

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



April 14, 2012 - May 16, 2012

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City Celebrates Earth Day Week 2012

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Celebrate Earth Day with a health and wellness twist! The City of Tallahassee will join millions of others globally in recognition of the 43rd anniversary of Earth Day on Sunday, April 22. The Earth Day celebration begins this Saturday, as part of an entire lineup of Earth Day Week events from April 14-22. The highlight of the Earth Day Week celebration will be Tallahassee's Earth Day in the Park event on Earth Day itself, Sunday, April 22, featuring garden and aerobics demonstrations, one-mile walking groups and fitness, wellness, and sustainability exhibitors.

•Green Spring Clean Out, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. – residents can drop off their lamps, batteries, ballasts, computers and other electronics at no charge at six community locations: Florida A&M University (corner of Wahnish Way and Gamble St.), **Tallahassee Community College** (444 Appleyard Dr.), Huntington Oaks Plaza (3840 N. Monroe St.), Maclay School (3737 N. Meridian Rd.), the Leon County Public Works Operation Center (2280 Miccosukee Rd.), and Veolia Environmental Services (342 Marpan Lane). As a part of the same event, Marpan Recycling will host an environmental exhibit at 6020 Woodville Highway (adjacent to the Veolia dropoff site).

As an internationally recognized leader in environmental stewardship and sustainability best practices, the City of Tallahassee places sustainability as a top priority. The City received a Silver Award for its environmental leadership from The International Awards for Livable Communities and was the first to be awarded a Gold Certification as a Green City by the Florida Green Building Coalition. The City also encourages sustainable health and wellness through its community gardening program and its fleet department helps to preserve local natural resources by producing and using its own biodiesel fuel.

For more information on Earth Day Week events, contact Adam Jacobs at 891-8726. To learn more about the City's Earth Day in the Park event and organizational sustainability efforts, please visit Talgov.com/eper or facebook.com/GoGreenTallahassee.

Update: Students gather to connect with the community

Elizabeth M. Mack

Update 4 p.m.

In an effort to bridge the gap between college students and the community, students at Florida A&M University organized a community day in Frenchtown.

The inaugural Frenchtown Getdown was this afternoon at Carter Howell Strong Park. The day was a collaborative effort between FAMU, Florida State University and [Tallahassee Community College](#).

The event started with a community cleanup and moved on into a health seminar, community panel discussion, potluck meal and live music performances.

"What we desire to do is really bring the community together," said Alexandria Collins, organizer and FAMU broadcast journalism student from Tallahassee. "What we are hoping that people take away is a sense of community and health education. We didn't just want to play music and eat, but we want people to also learn something."

Check back at tallahassee.com for more on this story.

Frenchtown Getdown starts at noon

Local college students are meeting in Frenchtown at noon for a day of events all promoting Frenchtown.

The inaugural Frenchtown Getdown was a collaboration of Florida A&M University, Florida State University and [Tallahassee Community College](#) students.

During the event from noon to 7 p.m. there will be a community cleanup, health seminars, potluck meal, panel discussion and live music by local artists.

The students will meet at Carter Howell Strong Park at Copeland and Georgia streets.

The event is open to the public.

Check back at tallahassee.com for more on this story.

Season Five of TCC Idol to start April 20

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – “Season Five” of TCC Idol is coming to Tallahassee Community College at 6 p.m., Friday, April 20.

The event will take place at TCC’s Turner Auditorium, which is located inside the College’s Fine and Performing Arts Center.

In late March, the College hosted auditions for TCC Idol. The event is a spinoff of the hit television series American Idol and a supersized version of the College’s wildly popular Open Mic series.

Unlike Open Mic, which traditionally targets the TCC campus, TCC Idol welcomes participants from Florida State University and Florida A&M University, as well as the community, for an end of the year talent showcase.

Approximately 15 acts, ranging from singing and dance to spoken word, will compete for the title of TCC Idol. The evening will also include guest performances by the TCC Dance Company, the College’s award-winning Forensics Team and Anthony Williams, a former backup singer for Patti LaBelle.

TCC Idol will even feature its own version of Randy, Steven and J-Lo as the following individuals will serve as judges: TCC professors Mike Armstrong (speech and film), DonMetrie Clarke (English) and Nicolette Constantino (English); and Robert Smith, II, marketing manager at Markstarr Multimedia, Atlanta, Ga.

According to faculty member Shauna Smith, the creator of both Open Mic and TCC Idol, the event will also feature participants from the College’s Karaoke Contest at last month’s Springtime Tallahassee Jubilee in the Park.

Admission is free however donations will be accepted at the door. Proceeds will support the veterans program at TCC.

For more information on TCC Idol, contact Shauna Smith by phone, 850-201-8048, or email openmic@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC forensics team caps season with national championship

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. -- Tallahassee Community College's forensics team capped another sensational season by winning the overall gold sweepstakes in the Wheeler Division at the Phi Rho Pi national tournament in Schaumburg, Ill.

Tallahassee also received a silver award in the individual events sweepstakes.

This marks the seventh time in ten years that Team TCC has captured gold at the tournament and was the ninth top two finish over that same time span – the best record of any college in the Wheeler Division, which is comprised of schools who enter between 15.5 and 30 participants.

Tallahassee's winning point total of 127.5 points was the second-highest in team history at the event. Second-place Irvine Valley College finished with 123 points while Harper College and Los Angeles Valley College tied for third place with 100 points each.

Even in a crowded field of 60 colleges and roughly 500 competitors, Tallahassee's dominance still garnered headlines. Team TCC accounted for 11 of the 111 total finalists – or roughly ten percent – across all individual events.

"This was a remarkable group of students and coaches who demonstrated that hard work and team spirit is central to success," said John Schultz, director of forensics. "We always strive for excellence, and we believe the team and individual awards are by-products of that commitment."

Individually, six different students won seven of the event's 64 gold awards.

Jacob Dean and Toy Campbell led the way for Team TCC, each bringing home a pair of gold awards. Dean won his in communications analysis and impromptu speaking. He also added a bronze in extemporaneous speaking. Campbell won the gold award in poetry interpretation and teamed with Tyreek Greene for top honors in duo interpretation. He also added silver in dramatic interpretation.

Other gold winners were Sarah Whitten (program oral interpretation), Tim Ward (informative speaking) and Eugene Butler (informative speaking).

Other silver winners were Alex Coyle (communications analysis and extemporaneous speaking) and Ward (communications analysis).

Other bronze winners were Jake Harrelson (after dinner speaking), Butler (poetry interpretation), and Whitten and Jordan Bates (duo interpretation).

A good mix of first- and second-year participants should leave Tallahassee well-positioned for another title run in 2012-13. According to Schultz, next year's roster will include five of the six individual award winners.

"It is exciting to think that at least seven members of this year's team will be back (next year)," Schultz said. "It should create an environment with robust leadership, which I believe will lead to another very successful season."

Schultz' leadership has been a major reason for the team's success and, on April 18, the Department of Campus Life presented him with the Faculty Excellence in Co-Curricular Support award during the annual Student Leadership and Service Awards banquet. The award is given annual to a faculty member who provided support in the development, sponsorship or implementation of activities and programs that support the co-curricular or extracurricular learning of TCC students.

Scott signs \$70B Fla. budget, trims \$143M

FSU and TCC building projects survive line-item veto

Paul Flemming

ST. JOHNS COUNTY — Gov. Rick Scott on Tuesday signed the state's \$70-billion budget and used a scalpel to trim \$143 million in spending.

The budget's official signing confirmed most of what was already known about the spending plan that kicks in July 1. Some area cultural projects were vetoed, but building projects at Florida State University and **Tallahassee Community College** survived the cut. Scott's signature formalized what state employees have long known would be the case: a sixth year without a general pay raise.

The first-term Republican used the backdrop of Cunningham Creek Elementary School here to emphasize his priority, a \$1-billion increase in education spending. Scott held another ceremonial budget signing at a Panama City school later Tuesday, a theme that will continue today with another signing event at an Orlando school.

Before adding his signature to the appropriations bill in blue Sharpie, Scott gave students from Virginia Leopold's kindergarten class a brief lesson on how a bill becomes a law with a voice-vote rejecting broccoli mandates and favoring daily ice cream with lunch. But he also hit his familiar refrain repeated since he proposed a spending plan in December: creating jobs and turning around the state's economy depends on education.

"Over the last year, I spent countless hours listening to parents, teachers and students to find out what they needed to improve education in our state," Scott wrote in his official letter on the budget. "Despite limited state resources, we need to prioritize more funding for K-12 education. This budget accomplishes just that."

Some advocates and educators countered that Scott is crowing about an increase they said amounted to another year of cuts to Florida schools after \$1.3 billion in federal stimulus dollars were deleted from the current-year budget.

"I appreciate the governor's efforts to support public education but the reality is that over the previous four years we have been hit with over \$65 million in budget reductions," said Leon County School Board Chairman DeeDee Rasmussen. "It will become increasingly difficult to sustain our nine-year run as an A district if per pupil funding decreases any further."

Leon County schools are set to get about \$8 million more than the year before in next year's budget, for a total of \$212.5 million.

Wakulla County schools will get \$32 million, a 2.5-percent increase. Jefferson County will get a hike of 0.48 percent to \$7 million in base operating money. Gadsden is set to get \$36 million, a 0.69-percent increase.

"Well, we've been used to it during the last three years. We take what we can get and go with it," said Bill Brumfield, superintendent in Jefferson County. "At this point, I don't think we will have to lay off teachers if enrollment stays (about) the same."

This year's vetoes paled compared to the ax Scott wielded last year when he cut \$615 million. Scott himself and other lawmakers attributed the change to experience on the job for the political newcomer.

Sen. John Thrasher, a powerful St. Augustine Republican, said the reduced cuts represent a governor who is getting better at listening to constituents and lawmakers.

"I think experience on the job," accounts for the smaller veto total, Thrasher said. "He's reaching out to more and more people."

Scott himself said his interaction with lawmakers was greater this year. Some of those conversations spared projects that might have otherwise been fallen to the line-item veto. Scott said the spared projects would have to prove themselves sound investments or risk cancellation in the future.

"Lobby might not be a good word," Scott said of lawmakers' advocacy for projects. "They convinced me."

In Scott's budget-veto transmittal letter he wrote about how he judged each item — he said Tuesday his staff reviewed 440 projects before making the vetoes.

"When I went line by line through the budget, I asked myself, 'Is this the proper role of state government?'" Scott wrote. "'Should we spend taxpayers' dollars for that purpose? And if so, what is the return on investment?'"

Scott signs \$70B Fla. budget, trims \$143M...

continued

A \$300,000 cultural grant for the African American Network heritage trail in Leon County didn't make the cut and was vetoed, among other excised cultural projects around that state, including \$500,000 for a Bay of Pigs Museum in Miami and \$250,000 for a Science and Discovery Center in Bay County.

Scott also vetoed \$1.5 million lawmakers had approved for Florida A&M's new pharmacy program in Crestview. The money was earmarked for operational expenses for the school, set to open with 40 students in August.

"We're assessing the impact and what direction we will take as a result of this action," FAMU Provost Larry Robinson said.

The budget Scott signed included \$300 million in cuts to higher education.

FSU's base operating appropriation is cut \$65.8 million. Florida A&M University's base funding is cut \$19.9 million. The budget provides provisions for all 11 of the state's public universities to seek tuition increases of up to 15 percent, with approval from each institution's board of trustees and the State University System's Board of Governors.

Given final approval was \$4.5 million for [Tallahassee Community College](#) to build an environmental institute in Wakulla County. FSU has \$3.85 million coming in the budget to begin design on a 150,000-square-foot Earth Ocean Atmospheric Sciences building.

[TCC](#) President Jim Murdaugh was relieved the environmental institute survived the governor's veto pen. It had been targeted last week by Florida TaxWatch as a "turkey" in the 2012 budget. Officials with the fiscal watchdog on Tuesday said Scott vetoed 61 percent of the projects on its list of spending that didn't go through proper budget-review channels.

Murdaugh described the new institute as a unique model well-suited for one of the most diverse ecosystems in the nation. "We will be doing exciting STEM (science, technology, education and math) work that puts Floridians to work," Murdaugh said. "(Scott's) recognition of this speaks to the merits of the project."

—Lisa Fingerroot and Doug Blackburn contributed to this story.

Re-entry Center for Inmates Nears Completion

Deneige Broom

Gadsden County, FL --- April 23, 2012 --- 5:45 pm

Greg James got out of prison in 2008. He says he's still working his way back into every day life.

"It's hard for those who are coming out of prison to find that kind of access when it comes to housing and when it comes to employment," said James.

That's one of the reasons he says 7 out of 10 people go back to jail or prison after they've been released.

"When you try to find employment and have to check the box, 'Have you been convicted of a felony?', you're automatically disqualified," said James.

Now he's following through on a plan he made while in prison.

James is trying to help people succeed once they get out from behind bars.

Florida's Department of Corrections and [Tallahassee Community College](#) have a similar goal.

They're building a center that will house, educate and prepare about 600 inmates for their next step. The construction site sits on the campus of Florida Public Safety Institute in Gadsden County.

"This is going to be a transitioning time for the inmates before they're released," said E.E. Eunice, the executive director of the Safety Institute. "And hopefully by working in the community that transition will be smoother."

The inmates will be nonviolent offenders and spend about a year at what's being called a re-entry center.

They'll be provided classes and job training in hopes of making that transition possible.

Florida Department of Corrections will handle the administrative side of the center.

The construction crew expects to wrap up work on the center sometime this summer.

Our Opinion: Say yes Gov. Scott should sign tuition bill

Gov. Rick Scott makes it hard to read his support for Florida's state universities.

He insists that any new spending must be tied to degree programs that will produce graduates equipped with the skills to match the evolving job market, where a focus will be on science, technology, engineering and math.

At the same time, he has signed legislation that strips Florida's universities of more than \$300 million. The budget he signed last week will reduce Florida State University's operating appropriations by \$65.8 million, while Florida A&M took a \$19 million hit. Those amounts were based in part on how much each university had in its reserve funds.

That's why, for this community — where so much relies on how well Florida State and Florida A&M can shore up their academic offerings and prepare for future challenges — it's important that Gov. Scott approve HB 7129, legislation that won overwhelming support in the recent session. The bill would allow Florida State and the University of Florida to seek further increases beyond the 15-percent annual increase cap now allowed. But they still would need approval from their Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors.

At the same time, we caution FSU President Eric Barron to remember that public universities should be accessible to everyone and that a green light on tuition shouldn't result in FSU's critical STEM tracks becoming out of reach of students, especially minority students.

This year's budget did not specify tuition increases, but all universities have the option of seeking hikes as much as 15 percent through the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors.

HB 7129 is designed to give state universities status as pre-eminent research institutions, if they can meet 14 requirements. It means that FSU and UF, the two universities currently qualifying for the status, could set their own tuition rates. Dr. Barron has said the university would be able to charge more for tuition in STEM-related majors. These programs often cost more to teach because of equipment and because professors in these fields command higher salaries.

This community is largely dependent on the success of Florida State, Florida A&M and [Tallahassee Community](#)

[College](#), not only for the jobs they provide, but also for the benefits that they generate through economic development.

Shortly before making his case before Gov. Scott, Dr. Barron said that the bill was critical to FSU's future. "Right now, because the cuts have been so deep, every year we are giving students less and charging them more," he said. "I believe this is our first opportunity to invest in the students and be innovative and allow them to be more successful."

The bill also has been endorsed by the Council of 100, the influential business organization that advises Gov. Scott on issues impacting Florida's economy.

In its letter of support to Gov. Scott, the council said, "It is estimated that UF and FSU annually inject \$20 billion into Florida's economy, supporting 300,000 jobs. Based on the above analysis, it is clear that enabling these schools to rise in the ranks of nationally pre-eminent universities will generate even more economic growth and jobs."

But it should not be lost that the council also urged Gov. Scott to veto a bill creating the Florida Polytechnic University as the state's 12th university. The council warned that adding a new university to the State University System would bring additional economic hardships to the existing 11 universities.

But Gov. Scott approved that measure, saying that investing in it now will provide major payoffs down the road in producing graduates equipped for the workplace.

Now is the time for him to afford the same opportunity to Florida State and the University of Florida, two schools with established track records in producing qualified STEM graduates.

TCC honors 15 outstanding area women during Women's History Month

Lillian Finn and Dr. Jeanne O'Kon

Ten outstanding community women and five outstanding Tallahassee Community College students were honored during the College's annual Women's History Month ceremony on March 14.

The 2012 national theme for Women's History Month was "Women's Education - Women's Empowerment." Keynote speaker Dr. Sandra Rackley, retired Dean of Undergraduate Studies at Florida State University, kept the audience entertained with tales of strong female family members who overcame major adversity in order to achieve great professional heights.

The community honorees, chosen from nominations received across TCC's tri-county service district of Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties, have achieved admirable goals while contributing significantly to the lives of others.

As strong as they are diverse, this year's honorees included women who have made great strides in education, demonstrated leadership, assisted the educationally challenged, served to protect the welfare of women, and educated and inspired others to achieve.

The 2012 Women's History Month honorees are: Chief Vicki Cutcliff, Chief of Law Enforcement for the Department of Business and Professional Regulation-Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco; Ms. Victoria Droze, teacher at Gretchen Everhart School; Ms. Robin Gibson, faculty and program head for FSU's Athletics Department Sports Medicine Program; Dr. Patricia Hardman, Chief Operating Officer of the Dyslexia Research Institute; Dr. Janet Kistner, chair of the FSU Psychology Department; Ms. Shannon O'Bryan, Director of Theatre Arts at Lawton Chiles High School; Dr. Darice Richard, clinical pharmacist at Magellan Health Services; Ms. Beverly Spencer, former member of the Florida House of Representatives and former FSU Vice-President for University Relations; Ms. Mary Jane Tappen, K-12 Deputy Chancellor for Curriculum and Instruction at the Florida Department of Education; and Sgt. Kelly Walker, Leon County Sheriff's Department.

TCC students honored are: Taylor Fabrega, founder of TCC's PeaceJam; Candice Grause, Digital Media Specialist in TCC's Office of Communications and Public Information; Jaclyn LaPointe, member of Phi Theta Kappa and TCC Honors Club; Ligny Aguilar, member of Phi Theta Kappa and TCC Honors Club; and Stevey Roberts, Peer Advisor for the Board of Trustees Scholarship.

Women's History Month is a time to recognize and celebrate the lives and contributions of American women. Many of today's women show tremendous courage in their everyday lives. They have forged change, socially and personally, as well as in their local communities. TCC is proud to acknowledge these deserving honorees and looks forward to continuing this tradition each March.

TCC healthcare programs to honor graduates

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – A pair of Tallahassee Community College's healthcare programs will recognize its newest graduates with special ceremonies during exam week.

On Thursday, April 26, students in TCC's Nursing Program will be recognized during a 5:30 p.m. ceremony at Turner Auditorium. Students in TCC's Dental Hygiene Program will be the honorees during a ceremony at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 28 at the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education's auditorium.

Forty-two nursing graduates will receive their TCC nursing pins on Thursday evening.

Lori Knarr, MS, RN, NEA-BC, FACEH, executive nursing director at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, will serve as keynote speaker.

The Nursing Program ceremony will include the presentation of the following awards: Highest GPA Award, Caring Colleague Award, Bedside Manner Award, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital Cathedral Award, Capital Regional Medical Center Excellence Award and John D. Archbold Hospital Leadership Award.

Saturday's event will recognize 22 graduates who recently achieved a 95 percent pass rate on their National Dental Hygiene Board Exam.

The Dental Hygiene Program ceremony will include the presentation of the following awards: Academic Award, Professionalism Award, Sigma Phi Alpha (honor society of dental hygiene) Award, STAR Award (sponsored by Colgate), Preventive Award (sponsored by Proctor and Gamble), Community Dental Health Award and the Congeniality Award.

Last week, three dental program students were honored by receiving the annual Smiles by Beck scholarship, courtesy of Drs. Glenn and Marci Beck of Tallahassee.

The Becks, who have a practice in general dentistry in Tallahassee, award scholarships to students in TCC's dental program on an annual basis.

This year's scholarships totaled \$2000. Scholarship recipients were: Teale Montague (first-year dental hygiene, \$500), Ray Tyre (second-year dental hygiene, \$1000) and Kasimira Kelly (dental assisting, \$500).

The winners were selected following an essay contest on the topic of how the dental industry can benefit from using social media.

Graduates from both programs will also participate in the College's 2012 Commencement Ceremony, scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 28 at the Donald L. Tucker Center.

UPDATE: March of Dimes to host "2012 March for Babies"

UPDATE (April 28, 2012 - 6:28 P.M.)

TALLAHASSEE, FLA. (WTXL) – 1,500 people laced up their shoes Saturday to help raise awareness about premature births.

It was all part of March of Dimes' annual "March for Babies" walk. The event held Saturday at [Tallahassee Community College](#).

March for Babies is the March of Dimes premier fundraising event. It supports research and other programs nationwide and in our community to help babies born healthy and those who need help to survive and thrive.

The Tallahassee March for Babies brings together families, companies and volunteers to raise money so that more babies can be born happy and healthy.

A number of individuals, groups and businesses were recognized for their efforts to raise funds and awareness. That includes local Publix store employees who collectively in the Tallahassee area raised more than \$60,000.

Organizers say that was a big push to nearing their fundraising goal of \$125,000.

WTXL ABC 27 anchors Mika Highsmith and Greg Angel served as emcees for the event.

The March of Dimes is the leading nonprofit organization for pregnancy and baby health. With chapters nationwide and its premier event, March for Babies, the March of Dimes works to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. For more information on the event, visit [marchofdimes.com](#).

Tallahassee Democrat- April 28, 2012

More than 600 participate in TCC commencement ceremony

Elizabeth M. Mack

About 3,000 students graduated from [Tallahassee Community College](#) for the spring semester.

Of that, more than 600 students came out Saturday evening to celebrate the achievement of receiving their Associates in Arts Degree at the Civic Center.

During the ceremony, Lyn Stanfield, Apple Inc., strategic relations manager southeast education - U.S., gave the commencement speech.

"Never stop learning," she said. "My wish for you tonight is that you will overcome fear, that you will look at failure as a way to succeed and that in whatever you do in life, you do it with passion."

TCC graduate: 'We will go on to do great things'

Elizabeth M. Mack

Returning home to Miami was not an option for Byron Clark after he failed out of Florida A&M University.

"Going back home would have been like a big 'I told you so,'" he said.

Realizing he wanted more in life, Clark enrolled at [Tallahassee Community College](#) looking for a fresh start.

Saturday evening, Clark, along with more than 600 students from the school, celebrated receiving their associate in arts degree at the Civic Center.

"I decided to take my education seriously," said Clark, who will be returning to FAMU in the fall to work toward a bachelor's degree in sociology.

"I'm feeling very good," he added. "I'm proud of myself, my parents are proud of me and I hope to be very successful one day. This is just a stepping stone to get to where I need to be."

During the ceremony, commencement speaker Lyn Stanfield touched on the subject of failure during her speech, as well as fear and passion.

"Failure can lead to success," she said. "Even in failure, push through to succeed. Your outcome may far exceed your expectations."

"Never stop learning," she added. "My wish for you tonight is that you will overcome fear, that you will look at failure as a way to succeed and that in whatever you do in life, you do it with passion."

Overcoming the fear of returning to school is a part of what Candice Grause was celebrating at the graduation.

"I was a little apprehensive at first because I wasn't sure if I was ready," she said. "I started in 2009 just taking a few classes to see how I would do. And I quickly realized that I could do this."

This summer, Grause will start at Florida State University, where she will pursue a bachelor's degree in English.

And, being the [TCC](#) class leader with a 4.0 grade point average, she addressed the graduates giving them words of encouragement as they all move on to their next phase in life.

"We shall rule this world," she said. "Since we cannot change the past, we will change our future. ... We will go on to do great things."

TCC's Learning Commons receives Level 1 certification for tutor training

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Tutor Training Program at **Tallahassee Community College's** William D. Law, Jr. Learning Commons has received Level 1 certification from the College Reading & Learning Association, an International Tutor Training Program Certification (ITTPC).

ITTPC certifies post-secondary education tutor training programs and authorizes them to certify individuals as tutors, pending their completion of ITTPC requirements, such as training, experience and evaluation. The purpose of the certification program is to provide professional development for tutors and to support best practices in tutoring. Tutors can add CRLA Certification to their resumes.

TCC's Level 1 certification was effective April 1, continues through May 31, 2013, and will be renewed annually.

TCC's application received high marks from reviewers, including praise for strategies that generate group discussion as well as input from a team of individuals at the Learning Commons.

According to Dr. Sally Search, Dean of Academic Support, **TCC** will apply for Level 2 certification in June and Level 3 certification in January, 2013. Preparing to apply for Level 1 certification was a year-long process and Search gives high praise to the Learning Commons leadership and staff for their achievement.

FAMU hazing suspects surrender in Champion death

BY STEPHEN HUDAK AND DENISE-MARIE BALONA

Aaron Golson, one of the Florida A&M University students charged with hazing clarinetist Bria Hunter so severely that her leg was broken last fall, is one of 13 people now facing charges in the hazing death of FAMU drum major Robert Champion.

Golson, 19, was charged in December with felony hazing in the beating of Hunter, which occurred less than a month before Champion was pummeled to death on a charter bus after the Florida Classic football game in Orlando on Nov. 19.

On Thursday, Golson was among eight of the 13 suspects taken in custody in the Champion case.

How he got on the bus is a mystery to the team representing FAMU band director Julian White.

"He had no business on that bus because he was no longer a member of the Florida A&M band," said Brooke Hobbs, a spokeswoman for the attorney representing White.

He was not allowed to perform with the Marching 100 at the Florida Classic, she said. He did not travel with the band and should not have been aboard any of its buses, she said.

Golson, a percussionist, had been kicked out of the band after the hazing of Hunter, who told authorities Nov. 7 that she was repeatedly punched on the thighs and hit with a metal ruler during initiation rituals to join the "Red Dawg Order," a group within the band made up of students from Georgia.

Christopher Chestnut, a lawyer for Champion's parents, told the Orlando Sentinel on Thursday that his clients deserve to know how Golson ended up on the bus where their son was killed. He then leveled blame at the university, which he said has paid only lip service to the prevention of hazing.

"This proves exactly what we've been saying: Because [the university] hasn't done anything serious in the past, it emboldens them," Chestnut said of hazing participants. "They know there will be no repercussions, and people are emboldened ... so much so that you have one 19-year-old freshman band member who takes part in two events, where one is seriously injured and one is dead."

Golson turned himself in at the Gadsden County Jail west

of Tallahassee on Thursday.

Among the other suspects in custody Thursday facing felony hazing charges:

- Shawn Turner, 26, and Rikki Wills, 24. Both were drum majors, leaders of FAMU's famous Marching 100 band.
- Caleb Jackson, 23, a percussionist in the band. Jackson is on probation for aggravated battery in an unrelated case.
- Brian Jones, 23, a percussionist. One of his two Orlando attorneys, Alisia Adamson, called Jones "a good kid" wrongly implicated in Champion's death.
- Jessie Baskin, 20, a percussionist.
- Benjamin McNamee, 21, who plays baritone.
- Harold Finley, 20, a percussionist.

Jackson was denied bail during a court appearance because he was on probation for his role in the beating of a student at [Tallahassee Community College](#) in September 2009.

According to a police report of the incident, he and another student teamed up to punch, kick and choke a student who got angry because the pair had cut in line at Enrollment Services. The assault knocked the victim's teeth loose.

Court records show Jackson pleaded no contest to felony battery with great bodily harm, a third-degree felony, and resisting a law-enforcement officer without violence. A judge pronounced him guilty and ordered him to serve 36 months' probation, complete an anger-management class and pay restitution to the victim.

On Thursday, Jones appeared at a news conference in Orlando as his mother, Jacquelin Jones, described how he had grown up in a "strong, bonded family" and had been mentored by religious leaders and military officers.

Jones was a drummer in the FAMU band last fall and plays drums on Sundays at St. Mary's Missionary Baptist Church in Parrish, near Bradenton, where he is also a junior deacon, his attorney Adamson said.

He was a third-year student majoring in criminal justice when he dropped out of FAMU because of financial reasons after the Florida Classic, his attorney said. He was set to enter the military June 12 with plans to be a combat medic.

FAMU hazing suspects surrender in Champion death ...

continued

"We have raised our son to do the right thing," said Jacquelin Jones, who said the family has been "very devastated" by Brian Jones' felony hazing charge. "We ask that you give him that fair opportunity to be heard when the time comes. ... We ask that you continue to pray for what is right in the judicial system."

Florida Department of Law Enforcement spokeswoman Gretl Plessinger said state agents have been in contact with the families or attorneys for the other felony defendants who remain at large. She said those defendants live out of state — two in Georgia, the other in Delaware.

Authorities have not said whether all 13 charged were FAMU students. Chestnut has said that more than 20 band members and alumni were aboard the charter bus on which Champion was beaten.

The band has been under suspension since Champion's death. And his parents, Robert and Pamela Champion, do not want the band to be allowed to perform until sweeping changes are made that include new faculty leaders and strict rules, regulations and enforcement that protect all band members.

"They don't want anyone else to be hurt ever again," he said.

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Proposed Wakulla Environmental Institute, inspired by region's biodiversity, survives budget veto

BRUCE RITCHIE

When Gov. Rick Scott signed the state's \$69.9 billion state budget for 2012-13, he vetoed \$63.1 million worth of budget "turkeys" identified by Florida TaxWatch.

Among the local projects that Scott vetoed were \$12 million in environmental, wastewater and stormwater projects. But making it safely from the TaxWatch turkey list to the state budget was \$4.5 million in the higher education budget for **Tallahassee Community College** to create an environmental science institute in Wakulla County.

College President Jim Murdaugh said he thinks **TCC** received the funding because it made the case to the governor that there will be jobs in the future for those with degrees in environmental sciences. Students from across Florida will receive online instruction and then will visit the Wakulla County center for periodic laboratory instruction and field training.

As to why it wasn't vetoed, "I think 'it's the right idea at the right time' is probably the short answer," Murdaugh said.

He cited Wakulla County's proximity to hundreds of thousands of acres public conservation lands. **TCC** board chairman Allison DeFoor also notes that Wakulla County is on the eastern edge of one of the nation's six biological hotspots as identified by scientists.

Many universities and academic institutions have moved toward so-called "distance learning" as the Web has developed over the past 20 years.

In a 2003 article "Are we distance learning our students to death?..." in *Radical Pedagogy*, Stephen R. Greenwald and David J. Rosner of the Metropolitan College of New York argue that programs entirely involving distance learning can require more work by teachers to overcome the passive nature of viewing information on computer screens.

"We have offered a number of arguments that distance learning may constitute an impoverished educational experience," they wrote. "A more comprehensive cost/benefit analysis should be performed to determine whether the costs for developing distance learning courses outweigh the benefits, or vice-versa."

But communication technology has continued advancing and now universities are competing to offer coursework and degrees online.

This week, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced they are creating a nonprofit partnership, called edX, to offer free online courses from both universities.

"Online education is revolutionary," said Anant Agarwal, president of edX. "Online education will change the world."

TCC's Wakulla County branch began moving towards environmental instruction about six years ago in developing a "green guides" training program for hunting and fishing guides and other interested residents.

DeFoor, **TCC's** board chairman and a former environmental advisor to Gov. Jeb Bush, said observations by renowned Harvard biologist Edward O. Wilson four years ago about the biological diversity of the Florida Panhandle helped inspire the proposal for the Wakulla Environmental Institute and degree programs related to environmental sciences.

After hearing a presentation by Wilson, DeFoor said, "I went to see (then **TCC** President) Bill Law and said, 'This is big. This is way bigger than we thought.' He got the bug. He started moving on it."

In Tallahassee on April 27 to give a commencement speech at Florida State University, Wilson said the Wakulla Environmental Institute sounds like a good idea.

"That's quite wonderful," Wilson said before discussing his experience in documenting the numerous biological species in the Florida Panhandle.

"We are right up there (in comparison to California). We have the largest number of species of turtles in the world. Probably the largest number of fish. This is an extraordinarily rich area biologically.

"That is one area to concentrate on," he said. "The opportunities here in this part of the United States are enormous."

TaxWatch says it recommended a veto because the proposal had not gone through the Florida College System budget request and wasn't in **TCC's** capital improvement plan.

President Obama speaks with local college students

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - When the President speaks, people tend to listen.

In this particular instance, it was about a dozen students from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University, [Tallahassee Community College](#), and Florida State University that listened closely as the President talked.

Other governors, mayors and students from around the country were also on the conference call.

The President spoke by phone from the White House.

During the call, President Obama heard from students about keeping Federally Subsidized Student Loan Interest rates right where they are.

The President says he does not want to see the interest rates on Student Loans to double from 3.4 percent and go up to 6.8 percent.

To keep that from happening, Congress must act before July 1.

The President says more than seven million students would be affected. On top of that, Obama says that over the course of a loan, students would pay an extra one thousand dollars if Congress does not act in time.

The President asked these students and others to take their message to social media to raise awareness about the situation.

Five questions for Randy Hanna, Chancellor of the Florida college system

PETER SCHORSCH

One of Tallahassee's most successful attorneys, Randy Hanna, took the reins of the Florida College System in November. After starting as a law clerk at Bryant Miller Olive in 1982, he was the firm's managing shareholder for 14 years – during which it grew from three offices to seven and from ten attorneys and consultants to 50. All the while, Hanna served as chairman of the State Board of Community Colleges, as a trustee at both Florida A&M University and the University of West Florida, and as vice chair of the board of trustees at [Tallahassee Community College](#). Now, as chancellor, Hanna is the leader of 28 institutions – all of which are seeing new challenges in the economic downturn.

The Florida College System is made up of 28 two- and four-year colleges that provide the primary access point to higher education for 800,000 students. About 66 percent of high-school graduates start their postsecondary education at a Florida college, as do 81 percent of freshman and sophomore minority students. Students who earn an associate's degree are guaranteed transfer to one of Florida's 11 state universities

The News Service of Florida has five questions for Hanna:

Q: The colleges are the primary entry point for higher education in Florida. What are state leaders expecting you to do to help boost the economy?

HANNA: I think the governor, the commissioner of education and the state board of education realize that the college system can play a major role in training Florida's workforce. They are all expecting our system to continue the progress that we have shown...but also to enhance completion rates, enhance retention rates, enhance placement rates, make sure our programs are directly designed to put people into jobs – and into jobs that meet Florida's workforce needs, especially in the more high-tech areas. They are looking to our system as one of the primary means of training that workforce. Part of the equation of getting people to work is making sure they have the right skill sets.

Q: How do you know what the right skill sets are?

HANNA: The beauty of our system is for the local college with the local board to focus on the local and regional workforce needs...Almost all of our college presidents sit on their local workforce boards. There's a direct connection

at the local level between the workforce boards and what the colleges are doing. They're designing programs to meet the local and regional workforce needs. One of the problems that we have is that we're Florida's best kept secret, and we need to get the word out about what we offer.

Across the state, as we go from one college to another, you will see the Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at [Tallahassee Community College](#), you will see incubator facilities where colleges are working with start-up businesses in a number of different areas. You'll see programs in digital design. You'll see allied health programs. You'll see programs like the one at Indian River State College, where they're focused on laser technology.

But you'll also see programs like at Florida State College at Jacksonville, where they have a big ship-building industry, and they have a huge welding program to train people to work in the ship-building industry.

Q: We've been hearing a lot about the need for Florida to boost its STEM disciplines – science, technology, engineering and math. What are the colleges doing to help?

HANNA: When people talk about STEM, they think about the universities. And while that's an important place to focus, the Florida college system has been in the STEM business forever, because we're doing the general education to get those students into the state university system. We're giving them the foundation in the math and the sciences. We're seeing a specialized focus now to make sure that we are targeting a number of our students into those areas and showing them the opportunities.

We're seeing more and more health care programs. All of our colleges offer nursing programs, and many have started offering baccalaureate nursing programs because of the huge demand.

Our placement rates for nurses and the allied care areas are in the 80 and 90 percent range.

The answer is, "Yes, we're in STEM and always have been."

Q: Florida's colleges and universities traditionally have had a strong working relationship. Has the economic downturn affected that?

Five questions for Randy Hanna, Chancellor of the Florida college system ...

continued

HANNA: Over the last few years, there's been a closer working relationship between the colleges and the universities. The rest of the U.S. is so envious of the articulation agreement that we have with our universities. People come here and say, "Wait a minute, you mean you get a two-year degree and you're automatically admitted into one of the universities?" Very few other states have that seamless system.

Over the last few years, our universities have begun to work with students when they come into the Florida college system. For instance, at the University of Central Florida, they have something called Direct Connect – you're treated like a UCF student. The University of West Florida is doing it with colleges in the Panhandle – it's called Direct Admit. At Santa Fe College, they have a Gator Room. [Tallahassee Community College](#) has always had a great relationship with Florida State University, and now Florida A&M is putting counselors on the [TCC](#) campus. I see a direct pipeline to both FSU and FAMU from there.

Q: How has the economic downturn affected enrollment? Aren't more people going back to school to brush up their skills?

HANNA: When the economy goes down, people go back to college. So our enrollments increase, significantly, and we have seen that throughout the state. But when the economy goes down, the funding per student – paid for by the state – also goes down.

When older students come back to college, they're generally not like an 18-year-old just out of high school. I don't think the economy has had an effect on the level of preparation of those students. It would be just like you or I going back to college right now. I would need some refresher courses.

So when those students come back, we're finding we have to do some college prep work with them, and we're trying to use new, innovative methods to reduce the number of students in college prep.

Eugene Lamb, Frank Messersmith re-appointed to board of Tallahassee Community College

PETER SCHORSCH

Today, Governor Rick Scott announced the reappointments of Eugene Lamb Jr. and Frank S. Messersmith to the [Tallahassee Community College](#) District Board of Trustees.

Lamb, 65, of Midway, has been a Commissioner with the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners since 2004. He was athletic director for Gadsden County Schools from 2007 to 2009, a teacher with Leon County Schools from 1971 to 2004 and a recreation supervisor with the City of Tallahassee from 1992 to 2005. He served on the Midway city council from 1986 to 1992. Lamb received a bachelor's degree from Dillard University. He is reappointed for a term beginning May 9, 2012, and ending May 31, 2014.

Messersmith, 70, of Crawfordville, has been a governmental consultant with FSM Associates since 2000. He served on the Florida Public Service Commission from 1990 to 1992, in the Florida House of Representatives from 1980 to 1990, and was an assistant to the Sheriff of Palm Beach County from 1968 to 1978. As a member of the Community in Schools Board of Directors since 1984, he served three terms as state president. Messersmith received a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University. He is reappointed for a term beginning May 9, 2012, and ending May 31, 2014.

The appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

TMH's MacArthurs heading to Midwest

DOUG BLACKBURN

Barbara MacArthur is determined to turn conventional wisdom on its head. She believes that, yes, you can go home again.

Which means that Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare — not to mention the community at large — is about to bid adieu to a dynamic couple, a powerhouse team that has left an indelible mark here over the past 11 years.

MacArthur, a vice president at TMH and the chief nursing officer, is a nurse's nurse. Her husband, Dr. Rick MacArthur, the former chief medical officer at TMH, is described as the ultimate physician, a man born to be a doctor.

They met in 1982 at the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kan., where Rick was a second-year resident and Barbara was a clinical nurse specialist in the cardiac surgery department. They are returning to jobs at that medical center next month. They will be leaving days after their youngest son, Adam, graduates from Leon High School.

"You don't replace Barbara and Rick," TMH CEO Mark O'Bryant said. "You just appreciate how lucky we were to have them here. They are remarkable people, key members of our TMH family, key members of this community."

The Midwest's magnet-like pull on the MacArthurs is understandable. Their oldest son, Tim, is going to be a junior at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, a 40-mile drive from their new home, and Adam is headed to KU to start his college career. Oh, and Barbara went to graduate school at Kansas.

Barbara has embraced Tallahassee almost from day one, treating the community with the caring, devoted attention that a talented nurse brings to a patient. She has had faculty appointments at Florida State, Florida A&M and [Tallahassee Community College](#), and has also been on the foundations at [TCC](#) and Leon High.

"People always say Tallahassee is a great place to live and raise children. We found that to be true," Barbara said. "None of this is about leaving. It's about the next chapter in our lives. There's a big difference."

Rocky Hanna, principal at Leon High, marvels at the support the MacArthurs have provided during the past six years where Tim and Adam were on the lacrosse team. Students at Leon have raised more than \$100,000 for TMH's cancer center during the past four years, and

Hanna attributes much of their success to Barbara's efforts.

"She has helped bridge the relationship our students have developed with TMH. Barbara was my go-to person when I was holding TMH to the fire, so to speak," he said. "She was the one who assured me that those monies were going exactly to what the students were raising it for.

"She is so positive. Her glass is always half-full," Hanna said.

Rick, diagnosed with multiple sclerosis prior to their move to Tallahassee, successfully made the transition from heart surgeon to chief medical officer at TMH. Today he is the medical coordinator of evidence-based care.

"Rick is the ideal physician," said Dr. Dean Watson, TMH's current chief medical officer. "He is a physician who is completely devoted to medicine."

Rick is also devoted to photography. His stunning nature pictures adorn the lobby and other areas of the hospital, and anyone who has attended a Leon High lacrosse match in recent years has seen Rick nimbly navigating the sidelines in his motorized scooter, snapping photos.

"When I stopped operating, it was a great opportunity for me to try something new in medicine, something I hadn't done before," Rick said. "I think Tallahassee has been a good fit for all of us."

Barbara and Rick MacArthur move in different worlds at the hospital and rarely see one another at work. Barbara is much more visible to the public.

"She is the face of nursing for the institution," Rick said. "She is also a major cheerleader for the bedside nurses."

Sally Karioth, a professor in the FSU College of Nursing, has known Barbara since she arrived at TMH, where Karioth's students do their internships.

"Barbara is exactly the kind of nurse Florence Nightingale had in mind when she first wrote 'Notes on Nursing' in 1860," Karioth said. "What the folks in Tallahassee will miss most is when someone they loved was hospitalized at TMH and they told Barbara — she visited immediately and established a relationship with the patient. She always made the angst easier because you knew she was involved and watching."

TMH's MacArthurs heading to Midwest...

continued

No matter how many changes take place in health care, nurses have always been – and always will be — a vital part of the mix, Barbara says.

"I'm completely devoted to the art and science of nursing," she said. "In nursing and in health care, I am humbled every day by what goes on."

FAMU attorney says band director was gatekeeper of who played in Marching 100

Non-students were allowed to be a part of FAMU's band in violation of university policy

Jennifer Portman

2:15 p.m. update

Florida A&M officials say suspended Marching 100 band director Julian White was responsible for those who were allowed to play in the band.

In a written statement, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel Avery McKnight took issue with comments made by White's attorney Chuck Hobbs to the Tallahassee Democrat that the final verification of band students' enrollment status was not the responsibility of White or the Department of Music.

"Mr. Hobbs is attempting now to conveniently shift the blame for prior conduct under Dr. White's immediate control and supervision," McKnight wrote. "Based upon my understanding, Dr. White was the ultimate recruiter and gatekeeper of those participating with the marching band including those who we have come to learned were not appropriately enrolled."

Original update

One hundred-and-one members of Florida A&M's Marching 100 during the fall 2011 semester were not enrolled in FAMU's band course in violation of university rules.

A letter send by FAMU President James H. Ammons to Board of Trustees members Tuesday detailed the enrollment status of the band when drum major Robert Champion was beaten to death Nov. 19 in a hazing ritual on a band bus following the Florida Classic football game in Orlando.

The 457 people on the band travel roster for the fall semester included 331 current FAMU students and 25 employees, as well as 52 previous FAMU students not enrolled at the time and 49 [Tallahassee Community College](#) or Florida State students not enrolled in the band class. The letter noted it was unclear if the [TCC](#) and FSU students were enrolled at their home institutions. The numbers show about a quarter of the Marching 100 were not FAMU students.

FAMU spokeswoman Sharon P. Saunders said Wednesday about 60 of the 101 not enrolled at the university traveled with the band to the Classic.

The Marching 100 Band Handbook says students cannot be issued a uniform unless their class schedule is submitted to the Department of Music.

The band numbers do not include the 26 students suspended from the band for suspected hazing activities before the Classic. They were FAMU students at the time and do not appear to have traveled to Orlando, Ammons wrote.

Three of the 11 band members charged last week with felony hazing in Champion's death were among those not enrolled in the band course as required. A list obtained by the Tallahassee Democrat on Tuesday noted that Bryan Jones was last enrolled at FAMU in spring 2011. Caleb Jackson was not a FAMU student and was last enrolled at [Tallahassee Community College](#) in 2009. LaSherry Conder was listed as a [TCC](#) student whose enrollment at FAMU was noted as "unknown."

FAMU officials said Jackson, Conder and Jones were among those who traveled to Orlando and received spending money for the trip.

Six of the 11 facing the third-degree felony charge were on band scholarships, Ammons letter said.

BOT Chairman Solomon Badger said he is concerned non-students were allowed to be a part of the band in violation of university policy.

"Anybody who is not concerned isn't in their right mind," Badger said. "If this policy has not been followed then it's incumbent upon someone to find out where the breakdown is and how long it's been going on or if there is a glitch in the policy."

FAMU officials previously said all those participating in the band were enrolled in FAMU's band course. As part of a public records request by the Democrat earlier this year, the names of all band members who received per diem cash payments for the Classic trip were blacked out because officials said they were protected student records.

FAMU attorney says band director was gatekeeper of who played in Marching 100...

continued

"At the time the information was provided, we redacted those individual names that were identified as students by the Department of Music," Saunders said in a statement Wednesday. "Since the arrests, we have been informed that these individuals were not enrolled at FAMU."

Chuck Hobbs, an attorney for suspended FAMU Director of Bands Julian White, said it was "not under the auspices of the band staff or the Department of Music to make final determinations as to verification of enrollment."

Under previous university administrations, Hobbs said, additional controls were in place to verify band student enrollment through the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and the Registrar's Office.

"Additionally, student numbers are sent with band rosters for band travel per diem requests first to the Athletics Department. The Athletics Department then sends the roster and travel per diem requests to the university Controller's Office as per university policy," Hobbs said in a statement. "When the allotments come back to the Department of Music from the Controller's Office, the band staff trusts that the ability to distribute funds disbursed for use by enrolled students have been verified by those with authority to do so."

In his update letter to BOT members, Ammons said the Florida Department of Law Enforcement has indicated that an investigation into possible bank fraud is nearly complete. He added that despite "clean" audits by the State Auditor General, FDLE agents continue to review the finances of the band, university purchasing cards and travel expenses.

Additionally, Ammons said he has directed members of FAMU's Internal Crisis Management Team to meet to discuss "conditions for bringing the band back" and report back to him this week. Ammons indefinitely suspended the band after Champion's death.

— Contact senior writer Jennifer Portman at (850) 599-2154 or jportman@tallahassee.com

TCC program opens up world to students

Global Gateways features history, language, travel

DOUG BLACKBURN

Francisco "Frank" Vasconcelos came here from Miami two years ago for one specific reason: the highly regarded, student-run Model United Nations program at **Tallahassee Community College**.

Vasconcelos is transferring to Florida State University this fall, but he's not severing his ties with **TCC**. He intends to take a capstone course at **TCC** next spring on global perspectives that will allow him to complete the new Global Gateways Program at the college. It will also earn Vasconcelos a distinction on his transcript.

"The program is pretty amazing. It's something I enjoy because you get to learn about cultures and history and the diversity we have around the world," he said.

Monte Finkelstein, dean of the Division of History and Social Sciences, describes the Global Gateways Program as "the best-kept secret" on **TCC's** campus.

"People teaching global gateway courses didn't even know they were teaching them until we told them," he said. "Our overall goal is to provide opportunities for every **TCC** student to have some sort of global experience."

Vasconcelos is definitely cashing in on what **TCC** has to offer. Next month he is off to Taiwan where he will be teaching English as part of the college's study-abroad offerings.

"I see it as an exchange of cultures," the international affairs major said.

TCC began a campus-wide initiative several years ago to recognize its diverse student body — there are natives of 86 nations at **TCC** — by offering more international courses. But the Global Gateways Program, which can produce a notice on a student's transcript, came together during the past year. It is a mix of history and English classes capped off by the new global perspectives course.

Finkelstein credits the addition of Tanja Waller, a staff assistant, for the program's increased popularity.

"She's been able to promote it and recruit new students," Finkelstein said. "I expect it to grow quickly. We're trying to attract everybody."

TCC, with more than 14,000 students, is geared primarily toward job placement and serving as a bridge to

four-year schools. Arne Duncan, secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, visited **TCC** earlier this year to champion it as a model community college.

But it also has a secondary mission, **TCC** President Jim Murdaugh said. He believes the school also should be helping students become "better citizens." That's where the Global Gateways Program fits in.

"We want our students to have more than a regional view," Murdaugh said. "Part of our responsibility is to produce citizens, and it adds to the social value of higher education.

"I'm a big fan of what we're doing," he added. "When foreign students come here, it adds to the education of our students and prepares them to be citizens."

FSU Football set to take part in Miracle Sports Seminole Showdown

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Members of the Florida State football team will be on hand Thursday, May 17, when the Florida Disabled Outdoors Association (FDOA) hosts a pair of football games. The games will be played at the Kiwanis Miracle Field, located at 2899 Jackson Bluff Road, Messer Park Sports Complex, Field No. 3.

The Seminoles will play football with athletes of the Miracle Sports Program from 6-8 p.m. People of all abilities are eligible and welcome to play or come out to cheer on the athletes. The youth football game starts at 6 p.m., followed by the adult football game at 7 p.m.

Over the past eight weeks, various FSU, [Tallahassee Community College](#) and Florida A&M student-athletes along with other students have been volunteering their time and investing in the lives of people with disabilities in putting on the Miracle Sports Seminole Showdown event. Miracle Sports schedules football in the spring and baseball in the fall to allow college athletes the opportunity to mentor youth and adults in the sport they love during the offseason.

The Miracle Sports Seminole Showdown operates from the continued support of local Kiwanis Clubs, who were instrumental in building the Miracle Field as well as maintaining the Miracle Sports Program. Local club members continue to support the program with financial donations.

Miracle Sports is one of the programs of the FDOA, a non-profit agency that provides children and adults with disabilities the opportunity to become healthier and happier members of our community through active leisure. For more information about playing or becoming a Friend of Miracle Sports, visit fdoa.org or call (850) 201-2944.

*FSU Sports Information

Update: Committee recommends extension of half-cent sales tax for schools' project funding

2:06 P. M.

Committee chair Jim Murdaugh, who is president of [Tallahassee Community College](#), said the members of the Capital Improvements Review Team spent more than 2,000 hours studying the district's needs and how the sales tax extension would cover those costs.

"It was quite an elaborate review, pouring over lots of documents and interviewing teachers, parents," Murdaugh said this afternoon of the study. "There are those who thought it was nothing but a rubber stamp, and I can tell you this is not the case. A school system the size of this school system is going to have needs. Our job was to validate the needs they prioritized."

1:01 P. M.

The Capital Improvements Review Team commissioned by the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce recommends in its final report that the chamber, Leon County Schools and the county's voters support an extension of the half-cent local sales tax to meet the district's capital project needs.

"The continuation of this dedicated tax should be sufficient, barring unforeseen events, to meet a substantial portion of the district's capital outlay needs for the next 15 years," committee chair Jim Murdaugh said in his letter to Sue Dick, president of the chamber.

The committee's team of 59 area residents representing various business and government backgrounds and parts of Leon County performed a detailed analysis of the school system's facility needs and conducted 50 on-site visits. They concluded that the district faces a major shortage of available capital outlay funds.

Specifically, the district needs at least \$621 million over the next 15 years for the upkeep of existing facilities and equipment, for improving the schools' technology infrastructure, adding a limited amount of new space, and to replace aging buses and service vehicles.

"Failure to make the needed facility and equipment repairs, technology enhancements, renovations and replacements will threaten the safety of students, teachers and staff and cause further deterioration," Murdaugh wrote. "Perhaps even more importantly, a failure to make the needed improvements threatens the quality of education that our children receive."

The committee, whose recommendation has not been formally endorsed or accepted by the chamber's board of directors, urges the school district, chamber and local parent-teacher organizations to appoint a citizen advisory committee to oversee the spending of the sales-tax receipts to ensure that the funds are used only for these capital outlay expenses.

The half-cent sales tax currently levied is due to expire in November if it is not extended by the voters then.

Check back at [Tallahassee.com](#) for an update of this story and look for more coverage tomorrow in the Tallahassee Democrat.

Review: Schools need tax extension

Half-cent sales tax expires in November without voter approval

DAVE HODGES

Leon County Schools got a key endorsement for its campaign to extend a half-cent sales tax when a business-backed review concluded the money is needed for the district to maintain its buildings, equipment and education quality.

The Capital Improvements Review Team commissioned by the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce recommends in its final report that the chamber and the county's voters support an extension of the Leon County Schools half-cent local sales tax to meet the district's capital project needs.

Voters will decide in November.

"Failure to make the needed facility and equipment repairs, technology enhancements, renovations and replacements will threaten the safety of students, teachers and staff and cause further deterioration," wrote committee chair Jim Murdaugh, who also is president of [Tallahassee Community College](#). "Perhaps even more importantly, a failure to make the needed improvements threatens the quality of education that our children receive."

The group's 59 members, representing business and government backgrounds and all parts of Leon County, performed a detailed analysis of the school system's facility needs and conducted 50 on-site visits. They concluded that the district faces a major shortage of available capital outlay funds.

The district says it needs at least \$621 million over the next 15 years for the upkeep of existing facilities and equipment, for improving the schools' technology infrastructure, adding a limited amount of new space, and to replace aging buses and service vehicles.

The committee, whose recommendation has not been formally accepted or endorsed by the chamber's executive committee or board of directors, urges the school district, chamber and local parent-teacher organizations to appoint a citizen advisory committee to oversee spending to ensure that the funds are used only for these capital-outlay expenses.

The current half-cent sales tax expires in November if it is not extended by the voters then. Since it was enacted in 2002, the tax has consistently generated about \$18 million per year for the school system's capital projects,

including construction, maintenance, renovation and purchases of buses and technology.

Murdaugh said the members of the Capital Improvements Review Team spent more than 2,000 hours studying the district's needs and how the sales tax extension could help meet them.

"There are those who thought it was nothing but a rubber stamp, and I can tell you this is not the case," Murdaugh said of the study. "A school system the size of this school system is going to have needs. Our job was to validate the needs they prioritized."

Leon County Superintendent Jackie Pons said the committee's work will help make a difference in shedding light on what the district is facing.

"They all have children in our school system," Pons said, referring to voters. "And they realize one of our most important resources in our community is our children."

Pons said money generated from the tax has paid for dire needs and he believes the community "gets it" when it comes to the importance of funding local schools.

"It's not a new tax. It's a continuation of what's already in place," Pons said. "We would not have the school system we have today if this community did not pass the half-penny sales tax."

Bill Moor, chairman of the chamber, committee member and president of Capital City Banc Investments, said copies of the report were forwarded to the chamber's executive committee Tuesday. The chamber's board of directors will meet May 22 to vote on the panel's recommendations.

"I think it's critical to the school district's future," Moor said of the funding need.

John Stewart, a committee member and owner of construction firm JMS Builder-Tallahassee LLC, agreed. "I thought it was a great experience," Stewart said of serving on the committee. "One of the big things that hit me was how much their budgets had been cut. I don't think a lot of people are aware of that."

Review: Schools need tax extension ...

continued

Gone are public education capital outlay or PECO dollars from the state to pay for new facilities, and the slump in real estate has hurt property tax revenues. "The net result is the school board is really pinched financially," Stewart said.

— Staff writers TaMaryn Waters and Doug Blackburn contributed to this report.

WTXL- May 16, 2012

TCC, high school instructors to discuss student success

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – **Tallahassee Community College** prides itself on student success and, on Tuesday, May 22, will engage local high school instructors to explore college readiness.

The workshop will take place from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in Room 105 of the College's Center for Workforce Development.

TCC faculty and deans will also be present to discuss what it takes for students to be successful in college.

For more information on the event, please contact Karinda Barrett at 850-201-6208 or email ctll@tcc.fl.edu.

Tallahassee Democrat- May 16, 2012

Touching story turned into a service project for graduating class

When the Pat Thomas Law Enforcement Academy Basic Recruit Class #389 read about Detective David White they knew they wanted to help in some way.

The 35 year old was fatally shot while investigating a possible methamphetamine lab on Feb. 16 in Middleburg, Fla. White was a nine-year veteran of the Sheriff's Office and also served in the U.S. Army Reserves. White left behind a wife, a 4-year-old-daughter and an infant son.

In honor of White, the class organized a 5K walk/run that will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday at **Tallahassee Community College**. Race day sign in will be held at 7:30 a.m. The event will also feature a charity raffle and public safety agency displays and demonstrations. All proceeds from the event will support White's family. To participate, register or donate at www.runsignup.com by searching for "David White Memorial 5k." The registration fee is \$25. Participants may register on race day, but fees must be paid with cash.