

# Alabama Community College Association Journal

**Volume 39 No. 2**

**Fall 2012**



*Alabama Community College System: Educating for Success*

# ACCA President's Message



I hope you are making plans to attend the Alabama Community College Association's Annual Conference in November. The Executive Committee is finalizing all the details to make this one of the best conferences in the organization's history. The only thing that will make it more of a success is to have great participation from the employees of our System. That participation is off to a great start with the workshop proposals we have received. The sessions chosen for the conference reflect the expertise and dedication of all the employees of the Alabama Community College System. I know you will find something that is relevant to your duties when you attend the conference.

*Dr. Patricia Sims, ACCA President*

Another exciting event for ACCA is the introduction of its newly redesigned website. The site has a new look and new features to make it easier to keep up with ACCA news and participate in the conference. From the website, ACCA members will now be able to register for the conference, review ACCA archives, learn about affiliate members, and vote in association elections. The website is the central focal point for all ACCA news and information, so I invite you to visit the site often for the latest updates.

Thank you for taking a moment to review the information in this edition of the *Journal* to learn about all the exciting activities being conducted by ACCA and its member institutions. It provides a wonderful opportunity to illustrate how the System is "Educating for Success." This is a great time to be a part of ACCA and the Alabama Community College System and I look forward to everyone's participation at the conference.

## Introducing the Newly Redesigned ACCA Website...

If you've visited the ACCA website recently, you've noticed some changes. The site was completely redesigned this summer to make it more user friendly for its members. Members will now be able to use all the features previously found on the site, plus find new ones that enhance their participation in the organization.

Features of the website include:

- Online registration for the ACCA Conference
- Voting in ACCA Elections via the website
- Archives with history and ACCA past publications
- Information about and links to ACCA Affiliate Members
- Updates about the ACCA Conference including speaker information

**Visit the website at  
[www.alabamacca.org](http://www.alabamacca.org)**



# ACCA Elections

*Elections for the position of Second Vice-President will be held in October.  
Information about the candidates appears below.*



## **Bridges Anderson**

**Director Upward Bound Program and Andalusia Campus Director , Lurleen B. Wallace Community College**

Bridges Anderson has been part of the Alabama Community College System since 1990. He began at Lurleen B. Wallace Community (LBWCC) as the Counselor Curriculum Coordinator with the Upward Bound Program. His tenure as director of the program has brought millions of dollars to LBWCC through writing federal grants that have provided academic preparation for hundreds of students, many of whom were the first in their families to attend college. In addition, his responsibilities as Andalusia Campus Director include supervision and coordination of the day-to-day operations of the Andalusia Campus and the overall management of the Child Development Center.

Anderson participated in the LBWCC Upward Bound Program and afterwards received a two-year LBWCC athletic scholarship. He received a BS from Alabama State University, a MS from Troy University Dothan, and he is working on a Ph.D. (ABD) in Leadership in Higher Education through Capella University.

Anderson's professional activities include serving as the ACCA Vice-Chair for the Commission on Administration, Vice-President of Covington County Credit Union, Board Member Andalusia Area Chamber of Commerce, Graduate of The Alabama Community College Leadership Academy, Member of Andalusia Rotary Club, served eight years as City Councilman for Andalusia, and four years as a Board Member of Andalusia Utilities. He was honored as the ACCS's Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Administrator.

The Andersons have two children: Amber who is a senior pre-pharmacy major at Auburn University Montgomery, and Bridges Jr., a seventh grader.



## **Bruce Crawford, Ph.D.**

**Vice-President of Instructional Services, Lawson State Community College**

Dr. Bruce Crawford has been in the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) for the past 11 years. He has 33 years of experience in secondary, postsecondary, and higher education. Currently he serves as the Vice President of Instructional Services at Lawson State Community College where he is responsible for all of the educational programs (adult education, degrees and certificates in career technical education and for college transfers, training for business and industry and customized training, and various centers.) Dr. Crawford recently served as Interim President of Ingram State Technical College and was appointed as the Chancellor's Official Designee to Bishop State Community College as the chief executive officer for a special assignment.

Dr. Crawford's professional experiences include having served as the chair for the Commission on Administration for the Alabama Community College Association; President of the Instructional Officers Association; Co-chair of the Joint Policy Review Committee for ACCS; and a former member of the ACCA Executive Board. He is a member of the Career Technical Education Advisory Board. Additionally, Dr. Crawford is principal investigator for a \$1.6 million National Science Foundation grant, 2-Pi-STEM, focusing on increasing underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers.

Prior to arriving at Lawson State, Dr. Crawford was employed by Alabama A&M University as Chairperson of Department of Curriculum and Instruction which was comprised of programs in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education; music and fine arts; physical education; and supervision/administration. Prior work experiences include 14 years of teaching secondary mathematics in Alabama (11 years) and Kansas (3 years).

Dr. Crawford holds a BS from Stillman College in Mathematics, a MA from The University of Alabama in Mathematics education, and a Ph.D. from Kansas State University in Curriculum and Instruction with emphasis in Computer Education and Education Technology.

# 2012 ACCA Conference

November 18 through 20

Sheraton Birmingham Hotel and  
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- Professional Development Workshops
- Commission Meetings
- Association Meetings
- Chancellor's Awards

## Hotel Information

ACCA members will receive a special conference hotel rate of \$84 a night.

[Click here to make your hotel reservations.](#)

## Conference Registration Information

The conference registration fee is \$100 if registered by October 31 (\$150 after this date.) To register for the conference visit the website [www.alabamacca.org](http://www.alabamacca.org) and under the *Conference* tab click *Register* and follow the directions.

Please note if paying with purchase order either attach a copy electronically to your registration, fax to (256) 233-8163, email it to [necedah.henderson@athens.edu](mailto:necedah.henderson@athens.edu), or mail to Registration Coordinator Necedah Henderson, Athens State University, 300 N. Beaty St., Athens, AL 35611.

For questions about registration call 256-233-8151.



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# 2012 ACCA Conference Keynote Speakers

## Martha J. Kanter, Ed.D.

**Martha J. Kanter** was nominated by President Barack Obama to be the Under Secretary of education and was confirmed by the Senate in 2009. Kanter reports to Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and oversees policies, programs, and activities related to postsecondary education, adult and career-technical education, federal student aid, and five White House Initiatives on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Educational Excellence for Hispanics, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Kanter is charged with planning and policy responsibilities to implement President Obama's goal for the U.S. to have "the best educated, most competitive workforce in the world by 2020" as measured by the proportion of college graduates over the next decade.



## Belle Wheelan, Ph.D.

**Belle Wheelan** currently serves as President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and is the first African American and the first woman to serve in this capacity. Her career spans over 30 years and includes the roles of faculty member, chief student services officer, campus provost, college president and Secretary of Education. In several of those roles she was the first African American and/or woman to serve in those capacities.

## Commission Speakers



### Commission on Students

**Ronald Mitchell, CEO**  
CareerCore, Inc



### Commission on Support

**Kelvin A. Redd, Director**  
Center for Servant Leadership



### Commission on Administration

**Stephen Foster Black, President**  
Impact Alabama



**Commission on Faculty**  
**Dr. Sandra Yancy McGuire,**  
Assistant Vice Chancellor for  
Learning, Teaching and Retention/  
Professor of Chemistry  
Louisiana State University



**Commission on Workforce**  
**Ron Davis, Retired Plant Manager**  
ZF Axle Systems Plant

# Alabama Technology Network's Stone Wins National Award

**Dana Stone**, project Manager for the Alabama Technology Network (ATN) received the Innovator of the Year Award from the Manufacturing Extension Partnership at its national conference in May.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology's Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) works with small and mid-sized U.S. manufacturers to help them create and retain jobs, increase profits and save time and money. MEP also works with partners at the state and federal levels on programs that put manufacturers in position to develop new customers, expand into new markets and create new products. The Alabama Technology Network is the state's MEP affiliate.



*Dana Stone, center, receives the MEP Innovator of the Year Award from MEP officials at its annual conference.*

According to its criteria, the *Innovator of the Year Award* recognizes an individual and/or team that developed modern practices to help reinvent America's industrial base and/or to further the MEP system. The nominee took strides towards realizing the MEP strategic objectives by practicing innovative, profitable and sustainable techniques within the MEP system or delivering services to manufacturers.

Stone was recognized for the outstanding job she has done managing the Alabama E3 Program. The program is a coordinated technical assistance initiative that assists manufacturers to increase profits and strengthen their future by implementing efficient production processes, reducing all wastes, lowering costs, growing jobs and driving innovation.

"It is truly an honor to receive this award. I want to share it with every ATN employee who has helped to make the Alabama E3 program a success," said Stone.

# Wallace State's Dudley Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

**Gene Dudley**, Electronics Instructor at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, was awarded the *Randall Peacock Lifetime Achievement Award* of the Iota Lambda Sigma - Epsilon Chapter in recognition of his outstanding contributions in career technical education and workforce development.



Dudley's career spans more than 30 years as a professional in the technical arena, including the last 20 years in education. He joined Wallace State in 2006. During his tenure at Wallace State, he has served as Co-Director of North Alabama BEST Robotics Competition and assisted with local and state Skills USA competitions. He is an authorized OSHA trainer for the college, and has participated on various state curriculum committees as well as on the Alabama Career Technical Advisory Council. During 2011 he held an appointment as Interim Director of Career and Technical Education for the Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education.

"I sincerely believe every student can gain lifelong, valuable skills and knowledge to allow them to achieve their career goals," Dudley said.

Iota Lambda Sigma is an honorary professional society of business, industry and education leaders in Workforce Development. Members are invited to join based on their commitment to and demonstrated excellence in workforce education.



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# Trenholm State's Edwards Receives Achievement Award

During its 2012 Conference, the Executive Board of the Alabama Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (AASFAA) named **Betty Edwards** as the 2011-12 Cecil Padgett Outstanding Achievement Award recipient. The award is one of the two highest awards given by the association and is named for the distinguished former financial aid director at Spring Hill College. The award is presented to an individual who is a member of the association and who has provided exemplary service in the area of student financial aid over a sustained period of time and it recognizes outstanding contributions to higher education and student assistance programs in Alabama.

Edwards is the current Director of Financial Aid at Trenholm State, having served in that position since 1998. Edwards, whose home in Pratt City was completely destroyed during last year's deadly tornadoes, now resides in Trussville.

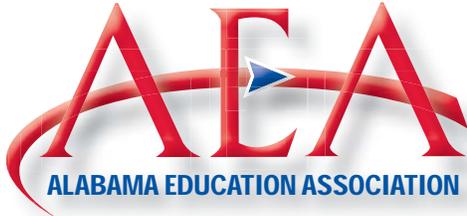
"There are fewer greater advocates of financial aid than Betty Edwards. She is a proven professional and adept leader, and her skills and contributions reach far beyond financial aid. Her ability to build consensus and capacity, paired with her bold vision and unyielding drive, make her a treasured member of and an invaluable asset to the students, faculty, staff, and administration here at Trenholm State," said **Beverly Ross**, Dean of Students.

# Calhoun Receives Notification of Reaffirmed SACS Accreditation

In June, Calhoun Community College received notification from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges of the reaffirmation of the college's accreditation, with no follow-up needed.

During the college's on-site visit in October 2011, the SACS Visiting Team gave the green-light for Calhoun's Quality Enhancement Plan topic, Academic Reading Comprehension, with no recommendations. The five-year plan will be launched in August.

"We are extremely pleased to receive notification of the reaffirmation of our accreditation," said Calhoun President **Marilyn Beck**. "Under the direction of our SACS chair, **Dr. Debi Hendershot**, many hours of hard work by many Calhoun faculty and staff went into this process. The success of this effort can be attributed directly to the commitment of those involved, and I want to personally thank each of them for their dedication and support of this very important endeavor. The fact that we were reaccredited with no follow-up was the best news possible," Dr. Beck added.



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# ASCC Talent Search Student Chosen for Conference

**Mattie Knight**, a participant in Alabama Southern Community College's Educational Talent Search program and senior at A.L. Johnson High School, was selected to be a representative at the 2012 National Student Leadership Congress in Washington, D.C. this past summer. Knight was the only representative from the state of Alabama to attend the conference.



The National Student Leadership Congress is a six-day residential experience designed to develop service-oriented leaders from among the student population served by TRIO, a set of federally funded college opportunity programs, including Talent Search, that motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds in their pursuit of a college degree.

"We nominated Mattie as a delegate because of her leadership skills, commitment to the ETS program and passion for her future. She has been an active participant in the ETS program for the past five years, and is very driven to accomplish her goals," said **Portia Stallworth**, Educational Talent Search Specialist at ASCC. "This conference provided her an opportunity to use and develop her leadership skills in real world settings, and build lasting relationships with other students from TRIO programs around the country."

ASCC's Educational Talent Search is a TRIO program that identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to and complete their postsecondary education.

## Reid State Foundation Presents Scholarships

The Reid State Foundation, chaired by **Jerome Gray**, presented three scholarships during the college's spring commencement. The scholarships are in honor of Gray's mother, the late **Mrs. Edith A. Gray**, who served as an advisory council member and avid supporter of education and Reid State.

Scholarship recipients included **Tyneka Watson Thomas**, **Angela Kast**, and **Dennis George**. Scholarships totaling \$500 were presented to each student. The RSTC Foundation, under Gray's leadership, hosts events throughout the year to support the college foundation.



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## WCC Students Selected for Internship

The Industrial Systems Technology (INT) program at Wallace Community College has opened the door to a great new career for three students. **Cole McArdle**, **Blake Wood**, and **Blake Tillery** have been selected for a four-year internship with the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The program will lead to full-time employment with the Walter F. George Powerhouse on the Chattahoochee River.

The students elected to pursue the INT program for a change in career, or while working a full-time job. Wood returned to college in fall 2010 after receiving a bachelor's degree in business and finding no viable employment potential in the area. He attended day classes while working in the evening. McArdle and Tillery attended evening and online classes while working full time during the day. All three students hold 3.6+ grade point averages.

"These are excellent students and are beginning a career while completing their studies at Wallace," said **Tony Greene**, INT instructor. The students will work and train full time, making more than \$25 per hour and receiving full employee benefits while completing their degrees. As part of their training, the students will visit and work in several of the Corps sites in the southeast.

*Above - (L-R): Cole McArdle, Blake Tillery, and Blake Wood, with Industrial Systems Technology instructor Tony Greene.*

## Bishop State Student Invents Voice Controlled Robot

Bishop State Community College student **James Deese** has found a way for quadriplegics and the elderly to retrieve items with the use of a robot.

Deese's Voice Interface Controlled Robot (VICR) was designed using a Kinect interface for the Xbox video game system as the input device for sound. He had to interface four different systems and write a program for his laptop.

Deese is using a state-of-the-art piece of digital equipment found on satellites and deep-space probes called an FPGA (Field Programmable Gate Array) to create a robot that understands language and reacts to voice command.

"This technology will ultimately benefit everyone," said **Joel Phillips**, Deese's instructor. "But initially it will most likely be used for people with mobility issues."



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# Jefferson State Students Place in International Competition

Jefferson State's Shelby-Hoover Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society earned first runner-up for "Most Distinguished Chapter" during the International Competition held in Nashville in April. The Shelby-Hoover Chapter ranked second out of more than 1,987 chapters world-wide.

The chapter recently received top honors in Alabama for the sixth consecutive year during the Alabama Competition in Decatur. Jefferson State's students ranked first out of 32 Phi Theta Kappa chapters in the state.

"These honor students have made the Jefferson State family extremely proud," said Phi Theta Kappa Advisor **Dr. Liesl Harris**. "Not just for their wonderful ranking, but for their spirited efforts to help so many people in our community and in areas hit by tornadoes throughout the year."

In the 2008 and 2009 international competitions, Jefferson State's Shelby-Hoover chapter, Beta Lambda Delta, has taken home top honors. In fact, this chapter is the first international repeat winner in more than twenty years. For the past five years, the chapter has ranked 1st, 1st, 8th, 3rd, and 2nd internationally.

In addition, Chapter Advisor Dr. Liesl Harris was awarded the prestigious "Continued Excellence Award for Advisors" and elected to serve as the Secretary for the Association of Chapter Advisors. Jefferson State President **Judy Merritt** received the *Gordon Award* for providing extensive support and resources for the college's Phi Theta Kappa chapters.

"These students are phenomenal in their work ethic and maintain a level of excellence in everything they do," said Dr. Merritt. "I am extremely proud of their effort and service to the community."

## Drake State Holds Ribbon Cutting

J.F. Drake State Technical College held a ribbon cutting this summer for the grand opening of the Renewable Energy Lab and the renovation of the Salon Management Technology Building.

**Dr. Helen McAlpine**, president of Drake State, greeted the guests for the event. Speakers for the occasion included **Tommy Battle**, mayor of Huntsville; **Mary Scott Hunter**, District 8 representative from the Alabama State Board of Education; and **Susan Price**, interim chancellor of the Alabama Community College System.

The Renewable Energy Lab is a training lab for the installation of geothermal heating and cooling units. It is completely off-grid and houses a 60-gallon solar thermal water heater and 12 solar panels.

The newly-renovated Salon Management Building houses two cosmetology labs (with one serving as a practice salon for students), a barber lab, a nail care lab, and an esthetics lab. Classrooms are incorporated in two of the labs for lecture sessions.

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# NW-SCC Begins Offering Medical Assisting Technology

Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) began offering an associate degree and certificate options through the Medical Assisting Technology program on the Shoals campus this fall semester.

The Medical Assisting Program will offer options in Office Transcription, Medical Billing and Coding, and Phlebotomy. The program will provide hands-on training and prepare students to provide patient care in physician's offices, minor emergency centers, long-term care facilities, and other types of free-standing medical clinics.

According to NW-SCC Vice President of Instruction **Dr. Glenda Colagross**, the new program will provide students with a strong desire to work in the medical field a great opportunity to do so during a very beneficial time. "Much of the research today shows a growing trend in utilizing multi-skilled medical assistants and allows doctors to care for more patients," said Colagross. "This makes individuals serving as medical assistants a tremendous asset to the growing health care industry."



## Southern Union Unveils New Apprenticeship Program

Southern Union State Community College unveiled its new Apprenticeship Program in July. The first of its kind in Alabama, the program involves investments by local industry, economic development authorities and the college. The program is a registered apprenticeship program with the Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship.

"The purpose of this venture is to increase the pool of skilled workers in Chambers and Lee counties," commented **Darin Baldwin**, Dean of Technical Education and Workforce Development at SUSCC. "This involves a significant investment from our local industries, and we look forward to working with them to produce a qualified worker to meet their needs."

The first cohort of students began the program at the beginning of the fall semester. Students will complete a cooperative education program combining classroom-based education with practical work experience at an area industry. This approach will help ease the school-to-work transition for students while providing industry with workers who are familiar with their procedures. Admission into the apprenticeship program is based on an application process.

## Central Alabama Expands Offerings

In the last year, offerings have been expanded at Central Alabama Community College. On the Talladega campus, American Sign Language and Physical Science are being offered on campus for the first time, as well as new course offerings in the Office Administration and Business majors.

Another new set of offerings that began in the fall was offering community education classes on campus for the first time. Community education courses are short, non-credit classes to serve the community's interests. Offerings have included ACT Prep for high school students, American Sign Language, Computers for Adults, and Microsoft Excel. Over 150 community members have participated in community education courses to date, and these offerings will continue to grow with new upcoming courses.

A new program offered for high school students at the Childersburg and Talladega locations is dual enrollment scholarships in career technical education fields. These scholarships are provided through a grant from the Alabama Office of Workforce Development and provide tuition, fees, and books for students enrolling in career technical education fields.



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## GSCC's LPN Program Achieves Accreditation

The Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) Program at Gadsden State Community College recently received formal notification from the National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC) that the Board of Commissioners has granted initial accreditation for five years. The LPN Program was found to be in compliance with all Accreditation Standards established by the nationally recognized NLNAC.

The accreditation is a voluntary, peer-reviewed process that assesses the quality and integrity of a nursing program against nationally approved standards. The evaluators consist of experienced professionals in the nursing field from across the United States. An accreditation visit was conducted at all practical nursing sites by the NLNAC in October, 2011. Gadsden State has LPN sites at three campuses: Valley Street Campus in Gadsden, Gadsden State Cherokee in Centre, and the McClellan Center in Anniston. Graduates of the program are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Exam for Practical Nurses. Once licensed, these graduates can work as practical nurses in a wide variety of health care settings delivering direct care to patients across the lifespan. The next evaluation visit will occur in fall 2016.

Gadsden State President **Raymond W. Staats** praised the faculty and staff for their dedication to this program and the high standards achieved. "I am very pleased with the quality of instruction, as well as the commitment and professionalism of our instructors. Each year the students who complete this program continue to score among the top students in the state on the licensure exam. Our graduates are ready to meet the continuously increasing demands of our area's health care professionals," Staats said.

Fall Semester 2011, Gadsden State graduates exceeded both the state pass rate of 94.7% and the national pass rate of 86% for the same period with a 100% pass rate for first time test takers on the national licensure exam.

## Snead State Hosts Physics Institute

Twenty-eight Alabama educators attended the two-week professional institute called IMPACTSEED at Snead State in June. The grant-funded program is designed to improve physics and chemistry teaching in secondary education.

IMPACTSEED is an acronym that stands for Improving Physics and Chemistry Teaching in Secondary Education. Participating teachers who complete the professional institute receive \$2,200 for equipment, including laboratory kits and teaching modules for their schools, as well as support throughout the year.

Snead State physical sciences instructor **Jarrod Shields** assisted with the program and raved about its benefits for teachers. "It's kind of like they're back in the classroom being taught again," he said. "They not only receive content, they learn about new pedagogy — new teaching methods — in the classroom and new ways to teach physics and chemistry in a more interactive format."

IMPACTSEED is federally funded via competitive grants administered by the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE).

# Lawson State's QEP Becomes National Model

There's a reason why Lawson State Community College's Freshman Academy, a part of the college's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP,) is used as a template for institutions across the nation to equip, engage and empower students. The initiative has been proven to help students become more independent learners and take responsibility for their learning.

The facilitator in the course guides students through the use of state-of-the-art technologies like Blackboard and ushers developing skills in PowerPoint, oral presentation, and team building. Online videos provide the homework aspects of the course and helps students to understand all aspects of Lawson State including the use of the college's catalog, online forms, dress code, Blackboard and e-mail.

The instructors, Faculty Academy Master Educators (FAME), are selected and undergo a rigorous and interactive training before teaching. To keep their technology as up-to-date as possible, FAME instructors assess data and use that information to improve the course. They also retool several of the group projects and assignments given to students, and produce updated versions of many of the videos in which various faculty and administrators explain Lawson's services, procedures, and policies to new students. FAME instructors also explore newer products for online group collaboration such as Wikis.

"We want new students to feel confident that they've been equipped with the necessary tools for success while at Lawson, but also at four-year colleges and universities and in their chosen professions," said **Dr. Stephen Monti**, Director of the QEP Leadership Program. "We are also pleased that more and more institutions have expressed the intent to use our plan as a template for their own initiatives."

Dr. Monti and his curriculum team bear responsibility for ensuring that the Freshman Academy curriculum is carried out effectively and that all materials for its implementation, both academic and promotional, are in place.

# NACC Receives Congratulations for Excellence

Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) recently received letters of congratulations from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education Executive Director **Dr. Gregory G. Fitch**, and the American Association of Community Colleges President and CEO **Dr. Walter G. Bumphus**. The letters were in response to NACC being named as one of the top community colleges in the nation by the Aspen Institute (Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence).

“Congratulations on the national recognition bestowed on Northeast Alabama Community College by the Aspen Institute,” Fitch stated in a letter of congratulations sent to **Dr. David Campbell**, NACC President. “It is quite an honor to be ranked in the top 10% of America’s community colleges. I know that many students have benefitted from the instruction that they have received at Northeast. Please extend my congratulations to the faculty and staff for preparing students for careers and continued education.” He added, “Again, my congratulations for a job well done. The excellent educational programs and opportunities that are made available through the community college system are a source of pride for all Alabamians.”

Bumphus stated to Campbell, “Congratulations on your college’s being one of only 120 community colleges nationwide that have been determined eligible to apply for the second annual \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. It is a testament to your leadership to be included in such a prestigious group.”

The Aspen Institute has again identified the top 120 American community colleges based on specific criteria, including student success, improvement in learning outcomes, and equity in outcomes for students from diverse backgrounds. Data utilized in the selection process included federal IPEDS reports. Being chosen in the Top 120 places colleges in the top ten percent of community colleges in the nation. There are approximately 1,200 community colleges in America. More than seven million students—youth and adult learners—enroll in America’s 1,200 community colleges every year.

“The Aspen Institute has been involved with this recognition project with the United States Department of Education and the American Community College Association,” stated Dr. Campbell. “So indeed this is national recognition for Northeast and we are very pleased to be acknowledged for our work here at the college. Credit for this certainly is due to our entire staff, faculty and administrators, advisory and foundation boards, as well as from all the support we get from our local school systems and the community.”

By being chosen, Northeast became once again eligible to compete for one million dollars in grants. Northeast personnel currently are preparing the application for this competition and hope to be named one of the ten finalists. The Aspen Institute initiated this program and competition in an effort to improve the quality and effectiveness of community colleges throughout America by identifying best practices at the selected colleges.



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