ACCA President’s Message

Excitement is in the air!!! The ACCA Executive Committee is looking forward to your participation in this year’s ACCA Conference to be held November 22-24 in Birmingham. Committee members have been working very hard making sure that every participant finds opportunities to glean information, ideas, and innovative techniques to be utilized professionally and to be shared with other colleagues. A special treat this year is having two keynote speakers, Wil Haygood and Terry O’Banion. Haygood will be the keynote speaker on Monday and O’Banion will be our keynote speaker on Tuesday. Our own Chancellor, Dr. Mark Heinrich, will give an update on the System on Tuesday. In addition to our keynotes, our conference has outstanding presentations by Commission speakers and workshop presenters from within and outside the ACCA. The Conference promises to be one of the best ever for professional growth opportunities for the employees of the Alabama Community College System.

ACCA Community Service Project

You spoke and the ACCA Executive Committee listened! This year, ACCA will continue its recent tradition of service to the community by requesting that each member college conduct a service project at home. The ACCA Executive Committee is asking each member college to conduct one service project within the communities it serves between now and November 15. The project can be based upon the needs of the college’s service area -- collecting books or school supplies for an elementary school, sponsoring a community clean-up day, collecting staples and canned goods for a local food pantry, hosting a community blood drive, or any other project that will benefit the local community.

When you hold your event, make a photo to capture a record of the activity. Send that photo with a one-sentence explanation to Angela Cone at acone@trenholmstate.edu and your photo will be included in our photo montage during the ACCA conference’s general sessions.

Promote how your college is one of the greatest supporters of the area it serves by conducting a great community service project! We look forward to hearing from you and seeing your photos. Please contact Barbara Anne Spears at 256.215.4311 or bspears@cacc.edu if you have any questions or need additional information.
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.

Dr. Russell Howton
Interim Associate Dean – Hamilton Campus
Bevill State Community College

Dr. Russell Howton has been a part of the Alabama Community College System for 15 years as an employee at Bevill State Community College. Since 2013, he has served as the Interim Associate Dean of Bevill State’s Hamilton Campus. In his current position, he is responsible for providing supervision, coordination, and integration of campus and college-wide programs. He serves as the chief administrative officer of the campus and is directly accountable for the daily operations. Prior to his current appointment, he served in a variety of roles at the College including the Director of Student Services, Athletic Director, Instructor, and Wellness Director.

A product of the Alabama Community College System, and a first-generation college student himself, Dr. Howton possesses a student centered leadership philosophy focused on creating an atmosphere of student success. For his efforts, his peers selected him in 2011 to represent Bevill State Community College in the Administration category of the ACCS Chancellor’s Awards.

Dr. Howton’s professional activities include serving on the Alabama Community College Association Executive Committee since 2007 as the Food Services Coordinator; a participant in the Alabama Leadership Initiative; a graduate of Leadership Walker County; and the Mid-South Community College Fellowship program. His community activities include serving on the Executive Board of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, co-coordinating Leadership Walker County; serving as a board member with the Literacy Council of Walker County; being appointed to the United Way of Central Alabama - Walker County Campaign Cabinet; and being selected as an advisory board member with the City of Jasper Natatorium. He also represented the Alabama Community College Conference at the national level while serving as an Assistant Regional Commissioner with the National Junior College Athletic Association from 2007 to 2011.

He earned his associate degree in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation from Bevill State Community College, a bachelor’s in Physical Education (K-12) from the University of North Alabama, a master’s in Sports Administration from Mississippi State University, and a doctorate in Community College Leadership from Mississippi State University.

Ben Jordan
Vice President of Financial and Administrative Services
Southern Union State Community College

Ben Jordan is the Vice President of Financial and Administrative Services at Southern Union State Community College. Ben has worked at Southern Union for the past 23 years and has held the positions of Accounting Instructor and also Business Manager. Before joining the Southern Union staff, he worked in public accounting and is a State of Alabama Certified Public Accountant.

Involvement at Southern Union has included: member of the college’s executive council, chair of the college judiciary committee, three time member of the steering committee for SACSCOC reaffirmation, Phi Theta Kappa advisor for both the student and alumni chapters, and president of the Southern Union Alumni Association.

Ben has been involved with the Alabama Community College Association for over ten years, serving as treasurer for six years, Commission on Administration chair, and currently Evaluation Coordinator. Participation in other state organizations include past president of the ACCS Financial Management Association and member of the Alabama Society of CPAs. Ben is a graduate of the Alabama Community College Leadership Academy.

Educational background includes an Associate in Science degree from Southern Union State Junior College, a Bachelor’s degree in accounting from the University of Alabama, and a Master’s degree in business administration from Auburn University.
The 2015 ACCA Conference will include

Professional Development Workshops in the following areas:

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

Chancellor’s Awards
Association Meetings
Commission Meetings

Visit www.alabamacca.org for more information.

Conference Registration
Registration will be $175.00 per person until November 2nd and $200.00 per person afterwards. Visit www.alabamacca.org and click the “Register for Conference” button and follow the directions. Please refer questions to Registration Coordinators:

Dr. Leslie Cummings
Bevill State Community College
lcummings@bscc.edu
800-648-3271 ext. 5716

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

Accommodations
Birmingham Sheraton
2101 Richard Arrington, Jr. Blvd., North
Birmingham, AL 35203
www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/acca2015
205-324-5000
ACCA members receive a special conference hotel rate of $93 (plus tax) per night.

ACCA CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 22-24, 2015
Sheraton Birmingham Hotel
& Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex
2015 ACCA Conference Agenda

Saturday, November 21
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. ................................................................. Pre-Conference Workshops

Sunday, November 22
11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ................................................................. Registration
12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. ................................................................. Chancellor’s Awards Luncheon
2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. ................................................................. Facilitators’ Training
2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. ................................................................. Newcomers’ Meeting
2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. ................................................................. Birds of a Feather
2:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. ................................................................. Association Meetings
3:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. ................................................................. Concurrent Session I
5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. ................................................................. Opening Reception

Monday, November 23
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ................................................................. Registration
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ................................................................. Vendor Expo
8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. ................................................................. Light Breakfast
9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. ................................................................. Concurrent Session II
10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. ................................................................. Door Prizes
10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. ................................................................. Session III
11:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. ................................................................. Transitional Break
11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. ................................................................. Lunch/Vendors
1:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. ................................................................. Commission Meetings
3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. ................................................................. Vendors/Refreshment Break
3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. ................................................................. First General Session
8:30 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. ................................................................. Dance

Tuesday, November 24
8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. ................................................................. Light Breakfast
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. ................................................................. Vendor Expo
8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. ................................................................. Concurrent Session IV
9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. ................................................................. Coffee Break
10:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. ................................................................. Closing Session

(Conference Agenda Subject to Change)
ACCA Conference Keynote Speakers

Mr. Wil Haygood
Author

Best known as the author of the New York Times bestseller The Butler: A Witness to History, Wil Haygood is a distinguished writer whose career has spanned decades. He was an associate producer on the film adaptation of his book, The Butler, which was sparked from his Washington Post article, starred Academy Award winners Forest Whittaker, Cuba Gooding, Jr., Robin Williams, Vanessa Redgrave and Jane Fonda, as well as the incomparable Oprah Winfrey. He worked for 30 years at two of the most premiere papers in America (The Boston Globe and The Washington Post); during that time, he witnessed Nelson Mandela’s release after 27 years of imprisonment, was taken hostage by Somalian rebels, covered New Orleans post-Hurricane Katrina for 33 straight days without a break, traveled with Barack Obama and was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Haygood’s next book will be released this fall, Showdown: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court Nomination that Changed America, a sweeping epic about the tumultuous, real-life events surrounding the heated appointment of Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American Supreme Court Justice, in 1967. Kirkus Reviews praised Haygood’s account as an “intensely readable, fully explored account of what the New York Times called an ‘ordeal by committee,’ an important hinge in American history.” Publishers Weekly said that “Haygood provides details of [Thurgood Marshall’s] legal triumphs in an accessible way, along with a moving account of his upbringing in Baltimore,” and that “this is the definitive account of the life of a major American hero who deserves wider recognition.”

Haygood was recently appointed as the Karl and Helen Wiepking Visiting Distinguished Professor at his alma mater Miami University and he continues his appointment as Distinguished Scholar at the University. He has won a number of other awards and recognitions including being named an Alicia Patterson Foundation Fellow, a John Simon Guggenheim Fellow and recipient of the prestigious Ella Baker Award (named after the Civil Rights pioneer). Haygood’s literary career has been cited “for shedding a light on those who give much, but are little noticed.”

Dr. Terry O’Banion
President, League for Innovation in the Community College

Dr. Terry O’Banion was President of the League for Innovation in the Community College for 23 years until his retirement. Under his leadership the League became an international organization serving more than 750 colleges recognized by Change magazine as “the most dynamic organization in the community college world.” Since retirement O’Banion has worked on special projects for the League for Innovation, MetLife Foundation, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The Chauncey Group International, Walden University, and National American University.

In honor of his decades of service to education, five national awards have been established in his name: the Terry O’Banion Student Technology Award created by Microsoft; the Terry O’Banion Prize for Teaching and Learning created by Educational Testing Service; the Terry O’Banion Shared Journey Award created by the National Council on Student Development; the O’Banion Leadership Scholarship created by Walden University; and the John Roueche and Terry O’Banion International Leadership Award created by the League for Innovation.

Author of 15 books and more than 200 monographs, chapters, and articles on the community college, his current work includes “Access, Success, and Completion;” “Academic Advising: The Key to Student Success;” and “Community College Curmudgeons: Barriers to Change.”

O’Banion has served as a dean of students at Central Florida Community College, founding dean at Santa Fe Community College (FL), and vice chancellor for education for the Dallas County Community College District. He has been a Professor of Higher Education at the University of Illinois; Distinguished Visiting Professor at The University of Texas; Visiting Professor at Berkeley, Florida State, Hawaii, and Toronto; the Marie Y. Roberts Endowed Professor of Higher Education at the University of North Texas; and a Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence at Antioch University McGregor School of Management.
Commission Speakers

Commission on Administration
Dr. Jack Hawkins
Chancellor
Troy University

Commission on Students
Mr. Dhanfu Elston
Vice President
Complete College America

Commission on Faculty
Mr. Leonard Geddes
Associate Dean of Co-Curricular Programs/Director of the Learning Commons
Lenoir-Rhyne University

Commission on Support
Dr. Allen Mallory
Instructor
Shelton State Community College

Commission on Workforce Development
Ms. Jen Worth
Senior Vice President for Workforce and Economic Development
American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)

Commission Meetings will be held on
Monday, November 23 at 1:30 p.m. at the
ACCA Annual Conference. Don’t miss your opportunity
to hear one of these outstanding commission speakers!

Want to get 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
256-551-3127
Local students demonstrated their skills in the ninth annual welding competition held at Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC).

Secondary technical/vocational schools were invited to compete in a variety of events. There were four contests: 7018, 6010, Flux-Core, and Torch. Each school was divided among Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit, Non Dual Enrollment/Dual Credit, and Agriculture department students. The judges consisted of Business and Industry partners and contributed a variety of prizes for the winners. Several of the competitors will be enrolling at NW-SCC.

The Welding program at NW-SCC is designed to develop the skills necessary to enter and maintain a job in the welding field. It is equipped with manual and automated equipment to provide training for new students or welding professionals who only need a two-week upgrade to enhance their skills. Welders will receive specialized training to operate advanced equipment in a variety of welding fields.

Together with Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, two-year college presidents and state community college associations sponsor All-State Academic Team recognition programs. As one of 32 participating states, each two-year college in the state of Alabama may nominate two students to the All-Alabama Academic Team. Nominated students compete for positions on the All-USA Academic Team. Nominations are based on outstanding academic performance and service to the college and community.

Walker Davis and Sam Hart were recently selected as Shelton State Community College’s All-Alabama Academic Team representatives. Both students earned a 4.0 grade point average, served as Phi Theta Kappa officers, and were members of Shelton State’s Student Leadership Council. Each student was acknowledged during the All-Alabama Academic Team Recognition Ceremony and received a $1,000 stipend.

Also during the Recognition Ceremony, Walker Davis was named by Dr. Mark Heinrich, Chancellor of the Alabama Community College System, as a Coca-Cola Silver Scholar and was awarded an additional stipend of $1,200. Mr. Davis and Mr. Hart are also recipients of $1,500 NASA Space Grants. These grants enable Shelton State Community College students to work with students from the University of Alabama on research projects. Mr. Hart is a second-year recipient of a NASA Space Grant and will travel with the research team to NASA’s mining competition at the Kennedy Space Center in May.

“It is exciting to watch opportunities unfold for students like Walker and Sam,” said Dr. Andrea Mayfield, Shelton State President. “They share an obvious commitment to excellence and we take great pride in their accomplishments.”

Both students will transfer to the University of Alabama in the fall to pursue degrees in engineering.
In May, Alabama Southern recognized four outstanding employees as part of the IMPACT program, a program which encourages the recognition of faculty and staff members who go above and beyond the call of duty to provide excellent instruction, service and administration to the college and its students.

This year’s honorees included the Academic Faculty Member of the Year, Dr. Ron Marcy. Marcy, who has been with Alabama Southern since 2000, teaches biology and chemistry and also serves as the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Division Chair.

Tommy Gaillard was recognized as the Technical Faculty Member of the Year. Gaillard has served as computer science instructor since 2005. He also serves as a bi-vocational minister with the United Methodist Church.

Ginger Bell was honored as the Staff Member of the Year. Bell has been with Alabama Southern since 2001 and currently works as Planning and Accounting Secretary as well as GED Chief Examiner on the Thomasville Campus.

Ann Clanton was named the Administrator of the Year. Clanton, who has been with Alabama Southern since 1992, serves as dean of instruction, a post she has held since 2011. Prior to that, she was dean of students, a position she held from 1998-2011.

The honorees will be recognized at this year’s Chancellor’s Awards luncheon at ACCA.

Riedel Receives PTK Award

LBW Community College President Dr. Herb Riedel was one of 23 college presidents and campus CEOs to receive the highest recognition of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society (PTK) at a convention held in San Antonio, Texas.

Riedel received the 2015 Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction at NerdNation, PTK’s 97th annual convention during mid-April in recognition of his outstanding efforts promoting the goals of PTK.

“This award means a lot to me and is especially meaningful because I was nominated by my students,” said Riedel. “Phi Theta Kappa has done a lot for our students by developing academics, leadership, and service. I encourage all who qualify to join and be active in their chapter.”

The award is presented annually on a national level to college presidents and campus CEOs and is named for the late Dr. Shirley B. Gordon, PTK’s longest-serving Board of Directors Chair and named PTK’s Most Distinguished College President in 1984.
Snead State Community College began its Presidential Scholars program in 2009 as a leadership development opportunity for incoming students who demonstrated excellence with their academics. Including the 2015-2016 group, 62 students have received the distinction of Presidential Scholars, and the graduation rate among those completing their courses at SSCC is 97 percent.

The Presidential Scholars represent Snead State at a variety of events, including donor recognitions and alumni functions. The students participate in two signature activities each year – the completion of the BOLD team-building ropes course at Berry College and participation in a one credit hour seminar course (Leadership and Democracy) requiring a trip to Washington DC. The group also completes a minimum of 20 hours of community service per student each year, but the students typically participate in 40 or more hours of community service per student. To qualify for the program, applicants must achieve a minimum 25 ACT score and a 3.75 GPA. The Presidential Scholars are mentored by Snead State President Dr. Robert Exley and led by Director of Campus Engagement Brittany Goble.

Landon Naylor, an alumnus with the Presidential Scholars program, said the interaction with Dr. Exley is what sets the Presidential Scholars apart from other scholarship programs. “The amount of interaction the Snead Presidential Scholars have with their president is unique; I believe the same level of interaction would be hard to find anywhere else,” said Naylor. “The best thing about being a Presidential Scholar was being given the confidence to feel that success would be possible anywhere outside of Snead and being prepared by the program to prove that feeling right.”

Naylor has found success after his years at Snead. He graduated from Georgetown University in May. While there, he spent a year studying abroad in Italy, and in August he will move to Orlando to participate in the Disney College program, a semester-long internship with a focus on living, learning, and earning at the Walt Disney World Resort. When he completes the internship, he plans to return to Washington and spend a few years working in the non-profit sector. With a degree in art history, Naylor would eventually like to pursue a master’s degree in art business and creative writing with plans to establish a career in publication or arts sales.

“Being named a Presidential Scholars is prestigious. The program is an entryway to the College experience for the participants, and their future is unlimited because of it. I’m honored to have the opportunity to interact with the scholars and encourage their success. I want them to reach beyond their current expectations for themselves and dream bigger,” said Dr. Exley.

CVCC Baseball Team Wins Award

The Pirates of the Chattahoochee Valley brought back a third-place finish in the NJCAA World Series. The team also received the Homa Thomas Sportsmanship Award for best exemplifying sportsmanship during the tournament.
Wallace State Community College and Cullman County Schools have announced a new REHAU Academy that will offer paid apprenticeship opportunities to Fast Track for Industry dual enrollment students beginning this fall.

REHAU officials from Cullman and Germany and representatives from Wallace State and Cullman County Schools met intensively for several days this summer to work out the details of the new partnership to ensure the curriculum achieves desired learning outcomes and also aligns with the German apprenticeship model.

“Globalization demands that if we want our students to be competitive, we must provide them with exposure to international corporations, diverse perspectives and technologically-advanced and innovative work environments. We are fortunate to have a number of very successful international industry partners here in Cullman, who work closely with our programs to provide a range of opportunities for our students,” said Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Karolewics. “We are grateful for this new partnership with REHAU and commend its leaders for their willingness to work with us to develop the first REHAU Academy apprenticeship program in the United States. We look forward to the development of many more such programs in the future.”

Eight paid REHAU Academy apprentices will be selected each year from the Fast Track for Industry program. Students will apply for apprenticeships during their junior year of high school and begin the apprenticeship during their senior year. (For this year, since Fast Track for Industry will not begin until fall, applications will be made available to current 11th graders at Cullman County Schools who plan to enroll in the Fast Track for Industry program.)

The addition of the Fast Track for Industry program at Wallace State will allow the Cullman Area Career Center and Cullman County Schools’ vocational training center at Vinemont to expand their reach to serve career-tech students beginning in the 9th grade.

Chattahoochee Valley Community College has received a $45,000 grant from the Alabama Community College System to purchase three-dimensional printing technology for two of its career technical programs in visual communication and applied technology.

Clint Langley, applied technology instructor, said, “This cutting-edge 3D printing technology produces models of parts, objects, and prototypes needed for testing the aesthetic, ergonomic, and functional properties of designs.” He added, “These processes equip students for rapidly emerging industry techniques in automotive technology, industrial maintenance, sustainable construction, HVAC, visual/industrial design, and welding.”

This technology also requires students to think collaboratively, problem-solve, and design solutions to everyday problems. Students will become familiar with design software that is already offered in a CAD course in the applied technology program at CVCC. Additionally, the approach offers advantages to assist in fulfillment of a productive educational experience, especially for the more tech-savvy students.

Traditionally, CVCC has been a strong academic transfer institution. While that option continues to be one of CVCC’s strengths, the College has grown its curriculum in the career and technical areas over the past several years.
Alpha Eta Tau, the Wallace Community College Selma (WCCS) chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), has been recognized among the top 100 chapters worldwide. The announcement was made at the International Hallmark Awards Gala in April during the International Convention in San Antonio, Texas.

Alpha Eta Tau received the Distinguished Honors in Action Project Award. The Honors in Action Project Award recognizes the top chapters whose entries demonstrated excellence in academic research into the honors study topic, leadership roles and leadership development activities, service learning and collaboration. All awards were announced at the Hallmark Awards Gala in front of nearly 4,000 convention attendees. There were more than 2,000 entries received in the 2015 Hallmark Awards Competition this year.

“I am so proud of our Phi Theta Kappa chapter at WCCS. These students have worked hard on several campus and community projects this year, and receiving awards at the International Convention in San Antonio, Texas was ‘icing on the cake,’ said Becky Davis, one of Alpha Eta Tau’s advisors.

The Hallmark Awards recognize chapters for excellence in the honor society’s pillars of Scholarship, Leadership, Service, and Fellowship, as exemplified through community, regional, and international involvement and service activities.

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for two-year college students. Since its founding in 1918, Phi Theta Kappa has recognized the academic achievements of students in associate degree programs. The society has more than 1,280 chapters located in all 50 of the United States, Canada, Germany, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands, United Arab Emirates, and U.S. territories.

Approximately 135,000 of the most outstanding two-year college students are inducted into membership in Phi Theta Kappa each year. Phi Theta Kappa offers students opportunities for engaging in scholarly activities, earning academic scholarships, providing service to the community, developing and practicing leadership skills, and enjoying fellowship with other scholars.

A total of 13 Pike County High School students graduated from both high school and Enterprise State Community College during a commencement ceremony on Friday, May 29, 2015.

These high school students earned enough credits through the college’s dual enrollment program to receive an Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration with Accounting Concentration from ESCC.

The college degrees were awarded by Interim President Dr. Cynthia T. Anthony.

Wallace - Selma wins Hallmark Awards

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Visit our booth or contact Michelle Porter at Alabamatestingprofessionals@gmail.com
Calhoun Graduates Post 100 Percent Passage Rate

Calhoun Community College officials recently announced that for the third consecutive year, graduates from the college’s Clinical Laboratory Technician (CLT) program posted a 100 percent passage rate on the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification (BOC) licensure exam.

According to Bret McGill, dean of the college’s Health Sciences division, Calhoun had ten CLT students to take and pass the test during the most recent testing cycle. These students were among the 2626 taking the test nationally. Calhoun’s 100 percent passage rate significantly outpaced the national average of 77.8 percent for first time examinees. “We are extremely pleased with the results of this most recent class of CLT graduates on their licensure exam,” commented McGill.

“The fact that we have achieved a 100 percent passage rate for the last three years speaks well to the level of instruction provided and commitment to excellence exhibited by our CLT faculty,” McGill added.

“Calhoun’s CLT program is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS), making graduates eligible to take the national certification exam,” McGill said. “The National Board of Certification requires programs to be NAACLS accredited, and medical labs will preferentially seek graduates of NAACLS accredited and approved programs to assure quality, value and innovation for healthcare consumers.”

Faulkner Introduces Veteran Resource Center

Matthew Watkins, Veteran Affairs Counselor at Faulkner State Community College, is excited about the changes and plans for the growing Veteran Resource Center at Faulkner State.

“Right now, we’re in the process of structuring a center to help our veteran students in every aspect of college life,” Watkins said. “I believe these services will provide some much needed resources to our student veterans.”

On the docket for the VA Center include counseling services, readjustment assistance and continued support for financial assistance and processing. The College served more than 400 student veterans and their families in the 2014-2015 academic year.

While Faulkner State has continued to provide financial counseling to veterans, the College decided to offer a full line of services to its student veterans, thus establishing the Veteran Resource Center in 2013. Watkins, a military veteran of five years, was hired to establish and grow the Center. He served in the U.S. Airforce and worked in signals and intelligence at the National Security Agency. He also worked at the University of South Alabama for four years in the Veterans Affairs Office.

Watkins spends much of his time meeting with current student veterans and recruiting veterans at local military bases, career fairs and community events.
NACC Dean Earns Top IOA Honor

Dr. Joe Burke, vice president/dean of instruction at Northeast Alabama Community College, has been chosen as the Instructional Officer of the Year by the Alabama Community College System (ACCS) Instructional Officers Association (IOA). The presentation took place at the group’s annual summer conference recently.

The IOA is a professional development organization that consists of more than 50 members made up of chief academic officers, vice presidents, and deans in Alabama’s two-year college system. Burke also has served as president of the IOA for the past two years. He has been employed at Northeast since 1987.

“It is an honor and one of the highlights of my career to be recognized by my peers in this way,” said Dr. Burke. “This is an extraordinary group of professionals who are focused on helping students in the Alabama Community College System achieve their educational goals.”

“Dr. Burke does an outstanding job for us at Northeast,” stated NACC President Dr. David Campbell. “It is great to see him receive this state recognition!”

Jeff State Named ‘Best College to Work For’

Jefferson State is one of the best colleges in the nation to work for, according to a new survey by The Chronicle of Higher Education. The results, released recently in The Chronicle’s eighth annual report on The Academic Workplace, are based on a survey of 281 colleges and universities.

Only 86 of the 281 institutions achieved “Great College to Work For” recognition for specific best practices and policies. Of those 86, only 24 two-year colleges achieved honors. Jefferson State was the only college from Alabama to be recognized. Jefferson State won honors in three categories this year: Compensation and Benefits, Supervisor or Department-Chair Relationship, Work/Life Balance.

“The one thing that makes Jefferson State a great place to work is the relaxed and congenial environment,” said Jefferson State Interim President Keith Brown. “Our former president of 35 years insisted that everyone, from students to senators, call her by her first name. Nothing has changed in her absence. We are a ‘first-name institution.’ A hierarchy might exist on paper, but step a few feet inside our doors and the intimate environment is evident to even the most untrained observer.”

Trenholm President Featured in Montgomery Business Journal

The Montgomery Business Journal interviewed President Sam Munnerlyn about his responsibilities as the president of Trenholm State and about Trenholm State students, employees, programs, and degrees.

President Munnerlyn also spoke about the recent SACSCOC accreditation and what that means to the college and students going forward. President Munnerlyn went on to talk about creating special work-training programs with companies, such as Hyundai and SABIC, workforce development, dual enrollment, adult education, and his vision for Trenholm State.
Donnell Perry, Lawson State Community College drafting and design instructor, was one of 36 instructors selected from a national pool of applicants to participate in the 18-month “iGETT Remote Sensing Program” for “Integrated Geospatial Education and Technology Training.”

This National Science Foundation Advanced Technological Education Program serves two-year college instructors of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and equips them to understand, download, analyze and integrate Landsat data, space-based observations of the planet, into GIS for problem solving and analysis for sharing with students. Landsat data provide the world’s longest record of the planet’s land surface.

“The federal government has invested billions of dollars to ensure our country’s leadership in space-based observations of our planet. “We need a workforce that is fully prepared to understand and use this data for solving problems of local, national and global concern,” said Jeannette Allen, co-principal investigator. “Community colleges provide fertile ground for remote sensing workforce development at an effective technician level. They serve almost half the undergraduate students in the United States, and they are well positioned to increase workforce diversity.”

iGETT participants were required to write their own laboratory exercises, in which students download, analyze and integrate Landsat, MODIS and/or ASTER data into GIS for problem solving. They were also required to complete several GIS courses, attend two Summer institutes and participate in monthly seminars.

Bevill State Community College recently entered into two new partnerships to help its students continue their educational goals after graduating from Bevill State.

The first partnership is with the University of Mississippi at Tupelo. Bevill State and UM-Tupelo’s partnership helps Bevill State graduates transfer into a bachelor’s degree program at UM-Tupelo after finishing an associate degree at BSCC.

The partnership ensures that previously earned academic coursework at Bevill State transfers to a UM bachelor’s degree program. Programs available to graduates include Accountancy, Business, Criminal Justice, Education, General Studies, Liberal Studies, Paralegal Studies, and Social Work.

“The forging of this partnership provides greater choices and access to Bevill State students who wish to continue their education and pursue bachelor degrees. With the combination of offerings, customer service, and location, we are confident this partnership will be a great success,” said Dr. Leslie Cummings, dean of instruction at Bevill State.

Bevill State students planning to attend the University of Alabama at Birmingham will benefit from the second new partnership. Bevill State and UAB have entered into a joint admissions agreement to help students create a clear pathway to earn their associate degrees and transfer into bachelor degree programs.

The joint admissions program allows for the creation of higher levels of customer service and on-site advising services, while offering a seamless transition from the associate to the bachelor’s degree.

Bevill State students gain full admission to UAB upon completion of their associate degrees. Once admitted to the joint admissions program, they will receive specialized orientation services and have access to UAB facilities, resources and staff services.
Central Alabama Softball Player Becomes World-renowned Designer and TV Star

In 1998, Greg Shivers, the head softball coach at Central Alabama Community College, recruited a young lady from Mortimer Jordan High School to join his program. Heidi Elnora played for Central Alabama from 1998 to 2000. According to Coach Shivers, she was a good softball player but it was another talent off the field that caught his eye.

“When Heidi came to CACC she told me her goal was to be a fashion designer,” Shivers said. “She would bring all of her drawings in to my office and show me the things she had designed. I knew back then she had a special talent.”

Getting a softball scholarship to Central Alabama enabled Heidi to complete her first two years of college, which in turn led to a presidential scholarship offer at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia. After playing softball there for two years and getting her degree, she designed children’s wear for Carter’s in Atlanta. In 2005, she was one of the designers selected to compete on “Project Runway.” Soon after competing in the design show, she launched her bridal brand “heidi elnora” in 2006 in Birmingham.

Just a few months ago, Heidi went from being a contestant on a TV show to unveiling her own reality show on TLC called “Bride by Design,” which is part of TLC’s bridal lineup. Heidi’s wedding dresses can be found in more than 32 bridal shops worldwide. When Heidi got eliminated from Project Runway in 2005, the producers asked her about her future plans. She said “Well, I guess I’m going to keep on trucking. No matter what, I’m not going to give up on my dream.” That dream is definitely a reality now.

Wallace Dothan Holds Completion Celebration

Wallace Community College-Dothan recently held a completion celebration for the Inaugural Instructional Leadership Challenge (ILC) for full-time and adjunct faculty members.

The cross-disciplinary group represents all instructional areas of the College, including academics, health sciences, career/technical, and adult education. Wallace’s ILC is designed to identify, prepare, and build upon educational leadership skills and resources within the College in order to enhance the quality of learning for all students.

The program is a year-long journey that gives instructors the opportunity to network and strengthen relationships across divisions and to foster collaborative learning.

“These instructors will be able to strengthen relationships within and across divisions to foster collaboration needed to use our available resources and work on common interests. It’s all about the students,” said Lisa Sanders, WCC director of faculty enhancement.
Enterprise PTK Chapter Adds Members

The Enterprise State Community College Tau Mu Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society had a successful 2014-15 year. The chapter finished the year with a five star status.

Members of the chapter also received the honor of being named as one of thirty distinguished chapter officer teams during the international PTK Convention in San Antonio, Texas, on April 17, 2015.

To be selected for the honor, the officers had to compete against 200 chapter officer teams that were nominated internationally from the 1300 worldwide chapters. Additionally, the chapter received a college project award at the regional level.

At the high school level, the ESCC chapter held its first ever dual enrollment induction ceremony at Pike County High School on May 5, 2015. The ESCC honor society inducted nine new members, including six Pike County High School juniors and three seniors.

Gadsden State Recognizes Men in Nursing

Gadsden State Community College was proudly represented during the Spring Commencement as 20 percent of its registered nursing graduates were male nurses. The national average of male registered nurses is 9.6 percent, according to a recent report by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Two of the 26 graduates are currently licensed practical nurses and five are currently licensed in the emergency medical field. The remainder of the graduates received their initial degrees as registered nurses.

“We are proud of all of our graduates, but especially proud of these 26 young men who have moved beyond the stereotypes associated with nursing and endured an all-female faculty along the way,” said Belinda Fuller, nursing instructor. “We’ve never had this number of male students to graduate in one class, and it has been quite an honor to teach them.”

The Alabama Community College System supplies 69 percent of the state’s nurses who accept positions in hospitals, primary care and specialty clinics, ambulatory centers, public health and other healthcare facilities. Gadsden State salutes the nursing faculty, students and graduates who are making a difference in the healthcare of the community.
Snead State Implements Enrollment Rapid Response Team

As the summer semester approached, Snead State Community College President Dr. Robert Exley was determined to reverse the trend of declining enrollment the College experienced during the past few summer terms. With a decline from 9,191 credit hours in 2011 to 7,635 credit hours in 2014, the College saw a cumulative loss of 16.9 percent in credit hour production.

“It was time to do something different. We had to approach our methods of boosting enrollment in a different way with a different mindset. What we’d done in the past was no longer effective,” Dr. Exley said.

The new approach was the development of a three-member Enrollment Rapid Response Team (RTT), which had one task to accomplish: develop and implement a new approach to boost enrollment. The team consisted of Director of Marketing/Public Relations Shelley Smith, Director of Admissions/Records Lesley Kubik, and Director of Online Learning John Haney. The first step was to identify products the College could promote to potential and current students that would entice them to enroll for the summer semester 2015.

“The team identified the greatest obstacle that hinders students from taking classes during the summer: the lack of financial aid. Then we proposed three different financial aid opportunities targeting three different student groups: current students, new students and returning students. With the support of Dr. Exley and our Student Services staff, we implemented those programs and waited to see the results,” said Ms. Smith.

The result was an 18 percent increase in credit hour production and a 17.4 percent increase in headcount over the previous summer.

“The ironic twist to the efforts of the Enrollment RRT is that the new financial aid opportunities we implemented only a portion of our enrollment increase can be attributed to the new financial aid opportunities. The greatest boost to our enrollment came through student retention as our returning students took advantage of the financial aid we made available for them,” said Ms. Smith. “However, the work of the RRT resulted in greater purpose and communication within our college departments, and focusing our promotion on those particular opportunities created awareness of the offerings available at Snead. The successful efforts of the RRT have continued through developing strategies for boosting enrollment for the upcoming fall semester.”

In the Major League Baseball draft, two Shelton State Community College baseball players were drafted by the Atlanta Braves.

Grayson Jones, a right-handed pitcher, was drafted in the 11th round.

Left-handed pitcher Chase Johnson-Mullins was drafted in the 13th round. Both players are members of the 2015 Shelton State Baseball Team.

The College congratulates both students for their hard work and dedication.
Gadsden State Enrolls Global UGRAD Students

Three international students have enrolled at Gadsden State Community College as a part of the U.S. Department of State’s Global Undergraduate Exchange Program in Pakistan known as Global UGRAD. The program is a part of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) of the Department of State and is administered by the International Research and Exchanges (IREX) Board.

The Global Undergraduate Exchange Program in Pakistan builds the capacity of a diverse group of youth leaders from underserved populations across the country. Through U.S.-based training and practical experience in leadership positions, community engagement and in their professional fields, undergraduate students gain the skills needed to implement long-term civic and economic changes in their communities, building stability through increased local capacity and cross-cultural understanding.

Through semester-long programs of study, exploration of U.S. culture, and integration into U.S. communities, students develop a broad understanding of U.S. values and become citizen ambassadors who support expanded diplomatic and development partnerships. In addition to their academic studies, the students perform community service and explore American traditions through the unique digital Cultural Passport to America program. The Passport program provides students with a framework for comprehensively exploring various aspects of American culture broadly and systematically.

While interacting with Americans in the community and on campus, the students are to serve as “ambassadors” for their native country. The students also give presentations about their home country and cultures at local schools, Rotary clubs, retirement homes and other locations, reaching thousands of Americans each year. Global UGRAD students develop a more well-rounded perception of American culture. They go on to share this understanding of the U.S. with friends, family, and others in their communities back home. Their unique perspectives and backgrounds enrich the learning experience for American students.

Lawson State Programs Receive Accreditation

After an arduous process, two instructional programs have been granted accreditation at Lawson State Community College - the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVAC) program and the Industrial Electronics and Automated Manufacturing program.

The HVAC Excellence Accreditation Board, after its compliance review and site visit, informed Jeff Sweatmon, chairperson and lead HVAC instructor, that the program met and/or exceeded all standards set forth by HVAC Excellence and was granted a six (6) year accreditation. The program would be provided access to logo usage, professional development and resources, among other opportunities. HVAC Excellence ensures validating and updating training programs meet the standards and that trainers maintain knowledgeable and competent skill sets.

The core for the Lawson State Industrial Electronics and Automated Manufacturing program was certified by the Electronic Technicians Association (ETA) and recognized for the strength of its program. “We are honored to have received this acknowledgement of our program,” said Nancy Wilson, assistant dean for career technical programs and chairperson of Manufacturing Engineering Technology. “This is a great opportunity for our students. An ETA certification signifies that the holder has demonstrated professional proficiency and has the technical knowledge and skill to meet international electronics industry standards.”
Through an innovative grant funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, 22 Dallas county students are moving forward with a goal of attaining a high school diploma and an associate in science degree by 2016. The Howard Hughes Medical Institute selected Tuskegee University as one of 47 colleges and universities in the United States to create more engaging science classes, bring real-world research experiences to students, and increase the diversity of students who study science. The plan includes a collaborative agreement with Wallace Community College-Selma to provide an innovative educational experience for high school students that exposes them to collegiate level STEM curricula and research-based activities with the WCCS-Alabama Black Belt High School Bridge Initiative and a summer program initiative, Discovery TREK - Tuskegee Research and Enrichment Kamp.

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) is a United States non-profit medical research organization based in Chevy Chase, Maryland. It was founded by the American businessman Howard Hughes in 1953. It is one of the largest private funding organizations for biological and medical research in the United States. The partnership with WCCS hopes to increase the participation of underrepresented minority students from Alabama’s Black Belt counties. It is also designed to increase the enrollment of undergraduate science majors by serving as one of several science and research pipelines for Tuskegee University.

Companies are increasingly realizing the shortcomings of self-qualification and switching to AWS ATFs to test and qualify their welders. “This is a great way for companies to streamline their welding certification process and eliminate issues with self-qualifying employees,” said Brent Jacobs, Industrial Training Project Manager for Calhoun Workforce Solutions.

ATFs assist companies in saving money, improving productivity, and reducing liability by entrusting their welder certification to the experts. Calhoun is one of the only AWS testing centers in the Tennessee Valley region which allows Calhoun students, as well as local industry personnel to obtain nationally recognized credentials through the American Welding Society.

The Welding program at Calhoun Community College recently earned accreditation as an Accredited Test Facility (ATF) by the American Welding Society (AWS). “To achieve this notable recognition, Calhoun’s Welding program underwent an intense audit evaluation process conducted by the AWS,” commented Calhoun Welding instructor Zeb Ferguson. The AWS ATF program establishes minimum requirements for test facilities, their personnel and equipment to qualify for accreditation to test and qualify welders. ATFs play an integral part in the operation of the AWS Certified Welding program and have proven that they have the necessary resources to test welders to this nationally recognized and accepted program.

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There was a gathering of presidents at a “Golden Gala” 50th anniversary event in April for Lurleen B. Wallace Community College. Hosted by the LBWCC Foundation, the event had overwhelming community support and was the largest fundraising event on record for the Foundation.

Foundation President SalLee Sasser-Williams recognized LBW presidents in attendance, including Dr. William H. McWhorter, LBW’s founding president; Seth Hammett, former president; Dr. Jim Krudop and Wayne Bennett, interim presidents; and Dr. Herb Riedel, current president.

“It is an honor to be among those recognized for leading this great college,” said Riedel. “Dr. McWhorter worked very hard to get the college started, and it was the collective vision and leadership of these individuals that grew LBW to the point it is today. We are grateful to each one as they continued to build LBW into a strong, viable, and well-respected educational institution.”

Reflecting on the five decades of educational services, the event’s “Alumni Corner” featured photographs of students and faculty through the years in academic and technical training areas. In addition, guests enjoyed live music, a seated dinner, silent auction, and a performance band.

Ms. Verna Wilson of Enterprise was selected as the Alabama Adult Education Teacher of the Year during the Adult Education Summer Conference on July 9, 2015.

Ms. Wilson has been an English-as-a-Second Language instructor for the Enterprise State Community College (ESCC) Adult Education program for more than 20 years. Most of her students are military spouses. Some of her students have moved to the states, while others are in the U.S. temporarily while their spouses are stationed to work or attend training at the Ft. Rucker military base.

Dr. Terri Dunn, director of Adult Education at ESCC, describes Ms. Wilson as “a teacher who has mastered the art of communicating to individuals from different countries. She is quickly able to make new students feel relaxed in a classroom full of strangers, most of whom do not speak the same language.”

Sometimes Ms. Wilson’s students are very well educated and have degrees from their home countries, but they come to class to learn the English language. Ms. Wilson has taught professionals, such as doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, and teachers as well as those who are undereducated and low functioning.

“It is truly amazing to see how she engages a room full of individuals from multiple countries with differing educational, economic, and social backgrounds with ease. Over the years, other ESL instructors have come and gone but Ms. Wilson has remained our “constant” in the program and has trained multiple instructors,” says Dr. Dunn.

“This September, Ms. Wilson is retiring. She has been instrumental in the success of the ESL program at ESCC and will truly be missed. She is definitely worthy of the Teacher of the Year Award!”
Alumni and friends of Jefferson State Community College recently gathered on campus to celebrate the college’s 50th Anniversary. The capacity crowd enjoyed a magnificent evening filled with music, exhibits, memorabilia, dinner, and a historic film commemorating 50 Years of Changing Lives.

As part of the celebration, the college named its Health Sciences Building in honor of longtime president Judy M. Merritt. Jefferson State also posthumously honored Merritt with the title of president emeritus.

At the conclusion of the evening, ACCS Chancellor Mark Heinrich and Jefferson State Interim President Keith Brown unveiled a portrait, a resolution passed by the Alabama State Board of Education, and a memorial plaque all honoring Merritt. Each will be permanently displayed in and around the newly renamed building.

Northeast Alabama Launches First Apprenticeship Program

A new apprenticeship program for machinists has been launched at Northeast Alabama Community College. In 2014, meetings were held with officials from business and industry in DeKalb and Jackson counties. Out of those meetings, a consortium was formed and named the “Northeast Alabama Community College Tri-State Apprenticeship Consortium.” The Consortium branches out to the neighboring states of Tennessee and Georgia to further meet the demanding needs of the college’s surrounding area.

“A key component of the mission of Northeast Alabama Community College (NACC) as a college is to serve the business and industry community,” stated NACC President Dr. David Campbell. “Our staff and administrators are instructed to look for avenues of service, and this is a perfect example of how they are fulfilling their responsibilities. This apprenticeship program, which is approved and endorsed by the college, is an excellent service to not only business and industry, but our students and the community as well.”

The apprenticeship program provides opportunities for students to receive a combination of classroom instruction and on-the-job training. The apprentice will gain valuable work experience with an employer while earning an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree. Apprentices are paid by their employer for hours worked, and their wages will increase as they progress through the four year program. Tuition and books are paid by the employer as well. When the apprentice graduates, he/she will receive a certificate of completion and will earn the highly skilled “Journey Worker” certificate from the US Department of Labor, Office of Registered Apprenticeship program. “A Registered Apprenticeship is a win for the community, a win for the employer, and a win for the apprentice,” stated Mr. Ron Dixon, state director for the Office of Apprenticeship.
Wallace Community College will expand opportunities for students to learn how academic studies can be integrated with career and professional fields -- thanks to a $70,000 grant from the Alabama Power Foundation. The College will use the funds to purchase equipment to develop interdisciplinary activities and expand program labs in Electrical Technology (ELT) and physics as well as in Criminal Justice (CRJ) and chemistry.

“The project is designed to enhance STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and career-technical courses by giving students hands-on experiences with equipment that simulates applications found in manufacturing power distribution and commercial industries,” explained Dr. Ann McCarty, WCC physics instructor.

McCarty says the College will purchase AC/DC trainers, programmable robots and an infrared spectrometer with grant funds. Physics and ELT students will work collaboratively with AC/DC trainers and robots to replicate several programmable tasks used in areas such as manufacturing and aviation. Chemistry and CRJ students will analyze chemicals with the infrared spectrometer. The spectrometer is an important analytical tool for chemistry laboratories and criminal investigations.

John W. McLean III, division area manager for Alabama Power, said that the plan to use WCC students across programs to help each other learn was excellent. “The attention-getter for me was the linking of academic and technical programs. Obviously, when our Foundation reviewed and then approved the grant, they agreed.”

The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has awarded a grant in the amount of $100,000 to Calhoun Community College for the college’s Pre-apprentice Lineworker training program.

Specifically, the grant funding will support the “Powering the Tennessee Valley” project. According to the grant proposal, the award will be used to purchase equipment and supplies for the program.

Calhoun’s Pre-Apprentice Lineworker program was structured with input from the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association (TVPPA) Apprentice program, regional and statewide utilities, cooperatives, and electric contractors, along with best practices from other lineworker training programs. The seven-week program is offered regionally and is based on industry need and demand. In addition to the lineworker training, students successfully completing the program also receive OSHA ten-hour safety training, First Aid/CPR Certification, and a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL).

“The new equipment the college will be able to purchase through this grant will provide our students access to the same kind of equipment they will see and use in the work environment,” commented Calhoun President Dr. James Klauber. “We are extremely grateful to ARC for their continued support of Calhoun and of our workforce development programs,” Klauber added.