Alabama Community College Association

ACCA

CHARTING THE PATH TO STUDENT SUCCESS

SPRING 2019 JOURNAL

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

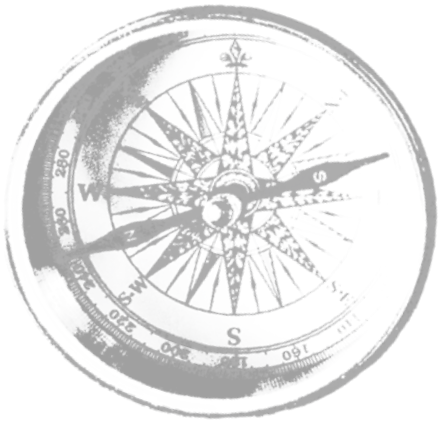
In recent years, the Alabama Community College Association has shared the individual stories of those in the Alabama Community College System. We have expounded on the vital and fundamental role that the System plays in Impacting Alabama's future. This year, our emphasis is on how our System is so crucial to the success of our students. Our motivation is to create tools which inspire ACCA's membership to develop our students into achievers, completers, and producers. To provide focus on this goal, the ACCA Executive Committee has selected "Charting a Path to Student Success" as this year's conference theme.

A student's path begins the day he or she commits to their education and future. When a student begins that path, we must not create a maze for them, but rather a strategic and highly student-centered roadmap. Our System is focused on each component within the educational pathway to ensure successful matriculation. Let us commit to this success by providing the appropriate assistance through developing our skills as educators.

Whether it be honing our skills through advising, elevating the college experience, or developing skilled workers for the workforce, we stand firm in the commitment to assist our students find a successful path for them to successfully navigate the unchartered waters that lead to a bright future.

This year, the Alabama Community College Association will continue to provide professional growth opportunities for all system-wide employees. The culmination of these opportunities is the ACCA Conference. Please save the dates of November 24 through 26 for an exciting time. Continue to visit the ACCA website for additional information about how you can get involved in ACCA and the conference.

Your involvement in ACCA is key to the success of our goals this year. The Alabama College System, with its dedicated employees, is well equipped with the knowledge and commitment to provide our students a charted path to success.



DR. VICTORIA PERRY
2019 ACCA PRESIDENT

2019 ACCA CONFERENCE

RENAISSANCE MONTGOMERY HOTEL & SPA AT THE CONVENTION CENTER MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

NOVEMBER 24-26, 2019

REGISTRATION:
SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 31.....$175.00
NOVEMBER 1 - CONFERENCE DATES.....$200.00

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

When is the deadline to submit?

August 15, 2019

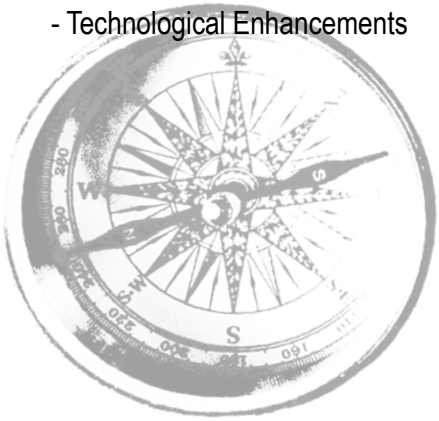
Who should submit a proposal?

YOU! Regardless what you may think, you have done great things at your college. Share those ideas with your colleagues across the State. Also, conference presentations make great resume additions!

Ok, so you decided to submit something. Now...what proposal ideas do you have? Look at the list below to get those creative ideas flowing!

Sessions should cover topics that support or strengthen the various colleges, divisions or entities within the Alabama Community College System.

- Best Practices for Student Success, Retention and Completion
- New and Emerging Techniques in the Classroom
- Engagement & Active Learning Strategies
- Academic and Technical Partnerships / Collaborations
- Libraries in Today's Digital World
- Online / Distance Education
- Student Engagement
- Mental Health / Awareness
- Behavioral Intervention & Threat Assessment
- Safety and Campus Security
- Professional Learning Communities
- Mentoring and Coaching
- Outcome Assessments
- Workforce Skills
- Credentialing
- Customer Service
- Technological Enhancements
- Fundraising Opportunities
- Motivating the Masses
- Communication in the Workplace
- Internships / Apprenticeships
- Enrollment Management
- Clinical Environment
- Records Management and Retention
- Financial Aid Programs
- Grants Management & Restricted Funds
- Grounds & Maintenance
- Custodial & Janitorial
- Adult Education
- Community & Economic Development
- Dual Enrollment
- Veterans Affairs
- Office / Software Applications
- Workplace Productivity



Other presentation topics in addition to those suggested above are welcomed and should support this year's conference theme: **Charting the Path to Student Success**. The deadline for submissions is August 15, 2019.

Where to submit your proposal?

www.alabamacca.org

On the homepage, there is link to Call for Proposals.

BEVILL STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BSCC CAREER PATHWAYS ACADEMY EXPOSES STUDENTS TO NEW INDUSTRIES

BSCC Career Pathways Academy Students attending Robotics Camp

Bevill State Community College is providing high school students with a path to start their career upon graduation. BSCC Career Pathways Academy is open to high school sophomores in Fayette, Walker, Winston, and north Tuscaloosa counties. This program exposes high school students to high demand job opportunities in industry settings.

This program is designed to provide:

- The opportunity to prepare highly qualified and motivated students for progression through a technical training program.
- Access to state-of-the-art industry equipment and standard training aids to gain advanced skills necessary for today's workforce.
- A chance to earn high school and college credit - 4 to 6 credit hours of dual enrollment per term and a short-term certificate in Automated Manufacturing. Students also have the option of adding 9 additional hours to receive a short-term certificate in Industrial Plant Technician.
- Instruction that meets industry standards for advanced technology jobs at local industries.
- Exposure to career exploration, internships, and job opportunities upon graduation.

Participants attend a Robotics Program the summer before their junior year. Students enroll in 4-6 hours of dual credit beginning in the fall of their junior year and complete 22 hours by the time they graduate high school. The summer before their senior year, students attend a Career Exploration Camp and tour manufacturing plants throughout the state. Career Pathways Academy scholarships are offered annually on a competitive basis and provide all tuition, fees, books and supplies. There is no cost to anyone accepted into the program!

In May of 2018, BSCC Career Pathways Academy had 16 successful graduates in the first cohort of the program. Another 10 students will complete the program this May, with 20 students following in the third cohort in May 2020. Applications are currently being accepted for the fourth cohort. It is anticipated that 30 students will participate with this group.

The program was made possible through grant funds obtained in cooperation with the College's legislative delegation, especially Senate Majority Leader Greg Reed. "I commend the administration at Bevill State for putting together an innovative program that will give motivated area high school students an opportunity to learn the skills necessary for success in technical career fields," Reed said. "It was an honor to work with BSCC to secure support for Career Pathways Academy – the students who complete this program will be in an excellent position upon high school graduation to immediately start working at good-paying technical jobs or deepen the skills they have acquired with further work at a community college or university."

The success of the BSCC Career Pathways Academy led NTN-Bower, one of the largest manufacturers of precision roller bearings in North America, to partner with Bevill State to create a similar Career Pathways program in Marion County in November of 2017. High school students that successfully complete the NTN-Bower Career Pathways Academy have the potential for a job opportunity with the company following graduation. The first cohort of this program will graduate this May.

BISHOP STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BISHOP STATE EXPANSIONS ARE TIED TO INDUSTRY AND WORKFORCE TRAINING NEEDS

Rendering of Bishop State's Advanced Manufacturing Center

Bishop State is excited to announce it will soon construct an Advanced Manufacturing Center and an Allied Health facility on its Main campus located in downtown Mobile. The Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees approved the college's resolution to purchase bonds which will allow the college to move forward with several projects on campus. The additions and upgrades are designed to help the college meet the workforce needs of the community by training students for the high-wage and high-demand careers in Mobile County and beyond!

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING CENTER

"I used to hear all the time 'Bishop State is a gold mine!'" says Bishop State's President Dr. Reginald Sykes. "Now we are finally stepping up to the plate doing what the community expects us to do when it comes to workforce training."

The current administration building will be repurposed into the Advanced Manufacturing Center. The center will be nearly 80,000 sqft of training space that will house programs including industrial maintenance, electronics engineering technology, additive and subtractive manufacturing, pipefitting technology, and fluid power technology. There will also be an area within the center specifically for process technology.

"There is really no known center in the state that does process technology at the level this center is going to," says the newly-hired dean of workforce and economic development, David Felton. "With the coast having all of these process, chemical, cement, pulp and paper plants, and things of that nature, this will be pretty special to help pull students in."

Bishop State leaders are meeting and partnering with business and industries throughout the state to ensure the facility is filled with state-of-the-art equipment and is built so students learn the skills needed in today's workplace.

ALLIED HEALTH FACILITY

Bishop State's health-related professions will soon be moving. The current library on the Main campus will be renovated and repurposed to house the new allied health facility which will include the nursing, physical therapist assistant, and health information technology programs. These programs are currently located on the Bishop State Central campus, about a mile away from the Main campus. The facility will feature top-of-the-line simulation labs, additional classroom labs, and a better overall environment to accompany Bishop State's already high performing allied health programs. In 2017, Bishop State's ADN program had a 94% NCLEX pass rate for first-time exam writers. The college's practical nursing (LPN) program had a 91% NCLEX pass rate. Both scores are well above the minimum of 80%.

Rendering of a simulation lab for health-related professions.

LAND PURCHASE

Bishop State recently purchased property across the street from the college and will transform it to be the "gateway to Bishop State".

CALHOUN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A CALHOUN STUDENT SUCCESS STORY – KIM LEWIS

Kim Lewis, Chief Executive Officer of PROJECT XYZ

Accomplished. Trailblazing. Motivational. Inspirational. Community servant. All terms that can be used to describe Kim Lewis, a true Calhoun Community College success story.

On February 6, 2019, Kim made history by becoming the first African-American female to lead the Board of Directors for the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce. While this event would clearly be considered a milestone, as owner and president of ProjectXYZ, an award-winning and nationally recognized company she started with husband, Larry Lewis, this truly successful Calhoun alum would be the first to admit that her journey has seen its share of challenges.

Initially attending the University of North Alabama where she majored in nursing, Kim expected a medical career to follow, until she reached the stage of clinical work and realized the profession was not for her. It was then that she decided to pursue an associate's degree at Calhoun Community College in computer information systems, finding a way to marry the two fields with a career in healthcare IT.

Kim worked for a short time for Georgia Tech in Atlanta, however not happy with the traffic woes and commuting issues there, she moved to Birmingham for a project analyst job at St. Vincent's Health System.

As a then-single mother, Kim needed the extra income, eventually bringing in enough outside business to start her own company in 2002, with then future husband, Larry. The resulting company, Project XYZ, provides engineering, logistics, information technology and alternative energy services, as well as healthcare IT, and has grown into a multi-million dollar corporation, with 100 employees.

PROJECTXYZ has been recognized with a number of honors including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's 2017 Woman-Owned Business of the year and the 2016 "Blue Ribbon Award," and the 2015 Business of the Year by the local chamber and was on the "Inc. 5000" list of the nation's top entrepreneurs in 2014-17.

Kim's love for her community is clearly evident in her noteworthy volunteer work. In addition to her leadership role with the Huntsville Chamber, she is a member of the Board of Directors for the Calhoun College Foundation. "I was honored when they asked me to join," she says of the latter. "Calhoun is my alma mater."

Kim also holds seats on the boards of the Chamber Foundation, Public Affairs Research Council of North Alabama, Huntsville Botanical Garden, the National Children's Advocacy Center, HEALS (Health Establishments at Local Schools), the Huntsville Hospital Foundation, Huntsville Committee of 100. Kim Lewis is truly a Calhoun success story!

CENTRAL ALABAMA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CENTRAL ALABAMA ONE OF SIX NATIONALLY TO EARN LEADER COLLEGE STATUS

On January 24, 2019, Central Alabama Community College received notification that it had been selected as one of only six community colleges nationwide to earn Leader College status with the Achieving the Dream Network. As stated in their mission, Achieving the Dream leads America's largest network of community colleges working to become strong engines of student and community growth. With more than 220 community colleges across 41 states, ATD's main focus is to help students, particularly low-income students and students of color, achieve academic success and personal growth.

To achieve the distinction of Leader College, CACC achieved and sustained significant improvements in student outcomes and displayed measurable progress in improving success for all students.

"We are very honored and excited to be one of six colleges to earn Leader status within the Achieving the Dream Network," Dr. Susan Burrow, president of CACC mentioned.

"We have worked extremely hard over the past several years to enhance the opportunities of our students. Key areas of focus have been on degree plans, retention, and completion of either a certificate or degree within four years of initial enrollment. All of these are crucial to a student's success and to the overall health of the college."

CACC joined the ATD Network in 2012 and has strived to create an educational environment that fosters student success. Since becoming a member of the ATD Network, the college has seen an upward trend in two of those student success metrics Burrow mentioned: persistence from Year 1 to Year 2 and completion of certificate or degree within four years.

"Our faculty and staff are wonderful," Burrow stated.

"They have been committed to this process and understand the challenges students face on a daily basis. Transfer programs and curriculum development for new skills certifications have also been integral parts in the enhancement of students' success."

CACC was joined by Anne Arundel Community College in Maryland, Grayson College in Texas, Roane State Community College in Tennessee, Western Technical College in Wisconsin, and West Hills Lemoore in California as the other colleges selected as Leader Colleges.

"I'm very proud to recognize a new group of ATD Network colleges that are advancing equity, offering a more impactful student experience, and achieving stronger, measurable results," said Dr. Karen A. Stout, president and CEO of Achieving the Dream.

"ATD Leader Colleges' gains in student success and progress toward improving outcomes for all students make them examples for their peers."

In addition to these efforts, CACC has implemented several other initiatives to enhance student success such as peer tutoring, mandatory Orientation and Student Success Course, Summer Bridge Program, professional development opportunities for faculty, faculty advising/success coaching, and supplemental instruction.

L-R Dean Danny Coleman, Dr. Susan Burrow, and Cindy Entrekin all attended the ATD Conference

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

POWELL TO MAKE COLLEGE HISTORY AS FIRST FEMALE HVAC GRADUATE

PHENIX CITY, Alabama--- Madelyn Powell will soon make history at Chattahoochee Valley Community College (CVCC) becoming the first female graduate of the College's heating ventilation, refrigeration, and air conditioning (HVAC) program.

In May, Madelyn Powell will become the first female graduate of the HVAC program

"It feels good to be the first one, and hopefully I can bring other females into the industry who do not feel it's a job for men only," said Powell. "As women, we tend to think that this is a man's world, but it isn't. This is a woman's world, too," she said with a laugh.

"We're excited to have her as our first female graduate," said Clint Langley, Applied Technology Program Director. "She comes from a military family and has done really well. She's been a very good, determined, hardworking student who is here every day. She's just been a blessing."

Powell has four adult children and two grandchildren. She and her husband, Lemuel Powell, have been married 22 years, and he served more than 30 years in the United States Army. She said she decided to study HVAC after she and her husband had an incident with their unit at home.

"My AC system was acting up, so I called a couple of companies and several repairmen came over," she said. "One told me it was my evaporator. One told me that it was my coil, and he changed the evaporator coil in my system. Another one said we had a leak somewhere, but he didn't know where the leak was, so we kept calling them back out. Every week or so, we called them back out, and it was still not working."

Powell said she and her husband had workers come out to their home on at least five different occasions and had spent anywhere from $200 to $300 per visit. Her frustration led to the decision to go to school.

"I decided I am going to take HVAC and work on my own air conditioning unit," she said. "At the very least, if someone comes here to work on it, I will know what they're talking about and understand the jargon."

Thanks to the training Powell has received at CVCC, she feels prepared to take the next steps to pursue her career in HVAC.

"Students can go to work before they ever graduate from the program, because of the built-in internship program we have," said Langley. "We have over 32 heating ventilation and air conditioning companies in this area alone. There is a large demand for our students."

"Once I got into the class, I loved it. Everybody is really nice, and all the people on campus are willing to go out of their way to help you," said Powell. "I just think this school is great, and anyone who wants a good experience or a good education should know they can start their journey here. It's a great start."

For more information about the HVAC program or other programs in Applied Technology, visit cv.edu or contact Clint Langley at 334-214-4867 or email clint.langley@cv.edu.

COASTAL ALABAMA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

COASTAL AVIATION AND COLLINS AEROSPACE BEGIN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Coastal Alabama Community College celebrated its new aviation apprenticeship program with a student signing day event at the Collins Aerospace facility in Foley late this Spring. The program was developed to address the critical need for aviation maintenance technicians in the United States.

High school seniors Carly Jo Davis, John Everett Mohler and Jalen Hicks will receive on-the-job training, college credit toward an associate's degree in airframe technology and their Federal Aviation Administration Airframe license as part of the program. The four-year, Aviation Maintenance Technician apprenticeship is the first such program developed for the College and is implemented through its Alabama Aviation Center.

High school students sign apprenticeship with Collins Aerospace

Collins Aerospace's Foley facility designs, builds and supports the aerodynamic structures that surround an aircraft's engine -- known as nacelles -- for commercial and military aircraft.

Citing a 2017 study by aerospace giant Boeing, Aviation Center Director Mark Sloan said the U.S. aerospace industry will need 189,000 aircraft technicians over the next 20 years, or 9,450 per year. Over 25% of the workforce is 64 years or older and the average age of an aviation technician is 51 years old.

"If you were to take every school in the United States that teaches the FAA curriculum, we currently graduate between 7,000 and 7,500," Sloan said. "We have a 20-year technician shortage that may be extended because we currently can't meet the aviation industry's demands.

Beginning with the fall 2019 semester, students Davis, Mohler and Hicks will learn alongside Collins mechanics in Foley, in addition to their responsibilities in the classroom. Originally, the program was crafted to offer opportunities to just two students, but it was expanded to accommodate three. Sloan helped promote the apprenticeships by visiting local high schools looking for students with a passion for aviation.

"This apprenticeship program shows the commitment that Collins wants to invest in the next generation, and for an educator that's what I want to see."

Scott Hannah, the Foley MRO general manager for Collins Aerospace, said it was a real possibility that the students would not only become the next generation of skilled workers at the facility, but its future leaders, as well.

"Ultimately, we want them to be successful," Hannah said. "Because if they're successful, then we're successful."

DRAKE STATE
COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

DRAKE STATE PARTNERS WITH ALABAMA DEPT OF CORRECTIONS WITH NEW PROGRAM

Dr. Alice Raymond working out details for the PREP program.

Drake State has received a Grant from the Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC) for implementing the "Preparing Entrepreneurs Prison Education Program" (PREP).

The PREP program consists of a 6-week training program in starting a small business. For this, the college partnered with SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives). SCORE is the nation's largest network of volunteer expert business mentors, with more than 10,000 volunteers in 300 chapters. SCORE is also a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

The College piloted the program under the leadership of Dr. Alice Raymond at J. F. Ingram State Technical College in 2017. The next cohort was conducted at Limestone Correctional Facility in 2019 with 12 participants. Eleven out of twelve participants are scheduled to complete the program by the end of February, 2019.

Upon release, the program completers will receive an exit package which includes the documents necessary to start a small business, and information about resources including educational resources available at the college that will augment their training for business.

Limestone Correctional Facility has identified 19 students for the next cohort. The program will be taught in a morning session with half of the participants, and an afternoon session for the second half. The program is scheduled to begin March 1, 2019.

Representative Laura Hall had this to say about the program, "Many of the inmates in our state and federal correctional facilities need resources that will assist them with gainful employment. Providing the training and tools necessary for starting a small business will equip them to become contributing members of society and reduce the risk of repeat offenses that leads to recidivism.

This is a worthwhile endeavor – Drake State is to be commended in leading this effort. We would like to see this program expanded throughout the state, and in the women's correctional facility as well."

Dr. Sims added, "Drake State is delighted to partner with Representative Hall and the State of Alabama on this initiative. The PREP program not only benefits those individuals who gain the tools needed to launch a small business allowing them to join the workforce, it also benefits taxpayers. We look forward to expanding the program."

ENTERPRISE STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ESCC SIGNS MSSC CPT AGREEMENT WITH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS

ESCC officially signed an articulation agreement for the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council Certified Production Technician certification course with local K-12 school systems.

"Today is a tremendous signal to our community, to our business and industry partners that we are coming together, partnering with out K-12 school districts as one to implement and provide the necessary skills training not only to take care of current existing needs of business and industry but also put our region in the state to be seen in a more competitive light when it comes to recruiting other business and industries," said ESCC President Matt Rodgers.

The agreement allows any school systems that fall in the Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Pike and western Houston Counties to provide MSSC CPT classes as part of its curriculum.

The program could be its own stand-alone course, in the same vein as a dual enrollment course, or be integrated into the existing curriculum. This decision will be made by the separate school systems. If a student completes the entire course, they can get their CPT certification before leaving high school.

Wiregrass Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Jonathan Tullos said this is important for the area.

"In terms of business retention and recruitment, these credentials are kind of the foundation of what we're looking for now," Tullos said.

ESCC Director of Workforce Development Ian Campbell said that not only can students leave high school with their CPT certification, but the course also allows them to complete up to 12 credit hours at ESCC as well.

"By articulating this credit, you're opening up opportunities for students to matriculate to our degree program, such as with the mechatronics program, and already have 12 hours taken care that they don't have to pay for," Campbell said. "You're talking $1,920 worth of college credit plus you're expediting their process through the degree program."

He said that ESCC is recommending that schools start the program as early as possible in their curriculum.

The new mechatronics program starts this fall at the Ozark campus.

"Mechatronics is really a combination of mechanical engineering and electronics because today's manufacturing workforce, today's production workforce—any workforce—you cannot focus one discipline anymore because everything involves electronics now," said ESCC Mechatronics Instructor Aubri Hanson. "There's so much automation, robotics, A.I.—it's all going that direction—so we need programmers, skilled workers, we need people who can work on robots and automated equipment and do the programming for those systems. These are high skill, high wage jobs."

Coffee County Schools Superintendent Kevin Killingsworth said that New Brockton High School, Zion Chapel High School and Kinston High School will all be starting a MSSC CPT Program this fall as well.

"I think it's a great opportunity to provide more chances for our kids in the county to able to go and do whatever they want to do—really go out to a two-year college or go into the workforce" Killingsworth said.

Enterprise State Community College and representatives from local school systems gather after the MSSC CPT articulation agreement. Pictured, back, from left, are ESCC President Matt Rodgers, ESCC Mechatronics Instructor Aubri Hanson, ESCC Dean of Instruction Danny Long, ESCC Dean of Students Olivier Charles, ESCC Workforce Development Director Ian Campbell, ESCC Software Systems and Grants Manager Chellye Stump, Executive Director of Wiregrass EDC Jonathan Tullos and ESCC Dual Enrollment Director Ann Kelley. Pictured, front, from left, are Coffee County Superintendent Kevin Killingsworth, Geneva County Superintendent Becky Birdsong, CHHS Principal Dr. Brock Kelly, Elba City Schools Superintendent Chris Moseley, Pike County Alternative Learning Center Director Jeff McClure and EHS CTE Director Leigh Shiver. Not pictured are Daleville City Schools Superintendent Dr. Diane C. Flournoy, and Geneva City Schools Superintendent Ron Snell.

GADSDEN STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

KATBI NAMED GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOMECOMING QUEEN

Katbi, an immigrant from Syria, was crowned Homecoming Queen

Growing up in Syria, Nadia Katbi never imagined she'd be the Homecoming Queen at an American college.

"I didn't understand what a Homecoming Queen was," she said. "I was just told to dress up and show up at the basketball game. So, I bought a pretty dress and told people to vote for me."

Katbi, 21, was crowned Gadsden State Community College's Homecoming Queen at the annual homecoming basketball game. The monumental moment is a long way from her days in Damascus, Syria. In 2012, at 15 years old, she immigrated to the U.S. with her mother and brother.

"It just wasn't safe in Syria anymore," Katbi said. "Syria was a scary place. It wasn't even safe to go to school anymore."

Before long, Katbi and her family left behind their home and many of their belongings and immigrated to Alabama. She enrolled in the Alabama Language Institute at Gadsden State to learn English, and enrolled as a freshman at Etowah High School. Learning a new language was not an easy task.

"The other students in the ninth grade were learning 'Romeo and Juliet' and I was learning the alphabet," she said. "It was very difficult."

She said other students were friendly from the start but the language barrier made it hard to develop friendships.

"All I could say to them was, 'No English," she said. "I was the only one to speak Arabic and the only Muslim. At first, I felt alone but everyone was so nice and encouraged me."

After graduating from high school in 2017, Katbi spoke English with just a hint of an accent. She was ready to take general studies courses at Gadsden State.

"College was like the first day of high school all over again," she said. "I felt lost and was not sure what to do."

Katbi was connected to Student Support Services, and it made all the difference for her.

"Student Support Services helped me so much," she said. "I still go there every day with questions. They gave me direction."

Now, Katbi is immersed in her life in Alabama and at Gadsden State. On July 24, 2018, she became an American citizen. She has maintained a 3.8 GPA and has been on both the President's List and the Dean's List. She serves as the president of the TRiO for Success Club and is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Circle K service organization and Students Without Borders. She serves as a tutor in Gadsden State's Cardinal Tutoring Center, and she was recently named to the All-Alabama Academic Team. It has been a year of achievements, and she will always remember her crowning moment.

"My mom had tears in my eyes when I won homecoming queen and that told me how proud she is of me," she said. "I feel like I have finally worked hard enough to make my mom proud. That makes me the happiest of all."

INGRAM STATE
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

ISTC DIESEL MECHANICS GRAD HELPS KEEP CITY'S FLEET ROLLING

The City of Montgomery Fleet Management Department is responsible for keeping over 1,400 vehicles on the road. From police cruisers to fire engines, the list is lengthy, diverse and challenging.

Inside the department's headquarters in downtown Montgomery, Ingram State Technical College graduate Christian Parham is one of a dozen mechanics in the diesel or "heavy" shop which is responsible for an inventory of 400 plus trucks, busses, and equipment. His task for the day – troubleshoot and repair a dump truck.

"It's never the same day twice," said Parham, a graduate of ISTC's diesel mechanics program who came to the department in 2017. "You have to be prepared to handle whatever rolls through the door."

Department director Walt Lilley describes Parham as an "excellent mechanic" with strong communications skills and the ability to remain calm and productive when the pressure is on. "Everyone needs their vehicle fixed now," said Lilley, "and it's up to the mechanics to make that happen."

In addition to completing the 15-month diesel mechanics program, Parham served as a student lab aide for ISTC diesel mechanics instructor Randy Hull for 18 months. Parham credits success in his current job to skills he learned working for Hull. "He gave me responsibilities that helped me develop confidence in myself," said Parham. "Everything he teaches is focused what it takes to succeed on the job. I've used it all right here."

City of Montgomery Fleet Management Department mechanic Christian Parham (right) and supervisor Reginald Farrish. Parham is a graduate of the Ingram State Technical College diesel mechanics program.

JEFFERSON STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

JEFFERSON STATE HONOR SOCIETY EARNS TOP HONORS FOR 3RD CONSECUTIVE YEAR

While hosting the Alabama Phi Theta Kappa Convention in March, Jefferson State's Beta Lambda Delta Chapter at the Shelby-Hoover Campus earned Alabama's "Most Distinguished Chapter" for the third consecutive year.

The Beta Lambda Delta chapter earned top honors based on two major projects completed during the year. First, the chapter sponsored a Youth Peace Summit with more than 150 high school students in attendance. The event was developed by students and provided a wealth of opportunities to learn about using non-violence to make a difference in our world. In addition to numerous break-out sessions, Civil Rights leader Ann Niles, Pulitzer Prize award winner John Archibald, and Racial Justice Fellow Gabrielle Daniels spoke during the event. Students also learned how to use writing, art, and civil debate to bring about change. Students participated in a mock protest and some even chose to be "arrested" for committing peaceful acts of civil disobedience. Post-event surveys showed the students gained a new appreciation for the power of non-violence.

Jefferson State's PTK Chapter earned Alabama's "Most Distinguished Chapter" for the 3rd consecutive year.

"Today, our society is more divided than ever before, so finding constructive ways to bring people together is important," said Jefferson State Phi Theta Kappa Student Brian Lavett. "Being a part of that process in our community was a great experience and it's something I'm very proud of. Events like the Peace Summit have the potential to start dialogue, bridge gaps, and ultimately be a catalyst for real change."

In addition, the chapter developed an event for Horizons, a school in downtown Birmingham which teaches life skills and independent living to developmentally challenged adults. During the event, Horizons students prepared delicious appetizers such as pizza, chicken satay, and cheeseburger sliders.

Jefferson State's chapter developed an event for Horizons, a school in downtown Birmingham which teaches life skills and independent living to developmentally challenged adults.

Due to the success of the event, Jefferson State will offer a modified culinary certificate program specially designed for Horizons students and other qualifying students in the fall of 2019. The program is the first of its kind in Alabama and will provide students with a recognized credential, greatly enhancing their employment opportunities.

"Working with the Horizons school was an amazing experience," said Jefferson State student Olivia Brockman. "Horizons has a great team and their students are such an inspiration. The Horizon students display an incredible enthusiasm for everything they do."

Honors received during the Alabama PTK Convention were:

1. Alabama's Most Distinguished Chapter
2. Outstanding Officer Team
3. Continued Excellence Advisor Award – Libby Holmes
4. Distinguished Advisor Team Award – Liesl Harris and Libby Holmes
5. Distinguished College Project Award
6. Distinguished Honors in Action Theme Award
7. Distinguished Honors in Action Project Award
8. Continued Excellence Award

LAWSON STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LAWSON STATE ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH MERCEDES-BENZ US INTERNATIONAL

In February of 2019, Lawson State Community College along with representatives of Mercedes-Benz U.S. International (MBUSI) announced a new partnership and program that would allow students to receive a long-certificate in automotive technology with the potential to lead to full-time employment in the auto industry.

"This is a welcomed partnership for Lawson State with Mercedes-Benz U.S. International and represents a significant bridge in educational resources and workforce development for our students," said Dr. Perry W. Ward. "The new partnership will allow students to attend Lawson State to earn a long certificate in Automotive Technology and through the affiliation with Mercedes-Benz, thusly become prepared for careers in the industry."

Vice President of Human Resources at Mercedes-Benz; Dr. Perry W. Ward, president of Lawson State Community College; and Steve Colburn, Organizational Development Specialist at Mercedes-Benz officially announce the Lawson State-Mercedes-Benz Tech Program Partnership.

Courses in the Mercedes Tech Program are centered in automotive technology and geared toward preparing students for possible careers as Mercedes repair technicians within the MBUSI production facility located in Vance, Alabama. Also, MBUSI announced that two vehicles will be donated to Lawson State to train students on the latest automotive technology and the increasing complexities in the modern vehicle. The program requires a total of four semesters to complete and will give Lawson State students a learning experience inside the classroom and practical experience inside the MBUSI facility, with the last semester focused solely at MBUSI.

Mercedes-Benz has put forth certain incentives to motivate students to successfully complete this program. Mercedes-Benz plans to cover 65% of tuition and fees upon a student's enrollment in the program. If a 3.0 and above GPA is maintained, Mercedes-Benz will pay 100% of tuition and fees in the second and third semesters for those students who continue in the program.

"This partnership is important to Lawson State Community College. We're currently partners with several other auto manufacturers. This partnership really solidifies Lawson State Community College as a leader in training for the automotive industry, and while these students will not be participating as dealer technicians, they will earn a long certificate that will allow them to go to work as entry-level persons in the actual plant in Mercedes-Benz," said Tommy Hobbs, assistant dean of Workforce Development at Lawson State Community College.

With the addition of this program to the already established Alabama Center for Automotive Excellence (ACAE), Lawson State now has one of the largest educational programs focused on the automotive technology in the state and includes courses in Auto Body Repair, Auto Mechanics, and Medium/Heavy Truck. Building renovations to the ACAE were completed in May 2018 and featured new interior walls, a new roof as well as a new floor plan—supporting its mission of educating students with programs that are certified while meeting and exceeding industry standards. This expansion was designed to accommodate more students while continuing to house Lawson State's internationally recognized automotive partners General Motors, Ford Motor Company and Toyota North America.

LURLEEN B. WALLACE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DR. ARLENE DAVIS RECEIVES INNOVATION CHAMPION AWARD

LBW Community College's Dr. Arlene Davis is the current recipient of the Innovation Champion Award.

This employee recognition program provides an opportunity to showcase innovations employees have successfully designed and implemented which positively impact the College.

The award recognizes Davis, associate dean for institutional advancement, for her role in the development of a summer incentive grant that benefited 40 students and resulted in a 44 percent increase in LBWCC's enrollment from the previous year, the highest summer increase in the state's two-year system.

By way of this recognition, Davis is also named as the College's choice for the national John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award established by the League for Innovation to recognize faculty, staff, and administration for excellence in leadership and innovation in higher education. She was recognized at the League for Innovation's conference in New York City in February.

"Dr. Davis approached me with the idea to request support from the LBWCC Foundation to fund a grant that would pay for one class if a student enrolled in two or more classes during the 2018 summer term," said LBWCC President Dr. Herb Riedel.

Dr. Arlene Davis, LBWCC Associate Dean of Institutional Advancement

"She presented the plan to the Foundation Board of Directors, identified a funding source, negotiated with the Board's finance and investment subcommittee, earned Board approval, and worked with College personnel to make this a highly successful program."

Selection for the award was based on the criteria of quality, efficiency, cost effectiveness, creativity, timeliness, learning, and collaboration.

"I am very happy that this was a success for students and their parents," said Davis. "This grant helped working families with college expenses and we are very grateful to the LBWCC Foundation for making this idea become reality."

Riedel said this type of creativity makes a difference for students.

"This was truly an innovative idea and we are proud of the impact it made on the success of our students," he said.

MMI STUDENTS EXPLORE GREECE OVER SPRING BREAK

For three consecutive years, the Marion Military Institute Spring Break Study Abroad has allowed students a once-in-a-lifetime trip to explore another country's culture. With previous trips to Spain and Costa Rica spearheaded by faculty organizer Ms. Beatriz Nail-Castro, this year's program took a turn to the Mediterranean. The March 2019 Greece trip, drawing 13 cadets, was an opportunity to tour ancient sites with expert, licensed guides. Highlights of the trip—starting and ending in Athens—included cruising the Saronic Islands; visiting the Temple of Zeus, the Olympic Stadium, the Parthenon, and the ruins of Delphi; and a final souvlaki dinner with traditional Greek dancing.

The MMI Spring Break Study Abroad program includes an academic component as well; travelers are required to submit assignments before and after the trip throughout the Spring semester. Year after year, MMI cadets return stateside with a newfound appreciation for their chosen destination. Read some of their reflections from the 2019 trip:

"My trip to Greece enhanced my wanderlust and encourages me to continue to travel and explore the depths of this world. It was an enriching experience in all aspects and overall, humbling. It allowed me to physically draw connections between Greece's society and traditions and America's society and traditions, and opened my eyes to how different yet similar two countries could be. I aspired this before, but now it's certain I want to be a globetrotter."

-Cadet Jhordyn McWhorter

"Going to Greece was one of the best experiences of my life. I was able to see several regions of Greece and many historic pieces of their culture that they are proud of. I learned about the upbringing of Greece as its own country and its influence on the world. I got to share amazing experiences with a good group of people. I was also able to experience Greece's culture in a way that I wouldn't have if I had just read from a book. This trip encouraged me to travel more and learn about different cultures across the globe in order to gain a better understanding of perspective."

-Cadet Javier Diaz

"Greece was an unbelievable experience. I recommend anyone who is interested in traveling abroad to do so! I believe traveling with the school was great for my first time because we had a set schedule but also got to enjoy some time by ourselves. My favorite part was being able to travel to different islands and jumping into the beautiful clear water! I will never forget going to Greece and am so thankful for the wonderful time spent there."

-Cadet Meggie Flannigan

MMI cadets exploring Greece at the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion

NORTHEAST ALABAMA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SIGMA KAPPA DELTA CHAPTER RECOGNIZED AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

NACC ΣKΔ students and sponsors attend national ΣKΔ Convention

Members of the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Sigma Kappa Delta (ΣKΔ) at Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) recently attended the Sigma Tau Delta/ Sigma Kappa Delta National Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, March 27-31, 2019. Sigma Kappa Delta historian, Claire Lybrand, moderated and Paulina Landers, ΣKΔ treasurer, served on a panel entitled, "Grit Happens: Strategies for Discovering Your Potential." The students attended breakout sessions and workshops on publishing their writing and finding careers as an English major. They also heard Nnedi Okorafor, Hugo and Nebula award-winning novelist of African-based science fiction, fantasy, and magical realism, as well as author of the comic book, Shuri: The Search for Black Panther. Accompanying the students were sponsors Jeff Hawes, Jody Ragsdale, and Joan Reeves.

At the annual Sigma Kappa Delta awards luncheon, ΣKΔ vice-president, Melisha Holcomb, was awarded the Joan S. Reeves ΣKΔ Service Scholarship of $750, and ΣKΔ president, Juliana Denes was awarded the Don Perkins ΣKΔ Service Scholarship of $750. Paulina Landers also won third place in the Jan Ikard Anderson Photo Contest. The college's literary magazine, Aurora, was recognized as Outstanding Literary Magazine.

Sigma Kappa Delta is the English honor society for two-year schools and was formed under the auspices of Sigma Tau Delta, the English honor society for four-year institutions. The Northeast chapter of ΣKΔ has initiated over three thousand students since chartering its chapter in 1996. Northeast chartered the first chapter in Alabama and the fifth in the nation. The Northeast chapter is presently the largest in the nation. For more information about ΣKΔ, visit our webpage at www.nacc.edu.

NORTHWEST-SHOALS LAUNCHES COMMUNITY PARTNERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

MUSCLE SHOALS & PHIL CAMPBELL ALA. -- Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) President Glenda Colagross announced the launch of the new Community Partners Scholarship initiative at the Shoals Chamber of Commerce annual meeting recently.

The Community Partners Scholarship will be offered to the Franklin County, Lawrence County, Rogersville, Haleyville, and Shoals Chambers of Commerce. The partnership offers tuition scholarships to all full-time (30 hours+) employees of member businesses/companies of the Chambers of Commerce within our service area.

"We are excited to offer this opportunity to our community partners," said Colagross. "We want to help our local companies build their workforce from within by developing their current employees and improving their skills."

According to Caitlin Holland, President of the Shoals Chamber of Commerce, this is great benefit to the Chamber members. "This is such an exciting initiative for our members," said Holland. "I appreciate Northwest-Shoals for partnering with us to offer this benefit to our member businesses, and I believe this shows their value for the community and our chamber businesses."

The initiative will provide a 10 percent tuition scholarship, customized career plans for each participant, and comprehensive college enrollment services (such as financial services, tutoring, student success coaches, etc.). On-site academic and career technical instruction can also be made available to companies.

"Approximately 173,000 citizens in our service area between the ages of 25 and 64 have yet to achieve an associate degree," stated Colagross. "We hope this partnership will make education more accessible and help those seeking to improve their skill set."

NW-SCC President Glenda Colagross announces the launch of the Community Partners Scholarship initiative at the Shoals Chamber of Commerce annual meeting recently.

The program will begin in August of 2019. Scholarships are applicable to all degree and certificate programs, at both campuses, including online offerings.

For more information on the Community Partners Scholarship program at NW-SCC visit https://www.nwscc.edu/community-partners-scholarship. Also, you can contact Amanda Peters at 256-331-8062 or email amanda.terry@nwscc.edu.

REID STATE
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

ADULT & GENERAL EDUCATION - BRIDGING THE GAP FOR NURSING STUDENTS

During the fall of 2018, RSTC's Adult Education (AE) and General Education Departments partnered to integrate multidisciplinary academic support services for prospective practical nursing students. Many potential nursing students have previous academic barriers, been out of secondary or post-secondary education for numerous years, or simply struggle with navigating College. Administrators and faculty realized that each year many students were missing an opportunity to fulfill their career goals in health services and addressed students' academic barriers by collaborating with various College Units and programs. Instructional resources are limited at Reid due to a small faculty and staff body and program sizes. However, despite fewer human resources, the College staff feels compelled to provide every student with the tools necessary for academic and professional success in College and Career. In addition, as the need for nurses increase, the College is committed to "Bridging the Gap" between the industry's need of practical nurses and individuals who want to become practical nursing professionals. Therefore, when establishing the Bridge Program, collaboration among departments was essential for future success.

Upon successful completion of the Bridge program, students are better prepared to take the College's Challenge Exam for Developmental Courses. The Bridge Program offers specific support services such as individual and group tutoring sessions, WorkKeys preparation, TABE assessments to identify specific areas of remediation, and other academic and non-academic support services for prospective nursing students.

The Challenge Exam is given prior to each semester and allows students to test out of general education courses. Bridge students can test out of developmental courses prior to the beginning of each semester. This allows students to meet one of the main practical nursing admissions requirements that states potential nursing students must be eligible for English 101 and Math 100 to enter the program.

With a 50 percent Program completion rate, the College considers the first Bridge pilot group a success. Eighty-three percent of program completers started practical nursing in Spring 2019. The program has grown popular with Prospective Nursing students and College administrators are strategizing ways to increase program opportunities on its Extension Campus. So far, three of the Spring 2019 Bridge cohort has completed and are ready to apply for Fall 2019 in Nursing.

SHELTON STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TECHNICAL PROGRAMS AT SHELTON STATE PREPARE STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

Exciting things are happening for students in Shelton State Community College's technical programs. With advancements and improvements taking place on a variety of fronts, students are now more prepared than

ever to enter the workforce ready on day one.

As the College's new plastic injection molding lab nears completion, Shelton State's Computer Numerical Control (CNC) and Machine Tool Technology (MTT) students are putting their training to work. Most recently, thirty students participated in a twelve-week project incorporating skills with plastic injection molding. The second project of its kind for the programs, "The Challenge" allowed students to develop the concepts, make a 3D print, design and build an entire mold, create and tune in a sample mold, perform a final runoff, and complete a process that would end with the production of 4000 plastic toy racecars.

Students working on the project used SolidWorks and Fusion 360 to develop the concept for the racecar design. Following moldflow concept and simulation, students worked with AutoCad to draw prints for the entire mold including clamp plates, ejector system and rails, core/cavity blocks, and core/cavity retainer blocks. With one student chosen as the project foreman and two additional students on design, blueprints were distributed to each student for all mold components, blocks, and plates. MasterCam software/CNC and conventional machining were utilized to complete preparation.

The project was supported by industry partners that included Bolta.US, Faurecia, Mollertech, Nucor, Synventive Molding Solutions, and TechmerPM. With their assistance, the students' design became a reality and production was completed. The racecars were then used to enhance the visitor experience at West Alabama's Worlds of Work event for eight graders.

Projects like "The Challenge" will become increasingly common at Shelton State and allow instructors to impart both skill and wisdom in tool & die technologies. "Our goal is for students to become valuable employees for all industries," states SSCC Machine Tool Technology instructor Brian Cunningham. "We are looking forward to seeing what our students continue to accomplish both here and in their careers."

SNEAD STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SNEAD STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM PREPARES 'CAREER PEOPLE'

Snead State Community College partnered with the Garden City Ammonia Program to bring Instructor Randy Williams to the Boaz campus to lead ammonia/refrigeration training for 22 students – 17 of which traveled from out of state for the intense training.

"We're preparing you to become career people, not just an employee."

That's how Randy Williams described the ammonia/refrigeration training class he taught at Snead State Community College, but his words apply to the goal of each class and program offered through the College's Workforce Development program.

Workforce Development Director Teresa Walker said the programs continue to grow each year with students reaping the benefits from the professional training. During the 2018-19 academic year to date, the program has enrolled students in training classes such as Welding Technology, Clinical Medical Assistant/Phlebotomy, Communications Training, Ammonia Operator I, PSM/RMP, OSHA 10, Industrial electricity, and PLC. More than 240 students combined were enrolled in the classes, a total enrollment that's well on its way to meeting or exceeding the 2017-18 enrollment of 388 in similar classes.

"The training has been more beneficial than any other education I've had," said Rusty Hutto of Pilgrims Pride. Mr. Hutto was a student in Mr. Williams' ammonia/refrigeration class.

"This training (makes) us more efficient and safer. The theory is intense, but it's something we need to know. Now, we know how to keep things running, and we know why we have to do what we do to keep things running," said Macon Hodge with Sister Schubert.

Over the last four years, Snead State has trained 315 employees from 68 different companies throughout the United States. The College has more classes planned for this year, including Ammonia Operator II, PSM, Machinery Room Design, and RAGAGEP.

In addition to the training classes, Snead State also offers a successful Ready to Work program. Last year, the College offered 12 Ready to Work classes in the Boaz, Arab and Guntersville areas and expanded to include three industry partners – Newman Technology, Atrion, Syncro, and Kappler. This year, 15 classes were offered at Boaz, Arab and Newman Technology. Three additional industry partners were added – HFI, Mitchell Grocery and Americold.

The Ready to Work Program has experienced a steady increase in its completion rate since 2013. Of the students enrolled in the free program in 2017, 85 percent found employment or enrolled in college to continue their education. In 2013, that percentage was 74.

The program has also tracked those students who have enrolled in college to continue their education since the program began. Scholarships were awarded to 97 graduates of the program, and 35 students have since earned their Associate degrees. Another 15 earned short-term certificates, with some still working to earn the credential.

Individuals successfully completing Ready to Work receive the Alabama Certified Worker Certificate and a National Career Readiness Certificate. The Ready to Work program is operated by the Alabama Community College System in cooperation with AIDT.

SOUTHERN UNION STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

INTRODUCING PATH TO THE PLAINS: A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SUSCC AND AUBURN

(April 25, 2019 – AUBURN, Ala.) Officials from Southern Union State Community College (SUSCC) and Auburn University (AU) have entered into a partnership that will ensure students can more easily transition between the two schools.

Path to the Plains (P2P) puts students in designated majors on a more cost-effective pathway to receiving their bachelor's degree from Auburn University. Through the concurrent enrollment program, students begin by completing general education classes at Southern Union, along with select courses at Auburn University. Upon completion of identified program requirements, P2P participants are guaranteed admission to Auburn University for completion of their bachelor's degree.

"The new partnership with Auburn and SUSCC is an opportunity to support our institution's goals of greater accessibility, particularly among students that frequently encounter financial barriers, and aligns with the state's goal of supporting transfer students and education more Alabamians," said Auburn University Provost Bill Hardgrave

Students must apply to the P2P program by July 1 and will complete an interview if selected. Once accepted, students are admitted to both institutions and are required to attend orientation sessions on both campuses. Tuition and fees are assessed based on Southern Union's tuition and fee structure, so students completing courses at Auburn will be assessed a tuition rate equivalent to Southern Union rate while enrolled in both schools.

"P2P creates a tremendous opportunity for our students to be successful in their higher education," said SU President Todd Shackett. "Our partnership with Auburn University is very important to Southern Union. This serves as an excellent example of the two institutions working together, keeping student success as a top priority."

Degree paths available in fall 2019 are Biosystems Engineering from the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, Geospatial and Environmental Informatics (GSEI Degree) from the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, and Public Relations, College of Liberal Arts.

For more information visit auburn.edu/academic/p2p or contact Tyler Laye at tlaye@suscc.edu or Cary Sockwell Curtiss at ces0067@auburn.edu.

TRENHOLM STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

FIRST HYUNDAI MAINTENANCE APPRENTICESHIP CLASS COMPLETES TRAINING

Trenholm State Community College and Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama, LLC, (HMMA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding creating the HMMA Maintenance Apprenticeship Program. Developed by HMMA in conjunction with Trenholm State, the initiative addresses the shortage of highly skilled maintenance workers in the local job market and creates a continuous pipeline of qualified trainees to become HMMA team members to fill Maintenance Technician positions in various HMMA plant production areas. The agreement coordinates classroom topics with the apprentice's assigned work activities at HMMA. Courses make up part of Trenholm State's Advanced Manufacturing program and credits completed can go toward an apprentice earning an Associate in Applied Science degree.

HMMA selected 12 team members out of more than 100 applicants who went through a rigorous written, hands-on assessment, and interview process to be eligible. The partnership allows HMMA to develop its existing workforce while providing its team members with an opportunity to gain new skills and advance their careers. Recently, the inaugural HMMA Maintenance Apprenticeship class completed seven courses totaling 19 semester hours of classroom instruction becoming the first students in Trenholm history to be awarded the Manufacturing Technician I certification.

Trenholm State's Automotive/Advanced Manufacturing curriculum teaches students the fundamentals of a career in manufacturing. Upon completion of the program, HMMA team members will receive an average increase in pay of $3,000 annually and will receive additional pay increases semi-annually. "Creating partnerships with business and industry is an investment in our community," said Sam Munnerlyn, President of Trenholm State Community College. HMMA has selected 14 students out of 170 applicants to start the second HMMA Maintenance Apprenticeship class.

(L -R)-Heath Flowers, John Burgess, Paul Brand, Charles Jett, Joe Smith, George Gissendanner, Michael Threadgill, Aaron Spurgeon, Donnie Campbell, Kevin Burt, Shawn Duff, Michael Barnette, Thomas Clark, and Larry Mullins

SPARKS STUDENTS HEADED TO UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN PRE-MEDICINE

Eufaula, Ala. – Eufaula High School senior Le'Asia Smith always wanted to be a doctor, and she knew at an early age that her goal meant a lot of work. Little did she know that her plans would lead to The University of Alabama as a Pre-Medicine/Biology major.

Starting Talent Search in sixth grade set her on the path to her goal. Talent Search is one of the TRiO programs at Wallace Community College – Sparks Campus in Eufaula.

"Talent Search helped me to learn study and time management skills," she said. The program encouraged her to become involved in school clubs, eventually becoming president of the Leadership, Experience and Opportunity (LEO) Club and secretary of the National Honor Society. Le'Asia is also a Eufaula High School Ambassador, a Tiger Representative, and the Senior Class President. In 2018, EHS selected her for Alabama Girls State. She is in the running for Valedictorian of her class. While at EHS, Le'Asia enrolled in the Project Lead The Way medical class, which increased her interest in becoming a doctor.

Le'Asia has developed into a leader among her high school peers, according to Tameka Owolabi, Sparks Campus TRiO Talent Search Director. "Many of her fellow students look up to Le'Asia as a role model. Her ability to focus and her determination is unique, and she is the epitome of a high school senior. She will do awesome things with her life," Owolabi said.

Volunteerism and community involvement is also important to Le'Asia. "I love supporting my community because I know my community supports me," she said. She has been a Junior Ambassador with the Eufaula Barbour County Chamber of Commerce for three years. As a participant of this program, Le'Asia volunteers for at least five hours during the school week. During the summer, she volunteers for thirty to forty hours a week. She works in the Chamber of

Commerce office and surprise squad for local businesses. Her volunteer hours include working at the

Wallace Community College - Sparks Campus dual enrollment student and TRiO participant Le'Asia Smith will graduate from Eufaula High School in May. Le'Asia will attend The University of Alabama as a Pre-Medicine/Biology major in the fall.

Indian Summer Festival, Movie Nights, First Friday, and the Martin Luther King Jr. Service Day. She even organized a Christmas Food Drive for people in need.

Le'Asia takes a combination of dual enrollment classes and AP classes. She has been a Wallace dual enrollment student since the summer semester, 2018. To her, the classes are a bargain because college credit is guaranteed.

She has received over $600,000 in scholarship money from various colleges. Sounds like she is on her way to reaching her goal.

WALLACE STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE - HANCEVILLE

FORMER WSCC GRAD ALEXANDER INSPIRES CURRENT STUDENTS

Timothy Alexander began his story at Wallace State and continues to inspire individuals every day. Alexander, a 2011 WSCC grad, recently returned to campus to speak during TRIO Day.

While attending the former Erwin high school in Birmingham, Alexander was a highly-regarded football prospect and eager to pursue his dreams of playing in the NFL one day.

During his senior year, however, Alexander was involved in a car accident that paralyzed him from the neck down and confined him to a wheelchair. Even though Alexander's football dreams were dashed, he pursued alternate ways to make a difference.

"In an instant I went from being the talk of the town because I was a star athlete to the talk of the town because the doctors said I would never walk or talk again. As you can imagine, it left me extremely depressed. I couldn't do anything on my own. The dreams I had of playing in the NFL were gone," Alexander said. "One day my doctor told me depression would kill me quicker than this injury if I didn't get my mind right. That's when everything changed. My body was paralyzed from the neck down, but my mind was not."

Alexander chose to enroll at Wallace State and graduated with dean's list honors and a criminal justice degree. He spent time working at State Farm insurance after Wallace State before deciding to enroll at UAB.

In Birmingham, Alexander earned a student job in the athletic ticket office, using the position to get closer to the football program. He eventually became the first paraplegic to earn a Division I football scholarship and has soared within Blazers' program ever since, serving as the Director of Character Development for the UAB football program.

After UAB athletics decided to discontinue its football program in late 2014, Alexander was one of the top student ambassadors behind the efforts to reestablish the program. Once Blazers' football was back in September 2017, Alexander stood up from his wheelchair and delivered the football to midfield.

"Through all of this, I wouldn't be where I am today without Wallace State. It was the Wallace State of Mind slogan when I was in school here and now it's Discover Your Story. Wallace State helped me discover my story," Alexander said. "Wallace State believed in me and Student Support Services believed in me."

Alexander emphasized multiple times how monumental it was for him to graduate from the Wallace State dean's list and have the associate degree in his back pocket. He ultimately earned a bachelor's degree in communication management from UAB.

"We're all dealing with problems. I was a low point after the wreck, but it was at Wallace State that I found who Timothy Alexander was. I began to fill my mind on things that I knew I could do. I got involved and found myself working on a college [marketing] campaign and found my face on a billboard," Alexander said. "Discover yourself and follow your state of mind."

WALLACE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE - SELMA

THE SUCCESS OF STUDENT COACHING AT WCCS

Helping students stay in school and completing their degree is at the heart of Wallace Community College Selma's core mission. Due in part to campus-wide efforts, since 2013, fall-to-fall retention rates have improved by 3% and fall 2017 to spring 2018 retention rates of first-time full-time freshman increased to 83.1%.

Because Wallace Community College Selma is committed to completion, in fall 2018 WCCS officially opened the Student Success Center. The center's mission is to partner and collaborate with students to: maximize their collegiate experience; follow through with their commitment to remain in college, and to realize their goal of graduation, transfer or job placement.

Gloria Simmons, the center's lead success coach, says the program offers resources that benefit and support each student from admission through graduation. "The Student Success Coaching Program has empowered many students on this campus to exceed their own and others expectations," said Simmons.

"Each student is assigned a success coach at the beginning of each semester. The coach will reach out to all students, especially high-risk students, via inbox, phone calls, email, face time, text, etc.," said Simmons. "The outreach is to ensure that students' academic and social needs are met to promote positive outcomes. In addition, incoming students are assigned to Orientation 101 class and automatically assigned a coach who is also their instructor."

"The Student Success Center is great because it helps students learn career and life skills. With great and motivated coaches, I am able to keep track of my grades and work. I don't know where I would be without the center," said WCCS student Ja'Kira Simmons.

Data has shown that students who actively collaborate with a Success Coach are more likely to have positive outcomes in their academic lives. This means that most students continue forward into the next semester and graduate, transfer or exit into employment.

"I think that students embrace this service after they understand how it will benefit them. At first, some are hesitant to be involved, but as they continue to interact with their coach, their perspective changes. They understand that Student Success Coaches are here to serve and collaborate with them for academic success, and to assist in reaching their goals," said Simmons.

Career Coach JaNett Agnew talks to WCCS dual enrollment students.

"Child care, lack of resources, food, and housing issues are just a few of the non-academic issues our students face at WCCS," says Dr. Griffin, Dean of Students. "Student coaching has become integral part of student success at WCCS. The coaching staff deals with more than academic issues because many of our students leave the institution for non-academic reasons. The coaching staff works collaboratively to find campus resources and outside resources to help students stay in college."

Per Dr. Tammie Briggs, WCCS Dean of Instruction, "The success of the student coaching interventions are maximized by the level of collaboration that takes place between the faculty and the success coaches. Because ultimately, the Higher Education culture measures success in terms of degree/certificate attainment and job placement, success in the classroom translate to success outside of the class. The Faculty at WCCS document grade progress, student to faculty communication, student to coach communication, and faculty to coach communication in our Canvas LMS. This centralize communication infrastructure empowers the entire student care team with the information needed to help them make informed decisions and apply purposeful interventions in the student follow-up process."

AFFILIATES AND SPONSORS

THERE IS ROOM FOR MORE! CONTACT DR. KEVIN WINDHAM AT SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IF YOU KNOW OF A VENDOR INTERESTED IN SPONSORING ACCA IN NOVEMBER.

KWINDHAM@SHELTONSTATE.EDU