The 2016 Alabama Community College Association Annual Conference is drawing near. The Executive Committee continues to plan for the largest professional development opportunity in the Alabama Community College System. The only thing that would keep it from being a success is not to have you be a part of it.

This year, the ACCA conference returns to the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Spa. Not only will the venue provide our members with a more central location, but the workshops, speakers, activities, and networking at the conference will grant all attendees a better way to connect to our association and System. We have a diverse set of keynote and commission speakers this year and the workshops submitted by our members offer a wide range of relevant topics and innovative ideas. I am excited about all the possibilities that this year’s conference will bring our members, and I hope you will be a part of that excitement.

Part of the excitement has been hearing everyone’s personal ACCS story this year. The theme of this year’s conference is “Telling Our Story”. Please continue sharing your story through our social media channels. We hope to collect these stories and share them during the conference to illustrate how the collective stories of our students, employees, and alumni tell a vital story that needs to be shared.

Thank you for your support of our colleges, our System, and our Association. Thank you for all you do, and especially for being part of the Alabama Community College Association.

-Chris Franklin, Ed.D.,
ACCA President
2016 ACCA Annual Conference

November 20th - 22nd
Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center

Registration is $175.00 per person until Nov. 1st and $200.00 per person afterwards.

HOTEL INFORMATION
Don’t forget to book your hotel group rate of $89
Click here to book your room. Deadline is Oct. 20

visit AlabamaCCA.org for more information
Tammie Briggs  
**Associate Dean of Learning, Wallace Community College-Selma**  
Ms. Briggs has served in the Alabama Community College System for 18 years. She has extensive experience in the field of education with over 18 years as a math instructor and over 10 years of experience as an administrator in higher education. In her current position, she provides leadership and supervision for the following departments: Arts & Sciences, E-Learning, Developmental Education, and Advanced Visualization.

Ms. Briggs earned B.S. and M.S. Degrees in Mathematics from Alabama State University and is pursing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Walden University. She has dedicated her doctoral research to exploring the needs of academically under-prepared students. Her commitment to developing pathways for academically under-prepared students to succeed in the learning process is evidenced in two STEM and Health Science grant programs she developed.

As a result of her work with the BOOST program, 192 students were awarded over 100 certifications in EKG, Phlebotomy, Nursing Assisting, and Patient Care Technician with additional students in the pipeline. In addition, under the leadership of Ms. Briggs, 22 dual enrollment high school seniors completed the rigorous STEM-based HHMI Scholars program and were awarded Associate in Science degrees. This program was mentioned at President Obama’s Champion for Change event in 2015 and presented on the floor of the House of Representatives in Washington D.C in 2016.

Ms. Briggs is also involved in the following professional organizations: served as President of the Alabama Association for Developmental Education, serves on the ACCS Developmental Education Task Force, ACCS Program Review Committee, a member of the ACCS Instructional Officers Association (IOA) and National Association for Developmental Education (NADE).

Victoria D. Perry, Ed.D.  
**Counselor, Division of Student Development Services, Bishop State Community College**  
Dr. Victoria Perry has been a part of the Alabama Community College System for the past 17 years. In her current position, she provides leadership assistance to the Dean of Students in the development and implementation of comprehensive programs for student services, personal counseling, registration, and new student orientation. Her primary duties include providing counseling in the areas of academic, career exploration, and crisis intervention.

Dr. Perry has been actively involved in numerous professional activities on the local and state levels. These activities include serving on the ACCA Executive Board since 2009 as Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission on Students, as well as the Multi-Media Coordinator for the past three years; Mobile Chamber Ambassador; and Senior Bowl Committee Chairman. She has been honored as a Distinguished Advisor and Continued Excellence Awards for Advisors on the regional and national levels. Dr. Perry chairs, or has chaired, various college standing committees: SACSCOC Student Service and Affairs, Quality Enhancement Plan Leadership Committee, and the Student Activities Committee, and the Scholarship Committee.

Dr. Perry’s educational academic career began within the Alabama Community College System, receiving a Certificate in Keypunch from Trenholm State Technical College, and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Alabama State University. She went on to earn a Master of Science Degree from Troy University in Counseling and Human Development and holds an earned Doctorate of Education with emphasis in Student Service Administration from NOVA Southeastern University. She is also a graduate of the Alabama Community College Leadership Academy.
Cam Marston, Expert on the Generations

Cam Marston is the leading expert on the impact of generational change and its impact on the workplace and marketplace. As an author, columnist, blogger, and lecturer, he imparts a clear understanding of how generational demographics are changing the landscape of business. Marston and his firm, Generational Insights, have provided research and consultation on generational issues to hundreds of companies and professional groups, ranging from small businesses to multinational corporations, as well as major professional associations, for over 17 years.

Marston’s expertise has also been featured in the Wall Street Journal, the Chicago Tribune, BusinessWeek, Fortune, and Forbes, as well as on “Good Morning America”, CNN International, and the BBC. His blog at generationalinsights.com tracks the latest changes and developments in generational issues and demographics.

Commission Speakers

Commission on Administration
DR. CHARLES NASH
Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs at the University of Alabama

Commission on Faculty
DR. DEREK GREENFIELD
Speaker, Consultant, and Thought Leader

Commission on Students
PETE BLANK
Professional Speaker
Disney University

Commission on Support
DR. DONNA VAN NATTEN
President & CEO of Accountability Measures, LLC

Commission on Workforce Development
EDDIE CLAYTON
Contracting & Workforce Development Strategies Manager for Southern Company
Tell Your ACCS Story

This year’s conference theme is “Telling Our Story” and the ACCA Journal and our social media outlets provide an outstanding way to share the great stories of our association, colleges, and System. You’re also invited to help “tell our story” by encouraging colleagues, students, and alumni from your college to post individual stories on ACCA’s social media pages using the hashtag #ACCSstory. We will be collecting these all year with hopes of sharing them at this year’s ACCA Conference.
Bishop State Receives State and National Recognition in the Transportation Area

George Jones, lab assistant for the Truck Driving Program at Bishop State Community College, has been named the Alabama Trucking Association’s Driver of the Year. The award was presented to him at the organization’s Fleet Safety Awards Ceremony in March. In addition to his position at Bishop State, Jones is also an employee of Evergreen Transport, Inc. where he helped develop and write their active driver safety training manual. He has worked in the trucking industry for 42 years and has logged more than 4 million miles.

Evergreen Transport has partnered with the college and donated a 9600 Series Pneumatic Tanker to the college. The donation gives all of Bishop State’s truck driving students access to this particular type of specialized training.

“These accomplishments highlight our commitment of being the partner of choice for businesses and industries in our area” said Dr. Reginald Sykes, acting president of Bishop State Community College.
The Northeast Alabama Community College chapter of SkillsUSA visited Louisville, Ky. in June for the 52nd annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC), a showcase of career and technical education students. More than 16,000 people — including students, teachers and business partners — participated in the weeklong event.

More than 6,000 outstanding career and technical education students — all state contest winners — competed hands-on in 100 different trade, technical and leadership fields. Students worked against the clock and each other, proving their expertise in occupations such as electronics, computer-aided drafting, precision machining, medical assisting and culinary arts. Contests are run with the help of industry, trade associations and labor organizations, and test competencies are set by industry. Leadership contestants demonstrated skills including extemporaneous speaking and conducting meetings by parliamentary procedure. The week capped off with the Awards Ceremony, at KEC’s Freedom Hall.

NACC contest results, certificates and awards included:

**Opening & Closing Ceremonies – Gold**
Team members: Hannah Blansit, Maria Hidrogo, Jesse Matthews, Eric McGaha-Potter, Sarah Merciers, Ollie Vaughn and Kyleigh Wright
Advisor: Julise Clement & Regina Gilliland

**Drafting & Design Technology – Silver**
Competitor: Hunter Furgerson
Advisor: Kelly Black

**Cosmetology – 4th Place Finish**
Competitor: Isaiah Cuzzort
Advisor: Regina Gilliland

**Mobile Robotics – 4th Place Finish**
Team members: James Wisner and Kyle Woods
Advisor: Tim Barksdale

SkillsUSA Executive Director Tim Lawrence & Lowes Senior Vice President of Customer Service Troy Dally presenting the NACC chapter reps, Kendra Osmer, Kayla Wilborn and advisor, Kelly Black with the Models of Excellence plaque.
Lurleen B. Wallace Community College President Dr. Herb Riedel visited Japan in June as part of the TeamUp 2016 program, an initiative of the United States-Japan Bridging Foundation.

“It was an honor to be selected and I thoroughly enjoyed being part of such a remarkable exchange of ideas,” Dr. Riedel said. “I was happy to represent not only LBW Community College, but also the Alabama Community College System in this venture.”

He joined several other senior-level higher education professionals from across the United States in a weeklong familiarization tour of Japan to explore strategic educational partnerships with Japanese colleges and universities in Tokyo, Fukuoka, and Okinawa.

TeamUp is a campaign to increase the number of American and Japanese undergraduate and graduate students studying in each other’s country by expanding relevant, active, mutually beneficial and innovative agreements among American and Japanese institutions of higher education.

The program is a result of an education task force recommendation addressing how to increase student mobility between the two countries. The recommendations included promoting active and mutually beneficial partnerships between universities and extending the range of institutions included in the program.

While in Japan, American visitors met with U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy, toured several campuses, met with university leaders, and explored opportunities for Japanese students interested in studying in the United States.
Athletics to Return to Bevill State

Bevill State Community College President Dr. Larry Ferguson recently announced that athletics is returning to the College.

“This decision comes after several months of careful internal and external study by the College leadership. We have listened to the feedback from our students, employees and community partners who have expressed the desire that we bring back athletics. This was not an easy decision. The impact to the college’s fiscal resources was a concern, but after careful consideration of the costs, the potential advantages to our students, and the perceived impacts athletics could have on the communities we serve, we feel the time is right to bring back athletics,” explained Dr. Ferguson.

All athletic programs at Bevill State closed at the conclusion of the 2010-2011 academic year. The primary reason for the closure was the rising costs associated with college athletics coupled with the loss of funding for Bevill State.

Dr. Ferguson explained that even with the traditional high costs associated with community college sports, Bevill State has a practical plan to reinstate athletics. “We have identified alternative funding to support a model that we think will allow us to have sports back on several of our campuses. We have been calling this model a ‘prototype’ and we will be continually assessing it to monitor the performance of athletics over the next two to three years in order to determine its long-term viability. College leaders and I will be closely studying the athletics program in the contexts of cost, impact to enrollment and community support. We want the program to be successful and we are optimistic that our students, stakeholders, and communities will be equally dedicated in its success.”

According to Ferguson, the prototype model will allow for men’s baseball and women’s volleyball on the Fayette Campus, men’s basketball on the Jasper Campus and women’s softball on the Sumiton Campus.

“The decision to have these sports at these locations is key to making this prototype work. We would love to be able to have multiple athletic teams on all of our campuses, but that is not possible at this time. If we are able to do what we think this model will allow us to do; receive continued funding; and achieve a high level of support from our communities, it is possible that we could expand the number and locations of our athletics,” said Dr. Ferguson.

Joey May, former Baseball Coach and current Math Instructor at Bevill State, will resume duties as the head Baseball Coach for the College.

May coached the Bevill State baseball team on the Fayette Campus from 2000 until 2011 when all athletic programs were closed. During his time as coach, May posted appearances in two NJCAA World Series, one in 2001 and another in 2003. His team finished fifth in the nation in 2001 and third in 2003. The team was also Region XXII and State Champions for those years. May was named Coach of the Year by several organizations for those years as well.

May will be joined by three new coaches at the College. Tommy Suitts was selected as the Basketball coach and Angel Brown has been chosen as the Softball coach. A search is currently being conducted to select the volleyball coach and the College hopes to have them in place soon.

The tentative goal is for the majority of programs to start recruiting Fall of 2016 to begin play in Fall of 2017.
Northwest Shoals Students Win at SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference

Proving to be some of the best in the nation, Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) students were awarded medalist honors in Cabinetmaking, Carpentry and Cosmetology (Job Skill Open Demonstration) at the 2016 SkillsUSA National Competition in Louisville, KY.

The following students placed in the top three nationally at the 2016 SkillsUSA National Competition in Louisville, KY.

Joseph Ezell, of Five Points, TN., won the silver medal (2nd place in the nation) in Carpentry

Jonathan Howard, of Rogersville, won the bronze medal (3rd place in the nation) in Cabinetmaking

Amber Hutcheson, of Bear Creek, won the bronze medal (3rd place in the nation) in Job Skill Open Demonstration (Cosmetology)

According to NW-SCC Associate Dean of Workforce Development Rose Jones, NW-SCC career technical students made history last week. “This is the first time we have had multiple medalists at the national SkillsUSA competition,” stated Jones. “We have been among the best in the state in cosmetology and carpentry for several years, but I think this shows that many of our career technical programs are in the discussion with the best in the nation. I want to express how proud I am of our instructors and students. To me, they are the best in the nation.”

Download the archives of our webinar series at:
www.AlabamaCCA.org/membership_services.php
Central Alabama Community College (CACC) Welding students Allen Hamlin and Wyatt Martin were selected by the American Welding Society to receive a District Scholarship for their achievements during this past academic year. Hamlin, a sophomore, and Martin, a freshman, both discovered welding in high school and grew to love everything about it.

“I like working with my hands and doing things that are application based,” Hamlin stated. “After talking with my parents and discussing my options we all decided that this would be the direction for me. I knew CACC had an outstanding welding program and after being here for almost 2 years I can honestly say it is awesome.”

Both students were given a list of scholarships by their instructor, DJ James, who was selected as the AWS Section Educator of the Year and the AWS Section Certified Welding Instructor of the Year.

“Both of these kids are extremely hard workers,” James mentioned. “I usually have to run them out of the shop at the end of the day because they want to stay as long as they can trying to learn more about what they can do to improve their skills. They are very dedicated to this field and very appreciative for receiving the scholarships.”

After CACC, Martin plans to go wherever welding takes him, “I felt like God led me to welding and this profession,” Martin said.
Participants from around the globe travelled to Lawson State Community College this summer for the 2016 Trans-Atlantic Technology and Training Alliance (TA3) Symposium. The conference topic was: “Reaching the Millennial Workforce: New Ways of Learning, Earning, and Interacting in the Digital Age”. Conference attendees came from Denmark, Germany, Spain, Northern Ireland, Wales, The Netherlands, and the United States.

“Our agenda included subject matter and experts who provided marketplace intelligence to our constituents – leaders of community and technical colleges and associated groups – to help understand the future contexts in which we are preparing our students and workers,” said Dr. Perry W. Ward, president of Lawson State Community College. “To ensure diverse occupational representation and a voice for millennials, we formed a millennial focus group to engage directly with each topic and panel.”

Millennials now comprise the largest generation. According to the Pew Research Center, “Millennials are defined as ages 18-34...that now number 75.4 million, surpassing the 74.9 million Baby Boomers (ages 51-69).” Also dubbed as Generation Y, Millennials are characterized as the first born in the age of technology and digital world, confident, apt to job-jump, easier to disassociate politically and religiously, and more ethnically and racially diverse.
Life has come full circle for David Allen Cole, Industrial Electricity/Electronics instructor at Reid State. After almost 30 years, Cole feels he has truly found his calling in life. Being a teacher was something he never dreamed possible, but Cole comments, “Life can take some turns and take you places you could never dream of going. It has been a long hard road but through a lot of prayer and trusting in God I have found where I belong.”

Cole joined the Army in January 1989. His first duty station was Ansbach, Germany where his wife eventually joined him. The Coles welcomed a daughter in Nuremberg in November of 1990 along with his order of deployment to Saudi Arabia for Operation Desert Shield/Storm. After sending the family back to the U.S. and a five month deployment, Cole returned to Germany in May of 1990 and would not return to the U.S. until 1991 with orders to Fort Campbell, KY. A son joined the Coles in June 1992 and the enlisted Army service ended in August with the Coles returning home to Monroeville. Prior to joining the Army, Cole was employed at Georgia Pacific in Monroeville and returned to his prior position. His Army career was extended upon joining the Alabama Army National Guard.

In January 1993, Cole used the GI Bill to attend Reid State’s Industrial Electricity/Electronics program. With school from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and work from 3:00 p.m. to 11 p.m., the Monday and Tuesday off days left only two days with double duty. After graduation in May of 1995, the Associate in Applied Technology in Industrial Electricity/Electronics provided the qualifications to advance with Georgia Pacific as an electrician.

After gaining experience with other employers, he began working with Alabama River Pulp until deployment to Kuwait came in May of 2012. After training in Fort Hood, TX, the Kuwait deployment began in February 2013. A shoulder accident on the first day in Kuwait resulted in nine months of shots and therapy.

An October 2013 return to the U.S. resulted in two years of active duty at Fort Benning, GA, two surgeries, and a shoulder with no improvement.

Advice on changing careers to teaching and an instructor position announcement at Reid State began Cole’s journey to return full circle from the classroom as a student to becoming an instructor. After looking into the opportunity, after prayer and discussions with the military, Cole decided to go for it. The military provided funding for Cole’s Bachelor’s Degree in Education.

In August of 2015, Cole began double duty teaching and taking online courses at Grand Canyon University for master’s level coursework. One of the class discussions concerned finding your true purpose in life.

Cole expressed, “God has a way of working things out better than we could ever dream. Teaching is not a job to me, it is a calling. After 26 years of military service with four deployments, it took me a long time to find my calling. I have truly enjoyed teaching, love my job, and am passionate about my new career. I look forward to teaching for many years to come.”
Wallace-Dothan Educator Named AU College of Education Alumnus of the Year

For Dr. Imogene Mathison Mixson, deciding what she wanted to do in life was easy. “I came into this world knowing that I wanted to be a teacher,” she once said, and for 37 years, she practiced her resolve. Little did she know she would become a legendary instructor and an avid supporter of education. In April, she was named Auburn University College of Education Outstanding Alumnus at the Outstanding Alumnus of the Year Annual Awards Recognition Ceremony for the AU College of Education.

She began her teaching career as a high school English teacher in Dothan and eventually joined Wallace Community College-Dothan as an English instructor. Later, as academic dean and interim president, Dr. Mixson was instrumental in expanding the College’s health science programs.

“Wallace Community College has been blessed to have Dr. Mixson as an instructor, administrator, friend, and an advocate for education,” said Dr. Linda Young, Wallace Community College president. “She is the standard that dedicated educators aspire to be like.”

Her story continues as it began, with a resolve to help others. In 2006, to honor her husband, she established the David Whigham Mixson Endowed Scholarship at Auburn University. In 2011 she endowed a scholarship at Wallace Community College-Dothan. The Dr. Imogene Mathison Mixson Endowed Scholarship is awarded to a student in academic transfer or health sciences.
Calhoun Community College Selected by U.S. Department of Education for Pilot Program

The Department of Education recently announced that Calhoun Community College was among 69 colleges and universities selected to participate in the new “Second Chance Pell” pilot program, an experiment to test whether participation in high quality education programs increases after expanding access to financial aid for incarcerated individuals. The program is designed to provide postsecondary education to nearly 12,000 students in more than 100 state and federal prisons nationwide. Calhoun was selected to participate in the program out of more than 200 applicants in 48 states.

The pilot program will allow eligible incarcerated Americans to receive Pell Grants and pursue postsecondary education with the goal of helping them get jobs and support their families when they are released. The announcement builds on the Obama Administration’s commitment to create a fairer and more effective criminal justice system, reduce recidivism, and combat the impact of mass incarceration on families and communities through educational opportunity.

In 1994, Pell Grant eligibility for students in state and federal prisons was eliminated as part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act. Last year, the U.S. Department of Education announced the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program to restore educational access for some of those individuals, improving their chances of successful and productive reentry after they are released.

“We are extremely pleased to have been selected by the Department of Education to participate in this pilot program,” commented Calhoun President Dr. Jim Klauber, Sr. “This opportunity will allow dozens of individuals now in the penal system a “second chance” at improving their lives and the lives of their families through job training and skills development,” Klauber added.

Hoyt Williamson, division chair for Calhoun’s prison program at the Limestone Correctional Facility; Jannett Spencer, director of financial aid; and Janet Kincherlow-Martin, executive assistant to the president for public affairs and institutional advancement, represented Calhoun during the inaugural convening of the Second Chance Pell Pilot Program, held this summer in Washington, DC.

“Expanding educational opportunity for people who are incarcerated not only improves their lives, but strengthens our communities by preparing them to contribute to society rather than return to prison,” said Fred Patrick, director of Vera’s Center on Sentencing and Corrections. “We are thrilled that Calhoun is a partner in this important initiative to restore and expand access to college in prison.”
Griffey Leads New Gadsden State Teaching & Learning Center

In the world of education, it is important for educators to continuously acquire new knowledge and skills through professional development opportunities to increase competence and effectiveness in the classroom. Derrick Griffey, the new director of the Gadsden State Community College Teaching and Learning Center, understands the necessity of continuous learning and is striving to make those opportunities more accessible to instructors.

“We want to present more professional development courses to our instructors at Gadsden State,” Griffey said. “We have to be creative in how we offer those courses to instructors who already have a full schedule.”

The Teaching and Learning Center will provide at least one large-scale professional development course per month on subjects such as creating videos for class, lecture improvement, and curriculum design.

“The idea is to keep instructors up-to-date on what’s going on in higher education,” he said. “We have to be on the cutting edge to be the best instructors we can be.” A menu of training and services will soon be offered to Gadsden State instructors so that they can participate in learning opportunities that fit their particular needs. “We can do one-on-one training or I can do a professional development course on a division level,” Griffey said. “Our goal is to help instructors succeed.”

He also hopes the Teaching and Learning Center courses will be motivational to participants. “Teacher burnout is a problem on all levels of education,” he said. “We want to raise the morale of our teachers by reminding them why they went into education in the first place.” The Gadsden State Teaching and Learning Center provides consistent and ongoing professional development while also providing instructional technology support.
Shelton State Instructor Begins New Chapter

If you ask Glinda Blackshear to share her story, it may very well happen in song. Blackshear, who recently retired from Shelton State Community College as choral director and voice instructor, has shared her life and talent in this way for almost four decades.

A lifelong musician, Blackshear can trace her love for singing back to elementary school. “I always loved to sing, but it became obvious to others when I was in the third grade, and we students were asked to draw pictures of ourselves in the future,” said Blackshear. “I drew a lady in a long, formal gown on a stage in the spotlight with her mouth open to sing!” Growing up in Decatur, she took full advantage of opportunities in her school and church and received strong encouragement from her family and teachers.

Receiving both a Bachelor’s and a Master’s Degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Montevallo, Blackshear started her career at her alma mater. Later, she was hired to teach at Wallace State Community College where she met her husband of thirty-two years, Alan. After six years at Wallace State, the Blackshears moved to Tuscaloosa, and work at Shelton State began.

While teaching at Shelton State, Blackshear created “Bach to Rock”, a student ensemble that presents different musical styles in both an educating and entertaining format. In 2007, Bach to Rock received a national award for a learning initiative responding to community needs. In 2014, the group performed at the Southern Division Convention of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) in Jacksonville, Florida.

Blackshear’s dedication has been acknowledged by her students, peers, and the community. She is a member of the ACDA and served as president of the Alabama chapter of the two-year colleges in the southern division. In 2011, she received the Thomas R. Smith Award for Excellence from the Alabama ACDA. Blackshear has also received the Druid Arts Award for Outstanding Education, the Todd Award for Exceptional Teaching, and the Chancellor’s Award as Outstanding Academic Faculty Member.

In June, Shelton State hosted a Shelton Singers Reunion. Over seventy of Blackshear’s former students paid tribute alongside her current singers. Following performances by the 2016 Shelton Singers and presentations from special guests, the “reunion choir” presented five pieces – including one arranged by Blackshear’s husband – and concluded the event with “Hark! I Hear the Harps Eternal,” a favorite of Blackshear’s. “It is about singing eternally,” she commented. “What could be better?”

Now preparing to enjoy retirement fully, Blackshear culminates this chapter of her story knowing she used her voice to be a messenger. “I have loved Shelton State, and I have never wanted to be anywhere else,” she says. “I know I have been where God has called me to be.”
Wallace State Community College School of Nursing Named NLN Center of Excellence in Nursing Education

Wallace State Community College is celebrating a grand achievement with the notification that its Department of Nursing Education (DNE) has earned the National League for Nursing’s (NLN) prestigious designation as a Center of Excellence (COE) in Nursing Education™ for 2016-2020.

Schools of nursing apply for COE status based on demonstrated and sustained excellence in faculty development, nursing education research, or student learning and professional development. Wallace State was one of only 15 nursing programs recognized with the distinction and will be formally recognized at the NLN’s 2016 Education Summit in Orlando.

“By publicly acknowledging these best practices, we promote the preparation of a diverse, culturally competent nursing workforce to deliver safe, effective patient care in our complex, dynamic health care environment,” added NLN CEO Dr. Beverly Malone.

Wallace State’s COE designation was based on its efforts in “Creating Environments that Enhance Student Learning and Professional Development.”

“I am honored that the Department of Nursing Education has been recognized by the National League for Nursing with the designation as an NLN Center of Excellence for 2016-2020,” said Deborah Hoover, director of the Wallace State Nursing program. “It is a testament to the sustained efforts of the WSCC faculty and staff to fulfill the highest nursing education standards and pave the way for illuminating a “culture of possibility” for students and graduates every day. WSCC President Dr. Vicki Karolewics fosters an atmosphere of high achievement, and it is fulfilling to strive to develop innovative methods to develop student learning and professional development in this arena. It is a privilege to work in an environment where excellence is not only valued but expected by everyone involved.”

Wallace State Nursing students work through a simulation in the School of Nursing and Center for Science’s Simulation Center, the state-of-the-art facility that opened in 2014.
The Theta Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was recognized as one of 25 chapters nationwide to earn a spot on the 2016 President’s List of Phi Theta Kappa. The President’s List honors those organizations with high membership acceptance rates.

Theta Iota ranked within the Top 10 of chapters throughout the country for high membership acceptance rates. With a 59 percent acceptance rate, Snead State was ranked with colleges from North Carolina, Missouri, Mississippi, Georgia, Vermont and Kansas.

“Snead State’s participation in Phi Theta Kappa encourages growth of students as scholars and leaders,” said Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, President and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa.

How did Snead State achieve this success?

“We’ve worked really hard to promote the benefits of membership to Phi Theta Kappa with our students,” said Theta Iota Chapter Sponsor and Director of Campus Engagement Brittany Goble. “In addition to our efforts, we received support from our College Foundation to increase participation.”

After the Snead State Foundation Board of Directors heard about the participation rate and possible barriers that hindered students from taking advantage of the opportunities available through Phi Theta Kappa, they unanimously pledged $4,000 per semester to help pay for 50 percent of the $80 registration fee for up to 100 Snead State students.

The achievement has put the Theta Iota Chapter on track to receive recognition through Phi Theta Kappa’s REACH Rewards Program, which honors those chapters who achieve or exceed a 15 percent membership acceptance rate in a calendar year. The first REACH Rewards will be presented in Spring 2017.
Faulkner State and the Baldwin County Bar Association host the Supreme Court of Alabama

For the first time in nearly 20 years, the Supreme Court of Alabama came to Baldwin County as Faulkner State Community College hosted the Court for two oral arguments.

On September 7, the Supreme Court listened to the arguments in front of approximately 1,000 students and guests in the L. D. Owen Performing Arts Center on the Bay Minette Campus of Faulkner State.

Partnering with the Baldwin County Bar Association, Faulkner State served as the location for this historical event. Occasionally, the Supreme Court will travel away from Montgomery to hear cases and arguments. But, it has been nearly two decades since they have traveled to Baldwin County.

The cases, one of which was a capital murder case, are real. The attorneys argued their cases and took questions from the Supreme Court according to their strict time allotted. Students and guests attending the arguments were able to see first-hand how the Supreme Court process is followed.

Invitations were sent to students of the Baldwin County Virtual High School and senior classes in the seven public high schools in Baldwin County through the support of the Baldwin County Public School System. Nearly 1,400 students accepted the invitation to Bay Minette for the event, and an additional 400 Faulkner State students were also invited as well as local mayors, legislators, principals and other special guests.

By traveling to Baldwin County, the Supreme Court of Alabama provides an ultimate, and unique, learning experience to students in the county.