise. Some of the 12,000 would have enrolled in community colleges without the Tennessee Promise.

Community colleges in Tennessee should have room next fall for new students. On average the enrollment has declined by 4% each of the past two years in Tennessee community colleges. In 2010 the state funded new facilities at community colleges. Those new buildings housing classrooms and labs are beginning to be available.

### TEXAS

#### COLLEGE OF THE MAINLAND RECERTIFIED AS ACHIEVING THE DREAM LEADER COLLEGE

Nearly one half of all students seeking higher education choose a community college, but when life intervenes, fewer than half finish what they start. College of the Mainland (COM) has been recertified as an Achieving the Dream Leader College, part of a national initiative to change those statistics and ensure all students can reach their goals.

In the past three years of being an Achieving the Dream Leader College, COM has improved the success of students in several areas, including the number of students continuing from fall to spring and the number of those successfully completing developmental (remedial) English.

Developmental education English success rates increased between 2009 and 2013 from 58.7 to 66 percent. The fall-to-spring persistence rates rose from 71.6 percent in 2010-11 to 72.6 percent in 2013-14, which is up from a baseline measure of 65.3 (the baseline persistence rate when COM joined the Achieving the Dream initiative in 2006).

“Achieving the Dream has always been targeted at improving the success rate of students traditionally disadvantaged: first-generation, minority or low-income students,” said Vice President for Instruction Dr. Pam Millsap. “We look at what will serve the students well. We looked at successful completion rates in developmental classes and that sparked various interventions.”

The college launched a number of initiatives on campus to increase student persistence including using students’ photos on class rosters so professors could call each student by name early in the semester. It also increased offerings of Psychology for Success classes, which guide students in the study and life skills needed to excel.

To assist students not yet ready for college-level classes, COM also shortened the pathway through developmental classes. The college combined three English and three

reading developmental classes into just two integrated classes. It began offering eight-week in addition to 16-week courses so students could finish both levels in a single semester. The college also is offering alternatives to college algebra for those in non-math-related majors.

“Students have options. We will have three math pathways: college algebra and statistics this year, and we’ll add quantitative reasoning next year,” said Millsap. “The options allow students to choose the path that best fits their major.”

In order to qualify as an Achieving the Dream Leader College, COM submitted data demonstrating three successive years of improvement on specific indicators.

### VIRGINIA

#### GOVERNOR MCAULIFFE KICKS OFF ELEVATE VIRGINIA WORKFORCE MONTH

Workforce leaders from across the state gathered at the Governor’s mansion on the eve of September 30, 2014 for the unveiling of Virginia’s new workforce brand, *Elevate Virginia*, and the kick off of *Elevate Virginia Workforce Month*.



Advisor for Workforce Development Elizabeth Creamer; Secretary of Commerce and Trade Maurice Jones; Governor Terry McAuliffe; Danny Vargas, Chair of the Virginia Board of Workforce Development and Secretary of Education Anne Holton

Maurice Jones, Secretary of Commerce and Trade, offered remarks about the administration’s commitment to workforce development and training – to ensure all Virginians are afforded access to a world class education and workforce system. Danny Vargas, Chair of the Virginia Board of Workforce Development, announced the new workforce brand for the state – Elevate Virginia. As chief executive officer and chief workforce development officer for the commonwealth, Governor McAuliffe reaffirmed workforce development as a top priority of his administration, laid out in *Executive Order 23: New Virginia Economy Workforce Initiative*.

The evening ended with the Governor’s proclamation of



**Elevate Virginia Workforce Month.** Highlights of the proclamation include a focus on giving Virginians the skills and credentials for high demand business and industries, the Virginia Board of Workforce Development's role in driving workforce policies, the State Career Pathways Work Group's representation of eight state agencies and 24 workforce development programs, Virginia's fifteen Local Workforce Investment Boards, the Workforce Development Divisions of Virginia's Community Colleges and the Virginia Longitudinal Data System.

Elevate Virginia represents a statewide network of agencies and programs committed to increasing workforce credentials and jobs creation by developing a highly-skilled workforce and building a new Virginia economy with all of the entities and partners cited above along with the private sector.

### **DR. ALFRED A. ROBERTS NAMED SOUTHSIDE VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S PRESIDENT**



*Dr. Alfred A. Roberts*

Dr. Alfred A. Roberts, was named the new president of Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC). Roberts was provost of SVCC's Christanna Campus in Alberta, a position he has held since 2012. He served as provost of the John H. Daniel Campus of SVCC, in Keysville, from 2010-2012. Prior to that, he was vice president of workforce services at SVCC. His career at SVCC began in 1995 when he assumed the role of administrator for student support services. Before joining SVCC, Roberts was program director for Sussex-Greenville-Emporia Adult Activity Services and also taught radio and television production classes at Norfolk State University. He received his doctorate from Old Dominion University, his master's from Virginia State University and his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University.

Roberts succeeded John Cavan who was the longest serving president in the VCCS. Cavan had presided over SVCC since 1983.

### **DR. GENE C. COUCH, JR. BECOMES PRESIDENT OF VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE**



*Dr. Gene C. Couch*

Glenn DuBois, chancellor of Virginia's Community Colleges, announced that Dr. Gene C. Couch, Jr., of Burlington, N.C. was named the 6th president of Virginia Highlands Community College (VHCC). Couch, an Abingdon native who grew up in southwestern Virginia, was most recently executive vice president at Alamance Community College in Graham, N.C.

"Gene has an impressive track record of leadership in the North Carolina Community College System — a state system of community colleges that I have a lot of respect for," Chancellor Glenn DuBois said in making the appointment. "He is also a product of our system, having achieved his first degree at Southwest Virginia Community College. His Virginia Highlands Community College appointment is a great fit."

Prior to serving at Alamance, Couch was vice president for instruction and student services at Southwestern Community College in Sylva, N.C. from 2005-2010 and was vice president for instructional services from 1999-2005, after also serving as chair of the health sciences division there and program director for radiography.

### **AT&T CONTRIBUTES \$45,000 TO VIRGINIA FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION**

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.

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.

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 counseling 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.



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**SACJTC gratefully acknowledges the sponsors for the annual luncheon**

