



## PHI THETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY



EMERGING

STRONGER



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The ACCA Executive Committee is looking forward to having an annual conference at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel/Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex, November 20-22. We are in the process of finalizing many of those plans and look forward to providing a great conference experience.

Conference registration is now open and hotel reservations can be made through the ACCA website. The theme for this year's conference will be "Emerging Stronger." As Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed, we have restored many of our campuses to normal operations. However, we want to "Emerge Stronger" as a community college system than we were before the pandemic. We hope our sessions at this year's conference will be engaging and help reinvigorate each of us to provide the best environment possible for our students to be successful.

We look forward to being together in-person for the 2022 ACCA conference. Thank you for your support of the Alabama Community College Association.



**Ben Jordan**  
**2022 ACCA President**

## **Proposed Amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Alabama Community College Association:**

On April 14, 2022, the Executive Committee of the Alabama Community College Association, in accordance with Article X of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Alabama Community College Association, made the proposed amendment to the Constitution and By-Laws regarding Article V, Section 2, Paragraph b regarding the election of Commission Chairs and Vice-Chairs:

Commission members of the Commission on Administration, Commissions on Faculty, Commission on Students, Commission on Support Personnel, and Commission on Workforce Development will elect a Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect for each Commission at the annual conference. The Vice-Chairs/Chair-Elects will be elected by majority of the votes cast by the members in attendance at the conference's commission meetings. The Commission Vice-Chairs/Chair-Elect will assume office at the adjournment of the annual conference. The sitting Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect will automatically succeed to the position of Commission Chair following the conclusion of his or her term as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. The Commission Chairs will assume office at the adjournment of the annual conference.

Adoption of this amendment will replace the present Article V, Section 2, Paragraph b wording which currently reads:

*Commission members of the Commission on Faculty, Commission on Administration, Commission on Students, Commission on Support Personnel, and Commission on Workforce Development will elect a Chair and Vice-Chair for each commission at the annual conference. The Chairs and Vice-Chairs will be elected by a majority of the votes cast by the members in attendance at the commission meetings. The Commission Chairs and Vice-Chairs will assume office at the adjournment of the annual conference.*

# ACCA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

SHERATON BIRMINGHAM HOTEL  
& BJCC CONVENTION CENTER  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

NOVEMBER 20 - 22, 2022

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:

UNTIL NOVEMBER 1, 2022 .....	\$ 200
AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2022 .....	\$ 225

HOTEL RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE THROUGH  
THE HOTEL FOR **\$139 PER NIGHT PLUS TAX** BY

[\*\*CLICKING HERE\*\*](#)

# CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER **SEAN DIETRICH**



Sean Dietrich is a columnist, and novelist, known for his commentary on life in the American South. His work has appeared in *Southern Living*, *The Tallahassee Democrat*, *Good Grit*, *South Magazine*, *Alabama Living*, the *Birmingham News*, *Thom Magazine*, *The Mobile Press Register*, and he has authored seven books.

In Dietrich's words, "As a child, I liked to write. I filled up notebooks with tales of the high-seas, shameless vixens, and steamy scenarios combining both of the aforementioned. My fifth grade teacher found one of my notebooks and

scanned through it. She told me I wrote with too many commas, and encouraged me to pursue a career in construction work. That, old, woman, never, liked, me.

Years later, I learned my teacher had left the school. She took a job at the Piggly Wiggly as a cashier. I went to visit the old girl, to show her the man I'd grown into.

She seemed genuinely glad to see me. And I was just as glad to find her wearing that red apron for a living. After visiting for a few minutes, I realized something I'd never noticed before. Beneath her hardshell exterior was a regular lady, working from nine to five for pennies. She was doing the best she could with her life. Just like me.



# ACCA ELECTION

**ONLINE ELECTIONS FOR THE POSITION OF SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT WILL BE HELD IN OCTOBER. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CANDIDATES APPEARS BELOW :**



## **CORETTA BOYKIN, ED.D.** PRESIDENT, REID STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Dr. Boykin has nearly 19 years of experience in post-secondary education and was appointed to serve as the President of Reid State Technical College in May of 2021. Dr. Boykin has served as Dean of Instruction and Workforce Development, Second-in-Command, Director of Recruitment, Placement, and Retention, and Associate Dean of Institutional Effectiveness. Dr. Boykin provides leadership to surrounding communities through active participation as the Board of Education Chairman, an Evergreen/Conecuh Chamber of Commerce Board member, a member of Conecuh's Industrial Development Board, and an Evergreen Kiwanis Club member.

Dr. Boykin is a life-long resident of Evergreen, Alabama and graduate of Hillcrest High School in Evergreen. She earned a Bachelor's in Business and Commerce Administration from The University of Alabama; a Master in Business Administration from Troy University; and a Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from The University of Alabama.

Dr. Boykin is married to Chief Deputy Tyrone Boykin and they have three daughters.



## **DONITHA JONES GRIFFIN, ED.D.** DEAN OF STUDENTS AND EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT, WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SELMA

Dr. Griffin encourages higher education for all students and promotes obtaining credentials at any level in both academic and technical fields. In 2004, Dr. Griffin collaborated with the Southern Eastern Consortium for Minorities in Engineering on the first Early College Program in the State of Alabama. She worked with the local school system on developing and implementing the Selma Early College Curriculum. In 2012, The Early College Program graduated over 300 students with a high school diploma and two-year college degree.

As Dean of Students, she has written grants and pursued initiatives to promote access for minorities in higher education and improve retention rates. Dr. Griffin is a first-generation college student who received an Associate Degree from Wallace Community College Selma; Bachelor's Degree of Social Work from The University of Alabama; Master's Degree in Counseling and Human Development from Troy State University; and a Doctoral Degree in Higher Education Leadership from Walden University.

Dr. Griffin has 25 years of community college administrative experience. Her career in higher education includes several positions: College Counselor, Assistant SSS Director, College Recruiter, Director of Continuing Education, Director of Admission and Records, and Interim Dean of Instruction.

Dr. Griffin is married to Calvin Griffin and they have three children.

# ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

## BACKBONE OF ALABAMA'S WORKFORCE: NEW COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPPORTUNITIES, PARTNERSHIPS ADDING CREDENTIALLED WORKERS TO ALABAMA'S BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Small business owner Dustin Dabbs was in a common predicament when the only employee he had with a commercial driver license quit the job.

But Dabbs didn't have to look far for an answer. He discovered through his local chamber of commerce that the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Innovation Center's Skills for Success courses included a free CDL training. In less than a month, Dabbs and another of his employees in the construction industry both obtained the credential.

Creating practical opportunities that train workers to meet workforce needs by quickly strengthening their skills with in-demand credentials is a formula that is working through Alabama's community colleges. More than 1,000 residents have gone through several different Skills for Success courses at the colleges since January, and many of the classes are completed in less than three weeks' time.

"The most practical avenue for residents to gain an accessible and affordable education that enhances their quality of life is through their local community college, so we have to continue to get the word out, continue to tell the story that we're here and we're available to meet Alabama's workforce needs," said Jimmy H. Baker, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System.

In addition to short-term training programs, the number of students attending the state's community colleges for credit-bearing classes has increased since last fall by 6 percent. Applications for the fall semester were up systemwide more than 17 percent. Since Fall 2020, dual enrollment increased by more than 15 percent. Also, more than \$29 million were awarded in federal grants.

Partnerships are also expanding. Several community colleges participated in the Alabama Department of Human Resources' Summer Youth Program, a competitive wage opportunity that allowed young residents to work within colleges and learn about different programs and services.

A partnership with Alabama's forestry, poultry and egg industries and the Alabama Department of Education to train agriculture educators on a maintenance technician credential is another example of Alabama's community colleges meeting the state's workforce needs.

"We are appreciative for the opportunity to build educational opportunities for the frontline teachers who share how significant agriculture is in Alabama each day," said Jerad Dyess, a Department of Education official, of the partnership with the ACCS. "We are committed to fostering the relationship we have with Alabama's community colleges so even more educators can benefit."



# ALABAMA TECHNOLOGY NETWORK

## ATN IMPACTS ALABAMA

Alabama Technology Network (ATN) is an entity of the Alabama Community College System (ACCS). It serves as Alabama's center for the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), which is part of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Located across the great State of Alabama, Alabama Technology Network is part of 15 Community Colleges and 3 University Campuses. With 54 employees, ATN's mission is to provide workforce training, technical assistance, and engineering services to incumbent workers statewide.

ATN has the most extensive training and service offerings for business and industry, which includes five primary areas of delivery: continual improvement, industrial maintenance & technology, food safety, environmental health & safety, and leadership & management development.

A study published by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research found that in 2018, ATN provides a sizable net positive economic impact to the State. The Upjohn study examined topline areas of ATN's projected economic impact to the State, including a contribution to Alabama's GDP of \$893 million, an additional personal income of \$437 million, and an effect on the State's gross output of \$2.26 billion.

The study also reported that the \$1.8 million federal dollars invested in ATN during the calendar year 2018 generated nearly a 25.08:1 increase in state personal income tax. Then, the return on investment of state funds invested was 9.67:1. This created a net positive return to the state treasury of an estimated \$45 million.

In 2021, Alabama Technology Network managed to serve 143 different companies with 246 contract projects statewide.

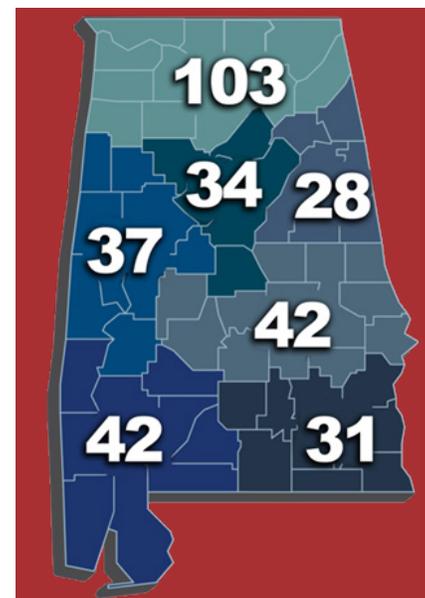
Since 2015 through 2021, the following are client reported economic impacts:

- 1,047 Independent Client Surveys Completed
- 2,820 New Jobs
- 12,257 Retained Jobs
- \$ 1.9B Increased & Retained Sales
- \$ 402M in New Client Investments
- \$ 776M in Cost Savings

### Totals

- o 15,077 Jobs
- o \$ 3.1B Client Impacts

ATN has learned to perfect customer service. We pride ourselves on being a trusted local partner, to implement solutions and innovations for your company, to develop and train employees, and to assess and improve processes in the workforce, knowing you can count on Alabama Technology Network. Contact us today at (334) 293-4671 or [www.atn.org](http://www.atn.org).



# BEVILL STATE

## PRESIDENT JOEL HAGOOD IS SHAKING UP RECRUITING AT BEVILL STATE

As president of Bevill State Community College, one of Dr. Joel Hagood's top priorities is making sure that people throughout the College's service area know about the life-changing opportunities available to them. This often involves making bold changes to the way some things have traditionally been done.

The first step in this process was to combine the Public Relations and Enrollment Management offices. Tana Collins-Allred, who had served as Bevill State's Director of PR for five years, got a new title – Director of Enrollment Management, Public Relations, and Recruiting. This married marketing, recruiting, and retention endeavors to one office, creating consistency and cohesion. Andrew Brasfield, Multi-Media Coordinator for the College, put his award-winning skills to work supporting all of these efforts.

The next step involved a paradigm shift.

Sarah Allred and Cole Richards both served as Student Service Specialists for Bevill State, with recruiting being one of their duties. Their roles were re-organized allowing them to be dedicated admissions recruiters for the College – with Sarah focusing on the eastern part of the service area and Cole in the west. The changes did not stop there. The team was tasked with finding innovative ways to increase enrollment.

Collins-Allred discussed the team with confidence stating, "We set out early as a team to re-imagine recruiting for Bevill State. The primary focus had traditionally been high school juniors and seniors. We are expanding and improving those K-12 relationships, forming true partnerships with the school systems, and engaging those students much earlier. Also, we are putting forth great effort to make non-traditional students aware of the programs and services offered by the College. Our service area includes over one-quarter million people in a seven-county area that spans over 4,600 square miles, from the Birmingham city limits to the Mississippi state line. This team intends to leave no stone unturned. We are meeting with business and industry, churches, community organizations, anyone that will welcome us to speak."

"I made sure the right people were in the right seats on the bus. This involved making bold moves and re-organizing some roles. These changes have made a positive difference. While the trend for community colleges nationwide is decreasing enrollment, a trend that existed prior to the pandemic, Bevill State continues to see increases in enrollment since the Fall 2020. I am confident that this team will continue to capitalize on the momentum they have. We want everyone to know that Bevill State is YOUR community college" said Hagood of his plan to improve recruiting and enrollment management at the College.



# BISHOP STATE

## HE CAME NOT SPEAKING ENGLISH, NOW AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GRADUATES WITH A FULL RIDE TO ASU

After two years at Bishop State Community College in Mobile, Guy Samandari, a native of the East African country of Bujumbura, Burundi, speaks fluent English. But he didn't start that way. Growing up in Burundi, Guy spoke French as well as his native Kirundi. He took one hour per week of English in high school.

When he first arrived at Bishop State, Guy spoke hardly any English. After spending three months in the English as a Second Language program in Bishop State's Adult Education Program, he was speaking fluently and was able to start taking classes at Bishop State.

In his first class at Bishop State, English 198, the instructor, Larene Peeples, "was speaking very fast for me," he says. "I had to stop her. She could see on my face that I didn't understand."

To make it easier for Guy, the teacher would type and translate what she was saying. "All my teachers were very supportive and understanding," he says. "They did more than they were supposed to do. For me to catch up, I have to process in three languages to understand. I'm thankful for them."

Guy was so determined to succeed and so laser-focused on his education. So far, his studiousness has paid off. Guy received a full-ride presidential scholarship to Alabama State University in Montgomery; an additional Propel Student Impact Scholarship worth \$10,000, which is presented to an innovative student attending a historically Black college; and an All-Alabama Academic Scholarship worth \$1,000. This summer, he will move from Mobile to Alabama's capital city for the next phase of his education.

Though Guy is finished at Bishop State now, he plans to help recruit other international students – including one of his sisters, who is following in his footsteps and plans to attend the college as well.

At Alabama State, he plans to study accounting and finance, then return to Mobile for a master's degree in statistics and possibly a doctorate from the University of South Alabama. He quotes his father again: "As my dad always says, we need to use our brains while we're still young."

One thing he knows for sure is that he is going to return to his home country to try to make a difference there. "I would like to accomplish great things once I return to Burundi," he says. "I would like if God allows me to have a position of responsibility... to be able to contribute to the economic development of my country, but apart from that I would also like to create an accounting company that will help new entrepreneurs do well."



# CALHOUN

## FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, CALHOUN'S MANUFACTURING TEAM FINISHES AMONG TOP 3 AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

Out of 32 teams across the nation, Calhoun Community College's student manufacturing team places 2nd at the 2022 Project MFG National Championship in Wichita, Kansas.

According to Tad Montgomery, Calhoun machine tool technology instructor, the two-day integrated manufacturing competition tests the skill sets of students from across the country in welding, programming, and machining. "This is one of our most exciting competitions," says Montgomery. "Not only are our manufacturing students able to showcase what they learn daily through our course curriculum, but they are also gaining real-world experience when they compete on such a level with other students," said Montgomery.

Each team receives a challenge from the competition judges that requires them to build a product using specific dimensions. To make the competition as realistic as possible, teams are given a limited budget and are charged for hourly work as it would be in today's manufacturing industry. "Competitions such as these are what sets Calhoun's manufacturing training apart from other institutions," commented John Holley, Calhoun dean of technologies. "We try our best to provide our students with as many real-world hands-on training opportunities as possible that will place them in situations to think and solve problems strategically. When we hear from area industry leaders, they tell us those are the skills desired in conjunction with our manufacturing training," added Holley.

Calhoun's team consisted of members who possessed skills in CNC 5-axis programming, welding, metrology, and CNC 5-axis machining. Those competencies were necessary as judges scored the projects based on programming and production time, tooling and material costs, as well as overall quality. All machining components were inspected for dimensional size and geometric tolerances. The welding portion of the competition consisted of aluminum and steel tanks which had to withstand pressure testing along with adhering to a weld procedure standard.

Only four teams were chosen as national champions, and Calhoun was one, finishing in 2nd place, and also making it the team's second national championship win in this annual competition. The event was recorded and will be aired this fall as was the previous year's competition on "Clash of the Trades". "Calhoun's performance in Project MFG exemplifies the quality of training the college provides students in advanced manufacturing," says Montgomery. "The Department of Defense is working diligently to highlight these types of programs, as well as the critical shortage for such skilled manufacturing workers desperately needed to drive our economy and produce the systems used to protect our nation," Montgomery added.



# CENTRAL ALABAMA

## CENTRAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE RECEIVES SMC HAS-200 TRAINER IN PRATTVILLE

Central Alabama Community College received a nice addition to the Prattville campus this past week. A SMC HAS-200 trainer was installed and will now give students the opportunity to train for high level jobs in industry. The SMC HAS 200 Industry 4.0 system has been devised based on the training requirements in industries with a high level of automation and the most innovative Industry 4.0 technologies.

Versatility and attractive design allows the reproduction/emulation of real factory operation, thus allowing the student to be exposed to many different scenarios.

The technologies used respond to the needs of the most diverse sectors in manufacturing. Students will be exposed to an integrated system that teaches concepts related to a highly automated production system, focused mainly on the manufacturing execution system (MES).

“We have the advanced manufacturing training equipment needed to train and educate our students for today’s manufacturing needs. We are very excited about the opportunities this training system will provide for our students,” Jeff Lynn, president of CACC stated.

“We continue to grow and expand our offerings at our new Prattville campus. Workforce development is crucial to the growth of our state and we must continue to meet the needs and demands of our workforce partners. This is a major enhancement for our Prattville campus and we are just getting started.”

Students can develop different projects, such as integration of a manufacturing execution system (MES), integration of a SCADA package and PLC configuration and/or programming.

The SMC HAS 200 unit will provide specialized training on highly automated production systems and Industry 4.0 technologies. The system can work in stand-alone or integrated mode and the stations have a built-in conveyor belt which allows different types of physical configuration to be defined and implemented as well as a barcode reader to identify and track all of the products throughout the process.

All of the stations also have a state-of-the-art PLC to control each station and integrate them with the higher Supervision and Management levels.

What to expect with the Industry 4.0 technology system:

- Manufacturing Execution System (M.E.S)
- Collaborative robot
- Artificial vision
- Safety devices
- IO-Link smart sensors and actuators
- Industrial identification systems
- HMI devices
- Augmented reality
- Industrial controllers
- Electric actuators
- Web services
- Wi-Fi access point



# CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY

## FROM HARDSHIP TO APPRENTICESHIP - DAVIS EXCELS IN CVCC WELDING PROGRAM

Life's hardships bring about growth. That's Antonio Davis's motto. He's a sophomore at Chattahoochee Valley Community College studying welding.

"I was homeless," he said as he reflected on that time. "Me and my mom were struggling to find a place to stay. God placed me right here in this welding program. I didn't have any money, so it was very important for me to be able to get the scholarship."

Despite adversities that would cause most to dispel their dream of success, Davis is on an academic scholarship at CVCC and maintains a 4.0 GPA. In addition, through the welding program, he's been able to take advantage of an apprenticeship opportunity where he "earns while he learns."



"Now, I'm in an internship at Ashley Steel company," he said with excitement in his eyes. "It's a game changer for me and my mom. I'm helping her out and getting a lot of experience in welding. I'm basically able to take the knowledge that I got from CVCC and apply it."

Davis understands that welding is a high demand occupation and looks forward to one day owning his own welding company. When asked what keeps him motivated, he referenced his faith.

"What really motivates me to stay positive in life and go through all the trials and tribulations is God. He gave me peace that passes all understanding. He gave me courage to continue to keep pushing. At the end of the day, we're all going to go through a lot in life. It's all in how you handle it."

Davis has handled adversity with hard work, determination, and a humble heart. He hopes that sharing his story with others will make a difference.

"For me, having this testimony, will inspire others and hopefully let them know that whatever you're going through, God is able. He's able to do abundantly and exceedingly in your life if you just trust Him and have faith. And, that's exactly what I have learned to do."

# COASTAL ALABAMA

## COASTAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ANNOUNCES ALABAMA'S FIRST NURSING APPRENTICESHIP WITH INFIRMARY HEALTH

Thanks to updated statewide rules governing apprenticeships, expanded opportunities are now available to Coastal Alabama Community College nursing students. The college recently entered into an agreement with healthcare provider Infirmiry Health, resulting in the first apprenticeship cohort on its Bay Minette campus for the Summer 2022 semester.

Through the program, students who have completed the college's established admission process and enrolled in the Practical Nursing program that begins this summer are eligible to apply for apprenticeships with Infirmiry Health. The internships offer accepted students the opportunity to gain real-world experience and earn while they learn. For example, approved nursing students will be paid for clinical work hours at their specific clinical affiliate.

"As of now they won't be paid for on-campus classes, labs or their simulation labs, but they will be paid for all of their clinical and practicum hours, which is fantastic," said Dr. Tiffany Scarborough, Departmental Director of Nursing and Allied Health. "It is such a great opportunity for the students."

There are about 500 nursing students currently enrolled across Coastal Alabama Community College's campuses, and with the increased demand for nurses within the state and region, the new apprenticeship rules are a benefit for future students, as well. Nurses are listed as one of the top 25 highest demand positions in Alabama, with more than 4,500 annual openings in the state for RNs and LPNs.



Last week, the Alabama Community College System and the state Office of Apprenticeship announced the new rules which facilitate partnerships such as the one between Coastal Alabama Community College and Infirmiry Health. That agreement, as well as one involving Gadsden State Community College, form the first cohort of the new apprenticeship era.

Scarborough said that additional partnerships, including expanded financial assistance, should be announced in the coming months, adding more opportunities for the next generation of nurses.

"We're very excited," she said. "These are tremendous opportunities for the students we serve."

# DRAKE STATE

## HOW AN ALABAMA HBCU HOSTED THE INAUGURAL INTERNATIONAL MOON DAY

In 1969, American astronaut Neil Armstrong stepped out of the Apollo 11 spacecraft and accomplished what no person on Earth had ever done before – walk on the moon.

Decades later, the United Nations General Assembly declared July 20 as International Moon Day to observe the anniversary of humankind's first steps on the moon and to raise public awareness about sustainable moon exploration.

“Huntsville was one of the birthplaces of the space program,” said John C. Mankins, Moon Village Association Vice President. “Our future in space will only be accomplished by a foundation of well-educated, motivated, and optimistic young people — including engineers, technicians, scientists, and more. Where better to draw the world’s attention than Drake State?”

Moon Village Association Group and Lockheed Martin joined Drake State Community and Technical College – a Historically Black Community College – in hosting and livestreaming the inaugural International Moon Day celebration to viewers across the globe including the United States, India, Saudi Arabia, Greece, and Mexico.



“We celebrated a momentous day in history and the vision for future space exploration,” said Drake State President Dr. Patricia Sims. “We were proud to host this inaugural celebration and be reminded of the great work that’s being done across the globe.”

NASA Marshall Space Flight Center selected Drake State as a collaborator in the Moon-to-Mars Planetary Autonomous Construction Technology project in 2021. Then came opportunities with the Moon Village Association to immerse students in space exploration and help minority and female youth take their first steps in STEM careers.

And Drake State NASA interns are figuring out how engineers can use a robotic arm to 3D print large-scale items such as bed frames, wall panels, brackets, and vents in space. “If you talk to any astronaut, they will tell you that our fragile planet needs all of our might and strength to pull together our resources and work in tandem to face all the problems we see today,” said Dr. Nasr Alshahaf, International Moon Day Group Chair and advisor to the Royal Private Affairs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. “We want to galvanize this cooperation between nations, especially the young generations.”

Drake State graduates help diversify the science and technology fields. This underscores the influence that historically Black institutions play in helping NASA send the first woman and first person of color to the moon.

“Drake State represents both literally and metaphorically the tremendous opportunities that the ‘new space age’ offers to persons of color and to women in the US, as well as to individuals around the world to join in and to be a part of the future,” said Mankins.

# ENTERPRISE STATE

## M1, ESCC PARTNERSHIP OFFERS DUAL BENEFITS FOR EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE

A partnership between M1 Support Services L.P. (M1) and Enterprise State offers dual benefits through employment opportunities and unique training experiences.

“At Enterprise State, we strive to connect our students with career opportunities and address work-force needs with our career and technical programs,” ESCC’s Director of Workforce Development Leigh Shiver said. “M1 is a local leader in the aviation industry who has shown great support to our College, so we are honored to have this partnership with the company that allows us to do both.”

M1 has provided insight into curriculum and training changes for aviation maintenance mechanics and avionics technician programs at the Alabama Aviation College, a unit of Enterprise State. Additionally, M1 has donated training materials to the College.

“M1 worked with Fort Rucker’s Aviation Center Logistics Command (ACLIC) to provide training aids; no longer in use by the military, but of benefit to training airframe mechanics and avionics technicians at the Alabama Aviation College,” Production Control Supervisor Todd Stephens said. “Recently, ACLIC leadership approved M1 to take possession of a ‘cut-away’ TH-67 aircraft trainer. M1 coordinated de-livery of the training aid to the Alabama Aviation College. The aircraft trainer benefits future M1 ap-prentices and demonstrates M1’s commitment to education and employment opportunities for the Wiregrass community.”



ESCC also provides several training opportunities to current M1 employees that allow them to further their current skill set, including a Precision Measurement, Principles of Troubleshooting class, and Leadership classes.

“M1 is proud to have developed an industry/education partnership with ESCC,” Senior Director of Business Operations Brian Mueller said. “M1 conducted a skills needs assessment and with the assistance of the College, developed technical and leadership training relevant to Fort Rucker mission success.”

The two institutions also work together to help recruit future aviation maintenance workers. These recruitment efforts also reach younger students as well. Dual enrollment opportunities to students who wish to begin training while in high school, allowing them to have access to jobs earlier.

“Developing a pipeline of new talent reinforces M1’s workforce capabilities by attracting the best and brightest from the Wiregrass community,” Mueller said. “ESCC partners with M1 to prepare that talent for the many challenging and diverse careers at M1 (Fort Rucker).”

Through this pipeline, M1 has access to highly trained students who are completing their technical training at AAC.

“M1 is a people business,” M1 Vice President and General Manager Donald Galli said. “Developing Wiregrass talent is critical to satisfy our customer’s (Army Aviation) requirements. Technically proficient employees focused on delivering safe, reliable aircraft is M1’s competitive advantage.”

# INGRAM STATE

## INGRAM STATE AND FOUR STAR FREIGHTLINER PARTNER TO OFFER APPRENTICESHIP

Ingram State Technical College is offering students a unique training opportunity with the addition of its first apprenticeship program. The apprenticeship, which will benefit students enrolled in Ingram's diesel mechanics program, is the result of a two-year partnership between the College, Montgomery-based Four Star Freightliner, the Alabama Department of Corrections (ADOC), and the Alabama Office of Apprenticeship (AOA).

"The apprenticeship agreement marks a new level of opportunity for our students," said Ingram President Annette Funderburk. "We could not have asked for a better industry partner to help launch this initiative than Four Star Freightliner. Their commitment to our students and our mission is unparalleled."

The apprenticeship is one part of a comprehensive program designed to prepare students for the transition from classroom to workforce. Participants will complete college courses and earn select lab credit hours as apprentices through Four Star Freightliner.

"I'm grateful for everyone at Ingram State, state leaders, and the Four Star Freightliner team for persevering and making this apprentice program a reality," said Four Star Freightliner Dealer Principal Jerry Kocan. "Now that students are back in the classroom, we can finally begin the process to help them transition to a well-paying career that includes skills that will carry them far into their future."

"We see Alabama's incarcerated population as an untapped resource for the state's employers like Four Star Freightliner," said ADOC Commissioner John Hamm. "This apprenticeship aligns perfectly with ADOC's mission of rehabilitation through training. Inmates learn valuable skills that help them succeed once they reenter society."

During the in-field training, students will work with skilled professionals to maintain and repair diesel engines, as they would on the job. As they progress in the program their in-field hours will increase, enhancing their experience. Students who complete both the program of study and the apprenticeship will then become full-time employees at Four Star Freightliner through the ADOC work release program.



# GADSDEN STATE

## GADSDEN STATE ANNOUNCES CONSTRUCTION OF ADVANCED MANUFACTURING CENTER

Gadsden State Community College will be the home to a new 50,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Advanced Manufacturing Center. President Kathy Murphy made the announcement July 28 during an event held at the Beck Gymnasium. She was joined by Alabama Community College System Chancellor Jimmy Baker; Rep. Ginny Shaver (R-Leesburg); Dr. Alan Cosby, superintendent of Etowah County Schools; Michael Gaines, division leader at Honda Manufacturing of Alabama; and Alan Smith, dean of Workforce Development at Gadsden State.

“Every day is a gift and a blessing but today is also a defining time for us,” Murphy said. “This will impact the community, our service area and the great state of Alabama. This facility will change the lives of those in our communities for good and forever.”

The Gadsden State Advanced Manufacturing Center was identified as a needed project through the ACCS ASPIRE 2030 initiative. The decision to focus on the Advanced Manufacturing Center was determined by committees comprised of Gadsden State employees as well as partners in K-12, government, business and industry, nonprofits and economic development organizations.

“ASPIRE 2030 called on us to be creative, innovative and aspirational,” Murphy said. “It required us to think outside the box. Then, we burned that box so we don’t put ourselves back in it.”

“Gadsden State is proud of the engagement we had with local business and community partners in determining that we had a critical need for an Advanced Manufacturing Center that will provide our region with training in several high-demand, high-wage fields.”

The AMC is among various infrastructure projects that will move forward in the next few years through Public School and College Authority funds for capital improvements at Gadsden State and other state community colleges.

“I have a strong interest in finding a way to make sure the Alabama Community College System is moving our communities forward,” he said. “I believe the community college system is the best vehicle to bring about change in the state of Alabama.”

The AMC will include high-tech laboratory space for programs, such as Mechatronics, Industrial Automation, Precision Machining, Mechanical Design Technology, Additive Manufacturing and Electronics Engineering. It will also house a second FAME chapter for Gadsden State.

“This facility will provide a modern, state-of-the-art space for students to train for extremely high-tech careers that are in high demand and have high wages,” Smith said. “It will allow us to expand capacity to serve more students and provide specific training in an effort to support workforce development and economic development needs. It will give us the ability to increase training capacity by modernizing our facilities and creating a training center for technical dual-enrolled students, traditional college students and students who need non-degree, short-term training.”

For more information, visit [gadsdenstate.edu/amc](https://gadsdenstate.edu/amc).



GMC ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

# JEFFERSON STATE

## TWO JEFFERSON STATE STUDENTS EARN ALL-USA ACADEMIC TEAM HONORS

Two Jefferson State students, Hannah Combs and Frank Lee, were named to the 2022 All-USA Academic Team and honored among the nation's top 20 college students.

Combs and Lee were selected for their intellectual rigor, academic achievement, leadership, civic growth, and for extending their educational experiences to better themselves, their colleges, and their surrounding communities.

"We are extremely proud of Jefferson State Students Hannah Combs and Frank Lee for their commitment to excellence in and out of the classroom," said Jefferson State President Keith Brown. "It is rare to have one student included in the nation's top 20 students, but to have two at one time is quite extraordinary. Hannah and Frank are wonderful examples of perseverance and they are very deserving of this honor."



The All-USA program is widely recognized as the most prestigious academic honor for students seeking an associate degree or credential, and this year, more than 2,200 students were nominated for this award.

"The All-USA Academic team represents the very best students from the nation's two-year colleges," said Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, President and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa. "We are proud of their outstanding engagement both in the classroom and in their communities, and can't wait to see the inspiring things they will do next."

Hannah Combs is a non-speaking student and uses a letterboard for communications. She was the first All-USA candidate in Alabama to use a laminated letterboard as a means of communication. Hannah has been the president and primary researcher for her Phi Theta Kappa chapter. She has been the editor of Jefferson State's literary magazine and received an award for her writing at the Sigma Kappa Delta national convention. She hopes to open a consulting firm to work with school districts, advocating for non-speaking students.

Frank Lee is a non-traditional and first-generation college student who plans to transfer to the University of Alabama at Birmingham and later work in mental health services. He is a U.S. Army veteran who served for eight years. Frank helped to establish a non-profit dedicated to the historical preservation and revitalization of historic downtown Pell City. He has been the vice president of Fellowship at his Phi Theta Kappa chapter and the regional vice president of District Two for the Alabama Region. Frank was also named a 2022 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, the American Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa.

# LAWSON STATE

## LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH FRIENDS OF JACLYN TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR PEDIATRIC BRAIN TUMORS

On Saturday, February 19, 2022, Lawson State Community College adopted two new members to the Cougars baseball program, brothers Joseph and Colton Nelson. Joseph is five years old and a participant in the organization Friends of Jaclyn (FOJ) whose mission is to improve the quality of life for children and their families battling pediatric brain tumors and other childhood cancers while spreading awareness. FOJ does this by pairing afflicted children and their siblings with local high school and college sports teams, campus clubs, and arts programs in their community.

Joseph has a juvenile pilocytic astrocytoma (JPA) brain tumor and currently receives treatment at Children's of Alabama in Birmingham.

Joseph's brother, Colton, was also adopted as part of the Safe on the Sidelines Program designated for the sibling(s) of a child with a pediatric brain tumor or another form of childhood cancer. FOJ operates knowing that an entire family is affected when a child is diagnosed with cancer: A healthy brother or a sister often feels scared and alone. This program allows for the siblings to have their own team to feel special and supported.



Joseph, affectionately known as "Joe Joe", was joined by his parents, Casey and Waylon Nelson, grandmother, Kathy Hardin, and Lawson State Community College president Cynthia T. Anthony, FOJ founder Denis Murphy, ACCC commissioner Dean Myrick, and the entire Cougars baseball team for the adoption ceremony. During the ceremony, both brothers signed on to become members of the Cougars program and received their own personalized baseball jerseys and baseballs with signatures from each player on the Cougars' 2021-2022 roster.

"We are so excited to welcome Joseph and Colton to the Cougar family," said Dr. Anthony. "To know what the Nelson family experiences daily, it was an easy decision to accept this opportunity to be a part of Friends of Jaclyn as a college to rally behind them and cheer them on as Joseph battles this condition. This was just the beginning of a life-changing experience for all of us who met Joseph and Colton."

The team went above and beyond to make the day special for the Nelson family as Joseph had experienced treatment during the week that can sometimes leave him feeling tired and drained. "We had a really bad week in the hospital, so just to see him be a normal child is wonderful," said Joseph and Colton's mother, Casey Nelson.

Joseph, Colton, and the family stayed through the afternoon to watch the Cougars home game against Coastal Alabama-South in which Joseph was able to throw out the first pitch.

To learn more about Friends of Jaclyn and how to become involved as a Guardian Angel, visit <https://friendsofjaclyn.org/>.

# LURLEEN B. WALLACE

## LBW LITTLE BUILDERS

In anticipation of the start of the new Building Construction Program in the fall of 2022, LBW Workforce Development and Continuing Education partnered with Construction Ready to offer 'little builders' classes with local elementary school students.

Construction Ready provides lessons and materials for construction projects through its K-12 Construction Program.

"Skill development is necessary to become self-sustainable and create economic freedom," said LBW Director of Workforce Development Chad Sutton.

"We want to continue to build upon our K-12 partnerships within our service area by developing experiences that engage students at a young age and that will also begin their career exploration and awareness of the opportunities available to them."



LBW has expanded construction offerings with a non-credit Adult Basic Carpentry Class in partnership with the Home Builders Association of Alabama.

The Building Construction program in Luverne, Ala. has stackable credentials, offering both a certificate and an associate of applied science degree. As of August 2022, eleven students had enrolled for the new dual enrollment-eligible program designed to prepare them for many career opportunities in the construction industry.

# MARION MILITARY

## MMI'S PROGRAM EVOLUTION

Marion Military Institute's First Responder (est. 2016) and Flight Training (est. 2009) career development programs continue to evolve.

Targeted to civilian Leadership Education Program (LEP) cadets, the First Responder Program initially encompassed firefighter and EMT certification courses in partnership with the Alabama Fire College. In 2021, MMI added Law Enforcement to this growing contingent. This training/mentoring program is in partnership with the Montgomery Police Department and Shelby County Sheriff's Office.

In September 2021, MMI dedicated its First Responder building, now housing a state-of-the-art law enforcement simulator as well as firefighting and EMT equipment. The planning has begun for how to expand this facility to create a model Fire House, which would further facilitate First Responder training and enhance our community partnership with Marion Volunteer Fire Department.

MMI Fire and EMT cadets also benefit from a "2+2" agreement with the University of West Alabama. UWA and the City of Livingston have collaborated in offering a package of benefits for certified firefighters and EMTs: The City of Livingston hires cadets as paid professional firefighters and provides them a room in the fire house while UWA offers them scholarships and easy credit transfer when participating in the Emergency Management Degree program.



Doing our share to address the national pilot shortage, and in keeping with our long history of Marion Made aviators, MMI offers FAA certified flight training just 7 miles south of campus at Vaiden Field. The "Flying Tigers" program gives cadets the opportunity to pursue a private pilot's license (PPL) during afternoons and weekends. MMI Foundation flight scholarships help offset costs.

The flight training program, under the tutelage of COL Bill Hansen, USMC (Ret) and area certified flight instructors, boasts a Red Bird Flight Simulator to enhance ground training. Former Flying Tigers alumni consistently achieve pilot slots from their respective Service Academies while others enjoy careers as commercial pilots for major U.S. airlines. MMI's strategic vision is to expand our flight training capabilities to expand the opportunity for cadets interested in civil aviation careers.

Additionally, MMI will soon sign an agreement to collaborate with the newly established Alabama Aerospace and Aviation Charter School in Birmingham and Auburn University. For MMI this will be a "2+2" arrangement where students from the AAA Charter School will attend MMI for their first two years, then transfer to AU to complete their commercial flight program. MMI cadets can also transfer to Troy University or enter the Airline Transport Pilot training pipeline.

MMI is also currently working with the Air Force Recruiting Service to establish an "AIM High Flight Academy." This program, funded by the Air Force, is designed to provide a 3-week introduction to flight for high school and college students.

# NORTHEAST ALABAMA

## NORTHEAST ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE UNVEILS TROUPER AND ROSCOE STATUE ON MAY 12TH

Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) unveiled the long-awaited statue featuring the college's beloved mascots on Thursday, May 12, 2022, on the campus quad in front of an excited crowd.

The life-sized bronze statue features two NACC treasures, Trouper the Mustang and Roscoe the Campus Dog, and will memorialize them forever on NACC's campus. What began as a dream of NACC's President Dr. David Campbell is now a reality as the statue has been completed. "This is something we have been wanting to do for a long time," stated Dr. David Campbell. "We think the bronze statue will be an unusual feature of the college, even bringing in some visitors and tourists to see it. Beyond that, the statue will symbolize how the Northeast family takes in and nurtures its students and community and makes the campus their home, as they did with Trouper and Roscoe."

The statue was designed by NACC's Associate Dean of Instructor and talented artist Barbara Kilgore. Kilgore partnered with the University of Alabama's Sculpture Department and the UA foundry to bring the idea to life. Kilgore's design places Trouper and Roscoe nose to nose, facing one another. Kilgore felt this was a perfect representation of NACC, saying, "It occurred to me that Roscoe had chosen us to be a part of his family and that we have chosen Trouper to be a part of our family. I realized that if we were going to have a sculpture that showed the spirit of the institution, it had to include them both. The interaction between the two is one of total acceptance. They are nose to nose, looking at each other. The mood is one of love and respect: the essences of NACC."



Daniel Wallace, friend of NACC and author of *Big Fish*, also contributed to the statue. Wallace wrote the narrative that is to be inscribed in a plaque describing the statue. Wallace's eloquent description will allow readers to become more acquainted with both Trouper and Roscoe and remind readers they will always be welcome at Northeast.

The administration, faculty, staff, and students of Northeast anxiously awaited the completion of this statue and are extremely proud of the finished product. NACC's beloved Roscoe passed away just a few days after the statue's unveiling. For more information about Northeast Alabama Community College, visit [nacc.edu](http://nacc.edu) or download the OneACCS app in the Apple Store or Google Play Store. Follow NACC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn to keep up with the latest announcements, current events, and more.

# NORTHWEST-SHOALS

## NW-SCC RECEIVES GOVERNOR'S SEAL OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE POWER 5 HVAC PROGRAM

Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) has been selected as the winner of the Alabama Governor's Seal of Excellence in Work-Based Learning for the Power 5 Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) apprenticeship program.

"It is a tremendous honor to receive the Governor's Seal of Excellence in Work-Based Learning," said NW-SCC President Dr. Jeff Goodwin. "Our work-based learning team does a tremendous job of partnering with area businesses and industry to develop programs, like the Power 5, to get our students plugged directly into the workforce."

NW-SCC began the Power 5 program in January 2020. It is the first registered, competency-based HVAC apprenticeship in Alabama. At the time of its inception, the Power 5 program had 22 apprentices, all of whom were placed in work-based learning during the first semester, and eight pre-apprentices completing the Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) credential in their high schools.

HVAC Instructor Randy Corsbie works directly with industry partners to train students and place apprentices in the field. "The HVAC industry in our area has needed a program like this for several years," stated Corsbie. "It has been amazing to work with our industry partners to help build a program that has filled immediate workforce needs in the HVAC industry. We have experienced tremendous growth in the program and I believe it will continue to increase."

In its first year, the HVAC program experienced an enrollment increase of 72% in one year. Student participation in the Power 5 program continues to grow. The program currently has 38 apprentices, 3 pre-apprentices, and 12 applicants. The flexibility of the program gives students previously disconnected from post-secondary education an opportunity to start or continue their education while earning a competitive wage. Apprentices range in age from 18 to 60.

During the transition to remote work and learning due to the COVID 19 pandemic, no Power 5 apprentice lost any work opportunities. Corsbie utilized FaceTime, video chat platforms, and messaging applications to observe students in the field and provide instant feedback while students completed installation and repair calls. "I feel like this really helped our students learn to adapt," said Corsbie. "In the field you face all kinds of problems that you are not expecting, this helped them learn that first-hand while they were still in school."

For more information about the Power 5 program at NW-SCC, visit <https://www.nwsc.edu/power5>.



# SHELTON STATE

## SHELTON STATE INTRODUCES THE “YOU ARE IN!” PARTNERSHIP

Shelton State Community College’s spring 2022 semester marked the beginning of new initiatives designed to provide enhanced educational opportunities and to empower potential college students. The College’s “You are in!” partnership with the Tuscaloosa City Schools (TCS) and the Tuscaloosa County Schools System (TCSS) is an example of these efforts.

As they approach their senior year, many high school students do not have a plan beyond graduation. Future decisions for these students are influenced by a variety of factors, and Shelton State took steps to remove an often-perceived barrier. With the College’s open admission policy in mind, students in both systems were targeted for recruitment through intentional messaging that college is available to anyone who has earned a high school diploma.



The “You are in!” campaign highlighted open admission with a fresh approach.

“The ease of our registration process is one of the most appealing aspects of community college enrollment,” stated Dr. Cox. “By directly promoting automatic acceptance, we are telling students we want them on our campus. It doesn’t matter what their GPA looks like or what skill set they currently possess; we believe we have something to offer to their future.”

In both school systems, preparation is a priority. TCS and TCSS want their students to graduate with certainty about their next steps. “We want to ensure that all TCS graduates have a plan when they graduate high school,” said TCS Superintendent Mike Daria. “This partnership helps gives students a path forward and assists them in the process of furthering their education.”

As part of the partnership, admission advisors from Shelton State visited all schools in the participating systems for “Admit Express Day” events. Students were able to seek assistance with the registration process and ask questions related to their interests. During these designated campus visits, graduating seniors were able to submit applications and photo IDs to be automatically accepted. In addition to its simplicity, the affordability of the streamlined admission process was a game-changer for many students.

“Not having to pay an application fee is a big deal for our kids,” said TCSS Superintendent Keri Johnson. “College application fees are not cheap. But here, there is no fee, and you know you are going to get in right out of the gate. It’s really a win. There is no danger in the students signing up to be part of Shelton’s program.”

The impact of the “You are in!” partnership and campaign is ongoing. While enrollment numbers continue to grow, the true benefit of this messaging is its sustainability.

“Our ability to meet the needs of all students will remain unchanged,” said Dr. Cox. “As we’ve learned with these two school systems, communicating our open admission policy supports and sometimes reaches beyond traditional recruitment practices. We certainly plan to build on this, and we look forward to seeing where our next partnerships take us.”

# SNEAD STATE

## SNEAD STATE CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

“Build a strong foundation, and you can reach even the most unthinkable heights.” (M.J. Moores)

When the strong foundation for Snead State Community College was laid in 1898, the founders didn’t have this adage in mind, but their work marked the beginning of an educational legacy that spans 125 years.

With its quasiquicentennial anniversary approaching, Snead State has much to celebrate as it emerges stronger from the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The College completed its Summer 2022 semester with a strong enrollment that ranked Snead State as one of the top five largest community colleges within the Alabama Community College System based on headcount enrollment. Applications for the upcoming Fall semester continue to grow.

In addition to welcoming new students for the Fall semester, Snead State will launch a new career and technical program – Welding Technology.

Students can earn an Associate in Applied Science degree in Welding Technology, as well as a certificate as a Welding Technologist and short-term certificates in Welding and as a Welding Technician.



“Welding is a critical skill utilized by our local business and industry. Our community leaders share with us often the need for trained welders in the local workforce. We’re proud to have this program beginning this fall, so we can meet the need in our community,” said Snead State President Dr. Joe. Whitmore.

The growth with Snead State’s career and technical education is an example of why the College is building a state-of-the-art workforce training facility. Snead State’s Career and Technical Training Center will be an approximately 45,000-square-foot project that is expected to initially house four Career and Technical Education programs – Welding Technology, Industrial Systems Technology with Additive Manufacturing, Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning, and Refrigeration, and Machine Tool Technology. In addition, the center will have adaptable and flexible space to interchange programs as needed by the local workforce. A conference area, engineering design, and 3D fabrication laboratory is also expected.

“The new facility is the culmination of the support Snead State has received from our partners, including Governor Kay Ivey, Senate Majority Leader Clay Scofield, and the Marshall County Board of Education. We negotiated with the board to locate the facility next to the campus of Marshall Technical School in Guntersville, which will provide a centralized location for critical job skills training,” said Dr. Whitmore.

With much to celebrate, the College plans to host a series of special events open to the community. The series will kick off with the Founders Day Festival scheduled for Sept. 17. The festival is an expansion of the first Founders Day event held in 2021. This year’s festival will include a Founders Day pageant, live entertainment, arts and crafts and a kids’ corner.

# SOUTHERN UNION

## SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF COMMUNITY

From its very beginnings in 1922, Southern Union State Community College has been rooted in community, and it is that sense of community that SUSCC is celebrating as it commemorates 100 years of service to the citizens of east Alabama and beyond.

Chartered on June 2, 1922, by the Southern Convention of Christian Churches (which later became the Congregational Christian Church), SUSCC began in Wadley, Ala., as Bethlehem College, a private bible school established to provide two years of coeducational college training to local residents at a minimum of expense.

Today, SUSCC is the second-oldest community college in the state with three campuses serving an eight-county area of east central Alabama and parts of Georgia. While it has changed and adapted since its early days, that same spirit of community on which the college was founded remains its driving force, said SUSCC's Director of Public Relations Shondae Brown.

"Throughout Southern Union's long history, community has been at its core," she said.

"This college was not only founded to serve our community, it has thrived—and sometimes only survived—because local citizens have continually supported, guided and joined with us."

The resilient little college that began with 51 students and five faculty members currently has an enrollment of more than 4,000 students and more than 200 full-time employees and continues to work within—and with—its communities to meet their ever-changing needs.

Among its many projects, SUSCC is collaborating with regional business leaders to create new workforce development programs preparing local residents for high-paying jobs in the region's fast-growing manufacturing economy. It is also expanding options in health sciences introducing new opportunities in that area.

According to SUSCC President Todd Shackett, this powerful connection to community is and always will be integral to the college's mission and efforts.

"Community isn't just part of Southern Union's long history or even its name," he said. "It's what drives and inspires us. We are committed to continuing that partnership to help make our communities stronger through education, and we look forward to the next 100 years of growing and advancing together."

The college has held activities throughout the year to celebrate its centennial including performing 100 acts of service in its communities and hosting an inaugural distinguished alumni recognition event. SUSCC will host a community wide/alumni picnic in October to commemorate the milestone.



# TRENHOLM STATE

## TRENHOLM STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE LAUNCHES RIVER REGION FAME PROGRAM

The discussions to initiate the development of the River Region FAME (Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education) chapter with Trenholm State serving as the designated educational institution began over 3 years ago. During this time, a great deal of work, partnership development, financial commitments, marketing, recruitment, recruitment, meetings, and discussion have brought this initiative to the point of successful implementation whereby students chosen as participants for this program have begun employment with the various manufacturing partners/members and will begin their educational activities this fall.

The FAME Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT) program, created by Toyota and now managed by The Manufacturing Institute, produces global-best, entry-level, multi-skilled maintenance technicians through a concentrated co-op program of study that includes earning an associate degree, daily reinforcement of behaviors and actions necessary to stand apart in today's workforce, and a deep development of manufacturing cultures and Lean practices that fully equip the AMT to produce bottom-line company improvements.



The River Region FAME students receive training and competency validation in five Manufacturing Core Exercises (MCEs) which include Safety Culture, 5S/Visual Workplace Organization, Lean Manufacturing for Maintenance, Problem Solving, and Machine Reliability; each topic is introduced sequentially and reinforced consistently after the introduction. Additionally, these exercises are paired with real-world experience to increase engagement and skills retention. Professional Behaviors complement both the technical core and MCEs and these behaviors are introduced, reinforced, and practiced daily to ensure the AMT gains not only the technical and cultural capability for manufacturing, but the professional bearing to be successful in any environment.

The current and future participants in the River Region FAME program will pursue a five-semester schedule composed of three days at work paired with two days in a shop-floor emulation (the FAME Technical Center) at the Trenholm State Patterson site. This schedule of paid work alternating with academic preparation enables students to earn a paycheck that can defray tuition and fees as they complete an associate degree while growing personal and professional skills that will greatly accelerate their maintenance career.

Although Trenholm State serves as the designated educational entity for this program, six local manufacturing companies govern and provide oversight for the entire program. The current River Region FAME chapter members include Coca-Cola, Hager Companies, Hyundai Motor Manufacturing of Alabama, Inteplast Engineered Films, International Paper, James Hardie Building Products, and Rheem Water Manufacturing. The inaugural class includes 10 individuals that completed an in-depth selection process. Each of the students are working for one of the noted companies and are on their way to an extremely rewarding career that provides significant wages.

# WALLACE - DOTHAN

## WCCD COLLABORATES WITH ACOM, TROY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS DURING INTERPROFESSIONAL SIMULATION

In February 2022, Wallace Community College-Dothan (WCCD) hosted a day-long, joint Interprofessional Education (IPE) medical simulation session in the Health Sciences Simulation Center located inside the Heersink Family Health Sciences on the Wallace Campus in Dothan. The IPE simulation was a collaborative event between WCCD, the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Troy University.

During the session, students from each institution worked together to care for a standardized patient, with the goal of gaining a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities each profession has in patient care.

This session is part of an ongoing series of collaborative events between WCCD nursing students, ACOM medical students, and Troy University Dothan nursing and social work students. The program is designed to underscore the value of team-based healthcare. The students were placed in interprofessional groups to encourage collaborative teamwork and problem-solving. The students participated in breakout sessions for a team-building exercise, followed by a case study segment in which each team member was assigned specific roles.



“Wallace is pleased to host this Interprofessional education simulation,” said Dr. Jacqueline Spivey, WCCD Division Director, Associate Degree Nursing. “This simulation allows different members of the healthcare team to communicate with each other to benefit the patient outcomes as well as the healthcare team members cooperative care. This simulation does benefit the students by preparing them for the world outside of the classroom. We are proud to once again partner with ACOM and Troy. As always, it is such an exciting day to see how the groups interact in such a collegial manner to enhance quality patient care.”

# WALLACE - SELMA

## WCCS AWARDED A PREDOMINANTLY BLACK INSTITUTIONS GRANT

In pursuant to the college's mission, WCCS was recently awarded a \$250,000 grant to increase educational opportunities for high school students in the College's service area (Dallas County, Greene County, Hale County, Lowndes County, Marengo County, Perry County, Sumter County, and Wilcox County).

Minority Outreach, a grant-funded program, was developed through the U.S. Department of Education's Predominantly Black Institutions Program - Competitive Grants in October 2021. The focus of this program is to expand higher education opportunities and increase persistence in postsecondary education for first-generation, low-income, African-American students within the eight counties covered by Wallace Community College Selma's service area. "This program will provide direct support to students in our service area on how to navigate entry into higher education, whether as a dual student or high school graduate," said Dr. Donitha Griffin, Dean of Students and Executive Assistant to the President.

The WCCS grant will provide access to higher education for secondary students through visits to high schools to share opportunities available through Dual Enrollment and by hosting high school students on visits to the College. Persistence from the fall to the spring semesters for First-Time Freshmen is achieved through a focus on these students' First Year Experience (FYE) via LIFE 101 workshop sessions, visits to four-year institutions, and student success coaching.



"Focusing on the experience of First-Time Freshmen, our initial cohort of students for the Fall 2021 semester contained 96 African-

American, First-Generation, and Low-Income students who graduated high school in the Spring of 2021. The College was able to retain 82% of those students for Spring 2022 and provided access to educational and cultural opportunities outside of their familiar scope of opportunity," said Marie Jones, Director of Minority Outreach. "These students were able to look beyond their present educational goals through visits to 4-year higher education institutions, such as The University of Alabama and Alabama State University. We look forward to providing these same and more opportunities for access and success to our incoming Fall 2022 cohort of freshmen students."

"According to Education Data Initiative, most college students who drop out of college do so in the first academic year. One of the program's goals is to provide targeted support to first-time freshmen to increase persistence. We believe if they are successful in the first year, they are more likely to continue and graduate," added Griffin.

# WALLACE STATE

## WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE EARNS APPRENTICESHIP AMBASSADOR DESIGNATION BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Wallace State Community College has been selected as an Apprenticeship Ambassador by the United States Department of Labor.

The Department of Labor's newly announced Apprenticeship Ambassador Initiative seeks to create a national network of employers, labor organizations, industry association, program sponsors, educators, workforce intermediaries, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders to serve as champions for expanding and diversifying Registered Apprenticeships.

"This is a big win for Wallace State. We're excited to earn this distinction and we're working hard to fulfill the expectations involved with being an ambassador. Since applying, we've expanded the number of apprenticeship opportunities for our students and will continue to do so," said Christina Holmes, Wallace State's Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning Coordinator in the Center for Career and Workforce Development. "We have a great relationship at the state level with the Alabama Office of Apprenticeship and now have recognition at the national level with the Department of Labor."

Through the program, Wallace State is an Apprenticeship Ambassador for a two-year term and can reapply for continued membership. Benefits from the program include earning national recognition as an Apprenticeship Ambassador, including elevating efforts to expand and diversify Registered Apprenticeships; being a part of a network of industry, workforce, education, equity and labor apprenticeship champions where Wallace State can share best practices; and earning the opportunity to partner with the Department of Labor to shape Registered Apprenticeship expansion and diversification in local industry, supply chain, and the local area.

Wallace State currently offers 10 Registered Apprenticeships for its students in fields including Nursing, Tool & Die Maker, Industrial Maintenance Mechanic, CNC Machinist, Truck Mechanics, and more.

Reliance Worldwide Corporation; Kamtek/Magna; Met-South, Inc; American Trim, LLC; YKTA; Sonoco, ORE Earthworks; Trigreen Equipment; and ACTION Resources are among the industry apprenticeship partners for Wallace State.

As part of the initiative, Holmes said the college will continue to conduct local outreach to businesses and employers; participate in DOL-hosted Apprenticeship Ambassador events; and diversify its targeted audience, recruiting interested women, veterans/military, and those in rural communities.

Holmes said Wallace State is the only Alabama college to earn the distinction. The award was announced in June 2022.



# ACCA CONFERENCE VENDORS / AFFILIATES

