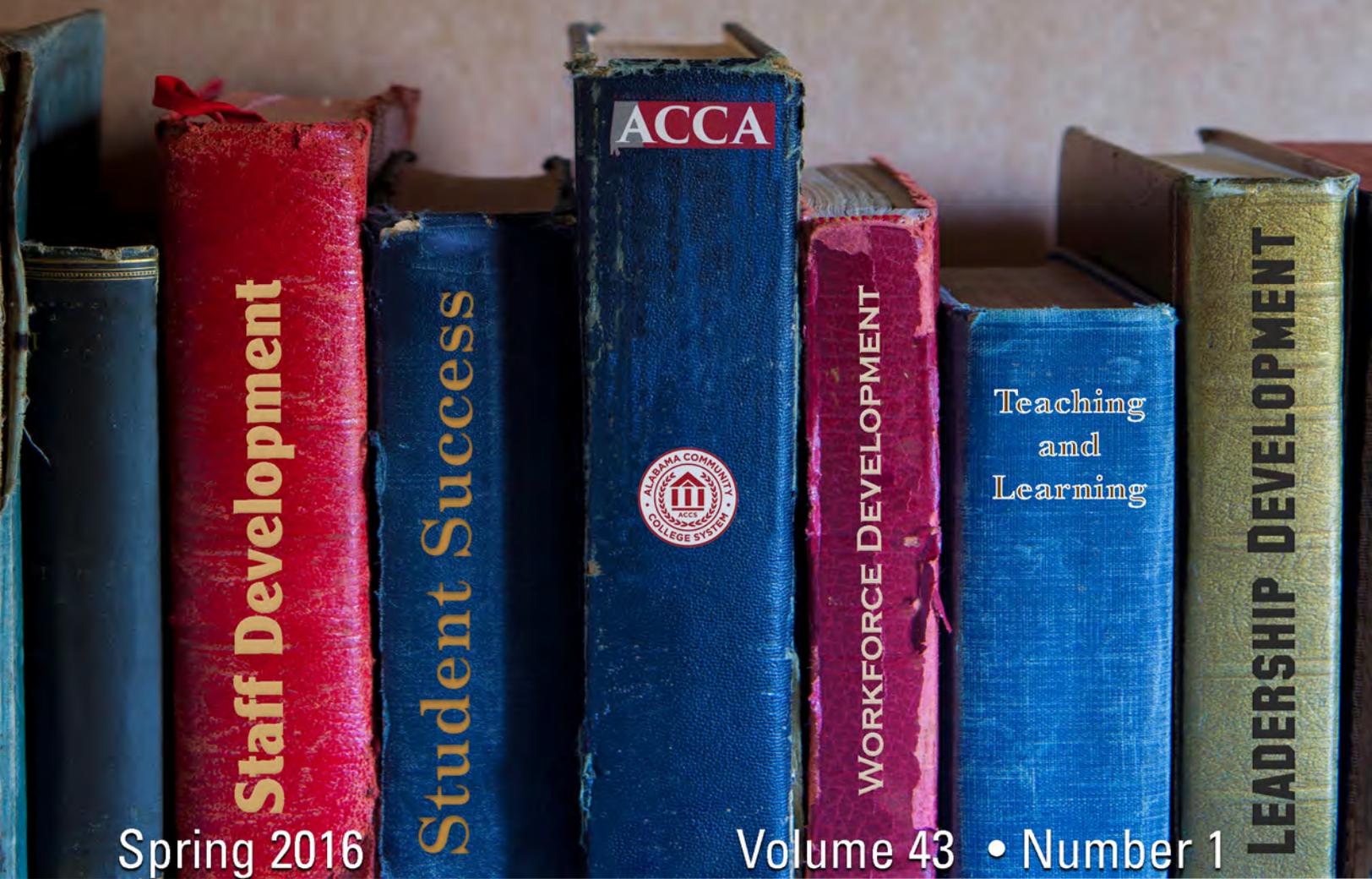


# Alabama Community College Association Journal

## *Alabama Community College System: Telling Our Story*



Spring 2016

Volume 43 • Number 1

# ACCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Each member of the Alabama Community College Association has an individual story to tell. These stories make up a larger one highlighting the institution where they work. These institutional stories then combine to

make a network of stories that define us all as a System. The many stories of the Alabama Community College System are as interesting and diverse as the people they are about. We must tell our stories so others can learn and benefit from them, and understand why they are so important. That is the reason that the theme of this year's ACCA Conference is "**Telling Our Story.**"

The Alabama Community College Association needs your help in telling the story of your college, our System, and ACCA. We need your help in making sure that people know about the benefits and opportunities this organization brings its members. By doing that, we can all help tell the larger story of the Alabama Community College System.

Being involved with the annual conference is an important way to tell your own story, but it also helps contribute to the unifying story of our System too. An excellent opportunity for involvement is to submit a workshop proposal for the conference. Information about how to submit a proposal can be found in this edition of the *ACCA Journal*. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity and consider sharing your expertise with your fellow System employees. By doing so, you will be helping to tell our story.

-Chris Franklin, Ed.D.,  
ACCA President

## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message.....Page 2  
2016 Conference Information.....Page 3  
Call for Conference Proposals ..... Pages 4

### Member Articles:

Faulkner State Community College.....Page 4  
Central Alabama Community College.....Page 5  
Marion Military Institute ..... Page 6  
Northwest-Shoals Community College.....Page 7  
Wallace Community College - Dothan .....Page 8  
Gadsden State Community College .....Page 9  
Trenholm State Community College.....Page 10  
Southern Union State Community College...Page 11  
Enterprise State Community College .....Page 12  
Chattahoochee Valley Community College....Page 13  
Snead State Community College.....Page 14  
Reid State Technical College.....Page 15  
Shelton State Community College.....Page 16  
Lawson State Community College.....Page 17  
Calhoun Community College.....Page 18  
Bevill State Community College.....Page 19  
Wallace State Community College.....Page 20  
Northeast Alabama Community College...Page 21

Alabama Community College Association



# 2016 ACCA Annual Conference

November 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup>

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and \$200.00 per person afterwards.

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## Tell Your ACCS Story

This year's theme is "**Telling Our Story**" 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 "tell our story" 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.



## Faulkner State Qualifies for National Quiz Competition

Faulkner State Community College's College Bowl Academic Team was invited to the National Academic Quiz Tournaments (NAQT) Intercollegiate Championship after finishing in the top four colleges at the NAQT Community College Championship Tournament in February.

The Intercollegiate Championship Tournament fielded 64 teams from across the nation.

Awards for the top teams include: Division I (Overall); Division I (undergraduate); Division II (Overall); top eight individual scorers (Division I); top eight individual scorers (Division II); and the top four undergraduate scorers. Faulkner State will be competing in the Division II category.

The Community College Championship was held in Atlanta, and Faulkner State's A-team competed against other community college teams across the nation.

"I am pleased with the team's performance," said College Bowl Sponsor Dr. Charles Hoequist. "Faulkner State's team posted an 8-3 record, despite playing against much older, more experienced students."



After finishing in the top four teams, Faulkner State was invited to the Intercollegiate Championship Tournament in April in Rosemont, IL, where they competed in Division II against four-year colleges for an overall title.

According to the NAQT website, at the community college level, quiz bowl is a competitive, academic, interscholastic activity for which players attend periodic practices and represent their college at varsity tournaments. Quiz bowl questions cover a variety of academic topics and also include current events, sports and popular culture. The matches feature individual competitions and team collaboration.

*Faulkner State*

## 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](http://www.alabamacca.org/accaproposals)***

*For additional information, contact ACCA First Vice-President  
**Dr. Kemba Chambers at [ACCA@DrakeState.edu](mailto:ACCA@DrakeState.edu)***

***Deadline for submissions is Monday, August 15, 2016***



# CACC Hosts Southern Regional Bass Tournament

Central Alabama Community College hosted the largest collegiate bass tournament in the history of college bass fishing in February. The Carhartt Bassmaster Southern Regional was held on Lake Martin and saw a field of over 220 teams and 400-plus anglers. The CACC team competed against Auburn University, The University of Alabama, the University of Florida, Florida State University, the University of Georgia, the University of South Carolina, Clemson University and other universities from all around the southeast. The final day weigh-in was held on CACC's Alexander City campus before a crowd who saw Itawamba Community College hold off The University of Alabama by four ounces to take the title of Southern Region Champions. The final day weigh-in will be aired in August on ESPN.



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# Grant Will Establish MMI's Academic Success Center

Marion Military Institute (MMI) was recently awarded a \$1.9 Million Title III Federal Grant for academic support. The funding, over a five-year period, will allow MMI to establish an Academic Success Center designed to house and staff a Math Center and Writing Center. The grant will also allow MMI to purchase an early alert system and pay for tutoring services and faculty professional development.

According to Executive Vice President Dr. Susan Stevenson, this grant award will have a tremendous impact on academics at MMI: "The receipt of federal Title III funding for a project of this type will completely transform MMI's academic support resources. Though the college has always had dedicated faculty and tutors to

provide instructional assistance, this funding will provide additional support in the form of actual writing and math labs, computer and software resources, and staff members fully dedicated to the MMI's academic support efforts. The focus of Title III funding is strengthening institutional programs, and MMI's dream of establishing a true academic support center aligned perfectly with this funding opportunity," said Stevenson.

As the purpose of any Title III grant funding is to help campuses establish a program of this type, institutional dollars have also been committed to maintain the project. Specifically, 76% of MMI's Title III project is funded with federal money which equates to \$1,920,804. Institutional funding for the project equates to \$607,275, or 24% of the total project.



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## Northwest-Shoals Holds Grand Opening

Northwest-Shoals Community College's (NW-SCC) officially opened the new Salon and Spa Center Nov. 16, 2015 with a brief press conference followed by an open house.

The opening of the 8,844 square-foot facility which now houses the Salon and Spa Management program was under construction for 12 months. The floor space contains state-of-the-art training lab facilities for cosmetology, nail technology, esthetics and possibly therapeutic massage in the future. The facility also features a storm shelter with a capacity of 195 persons.

The new facility is an upgrade from the previous aging facility of approximately 4,000 square feet which was constructed in the mid 1960s. The new facility offers students the opportunity to train in an environment which is comparable to modern day salon and spas.

According to NW-SCC President, Dr. Humphrey Lee, the Salon and Spa Center located directly beside the Center for Business, adds aesthetic appeal to the Shoals campus. "We have tried over the past few years to gradually update the appearance of the Shoals campus as funds allow," said Lee. "We implemented a new courtyard theme within the past couple of years through the center of campus that better connects the academic and technical buildings with a common walkway. It makes it a lot easier for our students to walk around campus."

Over the past year, the Salon and Spa Management program has increased by 22% in enrollment and the new facility will hopefully help the program reach new heights. "With our new Salon and Spa center, we hope to not only train more students but also provide industry with highly qualified employees that are able to step right in and operate a full service salon," stated Rose Jones, associate Dean of Workforce Development. "We hope the new facility will allow us to expand our program offerings into Therapeutic Massage."



# Wallace Community College Dean Discusses Student Success

Increasing student learning is the aim of all community colleges, and success at a community college increases the odds of completing a four-year degree. But it can be difficult, especially when there is a gap in student achievement based on socioeconomic factors. It is one of the most persistent problems in education today, and one Wallace Community College-Dothan dean not only wants talk about it; he wants to change it.

Tony Holland, dean, instructional affairs, was the keynote speaker recently in Rock Hill, SC at York Technical College's Strategic Enrollment Management Conference. Holland discussed WCC's *I-CAN Initiative*, which stands for Improvement, Constant And Never-ending. The initiative creates a more active, learning-centered environment in classes, based on maximum student engagement, relevant instruction, and supportive relationships. It is a faculty-driven initiative, which is crucial to the success of the program. Under the I-CAN program, success rates increased 25.4 percent from Fall 2011 to Fall 2014 in the top ten enrollment courses in general academics (an annual enrollment of over 11,000 students). During this same period the socioeconomic student achievement gap that is so persistent around the country was over three-fourths closed in these top enrollment



**Tony Holland**  
Wallace Community College Dean  
of Instructional Affairs

classes, while it was completely closed in the developmental courses.

Dr. Greg Rutherford, president of York Technical College, was so impressed with the presentation and the results that he sent a letter expressing admiration for the program, and Dean Holland's delivery. "We have worked on the challenge of student success from nearly every angle for a long time," he said. "There is only one significant place to go, and that is directly into improving teaching and learning in a direct, professional, and beneficial way."

Because the I-CAN program is driven by faculty, it is embraced by the top down in a consistent, all-inclusive manner.

Wallace's program has been so successful that it was a Bellwether Finalist in 2014-15. The Bellwether Awards, given by the Community College Futures Assembly at the University of Florida, recognizes outstanding and innovative programs that are successfully leading community colleges into the future.

Dr. Rutherford promised to get back to Mr. Holland in a couple of years to show him their progress. "You have every right to be very proud of your faculty for the difference they have made," he said.

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# Gadsden State President Inducted into the American Academy of Nursing

Commission and the Alabama Regional Action Coalition.

Dr. Martha Lavender, president of Gadsden State Community College, is one of four Alabama women inducted into the 2015 Class of Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing. The induction took place Oct. 17 in Washington D.C.

as a visiting professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing, and she has worked in administrative posts with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Anniston.

“Being inducted into the American Academy of Nursing’s Class of Fellows is one of my proudest professional achievements,” she said. “I look forward to contributing to and providing leadership for the Academy’s national strategy to advance health policy, strengthen nursing leadership and expand nursing’s influence in decisions made at local, state and national levels to influence policy development designed to improve healthcare delivery to all citizens.”

“We are pleased to induct this talented class of clinicians, researchers, policy leaders, educators and executives as they join the nation’s thought leaders in nursing and healthcare,” said Academy President Dr. Diana J. Mason. “We look forward to working with them to continue the Academy’s work in transforming healthy policy and practice through the use of our collective nursing knowledge.”

A product of the state’s two-year college system, Lavender received her Associate Degree in Nursing from the former Gadsden State Junior College School of Nursing. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Jacksonville State University and a Master of Science in Nursing and doctorate degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing.

Other Alabama inductees joining Lavender in the 2015 Class of Fellows are Karen Heaton, Susan Bonner Patton and Linda Ann Roussel, all from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Lavender has a long history of success in the nursing field. She once served as the Dean of Health Sciences at Gadsden State and also held administrative and faculty positions in the Lurleen B. Wallace College of Nursing and Health Sciences at Jacksonville State University. She served

Lavender served as president of the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nursing, an organization that has also recognized her with its highest honor, the Distinguished Professional Service Award. She has served as the president of the Alabama Board of Nursing and has also worked with the National League of Nursing Accreditation



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Chef Robert Cawley addressing donors at a charity gala



## Trenholm Culinary Arts Director Inducted into Prestigious Food & Wine Society

Chef Robert Cawley, CEC, CEPC, AAC, director of Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management at Trenholm State Community College was nominated and has been accepted for membership in The Confrérie de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs which is the world's oldest, largest and most prestigious food and wine society. The Chaîne was founded in Paris in 1950, with roots dating to 1248 in France. It is dedicated to honoring the skills and practices of the masters of the culinary arts.

The Chaîne des Rôtisseurs membership consists of 23,000 worldwide, and it is active in more than 80 countries. There are 6,000 members in the United States with 120 bailliages (chapters) nationally composed of professional chefs, wine experts, and hoteliers.

The principle mission of the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs is to bring professional and non-professional members together to celebrate their passion for fine cuisine and wine while at the same time supporting those who aspire to careers in the food, wine and hospitality fields.

The purpose of the Chaîne is to promote, foster and encourage the culinary arts and particularly

the techniques of cooking by spit, rotisserie, broiling and grilling; to collect and disseminate information with respect to the preparation and serving of foods and the enjoyment, tasting and understanding of wines and distilled spirits; and to encourage educational institutions to teach all phases of the culinary arts, enology and viticulture.

The Chaîne encourages the development of young chefs and sommeliers through competitions and scholarships. Each year the society sponsors regional, national and international Young Chefs competitions and Young Sommeliers competitions, while the charitable arm, the Chaîne Foundation, provides scholarships for students in those fields.

Chef Cawley was inducted this past November at the Druid Hills Golf Club in Atlanta. Chef Cawley was given the title of Maître Restaurateur, which is awarded to those professionals that are responsible for the training of young culinary and hospitality professionals.

## Southern Union Faculty Member Named Educator of the Year

Southern Union State Community College Business Instructor, Dr. Bonita Johnson, was recently named the Alabama Business Education Association Post-Secondary Educator of the Year.

The Alabama Business Education Association (ABEA) is a professional association for business and marketing educators at the middle, secondary, and post-secondary levels. The purpose of ABEA is to promote quality education in all phases of business and to encourage professional growth and cooperative interaction among all individuals involved in this field of education.



(L-R): Sandy Short, ABEA Awards Chair & Bonita Johnson, ABEA Educator of the Year

Dr. Johnson was chosen as Educator of the Year based on her contributions to business education through teaching; participation in local, state, regional, and national professional associations; through religious, civic government, cultural, private business organizations; and through major articles, referred publications, non-referred publications, and research activities. Johnson has

worked on both the secondary education and post-secondary education levels.

Johnson holds an Ed. D., a Bachelor in Science and Master's Degree in Business Education from Auburn University and an Associate in Science in Office Administration from Southern Union.

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(L-R) Olivier Charles, Dean of Students; Michael Harrison, Student Services Specialist; Alana Aplin, Miss ESCC; Dr. Vicky Ohlson, Interim President; and B.J. Massey, SGA President.

# State of the Art Computer Lab Debuts at ESCC

Students at Enterprise State Community College now have a new place to study and access the latest in computer technology. Officials at the college recently held a grand opening ceremony for the Weevil Commons, which consists of a technology center, a study room, and a conference room. "It's a good room to gather and study," said ESCC Freshman Denise Gonzalez. "You can actually help each other out in there and make new friends."

The Weevil Commons, which is located in the ESCC Student Center, has a technology center with new computers, high-speed internet access, iPads, a printing kiosk, and mobile device charging stations. It also has a study cube that is large enough for small group collaboration, with furnishings to facilitate tutoring and project illustration.

Adjacent to the Weevils Commons technology center and study cube is the community room which is equipped with state-of-the-art computer and audio-visual presentation equipment. Students can reserve the Community Room for larger meetings or presentations. ESCC's Weevil Commons was made possible through an Innovative Strategies Grant from the Alabama Community College System.

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# CVCC Foundation Raises Over \$46,000 for Student Scholarships at Hall of Fame



**Mr. Mark Clark**  
CVCC Foundation Hall of Fame Recipient

The Chattahoochee Valley Community College Foundation's Hall of Fame event, which recognizes individuals for outstanding service and accomplishments, was held at the National Infantry Museum on March 10 and raised over \$46,000 to benefit student scholarships. This is the second largest amount raised by the Foundation in one event in its 31-year history. The College's 2014 Hall of Fame and 40th Anniversary Celebration brought in \$55,772, with last year's event bringing in just over \$44,000. Those totals combine to approximately \$145,000 in three years to benefit student scholarships.

"Hall of Fame was a special evening, as we recognized two outstanding individuals: the late Rep. Lesley Vance and Mr. Mark Clark," said Susan Wiggins, chair for the CVCC Foundation and VP of Stakeholders, W.C. Bradley Co.

Mark Clark, general manager at Russell County Water Authority, attended CVCC from 1975-1977, earning his Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts. While

attending CVCC, Mark was the first elected Student Government Association president. He also established the first school newspaper and served as the College's sports information director and photographer. Attending CVCC was a family tradition, as Mark's father, mother, sister, wife, and two daughters all attended CVCC.

The late Representative Lesley Vance served CVCC and his community well. Elected in 1994, Vance was a state representative for over 21 years. He ensured the College was represented in the Alabama State House. In addition to his elected position, Vance also served Russell County as the coroner for 27 years, as well as a Russell County Commissioner for two years.

"We are excited to keep up the momentum from the 40th anniversary event two years ago," said Mark Ellard, interim President at Chattahoochee Valley Community College. The Hall of Fame is a way to bring together the stories of the past, the stories of the present, and build opportunities for stories of the future.

The CVCC Foundation awards scholarships on a semester basis to deserving CVCC students. Amounts can vary from a few hundred dollars to cover gas and transportation costs, to over \$1,000 to assist with tuition or books.

# Snead State Students Earn Platinum Certifications

Two students, through programs available with the Snead State Community College Workforce Development program, received a rare platinum level certification – an achievement earned by only 209 individuals within Alabama.

Nicholas League of Albertville is enrolled in the Welding Technology program, while Christanna Sparks of Arab recently completed the Ready to Work program at the Arab Instructional Site. The Ready to Work program teaches students employment skills, such as job acquisition, basic computer skills, problem solving, decision analysis, diversity, time management and workplace behavior. Through the Ready to Work program, students also receive job placement assistance and information about furthering their education.

As part of both the Welding and Ready to Work programs, students complete ACT WorkKeys testing for the National Career Readiness Certificate, which is given on four levels – bronze, silver, gold and platinum - based on scores. The WorkKeys testing assesses knowledge in three areas, Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information and Locating Information.

League and Sparks received the highest possible levels of certification. Only 209 students out of over 60,000 who received certificates scored at the platinum level.

“Achieving the Platinum level certificate is rare, so we are extremely excited that Nicholas and Christanna attained this level of certification,” said Cherri Barnard with the SSCC Workforce Development Program.

According to Barnard, many businesses and industries use the National Career Readiness Certificate as part of the hiring criteria for new employees. The credential is recognized not only statewide but also nationally.

Sparks is currently employed by Little King Manufacturing in Union Grove. She has also enrolled in the online short-term certificate program in Logistics, Distribution and Purchasing at Snead State. Coming from a family of welders, League plans to be a traveling welder for a few years before “settling down to something more local.”



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# Reid State Receives \$534,340 Distance Learning Grant

Reid State Technical College was awarded a \$534,340 grant for Rural Utilities Services - Distance Learning through the U S Department of Agriculture Rural Development Office. The grant will provide Reid State \$399,678 and allow the college to partner with area high schools to provide distance learning connections for dual enrollment and various other courses. The grant requires a match of \$124,372 of requested equipment which will be funded through the Alabama Community College System.

Adult students will also be able to participate in course offerings through GED and General Education courses. In addition to the high school connection, the Poarch Creek Indian Education Department and the Adult Education program in Camden will have connections.

Implementation of the RUS Distance Learning Grant will allow economically and academically disadvantaged students in Reid State's rural service area to enhance their academic experience. The grant will provide access through videoconferencing connections between high schools and Reid State campuses. Reid State's Atmore and Evergreen campuses will serve as hubs providing students at high schools in Butler, Conecuh, Escambia, and Wilcox Counties connection to videoconferencing for access to classes providing dual enrollment credits and workforce training.

Course offerings are planned to begin Fall Semester 2016. A pilot program is planned for summer semester at Greenville High School. Pilot course offerings include General Education Courses of Math, English some sciences, with additional offerings of Medical Terminology or GED courses.



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## West Alabama Works, Shelton State Community College Launch Mobile Training Unit

Shelton State Community College, West Alabama Works, and the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama recently established important workforce improvements and initiatives. The Mobile Workforce Unit, a Mercedes Sprinter van customized as a training lab, is complete and ready to deploy to rural and underserved communities throughout the West Alabama region. Outfitted with the latest technology, the van will be used for traditional pre-employment training.

“There are many applications for the Mobile Workforce Unit,”

says Nicole DuBose, Director of Training for Business and Industry at Shelton State. “This versatile unit is about extending the delivery of services across our region and increasing awareness of available workforce training and services. It is much more than a van; we believe it is a critical piece for transforming the workforce delivery system in our rural communities. Additionally, it can be used for job fairs. Individuals can register for classes or apply for jobs with a recruiter standing by to help.”

“We are very excited to partner with West Alabama Works in an effort to engage the community and facilitate training for regional business and industry,” said Dr. Cynthia T. Anthony, interim President of Shelton State. “The Mobile Workforce Unit provides a unique opportunity to conduct grassroots outreach efforts in some of the underserved areas throughout our region, all while delivering pre-employment testing and training necessary to obtain a job in the region’s burgeoning automotive industry.”



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## Lawson State STEM Scholars Present at National Conference

Lawson State Community College STEM Scholars recently attended the Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference in STEM in Washington, D.C. Ten students attended and three of the scholars were afforded the opportunity to present in their selected areas.

Julian Dill, who has completed two research experiences for undergraduates at Clark Atlanta University and The University of Alabama, presented on “Molecular Mechanisms for Thrombopondin 1-induced Calreticulin Recruitment of LRPI for Signaling Complex Formation.” Terry McCullough, who completed his first summer research also at The University of Alabama Community Outreach Development Reynolds Summer Science Institute Blazing to Biomedical Career and CORD SSI-III Research Interns Program (CORD), titled his research “Protein Expression of ATP Synthase Regulators in Pressure-Overload Induced Cardiac Hypertrophy.”

The third scholar, Brittney Terry, presented her research regarding the “Investigation into the Structural, Thermal and Mechanical Properties

of Chemically Treated Jute Fiber.” She recently completed her first summer research experience at Tuskegee University’s Department of Engineering. She has also been accepted into the CEMITURE Program (Collaborative Multidisciplinary Investigations Through Undergraduate Research Experiences) to conduct research in Ghana, Africa this summer.

The Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is hosted by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Education and Human Resources Programs (EHR) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) Division of Human Resource Development (HRD), within the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR). With an attendance of more than 2,400, the conference is aimed at college and university undergraduate and graduate students who participate in programs funded by the NSF HRD Unit, including underrepresented minorities and persons with disabilities.

The objectives of the conference are to help undergraduate and graduate students to enhance their science communication skills and to better understand how to prepare for science careers in a global workforce.

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# Calhoun Hosts 16th Annual Let's Pretend Hospital

Calhoun Community College saw over 1500 area first graders descend on the Decatur campus recently to take part in the 15th Annual Let's Pretend Hospital. Calhoun's Nursing and Allied Health departments, in partnership with Decatur General Hospital and Athens-Limestone Hospital, hosted this annual event, which provides first graders with 'friendly' and age-appropriate information about what actually takes place when someone is admitted to the hospital.



"This annual project gives Calhoun's Nursing and Allied Health departments the opportunity to partner with two of our largest nursing employers, Decatur General and Athens-Limestone. It also gives our students first-hand experience in developing creative methods of teaching and to observe normal growth and development of first graders," commented McGill. "Close to 200 of Calhoun's Nursing and Allied Health students will participate each day in the event," he added.

According to Bret McGill, dean of Calhoun's Health Sciences division, Let's Pretend Hospital was held in the college's state-of-the-art Health Sciences Center on the Decatur campus. Students and faculty from the college's nursing and allied health programs spend months planning and preparing for the event and transferring the building into an age-appropriate hospital setting, complete with games, nursery rhyme characters, and a number of hands-on activities. "All of the information presented in this mock hospital setting is done on a non-threatening, first grade level," said McGill.

Dr. Lynn Hogan, Nursing department chair at Calhoun, estimated that over 1500 students from public and private schools in Morgan County, Decatur, Athens, and Limestone County participated in this year's activity. The students toured the various areas of a hospital, learned about germs and hand washing, when to call 911, and what to do should their clothes catch on fire. The 'mock' hospital included an admissions office, ER, hospital patient room, operating room, X-ray, and discharge area. Students also explored the College's ambulance and tested the siren.

"This event not only represents a great opportunity for our students to provide a community service but also provides the first-graders with information and the opportunity to start thinking about careers in healthcare," said Hogan.

Calhoun currently offers health programs in Associate Degree Nursing (RN), Practical Nursing (LPN), Emergency Medical Services (EMT/EMS and Paramedic), Dental Assisting, Surgical Technology, Physical Therapist Assistant, Fire Science, and a Clinical Laboratory Technology.



# New Bevill State President Focused on Success

Bevill State Community College President Dr. Larry Ferguson has been on the job for about six months, but it hasn't taking him long to realize what a great institution he is leading. "The culture here is as good as I've ever seen. The people here are really committed and passionate about what they are doing and that breeds success," said Dr. Ferguson.

The Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Ferguson in November 2015. He officially became the new president in January of this year.

On the day of the appointment, ACCS Board Vice Chairman Al Thompson said, "I and the other members of the ACCS Board of Trustees are extremely pleased with Dr. Heinrich's recommendation of Dr. Larry Ferguson to become the new president for Bevill State Community College. Dr. Ferguson's impressive background of postsecondary education and economic development experience will be a great asset not only for Bevill State but for our entire System."

Before assuming his duties at Bevill State, Dr. Ferguson served as Vice Chancellor of Economic Development and Workforce Solutions and Interim Vice Chancellor of

Academic Affairs for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), Ferguson has more than 20 years of postsecondary education experience in the private sector and higher education. He has been engaged in career and technical education and workforce pipeline development for multiple industry sectors and has been the primary KCTCS point of contact for global, national and regional companies seeking workforce development solutions in the state of Kentucky.

Dr. Ferguson has also held positions at Ashland Community and Technical College in Ashland, Kentucky, where he served as an instructor, Dean of Community, Workforce and Economic Development and Dean of Resource Development and External Affairs. Prior to his positions in the community college arena, Ferguson held administrative positions in the private sector with ClientLogic, King's Daughters Medical Center, and Applied Card Systems

A product of Kentucky's community college system, Dr. Ferguson earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Mountain State University in Beckley, West Virginia, and received his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Trident University in Cypress, California.

"Dr. Ferguson is a veteran educator with an outstanding record of both higher education and workforce development experience," said ACCS Chancellor Dr. Mark Heinrich. "His previous roles in economic development, coupled with his passion for community college service and his belief that all citizens should have the opportunity to further their education and improve their quality of life, make him the ideal person for moving Bevill State forward," Heinrich added.



**Dr. Larry Ferguson**  
President, Bevill State Community College

# Wallace State President Receives Diversity Award

Dr. Vicki Hawsey-Karolewics, president of Wallace State Community College, has been named as a recipient of the 2016 "Giving Back Award" from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine, the largest and oldest diversity and inclusion publication in higher education. The Giving Back Award honors presidents and chancellors of colleges and universities who go above and beyond their everyday leadership duties and "give back" to their campuses and communities. Dr. Karolewics was featured, along with 26 other recipients, in the April 2016 Leadership Support and Giving Back issue of the magazine.



**Dr. Vicki Hawsey Karolewics**  
President, Wallace State Community College

related initiatives, including the development of a Five-Year Diversity Plan, the incorporation of diversity as a module of instruction in the newly implemented Freshman Success Course required of all students, and a Campus Read project that features equity themes.

Dr. Karolewics has also led the college's efforts to host regular speakers who celebrate diversity and has funded a wide range of diversity engagement through professional development for students, faculty, and staff.

During her tenure, the college has raised more than a million dollars in scholarships, many of which go to economically disadvantaged students

Giving Back Award recipients were nominated by a colleague and selected by *INSIGHT Into Diversity* based on their outstanding demonstration of social responsibility, a commitment to charitable services, and involvement with students, faculty, and staff to serve underrepresented populations. Each honoree is recognized for his or her passion, dedication, and philanthropic achievements.

"First, as the mother of a child who is 'differently abled', and throughout my 30-year career as an educator, and now as president of an institution that serves a diverse student body of all abilities and backgrounds, ensuring that as a college we always act with compassion and sensitivity, treating each person as an individual, meeting each student where they are on their educational journey, and helping them to achieve their goals, has, and always will, remain central to my work," said Dr. Karolewics.

*INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine selected Dr. Karolewics for her leadership because she has served as a beacon for equity and the celebration of diversity for many years. She has led the college in a number of diversity-

who receive federal assistance. And through Wallace State's participation in Achieving the Dream, Dr. Karolewics has placed an emphasis on developmental reform and learning communities, so all students can be engaged and successful.

She also has a record of advocating for children with disabilities at the state level, and was highly involved in establishing Cullman's "Field of Miracles," a ball field equipped for children of all abilities.

"The Giving Back Award is being given to leaders of institutions of higher education who exemplify what it truly means to 'give back' to others," said Lenore Pearlstein, publisher of *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine. "These presidents and chancellors are role models, and we honor their efforts to give back to everyone on their campuses and in their communities."

Award recipients were selected among presidents and chancellors of both community colleges and baccalaureate-granting institutions.

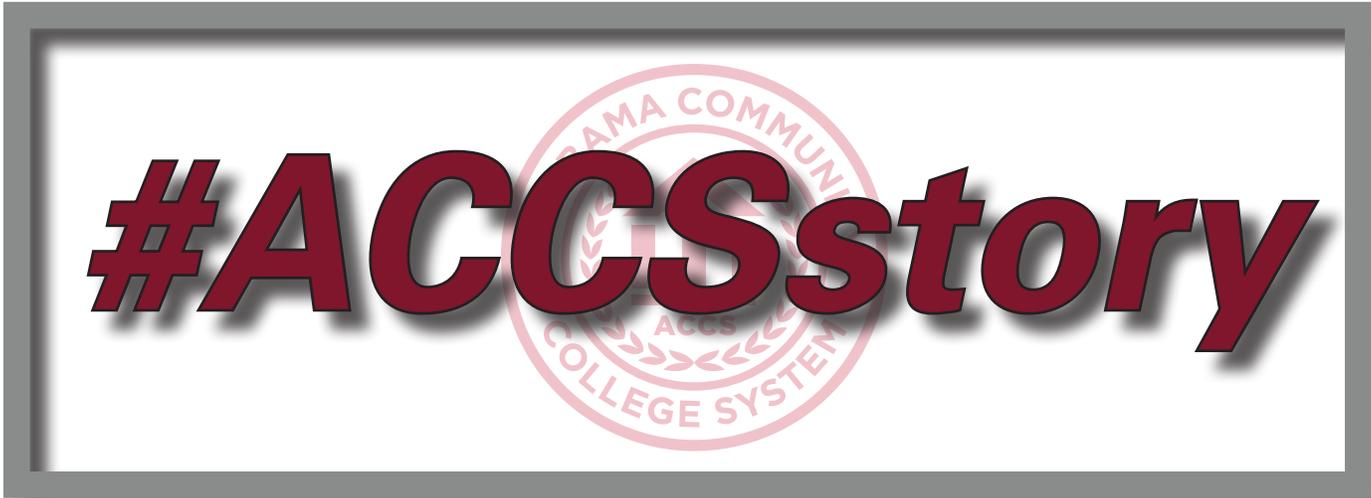
# Northeast Alabama Community College Named as One of Top 150 in the Country

Highlighting the critical importance of improving student success in America's community colleges, the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named Northeast Alabama Community College as one of the nation's top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and \$1 million dollars in prize funds, as well as Siemens Technical Scholars Program Student Scholarships.

The Prize, awarded every two years, is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges and recognizes institutions for exceptional student outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and access and success for minority and low-income students.

"This is a great honor for Northeast students, staff, faculty, administrators and our community," stated NACC President Dr. David Campbell. "What makes us even more proud of this recognition is that the key criteria for selection is student success and achievement. When all is said and done, student success and achievement are what we are here for as an educational institution. The entire Northeast community is dedicated to this goal and our personnel work very hard at achieving it. The college itself financially supports student achievement through a wide range of support services, everything from a technology learning center, a career lab, student tutors, faculty advisors, transfer advisors, developmental studies coordinators, and technology and computer labs for most all subjects. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to seeing that our students succeed. This is in fact the fourth time since 2010 that the Aspen Institute has identified Northeast as one of the best community colleges in the country, making Northeast one of the few community colleges in America to receive this level of distinction."

Northeast is the only college selected from Alabama eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize. A full list of the 150 community colleges is available at [www.AspenPrize.org](http://www.AspenPrize.org).



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