

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



May 16, 2015- June 12, 2015



TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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- May 21, 2015 - WCTV - TCC named a Promising Place to Work For in Community Colleges
- May 21, 2015 - WTXL - TCC recognized by NISOD and Diverse magazine as a PPWCC (see above)
- May 24, 2015 - ESPN2 - TCC alum Ryne Willard highlighted in North Carolina State baseball game
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- June 4, 2015 - WTXL - Colleen Dwyer and Bruce Buckley discuss WEI drone program
- June 4, 2015 - WTXL - Drone program to hold open house on Friday, June 5
- June 5, 2015 - ESPN2 - TCC alum Quincy Nieporte helps FSU baseball to NCAA super-regional
- June 11, 2015 - WTXL - TCC baseball standout D.J. McKnight selected in 12th round of MLB draft

Calabro to present workshop for nonprofits at TCC Capitol Center

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Florida Taxwatch president and CEO Dominic Calabro will present a workshop designed to prepare nonprofit leaders and employees for meeting with elected officials.

"Making the Case for Your Nonprofit: Getting Decision Makers to Listen" will take place Wednesday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the Tallahassee Community College Capitol Center.

The workshop is a part of the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence's summer lecture series. Tickets are \$25 for INIE members and \$45 for nonmembers. Members must log in to their accounts on the INIE website in order to receive the registration discount.

Registration is open at www.theinstitutefornonprofits.org through May 20.

TCC hands out six figures in scholarships

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Tallahassee Community College Foundation and Tallahassee Community College awarded \$238,000 in various scholarships to students May 7 in a ceremony held in the TCC Workforce Development building.

Over 140 scholarships were presented, including the Brandon King Scholarship, instituted to honor former TCC student Pfc. Brandon King after his death in combat in Afghanistan; the Jacquelyn Burroughs-Dial Scholarship, named for a woman who worked to put her husband, children and grandchildren through college; and the Building Legacies Scholarship, which aims to assist women who are returning to college.

Over 100 scholarship recipients were awarded funds ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. The largest awards, the William D. Law Sr. Scholarship for working fathers and the TCC Alumni Scholarship for academic merit, were awarded to Rafael Calderon and Madelynn Lovelady respectively.

Annually, the TCC Foundation provides over \$250,000 in scholarships to over 300 students.

Surgical services programs to hold information sessions at Ghazvini Center

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College will offer the second of two information sessions for individuals interested in enrolling in its surgical services programs.

The hour-long session, to be held at TCC's Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education, will address the Surgical Technology Specialist, Central Sterile Processing Technologist and Endoscopy Technician programs.

The sessions are scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday. It is not necessary to RSVP to attend an information session. Interested students must apply to the programs by May 22. Applications will be available at the information sessions.

The Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education is located at 1528 Surgeons Drive.

Saint Leo University commencement set for Friday

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Saint Leo University (www.saintleo.edu) will host its Tallahassee Education Center commencement ceremony for nearly 60 new graduates at 7 p.m., Friday at Turner Auditorium on the Tallahassee Community College campus.

Bryan Wimberly was selected to deliver the Class of 2015 farewell. Wimberly served in the U.S. Navy for 21 years. He is an alumni of TCC and is earning his Bachelor of Arts in psychology from the Tallahassee Education Center of Saint Leo. He will graduate summa cum laude with a 4.0 GPA.

The guest speaker is Don Yaeger, a former reporter and editor for Sports Illustrated and the author of 24 books, eight of which became New York Times bestsellers. He wrote books with Hall of Fame running back Walter Payton, UCLA basketball coach John Wooden, baseball legends John Smoltz and Tug McGraw, and football stars Warrick Dunn and Michael Oher (featured in the movie "The Blind Side"). He is a resident of Tallahassee and also owns a political consulting business and a public relations firm.

Panel: Unified vision, teamwork, patience critical to south side revisions

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Sakinah Mujahid wasn't able to hear the full presentation by a team from the Urban Land Institute which wrapped up its two-day study of Tallahassee's South City on Wednesday. But, she liked what she heard.

"I think what they are proposing is wonderful," said Mujahid, who owns several properties on Tallahassee's south side. "If they are talking about connecting to FAMU, I think it's great."

But, Mujahid said, she would have added one more element to the list of possibilities described by the visiting panel. "I think they missed one key point: funding for child care. Every woman on the south side who wants to work and needs child care, should have it."

The panel of experts from the Urban Land Institute arrived in Tallahassee on Tuesday. They toured Tallahassee's south city and interviewed residents and others involved in addressing issues in the troubled community. The city of Tallahassee paid \$15,000 to bring the team in to see what they could add to what city commissioners, Leon County and partners are doing to improve South City.

Their packed preliminary presentation at City Hall touched on some of the same suggestions that are being explored by the city, like improved lighting, sidewalks and recreational spaces.

The panel's suggestions included providing better access to transportation for employees and job seekers, adding more pedestrian trails and walkways that will connect residents with nearby Florida A&M University, which can play a major role in the neighborhood's turnaround.

"The South City needs help but the challenge for the mayor and others is to put the pieces together," said Tom Murphy, former mayor of Pittsburgh and senior fellow at the institute. "The university is the key. Every city in America is trying to partner with their universities."

Russ Ervin, an expert in architecture, planning, and urban design with ELM in Jacksonville, said plans to bring change to South City need to include connecting the residential community with an improved Town Center shopping center and by creating more access to nearby Florida A&M University, a major community job center.

"Connect them all," he said. "Everything is bifurcated now. We need to break down those barriers." "There's a lot of uses in that zone," he said, referring to multi-family housing, single-family homes and churches.

Planners noted the large percentage of children living in South City, which they said must be a key consideration of any future plans. That includes better access to health care and recreation. Education is another factor, especially after learning that schools in the area are receiving low grades from the state.

The panel sparked some interest when members brought up the concept of a neighborhood school that would serve as a community connector. It's a concept that is successful in many urban settings across the country. If done right, the school could further the cradle-to-career strategy that has been successful in other cities.

Other suggestions included:

- Creating an east-west Putnam Street connector.
- Creating a greenway trail between Brighton Road over to FAMU's campus.
- Developing programs to empower women in the community
- Establishing a partnership with Tallahassee Community College on workforce development and adult education opportunities.**

Dale Brill, an economic development consultant in Tallahassee, said there's also the opportunity to "build upon the authentic African-American culture" that the community provides.

"I think they expanded on some concepts we've been talking about," City Manager Anita Favors Thompson said.

The team plans to send a detailed report of its visit and its vision within six weeks.

New drone and unmanned technologies certificate program offered at TCC's WEI

TAYLOR ANDERSON
WTXL

A new drone and unmanned technologies certificate program will be offered at Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute.

The 12 week program will provide an introduction to aerial, surface, and underwater drones and unmanned systems for environmental purposes.

TCC's Wakulla Environmental Institute partnered with Gulf Unmanned Systems to create and offer the certificate.

Course work is divided into three areas:

- Introduction to drones and unmanned technologies

- Application of drones and unmanned technologies to environmental issues

- Ground school and flight school

The program begins in June. It will launch with an open house event Friday, June 5, in the Lifetime Sports Center's Recreational Gym on TCC's main campus from 3p.m. to 5p.m. There they will feature demonstrations of the unmanned technologies in use.

The event is free and open to the public.

Registration for the course is \$500 per student. Classes will be on Mondays from 6p.m. to 9p.m. at the TCC Wakulla Center. It includes online assignments and three hands-on practicals at either the Wakulla Center or Gulf Unmanned Systems Center in Carrabelle.

You can Register on their website: <http://www.tcc.fl.edu/WEI/drones>.

Tallahassee Community College

DIVERSE: ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Located just miles from the state capitol, Tallahassee Community College (TCC) was founded in 1966. In addition to its main campus in Tallahassee, TCC has service centers in Gadsen and Wakulla counties as well as in downtown Tallahassee. TCC is led by Dr. Jim Murdaugh, who became the institution's sixth president in October 2010. He works in partnership with TCC's 581 faculty members and 887 staff members to serve nearly 19,000 students.

Upon learning of TCC's selection into the inaugural class of Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges, Murdaugh shares, "TCC is a promising place to work because all of us share a passion for providing hope and life changing opportunities to the incredible diversity of students from around the world who choose to come here."

As chief executive officer of TCC, Murdaugh is guided by nine strategic priorities, at least three of which speak to their selection as a promising place to work: student access, student success and talent. With a strategic emphasis on student access, TCC seeks to provide access that allows students the opportunity to "define and reach their educational and career goals."

One such initiative in response to this goal is the Black Male Achievers program that focuses on the "importance of the successful completion of their post-secondary education through the practices of academic, social and occupational excellence."

Further, as a guiding frame for talent, TCC seeks to "hire, develop and retain the best talent for the present and future needs and diversity of the college." President Murdaugh is proud that one-third of the faculty members identify as ethnic minorities, quickly approaching the college's student demographics.

Florida college to teach UAS for Environmental Purposes

UNMANNED-AERIAL.COM

Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute (WEI) in Florida is offering a certificate program in the operation of drones/unmanned systems for environmental purposes.

The program is designed to provide an introduction to the aerial, surface and underwater systems. WEI partnered with the Gulf Unmanned Systems Center to create and offer the certificate.

The program will involve hands-on, classroom and online instruction and will teach the students UAS flying regulations, data collection and interpretation, and properties of the vehicles themselves.

Registration for the 12-week course is \$500 per student. Course work is divided into three areas:

- Introduction to drones/unmanned technologies;
- Application of drones/unmanned technologies to environmental issues; and
- Ground school/flight school.

On June 5, the program will launch with an open house, featuring demonstrations of the unmanned technologies in use. The event is free and open to the public.

More information can be found [here](#).

McKnight grateful TCC gave him hope

He's 1 of 6 prepared to move up the ranks

JORDAN CULVER

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

D.J. McKnight came to Tallahassee determined to chase his dream of playing baseball.

McKnight, who was recruited out of Madison County High by several schools as a quarterback, said Tallahassee Community College was one of the only schools to give him a shot at baseball.

He said he knew he didn't want to play football, and TCC was the school that let him continue with his "first love."

"I was just looking for a place," he said.

"I chose TCC because they gave me the opportunity to play ball, to play the game I love. I'm just thankful. I came on my visit and it felt like it was home. That's why I came to TCC."

McKnight signed with Valdosta State on Friday during a ceremony in TCC's Bill Hebrock Eagledome. He led the Eagles (28-21 this season) with 18 extra-base hits and 32 RBIs on 55 hits. He also had a team-high .322 batting average.

Six TCC athletes - two baseball players and four from the women's basketball team--signed with four-year universities during Friday's ceremony.

Valdosta State, a Division II program, finished this year's baseball season 28-19. The Blazers' season ended with a 7-4 loss to Delta State in Livingston, Alabama. VSU had six players with at least a .321 average last season.

"Valdosta State has a great program," he said. "The coaches are great coaches and I feel I can go over there and be an impact player for a great team."

McKnight said even though he's leaving Tallahassee, he definitely plans to visit the place that gave him a chance to continue playing baseball.

"I can't say enough about TCC," he said.

"It's just a great place. I'll be here during every offseason, training. I'm looking forward to it."

Sophomores Benedica Makakala and Jeremica Edwards will continue their basketball careers with teams that regularly play against Florida A&M University.

Edwards, TCC's second-leading scorer with 9.4 points per game last season, will play at Savannah State University and Makakala, a native of Sweden who averaged 4.1 points per game, is headed to Morgan State.

"I think I connected with the coaches (at Morgan State)," Makakala said. "Plus, I have my sister who lives in Virginia so I'll be close to her."

Makakala said she's happy Morgan State is in a conference that plays against the Rattlers in Tallahassee on occasion. Last season the Bears (11-19, 8-8 MEAC) beat the Rattlers 57-50 in Baltimore. Morgan State's women's team actually hasn't played a game in Tallahassee since the 2011-12 season.

Savannah State, on the other hand, regularly plays two games - one home and one away - against the Rattlers. The Tigers were 21-11 last season and 13-3 in the MEAC.

"There's a good vibe over there," Edwards said. "They're a winning program and I see how I can make an impact over there."

During the recently-completed Spring 2015 semester at Tallahassee Community College, a total of 40 student-athletes earned honors recognition for their work in the classroom.

Additionally, two teams - softball (3.35 GPA) and baseball (3.18) - posted a 3.0+ GPA.

TCC hosts open house for drone operation training

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College will offer training in the operation of aerial, surface and underwater drones and unmanned systems beginning in June.

The program will launch with an open house and demonstrations on Friday, June 5, from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Lifetime Sports Center's on TCC's main campus. The event is free and open to the public.

Registration for the 12-week course is \$500, and classes will be held Mondays from 6 to 9 p.m. at the TCC Wakulla Center, with some hands-on experiences offered at Gulf Unmanned Systems Center in Carrabelle, Fla.

TCC receives award for commitment to diversity

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College was named one of the 2015 Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development and "Diverse: Issues in Higher Education" magazine.

This designation recognizes TCC for its commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion. Only 16 colleges nationwide received this honor.

Gadsden Arts Center artists to present at TCC

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College's Fine Art Gallery will feature a special exhibit showcasing artists from the Gadsden Arts Center Artists Guild, which opened from May 22 and continues through July 16.

Twenty-one members of the Guild, from professional signature artists to those who would call themselves "Sunday painters," will present their artwork. The artists use a variety of media and painting techniques to develop exciting and creative works.

The TCC Fine Art Gallery is located in the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

WEI to offer drone technologies program

NICOLE ZEMA
WAKULLA NEWS

Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute is plucking careers from the sky for the next generation of students.

A new drone and unmanned technologies certificate program will soon be offered at WEI. The 12-week program will provide an introduction to aerial, surface, and underwater drones and unmanned systems for environmental purposes. This includes aircraft, surface systems and submersibles.

The news was announced at a TCC Board of Trustees meeting, held at TCC Wakulla on May 18.

The program begins June 15, and will launch with an open house event Friday, June 5, in the Lifetime Sports Center's Recreational Gym on TCC's main campus from 3 to 5 p.m. The event is free and open to the public and will feature demonstrations of some of the unmanned technologies and their applications.

The course will be led by Bruce Buckley, an expert in the field of unmanned systems. Course work is divided into three areas: Introduction to drones and unmanned technologies; application of drones and unmanned technologies to environmental issues; and ground school and flight school.

Buckley said he has been involved with unmanned technologies since 1993, and was one of the first unmanned unit operators in the U.S. Army. He said drones have gotten a lot smaller since the days of flying "The Hunter" with a 33-foot wingspan.

"The opportunities it has afforded me since then have been endless," Buckley said.

He said in 2013 the Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems projected that 100,000 jobs will be created in the unmanned aerial industry alone through 2025, with a \$3.8 billion economic impact to Florida.

"Of course it's not about the money," Buckley said. "It's about putting people to work."

Trustee Jonathan Kilpatrick said the idea for the course came when they lost a drone in an attempt to do a stormwater survey and collect water samples.

"Drones don't swim," Kilpatrick said. "We realized we probably need some instruction on this, and started looking around. These have the potential to change the way we do business. There is a huge opportunity here."

WEI Executive Director Bob Ballard said he liked the idea of being the first in the area to offer a drone certification course, but wanted to keep the curriculum on the environmental track in line with the Institute's mission.

"The environment has more use for drones than about anything I can think of," Ballard said. "They can test for salinity, water quality, detect beetle infestation in the forest, help us with prescribed burns or help us fight wildfires... on and on."

Registration for the course is \$500 per student. Classes will be on Mondays from 6 to 9 p.m. at the TCC Wakulla Center. It includes online assignments and three hands-on practicals at either the Wakulla Center or Gulf Unmanned Systems Center in Carrabelle.

Register on the website: <http://www.tcc.fl.edu/WEI/drones>.

The board also heard an update on WEI's Oyster Aquaculture program. Ballard said the oysters are growing so fast, it's difficult to keep up with them.

"It's a great problem to have," Ballard said. "Our students are excited to be out there."

Ballard said the vision for economic development through the program is falling into place, as the students and staff are hiring help ahead of the upcoming harvest in Oyster Bay.

Oyster samples have been passed out to the community, and are getting rave reviews.

TCC ran into some permitting issues, but was granted access to the whole water column by Gov. Rick Scott.

"It was a historic move, and the governor and cabinet thought it was a great idea," Ballard said. National Marine Fisheries will be monitoring how the undertaking will impact endangered species around the state.

WEI to offer drone technologies program....

continued

Ballard said TCC is waiting for the state to approve the remaining permits. Once that review process is done, the permit will go for approval by the Army Corps of Engineers, and finally the Florida Department of Agriculture.

Robert Seidler, a historian, filmmaker and student in the class gave a presentation on oyster aquaculture in France. He visited a region in Southern France where oyster aquaculture has been ongoing since the 1860s, and is a major component of the economy. While to an American palate oysters from Sète taste metallic and are not as pretty, "They're doing great," Seidler said.

Oyster tourism is big in Sète, and Seidler said about 30 percent of those tourist dollars are directly related to oysters. He said just as the craft and boutique beer movement has grown in the U.S., there is an expanding niche for boutique, high-dollar oysters and oyster bars.

"It makes the oyster a very high-end product," Seidler said. "Not something to be ashamed of eating – but to be celebrated. This could be the economic engine that brings back Wakulla County, that brings back Panacea, because we couldn't have anything nicer than a sweet-named town with the world's best oyster."

Due to its high demand, this program is currently placing interested students on a waiting list. For more information or to be placed on the waiting list, contact Colleen Dwyer at dwyerc@tcc.fl.edu.

 Could canned mullet boost the seafood industry and create better sustainability?

Economic Development Council Co-Chairman John Shuff thinks so, and said the group is motivated to be part of the equation in partnership with WEI as the area's economy improves. Shuff and County Commissioner Ralph Thomas presented the idea to trustees at the meeting.

"One of the most troubled aspects of our economy is the fishing community," Shuff said. "You have a very, very perishable commodity. So we started thinking about ways to give it some shelf life, and add value to it."

Shuff said canning the mullet cuts down on waste and loss in mullet fishing.

Mullet roe is also processed overseas and sold for hundreds of dollars a pound, Shuff said.

"That's adding value and shelf life to our seafood," Shuff said, implying that processing the roe could be done locally. "We hope we can work together and move forward."

Thomas thanked the trustees for TCC's investment in the area, and said, "We take our mullet seriously in Wakulla County. Mullet is not about fish fries or political fundraisers. Canned mullet can be substituted for tuna, mackerel, salmon – any way that you use any canned fish, mullet can substitute that."

Thomas read nutrition information of mullet compared to salmon. Mullet was lower in calories, fat and cholesterol, and comparable in essential vitamins and omega 3 fatty acids. He said mullet is also low in mercury, because they don't eat other fish. Mullet salad and oysters were served following the meeting.

TCC named as Top 10 community college

HAVANA HERALD (SCHOOL NEWS)

Huffington Post has named TCC to its Top Ten Community College List.

According to the May 13 article, college education has become increasingly important in order to get and keep a job.

College costs are rising, making it harder for some folks to get a degree.

Because of that, many people turn to community colleges in their local areas in order to get a higher education at a much more affordable price; some will go into a career that requires a two-year associate's degree or transfer to a four-year institution.

After SmartAsset looked at over 700 public community colleges TCC made the top ten list.

TCC is ranked number eight with a college index rating of 83 based on a criteria of graduation and transfer rates, in-state tuition, and other factors.

Students at TCC make 22.8 percent more than their overall college costs their first year out of school. Plus, 54 percent of them (about 16 percent greater than the national average) graduate and transfer to a 4-year school.

TCC receives award for commitment to diversity

HAVANA HERALD (SCHOOL NEWS)

Tallahassee Community College has been named one of the 2015 Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development and Diverse: Issues in Higher Education magazine.

This designation recognizes the College for its commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion. Only 16 colleges nationwide received this honor.

NISOD and Diverse partnered with the Center for Higher Education Enterprise at Ohio State University to implement the study, which focuses on factors such as workplace diversity, equitable staffing practices and supportive work environments.

TCC will be listed along with the other 15 recognized institutions in the May 21, 2015 edition of Diverse. The College will also be recognized at the NISOD Conference on May 26.

Gadsden artists on display at TCC

HAVANA HERALD (SCHOOL NEWS)

Tallahassee Community College's Fine Art Gallery will feature a special exhibit showcasing artists from the Gadsden Arts Center Artists Guild through July 16.

Twenty-one members of the Guild, from professional signature artists to those who call themselves "Sunday painters," are presenting their artwork. The artists use a variety of media and painting techniques to develop exciting and creative works.

The exhibit opened with an evening reception May 21 in the Fine Art Gallery. The TCC Fine Art Gallery is located in the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

TCC to offer program in pharmacy management

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College will offer an Associate in Science degree program in pharmacy management beginning in Fall 2015.

Program information sessions will be held at the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education in Room 111 on Thursday from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, June 10, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Reservations are not required.

Applications will be available at the information sessions. The Fall 2015 application deadline has been extended to Friday, July 10.

The 70-credit A.S. program joins the College's existing college-level applied technical diploma program. Prior graduates of the TCC certificate program are welcome to return and complete their degree.

Pharmacy technicians work under the supervision of pharmacists to prepare and dispense prescription medication safely, receive and collate information from patients or healthcare professionals for prescription processing, and perform other duties. The Bureau of Labor and Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook forecasts that pharmacy technician employment will increase 20 percent by 2022.

TCC is exclusive recipient of the Able Trust grant

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (BIG BEND NEWS BRIEFS)

Tallahassee Community College is receiving a grant from The Able Trust this week to help provide educational opportunities for students with disabilities. The grant will be presented during a news conference Wednesday at the TCC Center for Workforce Development.

TCC is the only college to receive the Strategic Employment Grant this year. It will provide a great deal of opportunities for vocational rehabilitation for differently-abled individuals, which improves both student lives and the economy.

GEAR UP program to begin at TCC

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (BIG BEND NEWS BRIEFS)

Students in the Tallahassee Community College GEAR UP Program from Leon and Jefferson counties are invited to register for the GEAR UP Summer Institute, to be held June 8-12 on TCC's main campus.

The students will explore areas such as financial literacy, college success, creative writing and computer technology.

Activities are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Juniors and seniors at Rickards High School, FAMU Developmental Research School and Jefferson Middle/High School may also participate in the Summer Leadership Institute, which will be held at TCC June 29-July 1.

TCC launches robot vehicle training program

TOM FLANIGAN

WFSU

The subject of drones attracted a lot of attention during this year's Florida Legislative Session. The devices are also the subject of a new Tallahassee Community College program that sees the technology as a huge jobs creator.

Collen Dwyer is the associate director of TCC's Wakulla Environmental Institute.

"If you think of Pat Thomas and what it's been to law enforcement, we want to be the same for the environment," Dwyer explained. "Our largest issue within Wakulla County is looking at trying to rehab the economy there, be it through tourism, job creation, training."

Dwyer said the need to provide a more formal approach to the ever-increasing use of un-manned aerial vehicles had become apparent.

"One of our board of trustees who works for the City of Tallahassee in the facilities department, they were trying to take a water sample with a flying drone and the drone wound up drowning," she recalled. "This was the second drone they had drowned and they realized they should talk to TCC and WEI (the Wakulla Environmental Institute) and see if they could work this out. And at the time we had a water management program and he thought maybe we could tie that into this and Bob was like, 'No, no! Let's do a program all on its own.'"

"Bob" by the way is Wakulla Environmental Institute Director Bob Ballard. Enter Bruce Buckley. He has extensive background in unmanned vehicles, the flying version of which most people call "drones". He saw opportunity and also connected with the Gulf Unmanned Systems Center in Carrabelle. It's a major training, research, and development facility for land, water and air-based robotics. He's the program instructor.

"I'm really excited!" he said. "I also live in Wakulla County and I do see the need down there for job creation and watching the environment and I think it's a great fit. I think it will bring a lot of great, technologically advanced jobs to Wakulla County."

Buckley said the program will provide students with a total understanding all the technical and legal aspects of drone operation, along with how to collect and interpret data.

"You can train them to pilot an un-manned boat to work environmental impact and so forth, maybe watch the oyster beds, take water samples and so forth. Or maybe you teach them to fly a UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) – a drone – and do analysis from above. But I truly believe you can take just about anyone and teach them un-manned technologies, how to operate and utilize these in an efficient manner."

Successful completion of the program will result in student certification. The twelve-week introductory course will be underway before long and Dwyer said there's an upcoming opportunity for prospective students to check out the program in advance.

"We have actually got an open house, which is going to be June 5 from 3 to 5 p.m. on TCC's main campus. That's going to be in the Lifetime (Sports) Complex and they'll actually be able to come and talk with some of the instructors along with other staff from Gulf Un-manned Systems where Bruce works to hear more about job opportunities and also to register on site."

Anyone interested can also go online to the TCC website: <https://www.tcc.fl.edu/> and check out the program there as well. And please remember, even though everyone calls them "drones", the real term is "Unmanned Aerial Vehicle."

Barbara Wills to head TCC administrative services

WCTV

Tallahassee Community College has selected Dr. Barbara Wills as the College's new vice president of administrative services.

Wills comes to TCC from Leon County Schools, where she served as assistant superintendent.

"We look forward to Dr. Wills joining our team as the College's chief business officer," said Jim Murdaugh, TCC President. "Her exemplary work history shows she is a perfect fit for TCC as our chief business officer."

As assistant superintendent, Wills provided leadership for departments such as finance, risk management, human resources, construction and facilities, and grant management.

"Barbara has been a tremendous asset to our District and will be a great addition to TCC," said Jackie Pons, Leon County superintendent. "Dr. Wills has been a part of our community for almost a decade. Her leadership, vision and passion will be missed, and I wish her continued success in her future endeavors."

Wills has served in progressively responsible positions in human resources management, policy analysis and development, public relations, communications, and public management. In addition to her work as assistant superintendent of Leon County, Wills was instrumental in helping the Boys and Girls Club of Tallahassee to turn around its economic fortune, ultimately allowing the organization to remain in business.

Wills holds a doctorate of philosophy in educational leadership and policy studies from Florida State University.

For information, contact Alan Moran at (850) 201-6079 or communications@tcc.fl.edu.

Pons must fill void left by key administrators

School district prepares to lose Wills, Greenberg

AMANDA CLAIRE CURCIO
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

A top administrator from Leon County Schools will be leaving the district, and another may follow soon.

Assistant Superintendent Barbara Wills will serve as the new vice president of administrative services at Tallahassee Community College, and Stuart Greenberg, an LCS divisional director, has applied to superintendent positions in Florida and out-of-state.

The timing of their decisions to look outside the district is purely happenstance, they both said.

Losing two key administrators is a big blow to LCS, but Superintendent Jackie Pons attributes their recruitment to the entire district's hard work.

"When you build a strong team this is what happens," Pons said. "Together we've built a model that other school districts take a look at and then try to implement."

Wills – who has been with the district for the past nine years and was assistant superintendent for the last five – will oversee several programs at TCC, including financial aid and scholarships, the business and budget offices, human resources and grant management.

"This promotion is a natural next step," said Wills. "Continuing my career at TCC is consistent with my belief in public education. I'm grateful for this opportunity."

Wills is the third heavyweight TCC President Jim Murdaugh plucked from the public service sector in the last few years.

In December, Murdaugh recruited Heather Mitchell – CEO and president of the United Way of the Big Bend at the time – for TCC Foundation's executive director position. Kimberly Moore, then CEO of Workforce Plus, joined TCC in 2012 as the workforce development vice president.

Wills may not be the only LCS administrator to leave, however.

Greenberg threw his hat in the ring for the superintendent position in Nashville, Tenn., as well as Indian River and Palm Beach counties in Florida. His applications can be found on the schools' websites.

Greenberg, an educational leader for more than three decades, has been key in schools' adoption of the Common Core Curriculum and refining instructional methods in the county.

"We were very fortunate to get him," said Pons. "He was recruited by everybody in the state. And every year we get to keep him is a plus."

"He can identify quality teaching quickly," he added. "He created a risk-free environment where best teacher practices emerged."

Greenberg said that his decision to apply to other districts was a way for him to "explore opportunities to share what (he) learned" over the years and that it wasn't an indicator of discontent with the district, whose school-construction projects and practices have been the subject of an FBI investigation since August.

"I'm not applying for applying's sake," said Greenberg. "A few districts reached out to me, and I took the opportunity."

"I love Leon County," he said. "I want to continue to build upon my leadership knowledge."

Greenberg is still in the running for the superintendent position with Metro Nashville Public Schools. The board of education intended to release a short list of finalists from a pool of nearly 50 candidates yesterday, but instead pushed the deadline to July 6.

Like Wills, Greenberg declined to speculate about running in Leon County's superintendent race next year, even if Pons – who hasn't decided whether he will run – is out of the picture.

"It's too hypothetical and far-off to even consider," Greenberg said. "It's an honor to be in this district, and I fully support Jackie."

Wills' departure and Greenberg's possible absence will create a void that the district must address. Pons will present a reorganization plan to the board early next month.

TCC receives \$250,000 grant for vocational rehabilitation

WCTV

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The grant award was announced at a press conference Wednesday, June 3 on TCC's main campus.

TCC is the only college to receive the grant this year – and one of two organizations in the state – as well as the first group in the North Florida region to receive the award. The College will match the grant with a \$250,000 commitment of its own.

"We are thrilled and honored to accept this award from The Able Trust," said TCC president Jim Murdaugh. "This is a great opportunity for TCC to improve our service to a fantastic group of students."

Jesse Panuccio, executive director of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, added, "Every Floridian who wants a job should be able to get a job, and together The Able Trust, Tallahassee Community College, and DEO are helping make that dream a reality."

"The Able Trust is very honored to partner with TCC & DEO on this important program to assist students with disabilities to find their career path and obtain employment that leads to their personal success," said Susanne Homant, president and CEO of The Able Trust. "TCC has a long history of making sure that job seekers with disabilities are a part of Florida's workforce and have equal opportunities to contribute to the state's economy, as well as their own growth."

Murdaugh, Panuccio and Homant spoke at the press conference. Research indicates that for every dollar invested in vocational rehabilitation, \$13-26 are infused into the economy.

"Gainful employment affirms the inherent worth of an individual, and it allows a person with disabilities to gain new relationships, gain new skills, and show the world that a disability is not a barrier to the life activities that everyone else enjoys," said Panuccio.

TCC gets grant for employment work

\$250,000 to help those with disabilities

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College's noted record of providing education and job skills to persons with disabilities was rewarded Wednesday when the college was awarded a major coveted grant toward those efforts.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh stood proud as Susanne Homant, president and CEO of The Able Trust, announced that TCC was the recipient of a \$250,000 Strategic Employment Grant. The money will be spread over three years.

The award is significant in that TCC is the only college in Florida to receive the award this year, and, the first applicant in the North Florida region to ever receive it.

Homant said TCC stood out because of the "passion" expressed by Murdaugh's administrative team and the college's trustees toward providing educational opportunities to persons with disabilities.

Murdaugh said TCC has the highest percentage of graduates with disabilities of the 28 community colleges in Florida.

"We are thrilled to have the support of The Able Trust," he said. "Students with disabilities face challenges that other students don't. This grant allows us to go beyond the graduation, to set them up for jobs, for lifelong success."

The \$250,000 comes from money provided by The Able Trust and by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity. And TCC will match the \$250,000 with \$250,000 of its own money, establishing a \$500,000 effort towards recruiting, retaining and graduating students with disabilities.

The college will recruit students, especially veterans, in their core service areas of Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties, said Kimberly Moore, TCC's vice president for workforce development, whose division will oversee the grant.

According to TCC's grant application, in Leon County, 7.2 percent of adults have one or more disabilities, 13.6 percent in Gadsden County and 14.5 percent in Wakulla. The state average is 9.8 percent.

The targeted group will include persons with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, as well as those with mental health illnesses and autism spectrum disorders.

TCC has between 800 to 1,200 such students each semester, said Jennifer Barr, disabilities support services coordinator. About 700 are enrolled this summer and 1,400 this fall.

"I am a student with a disability and every day that I come here it helps you figure it out," said Ericha Stewart, who is entering her second year. "I appreciate that they are actively working toward making the educational and workforce processes easier for students like myself who have disabilities but aren't letting those disabilities constrain them."

Moore said the money will be used to recruit and work with up to 200 people each year for the first two years. Those persons will receive an introduction to job opportunities, be taught about establishing career goals and creating a plan, as well as lifelong learning interests. The next phase involves career readiness, workforce training and job placement for those who are willing and ready to move forward.

Those who complete the program and gain employment will be followed for up to 12 months to make sure they retain those positions, Moore said.

The Able Trust, created 25 years ago by the Florida Legislature, is a nonprofit public/private partnership focused on providing career opportunities for Floridians with disabilities.

Newsmakers

DAILY STAFF

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DAILY

CEOs

Leah Bornstein has been named president of Aims Community College in Colorado, effective Aug. 1. She comes from Coconino Community College in Arizona, where she has served as president since 2007. Previously, Bornstein was CEO of the Summit County Campus of Colorado Mountain College. She also served as chief academic officer at Lamar Community College in Colorado. In addition, Bornstein was vice president of instruction at the Higher Colleges of Technology-Center for Education Research and Training in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, and vice president for academic affairs at University College at the University of Denver.

Kudos

Tony Zeiss, president of Central Piedmont Community College in North Carolina, will travel to San Sebastian, Spain, to speak at an international conference on advanced manufacturing and entrepreneurship June 10-11. He will provide a keynote address on advanced manufacturing training at U.S. colleges. This is the third consecutive year Zeiss has spoken at the conference.

Appointments

Peggy Cartwright will serve as associate vice chancellor of strategic communications and institutional advancement at the Riverside Community College District in California. She previously was director of marketing and public relations at Chaffey College (California), where she served in various positions for 16 years.

Christopher Coutts is now provost at Lord Fairfax Community College in Virginia. He joined the college in 2008 as associate dean of learning for business, technology, science and health professions. He was promoted to vice president of learning in 2009 and to vice president of academic and student affairs in 2011.

Bradley Kendrex on July 1 will assume the role of vice president for administrative services at Chandler-Gilbert Community College, one of the 10 Maricopa Community

Colleges in Arizona. He has served as the college's associate dean for finance and business services since 2012. Previously, Kendrex was a budget and finance administrator at Maricopa County.

David Morris has been appointed assistant vice president for development at Delaware Technical Community College. He comes from the University of Delaware where he served for nine years as senior associate director for annual giving. Previously, Morris was a campaign manager/marketing analyst at Mass Marketing Insurance Group and senior credit analyst at MBNA America.

Kathrine Swanson is the new vice chancellor for student success and engagement at Metropolitan Community College in Missouri. She comes from Montgomery County Community College in Pennsylvania where she has served for the last 10 years as a member of the senior leadership team, most recently as vice president for student affairs and enrollment management. Previously, Swanson was associate dean of students at Collin County Community College in Texas.

Barbara Wills is now vice president of administrative services at Tallahassee Community College in Florida. She comes from Leon County Schools, where as assistant superintendent she provided leadership for departments such as finance, risk management, human resources, construction and facilities and grant management.

Crash takes Distinguished Gentleman

"We can still feel his presence"

SEAN ROSSMAN

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Friday night was chalking up to be a normal evening for 21-year-old Markeal Dickey and his friends.

He and another friend were going to Darian Colbert's house on Nugget Lane to watch movies, play games and just enjoy each other's company. It's what they always do.

But it would never happen. Instead, Dickey's life would end less than a quarter mile away while Colbert and his girlfriend waited.

"I had just got off the phone with them," said Colbert, Dickey's friend since they met in 6th grade at Swift Creek Middle School. "We were just like, 'this is weird.'"

Neither of them were answering their phones. Finally, a friend at the house decided he had waited long enough and decided to leave, that's when he saw a sea of police lights. Dickey died when the car he was in drove into a tree on Portland Avenue, just around the corner from Colbert's house. The driver was taken to Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare with non-life threatening injuries.

"He almost made it there," Colbert said.

Talk to anyone who knew him, Markeal Dickey was driven, well-respected and community-oriented.

He graduated from Lincoln High School in 2012 and was a member of the Student Government Association, Key Club, Future Business Leaders of America and homecoming king his senior year. **He earned an associate's degree from Tallahassee Community College and was pursuing a bachelor's in communications and marketing at Florida State University.** He wanted to work in advertising, said his sister Melesa Dickey.

"Markeal was a vibrant individual with a serene and enthusiastic personality," she said in an email. "He was a leader and an innovator. Markeal was destined for greatness."

As a member of the Boys' Choir of Tallahassee, he sang at the inauguration of President Barack Obama. He also performed in Trinidad, Tobago and the Bahamas. When he was a senior in high school, he was selected as the president of the Tallahassee chapter of the Distinguished Young Gentlemen, an expanding youth leadership

program founded in Tallahassee. He stayed on during his college years and played critical roles in different campaigns, including one where he taught middle school students how to tie ties and urged them not to sag their pants. He was also a dancer and a member of the DYG step team.

"He was a shining star in our community," said Ramon Alexander, DYG's national executive director of external affairs, "and he will be sorely missed."

He was committed to DYG and inspired others to join the group, including Colbert and Jamesio Brown.

"He changed my life," Brown said. "I knew if he was a part of it, then I want to be a part of it too."

In a day when some young people may come off as disrespectful, Dickey was the exception.

"That child never ever talked back," said Earle Lee, founder of the Boys' Choir of Tallahassee. "It was a testament to how he was raised."

From 6th grade through high school, Dickey was a member of the group. Lee got to know him during their time performing all over the world.

The choir dedicated its Saturday night performance in Pensacola to Dickey. Choir alumni are traveling back in town and rehearsing this week for his funeral, where they will perform Dickey's favorites including the song "This is my Prayer."

"We're not going to do a lot of songs that make people real sad," said Lee, fighting back tears. "We're blessed that we knew Markeal."

The choir is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Dickey will be the 11th member Lee has had to bury.

"You find yourself questioning why?" Lee asked. "He's such a great kid, why him?"

Zoe Burris was one of the first to know Dickey had died.

She and her son heard a sound about 9:30 p.m. from their residence in the Portland Terrace apartments, just feet from the crash.

Crash takes Distinguished Gentleman....

continued

"It was a loud screech and then the crash," Burris said. "I came outside and basically the car was wrapped around the tree, almost unrecognizable."

She ran back inside and called police. She talked to the driver, who was crying and visibly shaken. He told her he did not know how it happened.

The entire neighborhood eventually emerged. Many started praying, she said.

Now, the tree is stripped of its bark. Black tire marks run towards the tree. At the scene were a stuffed animal, two blue balloons in the shape of stars, flowers and a candle. Glass is strewn as far as 40 feet away and black and silver pieces of plastic lie among the shiny specks.

Since Dickey's passing, the DYG network has come together. On Sunday night, counselors met with the group, who then went to the scene of the crash to pay their respects.

The group is still adjusting to their new lives without their leader.

"We can still feel his presence," Brown said. "I think about his smile and it makes me smile."

Markeal Dickey was the son of Melvin Dickey and Dr. Marilyn Dickey. He had three siblings: Roosevelt "Tre" Ealey, Melesa Dickey and Desmond Dickey. Funeral arrangements have not yet been finalized.

TCC to offer associate degree in pharmacy management

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College will offer an Associate in Science degree program in pharmacy management beginning in Fall 2015.

An information session for prospective students will be held at the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education in Room 111 on Wednesday, June 10, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The program application deadline is Friday, July 10.

Fire Academy recruits hold car wash for charity

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Each class of Tallahassee Community College's Tallahassee Fire Academy is required to plan and conduct a community project to raise funds for a local charity.

On May 31, Firefighter Class 017 held a car wash at Cody's Restaurant to benefit the American Red Cross and the Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial Monument charities. Twenty-five students washed approximately 100 cars and raised \$2,500 for these two organizations, which were selected by the students themselves.

TPD accepting applications for T.A.C. Summer Academy Leadership Program

WCTV

The Tallahassee Police Department is accepting applications for the T.A.C. Students Summer Academy Leadership Program.

TPD says the program is designed to prepare high school students to be leaders in every phase of their lives.

The program is led by police officers and investigators and is inspired by TPD's Tactical Apprehension and Control Team. However, the T.A.C acronym represents a different meaning for students: Training, Achievement and Confidence.

TPD says the goal of the program is to prepare students with the skills and knowledge to be leaders.

TPD says the five day program will have four interactive classes: Decision-Making, Defining Relationships, Planning for the Future and Becoming a Leader.

Students will attempt to solve a mock crime scene investigation on the last day of the program.

The program is the week of Monday, July 13th to Friday July 17th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Florida Public Safety Institute.

Classes will be limited to 20 students. Interested high school students or parents can contact Officer Steve Damm at steve.damm@talgov.com or visit the program's website at <http://www.talgov.com/tpd/tpd-tac-students.aspx>.

INIE to host timely session on succession planning for nonprofits

CHRONICLE (COMMUNITY BRIEFS)

There's no question that strong leadership is essential to nonprofit success. But, short of tying a great Executive Director or C.E.O. to their chair, how are board members supposed to ensure that their organization is prepared to survive - and thrive - throughout a period of transition? And, what role can nonprofit executives play in setting up their organization for success in the event that they decide to move on?

To help agencies navigate these thorny questions, the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE) will host "Transition Happens: Creating a Succession Plan for Your Nonprofit" on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 from 5-6:30 p.m. at the TCC Capitol Center, 300 West Pensacola St. All community members are invited to attend this session, which will be facilitated by Dr. David Berlan of the Askew School of Public Administration and Policy at FSU. The event will include separate breakout panels for board members and nonprofit executives, allowing attendees to share ideas and engage in valuable peer conversation. Registration is \$25 for INIE members and \$45 for nonmembers. Space is limited; please register online at www.TheInstituteForNonprofits.org.

Jessica Lowe-Minor is the Executive Director of the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence. She can be reached via email at loweje@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC receives \$250,000 grant for vocational rehabilitation

HAVANA HERALD (SCHOOL NEWS) / GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

The Able Trust presented Tallahassee Community College with a three-year, \$250,000 grant to help provide educational opportunities for students with disabilities in Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties.

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Excitement continues this month

ALAN WISE
WAKULLA NEWS

The excitement continues this month!

TCC's Wakulla Environmental Institute is under construction, and we are certainly looking forward to the new facility being open!

The WEI also just announced a new program that focuses on how to use aerial, surface, and underwater unmanned vehicles (drones). These tools are being used in countless applications, and TCC is bringing the training opportunity right here in Wakulla.

I want to thank the WEI leadership for its efforts and dedication to our area.

The 2015 Wakulla County Job Fair was extremely well attended. There were more than 200 job seekers and 19 employers!

I appreciate CareerSource Capital Region for hosting this event. I would like to thank the County for allowing us to use the Community Center for the event, and I would like to most importantly thank the participants of the event.

I hope that the event was helpful and beneficial for the job seekers and the employers.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone of the Customer Service Workshop held on June 10 at the Wakulla Career Center (2932 Crawfordville Hwy) from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

I would also like to extend a very special thank you to all of our new members!

Tallahassee Community College's D.J. McKnight goes in 12th round to Toronto Blue Jays

WCTV

Tallahassee Community College baseball standout D.J. McKnight received the phone call he'd been waiting for on Wednesday when the Toronto Blue Jays selected him in the 12th round of Major League Baseball's 2015 First-Year Player Draft.

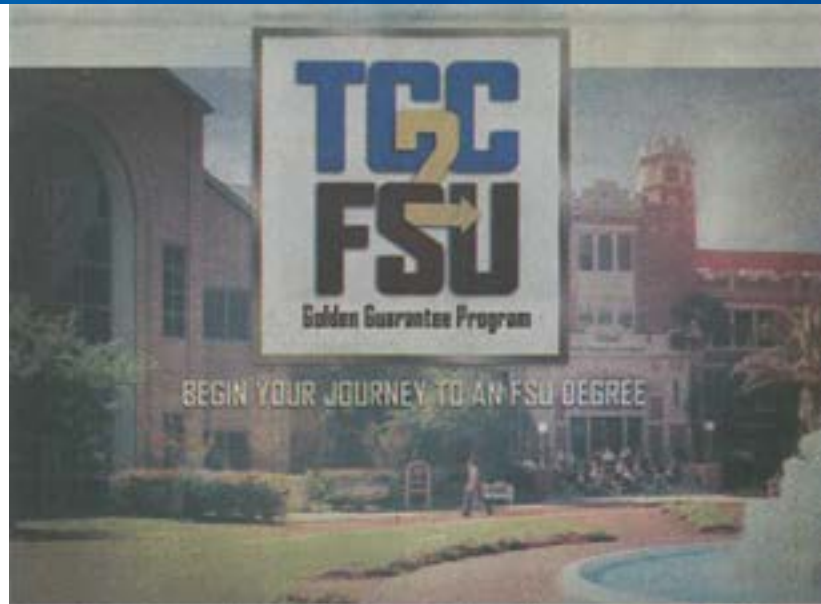
McKnight, a native of nearby Madison, Fla., was the 17th pick of the 12th round and 362nd player taken overall. He is expected to report to Toronto later this week, where he will sign with the Blue Jays and officially forego a scholarship opportunity at Valdosta State University.

The sophomore outfielder recently completed an impressive two-year run with the Eagles in which he posted a career .344 batting average with six home runs and 69 RBIs over 97 games from 2014-15.

While with the Eagles, McKnight earned a pair of All-Panhandle Conference honors, including first-team accolades in 2015 after batting .322 with one homer and 32 RBIs in 46 games.

McKnight is the first Eagle drafted by Toronto since 1996 when the Blue Jays selected Stan Baston in the 11th round. The previous year, Toronto drafted the late Ryan Freel in round 10.

McKnight is also the Eagles' highest draft pick since the Pittsburgh Pirates selected A.J. Johnson in the sixth round in 2004. Later in that same draft, the Seattle Mariners selected former Eagle Michael Saunders, now a member of the Blue Jays, in the 11th round while the Milwaukee Brewers and Boston Red Sox used 17th-round picks on Lorenzo Cain and Jeremy Haynes, respectively, who, like McKnight, are from Madison and prepped at Madison County High School prior to enrolling at Tallahassee Community College.



The TCC2FSU program offers **guaranteed admission into Florida State University** if you stay on track and meet all transfer requirements as you complete your Associate in Arts degree at Tallahassee Community College. You will have a special advising opportunities with both TCC and FSU advisors to keep you on track to meet program requirements.

The TCC2FSU program allows you to stretch your college funds further. Tuition at TCC is about half the cost of tuition at a state university and many scholarships are available.

Find out more and sign up today
www.tcc.fl.edu/TCC2FSU



2015 Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges

Tallahassee Community College is one of 16 community colleges nationwide to receive this award from Diverse: Issues in Higher Education and the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development



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www.tcc.fl.edu/TCC2FSU

HotOccupationsNow.com

Find the area's most in-demand careers and the training you need to land the job.



GET AHEAD!

Earn a certificate as an Engineering Technologies Support Specialist

18 credit hours

Online and evening classes

May be eligible for financial aid



This will prepare you to sit for the national manufacturing-based certification (MSSC) exam

GET AHEAD OF THE JOB APPLICATION COMPETITION.

Earn a Certificate in Office Support at TCC



12 credit hours. Online and in person.
May be eligible for financial aid.



CAN YOU TAKE THE HEAT?
TCC Fire Academy.com



WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL?
TCC Police Academy.com



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June Express starts June 24
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