

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

CHARTING THE PATH

FALL

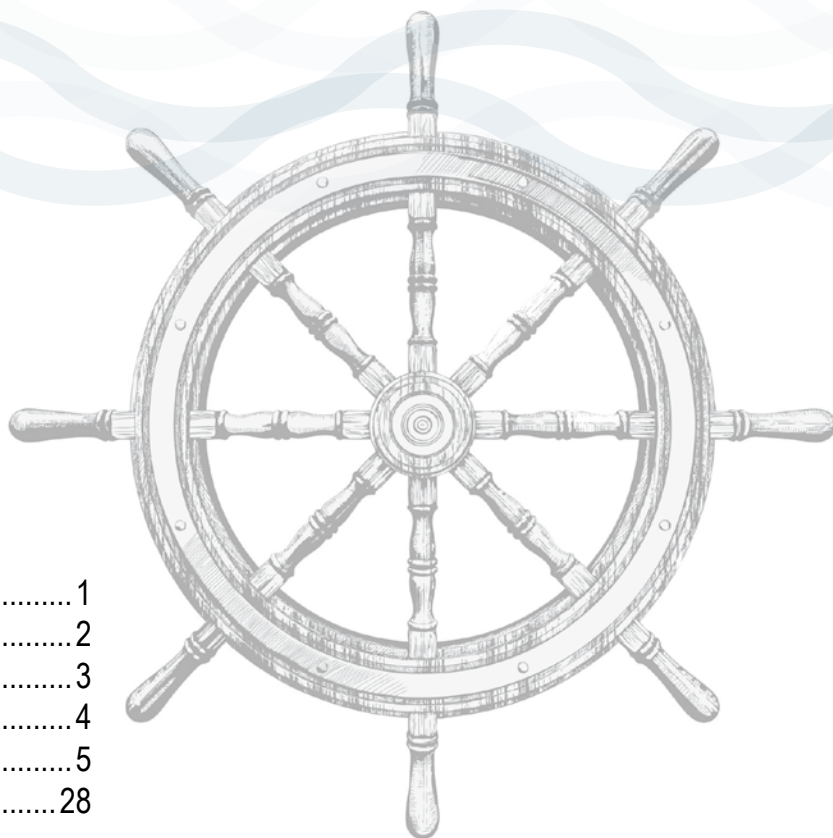
2019

Alabama Community College Association

ACCA JOURNAL

TO STUDENT SUCCESS

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2019 ACCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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ACCA President's Message

The 2019 Alabama Community College Association Executive Committee offers greetings to all individuals in the Community College System. The Executive Committee is elated to present the Annual Conference at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Spa, November 24 – 26, 2019. We are in the process of completing those activities that will provide an awesome conference experience. We invite you to prepare for attendance at the conference by registering and securing your hotel reservations. Please visit our ACCA website for registration and reservations.

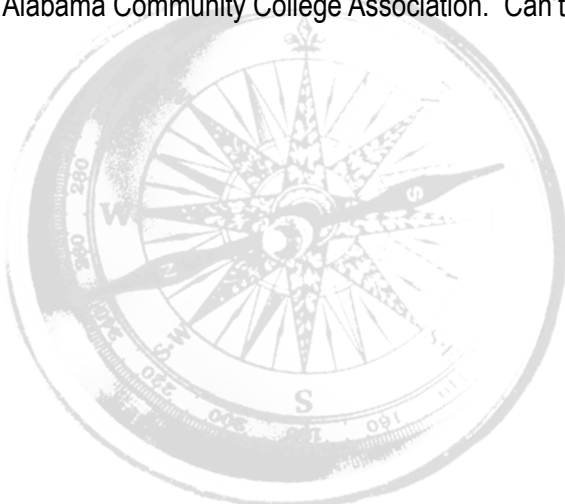
We have selected some exciting proposals from those that were submitted from across the Alabama Community College System. The conference theme, “Charting the Path to Student Success” aligns with our Alabama Community College System’s theme: Laser Focused on Student Experience. Engaging sessions will provide activities, discuss best practices, and share sound strategies. Each institution represented at the conference has at heart the success of their students. This conference will allow you an opportunity to participate in sessions focused on student success in the classroom and beyond your college’s door. All employees of the colleges will have an opportunity to attend sessions designed to encourage student success no matter what your position they serve at their college. Our students are members of the future workforce and citizens charged with keeping Alabama as a thriving state. Our colleges are responsible for providing an avenue for students to become positive contributors to our society. Keynote speakers’ addresses concur with our belief that our students will advance technology, educate generations to come, and maintain the economy.

In addition to the conference, we offer professional development webinars, which are offered throughout the year and are available on our website. We ask that you take a moment to review this edition of the ACCA Journal in order to learn about the exciting activities being conducted by ACCA and its member institutions. We hope that you will be inspired to get on board with “Charting the Path to Student Success”.

We look forward to your participation at the 2019 Alabama Community College Association Conference. Thank you for supporting your Alabama Community College Association. Can’t wait to see you in November!



DR. VICTORIA PERRY
2019 ACCA PRESIDENT



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

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

NOVEMBER 24-26, 2019

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:

SEPTEMBER 1 - OCTOBER 31.....\$175.00

NOVEMBER 1 - CONFERENCE DATES.....\$200.00

HOTEL INFORMATION:

**ROOM RATES ARE \$96.00 PER NIGHT. TO MAKE A
RESERVATION, GO TO ALABAMACCA.ORG AND CLICK
ON “CONFERENCE” IN THE TOP BAR. THE LAST DAY
TO BOOK YOUR ROOM IS THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24.**

A Sneak Peek at this year's Keynote Speakers



FIRST GENERAL SESSION

DR. FREEMAN A. HRABOWSKI, III - UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski, President of UMBC (University of Maryland, Baltimore County) since 1992, is a consultant on science and math education to national agencies, universities, and school systems. He was named by President Obama to chair the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans. He also chaired the National Academies' committee that produced the report, *Expanding Underrepresented Minority Participation: America's Science and Technology Talent at the Crossroads* (2011). His 2013 TED talk highlights the "Four Pillars of College Success in Science."

Named one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World by TIME (2012) and one of America's Best Leaders by U.S. News & World Report (2008), he also received TIAA-CREF's Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence (2011), the Carnegie Corporation's Academic Leadership Award (2011), and the Heinz Award (2012) for contributions to improving the "Human Condition." More recently, he received the American Council on Education's Lifetime Achievement Award (2018) and was named a recipient of the University of California, Berkeley's Clark Kerr Award (2019). UMBC has been recognized as a model for inclusive excellence by such publications as U.S. News, which the past 10 years has recognized UMBC as a national leader in academic innovation and undergraduate teaching. Dr. Hrabowski's most recent book, *Holding Fast to Dreams: Empowering Youth from the Civil Rights Crusade to STEM Achievement*, describes the events and experiences that played a central role in his development as an educator and leader.



SECOND GENERAL SESSION

DR. JENNIFER BLALOCK, CHIEF STRATEGY & STUDENT SUCCESS OFFICER, BRISBANE HIGHER EDUCATION SOLUTIONS

With over two decades of proven leadership in higher education, workforce and community development, and nonprofit management, Dr. Jennifer Blalock has joined the Reflecting Freedom team to focus on strategic partnerships, global transformation, and workforce development. The youngest of five children, raised by a single mother in poverty, Blalock, a first generation college graduate, holds a doctorate in Organizational and Higher Education Leadership from Nova Southeastern University; a Masters in Adult Education from the University of Southern Mississippi; and a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature

from Mercyhurst University. A nationally recognized facilitator, speaker, and consultant, Blalock specializes in building and cultivating workforce and economic development partnerships and innovative programming that integrates opportunities for formerly incarcerated adults and justice involved youth to realize their full potential by developing invaluable powerful personal and professional skills. Other areas of expertise include college and career readiness for under-resourced populations; positive youth and family development; organizational change and change leadership; strategic goal setting and more. She has dedicated her career to building pathways, streamlining processes, and increasing access to higher education and training for students of all ages and backgrounds, citing such opportunities as her golden ticket to personal and professional transformation.

CONFERENCE-AT-A-GLANCE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019

12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Conference Registration	Exhibit Halls BC (1st Floor)
1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Association Meetings	
	Instructional Administrators Association	Montgomery Meeting Room 1
	Information Services Association	Montgomery Meeting Room 6
	Alabama Deans of Students Association	Montgomery Meeting Room 7
	Instructional Officers Association	Montgomery Meeting Room 8
	President's Association	Montgomery Meeting Room 9
	Librarian Association	Riverview Meeting Room 1
	Adult Education Directors	Riverview Meeting Room 2
	Facilities and Safety Association	Riverview Meeting Room 3
	Public Relations Association	Riverview Meeting Room 4
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Newcomers' Session	Montgomery Meeting Room 4
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Chancellor's Awards Ceremony	Alabama Ballrooms (AB)
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	ACCA Conference Opening Reception	Exhibit Halls Concourse
	<i>Immediately following the Chancellor's Awards Ceremony</i>	

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Conference Registration	Exhibit Halls (BC)
7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.	Light Breakfast	Exhibit Halls (BC)
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Vendor Expo	Exhibit Halls (BC)
8:15 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Concurrent Session I	
9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	First General Session	Alabama Ballrooms (AB)
11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Chancellor's Address/Luncheon	Exhibit Halls BC
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Concurrent Session II	
2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Refreshment Break	Exhibit Halls (BC)
2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.	Commission Meetings/Elections	Alabama Ballrooms (A-E)
	Commission on Administration	Alabama Ballroom C
	Commission on Faculty	Alabama Ballroom AB
	Commission on Students	Alabama Ballroom D
	Commission on Support	Alabama Ballroom E
	Commission on Workforce Development	Montgomery Meeting Room 7
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Concurrent Session III	
8:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.	Entertainment	Alabama Ballrooms (C, D, E)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2019

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.	Light Breakfast	Exhibit Halls (BC)
8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Concurrent Session IV	
9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Coffee Break	Exhibit Halls (BC)
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Second General Session/ACCA Business Meeting	Alabama Ballrooms (AB)

2019 ACCA ELECTIONS

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

ONLINE ELECTIONS FOR THE POSITION OF SECOND VICE PRESIDENT WILL BE HELD IN OCTOBER AT ALABAMACCA.ORG. INFORMATION ABOUT THE CANDIDATES APPEARS BELOW.



Mrs. Annette Funderburk
President
Ingram State Technical College

Mrs. Funderburk currently serves as President of J.F. Ingram Technical College. The College serves the citizens of Alabama by offering accessible, responsive, and quality postsecondary career and technical education to incarcerated adults and eligible parolees, helping them to successfully return to their families and communities. Ingram is the only 100 percent institutionalized educational provider in the State of Alabama.

Ms. Funderburk, who served most recently as Director of External Affairs for the ACCS System Office and in various other capacities within the System Office since April 2008, was appointed to the position on January 30, 2017.

In addition to her experience at the ACCS System Office, Funderburk worked in county administration for Tallapoosa and Talladega counties where her responsibilities included management oversight of county jails. She earned a Master of Public Administration from Troy University, has a certificate in governmental accounting and was a 2017 Community College Fellow, which was comprised of community college system leaders from Alabama and Mississippi. She is also a member of the Sunrise Rotary Club and the Alabama Community College System Executive Board.



Dr. Ashli Wilkins
Vice President and Dean of Institutional Services and Community Development
Wallace Community College - Dothan

Dr. Ashli Wilkins is the Vice President and Dean of Institutional Services and Community Development at Wallace Community College-Dothan, AL. In her senior-level position, she supervises the Adult Education, Advancement, Effectiveness, Human Resources, Planning and Quality, PR and Marketing, and Workforce Development Departments at the College. Dr. Wilkins also serves as the accreditation and legal liaison for the College. She believes the role of her division is to support student success and completion by shaping an environment conducive to success through effective marketing, continuous showcasing of student achievement, employing the most qualified faculty and staff, and securing external funding.

Her position allows her to work closely with all facets of the College and community to ensure that the region has a highly educated, skilled, and qualified workforce and that students receive an outstanding educational experience which prepares them for academic transfer or the workplace. Under her leadership, the College has received almost 25 million dollars in grant funds over the last four years to support cutting-edge instructional initiatives and student support services. These initiatives resulted in the College's being named a Top Ten Bellwether Finalist in 2015 and a 2016 and 2017 American Association of Community Colleges Award of Excellence Finalist.

Dr. Wilkins was awarded an Aspen Fellowship in 2017, and she serves on the Board of Directors for the Dothan Houston County Library System, the Alfred Saliba Family Services Center, and the Rickey Shirley Foundation. She also serves on the Flowers Hospital Surgical Technology Advisory Board and is a past board member for the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Wilkins received her Doctor of Philosophy degree in curriculum and teaching in 2007 from Auburn University, and she received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in biology and English education from Troy University.

BEVILL STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BEVILL STATE TRANSFORMS INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Bevill State Community College is focused on student success. It is a top priority of the College to encourage students to prepare for their college coursework and to maximize their potential for academic success. This focus led to the development of the new Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), TIPS (Transforming Instructional Programs for Success).

Through multiple meetings, discussions, and surveys the College garnered broad-based input from institutional constituents, including faculty, staff, students, and community representatives regarding identifying topics and strategies to improve student learning and success. From this collection of data three primary instructional strategies emerged that needed to be accomplished to increase the success rate of Bevill State students.

First, the College will re-design and standardize the freshmen orientation course curriculum beginning in the Spring semester of 2020 to include study strategies associated with student success. Orientation faculty will meet to determine a standardized list of study strategies and topics (i.e., test-taking skills, note-taking, time management, etc.) to be covered in every orientation course as well as a standardized grading scale.

In conjunction with the re-design of the freshmen orientation course, the College will implement surveys and focus groups to obtain formative data. The College will assess perceptions of learning and obtain feedback from students regarding the new ongoing strategies. The primary emphasis on this data will be to determine whether or not the new teaching strategies are correlated with student learning and persistence and subsequently to determine any additions or changes which we need to be made to the new coursework.

The second strategy implemented will be the development of unit objectives for all of the College's top ten enrollment courses to provide clear expectations for students of what they will be able to do (explain, discuss, state, list, etc.), upon completion of each unit covered in the course. Unit objectives can help students differentiate what to study which can enhance learning and ultimately yield increased and favorable results in the areas of class attendance, student satisfaction, and course performance.

Finally, instructor-made lecture videos for the selected courses will be provided to students. Lecture videos provide a 24/7 resource for students in their studies. These videos will be 10-15 minutes in length and should be linked to the unit objectives. Research

suggests lecture videos often improve student perceptions of their learning and contribute to student success by providing students with access to self-paced content. In addition, recorded videos free class time to utilize problem solving and application activities.

Both the standardized unit objectives and the lecture video strategies will be implemented incrementally in different semesters over the timeline of the QEP.



BISHOP STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ALABAMA POWER AND BISHOP STATE PARTNER TO CREATE A LINEMAN TRAINING PROGRAM

Bishop State Community College and Alabama Power Company are partnering to offer a lineman training program. The pre-apprentice line worker program will prepare students to work as potential electric utility linemen for Alabama Power and other utility companies in the state and across the Gulf Coast region.

The inaugural program, set to begin on January 6, 2020, will be housed on the college's Southwest campus on Dauphin Island Parkway in Mobile, Alabama. Students chosen to participate will learn the fundamentals of electricity as well as the basic math and science needed to work on power lines. There will also be an emphasis on working safely. Students will receive credentials in OSHA 10 Safety, a commercial driver's license (CDL), and a CPR certification.

"We are thrilled that this training center is coming to Bishop State," said Dr. Reginald Sykes, Bishop State President. "This is yet another example of Bishop State providing workforce training for the Mobile County area."

"They're great partners," said Jimmy Baker, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System. "They bring in resources and expertise and help us develop training programs so that the people of the community can participate and find a rewarding job. That's what it's all about."

A newly renovated building on the campus serves as the training space and is complete with three classrooms and a learning laboratory. The lineman training field, an outdoor hands-on learning area located in front of the campus, has drawn a lot of attention to the program and will be used as an area where the linemen-in-training can practice the techniques they have learned in the classroom.

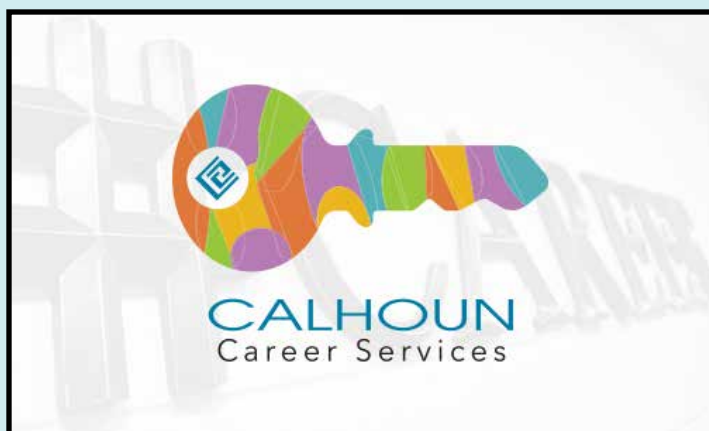
"We are excited to partner with Bishop State to provide a facility where Alabamians can train for good, safe jobs in our industry," said Jeff Peoples, Alabama Power senior vice president of Employee Services and Labor Relations.

Up to 25 students will be accepted in the inaugural nine-week program with plans to have additional sessions in the near future.



CALHOUN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CALHOUN'S CAREER SERVICES DEPARTMENT RAISES THE BAR FOR STUDENT SUCCESS



The Calhoun Community College Career Services Department was established as an independent department at Calhoun in September of 2016, and has since become a comprehensive career center that is responsible for career advising/exploration, cooperative learning, employment preparation, employer engagement, and ultimately placement opportunities. Students that visit the career services department begin their career planning process with a brief career assessment, career comparisons, and job shadowing. The Career Services team believes “Charting the Path” to student success begins with a comprehensive career services department.

The department hosts several annual events that provide an overview of the many different programs and services that are available to students, such as:

- “Finding FAME”, which is an event that offers the opportunity to over 200 area high school students to learn more about the Alabama FAME (Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education) program which is ideal for students who have a high interest in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) field. Students that attend this event are able to network with potential employers and hear panel discussions featuring FAME students who give a first-hand account of experiences and opportunities available with the sponsor companies.
- EPIC Program Information Sessions, which stands for Excellence in Process Industrial Controls (EPIC), was patterned after Calhoun’s very suc-

cessful FAME (Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education) program. The EPIC program combines an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Process Technology with two years of paid industry experience. This program is ideal for students who have a high interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) fields and are interested in pursuing a career in the chemical manufacturing industry.

- Pathway to Success – Career Advising. Many students are intimidated by choosing a college major and career path. Calhoun’s career advisors assist current and prospective students with the career exploration process. Our motto is “It’s okay not to know; it’s not okay to stay there”. Students are introduced to career services during a presentation in their orientation course. The goal is to connect with undecided students early in their college journey and assist them with developing a career path that they enjoy.
- CO-OP Program. The University Transfer agreement with UAH, Alabama A&M, Athens State, and UNA allow active co-op students the opportunity to retain their co-op position when transferring to a local university. This arrangement is beneficial for all parties involved. The students are able to continue building their resume with related experience, employers are able to retain the student longer, and the university gains an existing student/employer partnership.

Academic Year Co-Op Enrollment Growth

2016-17 to 2017-18 47.2%

2017-18 to 2018-19 43.5%

2016-17 to 2018-19 111%

Calhoun’s Career Services department has celebrated numerous milestones, such as the FAME program boasts a 71% graduation rate, 100% job placement rate for graduates, as well as Mazda/Toyota and Westrock being recently added as a sponsor company. Calhoun’s success with this program drove the expansion of FAME to other community colleges throughout the state.

CENTRAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CACC'S RAY WINS BEST SPEECH AT PTK INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

"Why would I think I can do this? I must be insane." That is what Maryshay Ray opened up her speech with at the Phi Theta Kappa Regional Convention in Birmingham. Most would think she was referring to actually getting up in front of a crowd and giving a speech. Well, that wasn't the case. See Maryshay is a non-traditional student at Central Alabama Community College, who is married with three children, and what she was referring to is what she says most non-traditional students say to themselves when debating whether or not they can go to college.

"I'm an example of someone who had everything planned out the way I wanted, or at least I thought I did. Well, my life hasn't turned out the way I envisioned it to, but I learned, through life lessons, that you can still control your own destiny no matter if your life goes as planned or not."

Ray began her career in the US Army, and according to her, would still be in the military if she hadn't suffered a few injuries that forced her to retire early.

"I absolutely loved the military and I planned to have a long career," Ray mentioned.

"I broke my back and my hip in a training exercise overseas that forced me to retire a lot sooner than I wanted."

After suffering those injuries, Ray decided that going to college would be the next path she would take, but it wasn't that easy. Being the mother of three and married, there was a lot of thought on whether this was the right path. In addition, Ray would be the first in her family to ever attend college.

"CACC has provided me with the opportunity to still achieve my goals and dreams," Ray said

"This is my message to all non-traditional students. Resiliency is the key. There is nothing too big or too small in life you can't find a solution to. Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something. Only you can determine how far you want to go in life. It's ok to have fear but its not ok to allow fear to keep you from doing something great!"



Ray holds up her award for winning the Region.

As a student who has excelled in the classroom, Ray was invited to join Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges. Through that organization she competed and won the best persuasive speech in the region. As the regional winner Ray represented the state at the International Convention in Orlando Florida. After making the final cut, Ray delivered her speech before the convention crowd and won first place overall for the Nation!

Her topic was, "How to persuade a non-traditional student to join PTK." Ray mentioned that this was a very easy speech to write but very emotional to deliver.

After CACC, Ray plans to transfer to Auburn University to pursue a degree in Psychology.

CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CVCC GED GRADUATE INSPIRES FATHER TO PURSUE DEGREE

As a junior in high school, John Newman was failing his classes. He had struggled throughout his K-12 education and made the decision to drop out of school. Soon after leaving high school, he enrolled in the GED program at Chattahoochee Valley Community College (CVCC), and his outlook on life and his future changed for the better.

"I used to feel like I couldn't do it, and failure was my only option," said Newman. "After high school, I felt like I wasn't going to get a job or have anything, because I'm a drop-out. Then, once I heard about the GED program, I thought, 'that might be good for me.' Now that I'm doing a little bit at a time, I can focus and not get bored, and it's a lot easier for me to learn."

At an early age, Newman was diagnosed with narcolepsy, a condition that causes abnormal sleep-wake cycles. The GED classes were a good fit for Newman.

"He knew he wouldn't be stuck at a desk for eight hours and could work at his own pace which was helpful in managing his condition," said Newman's father, Eddie Fugate. "He's a very intelligent young man; we've always known if he sets his mind to something, he can do it."

"When we were younger, people made fun of him," said his brother, Joseph (Joey) Fugate. "As I got older, I began to understand that I needed to let him know that he has my support 100 percent. At his GED gradu-

ation, we were all cheering for him. I think we were the loudest ones there."

Newman was able to transition right into CVCC's Welding program and has been enrolled since the fall of 2018. Attending CVCC is a family affair for Newman, his father, and his brother. In the process of seeing his son pursue his GED, Fugate, began taking classes at the College to work toward becoming a math teach-

er. His other son, Joey, was already attending the College to pursue a fire science degree. Fugate says his children inspire him in many ways, and CVCC was the perfect place for them all.

"I was definitely afraid of going back to school, because it has been so long since I last attended," he said. "I had spent the last 20 plus years in the military, and I wanted

to transition into another career. One of the big reasons I chose CV is because I wanted to go small, get my feet wet again, and get back into a rhythm."

Fugate will transfer to Auburn University in the fall of 2019 to pursue a bachelor's degree in education. He says he couldn't be more proud of his family, and the icing on the cake is that his daughter, Shelby, will take dual enrollment classes at CVCC this fall.

"We're all on different paths in life, yet we're able to lay a foundation of success at CVCC. You just can't beat that."



Eddie Fugate (middle) stands with his sons Joseph Fugate (Joey) (left) and John Newman.

COASTAL ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

TECHNICAL EDUCATION FAIR PREPARES STUDENTS FOR FUTURE CAREERS

The next generation of technology professionals and computer scientists flocked to Coastal Alabama Community College's Bay Minette campus for the 35th Annual Southeast and Southwest ACTE Technology and Computer Science Fair. More than 1,200 students in grades 3 through 12 traveled from 14 Alabama counties for the competition, in the hopes of making it to the state level in Auburn.

Smiles turned into looks of appreciation and wonder as the competitors explained and demonstrated their exhibits to the judges, who were enrapt as they saw what the students — some as young as 8 years old — were capable of executing. The judges, made up of Coastal Alabama faculty and students, were impressed with the diversity of the exhibits, which included robots, video games, audio productions, 3-D models, website designs and much more.

To participate in the fair, sponsored by the Alabama

Consortium for Technology in Education, the students had to first take part in a series of literacy interviews. Then the competition moved to the 150 exhibits on display throughout the College's gymnasium.

There were 30 total categories, including group and individual entries, spread across five classifications based on grade-level pairings, according to Dr. Charles Lake, moderator of the ACTE Technology and Computer Science Fair. In each category, awards were given for First, Second and Third Place, as well as Honorable Mention. The top two winners in each category attended the state computer fair at Auburn University.

The event, which is the largest event any of the Coastal Alabama Community College campuses hosts each year, was dedicated to the late Dr. Charles Hogue, Computer Science professor and champion of offering youth throughout the region an opportunity to learn about computers and technology first-hand.



DRAKE STATE COMMUNITY & TECHNICAL COLLEGE

DRAKE STATE SHIFTS TO SUCCESS

Drake State, with funding from the Southern Education Foundation (SEF) and support from the Alabama Community College System (ACCS), successfully completed the first pilot for the Shift2Success Initiative (S2S).

Shift2Success is a skills training initiative targeting low-income high school students and young adults in the state of Alabama that focuses on immediate employability, manufacturing skills certification, and financial literacy as part of the state's innovative Ready to Work program. The Shift2Success effort provides participants with safety training, assessment, and certification led by the Manufacturing Skills Standards Council (MSSC).

This effort was led by SEF while supporting partnership was offered by key national and local affiliates including the National Association of Manufacturers, the Alabama Community College System, J.F. Drake State Community & Technical College, and Wallace Community College. The inaugural Shift2Success pilot program launched June 10th-28th in the cities of Huntsville, Alabama and Demopolis, Alabama targeting low-income individuals and students of color across three area high schools. SEF was intentional in ensuring members of the community were directly involved in locating promising students for the pilot program. The following program benefits were made available to participants ranging from ages 16-24. Participants were provided a stipend and assistance with transportation and childcare in an effort to ensure their success.

The Shift2Success program consisted of 18 participants who all earned certifications, including MSSC, which will allow them to strengthen their eligibility for employment. The participants were exposed to career opportunities available in advanced manufacturing. Students have the opportunity to participate in industry tours as a part of the program experience.

The Completion Ceremony included program

participants having the opportunity to share their thoughts about the experience. Sandra Higginbotham shared that the program opened her eyes to a whole new range of careers that she did not know existed for females. Her goal is to complete all four MSSC Certifications and work in the Advanced Manufacturing industry.

Mr. Raymond Pierce, President of the Southern Education Association asserts that a growing numbers of low-income students are graduating high school eager to take the next step in their careers only to find their pathway to higher education hindered by rising tuition and college costs.

Shift2Success was designed to provide an alternative pathway to the postsecondary option for students. He views the Shift2Success initiative as a complement rather than a replacement to higher education, ensuring that all students, particularly students of color and low-income students, receive the opportunity-rich lives they deserve.



Drake State Shift 2 Success participants visit Polaris facility

ENTERPRISE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOLL WEEVIL CENTRAL OPENS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Enterprise State Community College announced that free tutoring and advising sessions are being offered in the library.

"We're expanding our mission to provide services to students, who, in the past, were not able to receive these types of services in the form of tutoring and advising, which are critical," ESCC President Matt Rodgers said. "I think it's critical that we serve our students but also provide the support they need to be successful."

The decision to provide these services and space for them was made in November of 2018 and the services are already available for students to use in the library.

Rodgers said that the amount of work everyone put in to have Boll Weevil Central ready has been gratifying.

"It's the right thing to do for our students, but from my perspective to see 15 or 20 of our faculty and students come together to move furniture and move books in a short amount of time is really rewarding; it shows that we're working as a team and putting our students first," Rodgers said.

The space, called Boll Weevil Central in the library, will eventually be renovated to include new study rooms as well as more chairs and tables.

ESCC English Instructor DaNean Pound is heading the tutoring portion of the Boll Weevil Circle and said she's excited to see this dream of hers finally come true.

"I've been a huge advocate for this and just to see it come to fruition and to see how excited students are makes my heart warm," Pound said.

Boll Weevil Central currently has three professional tutors and four peer tutors, which can help students in subjects such as math, English, music, chemistry, etc., according to Pound.

ESCC Director of Counselling

and Student Success Dr. Felisha Ford heads up the advising portion of Boll Weevil Central, which also includes transfer and career assistance. She said that the program is a long-time coming.

"I am elated," Ford said. "This is a program that we have desired—as an institution—to provide for our students for quite some time. I am excited to see it take shape."

The school has hired two part-time success coaches to help students.

"They (the success coaches) are going to be assigned certain groups who we want to make sure are armed with the best information to help them decide whether they want to transfer to a four-year institution before completing their degree or complete their degree here," Ford said.

She made sure to stress that the advising is not just for students who are looking to transfer.

"Our success advisors are also going to target students who may be at academic risk—those who have declining GPAs, run into financial aid problems, those sort of things—and use the proactive advising model," Ford said. "We're going to identify the individual needs of those students and create a success plan for them and help them to work that plan until they graduate or transfer."



Boll Weevil Central opens

GADSDEN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

GASTON WINS GOLD AT NATIONAL SKILLSUSA COMPETITION



Gadsden State's Rebecca Gaston won the gold medal in job interview at this summer's National SkillsUSA Competition. She is a Salon and Spa Management student who will graduate in December.

Rebecca Gaston, a student at Gadsden State, brought home the top prize in Job Interview from the National SkillsUSA Competition held this summer. She is the only gold medalist from Gadsden State and only one of six from the state of Alabama.

"I'm so proud of winning the national competition," she said. "I had the time of my life."

Gaston has not had many joyous moments in her 20 years. After her mother was killed in a car accident, she seldom had stability or encouragement.

"I was passed around from grandparents to aunts and uncles," she said. "I had a lot of hardships but I was not going to let it define me."

In 2017, she enrolled at Gadsden State to study Salon and Spa Management and moved into Gadsden State's dormitory, where she said she gained a lot of independence and responsibility.

Gaston became an involved student earning a scholarship as an ambassador and signing up for Students Without Borders. She also won the President's Cup, one of the highest student honors.

"One of the blessings in teaching is to see a student overcome difficulties and rise to the top," said Kristi

Clifton, an instructor. "Rebecca has done just that. She has overcome many problematic situations in her life, and she never gave up."

It was Clifton who talked Gaston into the SkillsUSA competition. They worked hard to prepare for the state competition. She designed a "fresh and fun" resume and was fitted for the official interview wardrobe – a skirt, hose, pumps, blouse and the official SkillsUSA red blazer. She researched interview questions and participated in many mock interviews. Finally, all the work paid off when she won the gold medal at the state contest. She and Clifton didn't waste time before preparing for the national competition.

"Mrs. Clifton instilled faith and confidence in me," Gaston said. "Without her encouragement, I don't know that I could've done it. She put in the hard work with me."

After the first round of competition, Gaston advanced to the Top 8. She and Clifton prepared until 11 p.m. for the finals, which included a four-page job application, an essay and another interview.

"I nailed all of the questions they asked me," she said. "Thank you, God, for second chances."

She was thrilled when she won the national gold medal.

"I honestly was overwhelmed," she said. "It was awesome. I just couldn't believe it."

Now, everything seems to be falling into place for Gaston after years of personal strife. She is interning at a hair salon and will graduate with an associate degree in December. And, she finally has a place to call home. A couple she met at church opened their home to her.

"It is such a relief to have someone who trusts me, believes in me and loves me like their own child," she said. "I come from so much hurt, but they are great to me. I will always have them as my family; my chosen family."

INGRAM STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

INGRAM STATE LOGISTICS STUDENTS USE WAREHOUSE TO GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

"Visitors tour our warehouse and they're surprised at what we can do," smiles Tanakia Watkins. A freshman logistics student at Ingram State Technical College, Watkins and other students speak freely about the sense of accomplishment they share over their "living lab". They are quick to demonstrate the system for tracking orders, and to laugh about counting quantities multiple times to be sure every report is correct. "The instructor spot checks our count so we work hard to be sure we get it right," says sophomore Charli Parker.

Under the direction of instructor Matt Poole, students at Ingram's Tutwiler instructional site recently began receiving, tracking and distributing most of the consumables used in day-to-day operations at that location. "We will track everything from paper towels to classroom and office supplies," explained Poole. "In addition to providing an excellent teach/learn opportunity for the students, the College will have access to data in real time."

Utilizing a stand-alone electronic tracking system, the students will soon expand their inventory to include classroom consumables and the materials required for "live-work" projects in other programs. "Co-op courses are not an option for our students," said Poole, "so it was vital that we develop the most realistic lab environment possible."

Twenty minutes away at the Draper instructional site, other logistics students are working to install the racking system in their new 2,700 square foot warehouse building. Instructor Artemas Holloway has used the building as a unique learning opportunity for his students. "To see a facility come together from an empty shell gives students an understanding of what drives the design," said Holloway, "which they can use to advantage throughout their careers."

Students working in the Draper warehouse will have responsibilities similar to those at Tutwiler – but on a larger scale. "We have almost twice as many career technical programs at this location," said Holloway,

"which means we will have about double the amount of items coming through our lab."

Labs that reflect the scale and pace of a working warehouse are just one of the many ways Ingram State Technical College help students overcome barriers to employment. Students in both programs are also earning MSSC Certified Logistics Associate and Certified Logistics Technician credentials. Recently two groups - 24 women and seven men - participated in CLA/CLT testing. "In one day," said Poole, "we nearly doubled the number of certifications in our program."

Rick Vest, re-entry coordinator at Ingram, said the College has had good success in placing logistics graduates. "Because logistics impacts every industry, good jobs are out there," said Vest. "Our goal is to match the right graduate with the right employer."

Students like Watkins are anticipating the day when they can use their skills to secure a good job. "I worked in a warehouse before," she explains, "but now with training and certification, my goal is to move into management."



Shannon Walls use wireless barcode scanners linked to inventory control software to track supplies stored in one of the College's two warehouse labs.

JEFFERSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STUDENTS RECEIVE THE BENJAMIN A. GILMAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Jefferson State Community College students Grayson Murray and Juwon Bearden were recently awarded the prestigious Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship to study abroad during the summer of 2019. Murray and Bearden were the first community college students in Alabama to ever receive the scholarship and both studied Spanish in Guatemala.

"With help from the Gilman Scholarship, I had the Spanish immersion of a lifetime while having the opportunity to study in a very historic part of the world," said Jefferson State Freshman Grayson Murray. "Seeing such a rich culture thriving in a developing country was eye-opening. This opportunity not only taught me language skills, but also cross-cultural awareness and self-reliance."

Gilman Scholars receive up to \$5,000 to apply towards their study abroad or internship program costs with additional funding available for the study of a critical language overseas. The Gilman Scholarship supports American undergraduate students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad and, since 2001, has enabled more than 25,000 outstanding Americans of diverse backgrounds to engage in a meaningful educational experience abroad. The program has successfully broadened U.S. participation in study abroad, while emphasizing countries and regions where fewer Americans traditionally study.

"There were so many breathtaking moments throughout the trip," said Jefferson State Sophomore Juwon Bearden. "Everything was new and welcoming; it was an amazing opportunity. My host mom lived right next to a basketball court and I was able to play with the locals, which was something I really looked forward to doing. My two roommates were students from Puerto Rico, which was very helpful. That made the experience feel more authentic in a way. Without the scholarship from Gilman, none of this would have been possible for me. I would not have been able to do some unforgettable things."



Jefferson State students Grayson Murray (L) and Juwon Bearden were the first community college students in Alabama to ever receive the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship. Both students studied Spanish in Guatemala this summer.

The program particularly focuses on supporting first-generation college students, students in the STEM fields, ethnic and racial minority students, students with disabilities, students who are veterans, students attending community colleges and minority serving institutions, and other populations underrepresented in study abroad, as well as broadening the destinations where scholars study or intern.

"The Gilman Program aims to make study abroad, and its career advantages, more accessible and inclusive for American students," said Heidi Manley, the Chief of USA Study Abroad at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. "These diverse American students gain critical skills overseas that expand their career options and ability to make an impact in their home communities."

The Gilman Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and is supported in its implementation by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

LAWSON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LAWSON STATE AND JEFFERSON COUNTY TEAM TO OFFER INMATE REENTRY PROGRAM

Dr. Perry W. Ward, president of Lawson State Community College and Sheriff Mark Pettway of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, announced the Renewed for Reentry Program in July 2019 for the purpose of providing Jefferson County inmates with vocational skills to better equip them with re-entry after release. "This program will stop the revolving door," stated Sheriff Mark Pettway.

Pettway, in his first term as sheriff, sought out this partnership with Dr. Ward and Lawson State with the purpose of stopping recidivism, the likeliness of former inmates to re-offend—giving them skills and education to become employed. Lawson State has several programs already in use such as Ready

to Work that will teach inmates simple skills like workplace behavior, job acquisition skills, computer skills, and problem-solving skills.

Individuals will be selected by judges to participate in the program and must be classified as non-violent offenders in order to receive the training that will take place at the Jefferson County Jail. The areas of instruction will include welding, carpentry, HVAC and Refrigeration, and industrial maintenance.

Renewed for Reentry will be carried out in three phases: a Ready to Work phase, a Training to Work

phase, and a Graduation and Release conclusion. "When they leave here, they will leave here with tools to be able to go out and get employed. They will have a job," said Sheriff Pettway.

"Education is a pathway for people to move forward in the future and that really in effect helps the community as a whole," said Dr. Ward. He continued, "We

have a sheriff in place that really wants to make a difference and give back to the community and this is a great way to do it by providing educational opportunities."

"Many times these persons may have had a situation where they have made a mistake in their lives, but they need a second chance, and this is really a

second chance program to give them an opportunity. When they're successful, we all are successful as a community," said Dr. Ward. The Renewed for Reentry Program is expected to launch in September 2019 and will include other organizations such as the Dannon Project, the Steel Workers Trust, and many Jefferson County businesses committed to helping people get back on their feet.



Dr. Perry W. Ward, president of Lawson State Community College and Sheriff Mark Pettway shake hands, marking the beginning of the Renewed for Reentry Program.

LURLEEN B. WALLACE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LBWCC TAKES A TWO-PRONG APPROACH TO HELPING STUDENTS ACHIEVE SUCCESS



LBW Community College Director of Student Success Tori Norris, left, advises Taylor Brown of Andalusia as she reviews a list of available classes for the fall semester. Brown is working toward an AAS Degree in Child Development.

The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), approved by SACSCOC in the fall of 2017, focuses on student success using the acronym OARS (Orientation, Advising, Retention, Success). To manage the process, Tori Norris serves in the QEP's newly-created position of Director of Student Success.

This topic was chosen through a collaborative process of assessing data; researching best practices; and gaining input from students, faculty, staff, and administration.

"QEP came with two major components: revising the way we conduct our orientation and improving the advising process," said Norris.

"We revised our orientation to college course from being a strictly online course to a face-to-face traditional classroom setting taught by faculty advisors based on the academic path selected by the student."

The orientation course is assessed each academic year by a curriculum team to ensure the course's relevance.

LBWCC uses Emsi as recommended by the Alabama Community College System for the career exploration module and resumé writing, thus providing students a better idea of the academic pathway needed for a successful career.

The advising component of the QEP focuses on stu-

dent-advisor relationships, she said.

"We encourage the student to make an appointment with their advisor and arrive with a tentative schedule, a copy of their degree plan, and a STARS guide with information from their transfer institution. This process helps the student become more involved in their own path to success."

The advising portion starts during the LBWCC Experience freshmen orientation, she explained.

"As part of the orientation, we have an hour-long division-specific Advising 101. All advisors are present so students can meet faculty in their division. Upon completion of the Advising 101 session, students move into a one-on-one meeting with their advisor."

The second prong of LBWCC's approach to student success is monitoring the academic progress of all students in each class throughout the semester.

In addition to the Director of Student Success, two success coaches, funded by a Title III Strengthening Institutions Grant, actively follow the academic progress of students through attendance and grade reporting from instructors.

"When we receive alerts, we actively seek to communicate with the student, whether through email, phone call, or classroom visit," said Norris.

Alerts are triggered by a variety of occurrences, such as when the overall grade drops in a class, the student misses consecutive classes, or the student does not login to an online class.

Once a problem is identified, success coaches create a plan with the student. Plans can include a variety of ways to get the student back on track, such as creating a tutoring schedule or providing a community resource guide to help find childcare, housing, job opportunities, scholarship and financial aid information, among other ways to confront stumbling blocks to success.

Follow-up is critical to ensuring students stay on track academically, to improve retention rates, and to graduate students on time.

For more information on LBWCC's student success program, contact Norris at 334.881.2215, or email tnorris@lbwcc.edu.

MARION MILITARY INSTITUTE

MMI BECOMES TRAINING SITE FOR ACE PILOT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Two incoming freshmen in Marion Military Institute's 2019-20 Service Academy Program reported to campus weeks earlier than their counterparts to begin their U.S. Air Force ACE pilot development program. Following their Monday afternoon arrival in Marion, program director Col. Bill Hansen, USMC (Ret) and flight instructor Col. Warren Benjamin, USAF (Ret) had Mika Cutler and Kelsey Majkowski making their first take-offs Tuesday morning in the Cessna 172 Skyhawk.

With near-perfect flying weather at local Vaiden Field, both students were able to achieve a significant milestone very early in their training: On Day 10, Ms. Majkowski completed her first solo flight in a Cessna 150. After landing, she called her dad to give him the news—he was ecstatic. Her classmate, Ms. Cutler, achieved solo status the very next day. This was quite an accomplishment for these motivated young aviators in what was expected to take a month's time. Both are U.S. Air Force Academy-sponsored Falcon Scholars who have since been awarded MMI Foundation flight scholarships to continue their flight instruction in Marion.

Ms. Majkowski, of Davie, Fla., has been interested in a military career since she was young, solidified by her Marine Corps JROTC experience in high school, and plans to earn her private pilot's license (PPL) as an MMI freshman. As she continues her training, she looks forward to "having more confidence in flying on my own, learning how to do ground reference points to navigate and getting more familiar with the instruments."

Ms. Cutler, of Sterling, Va., had never considered flying before she was selected for ACE and believes the program has opened up new opportunities in her future Air Force career. "In the cross country phase, I am looking forward to not having the airport in sight and having a real destination to go to," she says.

About the ACE program: The Aviation, Character and Education Program or ACE was created to help combat the growing pilot shortage in the Air Force by introducing aviation to high school and college age students. Although the program is designed to motivate all students who are interested in becoming pilots, the Air Force is particularly interested in increasing its diversity among the pilot corps by encouraging women and minorities to pursue careers in aviation. The program is normally three weeks long, and students receive ground training along with 15 hours of flight time, including a solo. Because MMI has an established aviation program, the ACE cadets will have an opportunity for more time in the cockpit.

The ACE program hand selects participants from Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, Civil Air Patrol, AFROTC, Air Force Academy, and Air Force Lieuten-



Cadet Majkowski receives her solo flight pin from instructor, Col. Benjamin.

ants preparing for undergrad pilot training. The Air Force Academy chose MMI as one of the colleges to administer this program because it's a Service Academy Program college and has an established FAA-certified aviation program.

NORTHEAST ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STUDENT ELECTED AS NATIONAL OFFICER IN SKILLSUSA DIVISION

Taytum McGill, a spa and salon management student at Northeast Alabama Community College in Rainsville, Alabama, was elected to serve as a national officer for SkillsUSA. McGill was elected through a formal election process in the SkillsUSA House of Delegates during the 55th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference held in Louisville, Ky., in June.

As a SkillsUSA national officer, McGill will serve as a student leader and advocate for the SkillsUSA organization and will lead SkillsUSA members during both of our annual national conferences. She will speak on behalf of SkillsUSA before students, instructors, education administrators, legislative leaders and representatives of business and industry. She will also represent the national organization at various events.

"Taytum believes strongly that CTE is growing and becoming more popular and that it gives students multiple career opportunities to be successful," said Tim Lawrence, executive director of SkillsUSA. "I look forward to working with her this year."

To run for a national office, SkillsUSA members must follow the election process for their local training program, school and state. Once they have made it to the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference, candidates must then pass a knowledge test, interview for candidacy and begin the campaign process to student delegates representing the 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference is the largest and most diverse showcase of skill training in the nation. More than 6,400 students compete nationally in hands-on skills and leadership events.

"Running for national office has been the most adventurous thing I have ever been involved in and has been the most rewarding experience ever!" said McGill. "I've learned so much throughout this process,

and I know my experiences as a national officer in the year ahead will help me to develop my leadership skills and better prepare me for all my future endeavors."

Salon and Spa Management instructor, Regina Gilliland served as SkillsUSA advisor for NACC's chapter as well as the Alabama State Leadership team advisor for the state officers. Ms. Gilliland said, "SkillsUSA helps our students gain valuable leadership skills while learning a trade so they will be better prepared for the workforce of now and tomorrow!"

SkillsUSA is a nonprofit partnership of education and industry to strengthen our nation's skilled workforce. Driven by employer demand, SkillsUSA helps students develop necessary personal and workplace skills along with

technical skills grounded in academics. This SkillsUSA Framework empowers every student to succeed at work and in life, while helping to close the "skills gap" in which millions of positions go unfilled. Through SkillsUSA's championships program and curricula, employers have long ensured schools are teaching relevant technical skills, and with SkillsUSA's new credentialing process, they can now assess how ready potential employees are for the job. SkillsUSA has more than 360,000 annual members nationwide in high schools, colleges and middle schools, covering over 130 trade, technical and skilled service occupations, and is recognized by the U.S. departments of Education and Labor as integral to career and technical education. For more information: www.skillsusa.org



Taytum McGill, Salon and Spa Management student at NACC who was elected National Officer for SkillsUSA

NORTHWEST SHOALS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NW-SCC SIGNS 19 STUDENTS INTO INAUGURAL FAME CLASS



19 students sign into Northwest-Shoals' inaugural FAME class

Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) hosted its inaugural Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (FAME) Signing Day today (6/13) on the Shoals Campus as 19 students were sponsored by 12 local business and industry sponsors.

The FAME Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT) program at NW-SCC is a pathway to a challenging and well-paying career as a multi-skilled technician. Students will attend classes two full days per week (16-20 hours per week) while working three full days a week (24+ contact hours) with a sponsoring company. Over two years, students can earn as much as \$33,500, which with planning can cover all of a student's education expenses.

"It is so exciting to see our industry partners invest in Northwest-Shoals and our students," stated NW-SCC

President Dr. Glenda Colagross. "The partnership we formed with these 12 companies through the FAME program will benefit our students, their companies, and our community for years to come. This is just the beginning."

Each student interviewed with the sponsoring companies on May 22, and students were drafted by companies that afternoon. Students were then notified and began the pre-employment process with each of the respective companies. The inaugural FAME class will begin working immediately

with their respective companies, but will begin classes in August when the NW-SCC Fall semester begins.

"It is truly amazing to see how our area companies have taken ownership of this program," said NW-SCC FAME Coordinator Leslie Tomlinson. "This program and the partnership it has strengthened with local business and industry gives our students an advantage in the workforce they have not had before. I can't wait to see how this program grows from here."

The FAME program began in Kentucky in 2009 with Toyota as one of the main initial industry sponsors, and the initiative has been established in Alabama in recent years.

For more information about FAME at NW-SCC, visit www.nwsc.edu/fame.

REID STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

REID STATE RECEIVES \$500 DONATION TO THEIR GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Reid State was selected by VF Outlet Managers to receive a \$500 donation to the general scholarship fund for students. According to Company representative, Ms. Kathy Johnson, a promotion was ran in the Company's Workwear department asking managers to recommend a school to receive the \$500 donation and RSTC was selected. Ms. Johnson stated that VF Outlet (Monroeville) has employed multiple students from Reid and believes the School's programs "are vital to the economic growth and development of our areas."

A check was presented on Thursday, May 16th, 2019 to the Dean of Instruction/Workforce Development, Dr. Coretta Boykin. The College and its students appreciates the support of VF Outlets and looks forward to awarding the much needed scholarship to a Reid State student.



SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SHELTON STATE MAPS THE WAY FOR STEM STUDENTS

In an effort to save students time and money, Shelton State Community College has created a more efficient path toward completion for students interested in STEM-related disciplines. The College's new Associate in Science Degree reduces the number of hours required in humanities/fine arts and social/behavioral sciences and increases the number of required hours in natural sciences and mathematics.

Leading efforts to create the updated degree plan were mathematics instructor Renea Randle and natural science instructor Sharon Vincent. Each instructor brought their own teaching and advising experiences to the process. "I was concerned that our degree requirements included courses in humanities, fine arts, history, and behavioral sciences that were not necessary," stated Randle.

"Students were missing the opportunity to take more applicable math and sciences courses, so Sharon Vincent and I began working on a plan and working with administration to make changes. We are excited to see that plan come to fruition."

These sentiments are echoed by Vincent. "My dream has been to create a degree pathway that assured students in the STEM disciplines took the classes they need to transfer to a four-year school ready to start their junior year without extra classes or missing classes."

Complementing the new degree is the Make a Plan (MAP) initiative. Designed as semester-by-semester course sequences, MAPs allow students to enroll in

courses necessary for their desired programs. Though not intended as a substitution for the advising process, MAPs provide students with appropriate direction and a clear picture of program requirements for transfer.

"Together, the MAPs initiative and the new AS degree create pathways for my students," said Vincent.

MAPs are readily available to students on the College's website. By clicking on a degree/credentialing

option, students are able to view necessary courses and determine scheduling possibilities through listings of which courses are offered in a given semester. With appropriate coursework as the focus, Shelton State students will be better prepared when transferring to four-year STEM programs.

In addition to ensuring ease of

transfer for current Shelton State students, MAPs also provide high school guidance counselors with information for dual enrollment opportunities. All students are encouraged to use MAPs in conjunction with the Shelton State Community College Catalog and Degree-Works, and students pursuing the Associate in Science and the Associate in Arts degrees are asked to also consult STARS.

More information is available at sheltonstate.edu/map.



Shelton State biology student participates in lab experience

SNEAD STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SNEAD STATE STUDENT BEGINS AVIATION CAREER

Caleb Jones of Horton has taken his love for airplanes and turned it into a career, thanks to the training he received from the Aviation College at Snead State Community College.

"I've always loved airplanes. When I was little, I dreamed of designing them, so I planned on becoming an engineer after high school. When I realized that the (Aviation College) trained aircraft mechanics, I decided to make the transfer, Caleb said.

The operation of the Aviation College, located in Albertville, shifted from Enterprise State Community College to Snead State in 2018. The program has since expanded to offer both Airframe Technology and PowerPlant Technology. When Caleb first enrolled, he was a student at Enterprise, though he took classes at the Albertville location. He completed the Airframe program about a year ago, which allowed him to obtain his Airframe license.

When the Aviation College transitioned from Enterprise to Snead State, Caleb also transitioned to be a Snead State Parson. In May, he became the first Snead State student to complete the PowerPlant program, and he recently received that license as well.

With a goal to obtain his Associate degree from Snead State, Caleb is already working as an Aircraft Mechanic at RainAir Aircraft Services in Albertville. RainAir is a premier aviation services company, specializing mainly in maintenance, repair, overhaul, and avionics services for general and commercial aircraft.

"It's an interesting job, and there's a lot of spontaneity from day to day. I've worked on everything from a Piper Cub to many large turbine aircraft. You never know what to expect. Today, I may be inspecting the wings. Tomorrow, I may be removing an engine. The next day, a damaged structure. It keeps you on your toes, and I love it," he said.

"The classes I took at the Aviation College really gave me a leg up at work. There's so much material you have to know to be a good mechanic, and I'm still

learning a ton every day. The classes will take a subject and teach you the basics one bit at a time, rather than overwhelming you with material all at once. It's a good foundation to build upon and makes transitioning into the workforce much easier."

Caleb said his career is very rewarding, but he does offer advice to students considering a career as an Aviation Mechanic.

"You need to be mechanically inclined, but you also have to be incredibly conscientious. When you're working on a multi-million dollar machine that flies people around, you have to give that the respect it's due. You don't just shoot from the hip and guess at whether something is fixed or not. You double and triple check everything that you do, to ensure that the airplane is safe to fly. It is very rewarding to see an airplane that you've maintained take off."

Caleb plans to earn his Associate degree from Snead State in August.



Snead State student Caleb Jones is putting his training to work as an Aviation Mechanic at RainAir Aircraft Services in Albertville. Caleb is the first to complete Snead State's PowerPlant program, and he's expected to earn his Associate degree in August.

SOUTHERN UNION STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SUSCC STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INTERN PROGRAM



Community Engagement Interns Reina Brown and Essence Jones work on developing a website for the Millerville Community Center.

“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

In every community there are problems to solve, limited resources, different perspectives and barriers to overcome. This summer, as part of the Southern Union Community Engagement Internship Project (SUCEIP), Southern Union students Reina Brown, Makayla Jackson, Desiree Ledford and Essence Jones served as interns in Chambers and Clay County working with civic groups on projects to solve problems or meet needs in those communities.

The students all agree that the experience was “enlightening” and “challenging.” “It is great to see how a community can come together and work together, sharing ideas while working toward a goal of improvement, said Jones. “It is a good feeling to know you are working toward something bigger.”

Jones and Brown served as interns at the Millerville Community Center in Clay County. The two were charged with helping to develop a marketing plan for and raise awareness of the community center.

“There are a lot of aspects to the center; they are really working to preserve the history of the community,” said Brown.

Not only does the program offer benefits on a civic level, but the students experienced personal growth

as well. “The program offers a great way to recognize community needs and be more community oriented,” commented Ledford, who worked with Chambers County DHR. She added that she was grateful that the opportunity helped her discover more about herself and helped to shape her future path.

Southern Union program director, Dr. Pam Horn, agrees that partnering with these community groups help grow the students who participate. “It is just a wonderful thing to have the opportunity to make a difference and foster a better understanding of the importance of community engagement”.

SUCEIP is modeled after community engagement projects at four-year colleges all over Alabama. With help from the Living Democracy project at Auburn University and the David Mathews Center, Southern Union designed the SUCEIP project to take advantage of close student ties to the communities the college serves. To execute the program, the college received funding from the Joyce O’Connor-Snyder Internship Program (JOIP). According to the Mathews Center website, JOIP “provides immersive civic learning opportunities for students to research deliberative practices and asset-based approaches for working with Alabamians in community-based projects.” Southern Union is the first community college to receive a JOIP grant.

DMC Executive Director Cristin Brawner said, “The David Mathews Center for Civic Life is incredibly proud of our partnership with Southern Union State Community College. We are so impressed with the immersive civic learning internship SUSCC has created through this partnership and we can’t wait to see what these incredible students accomplish this summer and beyond!”

Interns take courses that support community leadership and journalism and then receive a stipend for the ten-week summer project. SUCEIP recently received additional funding and will expand in the coming year. Interested students and civic groups may contact Horn at phorn@suscc.edu.

TRENHOLM STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PHI THETA KAPPA HELD ITS SPRING INDUCTION

The Beta Phi Phi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society held its 2019 induction ceremony April 11, at the Student Center on the Trenholm Campus. The induction ceremony opened with the 2018-2019 PTK President, Felicia Houston bringing greetings to new inductees, students, family, friends, and special guests. Monica Robinson, director of the Student Success Center, served as the keynote speaker. Leadership was the theme of her speech. She focused on essential characteristics students need to have to be a good leader. She also praised them for their academic accomplishments.

Membership in the honor society offers students opportunities for personal and professional growth, scholarships, recognition for outstanding academic success, and networking opportunities. Following Robinson's speech, Jashayla Hurst, vice president of Scholarship and William Hamner, vice president of Leadership, presented the symbols of Phi Theta Kappa- the emblem, the candle, and white rose. Felicia Houston, the 2018-2019 PTK president, swore the new members into the organization. The new members recited the PTK pledge and lit ceremonial candles to form the Torch of Knowledge.

After the installation of the new 2019-2020 PTK Honor Society members, President Munnerlyn gave closing remarks.

2019-2020 PTK Officers

Kelly Saucier- President

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2019-2020 Phi Theta Kappa Inductees

WALLACE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE - DOTHAN

MOTHER OF TWINS WORKS THROUGH ADVERSITY TO EARN DEGREE AT WALLACE

Aliyah Jacobs knew early on that she wanted to be a nurse, but she never knew the struggles she would face to get there. Jacobs went through a divorce, taking care of her twins, Ava and Arial Harris, financial troubles, Hurricane Michael and more.

She was in first grade when she set her sights on nursing and she held on to that dream.

After graduating from Bainbridge High School in 2014, Jacobs began taking college classes at Bainbridge State College. She got married and welcomed twin daughters. The family moved to Dothan, and Jacobs decided to

return to school – this time at Wallace Community College. However, life took a turn.

“I put in an application, but things didn’t work out with my marriage, so I moved back to Bainbridge,” Jacobs said. “But I still wanted to go to Wallace.” Jacobs just knew that Wallace was the place she needed to be. She found a way for it to work, and began taking classes at the College in 2017.

“Nursing school has been the hardest thing I’ve ever had to do by far. In orientation, I will never forget one of the instructors say, ‘If something is going to happen, it’s going happen in nursing school,’” Jacobs said. “When I first started the program I was working full time at Walmart as a customer service manager, 4-year-old twins, going through a divorce, moving back home, etc. I remember thinking ‘now how am I going to fit school into the mix?’”

After one setback after another, Jacobs had to retake one of her classes, but she wasn’t sure where the money was going to come from.

She eventually turned to her church, First Community Primitive Baptist Church in Quincy, Florida, for help.

It wasn’t long before Jacobs’ mother handed her an envelope from the church’s First Lady. “I opened up the envelope and it was all there,” Jacobs said with tears in her eyes. “Every penny was there that I needed.”



Aliyah Jacobs walks in the courtyard at Wallace Community College Dothan with her twin daughters, Ava and Arial Harris.

Jacobs said receiving that money for her class meant a great deal to her. “It means a lot that someone thinks of me so much to make sure that my goals are met,” she said. “Something that’s not even their dream or their goal that they would go to that extent to help me to get to where I want to be in life.”

Jacobs walked across the stage earlier this month, accomplishing phase one of her dream – earning her Practical Nursing degree, and she’s not done yet. She plans to attend Wallace in the fall to begin Associate Degree Nursing, and later would like to attend a 4-year university to further her education.

“I have really enjoyed my time at Wallace. From the compassionate instructors, to the students, to everyone that I passed by,” Jacobs said.

“I’m thankful that I did come here. They really want to help you and they really want to see you succeed.”

WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - HANCEVILLE

THE “I” OF THE NEEDLE: MOVING THE NEEDLE ON INDIVIDUAL STUDENT SUCCESS

Over the past several years, Wallace State’s major success goal has been increasing graduation rates, from 21% in 2012 to 44% today. A second goal, to improve developmental outcomes, resulted in a six-year reduction, by 50%, of the number of students testing into developmental courses and an increase of 9% in success rates.

Josh Dia, a student in the Automotive Service Technology Program, is just one student to have already benefited directly from these efforts.

“I graduated in May with two certificates,” he said, “and I plan to graduate in December with my associate degree.”

That timeline is possible for Dia in part because he was able to skip four hours of developmental English, into which he would have been placed based on his ACCUPLACER scores. Now, using the College Readiness Guidelines, he is enrolled in English 101 based on his overall high school GPA of 2.5 or greater (his was a 4.0) and 12th grade English grade of an A or B (his was an A).

The institution’s accomplishments are the result of extensive faculty and staff engagement, community partnerships, visionary leadership, and innovations in teaching and learning.

In 2017, Wallace State was named an Achieving the Dream Leader College, recognizing the remarkable success Wallace State has had in improving student outcomes. The involvement of faculty and staff in these initiatives has been key. Meetings in small and large groups were held regularly to discuss creating seamless, student-friendly connection and entry processes, for improving developmental outcomes, for enriching learning through a Common Read and other initiatives, and improving graduation rates. One such 12-member

group, Pipeline, meets weekly to examine data, looking for “leakage” points in student progression. With the college’s selection to lead Pathways nationally, an expanded 30-member Pathways team leads efforts

to implement the curricular and process mapping foundational to Pathways. A faculty-led committee directed the development of the Freshman Seminar and curricular maps for each of the college’s programs of study.

Community and industry partnerships, and work-based learning programs, including apprenticeships and internships, have also contributed significantly to achieving student success goals. Partners have identified equipment and instructional resources necessary for graduates to meet industry expectations, and have input in the development of credentials, which enhance immediate job prospects.

Dia expressed an interest in the Mercedes Tech Co-op Pro-

gram early on and was featured on ABC 33/40 in an interview about the partnership. Wallace State has also recently established new and expanded partnerships through the FAME program, Kubota, through NC3, and others.

“Everything we do -- whether it’s a health care program we offer, or a career technical program, or non-credit training, or dual enrollment, or a university transfer program--is workforce development. We are preparing students for careers,” said Wallace State President Vicki Karolewics. “And we are pleased to report that our work in Pathways and developmental education reform is getting our students there more quickly.”



Josh Dia celebrates Community College Month with a selfie.

WALLACE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - SELMA

WCCS LAUNCHES MOBILE INNOVATION LAB

Thanks to a \$150,000 grant from the Alabama Community College System, it will be more convenient than ever for students to benefit from the new mobile classroom at Wallace Community College Selma.

“Our mobile innovation lab is designed to introduce elementary, middle, high school students and communities to advanced technology through coding by giving them hands-on experience,” said Dr. Marilyn Hannah, CIS Instructor/Chairperson. “Students will learn coding and design skills to bring mobile app ideas to life, and in doing so acquire career-ready and soft skills.”

WCCS began a new app-development curriculum in fall 2017. The program allows students to learn coding and app development using Apple’s Swift and Xcode programming language. The course takes students with no programming experience and enables them to build fully-functional apps of their own design. Students experience an authentic workplace environment applying the methodologies and practices of real-world developers, and acquire skills around teamwork, problem solving, collaboration, and communication.

The mobile unit, is a 34-foot trailer that features: 24 workstations and an instructor station, a 75” interactive screen, 25 MacBooks, surround sound speakers, Xcode, Wi-Fi, heating and air, and an outside awning for additional work stations.

“We’ll be able to do outreach across the black belt on mobile app development and coding with no cost to the student,” said Hannah.

For more information regarding the mobile unit, please call 334-876-9252 or cis.dept@wccs.edu



WCCS Mobile Lab

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