

ALABAMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ASSOCIATION

Journal

ACCA Fall 2014 Journal

Volume 41 • No. 2

Reclaiming The Dream



ACCA President's Message



Greetings to everyone! I hope that you all are making plans to attend this year's ACCA Conference to be held November 23-25, in Birmingham. This year our Executive Committee has worked hard to make certain this is a very participant friendly conference and we certainly hope you will be with us to share in some great and fun educational experiences. Dr. Walter Bumphus is our keynote speaker on Monday, followed by our own Chancellor Mark Heinrich as the keynote speaker on Tuesday. Dr. Bumphus, as you know, heads the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and has been a driving force in the emergence of community colleges assuming their rightful role as frontrunners in American educational reform. In addition to our keynotes, our conference is chocked full of outstanding presentations by Commission speakers and workshops by those within and outside the ACCA. The conference promises to be one of the best ever for professional growth opportunities.

In addition to the education component, we have tried to make this a fun event for you. For example, should you like, some thirty rooms (at a slightly higher price) are available for rent at the Westin Hotel, which adjoins the Sheraton Hotel, the primary hotel. If interested, get them while they last! Additionally, all rooms and meeting spaces this year are equipped with WiFi, brought to you at no expense. Enjoy keeping up with your family through this service or staying in touch with your campus. Another conference highlight is that the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame (ASHOF) is hosting a reception for conference participants on Sunday from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the ASHOF, which adjoins the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex. The ASHOF is both educational and entertaining. Please don't pass up the opportunity to visit it. Officials with the ASHOF partner with many ACCA colleges on Bryant-Jordan Scholarships, so we will be seeing some longtime friends at this reception. Remember, too, that an Entertainment District has been added to the Sheraton/Westin/ASHOF complex. It features restaurants and shops. There also will be "Birds of a Feather" meetings for those of you who would like to arrange meetings with specific groups, as well as our always popular Commission/Association meetings.

For those of you who would like to do a little early Christmas shopping, the ACCA will be providing buses to and from the Riverchase Galleria on Monday from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. (one trip back and forth). The buses will take passengers to one of the South's largest shopping and entertainment malls. You can sign up for the trip to the Galleria at registration when you pick up your conference materials. Passengers going to the Galleria will return in plenty of time to attend the ACCA Dance, featuring the band Second Coming this year. Second Coming is a general performance band strong on rhythm and blues. They will be a fun and entertaining band.

We hope this conference is a happy present to you, one that will highlight your professional development for the year.

See you in Birmingham!

Dr. David Campbell
President, Alabama Community College Association

ACCA Community Service Project

This year's ACCA community service project will support the Jimmie Hale Mission and Jessie's Place, which includes a homeless shelter for men and one for women and children. Online donation opportunities will be available at the conference; as little as \$1.95 provides a meal and \$19.50 will feed ten people. We will also have a collection site for the following items: soap, safety razors, shaving cream, shampoo, stick deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs and brushes, diapers, teething medicine, diaper cream, pain relievers, vitamins, and feminine hygiene products. Start collecting these items now; collection bins will be available at ACCA.

ACCA Elections

Online elections for the position of **Second Vice President** will be held in October on the ACCA Website. Information about the candidates appears below.



Kemba K. Chambers, Ph.D.
Dean of Math, Natural Sciences and Pre-Engineering, Calhoun Community College

Dr. Kemba Chambers has been in the Alabama Community College System for the past 14 years. She has 18 years of extensive experience in education at both secondary and post-secondary levels. In her current position, she is responsible for providing leadership and supervision for the division to include workforce needs analysis, program, personnel, and process assessment and development. Prior to serving in this position, Dr. Chambers served as the Associate Dean of Instruction at Drake State Community and Technical College, a Mathematics Instructor and Interim Division Chair of Mathematics and Science at Chattahoochee Valley Community College, and a Secondary Mathematics Teacher in the Phenix City Public School System.

Dr. Chambers academic career includes earning an A.S. from Chattahoochee Valley and a B.A. in Secondary Mathematics Education from Columbus State University. She also earned a M.S. in Secondary Mathematics, an Educational Specialist, and Class A Certification from Troy University and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Auburn University. Dr. Chambers has presented at several conferences and worked on various grants and research projects to include Association of American Colleges and Universities, National Science Foundation, NAFEO/Wal-Mart, and Achieving the Dream.

Dr. Chambers has been involved in a number of professional organizations which include serving as the Chair and Vice Chair of Administration, as well as the Entertainment Coordinator for the Alabama Community College Association (ACCA). In addition, she has served on the Alabama State Developmental Mathematics Curriculum Committee and the Alabama High School Graduation Task Force. Dr. Chambers is a member of the Alabama Community College System Instructional Officers Association (IOA), Alabama Education Association, Alabama Leadership Initiative, Leadership Huntsville Class 24, Alpha Delta Kappa International Honorary Organization of Women Educators, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. She has been honored as a Master Teacher, an Academic Faculty Chancellor's Award Nominee, and a member of the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame for Chattahoochee Valley Community College. Additionally, Dr. Chambers is an active volunteer in the community serving with Habitat for Humanity, Successful Aging Initiative, and Serving the City as One.



Valerie Richardson, Ed.D.
Interim President, Chattahoochee Valley Community College

Dr. Richardson was named Interim President of Chattahoochee Valley on August 30, 2014. She previously served as Vice President of Gadsden State Community College. In her tenure at Gadsden State, Dr. Richardson was responsible for the Institutional Advancement and Student Services Divisions of the College and serves as Senior Personnel Officer. She also served as Acting President of Gadsden State during 2008 and 2011.

Dr. Richardson is an enthusiastic and compassionate leader who supports life-long learning and promotes student success. This is evidenced through her involvement in many community, civic, and professional organizations. Dr. Richardson serves on numerous boards within Etowah and Calhoun Counties, including Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, Darden Rehabilitation Center, Gadsden Commercial Development Authority, Industrial Development Authority, and United Way. She also volunteers her time with organizations including American Red Cross, Gadsden Rotary, Anniston Museum and Gadsden Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Richardson earned her B.S. degree in Biology and Sociology and her M.S. degree in Counseling Education from Jacksonville State University. She also holds a doctorate in Higher Education from the University of Alabama. In addition, Dr. Richardson has participated in several leadership enhancement programs and earned numerous professional certifications. In recognition of her accomplishments and contributions, Dr. Richardson has received many awards including ACCS Chancellor's award nominee, Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama - Women of Distinction Award, Most Outstanding Young Woman Award, and several Department of Defense Outstanding Achievement Awards.

Dr. Richardson and her husband John are faithful members of Word Alive International Outreach Church in Coldwater, Alabama. She attributes her success to her strong and passionate faith in God. Dr. Richardson prays for guidance as she provides leadership and service to Chattahoochee Valley Community College and throughout the surrounding service communities.

ACCA Elections

Online elections for the position of **Treasurer** will be held in October on the ACCA Website. Information about the candidates appears below.



Jessica Davis
Chief Financial Officer
Faulkner State Community College

Jessica Davis is the Chief Financial Officer for Faulkner State Community College where she has worked since she was a student at the College in the mid-1990s. She has worked as an Intern Accountant, Upward Bound Secretary/Grant Accountant, Controller, and Assistant to the President for Business Services. Jessica earned an A.S. degree from Faulkner State in 1997, a B.S. degree in Business Administration from Faulkner University in 2000, and a Master in Management Degree from the University of Phoenix in 2009. She has also received a SACUBO Certification from the University of Kentucky and attended the University of Alabama Leadership Academy.

Within the Alabama Community College System, Jessica currently serves as the Treasurer of the Financial Managers' Association. She was recently named as her College's nominee for Outstanding Administrator. She is a member of the National, Central, and Southern Associations for College and University Business Officers, the American Payroll Association, and the National and Alabama Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

Jessica has been married to Victor Davis for 18 years and they are the parents of three children who are sixteen, thirteen, and eleven. Outside of work, Jessica is actively involved in keeping her children in various sports ranging from travel soccer and softball to recreational softball and basketball. Her family attends First Baptist Church of Silverhill.



Courtney Parker Johnson
Accountant
Chattahoochee Valley Community College

Ms. Johnson has been with Chattahoochee Valley Community College since 2003. Prior to her employment at CVCC, Courtney worked in private industry and banking. She attended CVCC as a student and served as a student recruiter for the College. She earned a B.S. in Business Administration majoring in Accounting from Troy State University in 2001 and received a M.B.A. from Troy University in 2007.

Courtney is married to Adam Johnson, pastor of The Fort Church. They have two girls, Taylor and Tillery. Outside of work, family, and church activities, Courtney has done volunteer work with Russell County DHR, the Homeless Resource Network, and Bethany House. She has also served on the local United Way's Allocation team for three years.

Want to become involved in ACCA? Become a Facilitator.

Duties include the following:

- Pick up facilitator folder and evaluation materials
- Locate the scheduled room
- Assist presenter with set-up
- Distribute handouts and evaluations
- Welcome participants and monitor time
- Collect completed evaluation forms
- Assist presenter with removing materials
- Return completed evaluations and unused materials

If interested, please contact:

Jennifer O'Linger
jennifer.olinger@drakestate.edu
256-551-3125
or
Dr. Tangela Purifoy
tpurifoy@rstc.edu
251-578-1313 x 151



4th ACCA CONFERENCE

1 NOVEMBER 23-25, 2014

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2 CONVENTION COMPLEX

Conference Registration:

The conference registration fee is \$150.00 per person. Visit www.alabamacca.org and click the "Register for Conference" button and follow the directions. Please refer questions to Registration Coordinators:

Regina Doriety

Lawson State Community College
rdoriety@lawsonstate.edu
205-929-3505

Camie Huett

Alabama Technology Network
chuett@atn.org
334-293-4671

Accommodations:

Birmingham Sheraton

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ACCA members receive a special conference hotel rate of \$89 (plus tax) per night.

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205-307-3600

ACCA members will receive a special conference hotel rate of \$129.00 (plus tax) per night.

The 2014 ACCA Conference will include:

Professional Development Workshops in the following areas:

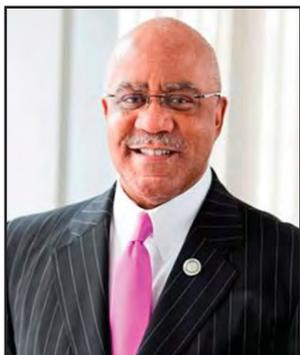
- Teaching and Learning
- Student Support & Success
- Leadership Development
- Staff Development
- Workforce Development
- STEM Initiatives

Commission Meetings
Association Meetings
Chancellor's Awards

Visit www.alabamacca.org for more information.

ACCA Conference Keynote Speaker

Walter G. Bumphus, Ph.D. **President and CEO, American Association of Community Colleges**



From 2007 to January 1, 2011, Dr. Bumphus served as a professor in the Community College Leadership Program and as chair of the Department of Educational Administration at the University of Texas at Austin. He also held the A. M. Aikin Regents Endowed Chair in Junior and Community College Education Leadership. He previously served as president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) from 2001 to 2007. After his service as president, he was later conferred the title of President Emeritus. From November 2000 to September 2001 he was chancellor of Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC). Prior to joining BRCC, Dr. Bumphus worked in the corporate world serving as President of the Higher Education Division of Voyager Expanded Learning. Six years prior, he served as president of Brookhaven College in Dallas County Community College District.

Dr. Bumphus holds a B.A in Speech Communications and a M.S. in Guidance and Counseling from Murray State University, and a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin. In 1992, Dr. Bumphus was recognized as a distinguished graduate from both Murray State University and The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Bumphus holds the distinction of being one of the few leaders in the field of education to receive the ACCT Marie Y. Martin CEO of the Year Award, to chair the AACC Board of Directors, and to receive the AACC Leadership Award.

Commission Speakers



Commission on Administration
Iyishia Smith
Managing Partner
CASTAL Resources



Commission on Students
Marquita Furness Davis
Executive Director
Jefferson County Committee for
Economic Opportunity



Commission on Faculty
Robert Carrow
Speaker, Trainer, Coach
Carrow Group International, LLC



Commission on Support
Pete Blank
Professional Speaker
Disney University



Commission on Workforce Development
Zeke Smith
Executive Vice President for External Affairs
Alabama Power Company/Alabama Workforce Council

Alabama Southern Personnel Honored



Recently, the faculty and staff of Alabama Southern Community College honored the 2014 Academic Instructor of the Year, Technical Instructor of the Year and IMPACT Award winners at the Vanity Fair Golf and Tennis Club in Monroeville.

Instructors of the Year awards are based on academic excellence, dedication and professionalism both inside and outside of the

classroom. Winners received \$1,000 to be used for professional development.

The 2014 Academic Instructor of the Year is Ginger Glass. Glass serves as an instructor on the Thomasville campus as well as the Transitional Studies Department Chair and Quality Enhancement Plan Coordinator.

The 2014 Technical Instructor of the Year is Dr. John Lehning. Dr. Lehning serves as a business instructor on the Thomasville, Monroeville and Gilbertown campuses.

The IMPACT Award is given to an employee who has demonstrated an exceptional work ethic, college and community involvement, and a sincere commitment and caring attitude towards students. The 2014 IMPACT Award winner is Robert English. English serves as a maintenance technician on the Monroeville campus. Since 2011, Alabama Southern has sponsored the annual Instructor of the Year and IMPACT Awards, honoring ASCC employees and sponsored by the ASCC Foundation Board. Recipients are nominated by faculty, staff and students of ASCC.

Bishop State Plays Vital Role in Community

“Bishop State Community College will play a vital role in Southwest Alabama’s designation as one of the first 12 manufacturing communities by the U.S. Department of Commerce,” said Dr. James Lowe, Jr., college president. The Commerce Department announced on May 28, 2014, that Southwest Alabama has received the designation.

The U.S. Commerce Department-led program, part of the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership, is designed to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in communities nationwide by supporting the development of long-term economic development strategies that help communities attract and expand private investment in the manufacturing sector and increase international trade and exports.

“As the only two-year college in the region that trains for the shipbuilding sector, Bishop State has a tremendous opportunity to have a greater impact in the training and skill development of welders and associated occupations,” Lowe said.

Seventy communities applied, and as part of the application, each had to demonstrate the significance of manufacturing already present in their region and develop strategies to make investments in workforce and training, advanced research, infrastructure and site development, supply chain support, trade and international investment, and operational improvement and capital access. The University of South Alabama will lead the consortium with the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce.

“The designation will give the Mobile region global exposure that will have long-term economic impact,” said Dr. Kathy Thompson, Bishop State dean of technical education and workforce development.



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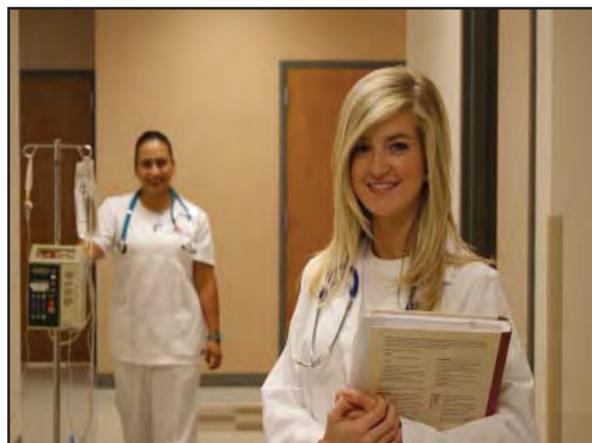
- *More than half of our projects in the past three years have been for ACCA members.*
- *We currently serve nine colleges in Alabama.*
- *Every college we have served has hired us again.*



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Gadsden State Receives Multiple Accreditations

The Board of Commissioners of the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) recently granted continuing accreditation to Gadsden State's Associate Degree Nursing Program and scheduled the next evaluation for 2021. The ACEN is the entity responsible for the specialized accreditation of nursing education programs which offer either a certificate, diploma, or recognized professional degree.



The Commission supports the interests of nursing education, nursing practice, and the public by the functions of accreditation. Accreditation is a voluntary, self-regulatory process by which non-governmental associations recognize educational institutions or programs that have been found to meet or exceed standards and criteria for educational quality. Accreditation also assists in the further improvement of the institutions or programs as related to resources invested, processes followed, and results achieved. The monitoring of certificate, diploma, and degree offerings is tied closely to state examination and licensing rules, and to the oversight of preparation for work in the profession.

The Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation (COMTA) awarded accreditation to the Therapeutic Massage Program for seven years, which is the maximum award allowed. Gadsden State's program is the only nationally accredited program in the state and in most of the Southeast. COMTA accredits both educational institutions and programs offering instruction in massage therapy, bodywork, or esthetics and skin care. The Commission was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a specialized accrediting agency in 2002, an acknowledgement of its expertise in ensuring quality education and allowing programs to access federal student aid funds. The standards of accreditation are set by practitioners and educators in the profession.

CVCC Receives 10-Year Reaffirmation

Earlier this year, Dr. Glen Cannon, former CVCC president, received word the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) had voted to reaffirm CVCC's accreditation with no additional follow up and accepted the College's proposed Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), *Factor in Your Future: Making Math a Priority From the Start*. This was a proud moment for CVCC as its faculty and staff worked diligently over the past 3 years to ensure the College had a successful outcome to this very important and tedious process.

The development of the College's QEP was truly a team effort as the original chosen topic was changed late in the game to better serve an area the College felt was critical to student success. The QEP initiative will be led by Math Department Chair Mary Johnson.

Johnson stated, "The math department is so excited the College has committed extensive resources toward helping us help students succeed in math." The College has already invested

in the creation of a new Math Tutoring Center as well as a new Math Lab. New furniture and computers have created a state-of-the-art facility staffed with tutors dedicated to helping students be successful in all math courses, but with an emphasis on helping those placing in developmental math courses.

The QEP was developed after extensive research and review of data showing that math continues to be an obstacle for many entering freshmen. "This project has the potential to make a significant impact on the retention and graduation rates of CVCC students," stated Dr. Joree Jones, dean of Institutional Advancement and Effectiveness. Dr. Cannon stated, "Reaffirmation by SACSCOC demonstrates the College's commitment to its mission of 'providing accessible and affordable education of excellent quality...' as well as a supportive environment for all students." Dr. Cannon offered his congratulations to the hardest working group in community college education, and also, the most competent and student centered faculty and staff.



Drake State Partnership Promises Employment Opportunities

J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College recently announced the establishment of the North Alabama Manufacturing Technology Education Collaborative (NAMTEC) with industry partner Science and Engineering Services, LLC (SES). The joint initiative was created to serve the expanding manufacturing needs of North Alabama, and capitalize on the education and training capacity of the College. Working in concert with its manufacturing industry partners, Drake State will produce multi-skilled manufacturing technicians for employment in North Alabama industries.

Technicians having advanced manufacturing technology skill sets are in high demand, particularly for those industries located within the Huntsville/Madison County area such as SES. Russell Chunn, SES Chief Financial Officer and Executive Vice Chairman, explained why he supported the union. "We chose to develop this partnership with Drake State because we have confidence in the College's ability to instill the kinds of qualities and skill sets we are seeking in our workforce."

Chunn added that in the next 5 years, his company will be hiring 500 to 600 new employees. The new hires will create even more employment opportunities for the industry at large. "For every new employee SES adds, SES suppliers will add two, which equates to a potential for 1,800 new jobs over the next five years resulting from this partnership. That doesn't even include the number of new jobs that will be generated



by the other industries seeking to join this alliance," said Mr. Chunn.

"We are delighted to have Science and Engineering Services, LLC as our partner in forming this breakthrough program that will benefit so many of our students. We see advanced manufacturing as a cornerstone for economic development in north Alabama, especially in Huntsville where so many of our students reside," noted Dr. Helen T. McAlpine, Drake State President.

CACC Holds Dual Enrollment Press Conference

Central Alabama Community College, in conjunction with the Department of Postsecondary Education, recently held a press conference to discuss the new opportunities resulting from the new dual enrollment legislation and the impact it will have on training students for high demand, high wage jobs.

Dr. Susan Burrow, interim president of CACC, introduced several representatives from industry who were in attendance, including Ricky Robinson, president

of Robinson Iron, Marshall Griffin with Alabama Power, Mark Wingfield, project manager at Wingfield Engineering, and Freddy Thomas, HR staffing manager at Honda Alabama.

"We were pleased to have all of these representatives here to show their support for the dual enrollment programs," Burrow mentioned. "One of our main goals at CACC is to make sure we are meeting the needs of all of our industries in our service area. It was great to see former

dual enrollment students, Daniel Dalton, Wingfield Engineering, Jeremy Clay Taylor, Alabama Power, and Jonathan Sandlin, Robinson Iron, in attendance this morning, who are now working for these industries," Burrow added.

State Representative Mark Tuggle was also present and spoke about the specifics of the tax credit businesses and industries would be receiving for donating money to the programs.

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Trenholm State Dental Program Receives Accreditation

The Dental Assisting Program at Trenholm State Technical College recently received its seven year re-accreditation from the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). The program was granted Approval without Reporting Requirements from the CODA which is an accreditation classification indicating that the program achieves or exceeds the basic requirements for accreditation. The Commission on Dental Accreditation is an entity of the American Dental Association (ADA) which was founded in 1859 and is the nation's largest dental association working to advance the dental professional on the national, state and local level.

"I am extremely grateful to our dedicated faculty and staff for this outstanding achievement. It proves once again that Trenholm State is one of the premier educational institutions in the River Region. I'm proud of the fact that our graduation rate in the dental assisting program exceeds 80%," said Sam Munnerlyn, president of Trenholm State.

The Dental Assisting Program is designed to prepare students for a career in the dental assisting field of dentistry. A person trained in this field provides chair-side assistance to the dentist, performs work in a dental laboratory, and performs certain functions in the dental office such as making appointments, billing patients and keeping records.

Wallace Dothan Unveils Virtual Simulator

The virtual sound of gunfire and law enforcement officers shouting commands was unmistakable as Wallace Community College-Dothan unveiled its most recent teaching technology – the Virtra V-300 Law Enforcement Judgment Use of Force Simulator. The sounds and voices are pulled from today's headlines, representing situations from the everyday to the unthinkable for first responders.

The Virtra V-300 is a decision-making simulation and tactical firearms training tool. The simulator has five 10' x 7.5' screens that envelope the student or law enforcement officer in a 300-degree environment. The simulator comes with different scenarios for specific training, such as active shooters, hostage situations, skill drills, traffic stops, and many others. Simulations can be programmed for situational changes to accelerate use-of-force training. The "weapons" have life-like recoil and use inexpensive CO2 for exceptional safety.

Jason Owen, criminal justice instructor at the Wallace Campus, told the crowd that the Virtra V-300 "allows students to encounter threatening situations in a controlled, safe environment. The system allows the participant to scan and develop situational awareness skills." Myron Williams, Sparks Campus criminal justice instructor, demonstrated its capabilities for area law enforcement, legislators, faculty, staff, and students.

Dr. Mark Heinrich, chancellor of Alabama Community College System, spoke at the press conference about the importance of simulation training for the safety of first responders, and the partnership with the legislature that permitted the funding



for the equipment. Also speaking were Kirke Adams, District Attorney for Dale and Geneva Counties, Wally Olson, Dale County Sheriff, and Tony Spivey, Ozark Police Chief. Dr. Linda C. Young, president of Wallace Community College, thanked the local legislative delegation. The purchase of the Virtra V-300 was made possible through a \$250,000 State appropriation. Dr. Young also thanked area law enforcement and city officials who serve on the WCC Criminal Justice Advisory Board.

Wallace Community College is the only college in Alabama to implement a virtual law enforcement simulator. WCC is the third entity in the state to own a Virtra V-300.



ACCA is on Twitter!
Follow us @alabamacca

LBW Holds Dedication Ceremony

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College held a dedication ceremony this spring for a newly-installed *Renaissance Sundial* designed and created by Bill Gottesman of Burlington, Vt and purchased with donated funds. The large bronze sundial projects a sharply-focused beam of sunlight onto a helical time scale, telling time with extreme accuracy. Meanwhile, recent LBWCC graduate Thomas Hale collaborated with a welding student to create a sundial that will be placed at the College's campus in Opp. President Dr. Herb Riedel dedicated the Andalusia-based sundial to all LBWCC students and future students.



Bevill Selects NISOD Award Recipients

Bevill State Community College recently announced its recipients of the annual National Institute of Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Awards. This year's honorees include Dr. Kristie Ramsey, computer science instructor, David Umfress, division chair for technical education, Laura Crosby, math instructor and Sandy Short, office management instructor.

NISOD's Excellence Awards recognize individuals who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment and contribution to their students and colleagues. The awards have been presented since 1989 and have become one of the largest programs that recognize the contributions and achievements of community and technical college faculty, administrators, and staff.

Bevill State's recipients of the NISOD Excellence Awards were automatically

selected based on their receiving the college's Outstanding Faculty of the Year award for 2013. The Outstanding Faculty of the Year awards are selected by the college's faculty on each of the college's four campuses and announced during Bevill State's commencement ceremonies.

All the 2014 Excellence Award recipients were celebrated during NISOD's annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence, May 25-28, in Austin, TX. During the Excellence Awards Dinner and Celebration, each recipient received a specially cast, pewter medallion hung on a ribbon. All Excellence Award recipients and their colleges are also listed in a special multi-page display in a special edition of Community College Week.

"Recognizing those individuals who have contributed to student success and their college's mission is something we

look forward to doing each year," said Dr. Edward J. Leach, NISOD's director. "The extraordinary work of these men and women includes not only what they do for their students and colleagues, but what they do for the communities in which they live and work. We're honored to be able to play a part in celebrating their achievements."

Created in 1978, the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) is a consortium of community and technical colleges that share a commitment to supporting excellence in teaching, learning, and leadership. NISOD supports its member colleges by providing professional development resources and learning experiences, including practitioner publications, webinars, the annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence, the NISOD Excellence Awards, and more.

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Jefferson State President Retires

After serving 35 years as president, Dr. Judy Merritt recently retired from Jefferson State Community College.

“Throughout her 50-year career, Judy Merritt has been an incredible leader who has touched countless lives,” said newly appointed Jefferson State Interim President Keith Brown. “She has devoted her life to making a difference in our community and improving the lives of others. She has always believed education is an individual’s pathway to achieving one’s goals and dreams,” said Brown. “She has worked tirelessly to make education more accessible and ensure the pathway to education is clear for all.”

Dr. Merritt was appointed president of Jefferson State in 1979 by then-Governor Fob James. This appointment marked the first time a woman had been named president of a community college in Alabama. With the exception of four

years at Florida International University in Miami, Florida, she has worked at Jefferson State since its beginning in 1965.

Under her leadership, Jefferson State has grown both geographically and in the number of students served. When Dr. Merritt became president at Jefferson State, the college consisted of one campus located in the eastern area of Jefferson County. Through her vision and ability to form partnerships, Jefferson State now has campuses in four counties, serves approximately 14,000 students per year, and is a leader in education in Alabama and beyond.

Through the years, Merritt has served on numerous boards and committees including the United Way of Central Alabama and the American Heart Association. In the early 1980s, she was the first female appointed to the



Bruno’s, Inc. Board of Directors and, in 1993, the first female appointed as a corporate board member for Energen Corporation. She later became the only female on the SouthTrust Bank Board of Directors. She broke new ground again by becoming the first woman to chair the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce in 1993.

CVCC Pirates Have Record-Breaking Season

This year has definitely been a season of record breaking for the Chattahoochee Valley Community College (CVCC) Pirates baseball program. The team maintained a number 1 ranking in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) national poll for six weeks and ended its regular season with a record 49 wins. The Pirates were the Alabama Community College Conference (ACCC) 2014 Central Division Champions, the 2014 Conference Champions, and represented Region 22 in the NJCAA 2014 World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado, and finished the year ranked number 4 in the nation. With 85 wins, the Pirates’ sophomore class holds the title of winning the most games in Pirate history. Additionally, Coach Adam Thomas celebrated his 500th win as head coach of the Pirates early in the season.

The culmination of this outstanding season saw 14 of the CVCC Pirates sign with a four-year college or university. Dr. Glen Cannon, former CVCC president, is known for stating, “Go Pirates, Go Anywhere” during meetings both on campus and



in the community. Dr. Cannon stated, “Having this number of players moving on to the next level of athletics and academics is a testament that the statement, ‘Go Pirates, Go Anywhere’ is true.”

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NACC Dedicates New MSET Opening

Northeast Alabama Community College recently celebrated the opening of its newest building on campus—the Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Technology Center.

“The Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Technology Center is state-of-the-art and very student- and instructor-friendly,” said Dr. David Campbell, president of NACC. “That’s what we wanted it to be. We wanted a building that provides all of the possible support for our instructors to teach and for our students to learn, and we believe we’ve achieved this.”

Staff and students welcomed local officials and community members to campus to tour the new MSET Center following opening remarks from Campbell, Alabama Community College System Chancellor Dr. Mark Heinrich, and Jackson County Economic Development Authority President Dus Rogers. Campbell opened by stressing the importance of the education fields housed in the new building.

Included in the building are three virtual desktop laboratories for mathematics and science instruction, 14 faculty offices, a centralized faculty work room, a faculty conference room, student study and break area, and a storm safety shelter (with a capacity of 700 people) located in the basement. There is an additional space in the attic (8,900 square feet) for future expansion.



“Our students deserve the very, very best facilities, and I think this particular structure illustrates that,” said Chancellor Heinrich. “I could not be prouder of Dr. Campbell and of Northeast, and I congratulate them on this feat. This is truly a great day.”

Lawson Joins Virtual Alabama

As strategic tools for emergency preparedness and response emerge to center stage, Lawson State has become the first community college in the state of Alabama to utilize Virtual Alabama and have all of its emergency data housed in a common area.

“When I first became familiar with the program, I knew that this had to be a direction for the College,” said Dr. Perry W. Ward, president of Lawson State Community College.

“This new synthesis of functions in facilities management becomes an important vehicle for the college and more importantly for those who are servicing us.”

The Virtual Alabama consortium allows for the sharing of safety information with first responders such as the police department,

fire department, E911, and other emergency management personnel.

This online mapping system utilizes Google Maps to outline the interior and exterior layout of the College in 3D visualization. In the event of any emergency, information can readily be accessed. The maps will provide details showing buildings, hallways, rooms, electrical and gas lines and more.

“You can be proud of the fact that Lawson State Community College is the model for all other community colleges across the State because of your vision to utilize cutting-edge technology to make your campus a safer environment for faculty, staff and students,” said Dr. Lamar Davis, senior fellow for the Center for Government and Public Affairs at Auburn University Montgomery.

A logo for PH&J Architects. The letters 'PH&J' are large and stylized in blue, with 'architects' in a smaller, sans-serif font to the right. Below the logo, it says 'Founded 1957 Pearson, Humphries & Jones Architects'. Underneath that, it lists 'Ren Jones, MBA, AIA' as the 'Principal Architect'. At the bottom, it provides the website 'www.phjarchitects.com', the phone number '(334) 265-8781', and the email 'e-mail: phjarch@bellsouth.net'. There is also a small Facebook 'f' icon.

A logo for Samford University Evening College. It features a stylized building icon to the left of the text 'SAMFORD UNIVERSITY EVENING COLLEGE'. Below the logo, the website 'www.samford.edu/evening' is displayed. At the bottom, a banner reads 'Now offering affordable degree-completion programs for ACCS graduates'.

Snead State Grows Scholars Program

Snead State Community College has grown its Presidential Scholars program to be more than a scholarship program by incorporating leadership opportunities that open new doors of success for its participants.

Since its beginning in 2010, the program has provided scholarships to 52 freshmen and sophomores attending SSCC. Thirty-three of those students have completed the program, and 32 of those completers graduated with their Associate degree with the remaining student re-enrolling to Snead as a student in the nursing program. Those who haven't yet completed are still enrolled in the program.

"The Presidential Scholars represent the best and the brightest students we attract at Snead State. They excel academically, but they also grow and learn as leaders at the college and within the community," said Snead State President Dr. Robert Exley.



To equip the Presidential Scholars with essential leadership skills, the group participates in two retreats. One is to Berry College in Georgia in the fall where they participate in a ropes course to build leadership and teamwork. The other is a trip to Washington D.C. in the spring where they learn the role they play in shaping their government. The students also serve as leaders within student organizations, such as Phi Theta Kappa, Student Government Association, Ambassadors and Phi Beta Lambda.

"The Presidential Scholars come from different backgrounds and have different career goals, but they bond through their experiences in the program. They learn what it means to use their leadership to make a difference. They learn that their world is not limited to their immediate surroundings, and our goal is to empower them to look outside of their comfort zones to realize their potential," said Dr. Exley.

Calhoun Honored Nationally by PTK

Calhoun Community College President Dr. Marilyn C. Beck was honored recently with Phi Theta Kappa's (PTK) Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction, named in honor of PTK's longest serving Board Chair and founder and long-time President of Highline Community College in Washington. College presidents and campus chief executive officers, nominated by their local Phi Theta Kappa chapter, are selected for this award, which is based on their outstanding support of Phi Theta Kappa.



Necia Nicholas, Biology department chair at Calhoun and an advisor for the college's Sigma Lambda chapter of Phi

Theta Kappa, was among 30 PTK advisors internationally who were honored with the 2014 Distinguished Advisor Award. The Distinguished Advisor Award recognizes advisors who have served at least four years and have made significant contributions to the growth of the individual chapter members, served as the chapter's advocate on campus, and encouraged the chapter to be involved on the local, regional, and/or international level of the organization. Advisors were nominated by their chapters through the Hallmark Awards application process and were selected by a panel of judges from over 75 nominees worldwide.



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MMI Uses Digital Learning to Prepare Students

Meru Networks® (NASDAQ:MERU), a leader in intelligent Wi-Fi networking, recently announced that Marion Military Institute (MMI) has deployed a Meru Education Grade (MEG) Gigabit Wi-Fi network to ensure high performance of fast-growing numbers of mobile devices on its campus. Like most college students, MMI cadets now come to campus with three or more mobile devices and expect pervasive Wi-Fi coverage on campus, from classrooms to the barracks. MMI, the oldest military junior college in the U.S., is the first community college in Alabama to deploy 802.11ac Gigabit Wi-Fi.

“The Meru 802.11ac APs can handle twice as many devices as the 802.11n APs and give us more than three times the throughput,” said A.J. Crittenden, network administrator at Marion Military Institute. “Meru’s Virtual Cell technology was one of the biggest selling points for us, because we wanted students to be able to walk from building to building and stay connected without any intervention on their part.” The MEG solution allows the military college to exceed cadets’ unyielding expectations for high-performance, stable Wi-Fi, whether as part of the course curriculum or while streaming movies after rigorous physical training. With the MEG solution, MMI can deliver intelligent Wi-Fi on campus for uninterrupted learning, even in dense mobile environments, such as study halls and classrooms situated in historic antebellum buildings.

Drake State Culinary Students Take Top Honors

Members of the J.F. Drake State Community and Technical College Culinary program placed in the top spots at the Spring 2014 Red Diamond Food Show Cooking Competition held in Birmingham.

In the First Year Student Category, Drake State students Juan Hernandez and Richard Yates took First Place jointly. In the Second Year Student Category, partners Tyron McKune and Jon McClendon took the top spot, while the team composed of Rick Vonk and Christina Byrom took Second Place. Drake State competed against students from Wallace State and Jefferson State Community Colleges, and the University of North Alabama.

Chef Darell Echols, lead culinary instructor, was proud of his students’ work. “Once again, Drake State showed up and showed out!” He noted that the students were applauded on their performance and the professionalism they displayed. Another point of pride was his students’ success in beating out experienced competitors who had participated in the Food Network’s Show “Chopped,” in which contestants compete in three elimination rounds.

Shelton State Nursing Faculty Recognized



The Alabama State Nurses Association, District 2, recognized four Shelton State Community College nursing instructors at a reception at DCH Regional Medical Center. Kim I. Smith, Vicki Hannah, Julie Jones, and Lauren Yeager were awarded Citations of Excellence for outstanding service and exceptional commitment in the profession of nursing. Arlene Morris, the state president of the Alabama State Nurses Association, was the keynote speaker.

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Chancellor Announces Interim President at Jefferson State

Alabama Community College System Chancellor Mark A. Heinrich recently announced the appointment of Keith Brown, Esq. as interim president of Jefferson State Community College. Brown had previously served as Dean of Campus Development and Legal Services for Jefferson State.

Brown began his higher education pursuit as a student at Jefferson State, where he was the college's only USA Today First Team, AACJC Academic All-American. After graduating with honors from Jefferson State, he received the Junior College Honors Transfer Scholarship at The University of Alabama. He graduated summa cum laude from The University of Alabama and continued his education at The University of Alabama School of Law. While in law school, he served as Managing Editor of

the *Journal of Legal Profession* and was a Hugo Black Scholar. After receiving his Juris Doctorate, magna cum laude, from The University of Alabama School of Law, he practiced law at Johnston, Barton, Proctor & Powell LLP.



"With more than 15 years of educational administration experience at Jefferson State, coupled with his legal background and extensive military career, I think Mr. Brown will provide what the college needs as it moves forward," said Dr. Heinrich. "I have complete confidence in Mr. Brown's ability to provide quality, dependable leadership to the college during this transitional period."

Faulkner Students Meet With Hollywood Stars

Animation students at Faulkner State Community College received quite a visit from a notable Hollywood director and some of the film industry's up and coming stars. Director Dave Johnson and actors Cory Grant, Gabriela Lopez, Montrel Miller and Rachel Hendrix stopped by Faulkner State's Fairhope Campus to give students a sneak peak into the world of film. Johnson and the actors, who were in town for the release of the locally-filmed movie *Coffee Shop*, provided the students with insight from the film industry in a face-to-face, hour-long session.

The Animation, Interactive Technology, Video Graphics & Visual Effects program at Faulkner State has grown as news of the exciting two-year certificate has spread across the area. By creating imaginative, computer-generated environments, characters and videos, the students are expanding their skills to prepare for a career in the film industry. Now in their second year, many students are artfully and tactfully assembling work to place in their career portfolios.

Addressing the growing needs of the program, Faulkner State hired a new Animation instructor, Kristen Barnhill. "I remember the first day I saw the Animation program at Faulkner State," Barnhill said. "I was very impressed, and still am, that the students have such an awesome program and the best equipment, including a real green screen room!"



Through a partnership with the National Animation & Design (NAD) Centre in Montreal, Canada, Faulkner State is offering top-notch instruction to fulfill growing industry needs. With movies such as *Coffee Shop*, *Vice* starring Bruce Willis and *Rage* starring Nicholas Cage filmed in the local area, the students have much to be excited for as the film industry takes notice of the Gulf Coast Region.

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Trenholm State Names Foundation Chair

At its recent organizational meeting, the Trenholm Tech Foundation Board elected Keith C. Karst to serve a two-year term as its new chairman. Karst is the Commercial and Industrial Marketing Manager for Alabama Power, Southern Division. He previously served as the Southern Division Area Manager and Customer Service Manager. He has been with Alabama Power since 1977.

Karst is a native of Montgomery and graduated from Auburn University with a B.S. degree in Accounting. Recently, he

was certified by the Association of Energy Engineers as a Certified Energy Manager. In addition, he has been recognized as the Alabama Power Service Organization Manager of the Year and received the Alabama Power Retail Sales Leadership Award.

Karst is actively involved in a number of community and civic organizations, including the Montgomery Rotary Club, the Child Protect Children's Advocacy Center, and the Central Alabama Opportunities Industrialization Center

(OIC). He also serves on the Jackson Hospital Board of Directors.

The Foundation elected new officers for a two-year term, including Donna Cooper as vice-president, Guy Davis as secretary/treasurer, and Doug Jones as immediate past chairman. The Trenholm Tech Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) organization that provides tax-exempt status to its contributors and that enhances the academic vision of Trenholm State by providing needs-based and merit scholarships to its students.

Reid State Student Benefits from Dual Enrollment & Non Traditional Career Choice

Reid State welding graduate Kristen Booker has gained global attention with her career choice to enter a non-traditional career in welding. At 16, she took her first welding class just to try something new. Her hard work and dedication led to a nomination by Shae Lambert, Escambia County career coach, to be honored by *Go Build Alabama*.

Kristen began her welding skills at the Escambia Career Center while a student at T. R. Miller High School. As the first Miller student to be recognized by the Future Skilled Workers of America, she was awarded a \$1000 scholarship and featured in *Go Build Alabama's* statewide television commercial, Facebook and web posts. She attended dual enrollment welding classes at Reid State, in conjunction with the career technical classes, to complete her welding degree one semester after high school graduation.

Articles on Booker's non-traditional career success have included publications locally, statewide, and nationally. *Go Build Alabama*, the *Evergreen Courant*, and the *Brewton Standard*--all published in Alabama--are joined by articles in New York with global outreach. Ashley Rodriguez's article *Rebranding*

Construction for the Next Generation of Workers was published in *Animal Spirits*, a publication by the City University of New York's Graduate School of Journalism. *Advertising Age* picked up Rodriguez's article and is slated to publish the article with photos of Kristen.

"I just love to do what I do," said Booker. "It takes mental and physical ability. It's something you can do with your hands that you can make. I'm good at it and I like to show the men that I can give 110%," said Booker. "It is hard to be a woman in a men's workforce, but that's everyday society. You have a place to uphold."

With two job offers on the table, Kristen settled on Performance Contractors because of their job opportunities, pay and benefits. Her goal is to move up in the welding field from welding to supervision.

As a Performance Contractor employee, Kristen will be onsite at Thyssenkrupp in Calvert. She and her parents, Chris and Cindy Booker, reside in Lenox.



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Wallace Dothan Students Learn to “Write On!”

Students at Wallace Community College now have an option for becoming a better writer, and it’s free! The College opened The Writing Center on the Wallace Campus in Dothan and the Sparks Campus in Eufaula this past spring. As the word spreads about the Center’s services, more students are jumping at the opportunity to schedule a one-on-one tutor to help with writing assignments.

Students from all disciplines are welcome to visit The Writing Center to work on any type of writing. This includes coursework, as well as personal projects such as scholarship and job applications, and creative writing. The Centers use a network of peer and professional tutors.

The Writing Center was made possible by a \$1.6 million grant through the federal Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP), more commonly known as Title III. The grant will help Wallace improve the success rate for students who are underprepared for college-level writing.

Wallace was the only college in Alabama and one of only 32 in the nation to receive a Title III grant focusing on college completion and improving institutional productivity.

“The Writing Center will enhance student success and engagement through the creation of an inclusive ‘all students, all



writing’ community of writers,” said Emily Cosgrove, Ph.D., director. Title III funds will also be used for faculty development to enhance writing instruction in the top ten freshman courses.

And how are the students reacting? In a feedback survey, a recent visitor said that her tutor “was a good instructor, and she connected well with me. She related with my paper and brought beautiful insight into where I wanted to direct my paper!” Becoming a better writer is the mission of The Writing Center. As the slogan says, “Write on!”

Northwest Shoals holds Grand Opening

Recently Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) officially opened its new Automotive Service Technology Center with a brief press conference followed by an open house.

The opening of the 10,450 square-foot facility, which now houses the Automotive Service Technology program, was originally constructed in 2005 as the Peoples Tires Brakes and Alignment Center. The floor space contains eight training bays (four for oil change and tire rotation and four for automotive mechanical training), classroom and office area, along with ample storage.

According to NW-SCC President Dr. Humphrey Lee, the Automotive Service Technology Center located directly off Avalon Avenue provides needed visibility to the Shoals campus. “The added visibility and expansion the new Auto(motive) Service Technology Center offers the College is tremendous,” said Lee.

“Obviously, we are landlocked on the Shoals campus with limit-



ed visibility by major highways. This was a fantastic opportunity we could not afford to pass up.”

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For conference updates and other ACCA Information

Snead Students “Commit to Complete”

Empowering students to earn their associate degree has become a team effort at Snead State Community College, and it begins with their first Snead State experience.

New students participate in an orientation called Parson Days, named for SSCC’s mascot. The orientation is designed to engage students and educate them on the best path to completing their degree. Departments across the College join together for the two-week event that benefits more than 600 first-time freshmen.

Student peer leaders, who are Snead State sophomores, guide the freshmen through the process of being advised and registering for classes. The peer leaders represent the student leaders on campus, and they include athletes, Presidential Scholars, Phi Theta Kappa leaders, Student Government Association officers, and Ambassadors of the college. The peer leaders can share insight into how to make the freshmen experience great, so new students aren’t intimidated by or nervous because of the process.



The incoming freshmen also learn about the campus and the opportunities they have to become involved. They interact with important departments and programs on campus, such as financial aid, bookstore, housing, campus engagement and tutoring services.

As part of Parson Days, students are encouraged to “commit to complete” their Associate degree. Advisors review with students their degree plans and guide them in mapping out their plan for completion. The peer leaders then assist the students in selecting and registering for the classes they need.

ACCA Community Service Project

This year’s ACCA community service project will support the Jimmie Hale Mission and Jessie’s Place, which includes a homeless shelter for men and one for women and children. Online donation opportunities will be available at the conference; as little as \$1.95 provides a meal and \$19.50 will feed ten people. We will also have a collection site for the following items: soap, safety razors, shaving cream, shampoo, stick deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs and brushes, diapers, teething medicine, diaper cream, pain relievers, vitamins, and feminine hygiene products. Start collecting these items now; collection bins will be available at ACCA.

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Gadsden State Teams Honored

Gadsden State Community College is proud of the three athletic teams that earned honors for their work in the classroom—qualifying for the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Academic teams for 2013-2014. Cardinal teams qualifying include: men's tennis—3.38 GPA; women's volleyball—3.33 GPA, and women's softball—3.16 GPA. To qualify as an academic team, athletic teams must have a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Coaches for the teams are Buster Stewart (tennis), Connie Clark (volleyball) and Jeanne Kerr (softball).

In addition to the team honors, Cardinal tennis player Trois White received the NJCAA Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence with a 4.0 GPA. Amy Estes (volleyball), Jacob Mitchell (tennis), Collin Nichols (volleyball), and Rebecca Samples (softball) received the Superior Academic Achievement Award with GPAs of 3.80 or higher. Taylor Adams (women's basketball) and Megan Butler (volleyball) received the Exemplary Academic Achievement Award with GPAs of 3.65 or higher.

"We are extremely proud of our student athletes for their hard work in the classroom and athletic venues. It is indeed an honor to have three of our programs recognized nationally for their

academic achievements," Athletic Director Mike Cancilla said.

Gadsden State sophomore point guard Lacey Buchanon who led the Lady Cardinals with a scoring average of 18.2 points per game was named National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) All-American. She was the only player from Alabama selected for the honor. Buchanon finished the season first in the ACCC and in the top ten in the nation for assists averaging five per game. She had a total of 166 assists while scoring 600 points for the Cardinals.



In March, Buchanon was named Alabama Community College Conference Region XXII and North Division 2014 Player of the Year while also being named to the All-Region and All-North Division first teams. Last summer, she was chosen as one of 50 players from across the country to participate in the National Junior College Athletic Association All-Star Weekend in Florida. Buchanon plans to continue her athletic career as a student-athlete at Troy University this fall.

LBW Students Win Gold

Lurleen B. Wallace Community College (LBWCC) produced gold winners in both high school and postsecondary diesel skills competition at this year's Alabama SkillsUSA held in Birmingham.

The top spots were earned by Ben Cote of Daphne in postsecondary competition, and Andrew Driver of Rose Hill in the high school competitions. Each scored the highest in their division on the three components of competition: a written test, hands-on demonstration, and job interview.

In the hands-on demonstration, contestants cycle through 14 stations testing and troubleshooting engines, electrical and electronics systems, power train systems including chassis, transmissions and carriers.

"This year's event had the most competitors ever for the diesel skills competition," said Eddie Spann, LBWCC program instructor. Spann said Driver, a dual enrollment student, faced 19 competitors in the high school competition, and is on track to completing the program prior to graduating high school.



Cote, in his second semester at LBWCC, said winning is a dream come true.



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Calhoun Partnership Addresses Industry Needs

A new program at Calhoun Community College allows students to gain hands-on experience while earning a degree and the ability to graduate debt free.

Proving that when good ideas are shared, great things can happen, Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama has partnered to launch a new, innovative education-to-work initiative with Calhoun Community College to further enhance Alabama's future work force for years to come.

The initiative, called the Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT) program, is designed as an innovative manufacturing degree that will span five semesters of classroom instruction while providing paid, hands-on experience at world-class manufacturing facilities. Students will earn enough pay (starting

at \$13.55 per hour) to cover their educational expenses and the opportunity to graduate debt free. Graduates will hold an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Advanced Manufacturing degree.

The effort includes a collaborative known as the Alabama Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (AL FAME) and is designed to partner with area manufacturing companies that are interested in participating in the workforce development initiative.

The goal of the AMT program is to close the gap of unfilled skilled technician jobs in Alabama and across the country. "Skilled technician" is currently the number 1 unfilled job opening in the U.S. according to the National Association of Manufacturers. As technology increases,

so does the need for skilled technicians at our facility.

The AMT program will create and maintain a qualified pipeline of skilled technicians by preparing students to be fully job ready for a multi-skilled maintenance position at the end of a two year program," said Jim Bolte, president of Toyota Alabama. "This not only benefits Toyota, but helps to address the workforce needs of manufacturers regionally."

"Toyota has been a wonderful community partner for many years, and we are so very excited to have the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with the company to educate, train and prepare our students for these very high skilled, high wage advanced manufacturing jobs," commented Calhoun President Dr. Marilyn C. Beck.

NACC Honors Faculty Member

Misty Chapman, instructor of biology at Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC), has been chosen as the Dr. Charles M. Pendley Founders' Chair Most Outstanding Faculty Member for 2013-2014. The announcement was made recently by the Founders' Chair Committee at a luncheon at the college.

Dr. David Campbell, president of NACC, welcomed guests to the luncheon honoring Chapman. "This is a very special occasion for us," he said. "Teaching is what we are all about here at Northeast. We have an outstanding faculty and many of those previously chosen are here today to honor Misty Chapman. The committee has a challenge each year in selecting among those nominated. Lora Mae, Joyce, Pat and Kathy have done well adding Ms. Chapman to the ranks of those already honored."

Lora Mae Davis, Chair of the Founders' Chair Committee made the announcement. She said, "It is always a pleasure to be with you to announce the recipient of the Founders' Chair Award. This year we are proud to announce this will be our 30th year to recognize another outstanding faculty member." She said to Chapman, "Your contribution is evident by all the success this college has achieved. We are proud of you and thank you for your dedication and loyalty. This award carries a \$500 stipend, a



plaque presented at graduation and your name placed on a plaque displayed at the college."

Chapman has been at Northeast since 2009. She holds B.Ss and M.S. degrees from Jacksonville State University. She resides in Attalla.



ACCA is on Instagram!

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Bishop State Offers Apprenticeship Program

Bishop State Community College will serve as the lead postsecondary institution to offer services to the businesses located at the Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley when the Mobile Airport Authority converts as many as three existing buildings on the Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley campus into the Alabama Aerospace Innovation and Research Center.

Dr. Kathy Thompson, dean of technical education and workforce development at the college, indicated that this partnership will offer Bishop State students, through its Business Solution Center on the site, apprenticeships in drafting and design, graphic communications, arts, painting and welding to assist with the economic development of the Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley.



Shelton State Selected as ACT Winner

Shelton State Community College was chosen as the recipient of ACT's National Career Preparedness Award honoring exemplary efforts to advance college and career readiness by a community college. Shelton State was recognized at ACT's National Gala on College and Career Readiness held in Washington, D.C., June 3, 2014. Representatives from Shelton State attending the gala and receiving the award were Lew Drummond, director of workforce development; George Pratt, assistant director for workforce development; and Nicole Dubose, Ready-to-Work specialist.

Based on nomination forms submitted by the education chiefs of the eight states participating in this year's College and Career Readiness Campaign, the national award selections were determined using an objective process developed by ACT. Award winners were decided by an unbiased committee comprised of national education and workforce leaders.

Shelton State's Ready-to-Work program integrates ACT WorkKeys into a five week pre-employment training program assisting underemployed and unemployed individuals obtain the essential skills desired by employers. Ready-To-Work (RTW) provides trainees free training in basic skills and abilities required by most leading businesses and industries in Alabama.



The RTW curriculum is designed by AIDT to build skills based on demands of local businesses and industries along with a nation-wide growth in technology, computer knowledge, and employment availability. Successful graduates will receive an Alabama Certified Worker Certificate from AIDT, as well as an Alabama Career Readiness Certificate from ACT WorkKeys, allowing them to compete for jobs in today's competitive market.



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Bishop State Student Selected for Scholarship

Bishop State Community College EPECS (Engineering, Physics, Economics and Computer Science) Scholar Derek Mitchell will attend Louisiana State University (LSU) in the Fall of 2014 on a \$30,000-a-year scholarship from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation to major in Petroleum Engineering.



Mitchell, a Mobile resident and a graduate of Blount High School, was the only college student in the state selected as a recipient of the Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, and the first student from Bishop State to be awarded the scholarship.

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship is the largest private scholarship for two-year and community college transfer students in the country. The Foundation provides as much as \$30,000 a year for up to three years to community college students seeking to complete a bachelor's degree at an accredited college or university.

Scholars were selected based on high academic ability and achievements, persistence, leadership, and financial need. The average GPA of the incoming class is 3.98. There were 85 finalists selected from 3,705 applications representing 737 community colleges from 48 states, two U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia.

Bevill State Students Travel to Washington

Not many teenagers can say they have seen the First Lady of the United States in person, but for six students in Bevill State Community College's Upward Bound Program, hearing Michelle Obama speak was the highlight of a recent trip to Washington D.C. The students participated in the U.S. Department of Education's National Summer Learning Day June 20 where the first lady was in attendance.

Reshad Clay, Autumn Logan, Ashley Lovett, Mahlon Odom, Megan Parker, and Ashley Tran, all students in the college's Upward Bound program joined Directors Donna Swinney and Gina Thomason and Project Coordinators Katelin Bell and Jill Preuninger in what one student described as "the trip of a lifetime."

"I experienced more in three days than most people experience in their entire lifetime. I rode a plane for the first time, met Holocaust survivors (at the Holocaust Museum), and met the First Lady," said Logan.

The students demonstrated sections of each summer program as part of the National Summer Learning Day event. The event brought high school students and education leaders from across the country to highlight the critical role summer learning plays in preparing young people for successful college entry and completion.

"We witnessed our students take the initiative to talk about our program with students from other programs, employees from



the Department of Education, media and others. We saw the excitement on their faces from listening to the first lady and getting to shake her hand. The students did an outstanding job of representing our program. I couldn't be more proud of them," said Thomason.

Upward Bound provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. The program provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education.



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