

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



January 17, 2012- February 19, 2012



TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News

Print Media

- WCTV..... 5,17,20,26,27,28,29, 35,37,38,40,42,43,44,48,51,56,57
- WTXL 8,13,19,22,35,38,45
- Tallahassee Democrat.....,5,9,10,21,30,31,32, 34,36,40,47,49,50,52,53,54,55,56,59,60
- Economic Development Council..... 46
- Panama City News Herald 11
- Community College Times. 6,7,14,25
- Saint Petersburg 12,15
- PRWEB 16
- Twin City News 58
- Havana Herald 59
- Gasden County Times. 59
- Florida College Systems News 23
- USA Today College. 41
- Sunshine State News 18
- Orlando Sentinel 19
- Crestview News. 19
- WJXX 19
- Houma Today 20
- KFOXTX. 20
- WKMG. 20
- St. Augustine Record 20
- Tampa Tribune 20
- Chipley Bugle 32
- Sarasota Herald Tribune 33,34
- WJXT 20
- Miami Herald 24
- WPLG. 20
- Individual.com 24



TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News

Electronic Media

- January 18, WCTV TCC works to increase STEM participation
- January 20, WCTV/WTXL TCC celebrates Arbor Day
- January 24, WCTV Feature on TCC softball player Emily Smethurst
- January 24, WCTV FPSI holds ceremony for corrections graduates
- January 25, WCTV/WTXL US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan holds town hall at TCC
- January 31, WCTV President Murdaugh throws out ceremonial first pitch at TCC Baseball home opener
- February 6, WCTV President Murdaugh visits Gadsden County
- February 7, WTXL A historical look at Mabry Field

TCC sweetens deal for STEM students

Scholarships and 'pipeline' are in the works

Doug Blackburn

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College is developing official STEM "pipelines" with each high school in Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties in an effort to increase students' interest in pursuing degrees in science and math programs.

The college is also making \$20,000 in scholarships available annually to students studying STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs.

"It's a clear, assessed need," **TCC** Provost Barbara Sloan said.

Gov. Rick Scott and legislators have spoken repeatedly about the need for more college students earning STEM degrees as a way to change Florida's workforce. **TCC** already has a strong STEM program at its STEM Center for Excellence, Sloan said, but the new, formal relationships with local high schools should strengthen what **TCC** offers.

The "pipelines" are so new that the college has yet to create a catchy name for the program.

TCC's Board of Trustees is expected to review the college's STEM plans when it meets today.

The college also has an ongoing relationship with Cobb Middle School, Leon County's magnet school for science and technology.

"We're trying to capture the interest of sixth-graders, and I think we've been successful," Cobb principal Shelly Bell said. "We want to look at ways **TCC** can help us strengthen what we do. We want to build the partnership."

Randy Pridgen, division director of secondary schools for Leon County, is eager to formalize what he describes as a first-rate relationship with **TCC**.

"We're definitely looking forward to **TCC's** involvement because it means more scholarships for our students," he said. "To me, **TCC** is such a gem in this community. They have all kinds of programs that challenge kids."

Calandra Stringer, associate dean for curriculum at **TCC**, said the college makes an effort to provide on-campus support for students in STEM programs. One of the college's goals, she said, is to deliver STEM graduates to Florida's universities.

Largest Job Fair in South Georgia/North Florida

WORKFORCE PLUS RELEASE

Tallahassee, Florida - January 18, 2012

WORKFORCE plus is bringing together employers and job seekers in an effort to provide an opportunity for local job seekers information about employment opportunities available now.

The event is free and open to the public. Job seekers can receive resume and job search assistance onsite through the WORKFORCE Express. Job seekers can also learn about program and services available to them by visiting with area education providers, community resource partners and military recruiters.

The 2012 Job Fair & Expo is sponsored in part by ACS, A Xerox Company; Keiser University; The Kaiser Group, Inc.; **Tallahassee Community College**. Additional sponsors include: Capital Regional Medical Center; Quincy Joist; St. Marks Powder; ITT Technical Institute; Summit Group; Capital City Bank; Tallahassee Orthopedic Clinic and the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County, Inc.

WHO: WORKFORCE plus

WHAT: JOBS=PAYCHECKS NOW Job Fair & Expo

WHERE: Tallahassee/Leon County Civic Center

505 West Pensacola Street

Tallahassee, Florida

WHEN: Thursday, January 19, 2012

Event Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Media Opportunity: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

WHY: WORKFORCE plus will connect hundreds of job seekers to employers at South Georgia and North Florida's largest and most successful recruitment event of 2012.

WCTV- January 18, 2011

TCC Encouraging More Students to Take STEM Courses

MICHAEL SPRINGER

Tallahassee Community College says it's working to encourage more students to take courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM.

Tuesday its District Board of Trustees approved the College's plan to become a STEM Center of Excellence.

"If you look at the way society is going, technology is all over the place. Engineering is all over the place. There's a lot of opportunities for our students so it's important for us to get involved," says Calandra Stringer Associate Dean of Curriculum at **TCC**.

TCC says it's working with middle and high schools in Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties to create a "pipeline" of students into the college.

Newsmakers

Times Staff

New CEOs

Geri Anderson will serve as interim president of Community College of Aurora in Colorado as of March 1. Anderson currently is vice president of academic and student affairs and provost for the Colorado Community College System. Previously, she served in several leadership positions at Front Range Community College in Colorado.

Michael Banks has been named president of the Blue River Campus of Metropolitan Community College (Missouri), effective March 26. Currently, Banks is vice president for academic and student affairs at St. Charles Community College (Missouri), a position he has held since 2003. Previously, he served at the college as dean and division chair of the arts and humanities division.

Michael Chipps will serve as the new president of Northeast Community College in Nebraska, effective next summer. Currently, Chipps—who is a member of the American Association of Community Colleges' board of directors—is president of Mid-Plains Community College in Nebraska, where he has served since 2003. Previously, he was CEO of North Platte Community College and also held several instructional, student affairs and administrative positions at Central Community College.

Debra Daniels will become the next president of Joliet Junior College (Illinois), effective March 1. Daniels, who has more than 30 years of higher education experience, is currently president of San Bernardino Valley College in California. Previously, she served as district vice president for academics and student services at Polk State College (Florida). Daniels is herself a community college graduate, having received her associate of applied science in dental assisting from Delta College.

Henry Giles will serve as interim president of Spartanburg Community College (South Carolina), effective Feb. 1. He currently serves as the college's executive vice president of business affairs.

Retirements

Marsha Bordner, who has served as president of Terra State Community College since 2002, will retire June 30. Bordner has spent more than 35 years in higher education both as an educator and as an administrator. She began her career as an arts and science faculty member at Clark State Community College (Ohio). She

then served there as dean of the department and later as vice president for academic and student affairs. In 2011, Bordner received the Athena Award from the Sandusky County Chamber of Commerce.

Brice Harris, chancellor of Los Rios Community College District in California, will retire at the end of August. Over his nearly 16-year tenure as CEO, Harris has led the district through two local bond measures to renovate and expand all four of its colleges, and he oversaw the building of several education centers through the region. Previously Harris served as president of Fresno City College and as a faculty member and administrator in the Kansas City, Mo., community college system.

Kudos

Linda Bowman, president of the Community College of Aurora in Colorado, has received the prestigious Fulbright Specialists Award and will travel to Hong Kong in March to work on higher education public policy.

Deborah DiCroce, who is stepping down March 1 as president of Tidewater Community College (TCC) in Virginia, has received the title of president emerita. DiCroce began working with Virginia's Community Colleges in 1976 as a 23-year-old adjunct professor of English at TCC. She later served as dean of humanities at the Virginia Beach Campus and then as provost of the Portsmouth Campus. In 1989, she was named president of Piedmont Virginia Community College. She returned to TCC as president in 1998. DiCroce is leaving TCC to serve as executive director and CEO of the nonprofit Hampton Roads Community Foundation.

Appointments

James Berberet is now executive director of the Highland Community College Foundation (Illinois). He has served as its interim executive director since February 2011.

Rick Bouillon is the new dean of technical specialties at Salt Lake Community College in Utah. He has served the college since 1999 in various posts, including interim dean, regional director and director of business outreach.

Steven Frumkin has been named dean of business and technology at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT) in New York. Prior to his new position, Frumkin was an associate director and researcher at Philadelphia University.

Newsmakers...

continued

He previously served at FIT from 1994-2000 as an adjunct professor in textile development and marketing.

Melissa Gonzalez was recently named dean of computer information technology at Lone Star College-North Harris (Texas). She previously served as an associate professor of management in the school of business at the University of Houston-Clear Lake and as director of the management programs.

Michelle Horton has been promoted to director of the new Pensacola State College South Santa Rosa Center. Horton recently served as the Florida college's recruitment coordinator. She was also an adjunct instructor for computer skills for success.

Jeremy Joecks has joined Moraine Park Technical College (Wisconsin) as an entrepreneurial associate. Previously, he was an area director for Kaplan Test Prep.

Robert Howard has been named vice president of administrative services at Halifax Community College (HCC) in North Carolina, effective Jan. 23. Most recently, Howard served as senior finance officer of academic and student affairs with the University of North Carolina-General Administration.

Lei Wang has been named associate vice president of institutional effectiveness at [Tallahassee Community College](#) in Florida. She previously served as director of institutional research and effectiveness at Our Lady of the Lake University (Texas) since 2004.

Obituary

Jack Guistwhite, creator of the first transfer scholarship for members of the Phi Theta Kappa community college honors organization, has died at the age of 94. Guistwhite, who served as community college relations officer at Florida Atlantic University before his retirement in 1982 after more than 35 years in the Florida State University System, also served as Florida Alumni Regional Coordinator Emeritus and was an International Honorary Member of Phi Theta Kappa. The transfer scholarships are named in his honor.

TCC Celebrates Arbor Day with Guest Speaker and Tree Planting

TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (January 20, 2012) -

Pictures of the event can be found above. Click on the "Photos" tab to view

Tallahassee Community College is celebrating Arbor Day with a presentation by guest speaker Tim Womick, followed by a special tree-planting ceremony. Womick's fun, highly-animated "Trail of Trees" presentation will begin at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 20 in the Center for Workforce Development, room 105. After his presentation, the audience is encouraged to follow outside where **TCC** leaders-including President Jim Murdaugh and SGA President Siera Ponder-will plant a new southern magnolia tree to celebrate Arbor Day.

Womick is known as a modern-day Johnny Appleseed and has performed his "Trail of Trees" program for thousands of people-from kindergarteners to government leaders-in venues all across the country. According to his website, Womick's program is "performance art" that brings up to a dozen participants on stage to become part of the act-interacting in "song, tree imitations and plenty of comic relief."

The Arbor Day celebration is organized by **TCC** Campus Life in partnership with Sustainable **TCC**-and is an opportunity for Sustainable **TCC** to introduce itself to the campus community. Sustainability initiatives and projects at **TCC** have been organized across a wide range of departments and divisions, though often behind the scenes-including a partnership with Johnson Control, Inc. to reduce energy and water usage, student-led recycling programs, green lodging certification for the FPSI dormitory and membership in Sustainable Tallahassee. The Arbor Day celebration is an opportunity for the College to publicly and visually demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and for Sustainable **TCC** to engage the campus community and give students a chance to learn about and getting involved with upcoming initiatives, such as **TCC's** new community garden.

"We are very glad that the **TCC** administration has a commitment towards sustainability, however it isn't just a top-down idea," said Dr. John Chapin, vice president of Workforce Development and a member of the Sustainable **TCC** team. "There are opportunities for everyone on campus to get involved, from participating in the community garden to using the recycling bins. We all have a responsibility to make sure we use the campus resources efficiently."

In Florida, Arbor Day is celebrated the third Friday in January. The first Arbor Day was held on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska City, Nebraska. Since then, the holiday has seen millions of trees planted all over the world.

Our Opinion: STEM focus TCC recognizes education/workforce needs

Once again, **Tallahassee Community College** is demonstrating why it is so valued as an education provider in this community.

In previous years, **TCC** has stayed ahead of the curve by providing courses to serve the law enforcement community, and more recently it has expanded its offerings of courses for studies leading to employment in health-related jobs. That's in addition to providing job skills training in manufacturing and other special concentrations.

Last week, **TCC** trustees approved the college's plan for a STEM Center for Excellence. This will allow **TCC** to work closely with local middle and high schools to identify students with an interest and aptitude in the critical fields of technology and science. The college will then get them enrolled and tailor a curriculum that will lead to an associate's degree that will prepare them for a four-year college or the workforce.

The timing couldn't have been better.

Last week, lawmakers called presidents of Florida's public universities to the Capitol to discuss ways to improve the State University System and create a more unified mission for higher education. Part of this is driven by Gov. Rick Scott, who is offering up myriad suggestions. He's convinced that universities must put more focus on STEM-based courses and majors to prepare graduates for employment in fields dominated by science, technology, engineering and math.

A report by the State University System shows that students already are making inroads. The Associated Press said the study shows a 27-percent increase in the number of undergraduates enrolled in STEM classes and a 20-percent increase among graduate students.

Florida State and Florida A&M universities also are ramping up their focus on STEM-based course offerings. This is a greater expense for universities, an issue that was presented to legislators, but it also puts the universities in line for applying for more research money.

Of **TCC's** latest initiative, President Jim Murdaugh said, "**TCC** already has a great track record with STEM, but this is the perfect time to reach out to younger students and get them excited about science, technology, engineering and mathematics."

The college will be providing \$20,000 each year toward scholarships for students who commit to the specialized program. Additional grant money and partnerships will be used for minority students to intern at Brookhaven National Laboratory, to provide summer camp programs for high-school students and to purchase equipment used in STEM classes.

The establishment of such a program is commendable for several reasons. It gives talented students from Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties the option of earning an associate degree closer — and less cost that going to a four-year university right away. It also helps FAMU and FSU identify students locally who have a head start toward meeting the challenging demands of a STEM-focused university education.

This kind of working partnership among the higher-education institutions will bolster efforts in recruiting technology-related businesses to our community.

Political Notes

Democrat Staff

Santorum planning Tallahassee visit

Presidential candidate and former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum is planning a trip this week to Tallahassee, according to the Leon County Republican Party. The Florida State University College Republicans will be hosting an event with Santorum at 9 a.m. Thursday in the State Ballroom. The event is free. To reserve a ticket, send an email to fsucollegerepublicans@live.com.

Democratic Hispanic Caucus to meet Tuesday

The Leon County Democratic Hispanic Caucus's monthly meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Los Amigos restaurant, 3212 Apalachee Parkway. All Democrats are welcome to join. Also, the caucus will host a State of the Union watch party starting at 8:30 p.m. (The speech begins at 9 p.m.)

Fritz fundraiser is Wednesday

Former **Tallahassee Community College** President Jim Hinson and his wife, Dot, are hosting a fundraiser Wednesday for Emily Fritz, candidate for an at-large Leon County Commission seat. Other hosts include Connie and Charlie Barnes and Lori and Bill Mattice. The event is set for 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 304 DeSoto Street in Los Robles. If interested in attending, send an email to emilyfritz@msn.com.

— Send political news & nuggets to jburlew@tallahassee.com. Follow [@JeffBurlew](https://twitter.com/JeffBurlew) on Twitter.

FSU PC, Tallahassee college strike deal

Chris Segal

Florida State University Panama City has partnered with **Tallahassee Community College** in a joint venture, FSU PC announced this week.

During a Board of Trustees meeting at **Tallahassee Community College** on Tuesday, College President Jim Murdaugh and FSU PC Dean Ken Shaw executed a memorandum of understanding that allows **Tallahassee Community College** students to take courses offered by FSU PC on the community college's campus.

The agreement established initial focuses on two academic degrees areas:

The **TCC** Associate in Science degree in criminal justice technology will apply to the FSU PC Bachelor of Science degree in public safety and security.

The **TCC** Associate in Arts degree in police science will apply in its entirety to the FSU PC Bachelor of Science in public safety and security, law enforcement operations major.

"This is an exciting new opportunity for **TCC** students who are ultimately seeking a B.S. degree in this high demand field of study," Shaw said in a news release. "While working towards completion of either their A.S. or A.A. degree at the **TCC** campus, these students will be able to also make significant progress towards completion of their B.S. degree."

Students seeking a degree who have completed 30 semester hours of **TCC** in good academic standing will be eligible to participate in the program. After completion of their A.S. or A.A. degrees at **TCC**, students will be able to transfer to FSU PC or take courses online.

"Evidence shows that the sooner students develop their career goals and get started in their course work toward those goals, the better their retention and success rates are," Barbara Sloan, **Tallahassee Community College** provost and vice president for academic affairs, said in the news release. "This agreement gives **TCC** students a great opportunity to participate in a major as early as their second year of college."

___ (c)2012 The News Herald (Panama City, Fla.) Visit The News Herald (Panama City, Fla.) at www.newsherald.com Distributed by MCT Information Services

Capitol Preview: What to expect this week in Florida politics

PETER SCHORSCH

PUTNAM TO DISCUSS ENERGY ISSUES: Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam will present his energy-policy ideas to the Senate Communications, Energy and Public Utilities Committee. Putnam likely will address issues such as increasing renewable energy and encouraging diversification. (Monday, 10 a.m., 110 Senate Office Building, the Capitol.)

AG GETS THE BUZZ ON BEEKEEPING, DEVELOPS FARM PHOTO BILL: Here's a bill that's creating a buzz: SB 1132, which is before the Senate Agriculture Committee on Monday, adds definitions for "honeybee," "apiculture" and "apiary" to the Florida Right to Farm Act, which tries to prevent local governments from restricting or regulating bona fide farming in certain areas. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Alan Hays, R-Umatilla, gives the state Department of Agriculture the exclusive authority to regulate, inspect, permit, and determine placement of managed honeybee colonies. The committee also hears a wide-ranging farming bill (SB 1184) that among other things prohibits the taking of photos on farm property without the farm owner's permission. That measure, by Sen. Jim Norman, R-Tampa, is aimed at animal rights groups that sometimes use photographs to document certain animal treatment practices in big agriculture operations. It also is a tactic some environmental activists have used. Another bill (SB 1496) restricts governments from putting a lot of regulations on "agritourism," when farmers open up their property to tourists who want to vacation on a working farm and learn about how it works. The bill says nothing about what happened if those tourists want to take pictures. (Monday, 10 a.m., 37 Senate Office Building, The Capitol.)

SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS MULLS LOCAL BIZ TAX REPEAL: The Senate Community Affairs Committee on Monday has a long agenda that includes a bill (SB 760) that repeals the law that allows local governments to enact business taxes. The bill is being closely watched – and strongly opposed – by cities, which say they need the continued ability to levy local taxes to pay for growth. Another bill that locals are watching is SB 862, which prohibits local governments from enacting ordinances dealing with wage theft. This measure is opposed by unions, who say such ordinances may be needed to help workers who aren't paid get their money.

Several other bills before the committee include SB 794 which deals with government contracts and union work; SB 758 related to beach renourishment; SB 724 related to discharge of wastewater into the ocean.

Also before the committee is a bill (SB 816) that seeks to make sure local professional sports franchises that benefit from public money are actually operating a homeless shelter – as they're supposed to under the law. (Monday, 10 a.m., 412 Knott Building, The Capitol.)

PRISON PRIVATIZATION: The Senate's bill that would require the Department of Corrections to privatize all the prisons in 18 counties in the Southern part of the state is up for actual debate and a vote in the Senate Rules Committee on Monday. The committee wrote the bill (SB 2038), which mirrors a proposal that passed as part of the budget last year but was thrown out by the courts over process, and it has already taken some testimony from opponents. But the actual merits of the bill will get their first debate by senators on the panel on Monday. The Teamsters, the union that represents corrections officers, plans to be at the committee in force. The panel also considers a bill (SB 2036) that would allow agencies to move to privatize certain functions without having to spell out the financial case for it until after they've awarded a contract. The Rules Committee is one of two Senate committees, along with the Budget Committee, that will hear the prison privatization bill this session. The committee has three hours and 45 minutes set out for the meeting on Monday. (Monday, 1 p.m., 110 Senate Office Building, The Capitol.)

ETHICS AND ELECTIONS – PROFESSORS UNWELCOME: The Senate Rules Committee's Ethics and Elections Subcommittee on Monday hears a bill that bars members of the Legislature from working for public colleges or state universities. It's not clear who the bill (SB 1560) is aimed at, if it is aimed at anyone in particular, but would affect at least a couple current members of the Legislature, who would have to either quit their day job or not seek re-election. Rep. John Tobia, R-Melbourne, is a professor at Valencia Community College, and isn't term limited. Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda D-Tallahassee, works at [Tallahassee Community College](#). Possibly the best known examples of legislators working for colleges in recent years have been former House Speaker Ray Sansom, who took a job at Northwest Florida State College that led to a scandal over whether he put things in the school's budget when he was budget chairman, and outgoing Senate President Mike Haridopolos, who is leaving the Legislature because of term limits anyway, who is an instructor at the University of Florida. (Monday, 5 p.m., 412 Knott Building, The Capitol.)

GOP candidates begin fight for Florida

Jerry Hume

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - All eyes are on now on Florida, the next state to decide who should be the Republican nominee for president.

Former Governor Mitt Romney has an advantage when it comes to Florida media. He already has advertisements running on television and on the radio.

Romney has got the vote of Leon County Commissioner Bryan Desloge.

"There are some aspects of other candidates that are scary and I think if you look at it and say, 'I'm a little dissatisfied with the current administration and I'm looking for a place to go,' I think Mitt Romney is the perfect answer," said Desloge.

But Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich has got the momentum, trouncing his Republican opponents in Saturday's South Carolina primary.

"Mitt Romney hasn't changed in where he stands in percentages in the last 4 years and Newt Gingrich is surging right now," said Dan McDaniel, Newt 2012 Leon Co. Co-chair. "I think what's happened in South Carolina is something that's been heard around the country."

The two other GOP candidates are also vying for Florida. Representative Ron Paul signs have been put up across Tallahassee.

The chair of the Leon County GOP party says Sen. Rick Santorum will be in Tallahassee Thursday morning, speaking at Florida State University.

Tallahassee Community College Political Science Professor Richard Murgo says Florida leaders may have done the right thing, breaking the rules and holding the primary early.

"We saw Florida give up half its votes and I think at one point we thought it was for not," said Murgo, "but now I think we're going to have a huge effect, we're going to determine who has the momentum to keep going."

Many Floridians have already voted through early voting and absentee ballot.

In Leon County, 573 people voted early this weekend. And as of Monday afternoon, 2,779 absentee ballots have been turned into the supervisor of election's office.

Funding Roundup

Tabitha Whissemore

Florida

The College of Central Florida (CCF) will receive \$1 million as part of a bequest from Cory Pool, chair of the District Board of Trustees. The future gift will ensure the continuation of college scholarships as part of the STEP program, through which promising fifth graders at area schools receive \$4,000 to attend CCF upon high school graduation.

Tallahassee Community College's Healthcare Provision and Excellence Campaign got a \$100,000 boost from an anonymous donor. Funds raised during the campaign will enable the college to make improvements to healthcare programs with investments in updated facilities and technology and expanded student services and scholarships.

Illinois

Elgin Community College (ECC) has been chosen to receive a development grant to expand opportunities for students taking English as a second language (ESL) and adult basic education (ABE) classes. The funding will come from a \$1.6-million grant awarded to the Illinois Community College Board. ECC was one of eight Illinois colleges selected to participate in Integrated Career and Academic Prep System (I-CAPS) initiative, which helps ESL and ABE students enroll in selected career and technical training programs.

New York

LaGuardia Community College (LGCC) will continue its Global Skills for College Completion (GSCC) program with the help of a \$1.05-million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. GSCC brings together a network community college faculty and researchers to improve pass rates for students in basic skills classes.

The college also received a \$25,000 grant from the National Center for Family Literacy. The funds will allow LGCC to expand their work to raise college awareness among immigrant families through the college's Center for Immigrant Education and Training and its Pre-College Academic Programming.

Pennsylvania

Montgomery County Community College will use a \$5,000 Verizon Foundation grant to increase awareness of

domestic violence and abuse issues. The college will host a screening of the documentary *Telling Amy's Story* to inform people of the warning signs of domestic violence. The film documents the abuse inflicted on a Verizon Wireless employee who was ultimately murdered.

Texas

San Jacinto College is able to create eight jobs in health care and upgrade 206 more with a new grant of nearly \$300,000 from the Texas Workforce Commission Skills Development Fund. The college will collaborate with a consortium of 10 Houston medical offices to improve employees' skills and, in particular, train medical-coding personnel.

U.S. Secretary of Education to Host Town Hall at TCC on Wednesday

Tallahassee, FL -- January 23, 2012 --

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan is hosting a town hall Wednesday, January 25 at [Tallahassee Community College](#). The town hall is an opportunity for Secretary Duncan to discuss adult education and the role that workforce training plays in helping put people back to work.

Duncan will participate in a panel discussion alongside [TCC](#) President Jim Murdaugh, [TCC](#) Vice President for Workforce Development John Chapin and Capital Regional Medical Center's Director of Nursing Ann Smith. Students, faculty and community members in the audience at the event will have an opportunity to ask Duncan and the other panelists questions to spark dialogue.

"We are honored that Secretary Duncan has chosen [TCC](#) as the venue to host his town hall," said Dr. John Chapin. "As a college, we put significant emphasis on preparing our students for the workforce. These discussions will enhance our continued commitment."

The town hall will take place at 3 p.m. in the Center for Workforce Development, room 105, on [TCC's](#) main campus on Appleyard Drive.

Duncan was nominated to be secretary of education by President Barack Obama and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on Jan. 20, 2009.

Prior to his appointment as secretary of education, Duncan served as the chief executive officer of the Chicago Public Schools, a position to which he was appointed by Mayor Richard M. Daley, from June 2001 through December 2008, becoming the longest-serving big-city education superintendent in the country.

TCC Expands Commitment to STEM and Area Students

Tallahassee Community College has recently begun a program to encourage students to take courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). They were recently approved to become a STEM Center of Excellence by its board of trustees. This includes several grants committed to promoting science and technology among young students.

Tallahassee, FL (PRWEB) January 24, 2012

Tallahassee Community College has made a commitment to work with area schools to encourage students to take courses in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and to enter STEM-related careers. **TCC's** District Board of Trustees, on Tuesday, approved the College's plan to become a STEM Center of Excellence. As a STEM Center of Excellence, **TCC** will work to attract more young people to the STEM disciplines, give them a rigorous education, and advance them to four-year institutions or the job market. In order to do that, **TCC** is collaborating with middle and high schools in Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties to create a seamless STEM "pipeline."

The College will develop a joint council of teachers and other school personnel to focus on generating interest in STEM disciplines. Plans include recruiting students into high school and **TCC** STEM programs, offering summer camps and other special programs to enhance students' success in STEM coursework, and providing scholarships to outstanding students. The College has committed \$20,000 annually to competitive scholarships for students who plan to earn an Associate in Arts degree at **TCC** and then a bachelor's degree in a STEM area or an Associate in Science degree at **TCC** in a STEM area, followed by entry into the workforce.

Dr. Calandra Stringer, associate dean of curriculum, said that students will receive additional support through guest lectures and internship opportunities. They will also have access to **TCC's** STEM Center, which provides study rooms, group tutoring and other support for students in STEM programs.

"Governor Rick Scott has called on the state's schools and universities to increase the number of graduates in STEM fields in order to strengthen Florida's economic competitiveness," said **TCC** president Jim Murdaugh. "**TCC** already has a great track record with STEM, but this is the perfect time to reach out to younger students and get them excited about science, technology, engineering and mathematics."

This initiative will complement several existing **TCC** programs that support achievement in STEM-related fields, including the following:

- Grant in the amount of \$460,000 over 5 years from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to support STEM Star scholarships for approximately 32 students per year.
- Grant from NSF for the Florida Georgia Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation program, which supports about 60 students each year and, through that relationship, offers internships to selected students at Brookhaven National Laboratory.
- National Science Foundation virtualization grant in partnership with Florida State College at Jacksonville to support new approaches in technology for virtualization and related summer camp experiences for high school students.
- Partnership with Florida Learns through the Panhandle Area Educational Consortium to provide opportunities for students and parents in Gadsden and Wakulla counties to visit **TCC** to learn about opportunities in STEM professions.
- Grant in the amount of \$200,000 from the U.S. Department of Education to enhance equipment used for STEM instruction.

Dr. Calandra Stringer

Tallahassee Community College

(850) 201-6036

[UPDATE] Bill Could Ax Professors from Legislature

A proposed bill passes a subcommittee vote by 7-6. If it is approved in the house and senate, professors or other employees of colleges and universities in Florida would not be able to serve in the state legislature.

James Buechele; Brandon Larrabee, The News Service of Florida

State representative Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda could lose her seat in the next legislative session but not because of a lack of votes.

A bill (SB 1560) that passed by a 7-6 vote in the Senate Rules Subcommittee on Ethics and Elections would prohibit college or university employees to run and serve in state office. Rehwinkel Vasilinda has been a professor at [Tallahassee Community College](#) for 25 years.

The bill is in response to former Florida Speaker of the House Ray Sansom. Sansom was accused of allocating money to Northwest Florida State College then accepting a six-figure job.

Senator John Thrasher sponsored the bill and wants to avoid favoritism.

"Naturally anybody who's sitting on those committees or in the final vote in the passage of the appropriations bill and who is employed by a college or university potentially has a conflict," Thrasher said.

One problem that many lawmakers have with this bill is that they say it calls out a certain profession.

"Frankly it appears on its face to be patently unfair," Rehwinkel Vasilinda said. "You just can't pick two groups and say they can't run for office and they can't run for re-election."

Rehwinkel Vasilinda points out a number of lawmakers have jobs that could be seen as having conflicts of interest.

"We have all kinds of people who work outside in jobs that then their industries get very effected by what we do here."

Senator Thrasher insists he's not trying to single out one group and doesn't see ethics as a slippery slope.

"That's the whole reason I started the conversation. [Education] seems to be the area where there seems to be the most concern."

Ban on University Employees as Legislators Squeaks through First Committee

Jim Turner

Sen. John Thrasher, R-Jacksonville, said his ethics bill to prohibit employees of a state college or university from serving in the Legislature is designed in part to eliminate a "huge" public perception problem.

However, as the bill, SB 1560, narrowly got the support of members of the Rules Subcommittee on Ethics and Elections on Monday, several senators argued for the need to have more diverse backgrounds when deliberating on laws and budget impacts.

Sen. Nancy Detert, R-Venice, said she supported the bill in theory to eliminate the perception of conflict of interest, but called SB 1560 "flawed" as the effort would remove needed expert knowledge from the Legislature.

"What makes you an expert in the field would also prohibit you from serving in the Legislature," Detert said. "We'd have to remove (Senator) Garrett Richter (R-Naples) as chair of banking because he owns a bank. How far do you want to go with this?"

Thrasher said the bill would only target those who work in state jobs, adding that Richter wouldn't be affected because he isn't voting on money that would impact his financial institute.

"There is a huge perception problem for us when members of the Legislature who are employed by colleges and universities are sitting on appropriations committees or on final passage of the appropriations bill (and) voting on those things that reflect upon the university or college they are employed by."

Thrasher said he's open to expanding the bill if anyone has suggestions.

The bill would also prohibit legislators from taking a job with a state university or college within two years of leaving office.

Members of the Legislature are already prohibited from lobbying the Legislature for two years after leaving office.

Sen. Eleanor Sobel, D-Hollywood, said the Senate already has rules in place that require senators to announce and recuse themselves when issues arise with a potential conflict of interest.

"We know when we can vote and we can't vote," Sobel said.

Thrasher, who knows there is no companion effort in the House, which isn't expected to take up the bill, said the proposal is designed to start the conversation.

The bill was introduced following several years of media highlights of legislators and their state university and college jobs.

The most notable was former Rep. Ray Sansom, a Republican from Destin, who was hired by Northwest Florida State College after directing millions in the state budget for the school.

Meanwhile, the Legislature is littered with university educators, from Senate President Mike Haridopolos, R-Merritt Island, who is an instructor at the University of Florida, to Rep. John Tobia, R-Melbourne, a professor at Valencia Community College, and Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda, D-Tallahassee, at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

Reach Jim Turner at jturner@sunshinestatenews.com or at (772) 215-9889.

U.S. Education Chief Arne Duncan Visiting Florida

Joy Purdy

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- U.S. Education Commissioner Arne Duncan is visiting Florida to talk about job creation and making college more affordable.

Duncan was set to talk with students and civic leaders at a town-hall style event Wednesday at [Tallahassee Community College](#). He plans to focus on efforts to increase job creation by strengthening postsecondary career and technical education.

Duncan is to visit South Florida on Thursday. He'll talk to students, parents and local officials at Pembroke Pines Charter Higher School about the Obama administration's efforts to increase college affordability.

Duncan also plans to call upon colleges and universities to do their part in containing costs.

Florida universities have raised tuition in recent years to help mitigate sharp cuts in state funding, but it's still one of the lowest rates in the nation.

Associated Press

U.S. Education Chief Worried About Florida Grant Effort

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan listened to questions from community members at **Tallahassee Community College** Wednesday before meeting with Gov. Rick Scott.

James Buechele

Tallahassee, FL -- January 25, 2012 --

U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan stopped in Tallahassee Wednesday less than 24 hours after the president gave the annual State of the Union Address.

A town hall meeting was held on education at **Tallahassee Community College**. People attending the event lined up to ask Duncan and the panel many questions ranging from preschool funding to student loans for college.

Duncan says despite rising tuition costs, universities need to continue to prepare the future workforce.

"At the end of the day, some universities are doing an amazing job of containing costs and then graduating folks at higher and higher rates and making sure they're prepared for a real job in today's globally-competitive economy," Duncan said.

President Barack Obama said in the State of the Union that colleges or universities that continue to raise tuition costs will no longer receive federal aid. When asked how the administration would enforce that, Duncan didn't say.

Later in the evening, Duncan met with Gov. Rick Scott to talk about education reforms in the state of Florida.

U.S. Education Chief Worried About Florida Grant Effort

Tallahassee, FL (AP) - U.S. Education Commissioner Arne Duncan says he's worried about dissent over Florida's \$700 million federal Race to the Top grant.

Duncan said fractured relationships were hampering implementation of the grant during a visit Wednesday to Tallahassee.

He met with Gov. Rick Scott and education and business leaders after attending at town hall meeting at **Tallahassee Community College**.

Florida Education Association president Andy Ford told Duncan the statewide teachers union has been shut out of the grant planning process since last fall.

That's when the FEA filed a legal challenge to a new

law setting up a teacher merit pay program and ending tenure for new hires.

Education Commissioner Gerard Robinson cited the lawsuit in declining to comment about the FEA but said local unions remain involved.

Education Secretary Duncan praises TCC

Tallahassee Community College is doing it right.

At least that's how U.S. Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan sees it.

Less than 24 hours after President Barack Obama called for the nation's community colleges to produce 2 million jobs, Duncan was at TCC touting its numerous workforce programs and partnership with private industries in the Big Bend.

"I think Tallahassee Community College is a model for what community colleges should be across the country," Duncan said at a town hall forum this afternoon at TCC's Agency for Workforce Development. "This place is doing it right."

Education Secretary Arne Duncan makes a stop in Tallahassee

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (WTXL) - U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan made a stop in Tallahassee Wednesday to help push President Barack Obama's new effort to make higher education more affordable.

Duncan discussed the cost of higher education during a forum with about 120 people on the campus of [Tallahassee Community College](#).

"Starting over right now my life has been totally changed," said Sharon Ponder.

The age of 45, Ponder is now back in class, going to school at [TCC](#) to earn her GED. It's a goal that has been three years in the making, but also working part time, Ponder says it's not easy and it's not cheap.

"The loans, it's too much to pay back at one time, and you're paying off the loans even if you do get a good job you're still suffering so you can't make it, you're discouraged maybe from going to school," Ponder said.

Making higher education more affordable was one highlight in President Obama's State of the Union address.

"Higher education can't be a luxury," the president said. "It's an economic imperative that every family in America should be able to afford."

"My biggest fear is that too many middle class families are starting to think it's not for them," Secretary Duncan said. "That has to fundamentally change, we have to step up and we are stepping up, but we need states and institutions of higher education to be more affective, to be more efficient, and to do more with less."

Duncan was also on hand to talk about the importance of investing in workforce development.

"We have over 2 million high skill, high wage jobs available right now in a tough economy throughout the country that employers can't find the employees can't find the folks with the skill sets," Duncan said.

Secretary Duncan says community colleges are uniquely positioned to fill that gap.

Duncan also heard questions during the forum about two topics that are front and center in Florida - Standardized testing and teacher merit pay.

Those in the crowd say teachers are being forced to teach

to a test.

When asked by ABC27HD News about his thoughts on whether these programs work, Duncan said: "I think it's less the systems and more the implementation. It's not the idea it's how the idea is executed."

Duncan says great teachers should be rewarded and it should show in salaries.

During the forum Duncan says he believes starting salaries for teachers should be around \$60,000 and for "great teachers" could go into the six figures.

As for standardized testing, Duncan says they are necessary, but teachers should not be "teaching to a test". Duncan says the system needs improvement but the tests are important to use as a "measuring stick" on how kids are learning.

Education Secretary Duncan at Tallahassee Community College

February 2012

EDUCATION SECRETARY DUNCAN AT TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan hosted a town hall event at **TCC** with a focus on adult education and the role of workforce training in rebuilding the economy.

Duncan said that community colleges are “uniquely positioned to help people get the skills they need” for high-tech, high-skilled and high-paying jobs, echoing how President Obama described community

colleges in his state of the union the night before as “places that teach people skills that local businesses are looking for right now, from data management to high-tech manufacturing.” Duncan said that **TCC**’s Center for Workforce Development is doing an excellent job training individuals to meet specific needs of local employers. “**TCC**’s model leads to real jobs in the community.”

The College has established partnerships with more than two dozen businesses in the Big Bend, matching students’ training with specific private sector needs.

As U.S. Secretary of Education, Duncan envisions higher education leading the way in rebuilding the American economy and sees adult education playing a prominent role.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan to Pembroke Pines students: Lead U.S. back to the top

The nation's chief of education answered questions from students and teachers about everything from college tuition to technology in the schools.

Laura Figueroa
MIAMI HERALD

From standardized testing to the cost of college tuition, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan fielded questions from an audience of Broward County high school students Thursday morning.

More than 500 students, teachers and parents crowded into the Pembroke Pines Charter High School auditorium for a town hall-style meeting, where Duncan spoke about college affordability, investing in technology and raising the base salary and status of the nation's teachers.

"Right now, we're fighting for our country," Duncan said. "One generation ago, we led the world in college graduates ... now we're 16th."

He turned to students and said the nation needs to regain its top spot.

"Guess who's going to lead us there?" Duncan said. "It's you guys."

Duncan chose to the school as the site for his town hall at the request of Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank Ortis, who told the audience he kept inviting Duncan to visit the award-winning school.

Ortis serves as the vice chairman of the U.S. Conference of Mayors Committee on Jobs, Education and the Workforce, a role he said allowed him to interact with Duncan on several occasions.

"We need to support schools like this," Duncan said when a student asked about tax funds being directed toward charter schools.

The South Florida stop comes a day after Duncan spoke to students about the importance of workforce education at [Tallahassee Community College](#),

The meetings are meant to draw attention to Obama's State of the Union address, delivered Tuesday, in which he called on colleges to help keep tuition costs down and for states to provide more funding to their higher education programs.

"So let me put colleges and universities on notice: If you can't stop tuition from going up, the funding you get from taxpayers will go down," Obama said in his speech. "Higher education can't be a luxury – it's an economic imperative that every family in America should be able to afford."

At both forums, Duncan said he would like to see financial incentives for teachers who take jobs in struggling schools -- or who teach high-demand subjects like math and science

He also said he envisions first-year teachers making \$60,000 -- and the best and brightest drawing salaries in excess of \$150,000.

"I think our teachers are nation builders, but we don't treat them as such," Duncan said. "Teachers are some of the most altruistic folks I know, but they shouldn't have to take a vow of poverty."

Miami Herald Staff Writer Kathleen McGrory contributed to this report from Tallahassee.

Read more here: <http://www.miamiherald.com/2012/01/26/2609312/us-education-secretary-arne-duncan.html#storylink=cpy>

Aid for part-time, non-credit students takes center stage

Times Staff

Expanding financial aid to students who attend college part time or are enrolled in non-credit courses was a key topic during a town hall-style meeting at a Florida community college that included U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan.

Fresh on the heels of the president's call for two-year colleges to help train an additional two million Americans for available jobs, the meeting at **Tallahassee Community College (TCC)** on Wednesday focused on adult education and the role of workforce training in rebuilding the U.S. economy.

"I can't overstate how important the role community colleges are going to play, helping our country get back to where we want to go," Duncan said.

Questions from the standing-room only meeting at **TCC's** Center for Workforce Development ranged from early education to K-12 standardized testing, but they focused on job training. One issue discussed was the difficulty many students in adult education and non-credit training programs experience trying to qualify for financial aid.

Outside of special grants or corporate funds, these students are usually ineligible for financial aid and scholarships. Kristina Pereira, an adult education specialist at **TCC**, noted that these students are often seeking to overcome unemployment by updating their skills or training to transition between careers, and therefore they are the most needing and deserving of financial assistance.

Duncan acknowledged the contradiction these students face.

"I encourage you to push our administration on this issue," he said.

Reform student aid

In an interview with Community College Times on Thursday, **TCC** President Jim Murdaugh applauded the idea of reforming student aid, specifically to help students who want to enter short-term training programs.

"What is missing in the dialogue regarding education reform is financial aid reform," he said.

Murdaugh mentioned a **TCC** student who wanted to enroll in a certificate course costing \$500 that would have helped him secure a good-paying job, but he didn't have the money and didn't qualify for student aid.

"There is no mechanism to provide any help to these folks," Murdaugh said, noting that current rules on federal student aid eligibility "disadvantage" part-time and non-credit students enrolled in courses that can usually be completed in 90 days with jobs waiting for them. Eligibility requirement should factor in programs that successfully lead to employment.

"That should be the litmus test for success," Murdaugh said.

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan Praises TCC at Town Hall...

continued

TCC has accepted the call to leadership. The College has established partnerships with more than two dozen businesses in the Big Bend, matching students' training with specific private sector needs. In 2010, **TCC** opened its Advanced Manufacturing Training Center, which offers programs designed to appeal to those who are just entering the workforce and to career-changers. The College also offers adult education classes in Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties, and provides flexible education options for learners of all ages, such as day, evening and online classes and express sessions.

*Also posted on www.acheivingthedream.org and as a PR Press Web Release, Digital Media and Digital Journal.

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan praises TCC at town hall

Arne Duncan said that TCC's Center for Workforce Development is doing an excellent job training individuals to meet specific needs of local employers.

TCC RELEASE

Tallahassee, FL -- January 26, 2012 --

The day after President Barack Obama called on community colleges to help produce two million new jobs during his State of the Union address, a member of the president's cabinet came to Tallahassee Community College to learn and listen. U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan hosted a town hall event at TCC on Wednesday, January 25, with a focus on adult education and the role of workforce training in rebuilding the economy. He was joined by Jim Murdaugh, TCC president, John Chapin, TCC's vice president for workforce development, and Ann Smith, chief nursing officer for Capital Regional Medical Center.

The community turned out in full force, with every seat filled and lines queued up at the microphones for the chance to have a dialogue with Duncan. Questions ran the gamut of education issues—from early education to K-12 standardized testing to adult education, workforce training and certificate programs.

One town hall participant wanted to know what help would be offered to part-time college students facing many obstacles to finishing their education.

Duncan turned to TCC President Jim Murdaugh for comment. "At community colleges," Murdaugh said, "the challenges students face are different than the challenges students face at universities." The panel agreed that financial assistance should be available for part-time students and those enrolled in non-degree programs that lead to job certification.

Duncan said that the high school dropout rate nationwide is about 25 percent, rising to close to 40 percent for minority students. He noted that there are approximately 240,000 ninth graders in Florida, but only 172,000 twelfth graders—which means the state is losing 68,000 young people to the streets each year. Duncan explained that President Obama wants to address the high dropout rate by changing the rules so students may not leave school until they reach age 18 or graduate.

"We've got to work together to do better. We can't accept the status quo," Duncan said. "I can't overstate how important the role community colleges are going to play, helping our country get back to where we want to go."

Two audience members questioned the federal Race to the Top and Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test. Duncan said that assessments should be safety nets, and some changes are needed for them to be more meaningful and useful. He said that he would like to see teachers' salaries increase significantly in the next few years.

Another issue discussed was the difficulty many students in adult education and non-credit workforce training programs experience trying to qualify for financial aid. Outside of special grants or corporate funds, they are usually ineligible to receive the financial aid and scholarships taken advantage of by full-time and credit-program students. TCC's Kristina Pereira, adult education specialist, pointed out that these students are often seeking to overcome unemployment by updating their skills or training to transition between careers—and thus are the students most needing and deserving of financial assistance.

Duncan acknowledged the contradiction these students face. "I encourage you to push our administration on this issue."

Duncan said that community colleges are "uniquely positioned to help people get the skills they need" for high-tech, high-skilled and high-paying jobs, echoing how President Obama described community colleges in his speech the night before as "places that teach people skills that local businesses are looking for right now, from data management to high-tech manufacturing." Duncan said that TCC's Center for Workforce Development is doing an excellent job training individuals to meet specific needs of local employers. "TCC's model leads to real jobs in the community."

As U.S. Secretary of Education, Duncan envisions higher education leading the way in rebuilding the American economy and sees adult education playing a prominent role. "The United States ranks 16th in the number of college graduates. We used to lead the world. The pipeline to return to the top position is through adult education."

TCC Celebrates Manufacturing Students' Success

TCC PRESS RELEASE

Tallahassee, FL -- January 27, 2012 --

In November of last year, **Tallahassee Community College** and WORKFORCE plus announced a partnership to form the Engineering Technology and Advanced Manufacturing (ETAM) project, a program designed to help job-seekers receive training that will increase their overall marketability. **TCC** is now celebrating the first group of students completing the Manufacturing Fundamentals course. 7 of the 9 students who completed the course will be awarded the industry-recognized Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) national Production Technician certificate.

ETAM is a grant project funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and includes a three-college consortium and local workforce agencies to build workforce development solutions that can be deployed in both the education and training environments.

"We are incredibly proud of these students, and are excited about the early success of the ETAM project," said Bruce Baton, program manager of **TCC's** Advanced Manufacturing Training Center. "Earning the MSSC credential lets employers know that these students are highly-skilled and well-qualified in the field of manufacturing."

"As we observe the manufacturing sector strengthening, it is imperative that we stay on top of industry trends and develop a trained and talented workforce that will fill those future workforce needs," said Kimberly A. Moore, CEO of WORKFORCE plus, who's non-profit secures training for those looking to become reemployed. "WORKFORCE plus and **TCC** formed a team committed to workforce development in our area and we're proud to celebrate these graduates as they bolster their reemployment journey."

WORKFORCE plus provides comprehensive workforce and career services for the ETAM grant participants at **Tallahassee Community College**. This allows the grant to address reemployment from both sides: training, certification and vocational preparation on one hand and job hunt strategy on the other.

TCC is hosting an awards ceremony to celebrate the manufacturing students' success on Tuesday, January 31, at 5 p.m. in the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center. The AMTC is located on the southwest corner of **TCC's** main campus at the corner of West Pensacola Street and Century Park Drive.

For more information on the ETAM project, contact **TCC's** AMTC at (850) 201-9720 or the WORKFORCE plus outreach specialist at (850) 201-9722.

Opportunities Await Veterans at TCC

TCC PRESS RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (January 27, 2012) –

Florida Governor Rick Scott has urged employers to “make hiring Florida’s heroes their business.” At **Tallahassee Community College (TCC)**, a high priority is placed on veterans – as students, prospective employees and employees.

In 2011, **TCC** opened its Veterans Center to help students transition to academic life and ensure they receive the benefits they are owed. The Veterans Center assists veterans and reservists, along with their family members and survivors, in obtaining federal educational benefits and entitlements they have earned by serving in the United States military. The Veterans Center also provides professional guidance and support services that will aid veterans in their transition to academic and civilian life.

The Veterans Center is also the home of **TCC’s** Collegiate Veterans Association, an organization committed to the collective interests of all student veterans of the armed forces and those who support them.

“One of the first steps a veteran may take during the transition from soldier to civilian is attending college,” said Delorise Robinson, Veterans Affairs Coordinator. “Veterans, reservists and their dependents have one clear point of contact (at **TCC**) which simplifies communication between Veterans Affairs and the certifying official.

“It’s good to see that the Veterans Center meshes with the goals of other offices and staff serving veterans as it complements our effort to promote academic success.”

Student veterans are eligible for employment at **TCC** through the work study program. They also have access to all student services, including enrollment services and student success, the career center, and disability support services and are eligible to apply for federal student aid, as well as scholarships provided through the **TCC** Foundation.

According to Ranie Thompson, Development Officer for the **TCC** Foundation, the Hero Scholarship and Brig. Gen. William Webb Scholarship are designed specifically for veterans.

The Hero Scholarship, established by **TCC** history and social science professor Dr. Melissa Soldani-Lemon, helps students who have overcome heroic odds pay for their college education.

“Going to college is an act of optimism, and supporting someone else is a courageous act of optimism,” said Dr. Soldani-Lemon. “The HERO Scholarship is a measure of this institution. We want to do more than just help our veterans, we want to welcome them and ensure their success.”

Promoting student success is widely known as one of **TCC’s** hallmarks. **TCC** President Jim Murdaugh takes it one step further by saying the College wants its students to finish what they start and to make sure that what they finish has value.

To that end, the College’s Center for Workforce Development offers numerous continuing education courses, many of which are designed for re-entry into today’s workforce. Programs such as Tech@Night are short in duration but help refresh a student’s skill set or, in some cases, develop new skills altogether. Not only are all workforce development programs open to veterans, but **TCC** strongly encourages their participation.

“In Workforce Development, we understand that a major challenge for our returning veterans is to have a job that can pay a wage that allows them to support their families and themselves,” said Dr. John Chapin, Vice President for Workforce Development. “Our training is specifically designed to give people the skills they need to compete for jobs that will support them.

“We can offer training in information technology, allied health and manufacturing that can be completed in a matter of weeks and months – not years – that will get our veterans successfully into the job market.”

The end result is providing individuals who are job-ready, perhaps even for a job at **TCC**. The College provides preference to veterans who served in war time activity or conflict by inviting them to take part in the interview process, provided he or she has also met the required minimum training and experience of the job vacancy.

TCC calendar honoree names announced

Democrat staff report

This year's honorees are:

Geneva Westley

Eunice Cofie

Mary Young

Annie Thompson

Jane Marks

Nina-Ashenafi-Richardson

Eric Hinson

Elder Renson Thompson

Juanita Williams

Valencia Matthews

Patricia Green-Powell

Ken Austin

Debra Austin

Alma Littles

George Pittman

Youth honorees:

Franzlyne Jean-Louis

Bernard Jackson

Troy HarrisThe names of the individuals who will be honored on this year's **Tallahassee Community College** African-American History Calendar have been released.

This marks year 12 for the calendar, which showcases individuals who have made significant contributions to Leon and surrounding counties.

This year's theme is "African Americans in American History & Culture".

The calendar will be officially revealed at a calendar unveiling ceremony Feb. 4 at **TCC**.

David Gardner: Vote to help Gadsden's job creators

David Gardner

Gadsden County voters have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity Tuesday to take a historic step toward creating new jobs, establishing a new industry and beginning to harvest sunshine.

We can do this by voting "yes" on the referendum to give the county the authority to grant tax exemptions to new and existing job creators.

Let's be clear. This is not a tax increase. Far from it. This is a local-option job-creation tool authorized by the Florida Constitution and used by most other Florida counties.

A "yes" vote will put this critically needed tool in our county's economic development toolkit.

It's important to remember, when you vote "yes" you will vote to create new jobs, diversify our economy and secure a brighter economic future for Gadsden County.

Our community has many well-documented economic challenges. Working in concert, the county's business and elected leaders have forged a strong alliance to turn the corner and create new job opportunities for our residents. Winning National Solar Power's Gadsden County solar farm project is proof that our strategy is paying dividends for our residents and putting us on the map nationally when it comes to the emerging renewable-energy sector in our country.

We beamed with pride when National Solar Power announced last year that it would build one of the world's largest solar farms in our great county.

We were up against communities across Florida and the entire Southeast to win the opportunity. It was a tough competition, but National Solar Power was so very impressed with what Gadsden County has to offer:

- Significant available undeveloped land that will let the company build 20 solar farms on 200-acre sites.
- A welcoming local government, and support from the community and political leadership.
- Strong outreach of endorsement by neighboring counties.
- Access to a qualified workforce — for construction and operation.

The company also was keenly interested in the

opportunity to be near a great team of education resources in Florida State University, Florida A&M University and [Tallahassee Community College](#).

All of these reasons are why Gadsden County is the right choice for this national project. It's a project that is putting our area, in particular, and Florida as a whole on the map as an emerging leader in clean energy.

We now have a chance to seal the deal with an exclamation point. A "yes" vote on Tuesday's referendum will put Gadsden County in a position to bring hundreds of millions of dollars of investment capital, hundreds of jobs and the strong possibility of affiliated companies and industries taking a closer look at our community and region for new investment.

Please vote "yes" on Tuesday to provide our county with critically needed jobs and economic development.

This is a vote for our future and the future of our children.

It's a vote that will show the entire nation that Gadsden County is, at long last, open for business.

It's a vote for a brighter day.

Let it shine.

Moon appointed to TCCF board

Adding to her extensive list of accomplishments, The Baptist College of Florida's (BCF) Adjunct Professor of Voice Kimberle Moon was appointed to serve on the **Tallahassee Community College** Foundation (TCCF) Board of Directors.

"I am beyond excited to have been asked to do this," Moon commented. "My job at this point is to be the liaison between the Foundation Board and the **Tallahassee Community College** District Board of Trustees, of which I am a member."

In addition to her teaching responsibilities at BCF and serving on several distinguished boards in Tallahassee, Moon is currently working with voice students at Graceville High School and Early County High School in Blakely, Georgia, preparing them for their annual Literary Competition. Moon uses these unique platforms of instruction to benefit her pedagogy students at BCF providing them with supervised, practical teaching experiences.

To learn more about BCF's Music and Worship Division, please call at 800-328-2660 ext. 427 or visit www.baptistcollege.edu.

Tallahassee Democrat - January 29, 2011

Black History Month events

DEMOCRAT STAFF REPORT

African-American History Calendar honorees named

The names of the individuals who will be honored on this year's **Tallahassee Community College** African-American History Calendar were released Friday. This marks the 12th year for the calendar, which showcases individuals who have made significant contributions to Leon and surrounding counties. This year's theme is "African-Americans in American History & Culture."

This year's honorees are: Geneva Westley, Eunice Cofie, Mary Young, Annie Thompson, Jane Marks, Nina-Ashenafi-Richardson, Eric Hinson, Elder Renson Thompson, Juanita Williams, Valencia Matthews, Patricia Green-Powell, Ken Austin, Debra Austin, Alma Littles, George Pittman Sr. Youth honorees: Franzlyne Jean-Louis, Bernard Jackson, Troy Harris.

SCF and job training

Too often, community colleges have been the odd man out in the education debate. The public and the political leaders tend to focus either on kindergarten through 12th grade or on traditional universities, leaving community colleges in a scholastic twilight void of both attention and adequate funding.

But all that is changing.

Community colleges had center stage last week in President Barack Obama's State of the Union message, and are sure to have a starring role in the presidential campaign as the candidates field crucial questions on job creation and job training.

As this debate unfolds, Florida's community college system — a national model of excellence — is due for some well-deserved attention.

And for an example of a college working hand in hand with local employers, the candidates should check the record of Manatee and Sarasota counties' homegrown State College of Florida.

SCF is at work filling the skills gap that Obama referenced in his address.

Obama said he has heard from "business leaders who want to hire in the United States but can't find workers with the right skills. Growing industries in science and technology have twice as many openings as we have workers who can do the job."

He went on to give one example of a solution: A Siemens factory in Charlotte, N.C., he said, formed a partnership with a local community college, "helped the college design courses in laser and robotics training," paid trainees' tuition and then hired them when they graduated.

"Model partnerships between businesses like Siemens and community colleges in places like Charlotte, and Orlando, and Louisville are up and running," Obama told Congress. "Now you need to give more community colleges the resources they need to become community career centers — places that teach people skills that businesses are looking for right now, from data management to high-tech manufacturing."

Florida colleges among the best

The Orlando school the president spoke of is Valencia College, which last month was recognized as the

top community college in the nation by winning the inaugural Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. Judges at the Aspen Institute chose Valencia from among 1,200 colleges, citing "its success with a large, diverse population that includes many low-income and minority students," the Orlando Sentinel reported. Valencia received a \$600,000 cash prize

In addition, Miami Dade College was named one of four "merit winners," each of which were awarded \$100,000.

Valencia and Miami Dade, like SCF, are members of the Florida College System, composed of state-funded institutions offering two-year associate's degrees as well as four-year bachelor's degrees in certain fields of study.

That two Florida schools are among the nation's top five community colleges speaks to the quality of the system and its role in providing students with the skills they need either to join the workforce or to transfer to a university to complete a degree.

SCF is a prime example of a community college with a head start on Obama's call "to turn our unemployment system into a re-employment system that puts people to work."

Here are just a few examples of SCF's recent and ongoing achievements:

- Its vocational program placement rate (associate in science degree graduates who either obtain jobs in their disciplines or continue to a related baccalaureate degree) is 100 percent, compared with the statewide average of 89.8 percent.
- In the past year, more than 30 companies called upon SCF's Corporate & Community Development Division (noncredit workforce training) for customized contract training. Some of the companies for which SCF provided training: Tervis Tumbler, PGT, Eaton AeroSpace, Radiant Power, Sarasota Precision, Hoveround Corp., Boars Head Provisions and Sysco.

SCF and job training...

continued

• SCF and the Suncoast Workforce agency are partnering on an Engineering, Technology and Advanced Manufacturing grant project. Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, ETAM combines a three-college consortium and local workforce agencies developing workforce education and training solutions. The other academic partners are Polk State College and **Tallahassee Community College**. The goal is to provide customized training for workers, entry-level unemployed and the underemployed.

• Last fall, SCF began offering a Bachelor of Applied Science program in Energy Technology Management, the first in Florida. Eaton Energy Solutions Inc. already has offered to hire all of the program's graduates.

• SCF, in partnership with the Manatee and Sarasota county school districts, was awarded a prestigious \$187,084 grant from the National Science Foundation to fund a Biotechnology Alliance for Suncoast Biology Educators pilot project. The program, developed by SCF faculty, provides training for high school biology teachers and brings sophisticated biotechnology tools into classrooms in an effort to increase the number of students prepared for and interested in biotechnology and other careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

For SCF and Florida's other community colleges, the future of job creation and training that President Obama addressed is now. With more help from the federal and state governments, they will continue to have a key role in turning the economy around.

Tallahassee Democrat - January 30, 2012

TCC to unveil new calendar tonight

Democratic Staff Report

Tallahassee Community College will unveil its 12th annual Cherry Alexander African-American History Month Calendar tonight at 7 in Turner Auditorium.

The ceremony will honor influential African-Americans from the Big Bend area, including professors from Florida A&M and Florida State.

The calendar will be distributed to about 20,000 people via schools, churches and other community institutions, said **TCC** spokesman Rob Chaney.

There will also be a 5:45 p.m. reception in the Fine and Performing Arts Center to recognize the calendar honorees.

TCC's Angelina Colao Among Phi Theta Kappa 2011 Nota Bene Authors

TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (January 30, 2012) - Literary works from 16 Phi Theta Kappa members have been chosen from 950 entries for publication in the 2011 edition of Nota Bene, the Society's honors anthology.

Nota Bene was founded in 1994 to showcase exceptional writing among community college students. Copies of Nota Bene are distributed to all community college libraries and to Phi Theta Kappa leaders.

Among the 16 honorees is Angelina Colao, representing [Tallahassee Community College](#). Colao was selected for her short story, Little Brother.

"We congratulate our 2011 Nota Bene honorees and their colleges," said Phi Theta Kappa Executive Director Dr. Rod A. Risley, who serves as Founding Editor of the honors anthology.

"At a time when excellent writing skills are critically needed, Phi Theta Kappa is proud to provide a platform to nurture creative writing and effective communication. Nota Bene, which is distributed internationally, showcases outstanding writing by community college students and emphasizes the opportunities for excellence found at community colleges," said Dr. Risley. "Our Nota Bene competition is an outstanding example of Phi Theta Kappa's success in effectively engaging students, which promotes retention and encourages college completion."

Colao was one of four recipients of the Reynolds Scholarship, a \$500 award.

Colao, who wrote her award-winning short story while studying in Meri Culp's creative writing class during the Fall 2010 term, is currently studying editing, writing and media at Florida State University.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, is the largest honor society in higher education with 1,275 chapters on college campuses in all 50 of the United States, Canada, Germany, Peru, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands, the United Arab Emirates and U.S. territorial possessions. More than 2.5 million students have been inducted since its founding in 1918, with approximately 125,000 students inducted annually.

TCC honors local legends with black history calendar

By Jordan Culver

Tallahassee Community College kicked off Black History Month two days early this year with the unveiling of its 12th annual Cherry Hall Alexander African-American History Calendar.

The calendar highlighted hardworking and innovative black men and women from around the Big Bend area. The honorees were recognized Monday night during a ceremony at **TCC's** Turner Auditorium in front of a packed house.

Honorees included local professors, activists, government workers, student politicians and volunteers. This year's calendar recognized a diverse group of 18 people and each one brought something different to the table, from extending Florida A&M University's library hours to identifying criminal patterns in the city.

"I was very honored and humbled when they told me," said Annie Thompson, one of the honorees and this year's face for the month of May. "You do a lot of work with kids, a lot of work with church, a lot of work in the community and sometimes you think stuff like that just goes unnoticed."

The event itself was presided over by local radio personality Joe Bullard, along with Ceka Green from the Florida Housing and Finance Corporation. The audience was also treated to a performance from **TCC's** African Drum and Dance Ensemble before recognizing the honorees in the calendar.

Mayor John Marks attended the ceremony and spoke before the event. His wife, Jane Marks, was also recognized in the calendar for her work as a volunteer with several local organizations. Marks said he couldn't think of a better way to start off February than **TCC's** unveiling event.

"It really gives February a good start," he said. "We might not be quite in February yet, but this is the way to start Black History Month."

Although each month within the calendar highlights a specific person, there are also segments that highlight younger volunteers like **TCC's** student body president, Franzlyne Jean-Louis, and FAMU students Bernard Jackson and Troy Harris.

December is also an unusual part of the calendar as it recognizes a husband and wife instead of just one person. Ken Austin and his wife, Debra Austin, earned the shared space for their achievements as the first African-American director of aviation for the Tallahassee Regional Airport and chancellor of Florida's Colleges and Universities, respectively.

"It's outstanding to be honored by the calendar," Ken Austin said. "There are some great people who have been honored before me. These people have done outstanding things not only in the Tallahassee community but around this state and around this country."

Mary Young, a FAMU alumna who was recognized for her contributions to education, said the calendar provides a snapshot of what local African Americans are doing to make a difference in the Big Bend area.

"These are individuals who are continuing to make a difference," Young said. "Not just with children, but for adults and the elderly. This is one of the most important kick-offs that **TCC** could do."

TCC Announces Articulation Agreements with FSU-Panama City and FAMU

TCC PRESS RELEASE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (January 31, 2012) – During Tallahassee Community College's (TCC) January meeting of its District Board of Trustees, TCC President Jim Murdaugh announced articulation agreements with Florida State University Panama City and Florida A&M University.

President Murdaugh and Ken Shaw, Dean of Florida State University Panama City (FSU Panama City) executed a Memorandum of Understanding which establishes a new partnership between the two campuses and new opportunities for TCC students.

Through the agreement, students enrolled at TCC will be able to take courses offered by FSU Panama City on the TCC Campus. The agreement establishes initial articulations in two academic degree program areas: the TCC Associate in Science (A.S.) Degree in Criminal Justice Technology will articulate to the FSU Panama City Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree in Public Safety and Security, Police Science Major; the TCC Associate in Arts (A.A.) Degree will articulate in its entirety (60 credit hours) to the FSU Panama City Bachelor of Science in Public Safety and Security, Law Enforcement Operations Major.

"Evidence shows that the sooner students develop their career goals and get started in their course work toward those goals the better their retention and success rates are," stated Barbara Sloan, TCC Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. "This agreement gives TCC students a great opportunity to participate in a major as early as their second year of college."

"This is an exciting new opportunity for TCC students who are ultimately seeking a B.S. degree in this high demand field of study," stated Ken Shaw, dean of FSU Panama City. "While working towards completion of either their A.S. or A.A. degree at the TCC campus, these students will be able to also make significant progress towards completion of their B.S. degree. This partnership is all about helping students complete their degree as cost-efficiently and conveniently as possible."

Degree seeking students who have completed at least 30 semester hours at TCC and are in good academic standing will be eligible to participate in the new program. TCC students may take up to 15 semester hours of junior/senior level courses towards completion of the Public

Safety and Security B.S. degree offered by FSU Panama City. After completion of the A.S. or A.A. at TCC, students will be able to transfer to FSU Panama City to complete the Public Safety and Security B.S. degree through online or on campus coursework enrollment.

Dr. James Ammons, President of Florida A&M University, was also in attendance as TCC and Florida A&M announced the enhancement of the articulation between community colleges and universities identified in state law. The agreement emphasizes increased communication, sharing of data, student advising, and scholarships for TCC graduates to attend FAMU.

TCC is widely known for being the largest feeder institution for Florida State University and, according to Dr. Ammons, there's no reason Florida A&M can't say the same about its neighboring institution.

"TCC is pleased to recognize its special relationship with FAMU through this agreement," added Sloan. "FAMU offers great programs and resources to TCC students, and we are eager to work more closely with FAMU counselors to provide these options to our graduates."

Another key component of the agreement is the establishment of a Rattler Room, which will be located in TCC's Student Union. The Rattler Room will serve as an information hub for TCC students who are interested in transferring to FAMU and will be staffed by FAMU professionals on a regular basis.

"TCC students wishing to transfer to FAMU will be advised about limited access programs and specific prerequisite courses that will prepare our students for highly-competitive programs such as agriculture, engineering and pharmacy," said Sharon Jefferson, Vice President for Student Affairs. "We are excited about the renewed partnership and the future of TCC students who will transfer to FAMU."

The agreement also provides increased scholarship opportunities – from \$1,500 to \$5,000 - for TCC students who transfer to FAMU, based on cumulative GPA.

In addition to the articulation agreements with FSU Panama City and Florida A&M, TCC recently expanded its commitment to the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines.

TCC Announces Articulation Agreements with FSU-Panama City and FAMU...

continued

As a result, TCC will work to improve the pathway from area school districts – primarily those in Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties – to TCC for students interested in STEM. The College will also share data and info in order to encourage students to commit to STEM at an earlier age.

TCC is committing approximately \$20,000 in scholarships for STEM students.

WCTV- January 31, 2012

TCC Announces Event Lineup for Black History Month Celebration

TALLAHASSEE, Florida -- January 31, 2012

Tallahassee Community College's celebration of Black History Month began on January 30 with the unveiling of the twelfth annual Cherry Alexander African-American History Month Calendar.

Monday night's event honored 18 African-American individuals who have made significant contributions in Leon and surrounding counties.

The College's official Black History Month celebration, however, runs throughout the month of February and will include a pair of events open to TCC students, faculty and staff, as well as the Tallahassee community.

On Thursday, February 23, TCC will host the popular Gospel Extravaganza and Soul Food Festival. The event, a showcase of local gospel choirs and entertainers, will be held in the Student Union Ballroom and begins with a 6 p.m. reception followed by entertainment at 7 p.m.

On Tuesday, February 28, the College will welcome guests to the Student Union Ballroom from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a Health Fair. Vendors representing various entities in the community will be on campus providing information that will ensure a healthier tomorrow. Blood pressure, sickle cell and wellness screenings will be available to all in attendance.

Confirmed vendors for the Health Fair include: American Red Cross, Anytime Fitness, Big Bend Hospice, Bond Community Health, Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition, Hour Glass, Leon County Health Department Office of Minority Health, Lupus Support Group, TCC Mental Health Services and TCC Nutrition Sciences.

Admission to both events is free.

For more information on TCC's celebration of Black History Month, contact Rita Dickey by phone, (850) 201-6178, or email dickeyr@tcc.fl.edu.

Creeks, Conquistadors, and Confederates: Archaeology of the Big Bend

A free lecture series will give the public the opportunity to learn about archaeology in the Big Bend Region during the month of March, in celebration of Florida Archaeology Month 2012.

Florida Public Archaeology Network Release

CRAWFORDVILLE, FLA. - Feb. 1, 2012 -

The Florida Public Archaeology Network, University of West Florida and the [Tallahassee Community College](#) Wakulla Center are co-hosting a lecture series during the month of March to educate the local residents about archaeology in the Big Bend Region. This lecture series is free and open to everyone. It will take place at the [TCC](#) Wakulla Center from 6:30 to 7:30 on March 1, March 15, March 22 and March 29. The [TCC](#) Wakulla Center is located at 5 Crescent Way in Crawfordville. The speakers and presentation topics are as follows:

March 1: The Natural Bridge Campaign, Then and Now -Dr. William Lees, Executive Director of the Florida Public Archaeology Network

March 15: Adventures in Northwest Florida Archaeology - Dr. Nancy White, Professor of Archaeology at the University of South Florida

March 22: USS Narcissus and Florida's Underwater Archaeological Preserves -Franklin Price, Underwater Archaeologist, Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research -AND-

Florida's Panhandle Shipwreck Trail: Dive into the Emerald Coast –Lindsay Smith, Underwater Archaeologist, Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research

March 29: The Page-Ladson and Wakulla Spring Sites Yield Evidence of the First Ice -Age Floridians -James Dunbar, Retired Archaeologist with the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research.

TCC Paramedic Program Receives Nationally-Recognized Accreditation

TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (February 1, 2012) –

Tallahassee Community College's Paramedic program has been granted five years of accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). The accreditation review took place in June 2011, but the College did not receive official notification until last week.

The review was conducted by two surveyors—a paramedic and an emergency department physician, who is also a member of CAAHEP's Board of Directors. Both surveyors were incredibly impressed with TCC's program, particularly with the College's level of community support and the strong partnerships established with local healthcare institutions.

"We are very proud of the students, faculty and staff that work so hard to maintain the Paramedic program's reputation," said Dr. Alice Nied, dean of Healthcare Professions. "TCC is committed to providing the local community with highly-skilled and well-qualified paramedics, and this accreditation is a demonstration of that commitment."

"The accreditation process has been a great opportunity to share our students' successes and we are glad CAAHEP had a chance to see what we see every day," said Jon Berryman, faculty chair of TCC's Emergency Medical Services Technology and Paramedic programs.

TCC's Paramedic program is based in the TCC Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education, located in Tallahassee's healthcare corridor. For more information on the Emergency Medical Services Technology and Paramedic programs, visit www.tcc.fl.edu/ems or call (850) 558-4500.

Tallahassee Democrat- February 2, 2012

Black History Month Events

Democratic Staff Reports

Wednesday

- Tribute to African-American Films: Forum — Succeeding in the film industry. 7 p.m. in Turner Auditorium, [Tallahassee Community College](#) Campus. Cost: Free if reserved in advance, \$5 on day of the forum. For more information about the Tribute to African-American Films, call 850-412-5211 or visit www.famu.edu/lyceum.

Community colleges face deeper challenges

By Holly Pablo

During his State of the Union speech last month, President Obama called on America's community colleges to become a key part of revitalizing the skills of the U.S. workforce.

New data shows that community colleges still have significant hurdles to clear to meet Obama's goals.

Enrollment at two-year institutions is nearly 22% higher than 2007 figures, according to the American Association of Community Colleges. But while community colleges are accommodating more students, there remains a need to address incongruities in policies and programs.

By adopting a more realistic understanding of the challenges ahead and what has proved "promising practices," colleges have a chance to adjust to the changing landscape.

A brand-new study by the Center for Community College Student Engagement at the University of Texas at Austin explores four key findings in student engagement and success:

- Gaps between student aspirations and results

Data shows that 79% of entering students aim to complete an associate degree, yet fewer than 45% who intend to earn an associate degree or certificate meet that goal within six years.

- Developmental education

Nearly 75% of students report they were required to take an academic placement test, but only 28% report using materials provided by the college to prepare for those tests.

For Contra Costa College student Robin Lopez, being placed in a remedial math course was disappointing. Certain the placement exam was incorrect, he provided proof of similar high school coursework and skipped ahead to pre-calculus.

But rather than saving time as expected, Lopez dropped the course after realizing it was too difficult and enrolled in the basic skills course the following semester.

Data suggests that given the opportunity to review materials or take short-term workshops before placement tests, students can minimize the amount of mediation needed.

- Supplemental learning communities

Investing in centralized learning and technology support for students in developmental skills led to a 10% increase in the number of students successfully completing classes at Tallahassee Community College.

"Helping students beyond the classroom is fundamental to the success of community colleges," former college president William Law said. "We need to put our money where our values are."

Nearly 90% of participating colleges reported supplemental instruction, but only 14% make it a mandatory segment of the curriculum.

For Mike Reid, a student at San Diego Mesa College, having tutoring services is a key component in his education. The 57-year-old was laid off from his job as a truck driver and is now seeking a teaching career.

"I consider myself computer illiterate, but there are resources and people here to help learn those skills," Reid said. "It's a brave new world."

- Academic planning

Only 26% of entering students report that a college staff member or teacher spoke with them about their commitments outside of class to help them figure out how many classes to take.

Law said that more fundamental face-to-face or intensive orientations are necessary at the community college level. These experiences, especially setting up students with learning plans, should be mandatory.

"We have to be much more proactive than we've ever been in the past," he said. "The results we're seeing shows we're not purposeful enough."

These preliminary descriptive findings paint the picture of what community colleges are facing and future reports will show more analysis of what the effects are when students and faculty participate in a combination of these promising practices, McClenney said.

Gov. Scott Reappoints Karen B. Moore to TCC Board of Trustees

Governor Rick Scott announces the reappointment of Karen B. Moore to Tallahassee Community College's District Board of Trustees.

Reporter: Governor's Press Office

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (February 2, 2012) –

Today Governor Rick Scott announced the reappointment of Karen B. Moore to Tallahassee Community College's District Board of Trustees.

Trustee Moore was appointed to the Board in 2007 by then-Governor Charlie Crist. From 2009-2010, she served a term as chair and in July 2010 was elected to lead the Presidential Search Committee that selected Dr. Jim Murdaugh as TCC's sixth president.

Before serving on the TCC Board of Trustees, Trustee Moore was president of the TCC Foundation Board, chairing the College's first capital campaign that secured \$10 million.

"We are incredibly grateful for the years of leadership Trustee Moore has provided as the College navigated transitions and tremendous growth," said TCC President Jim Murdaugh. "Her dedication to TCC's role in promoting student success for those who transfer to universities and helping graduates whose goal is to find gainful employment is unmatched and I look forward to her continued experience, passion and leadership on the Board."

Trustee Moore is the founder and chief executive officer of Moore Consulting Group. She currently chairs the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County and the Florida Center for Universal Research to Eradicate Disease (FL CURED) Advisory Council. She is also a member of the Florida State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors.

Trustee Moore is reappointed for a term beginning February 2, 2012, and ending May 31, 2014.

TCC Speech and Debate Outlasts Competition at Eastern Michigan

TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (February 3, 2012) –

New venue. Same result.

Making its first-ever appearance at the Eastern Michigan University Invitational, Tallahassee Community College's speech and debate team walked away from the competition to claim another first-place prize.

Team **TCC**, the only two-year school in the competition, scored 241 points, easily outdistancing runner-up Illinois State University (166.5 points). Northwestern University (118 points), University of Akron (93.5 points) and Wayne State University (63 points) rounded out the top five.

This marked the 39th year for Eastern Michigan's event, a testament to the longevity and success of its program. Although Team **TCC** had never made the trek to Ypsilanti, Mich., the team did have one common thread with the annual event – **TCC** Director of Forensics John Schultz competed in the 1986 event.

And as Schultz did 26 years ago, 12 of the team's 13 members broke to the finals last weekend.

The most successful event was Pentathlon, commonly referred to as Individual Sweepstakes, or a student's cumulative score in all events in which he or she is entered. Team **TCC** placed three students in the top five, led by champion Jake Harrelson. Eugene Butler finished third and Timothy Ward, fifth.

According to Schultz, Team **TCC** has captured Pentathlon at four consecutive events – but with four different students.

Ward won the event the previous weekend at the American Forensics Association's (AFA) district tournament. Sarah Witten took home top honors at December's Seminole Swing, hosted by Florida State University. Alex Coyle was the winner at November's L.E. North Memorial Tournament, hosted by Bradley University.

"That, as much as anything, demonstrates the depth of our program," said Schultz. "You'd be hard-pressed to find many, if any, four-year schools – much less a two-year program – which has four students capable of winning

(Pentathlon)."

Harrelson also picked up the first-place prize in After Diner Speaking while Butler won Persuasive Speaking. Toy Campbell won Dramatic Interpretation.

Team **TCC**'s success is also continuing to catch the attention of four-year schools nationwide. According to Schultz, Chanequa Cargle-Price was offered a scholarship to Bowling Green State University. Other exiting team members are currently weighing their options, but have offered from schools such as Bradley, Berry College and Tennessee State University.

TCC's Angelina Colao Among Phi Theta Kappa 2011 Nota Bene Authors

Literary works from 16 Phi Theta Kappa members have been chosen from 950 entries for publication in the 2011 edition of Nota Bene, the Society's honors anthology.

TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (January 30, 2012) - Literary works from 16 Phi Theta Kappa members have been chosen from 950 entries for publication in the 2011 edition of Nota Bene, the Society's honors anthology.

Nota Bene was founded in 1994 to showcase exceptional writing among community college students. Copies of Nota Bene are distributed to all community college libraries and to Phi Theta Kappa leaders.

Among the 16 honorees is Angelina Colao, representing Tallahassee Community College. Colao was selected for her short story, Little Brother.

"We congratulate our 2011 Nota Bene honorees and their colleges," said Phi Theta Kappa Executive Director Dr. Rod A. Risley, who serves as Founding Editor of the honors anthology.

"At a time when excellent writing skills are critically needed, Phi Theta Kappa is proud to provide a platform to nurture creative writing and effective communication. Nota Bene, which is distributed internationally, showcases outstanding writing by community college students and emphasizes the opportunities for excellence found at community colleges," said Dr. Risley. "Our Nota Bene competition is an outstanding example of Phi Theta Kappa's success in effectively engaging students, which promotes retention and encourages college completion."

Colao was one of four recipients of the Reynolds Scholarship, a \$500 award.

Colao, who wrote her award-winning short story while studying in Meri Culp's creative writing class during the Fall 2010 term, is currently studying editing, writing and media at Florida State University.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi, is the largest honor society in higher education with 1,275 chapters on college campuses in all 50 of the United States, Canada, Germany, Peru, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the British Virgin Islands, the United Arab Emirates and U.S. territorial possessions. More than 2.5 million students have been inducted since its founding in 1918, with approximately 125,000 students inducted annually.

John Riley Center/Museum to host "Pioneers Gala"

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - The community is being invited to join in supporting the Riley Museum's 8th Annual Cufflinks and Pearls Applause for the Pioneers Gala.

The invitation comes courtesy of the event's honorable chairpersons, Dr. A.J. Brickler and Dr. A.D. Brickler (local physicians and long-time family medical icons) along with Dr. Jim Murdaugh (President of Tallahassee Community College) and Dr. Alma Littles, Florida State University College of Medicine.

This year's Gala will take place on Friday, February 24, 2012 from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the Goodwood Museum and Gardens' Carriage House, which is located on 1600 Miccosukee Road.

The purpose of the Pioneers Gala is to pay tribute to individuals who by a tangible act or creation have been community trailblazers, going before, preparing the way for others and have left a legacy in the development of Tallahassee's history.

The 2012 Gala Committee has chosen to pay tribute, posthumously, to the legacy of late 19th to mid 20th century African-American midwives. These women can be credited with the beginning of life for many of today's productive and notable African-American residents, as well as some among the white race. Of those, we are excited to honor: Georgia Parrmore Long, Gertrude Hill Williams, Henretta "Granny" Atkins, Lucy Davis, Martha Sutton Bryant, Rebecca Shepherd and Sarah Johnson Hill.

Other midwives known to the Riley Museum are Eliza Baker (of the historic Smokey Hollow community), Savannah Brown (of the Hickory Hill and Miccosukee/Centerville area), and Eva Chandler (former resident of Havana who also birthed babies throughout Leon County) of whom little information is known but whose contributions will also be recognized during the event.

Despite conditions that caused the midwives to carry out their duties under very challenging and sometimes dangerous conditions, they maintained a commitment to the best possible care for both mother and baby. To this day, their names and influence remain in obscurity to many people, which is why the Riley Museum is dedicated to honoring their momentous contributions.

All proceeds from the event are used in support of the John G. Riley Scholarship Fund.

Individuals, businesses and organizations are encouraged to support these pioneers and fundraising efforts of the Annual Gala by purchasing tables or individual tickets as follows: \$1,000 for a full table (seats 8); \$500 for a half table (seats 4); \$150 for couples and single tickets are \$100 each.

For more information about the midwives, or to purchase tickets, contact Marion McGee at 850-339-2757 or send an email to mmcgee@rileymuseum.org.

TCC Celebrates Manufacturing Students' Success in ETAM program

TCC Celebrates Manufacturing Students' Success in ETAM program

Wednesday, February 08, 2012

In November of last year, **Tallahassee Community College** and WORKFORCE plus announced a partnership to form the Engineering Technology and Advanced Manufacturing (ETAM) project, a program designed to help job-seekers receive training that will increase their overall marketability. **TCC** is now celebrating the first group of students completing the Manufacturing Fundamentals course. Seven of the nine students who completed the course will be awarded the industry-recognized Manufacturing Skill Standards Council (MSSC) national Production Technician certificate.

ETAM is a grant project funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and includes a three-college consortium and local workforce agencies to build workforce development solutions that can be deployed in both the education and training environments.

"We are incredibly proud of these students, and are excited about the early success of the ETAM project," said Bruce Baton, program manager of **TCC's** Advanced Manufacturing Training Center. "Earning the MSSC credential lets employers know that these students are highly-skilled and well-qualified in the field of manufacturing."

"As we observe the manufacturing sector strengthening, it is imperative that we stay on top of industry trends and develop a trained and talented workforce that will fill those future workforce needs," said Kimberly A. Moore, CEO of WORKFORCE plus, who's non-profit secures training for those looking to become reemployed. "WORKFORCE plus and **TCC** formed a team committed to workforce development in our area and we're proud to celebrate these graduates as they bolster their reemployment journey."

WORKFORCE plus provides comprehensive workforce and career services for the ETAM grant participants at Tallahassee Community College. This allows the grant to address reemployment from both sides: training, certification and vocational preparation on one hand and job hunt strategy on the other.

TCC is hosting an awards ceremony to celebrate the manufacturing students' success on Tuesday, January 31, at 5 p.m. in the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center.

The AMTC is located on the southwest corner of **TCC's** main campus at the corner of West Pensacola Street and Century Park Drive.

For more information on the ETAM project, contact **TCC's** AMTC at (850) 201-9720 or the WORKFORCE plus outreach specialist at (850) 201-9722.

'Run for the Cookies' is just around the corner

BY JEANNE O'KON

The Girl Scout Council of the Florida Panhandle and [Tallahassee Community College](#) will host the sweetest 5K and 1-mile run/walk in town on Saturday, Feb. 11.

The Run for the Cookies will take place on a flat and fast course behind the [TCC](#) Lifetime Sports Complex starting at 8:30 a.m. Hundreds of 5K runners and walkers will gather on that morning, seeking that delicious box of Girl Scout cookies that they get just for registering for the race!

This year marks the special occasion of the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts.

Chief Executive Officer of the Girl Scout Council Raslean Allen beams with pride when she speaks of the many opportunities and benefits provided for local girls through scouting activities.

"We focus on building girls of courage, confidence and character," she said, "who grow up making the world a better place!"

Proceeds from the Run for the Cookies benefit the Girl Scout Travel Scholarship program. This program assists girls in covering the costs associated with the educational experiences and adventures of Girl Scouting. This year, two special trips are planned for local Scouts: the 100th Anniversary Sing-a-Long in Washington, D.C., and the Girls World Forum in Chicago. The girls will earn a portion of the funds through service in the community, but many also need assistance to make their travel experiences a reality.

Race director Tom Perkins and members of the Gulf Winds Track Club assist with the Run for the Cookies, now in its 20th year. Gulf Winds members are experienced volunteers who handle registration, provide equipment and carry out race-day responsibilities. They direct and provide support for many running events in the Tallahassee community, raising thousands of dollars for community organizations.

Participants can register online at [Racelt.com](#), or at the early registration and packet pick-up at Capital City Runners on Wednesday, Feb. 8, from 3 to 7 p.m. The race flier is also available under Race Calendar at [www.gulfwinds.org](#).

The entry fee for early 5K registration is \$15 and includes a tank top and a box of Girl Scout cookies. The 1-mile entry fee is \$10 and includes a race T-shirt. Day-of-race 5K registration costs \$18 and the 1-mile fee is \$10. Registration on Feb. 11 will begin at 7:30 a.m. in the [TCC](#) Lifetime Sports Complex.

FAMU Announces Articulation Agreement with TCC

FAMU Press Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida A&M University (FAMU) President James H. Ammons and **Tallahassee Community College (TCC)** President Jim Murdaugh signed a specialized articulation agreement during the Feb. 9 FAMU Board of Trustees meeting. The primary goal of the agreement is to further strengthen the relationship between FAMU and **TCC**.

The agreement establishes a transfer program in which an undergraduate student will attain an associate's degree from **TCC** and then transfer to a bachelor's degree program at FAMU. After completing the academic requirements of the two participating institutions, the students will have earned an associate of arts degree from **TCC** and a bachelor's degree from FAMU.

"Dr. Murdaugh and I are committed to strengthening our collaboration with **Tallahassee Community College** through the establishment of a revised articulation agreement," said Ammons. "This articulation agreement will assist students transferring from **Tallahassee Community College** to FAMU with transition processes, enrollment in academic programs and scholarships. Dr. Murdaugh and I have been in discussions concerning this agreement for more than a year. Our recruitment goal is to increase the number of transfer students to FAMU by 20 percent each year and **Tallahassee Community College** will play an integral role in the university reaching that goal."

This articulation agreement accomplishes the mission of both institutions, which is to provide educational opportunities to all students dedicated to the advancement of knowledge, resolution of complex issues and the empowerment of citizens and communities. In addition to the agreement, **TCC** now has a new resource room in the Student Union, "The Rattler Room," that will be operated by FAMU staff.

FAMU has established scholarships for students transferring from **TCC** with A.A. and A.S. degrees ranging from \$1,500 to \$5,000 annually based on a student's grade point average.

Big Bend news briefs

Democrat staff reports

TCC to start ecotourism classes

The Tallahassee Community College Wakulla Center's new semester of ecotourism classes start Feb. 20. Students will have an opportunity to share their passion for ecology and love of nature with others by getting a Green Guide Certification from TCC. Offered in a combination of traditional classroom setting and hands-on field trips, the Green Guide Certification program creates an atmosphere that increases environmental awareness and a nature-centered network. For more information on TCC's ecotourism classes, call 922-6290 or visit workforce.tcc.fl.edu/Wakulla.

Tallahassee Democrat - February 10, 2012

Erwin Jackson, family raising funds, awareness for dystonia

Democrat staff reports

Erwin Jackson will stand up before a crowd Tuesday night at the University Center Club to make a few remarks.

He'll speak about the importance of the money raised that night for the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, an organization dear to his family.

On many Tuesday nights Jackson stands before the Tallahassee City Commission, berating and admonishing members during the limited time allotted to speakers not on the agenda.

The program on Valentine's Day will allow him two minutes to speak.

"Two minutes? Even the mayor gives me three minutes," Jackson said Friday with mock indignation.

Brian Jackson, son of the Tallahassee businessman who's the regular critic of Mayor John Marks, has a wonderful story to tell, one that's worth more than a three-minute time limit.

Brian Jackson will graduate in April from Florida State University with a degree in exercise science. He'll walk across the stage to get his diploma.

Six years ago that was anything but a certainty. As a Lincoln High School sophomore, then 15-year-old Brian Jackson played soccer, baseball and football. Suddenly, he was overcome with back pain that eventually contorted his body.

"It was like a light switch, I just started having these horrible back pains," Brian said. "My entire trunk, my chest and back, it was completely shifted. The muscles in my back were contracting 24/7"

Brian's spine was wrenched. His muscles bulged painfully, his left ear was pushed nearly to his left shoulder, bent against his will.

Doctor visits in Tallahassee and Gainesville resulted in misdiagnosis. It wasn't until a visit to Miami Children's Hospital that he was properly diagnosed with dystonia. It's a chronic disorder that causes muscles to contract and spasm involuntarily. The Dystonia Medical Research Foundation says at least 300,000 people in North America suffer its ravages in various forms.

Brian Jackson ended up in a wheelchair, lost his fine-motor skills and had to drop out of school. He couldn't write or feed himself.

Then his parents — Erwin and Stefanie Jackson — found out about the Dystonia Medical Research Foundation. The group put the Jacksons in touch with others who had the disease and pointed them to specialists. They traveled the country looking for hope and help.

"When you're in darkness, any light is helpful," Erwin Jackson said.

The Jacksons ended up at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City. A doctor there told them of a procedure to implant electrodes in Brian's brain to combat the disease.

Brian, wracked with pain and his life turned upside down, welcomed the chance at improvement.

For 30 days, the Jacksons prepared for surgery, had the procedure to insert the electrodes in Brian's skull and, separately, the batteries to power them were placed in his chest.

Erwin Jackson, family raising funds, awareness for dystonia...

continued

Forty-eight hours after the devices were turned on, the Jackson family was in Times Square. Brian said there was tingling in his back, he felt the urge to stretch his legs. He stood up and walked two blocks to lunch.

"Since that day I got up in Times Square, I haven't really sat down much since," Brian Jackson said. He said the procedure has eliminated about 90 percent of his disability.

Now, the Jacksons want to pay back and raise awareness. They've sponsored a few golf tournaments and raised the issue of dystonia in other ways. But Erwin Jackson, the constant critic at City Commission meetings, was looking for a bigger splash.

He met Mark Warple, an adjunct instructor of theater at [Tallahassee Community College](#) and executive director of Capital City Playhouse. Erwin Jackson put together a whole plan. The result is a Valentine's Day dinner and production of "The Complete History of America (abridged)," a comedy.

On Feb. 8, Erwin Jackson's usual targets were given a break during his three minutes of commentary at the City Commission meeting.

"Commissioners, I keep nagging you to do the right thing," Jackson said at the meeting. "And I want you to know that Valentine's Day is this Tuesday. I would strongly suggest that you take your spouse out to dinner and a show. It just so happens that my wife and I are sponsoring a dinner and a show to raise awareness and funding for dystonia"

About 250 have already bought tickets. Erwin Jackson is footing the bill to put the whole evening on. When the proceeds are added up to benefit the Chicago-based Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, Erwin Jackson will sweeten the pot with a match, he said. He wants a joyous night of awareness and fund-raising. The non-profit corporation's most-recent tax returns show it made research grants of \$1.4 million in 2010.

For Erwin Jackson, the evening will be a chance to make a difference.

"My mom and dad always say what an adventure it's been," Brian Jackson said.

Bolstering Tallahassee's Healthcare with Innovative Programs

Capital Regional and **TCC** launch the Big Bend's only monitor tech training program

Press Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (February 13, 2012) – Capital Regional Medical Center and **Tallahassee Community College** announce the launch of a new training program for specialized healthcare positions. Together, the organizations are offering a curriculum that will train students to be monitor technicians, a highly sought after role in hospitals, medical clinics and doctors' offices. The program is the first of its kind in the Tallahassee area.

"Well-trained monitor technicians are critical to the day-to-day operation of a hospital," says Portia Huston, Manager of Recruitment & Workforce Development at Capital Regional Medical Center. "A program like this means that we can better guarantee our healthcare facilities have the staff needed to offer the best patient care possible."

The program is designed to fit within a working professional's schedule with evening classes, offered at the **TCC** Ghazvini Center. After completing 30 hours in the coursework, including a rotation at Capital Regional, students will graduate with a certificate and be qualified to work as a monitor technician in a healthcare setting. Capital Regional will be heavily recruiting new employees from graduates of the program.

"The partnership was a natural one for us," says Carol Easley, Director of Workforce Development at Tallahassee Community College. "Capital Regional is a dedicated community partner and together, we are committed to ensuring Tallahassee has a strong pipeline of healthcare workers that will keep our economy strong for years to come."

Healthcare (including private education) has continued to be an industry experiencing growth, even in challenging economic times. Since 2004, healthcare careers in the Tallahassee area have grown nearly 20 percent.

"Healthcare is one of six targeted industry sectors in our area that is providing a diversified and sustainable regional economy," says Karen Moore, chair of the Economic Development Council of Tallahassee/Leon County. "Not only are high-quality, well-paying jobs in healthcare important to our area's economic growth, such advances position Tallahassee as an increasingly desirable location for companies looking to relocate."

The inaugural monitor technician course begins on February 21. Course enrollment ends on February 19. For more information on registering for the monitor technician program, please contact Lillian Finn at 558-4598 or finnl@tcc.fl.edu.

County takes step toward gas tax, fee increases

BY TAMARYN WATERS

Leon County commissioners didn't set a new 5-cent gas tax at Tuesday's workshop, but they gave County Administrator Vince Long the power to negotiate a contract with the city to determine if city commissioners want to share revenue if the tax was created.

Commissioners also tackled whether fees should be increased for storm-water and solid-waste services since both areas are operating above the county's allotted budget. They decided to move forward with feasibility studies estimated to range from \$75,000 to \$100,000 each and decide later if fees should go up.

Commission Chairman Akin Akinyemi and Commissioner Jane Sauls, voted against the gas-tax proposal, even if it were phased in over several years. Sauls, who also was the sole vote against spending money on feasibility studies, said the gas-tax proposal would be "disastrous" for local residents, especially those in her rural district who travel more than those in districts mostly in the city limits.

"Based on the calls I've gotten and the emails I've gotten, people say they cannot afford it and they cannot take another increase," Sauls said.

Akinyemi said he didn't vote in favor of moving the gas-tax proposal forward because he doesn't feel now is a "good time to raise taxes, period." And he would want to see the county's budget stay revenue neutral and reduce other existing areas before putting an additional tax on residents.

The proposed gas tax would go toward funding transportation and road projects such as maintaining roads and sidewalks and finishing current Blueprint 2000 projects.

One of the biggest swaying factors for Akinyemi during the workshop was the idea the county wouldn't be able to require the city maintain a revenue neutral approach if the tax were implemented, even if the county decided to take that path.

Leon County and the city currently share revenue from the existing gas tax. Based on Tuesday's discussion and the 4 to 2 vote, Long has been given the authority to negotiate a contract with the city on how to split the potential revenue of an additional gas tax.

Although a date has not been set yet, the proposal will come before county commissioners again and a super-

majority vote (five or more) will be needed to determine whether to move forward and hold public hearings. Commissioner Bill Proctor missed his chance to cast his opposing vote since he walked into the workshop just after the vote was made. He tried to include it, but County Attorney Herb Thiele said Proctor's vote couldn't be counted. However it was noted how Proctor would have voted if he was in the chambers.

Residents weren't allowed to speak during the informational workshop, but attendees like Faneician Walker, 20, say the proposal would put a financial hurt on their pockets.

Walker, a student at [Tallahassee Community College](#), said she's unemployed and gas "is high enough as it is."

"It would just be harder for me," she said when asked how a new gas tax would affect her. "I go to school three days a week and I do my studying even when I'm out of school. It would just be hard on me."

County staffers say they wanted to give commissioners an early look at potential options that could address budget concerns that are likely to come.

Stormwater and solid-waste fees were set in 1991 and 1994 and have not been raised since. The county currently gets \$1 million from stormwater fees and \$1.5 million from solid-waste fees. When both areas exceeded budget with day-to-day operations, commissioners previously approved \$2.7 million from reserves for stormwater operations and \$1 million in reserves toward solid-waste services.

The current stormwater fee is \$20 and it would increase by \$15.60 annually until fiscal year 2018, making a \$78 increase over five years.

Commissioners like Bryan Desloge and Kristin Dozier said increasing the fees for stormwater and solid-waste need to be closely considered.

"If we do nothing today, we well have exactly the same conversation in a year," Dozier said.

Candidate Fitzgerald: Can he teach and run?

By line

Keith Fitzgerald is a full-time, tenured professor of political science at New College of Florida in Sarasota. He is also running for Congress, which is generally accepted as a full-time job as well.

The combination has caused some New College trustees to question whether Fitzgerald should retain his full-time state job and salary while running a campaign for national office — particularly as Gov. Rick Scott has urged universities to be more careful and accountable with their financial resources and student outcomes.

So Fitzgerald is discussing with college administrators the possibility of reducing his teaching role in the fall semester, or even go so far as to choose teaching or the campaign, at least for the duration of the campaign.

"Professor Fitzgerald's ... decision to curtail some of his teaching obligations and run for a seat in the U.S. Congress is a disappointment to me," said New College Trustee John Saputo in a written statement.

"Running for U.S. Congress is a demanding, distracting and time-consuming task. I was hoping that when Keith decided to run for political office 'again' that he would take a six-month sabbatical without pay ... This would have been the best course of action for New College and Keith's students."

But Bob Johnson, chairman of the New College Board of Trustees and a former Republican state senator, said there is nothing the college can do, and it is a no-win for it to try to force anything.

"Keith Fitzgerald has tenure," Johnson said. "He has a union agreement. As long as he does not inject his campaign into the college, I'm not concerned about the quality of his work," Johnson said. "I've talked to Keith. He's pledged a positive campaign."

State Sen. Mike Bennett, R-Bradenton, holds a similar view.

"My personal feeling is that teaching college is not really a full-time job anyway," Bennett said. "But he's entitled to (run). I wish more people would run for office."

But state Rep. Ray Pilon, R-Sarasota, sees it differently. Pilon defeated Fitzgerald in 2010 to win the House seat he now holds and questioned at the time how Fitzgerald could be a paid state legislator and full-time state college professor at the same time.

"When he was in the Legislature being paid, he was also being paid by New College," Pilon said.

Further, Pilon also was a state employee as the director of communications for the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority. During his first session last year, Pilon took an unpaid administrative leave from his state job because he could not do both at once. He has since resigned from the state job and is an independent consultant.

"I did not get paid for two state jobs," he said.

Fitzgerald, a Democrat who is paid an annual salary of \$70,077 at New College, declined to be interviewed, but issued the following statement:

"Keith Fitzgerald, Ph.D, continues teaching in the Political Science Department at the New College of Florida as he has since 1994. In addition to his course load, he maintains regular office hours, assists colleagues and consults with his advisees."

Fitzgerald, during his time in the Legislature, had students go to Tallahassee for some part of the nine-week session when he had to be there full time, having them write papers on what they saw. He did not have formal class sessions for those months.

Some of the concern about Fitzgerald's duties has been prompted by an Oct. 11, 2011, letter to all state university and college presidents, in which Gov. Scott requested a list of measurements to determine how well professors are teaching, students are learning and young people find employment in their field.

"I want Floridians to have the opportunity to obtain the best education for which Florida taxpayers are willing to pay," Scott wrote to the universities and colleges. "I have always believed the only way to ensure increasing levels of performance is by measuring outcomes using objective, data-driven criteria in a fully transparent environment."

Fitzgerald, who is running against incumbent U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Longboat Key, is not the only college teacher who is, or has been, in the Legislature.

Candidate Fitzgerald: Can he teach and run?...

continued

Rep. John Tobia, R-Melbourne, is a professor at Valencia Community College. Rep. Michelle Rehwinkel Vasilinda, D-Tallahassee, is a professor at **Tallahassee Community College**. And Senate President Mike Haridopolos, R-Merritt Island, is an instructor at the University of Florida.

Haridopolos was, for a few months last year, in the same situation as Fitzgerald now. The Merritt Island Republican was hired in 2010 by the University of Florida to be a general education lecturer. After starting his Senate campaign, he dropped out of the race last June so he could focus on being Senate president.

"I truly believed I could handle both jobs. But I was wrong," he said in a video announcing the end of his campaign.

But as long as Fitzgerald can show up to teach his classes and any other duties, he must be allowed to keep his position and salary under his union contract.

Professors at New College and Florida's other 10 universities are unionized, represented by the United Faculty of Florida, which is part of the American Federation of Teachers under the AFL-CIO. Sarah Hernandez, head of the New College chapter of United Faculty, was adamant that neither Fitzgerald nor anyone else should get special treatment.

"The union would object to any special deal for individuals," said Hernandez, a professor of sociology at New College. But she added that the union is there to protect Fitzgerald's rights under the contract.

Under the union contract, Fitzgerald must teach his two courses and any tutorials each semester to retain his full salary. As long as he does that, he is free for other pursuits.

New College administrators are looking for a way to make sure students get appropriate attention while allowing Fitzgerald the freedom to pursue Congress in accordance with his union contract.

"We expect him to fully discharge his duties," said Steve Miles, New College provost and vice president for academic affairs. "It will be a great amount of work for him."

Miles has been in discussions with Fitzgerald and said the professor is continuing his normal teaching courses in the spring semester, is off for the summer as normal and then may cut his teaching in half for the fall semester running up to the November election. That fall reduction would include some sort of reduction in salary also.

But Fitzgerald is not just a unionized state employee, he is a tenured college professor. "Tenure's importance is that you will not lose your job unless you do something so outrageous it does not warrant continuing your employment," Hernandez said. Tenure, she said, is designed to protect free speech for professors.

Plus, the union contract allows for professors to take time off for other pursuits. For instance, every six years, professors are given six months of paid leave called research assignments, or sabbaticals, to pursue some study in their field. As a political science professor, Fitzgerald could consider his work in Congress — or perhaps even running for Congress — as research for political science. He has not said he will do that.

Miles said that while Fitzgerald's tenured position would have to be renewed every two years if he is in Congress, it could be renewed continually. While he would be in Congress, New College would hire a temporary replacement professor to teach those courses until Fitzgerald returned.

For Hardy, school is a real 'Mash-Up'

By William Mattox

High school senior James Hardy takes classes at Tallahassee Community College (TCC) every Tuesday and Thursday — and spends the rest of his school week taking online courses at two different virtual schools. If that sounds like a crazy-quilt academic program, welcome to the 21st century, where some of the best learning plans, like some of the best songs, are a real “mash-up.”

Lest there be any doubt, Hardy never set out to be a student at three different schools simultaneously. Yet, after being frustrated with the chaotic nature of his public high school during 9th grade, James enrolled in the Florida Virtual School in 10th grade — and has continued to take FLVS courses ever since.

This year, Hardy decided to become a dual-enrolled student at TCC so that he could get a head start on college. And he opted to enroll in the relatively-new Leon County Virtual School so that he could qualify for a high school diploma.

Hardy says that taking a blend of conventional and online courses has given him an appreciation for both.

“In online courses, you feel like the class was made for you,” Hardy said, noting that virtual classes allow him to move on as soon as he has mastered a concept and to linger longer when he needs extra time to understand an idea.

While Hardy’s “mash-up” school schedule may seem peculiar, he’s hardly alone. According to Digital Learning Now, Florida leads the nation with more than 250,000 online course enrollments — most of them by part-time students taking other courses in traditional classrooms.

Hardy plans to major in Hospitality Management in college and dreams of someday owning his own restaurant.

Tallahassee Democrat -February 16, 2012

Big Bend news briefs

Democrat Staff Report

Raa principal appointed to [TCC](#) board of trustees

Donna Callaway, the principal at Raa Middle School, was appointed Wednesday by Gov. Rick Scott to the board of trustees at [Tallahassee Community College](#). She has been the principal of Raa since 2008, as well as from 1994 to 2004. She succeeds the late Bill Hebrock and is appointed for a term beginning Wednesday and ending May 31, 2015.

TCC International Students Win First Place at FILC

TCC Release

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (February 15, 2012) –

Twelve international students from **Tallahassee Community College** recently attended the sixth annual Florida International Leadership Conference (FILC) at the Camp Ocala 4-H Center in Altoona, Fla.

FILC brings together international students and American students who have studied abroad that are currently attending one of Florida's colleges or universities.

During the conference, students enjoyed sessions and workshops designed to enhance leadership abilities while acknowledging student leaders who promote international understanding on their respective campuses. The goal is to energize the participants while equipping them to carry what they learn to their student organizations.

During this year's conference, participating **TCC** students received first place in a school pride poster contest.

TCC students who attended FILC were Nils Bjerén of Norway, Clarisa Castañeda of Honduras, Denia Del Cid of Honduras, Hakeem Florentina of St. Maarten, Maria Kimball of Russia, Corinna McCarthy of St. Maarten, Heewon Oh of South Korea, Polina Panicharova of Bulgaria, Erika Suazo of the Dominican Republic, Vicente Raveau of Chile, Jose Vichez of Nicaragua and Qian Zhang of China.

Tallahassee Democrat -February 16, 2012

TCC, Capital Regional begin new training program

Business Matters Staff Report

Capital Regional Medical Center and **Tallahassee Community College** announce the start of a new training program that will teach students to be monitor technicians, a highly sought-after role in hospitals, medical clinics and doctors' offices.

The program is the first of its kind in the Tallahassee area, the organizations said.

"Well-trained monitor technicians are critical to the day-to-day operation of a hospital," said Portia Huston, manager of recruitment and workforce development at CRMC. "A program like this means that we can better guarantee our health-care facilities have the staff needed to offer the best patient care possible."

TCC said the program is designed to fit within a working professional's schedule with evening classes, offered at the **TCC** Ghazvini Center.

After completing 30 hours of coursework, including a rotation at CRMC, students will graduate with a certificate and be qualified to work as a monitor technician in a health-care setting. The hospital will be heavily recruiting new employees from graduates of the program.

Portia Huston, manager of recruitment and workforce development at CRMC, said the technicians are most likely to work in departments where patients have cardiac problems and need constant monitoring. They staff a workstation that has multiple displays of patients' heart rhythms.

"This training program provides them with the knowledge to interpret those rhythms and the ability to recognize when something is wrong," Huston said.

The trainees also participate in a rotation at the hospital so they receive actual experience in the medical environment. "The monitor techs will actually be coming through the hospital and working at a monitor station to see how important a position this is," Huston said.

The first monitor technician course begins Tuesday. Course enrollment ends Sunday. For more information on registering for the monitor technician program, contact Lillian Finn at 558-4598 or finnl@tcc.fl.edu.

DCF Celebrates African-American Achievements During Black History Month Event

DCF Press Release

Tallahassee, FL -- February 16, 2012 --

The Florida Department of Children and Families will commemorate Black History Month on Friday with a program honoring 15 local residents and dignitaries.

The event includes special performances to commemorate this important month. Ken Bevel, a noted author, speaker and actor, will provide the keynote speech. He recently starred in the hit movie "Courageous."

The theme of the event is, "Strengthening Families and Communities: One Family at a Time." Carlton and Vonda Jordan, adoptive parents from Jacksonville, will speak about the blessing their adopted children have been in their lives.

The honorees are:

Ramon Alexander, Program Director of Distinguished Young Gentlemen of America, Inc.

Lanetra Bennett, WCTV

Florida Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll

Wanda Finnie, Department of Juvenile Justice Assistant Secretary

Sherrie Gainer, Department of Children and Families Adult Protective Investigator

Atarri Hall, Department of Children and Families Field Services

Coordinator for Child Protective Investigations

Miatta Jalaber, Department of Children and Families Child Care

Licensing Counselor

Carlton and Vonda Jordan, Adoptive Parents and Family

Charles McDonald, Children's Home Society Executive Director

Judge Nina Richardson, Leon County

Gerard Robinson, Department of Education Commissioner

Corey Simon, Founder of Corey's Kids

Angel Trejo, former Department of Children and Families Administrator for District 2

Shalunda Turo, Department of Children and Families Office of the

Secretary Receptionist

Kisha Wilkinson, WTXL Reporter


Miriam Franklin, a 31-year-old mother who is studying Music Education at Florida A&M University, will be singing. She uses her gift of music to spread a message of hope and love to inspire people all over the world.

Jase Lindsey, a Tallahassee native and talented dancer who enjoys teaching spiritual dance, will also perform. He is majoring in Music at [Tallahassee Community College](#) and hopes to one day take his talents to Broadway.

The event will be at 10:30 a.m., Friday, February 17 at the Florida State University Student Services Building, 874 Traditions Way, Room 203. Limited parking is available on Woodward Avenue between the FSU Police Department and the Student Services Building.


It's never too late to get your high school diploma!
Tallahassee Community College now offers GED classes

Twin City News



**It's never too late to get
your high school diploma!**

Tallahassee Community College
GED classes
at the Chattahoochee Public Library
3–6 p.m. | Mon–Thurs | Only \$30



To register, call **(850) 201-8760**

Excel in a New Career as a Corrections Officer

Become a part of our tradition of excellence

HAVANA HERALD, GASDEN COUNTY TIMES, AND TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Excel in a new career as a Corrections Officer

- Graduate in as little as 4 months
- Financial aid available
- Day and evening courses offered
- Employment opportunities available while in training
- The TCC Career Center can help with your job search success



Become a part of our tradition of excellence: TCC's latest class had a 100% pass rate on the State Officer's Certification Exam.

Classes start February 27

FloridaPSI.com

(850) 201-7659

* This is running in the Tallahassee Democrat Jan 8, 12, 13, 14 and Feb 9-12 and Havana Herald and Gadsden County Times on Jan 12, 19, Feb 2, 9, 16, 23.

TCC Online Customer Service Ad

Improve your résumé

and be better prepared for job interviews



Online Customer Service Representative Course

- Demonstrate a customer service approach
- Understand how your behavior affects others
- Demonstrate confidence and skill as a problem solver
- Learn to deal with difficult customers

Online Retail Sales Representative Course

- Greet customers and determine their needs
- Describe merchandise and explain operation and care
- Recommend and locate merchandise based on customer needs
- Compute sales prices, total purchases and process cash or credit payment

Registration ends February 27, so register today!

\$99 | 201-8069 | workforce.tcc.fl.edu/professionaldevelopment