

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

JOURNAL

VOLUME 44 • NUMBER 1

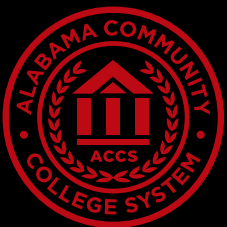
SPRING 2017

the ALABAMA COMMUNITY
COLLEGE SYSTEM:



**IMPACTING
ALABAMA'S**

future.



ACCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is indeed an honor to serve as your 2017 ACCA President. This year, our ACCA Executive Committee is extremely motivated and energized to bring professional development opportunities to the employees of the Alabama Community College System. We are tremendously dedicated in ensuring that this year's annual

conference is beneficial to your professional growth and development.

Throughout the year, we will offer various professional development opportunities and conclude with our annual ACCA Conference, November 19-21, 2017 at the Renaissance Montgomery Hotel and Spa at the Convention Center.

In order for us to build upon our story and show the vital and intrinsic role that the Alabama Community College System provides for our state, we have selected "ACCS: Impacting Alabama's Future" as this year's conference theme. This theme encompasses the opportunities and greatness that exists from our Colleges' Employees, Academic and Technical Programs, Adult Education, Workforce Development, and Dual Enrollment Programs. Let's ensure that we share how our System impacts our state in providing resources to educate and train a diverse group of high-skilled employees and develop productive citizens.

I invite you to review this edition of the Journal and read the dynamic stories that our Alabama Community Colleges continue to tell. I also encourage you to submit a proposal for a presentation at our annual ACCA Conference. Our professional development learning tracks include: Teaching and Learning, Student Success and Services, Leadership Development, Staff Development, and Workforce Development.

I look forward to your participation throughout the year and at the conference. Together, we can celebrate and share our outstanding contributions of our Alabama Community College System.

Kemba Chambers, Ed.D.
ACCA President

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Visit www.alabamacca.org for more information

CALL FOR CONFERENCE PRESENTATION PROPOSALS

An online submission form has been created for your convenience
on the ACCA website. If you would like to submit a proposal, please visit:

www.alabamacca.org/accaproposals

For additional information, contact ACCA First Vice-President

Dr. Russell Howton at russell.howton@bscc.edu

Deadline for submissions is Monday, August 14, 2017

Tell Your ACCS Story

This year's theme is "**Impacting Alabama's Future**" and the ACCA Journal and our social media outlets provide an outstanding way to share the great stories of our association, colleges, and System. You're also invited to help "Impact Alabama's Future" by encouraging colleagues, students, and alumni from your college to post individual stories on ACCA's social media pages using the hashtag **#ACCSstory**. We will be collecting these all year with hopes of sharing them at this year's ACCA Conference.



CACC Students Excel in the Classroom and the Real World

Community colleges across this state have provided countless opportunities to people seeking to make a difference in their personal and professional lives. Whether it is a student who just graduated from high school or someone who is looking for a career change, community colleges offer many options from which to choose.

Ender Rodriguez attended Central Alabama Community College as a GED graduate. Upon graduation, he was offered a free course in the curriculum of his choice. Ender chose to take an electronics course and after his first semester, there was no doubt what his future would hold. He qualified for financial aid and before he knew it, he was enrolled as a full time student in the Electronics Technology program.

Ender excelled in the program and was named the Most Outstanding Student in Electronics at Honors Day in 2016. Ender continued to work hard each semester and it did not go un-noticed. He was also selected by the college to be the student spokesperson for the National Science Foundation visiting team in 2016.

Michael White, who teaches Industrial Electronics at CACC, spoke very highly about Ender's work ethic and drive to succeed.

"The quality that stood out the most, to me, about Ender was his determination," White stated.

"He had an unquenchable thirst to learn as much as he could. He could never get enough. He was by far one of the best students I have ever had the pleasure of teaching. He would have been successful no matter what program he chose, I'm just lucky he chose my program."

While enrolled at CACC, Ender worked in the Honda Motor Manufacturing of Alabama School to Work weekend program. As no surprise to the instructors and administrators at CACC, he excelled at his job. He attended classes Monday through Thursday and worked with Honda Friday through Sunday.

Ender graduated from CACC in May 2016 with a short term certificate, certificate, and AAS degree in Industrial Electronics. He now works full time as an employee of HMA and continues to excel.

Segarro Kelley is another example of what hard work and determination can do. Segarro also chose the Electronics Technology curriculum at CACC. After his first semester, Segarro applied and was accepted to the co-op program at Honda Motor Manufacturing of Alabama. He would be a full time student for a semester and an employee the next. He would continue this until he graduated from CACC.

"It was very apparent that Segarro had a strong mechanical ability," Michael white said.

"His mechanical knowledge was off the charts and this helped him excel in my classes. He was fearless when it came to troubleshooting."

Segarro worked in multiple departments at Honda as a student. They discovered how talented he was and every department wanted him. He was offered a full time job with HMA upon graduation and is steadily moving up the ladder.

Emily Hatfield chose the Welding and Machining programs at CACC. She started in the Welding program and had questions as to why she needed machining classes.

"Emily did not understand the reason she had to take a machining minor for a welding degree," Scotty Carr, Machining instructor at CACC said.

"She fell in love with the machining field immediately. Emily is an extremely bright young lady who wants to be the best at what she does, and she made sure she learned everything she could while she was here. Emily is a student instructors never forget. She took cosmetology in high school, Welding when she started college and completed both Machining and Welding degrees before leaving CACC. Teaching her was a breeze."

DJ James, Welding instructor at CACC, saw a great determination to succeed in Emily.

"Emily always worked hard in class and the labs," James mentioned.

"Dedicated is the best word I can use to describe Emily. Anything she put her mind to she achieved."

As with Ender and Segarro, Emily would find a company looking for students. 2A USA, an Italian based company, located in Opelika, would bring Emily into their apprentice program. 2A USA focuses on precision machining and manufacturing and in 2015 entered into a public/private partnership with CACC.

Emily graduated from CACC in May 2015 with an impressive six short term certificates, one certificate, and an AAS degree in Welding. She too was hired right after graduation and currently works as a set-up technician for 2A USA.

Wallace State Baseball Coach Randy Putman Reaches 1,000 Career Victories

Wallace State baseball coach Randy Putman reaches 1,000 career victories with program after Sunday's DH sweep



HANCEVILLE, ALA. – Wallace State baseball coach Randy Putman achieved 1,000 career victories with the Lions on March 26, 2017, after a pair of convincing wins over Calhoun at James C. Bailey Stadium.

And, in a season that has been impressive across the board, Wallace State made sure Putman earned the milestone without too much drama. The Lions scored 23 runs in the doubleheader, including hitting six homers on the day. Wallace State won 13-1 in eight innings and 10-0 in five innings.

"I'm very proud of all the guys I have now and all I've had in the past. I'm very thankful that God has given me the health to do the same things I did 28 years ago when I started with this program. This was fun. These guys were determined today (Sunday) they were going to make it happen, and I appreciate them being a part of it," said Putman, whose players celebrated by each dousing him with water down the third-base line. "We needed to take care of business after we split with Calhoun (last Thursday). I thought we played our best games of the year."

Wallace State moved to 27-5 on the season and improved to 7-1 in Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) play after winning three of four games against the Warhawks. The Lions have also swept a four-game conference series against Snead State this season.

Putman is currently in his 28th season at Wallace State and has guided the Lions to the postseason in 25 of his previous 27 seasons, winning seven conference championships and making six National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) World Series appearances. Putman was inducted into the Alabama Junior College Hall of Fame in 1991, the NJCAA Coaches Hall of Fame in 2006 and the Alabama Coaches Hall of Fame in January 2009.

During his tenure at Wallace State, Putman has coached current major league players Craig Kimbrel of the Boston Red Sox, a five-time All-Star, Derek Holland of the Chicago White Sox and Jake Elmore of the Toronto Blue Jays. Zelous Wheeler, Graham Godfrey and Terry Jones have also cracked the major leagues after playing for Putman, in addition to many other current and former players who have played professionally.

As was the case on Sunday, it's just as special for Putman to see former Lions stop by James C. Bailey Stadium to take in a game or two.

"It's such a big thrill to see former players and to hear how Wallace State baseball coach Randy Putman reaches 1,000 successful they are in life. That's important to me," Putman said.

Wallace State freshman Kevin Bryant Jr. was familiar with program after his dad, Kevin Bryant Sr., was among the first players to suit up for Putman in the late 1980s.

"I grew up hearing stories about coach Putman, and it's awesome to be a part of this day for him. It's a great experience and even better because we have a team of grinders. We work hard every day and get after it every game," said Bryant, a Corner High graduate.

Putman's career record currently stands at 1,000-455 (.687 winning percentage).

For more information about Wallace State athletics, visit athletics.wallacestate.edu



LBW Math Faculty Recognized for Innovation



LBW Community College's mathematics faculty were named as the College's 2016 Innovation Champions for their work in restructuring several math courses.

The 2016 award recognizes faculty members Rachel Boothe, Mary Cross, Michelle Goosby, Pat Senn, Sharon Stricklin, and Kelly Wilson for changing the delivery of three developmental math courses and providing open source materials. These changes allow students to save money while progressing through the courses as quickly as possible, said Mary Ann Hudson, math and science division chair.

"The redesigned courses were implemented during the 2016 spring semester," said Hudson. "Students are more satisfied with this delivery system and feel they have more control over the learning process."

In addition, each student taking all three courses saves a total of \$347 previously required for textbooks and access codes, she added.

"To be able to offer students three math courses that they can move through at their own pace and to eliminate all costs except for tuition takes creativity," said Riedel.

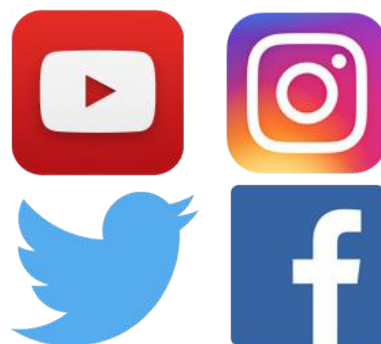
"We are proud to recognize the extensive collaboration required by all LBW math faculty in this accomplishment. They not only researched open source materials for students, they completely renovated the delivery process by creating new modules for all three courses, including textbooks, videos, extra problems, homework, and post-test."

The innovation allowed LBWCC to drop the services of an outside vendor, which previously cost students between \$286,572 and \$379,618 in one academic year for textbooks and access codes, said Riedel.

"Due to the dedication of these faculty members, students are saving money and are more satisfied with the learning process."

In March 2017, Kelly Wilson will attend the Innovations Conference in San Francisco, Calif., to represent the group as the College's choice for the John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award. The conference and award were established by the national League for Innovation in the Community College to recognize faculty, staff, and administration for excellence in leadership and innovation in higher education.

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NACC's Director of Educational Technology Receives CISO Certification



Northeast Alabama Community College is pleased to announce that Ms. Patricia Combs, Director of Educational Technology, has recently received the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) certification. Combs attended a six-month program (September 2016 through February 2017) at Carnegie Mellon University Heinz College, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) Certificate Program is designed to address the specific demands on today's cyber leaders. This six-month program seeks to enhance careers for professionals with significant information security responsibility for their organizations.

As a part of the Heinz College CIO Institute, the CISO Program draws on the unique strengths of Carnegie Mellon University and its federally funded CERT Program at the Software Engineering Institute. Both CMU and CERT are recognized across the globe as leaders in information assurance and security. For more information, go to [http://heinz.cmu.edu/school-of-information-systems-and-management/cio-institute/chief-information-security-officer-executive-education-and-](http://heinz.cmu.edu/school-of-information-systems-and-management/cio-institute/chief-information-security-officer-executive-education-and-certification-program/index.aspx)

[certification-program/index.aspx](http://heinz.cmu.edu/school-of-information-systems-and-management/cio-institute/chief-information-security-officer-executive-education-and-certification-program/index.aspx).

Combs was a member of Team Omni which won "Best Practicum Presentation". Seven women were enrolled in the Fall 2016 Cohort. This was the largest number of women ever to participate in the program.

"It is my desire that my passion will ignite a flame in other females to pursue careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) related fields," said Combs.

Combs continued, "I love to learn and am passionate about sharing with others the knowledge and skills that I have gained. Technology is constantly changing and therefore those in technical fields must keep their knowledge and skills set current and up-to-date. I am thankful that I work at an institution where professional growth is not only supported but also encouraged."

Combs has been employed at Northeast since September 2013. She has a BS degree from Athens State University and a MEd from Alabama A & M University. She currently serves as Vice President of the Alabama Community College System Information Services Association (ACCSISA).

For more information, contact Combs at 256-638-4418, ext. 2212, or by email at combsp@nacc.edu.

**For additional college information, go to www.nacc.edu
or download our free App at the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.**



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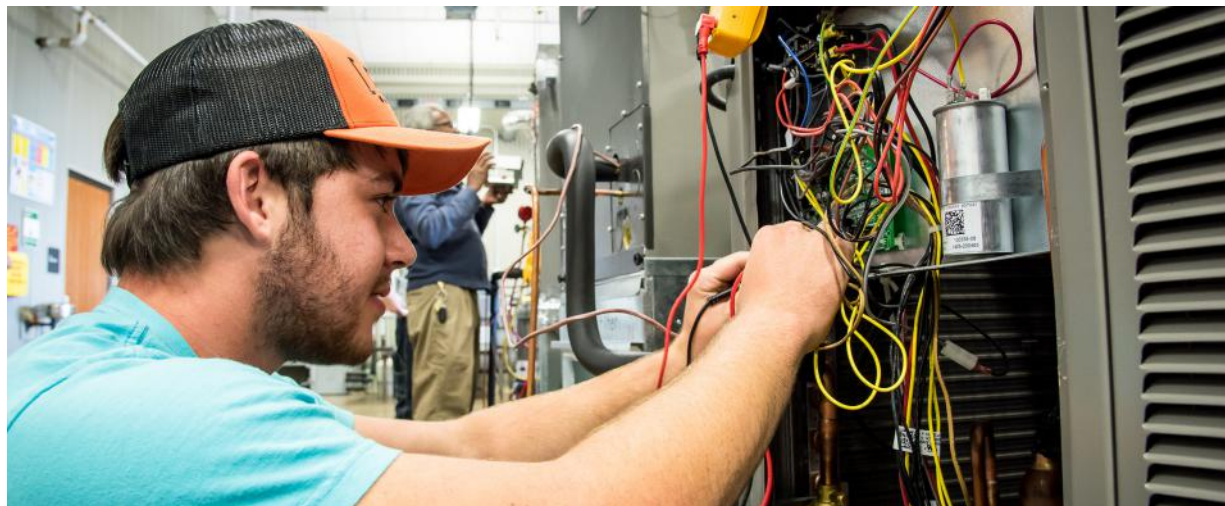
- More than half of our projects in the past three years have been for ACCA members.
- We currently serve nine colleges in Alabama.
- Every college we have served has hired us again.



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SUSCC DUAL ENROLLMENT PROGRAM GIVES STUDENTS A CHANCE TO GET AHEAD IN THEIR CAREERS



On May 11, Matthew Cayple will receive an associate's degree from Southern Union State Community College (SUSCC). A few weeks later, he will cross another graduation stage, this time to receive his high school diploma.

Cayple is just one example of an increasing number of students who take advantage of the dual enrollment program at SUSCC, which allows students to take college courses while still enrolled in high school.

By participating in this program, high school students earn credit for a college class on both their high school and college transcripts. Since 2014-15, the number of high school students participating in Southern Union's dual enrollment program has quadrupled from 98 dual enrollment students to 376 students for 2016-17. Dual enrollment programs differ from Advanced Placement programs in that students take college courses rather than high school courses with college-level content.

To enroll in a dual enrollment course, students must be in grade 10, 11 or 12 and have a minimum cumulative (unweighted) high school grade point average of 2.5. Students who take part in dual enrollment classes have a seamless transition into college or a career.

Cayple, who will complete the air conditioning and refrigeration program this semester, sees the program as a way to progress in your career goals. "I would recommend the dual enrollment program to anyone. It is easy to enroll and it gives you an opportunity to get ahead," said Cayple.

Studies have shown that participating in dual enrollment programs lead to long-term college and career success. And, overall, instructors have positive comments about students who are dually enrolled. Case in point is Cayple. "Matt is an excellent example of what hard work and determination can accomplish. He has proven to me that just because you are young, doesn't mean you can't accomplish big things. All it takes is setting your mind to something and working as hard as it takes to make it happen," commented David Burdette, air conditioning and refrigeration instructor.

There is opportunity for financial assistance for students who dual enroll in technical education and health sciences courses. The Alabama Legislature has approved funds for the Alabama Future Workforce Initiative (AFWI) which are allocated to assist secondary career and technical education students earn postsecondary credits while still in high school.

"Dual Enrollment provides opportunities for students who want to get started in their careers earlier by working towards a degree or certificate in certain fields or for those students who want to get a jump on academic transfer courses while saving money," commented Eddie Pigg, who serves as the dual enrollment liaison for SUSCC. "It is a wonderful opportunity for area students."

Calhoun Student Korey Hardy Named 2017 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Gold Scholar



Calhoun Community College student Korey Hardy has been named a 2017 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Gold Scholar. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver and 50 Bronze Scholars nationally and providing nearly \$200,000 in scholarships annually. As a Gold Scholar, Hardy receives a \$1,500 scholarship and a special medallion.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society administers the Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Program. Student scholars received local, state and national recognition at Phi Theta Kappa's annual convention, which was held April 6-8, 2017, in Nashville, TN.

"We have been fortunate to have had a number of our students recognized among the nation's top community college students," commented Calhoun President Dr. Jim Klauber. "This recent honor which Korey has very deservedly earned is further evidence of the quality of our students," Klauber continued.

"I know that I speak for the entire Calhoun family when I say how very proud we are of Korey's recognition. His award adds to the growing list of Calhoun students who have been honored on the national level for their academic accomplishments," added Klauber.

High-achieving students are nominated for the award by campus administrators. An independent panel of judges considers academic achievement, leadership, and engagement in college and community service in the selection process.

"We thank the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation for recognizing these student leaders and for investing in their futures," said Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, President and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa.

"The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has a long history of providing financial assistance to outstanding students at community colleges," said J. Mark Davis, President of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. "We are proud to partner with Phi Theta Kappa and make it possible for deserving students to achieve their educational goals."

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of community college students. The Society is comprised of more than 3.2 million members in nearly 1,300 chapters in nine nations.

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Gadsden State director named Fulbright Scholar



GADSDEN (April 7, 2017) – Becky Duckett, director of Gadsden State Community College's International Programs and the Alabama Language Institute, has been selected as a scholar through the Fulbright Program, a highly competitive fellowship that enables students and faculty members to pursue academic experiences abroad.

The Fulbright Program, the U.S. government's flagship international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. Since its inception in 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided more than 370,000 participants with the opportunity to study, teach and conduct research, exchange ideas and contribute to finding solutions to shared international concerns.

"We are all proud that Becky is representing Gadsden State in this scholarly endeavor," said Dr. Martha Lavender, president. "Her participation in this prestigious program expands Gadsden State's capabilities and reputation of excellence."

Duckett will participate in the U.S.-Korea International Education Administrators Program. Through the program, she will spend two weeks creating connections with the societal, cultural and higher education systems of Korea. She said she wants to learn as much as possible about Korea's

current education system in order to enhance the economic partnerships that exist in Alabama.

"Gadsden State and other community colleges are engaged in workforce training for the auto manufacturing industry, an enterprise which currently reflects significant Korean investment in Alabama," she said. "A deeper understanding of the current education system will allow me to explore potential intersections between Korean expectations and Alabama community college workforce development."

Duckett came to Gadsden State in 2015 to oversee the International Programs and the Alabama Language Institute. The IPO seeks to enhance the academic, cultural and social pursuits of students through knowledge and expertise in admissions, immigration, advising and cross-cultural exchange. Since joining Gadsden State's administration, Duckett has been involved in significant collaborative initiatives, such as Study Alabama, a consortium of global engagement and economic development.

"It is an entity comprised of higher education administrators and economic trade specialists committed to cooperatively promoting bi-lateral international commerce and international education exchange," she said.

She is also instrumental in organizing the Alabama Community College System Study Abroad Consortium, which will provide a unified approach to delivering excellent study abroad opportunities and access to students.

Duckett is eager to participate in the two-week grant program as a Fulbright Scholar. She will leave on her journey on June 9.

"I believe there is great potential for mutually beneficial intersections between the state of Alabama and Korea, and I want to do my part toward improving educational opportunities in my home state."

Shelton State Named Alabama's ACT Career Preparedness Exemplar

Tuscaloosa, Alabama – Shelton State was named Alabama's ACT Career Preparedness Exemplar for the 2016-2017 ACT College and Career Readiness Campaign.

Established in 2013, the annual ACT College and Career Readiness Campaign celebrates achievement and creates awareness around the goal of college and career readiness for all. ACT developed the campaign to shine a light on the individuals and institutions doing more with less, overcoming personal or community obstacles, and serving as examples to others working to improve the condition of college and career readiness for all.



The campaign identifies exemplars in each of four categories—students, high schools, postsecondary institutions, and employers—for each participating state. ACT State Councils – comprised of education and workforce professionals in each state – selected Shelton State Community College's Mechatronics program from a group of applicants for the Alabama ACT Career Preparedness Award and ultimately, state exemplar designation.

"Each year we are proud to recognize exemplary students, high schools, postsecondary institutions and employers working to advance the condition of college and career readiness in their communities," said Scott Montgomery, ACT senior vice president of public affairs. "The individuals and groups named ACT state exemplars demonstrate perseverance and innovative thinking in the face of adversity, and serve as examples to others working to improve college and career readiness for all."

Following a nomination from local high school counselor Connie Coleman, Shelton State Community College received the Career Preparedness Award for the Mechatronics program. "Mechatronics is the best opportunity for school-to-work training in our area," said Coleman, Hillcrest High School Counselor. "The partnership is a win-win-win for our students, Shelton State Community College, and Mercedes Benz USI. Very few programs have such positive results and provide such amazing support for students while serving the employment needs of one of our largest and most responsible employers."

"Our partnership with Mercedes Benz U.S. International allows us to work together to develop and deliver up-to-date technical skills training, while offering students workplace learning opportunities," said Jason Moore, Associate Dean for Corporate Programs. "Through our apprenticeships and internships, we have developed strong relationships that are beneficial for our students and the businesses and industries that we serve."

All state exemplars will be considered for National Semifinalist status by an ACT Selection Committee, which will narrow the talented group into four National Semifinalists per category. Finally, a National Selection Committee composed of national education and workforce leaders will choose one semifinalist per category to make up four National Exemplars. These National Exemplars, along with all state exemplars and semifinalists will be honored at an ACT recognition event in late fall 2017 in Iowa City, Iowa.



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Sheet Metal Program Adds Skilled Technicians to Wiregrass Workforce



Dothan, Ala.— Sisters Annie Jewel Sconiers and Annie Doris Quinn have a thing or two in common. For starters, they have the same first name. And as of December 2016, they can add Sheet Metal Technician to that list.

The two sisters – Jewel is 66 and Doris is 56 – are both graduates of the first Sheet Metal Technician class at Wallace Community College – Dothan (WCCD). The program is one of several Fast-Track Career Programs offered through WCCD’s Center for Economic and Workforce Development.

WCCD’s Sheet Metal Technician program is a solution to area businesses identifying a need for trained and skilled sheet metal workers, according to WCCD’s Director of Workforce Development Joe Johnson.

Based on local employer input, the College developed the Sheet Metal Technician program to train entry-level sheet metal workers for both manufacturing and construction sectors. A \$150,000 Special Populations grant from the Alabama Community College System enabled WCCD to purchase specialized equipment for the program.

Initially a seven-week program, the Sheet Metal Technician course will expand to 10 weeks in order to provide even more training. Correct operation of sheet metal hand tools, rotary

machines, metal shears and roll forming machines are included in lab work.

“The program design is not to be industry specific, but to offer more of a broad overview of how to use the equipment and understand basic functions of sheet metal fabrication,” Johnson said.

Instructor Eddie Folds said he places a heavy emphasis on fundamental skills such as measuring and equipment safety.

“Basic math is huge,” Folds said. “We spent a lot of time in the classroom reviewing measurements and the tape measure.”

Two days before graduation, the program held an open house at the newly renovated Sheet Metal Building on Wallace Campus in Dothan. Area businesses and representatives from the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce visited during class time to see students in action.

“The open house is an opportunity for industries to come in and see what the new program has to offer,” Johnson said. “They can see the equipment and facility and observe students working on their final projects.”

The open house also offered a unique opportunity to connect students directly with companies seeking skilled workers, and some students even had a chance to schedule interviews with potential employers.

“These businesses have real employment needs,” Johnson said.

Students Jewel and Doris took the class as a challenge to learn a new skill, but they both quickly discovered that they truly enjoyed working with sheet metal.

Jewel heard about the new program from a friend and said she wanted to learn about sheet metal fabrication and explore new job opportunities. She convinced a reluctant Doris to take the class with her. Initially hesitant, Doris is now hooked on the trade.

“After I got started, I fell in love, especially with the press brake,” Doris said. The large machine tool is used for bending sheet metal.

A long-time welder and sheet metal fabricator, Folds said he was very pleased with the inaugural program. He was particularly impressed with the work ethic of Jewel and Doris.

“They’ve done nothing but impress me. They tuned into everything and retained the knowledge,” Folds said.

The Sheet Metal Technician program joins a diverse set of short-term training programs offered by WCCD’s Center for Economic and Workforce Development. Other courses offered include Certified Nursing Assistant, Computer Skills for Today’s Workplace, Dental Assistant, Ophthalmic Assistant, Pre-apprentice Electrical Lineworker, Professional Medical Coding, Ready to Work, and Industrial Welding.

The next Sheet Metal Technician courses are scheduled to begin Feb. 6 and June 5.

To register or learn more about the Sheet Metal Technician course or any of the Fast-Track Career Programs, visit Wallace Community College’s Center for Economic and Workforce Development or call (334) 556-2203.



Snead State Pharmacy School Student



Morgan Smith of Boaz wants to become a pharmacist and is well on her way to achieving that goal when she graduates from Snead State Community College in May 2017.

Morgan is one of five students from SSCC who received early acceptance to the McWhorter School of Pharmacy at Samford University beginning this fall. The Boaz High School alumna followed in the footsteps of her parents by beginning her college career at Snead State.

“Both of my parents went to Snead, and they encouraged me to attend also. It was close to home, so I could still live at home and work after class,” Morgan said. “I also received an academic scholarship that covered all of my tuition and fees. The classes are smaller, and it allows more one-on-one time with the teachers.”

Morgan said she is excited to begin her studies at Samford, but she won’t forget the people who influenced and encouraged her as she pursued her education. One such person is her chemistry teacher, Dr. Susie Humphries.

“I have had the opportunity to have Dr. Humphries every semester since I started Snead State. I was very nervous

beginning my first year of college at Snead State. Dr. Humphries was willing to help me out in any way she possibly could. She made sure she was preparing me, along with the rest of my classmates, for our further education that was to come,” Morgan said. “She has been a great role model and always encourages me to do my best.”

Four other students of Dr. Humphries are among those to receive early acceptance to the McWhorter School of Pharmacy: Keylon Harris of Geraldine, Dylan Shadinger of Albertville, Damion Totherow of Geraldine and Brady Williams of Crossville. Dylan represents Snead State on the All-Alabama Academic Team. His goal is to earn his doctorate in Pharmacy and open his own pharmacy one day.



Dual Enrollment Students From Five High Schools Take Iron Worker Training at Jefferson State's Pell City Campus

Pell City, Ala. – Through a partnership with Garrison Steel, Jefferson State Dual Enrollment Students from five high schools have been learning Iron Worker Training at Jefferson State's St. Clair-Pell City Campus.

Students from Pell City High School, Talladega City High School, Lincoln High School, St. Clair County High School, and Asheville High School have finished the eight-week level-one training. These students have already begun the second level of training and will complete this portion on May 4.

The dual enrollment classes are being taught by Garrison Steel Erectors and Fabricators Owner and CEO John Garrison. Mr. Garrison has built some of the most complex projects in the southeastern United States. Garrison Steel is an AISC Certified Steel Fabricator and Advanced Steel Erector through the AISC.

"These classes are the first step for the future of an industry in need of capable entry-level workers," said Garrison. "We believe these students are setting the path for future construction related programs to flourish in our state."

Students completing dual enrollment classes receive both high school and college credit. The courses available are determined by the contract with the high school. Students must meet all course prerequisites prior to registration. Prerequisites may be met by achieving required minimum scores on the placement test or ACT Test.

"Rest assured the nation will be fully immersed in construction programs like this within five years or less," said Garrison. "These students are 'First Movers' and deserve to be recognized." For more information on Jefferson State's Iron Worker Training, contact Mike Safavi at (205) 856-7847 or msafavi@jeffersonstate.edu.

Cadet Arnold Makes All-USA Community College Academic Team

Marion Military Institute (MMI) Cadet Keegan Arnold has been selected as a member of the 2017 All-USA Community College Academic Team. Only 20 students from more than 1,800 nominations were selected for this prestigious honor. The All-USA Community College Academic Team is sponsored by Follett Higher Education Group with additional support provided by the American Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa. As the highest scoring student from Alabama he was also named a 2017 Coca-Cola New Century Scholar.

As an All-USA Community College Academic Team member, Arnold will receive a \$5,000 scholarship, a special medallion and recognition in various media outlets. As a Coca-Cola New Century Scholar, he will be presented a \$2,000 scholarship and certificate from The Coca-Cola Foundation and Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. Arnold will also be able to travel to the Presidents Breakfast held during the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Convention scheduled April 24, 2017, in New Orleans, LA.

As a graduating sophomore, Arnold holds the rank of cadet captain and serves as the Battalion S4 for the MMI Corps of Cadets. He also serves as Honor Council Vice Chairman, Phi Theta Kappa Vice President, Yearbook President and FCA Community Outreach Officer. A California native, he plans to return to his home state to complete his bachelor's degree at Humboldt University.



Coastal Alabama Community College Makes Quite The Showing At The 2017 Annual Convention



In April 2017, Coastal Alabama Community College made quite the showing at the 2017 Annual Convention held in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Brenda J. Kennedy, the College's Executive Vice President of Institutional Advancement & Student Development, was selected as a recipient of the prestigious Distinguished College Administrator Award. In addition, the College's chapters of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society racked in awards in a variety of areas.

Dr. Kennedy, who has served at the College since 1992, was nominated by the Pi Psi Chapter at the College and was selected for the award due to her outstanding support provided to Phi Theta Kappa. Serving previously as the Dean of Student Development and now as the Executive Vice President of Institutional Advancement & Student Development, Dr. Kennedy oversees the areas of institutional effectiveness, federal programs, advising and counseling, job placement, career development, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordination, and testing.

Since December 2015, Dr. Kennedy also served in a critical role in the development and implementation of the consolidation of Alabama Southern Community College, Faulkner State Community College and Jefferson Davis Community College – forming what is now Coastal Alabama Community College. Dr. Kennedy served as the Operating Chair of the Consolidation Steering Committee, which oversaw all areas of development pertaining to the consolidation, as the SACSCOC Liaison for the Consolidation Substantive Change, as the Liaison for the Alabama Community College System for Consolidation and as the Liaison for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education for Consolidation.

Throughout her tenure at the College, Dr. Kennedy has maintained a steady line of support to the Phi Theta Kappa local chapter and continues to support the efforts of the International Honor Society.

Also bringing much recognition to the College during the 2017 Annual Convention, Coastal Alabama's chapters of PTK left an imprint for the State of Alabama and for Coastal Alabama Community College.

Coastal Alabama's Phi Upsilon Chapter in Monroeville and the Pi Psi Chapter in Bay Minette were named as two of the Top 100 Chapters out of 1300 worldwide. In addition, both previously mentioned chapters plus the Alpha Eta Lambda Chapter in Brewton were named REACH Chapters due to excellence in membership development in 2016 and were all named Five Star Level Chapters.

The Phi Upsilon Chapter at Coastal Alabama in Monroeville also received recognition for one of the top 50 Distinguished College Project Awards in the world. The Award was given for the chapter's project on

“Sharpening Soft Skills,” which was implemented in summer and fall 2016.

Lastly, the Alabama Region earned the Distinguished Region Award (only three awarded internationally) because of the many chapters such as those at Coastal Alabama Community College who have continuous support of others.

Along with these accolades, in the areas of academic excellence, the College’s North District had two All-Alabama Academic Team Members (Catherine Ann Dees and Deondra Horton) named as Gold Coca-Cola Scholars. There are only 50 Gold Scholars in the nation, and North District has two of them. In addition, the College’s East District had one All-Alabama Academic Team Member (Emily Fayard) named as a Silver Coca-Cola Scholar. These students were selected among 1,800 applicants of the All-USA Community College Academic Team competition.

Coastal Alabama Community College continues to support the efforts of all of its chapters of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. This year was particularly special as it was the first year the College received awards under the new name, Coastal Alabama Community College. In the coming year, each chapter will continue their path to excellence through college projects, fundraisers and advancement in the academic arena.



Lawson State Community College Student Selected to Visit NASA June 2017



Birmingham – Jordan Watkins of Lawson State Community College in Birmingham has been selected to travel to NASA’s Glenn Research Center this spring to participate in the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars project (NCAS). Jordan, a May 2017 graduate with a 4.0 grade point average, plans to attend the University of Alabama. She is also the reigning Miss Lawson State Community College,

Watkins has been selected as one of 348 community college students from across the U.S. to be part of NCAS.

The five-week scholars program culminates with a four-day on-site event at Glenn Research Center and offers students the opportunity to interact with NASA engineers and others as they learn more about careers in science and engineering. While at NASA, students form teams and establish fictional companies interested in Mars exploration. Each team

is responsible for developing and testing a prototype rover, forming a company infrastructure, managing a budget, and developing communications and outreach.

“NCAS not only inspires community college students to advance in STEM fields, but it also opens doors for future careers at NASA. NCAS has a legacy of alumni moving from NASA internships to and ultimately entering the NASA workforce. It is rewarding to see the progression of a student from NCAS participant to NASA colleague.” Tania B. Davis, Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP) Manager.

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J.F. Drake State Community And Technical College

Cooking Up Healthy Meals With WAFF-TV



Huntsville, AL – Drake State's Culinary Arts department is proud to partner with WAFF-TV in bringing simple, healthy cooking ideas to the citizens of North Alabama. At Drake State, our goal is to provide healthy cooking tips to the community. We hope to increase awareness of a healthy eating lifestyle and how to prepare quick meals for the busy family on the go!

Drake State Culinary Instructor Chef Echols has more than 15 years' experience in the food industry. Echols, who brings a wealth of knowledge to the segment as a former restaurant

owner and current instructor with Drake State, has also worked with the Alabama Beef Council in preparing a large variety of cuts of beef.

Chef Echols has become the face of a WAFF-TV cooking segment, hosted by Elizabeth Gentle. Each segment features quick dinner options that can be prepared at home by anyone with little or no cooking experience. The segment is aired every other Thursday on WAFF-TV during the noon newscast.

This partnership allows Drake State to showcase its culinary skills and encourage the community to discover the joy of cooking and the opportunity to try new dishes. The first segment will feature Chicken Primavera with fresh vegetables and colorful bell peppers. So set your DVR and prepare to learn how to save time and enjoy the simplicity of meal preparation!

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Alabama Technology Network

Bishop State Community College Soars to New Heights by Partnering with MAAS Aviation



Bishop State Community College is proud to have partnered with MAAS Aviation, Mobile Works, SAWDC, and other stakeholders to train workers for jobs in the aviation industry. Bishop State provided classroom instruction on the Main Campus and hands on training in the paint shop at the Carver Campus.

The goal of the collaboration was to train the skilled workforce needed to paint airplanes being built in the Mobile area. MAAS Aviation was in the process of expanding its operations in Mobile due to the growing aviation industry. In order to

grow their business, there was an immediate need for skilled workers.

Bishop State not only provided the training but also hosted two graduations for those completing the programs. The first graduation was held on November 16, 2016 and the second one on January 13, 2017. All of the participants were offered jobs with MAAS Aviation upon completion of the program.

Dr. Reginald Sykes, Interim President of Bishop State Community College, addressed those completing the training program during one of the ceremonies. He told them that according to Henry Ford, “coming together is the beginning and keeping together is progress.” The graduates came together to learn the needed skills and stayed together to complete the program. Dr. Sykes also noted that the “goal at Bishop State Community College is to provide Mobile and our service area with work based learning experiences that result in a quality job.” Bishop State’s participation in this workforce training further illustrates the college’s goal of being the partner of choice for business and industry in the Mobile area.

Bishop State looks forward to continuing partnerships such as this. It is truly a win-win situation for both the college and industries in the region.

Bevill State's Chris Franklin Named NCMPR Communicator of the Year



Dr. Chris Franklin of Bevill State Community College was recognized as the 2016 National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) District 2 Communicator of the Year and was recognized at the NCMPR national conference held in Charleston, S.C. March 27-30, 2017.

This is the second consecutive year that an employee of the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) was recognized by NCMPR as the District 2 Communicator of the Year. Shondae Brown, Director of Public Relations at Southern Union State Community College, held the honor for 2015.

One of the most prestigious awards presented to an NCMPR member, the Communicator of the Year Award recognizes a two-year college marketing, public relations or communications professional who has demonstrated leadership in the area of college communications and marketing. The Communicator of the Year Award is presented annually in each of NCMPR's seven districts, and district winners are then considered for the national award.

Franklin is the latest in a string of public relations professionals from ACCS to hold this honor in the past few years. In addition to him and Brown, former honorees from the system include Kristen Holmes of Wallace State, Sherry Terry of Bevill State, and Geri Albright of Lawson State.

Dr. Gary Branch, president of Coastal Alabama Community College, was named 2016 Pacesetter of the Year for NCMPR District 2.

NCMPR represents marketing and public relations professionals at community, technical and junior colleges. As one of the fastest-growing affiliates of the American Association of Community Colleges, NCMPR today has more than 1,550 members from more than 600 colleges across the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. There are seven NCMPR district councils. District 2, NCMPR's largest district, includes Alabama's community colleges, and is made up of colleges from the 11 Southeastern states, Bermuda and the Bahamas.