The Alabama Community College System has many stars. There are the shining stars we educate. There are the star programs that offer the most innovative and needed skills in our communities. Then there are the brightest stars of all, the dedicated employees of our system. With all this talent, and all these stars, our system’s employees deserve a professional development organization that is committed to their needs. This year, the Executive Committee of the Alabama Community College Association plans to provide the best professional development available to our members, and show we are committed to our stars.

The greatest opportunity to show our full commitment is through the planning and hosting of our annual conference. This year, our conference will be held in Montgomery, November 23 and 24 at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center. The conference will offer participants an excellent forum to share their own personal commitment to our Stars by presenting a session during the conference. Information on how to submit a session proposal can be found in this edition of the ACCA Journal as well as on our website, www.alabamacca.org.

On behalf of the ACCA Executive Committee, I pledge to you our commitment to provide relevant and valuable professional development this year. Thank you for the many ways you show your own commitment to our System and its many stars. I look forward to a successful and productive year.

Dr. Jim Krudop
2009 ACCA President
The Alabama College Association is now the Alabama Community College Association.

The largest professional development organization for employees of the Alabama Community College System has a new name. The Alabama College Association is now the Alabama Community College Association. The change was made official Nov. 25, 2008 during the business meeting portion of the annual conference.

Although its name has changed, the organization’s commitment to providing relevant and meaningful professional development to its members has not. The organization will continue to meet the professional development needs of its members and promote the accomplishments of the system, its employees, and the students they educate and train.

In addition to the name change, ACCA has a new website address. For all the latest information about the organization and the annual conference, visit www.alabamacca.org.

ACCA 2009 Annual Conference
November 23 and 24
Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center

★ Professional Development Workshops
★ Adult Education Workshops
★ Commission Meetings
★ Association Meetings
★ Chancellor Awards

Early Registration is $75 per person
Visit www.alabamacca.org for all conference deadlines, updates, and speaker information

Are you interested in presenting a session at this year’s Conference?

Information on the submission process for the 2009 ACCA Conference can be found on page 16 of this edition of the Journal. You can also submit proposals online, by visiting www.alabamacca.org/accaproposals.

Proposals are due by July 10, 2009 and should follow one of these areas of interest:

★ Teaching and Learning
★ Student Success
★ Staff Development
★ Leadership Development
★ Workforce Development

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Academic Rigor = College Readiness
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The Alabama Army National Guard offers over 2000 scholarships annually worth more than $29,000,000! Could this increase your enrollment? Visit www.1800GoGuard.com for details.
In February, Marion Military Institute (MMI) officially launched a new Peer Tutoring Program, which has been designed to provide an interactive learning environment in which cadets can enhance their academic skills. Free tutoring services are provided on campus Monday through Friday in a cadet-friendly atmosphere that fosters camaraderie, skill-building and academic achievement.

The Peer Tutoring Program is being coordinated under the leadership of Dr. Jamie Y. Marable, director of Academic Services.

“Marion Military Institute has a long history of cadets helping other cadets with their academics, but now, thanks to the work of Dr. Marable and our tutors, we have a formal program in place,” said Susan Stevenson, vice-President and Dean for Academics. “Our faculty members are pleased that a peer tutoring program is in place to supplement their instruction.”

LaCandace Collins, who recently tutored a cadet in math on campus, reflected on her experience, “During my first tutoring session, it made me feel really good to know that I could help someone develop a better understanding of math. It means a lot to me to be able to help others.”

In February, Athens State University faculty and staff recently combined homecoming for alumni with interesting and informative lectures. The all-day Campus Colloquium was held at various campus locations in February.

Rick Mould, vice-President for University Relations stated, “The purpose of the event was to act as an academic homecoming for our alumni, showcase the expertise of our faculty and staff and create an open-house environment for the community.”

The symposium began with a welcoming “homeroom” hosted by Alumni Association President Anita Raby. Participants pre-registered for four classes of their choosing and were treated to a lunch presentation of the future of the university by Athens State’s president Bob Glenn.

Faculty and staff members who participated with presentations included Dr. Glenn, Dr. Robert Burkhart, Dr. Greg Holiday, Dr. Al Elmore, Ms. Sara Love, Dr. Ronald Fritze, Dr. Jess Brown, Dr. Laura Kerner, Dr. Chris Otto, Dr. Yvette Bolen, Gail Bergeron, and George Williams.

More than 60 members of the university’s alumni along with campus staff and community participants enjoyed the inaugural event.

“I am sure this will become an annual event,” said Vice-President for Academic Affairs Denver Betts. “It was a great opportunity to invest a day on campus and learn something new. I look forward to next year’s planning process.”
NW-SCC Receives Grant for New Welding Program

Northwest-Shoals Community College (NW-SCC) recently received a $195,000 grant to fund a new high school welding program. NW-SCC, in partnership with the Lauderdale County School System, is implementing a new articulated/dual enrollment-welding program at Central High School.

The program, funded by a Region 1 Regional Workforce Development Council grant, will make welding training more accessible for students enrolled at nearby high schools. Students will also earn college credit providing an easier transition into higher level welding courses at NW-SCC.

Monies will be used to purchase and install welding equipment and supplies. The first year of the program will accommodate 30 students. After the first year, students will be administered the WorkKeys job skills assessment, which is a measurement of real world skills needed for the workplace.

Southern Union Forms Partnership with UA’s College of Nursing

Southern Union’s nursing department has entered into a partnership with The University of Alabama’s Capstone College of Nursing to provide students in the Registered Nursing program with an avenue for continued quality education.

Southern Union students will have an opportunity to obtain a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree from UA as part of “The University of Alabama/Southern Union Community College RN Mobility Partnership.” The Capstone College of Nursing has entered into similar agreements with Gadsden State and Northeast Community College with much success.

Eligible students participating in the program will attend courses on Southern Union’s campus, with minimal travel to UA’s campus. The two colleges agree that providing a quality education for the registered nurse is a critical issue, especially in the current health care environment.

“This is a wonderful opportunity for our students,” commented Linda North, dean of Health Sciences. “We look forward to working with the Capstone College of Nursing to improve this program and promote the continued education of our students.”

Trenholm State’s MAT Program Receives Continued Accreditation

According to Dr. Tracie M. Carter, division chair for Health Services at Trenholm State Technical College, the Medical Assisting Technology program has received continued accreditation from the Medical Assisting Education Review Board (MAERB) and the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) until 2015.

The MAT program is one of six programs in the Health Services Division and has the highest student enrollment of all health services program and the second largest student enrollment of all programs at Trenholm State.
Calhoun Students Recognized by Honor Society

Calhoun Community College students Jesse Carpenter and Irene Georgiou have been recognized by the international honor society Phi Theta Kappa for their outstanding academic achievements as 2009 Coca-Cola Scholars.

Carpenter was selected as a 2009 COCA-COLA SILVER SCHOLAR. As a SILVER SCHOLAR, he received a certificate, silver medallion, and a check for $1,250. A resident of Decatur, Carpenter is a Business Administration major with a 3.648 grade point average (GPA). He currently serves as president of Calhoun’s Student Government Association, vice president of leadership for Phi Theta Kappa, and president of Baptist Campus Ministries. Carpenter is representing Calhoun this year as a member of the All-Alabama Academic Team. Following his graduation from Calhoun in May, he plans to transfer to a four-year institution and pursue a career in contract management or contract law.

Georgiou was selected as a 2009 COCA-COLA BRONZE SCHOLAR and was awarded a certificate, bronze medallion, and a check for $1,000. A Business Administration major with a 3.625 GPA, she is a resident of Athens, Alabama. At Calhoun, she serves as vice president of service for Phi Theta Kappa; as a member of the college’s official student ambassadors, the Warhawks; and is a member of Sigma Kappa Delta, the national English honor society for two-year college students. She organized the first-ever Multiple Sclerosis fundraiser for Athens, Alabama, Swim 2008 for MS, which raised over $6000. Georgiou joins Carpenter representing Calhoun as a member of the 2009 All-Alabama Academic Team and will also graduate this May with plans to earn a bachelor’s degree in either accounting or business administration.

Selection as a Coca-Cola Scholar was based on scores earned in the All-USA Academic Team competition. The Coca-Cola Scholar program, which provides up to $450,000 in stipends, is sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and is administered by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. All Coca-Cola Scholars were recognized in a special section of the April 6, 2009, issue of USA TODAY.

Gadsden State Student performs at Kennedy Center

Jermichael Sayles, a member of the Gadsden State Community College A Cappella Choir, was chosen to participate in the premiere performance of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities National Choir at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall in Washington, D.C. He is a sophomore majoring in pre-veterinary medicine and graduate of Gadsden City High School. This honor made him one of 105 members of the choir that kicked off the 2008 National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Conference in September.

Sayles was selected to participate by Bill Crowe, music instructor and choir director at Gadsden State. Crowe said that Sayles has done an excellent job and he possesses the type of voice needed for the performance.

Sayles, a tenor, said that he was excited about the opportunity to perform with the other talented choir members from across the nation. The music was sent to the members prior to their departure for Washington so that they could become familiar with the songs when rehearsals began. The group had just eight rehearsals to prepare for the performance.
Students of Wallace Community College-Dothan and Dale County High School in Midland City, stepped back in time to capture video stories of local African-American citizens who remember what education was like in the days of segregation. The production, “The Forgotten Schools: An Oral History of African-American Schools in Dale County,” debuted in February at the Wallace Campus in Dothan.

With funding from The History Channel’s Save Our History grant program, Wallace partnered with Dale County High School and the Dale County Historical and Genealogical Society to produce the video. The project seeks to preserve the details and history of segregated school life in rural Dale County. Although school segregation is an integral part of Alabama history, many of today’s students are unaware of the history and circumstances surrounding school segregation and the long process of integration that occurred within their communities.

The project allowed students to explore and document, through first-person narrative accounts, the experiences of former students who attended segregated schools and lived through the tumultuous era before integration. Brittany Smith, was one of several Wallace students to work on the project. She interviewed her grandmother, Mina Dickens, who taught at Carver High School during the period and went on to teach at the integrated Dothan High School and Wallace Community College. “To hear my grandmother’s experiences made me see her in a different light,” said Smith. “I always knew she was strong, but now I see her as an even stronger person.”

The History Channel, with the counsel of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and American Association of State and Local History, created the Save Our History grant program as an extension of the Save Our History philanthropic initiative. The program is designed to inspire and motivate local students and communities to learn about and preserve the past through projects involving artifacts, oral histories, sites, museums or landmarks that exist in their own neighborhoods.

According to Dr. Libby O’Connell, senior vice-president, corporate outreach and chief historian of The History Channel, Wallace was selected from a large pool of applications for Save Our History grants. O’Connell said, “Wallace Community College demonstrated the creativity and commitment to preservation and education that we believe is fundamental to giving our past a bright future.”

JDCC’s PTK Receives Awards

The Jefferson Davis Community College’s Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was recently designated a “Five Star” chapter, PTK’s highest designation. Alpha Eta Lambda was singled out for chapter and individual honors including earning “Distinguished Chapter,” one of only five in the state to be so honored. Allen Jeffrey Bell, II, chapter President and Alabama Regional Vice President of Service, was recognized as Alabama Region’s Most Distinguished Chapter President.

Loletta Redmon and Dr. Dan Wagner serve as faculty advisors for the group.
Instructors’ Paper Published

An article written by Dr. Ken Scott and Dr. Mimi Johnson, of Trenholm State Technical College, has been accepted for publication in the Community College Journal of Research and Practice. The article is titled “Development of Strategic Leadership: A Model to Promote, Sustain, and Advance Institutional Significance.”

The article was also submitted to the Southeastern Association for Community College Research (SACCR) as a ‘best paper’ submission. The article was selected by SACCR as the 2008 SACCR Outstanding Paper. SACCR is affiliated with the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) and Drs. Scott and Johnson will be representing SACCR and Trenholm State Technical College at the AIR Annual Forum in Atlanta.

As a follow-up study, Drs. Scott and Johnson are conducting research on “Employee Leadership Development: Are Community Colleges Leading the Charge?” This quantitative study will also be submitted for publishing in the Community College Journal of Research and Practice. A third study will complete this three-phase research regarding leadership and character development of students in the community college, also to be published.

Dr. Scott is an instructor in Computer Information Systems and Director of CISCO Regional Academy. Dr. Johnson is Director of Institutional Research and Advancement and Executive Director of the Trenholm Tech Foundation Inc.

Southern Union’s Spratlin Named Associate Dean

Steve Spratlin has been named Associate Dean of Instructional Programs at Southern Union State Community College.

Spratlin has been employed at Southern Union since 1991 and has held numerous administrative and leadership positions at the college. He began his career at Southern Union as Coordinator of Special Activities and Acting Coordinator of Public Relations where he directed all campus events and public relations activities. Spratlin has held the position of Director of Institutional Research, Planning and Development since 1992. In that role he supervised public, alumni and community relations functions, conducted internal research and evaluation of college operations and programs, as well as directed planning, institutional effectiveness and accreditation efforts for the college.

In his new capacity, he will supervise the academic, technical and health sciences faculty on the Wadley campus and serve as coordinator of assessment for the instructional programs.

Spratlin has several professional and leadership accolades to his credit. He is a graduate of the Alabama Community College Leadership Academy; serves on the Executive Committee of the Alabama Community College Association; was a member of the Chancellor’s Alabama Center for Commerce Exhibition Steering Committee; represented Southern Union as a Chancellor’s Award nominee in 1997 and 2005; served on the Board of Directors and as president of the Council for Alabama Resource Development; is a past president of the Alabama Community College System Public Relations Association; and has served as a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) visiting committee member for the reaccreditation of several postsecondary and secondary institutions.

Spratlin’s educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from The University of Alabama; Master of Business Administration from LaGrange College, where he was named the Outstanding MBA Student; and additional graduate study in Higher Education Administration at The University of Alabama.
JDCC’S Hall Named NCIA President

Kathleen Hall, dean of Instruction at Jefferson Davis Community College, was elected president of the National Council of Instructional Administrators (NCIA), an affiliate council of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Hall took office in April and will serve for one year.

During her tenure at JDCC, Hall has had a variety of job responsibilities, including business and Economics Instructor, Business and Social Science Division Chair, Associate Dean of Academic Education, and Director of Instructional Support.

NCIA is dedicated to serving the needs of professionals involved in instructional administration in the community college. The organization is committed to promoting professional development and enhancing the performance of instructional administrators and serving as the national voice for the involvement of community college instructional administrators in policy planning and decision making.

Wallace State’s Bownes-Johnson’s Work Published

“Increasing Student Success and Engagement,” written by Dr. Beth Bownes-Johnson, English instructor and department head at Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, was published in the most recent issue of NISOD’s Innovation Abstracts.

NISOD, the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development, has been dedicated to the professional development of faculty, administrators, and staff; and to the continued improvement of teaching and learning, with the ultimate goal of student success. Since 1978, it has been operated by the College of Education of The University of Texas at Austin. More than 700 community colleges around the world are NISOD members.

LBWCC Instructor Wins Award

Kristy Shuford White, English/Speech Instructor and Assistant Chair of the Language and Humanities Division at Lurleen B. Wallace Community College, was recently presented with the 2009 James Woodall Award during the Association of College English Teachers of Alabama’s (ACETA) annual conference.

White’s pedagogical paper, “Monsters Revisited: The Monster within Us” explored the duality of good and evil in monsters and men through the use of a variety of monsters to evaluate and to compare and contrast identity and existentialism in The Dwarf by Par Lagerkvist.

White closed her paper by saying, “As my classes study men and monsters, I hope they will evaluate the ‘dwarfs’ that live inside both. I hope they will evaluate the choices each make and ultimately consider the consequences brought to fruition by that choice. I remind them, there is a fine line between the man and the monster.”

White holds a graduate degree in Literature from Spring Hill College, and an undergraduate degree in English from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.
NACC Receives Higher Education Marketing Awards

Northeast Alabama Community College employees recently learned they had received three awards in the Admissions Advertising Awards competition held by the Higher Education Marketing Report (HEMR).

The Aurora literary magazine received a Silver Award in the category of Publication/Internal Group 2: School with 2,000-4,999 students. The literary magazine is published annually by the Epsilon Alpha Chapter of Sigma Kappa Delta and the English and Fine Arts Department of NACC. The College’s new 30-second television commercial entitled Fall Semester Registration “My future!” won an Award of Merit in the category of Television Advertising/Single Ad, Group 2: School with 2,000 – 4,999 students. Also a winner was the 2008-2009 NACC Catalog/Student Handbook in the category of Catalog, Group 2: School with 2,000-4,999 students. Northeast won an Award of Merit in this category.

The awards program began 24 years ago and today it is the largest educational advertising competition in the country. This year, over two thousand entries were received from more than one thousand colleges, universities and secondary schools from all fifty states and several foreign countries.

“We are very pleased that Northeast has won this national recognition,” said Dr. David Campbell, president of NACC. “Aurora, our literary magazine is just outstanding. Joan Reeves and her staff do an excellent job with this publication. And letting people know about Northeast and what is available here is an extremely important function of the College. Debra Barrentine continues to do an excellent job with all our promotions. These awards are testimony to the excellent work our staff is doing.”

Alabama Southern’s Taylor Completes Doctoral Program

Lee L. Taylor recently completed her Ph.D. in Instructional Design and Development from the University of South Alabama. The dissertation topic, “Adapting Instruction Based on Learning Styles for Improved Learning Among Rural Community College Students,” specifically addressed rural community college students and approaches for their academic success in a web-supported environment.

Dr. Taylor has thirteen years of experience in the Alabama Community College System. During that time she has presented numerous presentations on customized instruction, Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, creating a culture of high expectations, cultural tourism, and learning styles.

She also graduated from several leadership programs including the Alabama Community College Leadership Program, the Master Teacher Initiative, the Mississippi Community College Leadership Fellowship Program, and Monroe County Leadership Now. Additionally, she has served on several state and local community boards including the Alabama Writers’ Forum executive board, Rural Community College Initiative past team leader, Monroeville Chamber of Commerce board of directors, Monroe County Health Foundation past president, and Rotary Club past vocational director.

Currently Dr. Taylor is the Vice President for Learning/Academic Affairs at Alabama Southern Community College. Over the years she has also served as Dean of Academic Affairs, Humanities Division Chair, Special Assistant to the President, Director of the Alabama Center for Literary Arts, Director of Resource Development, TRIO specialist, and an Instructor of History and Adult Education.
ATN Achieves ISO Certification

Employees of the Alabama Technology Network recently enhanced their commitment to improving the state’s existing industries. ATN achieved ISO 9001 Quality Management Certification. The certification was made official in December 2008.

According to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the ISO 9001 Quality Management System is an international standard that provides standardized requirements for organizations to follow when establishing a quality management system.

After completing a lengthy preparation procedure, the auditing process took place in September. Auditors examined processes and documents at ATN Corporate Office, as well as ATN locations in Birmingham, Gadsden and Muscle Shoals. However, the work involved for the audit included all ATN employees.

“This process was a true team effort and I am proud of our employees’ dedication. By achieving this important certification, the employees of ATN have shown their commitment to Alabama’s existing manufacturers and businesses. Accreditation to this standard fosters confidence in ATN processes with its clients, partners and stakeholders,” said Dr. Mike Bailey, president of ATN.

According to Alan Hill, director of the Birmingham Center and ATN’s Quality Manager, “ATN is only one of two workforce development agencies in the state to achieve ISO 9001 certification.”

Hill also noted that ATN is one of only three Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) affiliates to accomplish certification. The Alabama Technology Network is Alabama’s MEP affiliate, a federal program which provides hands-on assistance and training to smaller manufacturers.

LBWCC Employee Honored

The work and contributions of individuals and county and city community education programs were recently recognized by the Alabama Community Education Association (ACEA) at their Spring Conference.

Among those recognized were Director of the Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. Wallace Community College Lurleen B. 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Dr. Anne McNutt Named President of Bevill State

The Alabama State Board of Education approved Dr. Anne McNutt as president of Bevill State Community College November 13, 2008, making McNutt the first female president of the College. She officially took over as president in January 2009.

McNutt previously served as president of the Technical College of the Low Country in Beaufort, SC, a position she held for 21 years. Prior to that, she served as Dean of Instruction at Nashville State Technical Community College in Nashville. Her additional experience with two-year colleges includes service as a faculty member and interim president.

McNutt received her Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from George Peabody College for Teachers, now Vanderbilt University. She holds a Master’s in English and a Bachelor’s in Secondary Education from East Tennessee State University.

“Dr. McNutt has a long history of leadership, not just at her college in South Carolina but across the nation,” Chancellor Bradley Byrne said. “We are very excited to have someone with her wealth of knowledge and experience joining our system.”

As an educator, McNutt brings more than 30 years of experience to the institution including memberships to a variety of professional organizations such as the American Council on Education, American Association of Community Colleges, American Association of Higher Education and the American Technical Association among many others.

New GSCC President Ready for Challenges

After a few months on the job, Gadsden State Community College President W. Darryl Harrison says Gadsden State is facing a number of challenges that must be dealt with, primarily rising student enrollment, limited class space and aging infrastructure.

Harrison pointed out that enrollment this spring has increased by 14 percent. The cutbacks in funding and the rise in enrollment “taxes the available classroom space as well as the availability of qualified instructors,” he explained. He praised the instructional staff for the way they have handled the increase in enrollment with limited space.

Class sections have been added, class sizes have been expanded and the number of hybrid, online and weekend class offerings has increased. Gadsden State has acquired the interactive Tandberg distance learning system which allows an instructor to teach a class on the Wallace Drive Campus and have students participate at the Cherokee, Ayers or McClellan sites.

Harrison said Gadsden State has two distinct goals with the current economic situation. He explained the college will partner with existing industry to meet both current needs and anticipated needs for the future, and will serve as a magnet to bring in new industry that is looking for a trained workforce. Gadsden State is already involved in a number of successful workforce development programs with local businesses and industries.

Partnerships with industry, business, governments and other institutions of higher learning will continue. These partnerships help the college in developing curriculum that meets the needs of local industry. As Harrison put it, “It is imperative for educational institutions and organizations to work together. That’s just good stewardship of resources and effort.”
Hawsey Named Chair of Chamber of Commerce

Wallace State President Dr. Vicki Hawsey was named chair of the Cullman Area Chamber of Commerce during the organization’s annual meeting in February.

“We want to continue to improve the quality of life, encourage workforce development, and keep this community prosperous,” Hawsey said.

Hawsey is the third president of Wallace State Community College in Hanceville, which enrolls nearly 7,000 students each semester in credit and non-credit classes. During her tenure, Wallace State has expanded its training for business and industry, adult education, short-term skills training, and career readiness credentialing. It maintains strong partnerships with Cullman city and county economic development boards, with area businesses and industries, and is a founding partner of Cullman Area Workforce Solutions (CAWS).

Hawsey also serves on several economic development committees on the state postsecondary level and was recently named to the Commission on Economic and Workforce Development of the American Association of Community Colleges.

Alabama Southern’s Habb Receives Award

Glen Haab, Community Development Coordinator, at Alabama Southern Community College recently received the Alabama Communities of Excellence (ACE) Star Award for Outstanding Team Captain. Haab is the captain for the City of Evergreen’s ACE team.

The ACE Star Awards recognize those individuals who have performed above and beyond the call of duty and are considered to be the "shining stars" of the ACE Program, a comprehensive program designed to assist Alabama’s smaller communities in their efforts to plan, grow and prosper.

“I am honored to have received this award,” said Haab. “But as the award states, I have a team of great individuals to work with and I appreciate their efforts as well.”

Haab works for Alabama Southern as part of the West Alabama/East Mississippi WIRED Initiative.

Attorney General Speaks at WCCS

United States Attorney General Eric Holder was the featured speaker at the Annual Martin and Coretta-Scott King Unity Breakfast at Wallace Community College Selma.

During his comments, Holder said it’s vital to protect a key provision of the Voting Rights Act. The U.S. Supreme Court agreed in January to review a lower court ruling upholding a portion of the law that requires all or part of 16 states, including Alabama, to get federal approval before implementing any changes in the way elections are held.

Holder, the nation’s first black attorney general, spoke at the college’s annual unity breakfast and then later at historic Brown Chapel AME Church.
Lawson State Joins NAFTC

The Alabama Center for Automotive Excellence at Lawson State Community College is the newest member of the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC). Tommy Hobbs, Business and Industry Liaison, accepted the membership plaque for Lawson State in Dallas recently.

"The College is diligently working to bring the leading transportation technology to Alabama," said Dr. Perry W. Ward, president of Lawson State Community College. "The NAFTC and the Snap-on Diagnostic Training Center are our two newest training opportunities at the Center."

One of the first classes offered through the Consortium was the First Responder Safety Training: Hybrid Electric Vehicles. Additional classes and workshops to be offered by Lawson State include a wide array of topics such as biodiesel, ethanol, hybrids, hydrogen, fuel cells, natural gas (CNG cylinder inspection, LNG, and light- and heavy-duty vehicles), battery-powered electric vehicles, and propane. This new technology is especially relevant to automotive technicians, employers, fleet operators, training institutions, public interest groups, and private entrepreneurs.

The National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium is a pioneer and a national leader in promoting programs and activities that desire to cure America’s addiction to oil and lead to energy independence and the greater use of cleaner transportation. The NAFTC is the only nationwide alternative fuel vehicle and advanced technology vehicle training organization in the United States.

The Alabama Center for Automotive Excellence at Lawson State offers students an Associate Degree in Automotive Technology which allows them to specialize in GM, Ford, or Toyota technology. The Center also has auto body/collision repair and medium/heavy truck technology programs.

Reid State’s Ready to Work Serving Business and Industry

Reid State’s Ready to Work program has experienced substantial growth onsite and online. The program began in Evergreen at the Workforce Center and has expanded to serve Escambia County residents. The newest development is an online program.

Lynda Davis, Ready to Work and TEBI coordinator, is developing an online Ready to Work program. The pilot program will begin with two students to define specific strategies to serve students that may prefer online coursework or for those who are unable to attend classes onsite due to scheduling conflicts or transportation issues.

The Evergreen site continues to serve Conecuh County students. Three of the current seven students are completing graduation requirements with one student achieving gold status on WorkKeys components. This student began the class in hopes of obtaining specific computer skills but has been able to achieve outstanding WorkKeys performance as well.

The Escambia County Ready to Work program is located at the Atmore YMCA. The Poarch Creek Education Department has referred 23 students with 6 graduates and 2 students pending graduation as of March 2009. Graduates have gained employment in a number of areas.

Calhoun Breaks Ground For Robotics Park

Governor Bob Riley, U.S. Congressman Parker Griffith, Chancellor Bradley Byrne, State Board of Education member Dr. Mary Jane Caylor, Calhoun Community College President Dr. Marilyn Beck, and Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT) Director Ed Castile were among the business leaders, elected officials and community citizens on-hand for the groundbreaking ceremony for the first phase of the state’s new Robotics Technology Park to be located at Calhoun’s Decatur campus.

The Park represents a collaboration among the state, the two-year college system, four-year universities, AIDT, and robotics industry leaders. Plans call for the three-building campus to be built on a 53-acre site. The Park will consist of three individual training facilities each targeted to a specific industry need. Phase 1: The Robotics Maintenance Training Center; Phase 2: The Advanced Technology Research and Development Center; and Phase 3: The Integration and Entrepreneurial Center. All three buildings will have an investment of approximately $71 million including robotics equipment.
Most welding students at Bishop State Community College go through a 15-week course, but six sailors assigned to the new Navy warship being built in Mobile had just five days to learn.

Independence, the first U.S. Navy combat ship to be built in Mobile since World War II, is one of a new class of small, fast fighting vessels called Littoral Combat Ships, or LCS. Mobile shipbuilder Austal USA is working as part of a General Dynamics-led contracting team to produce what it hopes will be the first of many LCS ships. Independence is unique in that it is made from aluminum rather than steel, which makes the welding process even tougher.

Todd Donald, director of Build Mobile's welding program at Bishop State, said that he saw an opportunity to build a relationship with the Navy when he heard the sailors needed basic welding training.

Independence already has two commanders and two crews totaling 80 stationed in Mobile. Wearing welding protective gear atop their Navy blues, the six sailors worked on skills that would allow them to make emergency repairs, such as patching holes and fixing pipes.

Tuition would have totaled $4,000, according to Bishop officials, but the training was offered at no charge. Donald said instructors were "fitting in as many aspects" of welding as they could, but teaching the skill in a week is challenging.

"Seeing what I've seen them do, I think we're going to meet that challenge," Donald said. "If I were on the boat, I would trust those guys absolutely."
The Executive Committee of the Alabama Community College Association is now accepting proposals for the 2009 Annual Conference to be held at the Montgomery Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center November 23 and 24.

Presentations should relate to one of the following areas of interest:

- Teaching and Learning
- Student Success
- Staff Development
- Leadership Development
- Workforce Development

An online submission form has been created for your convenience on the ACCA website. If you would like to submit a proposal, please visit: www.alabamacca.org/accaproposals

For additional information, contact ACCA First Vice-President Dr. Amelia Pearson at acca@suscc.edu

The deadline for submissions is July 10, 2009

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