

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



March 11 - April 14, 2017

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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March 11 - April 14, 2017

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



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Florida state colleges balk at drastic budget cuts proposed by Senate

LLOYD DUNKELBERGER
PALM BEACH POST

State college presidents on Friday expressed dismay that the 28-school system is being targeted for three-quarters of the cuts in the Florida Senate's initial plan to trim \$131 million in higher-education spending.

"It is of great concern that the first thing out of the chute is a 74 percent reduction impacting the Florida college system and it is directed at programs that support our most at-risk student populations," said Ed Meadows, president of Pensacola State College and the chairman of the Council of Presidents, which represents all the state colleges, including Palm Beach State College.

The suggested cuts include a \$55 million reduction in remedial education, the suspension of \$30 million in performance funding for the colleges and the suspension of \$10 million in incentive funds aimed at producing more students with technical and industry certifications.

College presidents were also concerned that their system's cuts represented more than 74 percent of the \$131 million total, while the state university reductions represented 10 percent and the private college cuts represented 5 percent.

But Meadows noted the budget process is still in its early stages.

"We hope to work with the Senate in the coming weeks to lessen the impact it could have on our ability to serve our students," he told the other presidents Friday during their monthly meeting.

The budget cuts were revealed Wednesday by the Senate Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee. Sen. Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton, who heads the panel, said the proposal is the start of the Senate's budget deliberations.

"We just finished the first week and there is a lot to discuss and that's why I sent my initial proposed list to the committee," Galvano said.

The Senate higher-education panel, like other budget subcommittees, has been methodically reviewing annual expenditures and had asked program advocates to file reports justifying the funding. Some of the advocates did not respond to the Senate.

"Many of the cuts are based on no response at all and others are based on very weak responses," Galvano said.

Not all of the proposed cuts will be included in the Senate's final higher-education spending plan. But Galvano said program advocates "are going to have to make a new case for them or they (the cuts) will stand."

The largest cut isn't a matter of program justification but instead is centered on a complex debate over the role of remedial, or developmental, education in the state college system.

Four years ago, the Legislature enacted a law that sought to limit the number of remedial courses being offered by the colleges, with the intent of moving more students into college-credit classes and eventually on to a degree.

The law has had an impact on the system, with the latest estimate showing a headcount of 14,000 students in state college remedial classes, down a third from 21,000 in the 2014-15 academic year.

With the 2013 law taking full effect, Galvano said, the expectation is that the funding for remedial classes should be dropping, reflecting the proposed \$55 million cut.

But the college presidents said the proposed reduction represents about half of their remedial funding.

Edwin Massey, president of Indian River State College, said while the 2013 law has resulted in lower headcounts for remedial students, "the number of students coming to us that need developmental education has not declined."

He said the student whose math skills may be lacking is enrolled in an algebra class but also given extra support with tutors, counseling and technical tracking.

"That really adds up to additional costs rather than less costs," Massey said.

He also said many of the students needing remedial help are older students who have been out of school for a while, noting 41 percent of the remedial students on his campus are 25 or older.

Florida state colleges balk at drastic budget cuts proposed by Senate...

continued

The college presidents also raised questions about any cuts affecting workforce initiatives, including the suspension of a \$10 million incentive program designed to increase the number of students earning technical and industry certifications.

Meadows said the incentive money is used to pay for things like covering the cost of an industry certification test for a student who is in line for a local job.

"It's going to have a negative impact on the availability of skilled workers in our local communities," he said.

Jim Murdaugh, president of Tallahassee Community College, said he did not understand a \$181,000 cut in a truck-driver training program launched at his school after local businesses said they were "desperately looking" for drivers.

"What's the rationale behind cutting a program that puts people to work?" he asked.

The remedial education courses, the industry certifications and other initiatives on the chopping block provide "opportunities to students who are not necessarily above average," Murdaugh said.

"We are their hope and we are their opportunity," Murdaugh said. "The impact (of the cuts) is to slam the door on opportunity. I hope that is not the intention."

Guns at a standoff in Judiciary, advocates lose majority with GOP defection

JAMES CALL

NAPLES DAILY NEWS

Sen. Greg Steube, R-Sarasota, remains steadfast in his commitment to reduce the number of gun-free zones. Steube is leading a squadron of gun bills through the Senate. He wants to allow the open carry of firearms in Florida and would permit them in courthouses, schools, airports and most public places. But the 11 gun bills he filed this year may have been shot down on session's opening day.

Until now, his efforts to loosen gun regulations would pass out of the House only to die in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Last fall, Steube outflanked his opponents, getting himself elected to the Senate and appointed Judiciary chair. After Steube introduced his courthouse carry bill during Judiciary's first meeting of the 2017 session a Republican ally drew a line on guns that she vowed she would not cross.

"We represent individuals from different parts of the state that have obviously different viewpoints," Sen. Anitere Flores, R-Miami-Dade, explained. She said she would not go along with allowing guns in a courtroom. She had voted to allow people to store guns with courthouse security the day before but would go no farther in Steube's crusade against gun-free zones.

"Anything that goes beyond that (checking firearms at the courthouse door) I will not allow in the Senate," said Flores. "My word and my commitment is something that I hold to be very sacred."

Suddenly, like the past two years, Steube faced a Miami-Dade Republican who threatened to block his proposals' run through the Senate to the governor's desk. In the past, it was former Sen. Miguel Diaz de la Portilla. The then-Judiciary chair would not schedule Steube's open carry bills for hearings. DLP lost his reelection bid. And with Judiciary under new management, Flores emerged as the GOP swing vote. Were she to vote with the committee's four Democrats then Steube's bills die.

After the Flores' declaration, Steube postponed consideration of his open carry proposal.

Friday evening, driving home he fired back at a suggestion gun rights advocates had a bad first week.

"We've had what, only four days of session," said Steube about headlines sounding his bills' death knell. "We've got plenty of time to see what the House will produce and what we can get through Judiciary."

Flores' statement drew a quick response from the NRA. Marion Hammer a past president for the group and the current executive director for the Unified Sportsmen of Florida executive director wrote a Flores-turns-on-law-abiding-gun-owners memo to her members.

"I cannot tell you whether or not Sen. Flores has the power to kill all pro-gun bills and not allow the Senate to vote on them because I do not know," said Hammer. "But, as the saying goes, 'it ain't over till it's over.'"

Hammer's statement indicated Flores's sudden turn on the issue left the gun groups bewildered. Until Flores fired the shot across Steube's bow, she enjoyed a 100 percent rating with the NRA and USF. Hammer said it was unclear whether Flores was speaking for herself, Senate leadership or the Senate President. It didn't matter. Hammer said she works for law abiding citizens and they depend on her to continue to fight for their right to carry their weapons into more public spaces.

"A college campus is not a logical place for a gun," said Tallahassee Community College President Jim Murdaugh. Murdaugh is a former Leon County Sheriff's deputy. He retains his law enforcement certification and the right to carry a firearm but doesn't pack heat on the campus he controls.

Murdaugh specifically addressed campus carry following Friday's meeting of the Council of Community College Presidents in Tallahassee.

"Education requires some discomfort. We encourage students to be provocative and adding weapons to that environment causes great concern," said Murdaugh. "I have no crystal ball as to what will happen but I think campus carry is a solution looking for a problem."

Heading south on I-75 and home for the weekend, Steube searched for a way to get his proposals to the Senate floor.

"My goal is to get the entire Senate to debate these issues," said Steube. "Voters deserve the opportunity to hear the debate and to see their Senators vote up or down on these issues."

The Judiciary Committee meets Tuesday. None of Steube's gun bills are on the agenda.

Two TCC students named to All-Florida Academic Team

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The All-Florida Academic Team recognizes the efforts of students who excel in academics, leadership and service to the community within the Florida College System. Tallahassee Community College is proud to have two students recognized this year, Kelxy Butler and S. Marie Artecona.

Butler is a sophomore at TCC who will graduate in May with her Associate in Arts degree. She was born and raised in Tallahassee, where she was homeschooled. Butler is hoping to continue her education at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary to earn a bachelor's degree in social work and eventually a master's degree in counseling. She is an active member of Phi Theta Kappa national honor society, as well as the TCC Honors Program.

Artecona, who also will graduate in May, is a 2008 alumna of Lawton Chiles High School. Artecona plans to transfer to Florida State University in the fall and will major in both computer science and statistics. She is a member of the TCC Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Program and is a past vice president of Phi Theta Kappa. In addition to being an outstanding student, she is also the mother of a 5-year-old daughter.

Local students participate in Model U.N.

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

More than 200 students from area middle and high schools came together on February 17 at the Florida Capitol to discuss international politics and celebrate academic success during the 21st annual Tallahassee Southern Model United Nations conference.

Students were assigned to represent various countries during a United Nations simulation and were committed to finding peaceful resolution. Truitt Wilson, who served as the secretary general of this year's conference, led the delegation with professionalism and enthusiasm. He challenged students to engage in true dialogue and form impactful resolutions.

Each year, TSMUN recognizes academic achievement and commitment to the principles of Model United Nations by awarding two students full tuition scholarships to attend Tallahassee Community College as a member of TCC's award-winning Model U.N. Team. This year, Wakulla High senior Dixie Johnston and Leon High senior Max Culbreath were each awarded a scholarship.

Leon County Commissioner John Dailey delivered a keynote address that inspired students to seek solutions to the issues facing the world. Drawing on his experience with the National League of Cities, his work as a legislative aide to a member of the British Parliament, and his current role as president of JDA Strategies, Dailey encouraged students to look right here in the community to find ways to give back and create global change.

It is clear TSMUN has a profound impact on not only the students, but the members of the board as well. "One of the most rewarding aspects of my career has been to see my students go on to share their drive and their passion to change the world for the better," said Richard Murgó, TSMUN board member and director for academic enrichment at TCC.

Community center may lose grant

Commissioner Ralph Thomas vows to try to win back the funds, which pay for after school program

WILLIAM SNOWDEN
WAKULLA NEWS

A grant that pays for after school tutoring at the community center is in danger of going away, according to County Administrator David Edwards.

That grant, the 21st Century grant administered by Tallahassee Community College, is tied to another grant and programs operated at the community center by the Wakulla County Coalition for Youth. In fact, the loss of the 21st Century grant has the potential to be devastating to the youth coalition and its programs.

County Commission Chairman Ralph Thomas confirmed this week that TCC indicated it would withdraw the grant in July over some \$40,000 in costs over snacks for students who attend the after-school program.

Thomas said that he had arranged a meeting between the parties and was hopeful that some resolution could be worked out.

"It may be possible that we can still keep it alive," Thomas said.

The issue of money for snacks "may be something we can overcome or it may be something we can't get past," he added.

After word started spreading that the grant was in danger, there was some fingerpointing of blame, and Superintendent of Schools Bobby Pearce said he was getting calls from some people blaming him.

"The schools have nothing to do with the programs at the community center," Pearce said, other than offering bus transportation for students at a cost to the center.

Pearce said at a meeting with Edwards he did turn down taking over the programs, saying the district already has after-school programs.

Chuck Robinson, president of the coalition for youth, which oversees a number of programs at the community center, said the youth coalition grant, known as Ounce of Prevention, is continuing to move forward – even without the certainty of the partner 21st Century grant.

21st Century pays the grant for the after-school program at the community center, which Robinson said brings in 120 to 130 students a day during the school year, and up to 150 in the summer.

The Ounce of Prevention grant is tied to 21st Century because it offers services to many of the students who take advantage of the after-school program.

Among the programs offered through Ounce of Prevention are a middle school program called Get Real, kids classes through the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office, family intervention services and life skills classes.

The community center also serves as a sort of clearinghouse for services, where people in need contact the center wondering where to turn.

Robinson noted that during Hurricane Hermine, the community center was a place where people could get some air conditioning and plug in their electronic devices to recharge them.

Edwards said that after meeting with a TCC representative last week, he was informed that the college would not be renewing the lease. He was not specific in revealing the reason, only that it was economic and it was TCC's choice.

Edwards said TCC would not renew the program after the current budget cycle ends July 31.

"We'll be OK," Edwards said. "I hate it for the community center, but other groups will likely step up to the plate."

"I told the commissioners, 'Things come and go,'" Edwards said. "But I hate it for the kids it does affect."

Edwards added that perhaps rentals of the building for events and more recreation programs would be uses for the center.

"At the end of the day, I think we'll be fine," he said.

Amy Geiger, who serves on the governing board of the youth coalition, said members had been informed by Edwards via email that TCC would not be renewing the 21st Century grant. She expressed concern that loss of the grant would put the coalition's Ounce of Prevention grant in jeopardy.

Community center may lose grant....

continued

Geiger noted that the Ounce grant is in the fourth year of its five-year life – and, after that, the programs are supposed to be self-sustaining.

The community center on Shadeville Highway, formerly New Life Church, was purchased about 10 years ago by the county with some federal grant money. The building sat vacant for a time, except when the courthouse was undergoing renovations and staff from all the offices were moved there for several months in 2010, and then the Sheriff's Office detectives took one building during construction of the annex.

Plans for creating a community center were bandied around and stalled in 2012, with talk about bringing in YMCA to administer the facility as a gym, and some commissioners suggesting it would be best to turn the building into a fire station.

Commissioner Thomas had worked to bring 21st Century to Wakulla Springs Baptist Church, where he was a board member. The church was looking at ending the program, and Thomas thought it might be a fit for the community center.

The 21st Century grant dovetailed with the Ounce of Prevention grant that the youth coalition was working on – it gave the coalition a core group of kids that it could provide services to.

The community center opened in 2014.

A gym for basketball and volleyball was built, and there's an open gym on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The county has looked at adding walking trails and other recreational facilities to the community center property, and it has been mentioned as a possible location for soccer or other ballfields on some of the property that hasn't been cleared.

TCC forensics team prevails over FSU, UF

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

For the first time since 2005, the Tallahassee Community College forensics team has captured both the Florida Intercollegiate Forensics Association and Florida College System Activities Association state speech and debate championships in the same year.

TCC scored a hard-fought win over second- and third-place finishers Florida State University and the University of Florida at the FIFA Championship tournament, held February 24-26 on the College's main campus. Both FSU and UF are nationally recognized as Top 20 four-year forensics programs.

"This is one of the most exciting victories the program has ever had," said John Schultz, director of the TCC forensics team. "I am so proud to say every single competitor on our team won individual awards and earned sweepstakes points, which propelled us to this state title."

First-year team members Samira Taylor and Jesselym Gonzalez won individual FIFA state championships in Dramatic Interpretation and Program Oral Interpretation, respectively.

FSU had won the previous nine FIFA Championship overall titles. The University of Central Florida and Florida State College at Jacksonville rounded out the top five schools.

"To compete against their full squads and emerge as state champions speaks volumes about the talent, work ethic, and dedication of our students," said Schultz.

On February 4, the TCC team won the FCSAA Championship for the 10th time in 11 seasons, winning all 14 event categories. Team members William Thies, Taylor, Elizabeth Lehman, Nathalie Estiverne, Susan Liss and Alexandria Bergman swept the top six spots in individual sweepstakes.

In addition, Taylor received the Jennifer Pickman Award for the top novice competitor at the FCSAA Championship, while Angelina Mitchell received the Shira Brownstein Fellowship award. Both awards are named in memory of former TCC competitors.

Additional team members who contributed to the double win include Gerain Arias, Katrina Erwin, Matthew Thompson and Ricardo Zamarripa.

(NOTE: A truncated version of this story appeared in the Tallahassee Democrat's Campus Notes section on March 13.)

TCC celebrating Women's History Month

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES/HAVANA HERALD

Tallahassee Community College invites the public to celebrate Women's History Month by honoring outstanding women at the College and in the community. This year's theme is Honoring Trailblazing Women.

On Wednesday, March 22, TCC will be hosting an event to recognize 10 women from the community and five of the College's exceptional female students during its annual Women's History Month Celebration. There will be a reception from 5:30 to 6 p.m. in the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education at 1528 Surgeons Drive. The reception will be followed by a ceremony for the honorees from 6 to 7 p.m. Susan Blessing, director of the Women in Math, Science and Engineering Program at Florida State University, will serve as the guest speaker. This event is open to the public. For more information, email Jarrett Phipps at phippsj@tcc.fl.edu.

On Tuesday, March 28, the Florida Public Safety Institute will hold the 11th annual Women in History Program at the FPSI Conference Center on Highway 90 west of Tallahassee in Gadsden County. There will be a meet and greet at 8:30 a.m., with breakfast, and the program will begin at 9 a.m. The event is free, but attendees should register in advance with Gigi Hawthorne at HAWTHORG@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC part-time job fair

HAVANA HERALD

TCC is hosting a Job Fair on March 29th, 9 a.m. to noon, and a CareerFest to prepare for it on March 21st, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Both events will be held in the Student Union Ballroom.

The CareerFest will give students resourceful job fair tools in the following areas:

Career Discovery - assisting students with career exploration (and possibly choosing a major/career path);

Ace that Interview - mock interviews for students;

Rock Your Resume - resume reviews and critiques;

Backpack 2 Briefcase - students will create & practice their 15 second "sounds bite" (what they will say when they approach employers at the Job & Internship Fair).

By March 21st, please check the list of employers attending our job fair by going to www.tccfuturelink.com/events.

Student info for the job fair:

Open to all job seekers;

Enforced dress code--PROFESSIONAL ATTIRE IS REQUIRED;

Be prepared by researching employers at www.tccfuturelink.com/events;

Bring plenty of resumes to hand out;

Stand out with a polished resume by attending CareerFest

- CareerFest--WEDNESDAY, March 29th.

TCC's Center for Innovation to host workshops

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

Beginning at the end of March, the Tallahassee Community College Center for Innovation will offer workshops aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills in trending technology topics.

The first two workshops of the Tech Know Lounge series will focus on smart phones. "Become the Master of Your Smart Phone" will take place Thursday, March 30, from 6 to 8 p.m. "Effective and Time-Saving Apps" will follow on Friday, March 31, from 3 to 5 p.m. Each two-hour technology workshop costs \$19.99. Students will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the course.

Registration is now open. Interested individuals should first apply to TCC at <https://forms.tcc.fl.edu/> Application and choose the Continuing Education option at the start of the application process, then register for the workshops of their choosing through EagleNet.

Future offerings will cover topics such as tablets, the Cloud and the Microsoft Office Suite. Contact the TCC Workforce Development Division at (850) 201-8760 for a schedule of upcoming courses. All workshops will take place at the Center for Innovation, located at 300 West Pensacola Street in the former Brogan Museum building in downtown Tallahassee.

For information, contact Jessica Griffin at (850) 201-8760 or griffinj@tcc.fl.edu.

(NOTE: A version of this story appeared in the Tallahassee Democrat's Campus Notes on March 27.)

TCC Gadsden to offer free first aid training

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

The Tallahassee Community College Gadsden Center will offer a free First Aid/CPR course targeted to Gadsden County business owners, their employees and community members on Friday, March 31, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The training will be led by staff of Capital Regional Medical Center.

The TCC Gadsden Center is located at 223 Pat Thomas Parkway in Quincy.

Interested individuals may register by contacting the Gadsden Center at (850) 558-3620 or GadsdenCenter@tcc.fl.edu.

This will be the first in a series of safety trainings at the Gadsden Center.

TCC Gadsden Center Safety Series Schedule

Friday, March 31, 2017, 1-3 p.m.: First Aid/CPR Training provided by Capital Regional Medical Center

Friday, April 28, 2017, 1-5 p.m.: Active Bystander Training provided by the Florida Medical Reserve Corps

Friday, May 19, 2017, 1-3 p.m.: Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event Training provided by G.W. Lupton, TCC emergency services coordinator

Friday, June 30, 2017, 1-3 p.m.: Cybersecurity Awareness Training (provider to be announced)

Friday, July 28, 2017, 1-3 p.m.: Developing a Continuity of Operations Plan Training provided by G.W. Lupton

Saturday, August 26, 2017, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.: Community Safety Awareness Day, featuring community partners, parenting classes and other offerings

For information, contact Desiree Gorman at (850) 558-3620 or gormand@tcc.fl.edu.

(NOTE: A version of this story appeared in the Tallahassee Democrat's Campus Notes on March 27.)

TCC's Wilson named FCSAA Player of the Year

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College standout Lawriell Wilson has been named the 2017 Florida College System Activities Association's (FCSAA) Women's Basketball Player of the Year.

The FCSAA Player of the Year award is selected by the FCSAA Women's Basketball Committee.

Wilson is the first Tallahassee player to win the award.

She and teammate Japonica James were also named FCSAA First-team All-State.

Wilson, a sophomore guard from Kenner, La., is in the midst of a record-breaking season and career for coach Franqua "Q" Bedell's Eagles.

Last month, Wilson was named Panhandle Conference Player of the Year by the league coaches and, at last week's state tournament, she led Tallahassee into the semifinal round before being eliminated by eventual state champion Gulf Coast State College.

In the Eagles' 97-86 win over Palm Beach State College in the state quarterfinals, she tied the school record with 39 points and, in the process, became the school's single-season and career scoring leader.

She currently leads Region 8 in scoring at 22.0 points per game and also averages 7.0 rebounds and 5.3 assists.

James, a native of Mobile, Ala., was the coaches' pick for Panhandle Conference Freshman of the Year honors. She has averaged 17.8 points and 8.1 rebounds through 30 games.

This marks the first time Tallahassee has placed two players on the FCSAA's All-State team.

Wilson and James were also named to the FCSAA All-Tournament Team.

Wilson averaged 34.0 points, 8.0 rebounds and 4.5 assists in games against Palm Beach State and Gulf Coast State while shooting 58.5 percent (24-of-41) from the field and 83.3 percent (15-of-18) from the free throw line.

James averaged 16.0 points, 6.5 rebounds and 2.5 steals while shooting 54.5 percent (12-of-22) from the floor in two games.

In The Panhandle Conference media has released its 2017 all-conference basketball teams.

Twelve members of the conference's media selected first- and second-team all-conference squads, as well as an all-freshman team, Player of the Year, Freshman of the Year and Coach of the Year for both men and women.

Tallahassee Community College was also well-represented on the Panhandle Conference all-conference teams.

Wilson was named Co-Player of the Year, an award she shared with Gulf Coast State College's Taylor Emery, while James was named Freshman of the Year.

Wilson and James were joined on the all-conference first-team by Jas Hill.

Hill, also a freshman from Mobile, is right behind Wilson in scoring, averaging 19.5 points per game. She is also posting 4.6 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game.

James and Hill were also named to the women's All-Freshmen team.

In the men's vote, sophomore Kiair Crouch was selected to the All-PC first-team while fellow sophomore David Simmons was a second-team pick.

Crouch, who hails from Stone Mountain, Ga., averaged 15.4 points, 3.5 rebounds and 3.2 assists during the recently-completed 2016-17 season.

Simmons, a native of Henderson, Ky., averaged 12.9 points, 6.1 rebounds and 2.8 assists this year.

Eagles hope potent offense “locked in”

TCC takes its firepower into NJCAA tournament

JORDAN CULVER

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

At the start of the 2016-17 season, Tallahassee Community College women’s basketball coach Franqua Bedell had a feeling his team could do something special.

The group needed to buy in, of course. Things needed to click in conference play – the Panhandle Conference is one of the best in the nation with three top 10 teams, including Tallahassee.

Things worked early. The Eagles started the seasons 15-1. Things continued to work in conference play. The Eagles finished 7-5 in conference, advancing to the NJCAA Region 8 tournament for the first time since 2010.

TCC fell to Gulf Coast State in the tournament’s semifinals, but still did enough to earn an at-large bid to the NJCAA championship tournament in Lubbock, Texas, which started Monday. The Eagles were named the No. 7 seed, which gave them a first-round bye.

Tallahassee Community College opens its NJCAA tournament Tuesday at 9 p.m. against 10-seed Shelton State in the Rip Griffin Center. It’ll be the women’s team’s first appearance in the NJCAA tournament since 2001.

“When they’re locked in 100 percent, they’re a very good team,” Bedell said. “If we’re not locked in, we’re too relaxed. Our style is really up-tempo. We take a lot of risks. If we’re not engaged in that, we lose some things. Our practices have been intense and they seemed to respond. We’ll see what happens.”

Bedell’s right – when the Eagles are locked in, they’re a sight to behold.

TCC’s offense is ranked third in the nation in terms of points per game. The Eagles average 90.3 points per game and have three players ranked in the top 30 in the nation in points per game. The group is anchored by Panhandle Conference Player of the Year Lawriell Wilson.

“I feel like my hard work has paid off and I feel like I have a great group of teammates who’ve helped me with my success and a great group of coaches as well,” Wilson said.

Wilson is the nation’s No. 3 scorer. She averages 22 points per game.

“The camaraderie on this team is very special,” she said. “...I knew from the beginning we would have a special group.”

Bedell compared Wilson’s effectiveness to that of Washington’s Kelsey Plum, who averages 31.6 points per game: “Lawriell has had an unbelievable season. How she’s gone about doing it has been magical to watch. She’s put on the best display, from an individual standpoint, in junior college.”

Freshmen Jas Hill (a three-point specialist) and Japonica James (who hasn’t taken a shot from beyond the arc all season) – both made the Panhandle Conference all-freshman team – average 19.5 and 17.8 points per game, respectively.

Bedell said this has been the best season in his four years at the helm.

“Last year I felt like we were right there but didn’t have enough pieces,” he said. “This year has been really fun to be a part of. Any time you can make it to the national tournament, you enjoy being a part of that. I’m really happy and pleased with what our kids have done. We want to add more to it.”

Lawmakers approve bill demanding workers pay for representation

Opponents say Plakon's idea is bad for workers, teachers and children

JAMES CALL

NAPLES DAILY NEWS

Rep. Scott Plakon's union busting bill is ready for a House vote. House Bill 11 cleared its final committee stop Wednesday.

It would impose requirements labor organizers say would decimate their ranks. Plakon, a Republican from Longwood, said his bill is simple, just two pages long and grounded in transparency and democracy.

"We will be asking public sector unions to report how many of its members pay dues," Plakon told the Government Accountability Committee. "And we will be asking them to be sure at least 50 percent of its members are paying dues."

If they failed what Plakon called "these simple measurements of democracy" then groups representing scores of workers from bus drivers to college professors would need to seek recertification every year they fail the test.

In Tallahassee, United Faculty of Florida handles collective bargaining for professors at Florida State and Florida A&M universities. Faculty at Tallahassee Community College last year voted to unionize after tensions arose between staff and administrators over teaching loads and other issues. Scores of other workers are members of the American Federation of State, County, Municipal Employees.

Fifty-four people signed up to say Plakon's proposal was a lot of things. Simple wasn't one of them.

One challenged the idea money was the key indicator of support. They said the requirement to have 50-percent of workers paying dues for a union to exist failed basic logic and was not democratic.

"If this applied to you, the House of Representatives would be decertified every year," said Michael Weinert, a machinist from New Port Richey. He spoke after one who suggested that fewer than 10 percent of voters contribute to lawmakers' campaigns.

Statewide, about 10 percent of state workers belong to an organized labor union. Florida is a "right to work" state. Employment is not dependent on joining the Florida Education Association or AFSCME, which claims more

than 7,000 dues-paying state employees. Those groups say they willingly represent all employees in a work unit when they bargain on behalf of dues paying members.

The Florida Chamber of Commerce and Americans for Prosperity support the proposal. They waived their time to talk before an audience clearly made up of workers. According to the speaker's cards, among the spectators, 54 were against Plakon's idea and three supported it.

Among the lawmakers, though, Plakon had overwhelming support.

Republican representatives grilled the FEA and AFL-CIO speakers. Each was kept at the lectern for about 20 minutes.

Plakon exempted first responders from the bill's requirements in the interest of having "labor peace" with public safety unions. The inconsistency, said Rep. Carlos Guillermo Smith, D-Orlando, revealed the bill to be more about politics than policy.

"This is about union busting," declared Smith. "And union busting hurts workers. Union busting hurts teachers. Union busting hurts children and that is why I vote no."

The vote divided along party lines, 14 Republicans voted yea, the Committee's eight Democrats said no. HB 11 awaits consideration by the full House.

“Trailblazing” female leaders honored at Tallahassee Community College

WTXL

Women are being honored at Tallahassee Community College for being a “trailblazer”.

Joanne Maltese is a forensic specialist with the Tallahassee Police Department.

She spends her days analyzing evidence and she takes blood samples and matches fingerprints to suspects.

She is a key piece of the puzzle in the group of people directly responsible for solving crime in the Capitol City and her work has not gone without notice.

Tonight Maltese will be honored by Tallahassee Community College, along with 10 others for being a “trailblazer”, a leader in their field, and community.

“Breaking into a male dominated field at the time was challenging, but through television and innovations and stem programs in school which have been wonderful bringing women up small girls through the sciences, most of our applicants for positions we have open are women,” said Maltese.

Tonight’s events starts at 5:30 p.m. with a ceremony at 6 p.m. The event takes place annually as a celebration of the accomplishments of local women.

Ten female community leaders, and 5 outstanding TCC students make up the pool of this year’s honorees.

TCC president disbanding Faculty Senate

Murdaugh says union makes body unnecessary

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Now that Tallahassee Community College faculty is being represented by a union, President Jim Murdaugh says there's no longer any need for a faculty senate.

Murdaugh is disbanding the faculty senate as of March 31 despite the concerns of veteran faculty members who say that the union and the senate have separate missions.

Murdaugh, in an email dated March 10, encouraged faculty to look at restructuring under some other entity to address issues not handled by the new United Faculty of Florida-TCC chapter. With the union addressing issues such as salaries and work schedules, the new entity can focus on areas such as academic affairs, curriculum, campus initiatives and other issues.

"As a result of the vote by full-time teaching faculty, librarians and counselors to be represented by the United Faculty of Florida as their certified bargaining agent, the role of the faculty senate at TCC was called into question," Murdaugh said in his memo.

"Under Florida law, the college is now required to deal exclusively with the UFF on all matters relating to wages, hours and working conditions. Inasmuch as the UFF is now the official voice of faculty on those matters, the continuation of Faculty Senate and the reassigned time afforded to and stipends paid to the chair and chair-elect are no longer necessary."

Jen Robinson, a professor of art history and the TCC United Faculty of Florida president, disagrees with the move. Robinson said most schools operate with a union and a faculty senate. The faculty body provides a forum to addressing issues other than those now handled by the union.

"You're basically cutting off an avenue for any kind of academic discussion," she said. "He's taking away the voice of our adjuncts. I don't know where they would go to address their issues."

Murdaugh was traveling Wednesday from Washington where he received the Association of College Unions International President of the Year award and was not immediately available for comment.

Angered by the administration's move to change longstanding work arrangements and frustrated with low

salaries, TCC faculty, librarians and counselors voted last August to be represented in collective bargaining by the UFF-TCC. About 66 percent of the 185 full-time faculty are dues-paying union members, Robinson said.

All faculty can attend faculty senate meetings, where they get updates from the administration, address academic and campus issues and have open forums. The senate also has a compensation committee that addressed compensation and other issues now handled being handled by the union.

Robinson said the senate's compensation committee has been a voice for the hundreds of adjunct instructors in seeking pay increases.

In moving to disband the faculty senate, Murdaugh urged Chairman Patrick McDermott to work with Provost Feleccia Moore-Davis "to find an alternate structure" that allows for discussion on ways to improve learning at TCC.

"My primary focus is to ensure that faculty continues to have a voice in shared governance— if not through a faculty senate then another avenue MUST be established," McDermott said in an email to the Tallahassee Democrat. "Dr. Murdaugh's email seems to be in support of this, but it is too early to know how things will pan out. At the end of the day, my priority is making sure all faculty will have a voice."

Robinson said during collective bargaining last fall, the administration suggested disbanding the faculty senate and asked the union to take the lead in dissolving the body.

"We were not interested; we believe in the senate, but it's a management right (to have a faculty senate)," she said. "But in my opinion, he wanted us to sign it and take the blame for it. He's been about this for a long time."

In his memo, Murdaugh said that when the issue arose twice during collective bargaining, union representatives "affirmed the College's discretion."

Robinson said UFF rejected the proposal with the understanding that having the faculty senate was not an issue the union would be bargaining about.

TCC loses heartbreaker in NJCAA

Eagles mount huge rally to take lead, only to fall 79-78

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

An epic comeback turned total heartbreaker. That's how Tallahassee Community College's women's basketball season ended on Tuesday evening.

After trailing No. 10 seed Shelton (Ala.) State Community College by as many as 20 points, seventh-seed Tallahassee rallied and led by five with 1:06 left in the game, only to lose 79-78 in the round of 16 at the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Championship.

Tallahassee's season ends at 23-8.

The Eagles appeared poised to escape the opening round after an 8-2 run yielded a 78-73 lead with 2:59 left. After forcing a turnover, Tallahassee misfired twice but collected a pair of offensive rebounds to take the game clock under 90 seconds.

With the shot clock winding down, Janessa Murphy's three-pointer rimmed in and out, but Shelton State couldn't convert on the other end and was forced to foul with 1:06 left.

That's when things got interesting.

Shelton State's Savannah Reier fouled Jas Hill on the inbounds pass, but Hill reacted with contact in the head area, deemed a flagrant two foul – and immediate ejection – by the officiating crew.

Reier hit both free throws, Shelton got possession and Cierra Johnson hit one of two from the line to pull the Bucs within a bucket, 78-76.

After Shelton State forced a shot clock violation, Johnson got back to the free throw line with 11.9 seconds on the clock. Again, she hit one of two, leaving the Eagles with a one-point lead.

Needing to foul or force a turnover, Shelton State got the latter when Johnson picked off a pass from Murphy, collected her own missed shot and drew a foul with 2.3 seconds left.

This time, Johnson hit both to put Shelton State in front 79-78.

Following a timeout, Tallahassee advanced the ball into the frontcourt but an errant pass on the inbounds ran out the clock on the game and the Eagles' hopes at a national championship.

"I thought we had taken their best punch...and we withstood things well, but they made some smarter plays in the end," said Tallahassee head coach Franqua "Q" Bedell.

"We started hitting shots and creating some turnovers that made them speed up the game...and we had to execute some things down the stretch, but we made some mistakes by not taking care of the basketball."

Mistakes were plentiful for Tallahassee early on. At one point, the Eagles had six turnovers and just one field goal attempt. The end result: a 24-10 first-quarter deficit.

Shelton State increased its lead to 30-10 two minutes into the second quarter and, with Lawriell Wilson saddled to the bench with three personal fouls, things looked grim for the Eagles.

But a 9-2 run sparked Tallahassee, and the Eagles eventually went to the half trailing 39-27.

Tallahassee came out firing in the third.

Five three-pointers fueled a 36-point quarter, one that saw Tallahassee take its first lead of the game, 61-60, on Japonica James' basket with 24 seconds left in the quarter. After Shelton State scored on its ensuing possession, Murphy drew a foul on a desperation heave at the buzzer and knocked down two of three free throws to give the Eagles a 63-62 lead.

Murphy, one of five sophomores on the roster, finished with 21 points off the bench to lead Tallahassee.

Wilson, despite the foul trouble, scored 18 in the final game of her record-breaking career.

Hill had 14 and James, 10.

TCC president says college's Faculty Senate will disband

WCTV

Tallahassee Community College's president says the college's Faculty Senate will disband at the end of the month.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh wrote in an email sent earlier in March that the college's "Faculty Senate as it has been constructed will cease to exist" effective March 31.

Murdaugh cites the faculty and staff vote to join the United Faculty of Florida union and says that the college is now required to deal with the union on all matters relating to wages, hours, and working conditions.

Murdaugh says he hopes faculty can find an "alternate structure that supports faculty discussion and collaboration aimed at improving teaching and learning at TCC."

The email was sent to TCC Faculty Senate Chair Patrick McDermott after McDermott requested Faculty Senate nominations.

TCC to host part-time job fair

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

Tallahassee Community College will host its Spring Part-Time Job Fair on March 29 from 9 a.m. to noon in the TCC Student Union Ballroom. The job fair will connect individuals searching for part-time jobs and internships with area companies looking to fill open positions. This event is not limited to TCC students. FSU and FAMU students and all members of the community are invited to attend.

Jobseekers do not have to pre-register for this event. Professional dress is required, and attendees should bring copies of their resume.

Free parking is available for all attendees.

For information and a list of employers, visit www.tccfuturelink.com/events or call (850) 201-9970.

Tallahassee CC to disband Faculty Senate

COLLEEN FLAHERTY
INSIDE HIGHER ED

Tallahassee Community College wants to do away with its Faculty Senate now that the faculty is represented by a union, the Tallahassee Democrat reported. Jim Murdaugh, college president, is reportedly disbanding the senate at the end of the month, despite objections from faculty members who say the senate and union have different functions. Murdaugh wrote in an email to faculty members earlier this month that they should think about creating some other representative body to handle issues not addressed in union contracts, such as academic affairs and curricula.

"Under Florida law, the college is now required to deal exclusively with the [union] on all matters relating to wages, hours and working conditions," he wrote. "Inasmuch as the [union] is now the official voice of faculty on those matters, the continuation of Faculty Senate and the reassigned time afforded to and stipends paid to the chair and chair-elect are no longer necessary."

The campus chapter of the United Faculty of Florida is affiliated with both the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers. Chapter president Jen Robinson, a professor of art history, told the Democrat that despite Murdaugh's statement, many institutions operate with a union and a Faculty Senate. "You're basically cutting off an avenue for any kind of academic discussion," she said, noting the decision could have a disparate impact on part-time faculty members not included in the contract. "He's taking away the voice of our adjuncts. I don't know where they would go to address their issues."

TCC names new police chief

ASHLEY WHITE
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

There's a new police chief in town at Tallahassee Community College.

Greg Gibson, who has 27 years of law enforcement experience, was sworn in Friday as the TCC Police Department chief of police. He succeeds Christopher Summers. Gibson previously served at TCCPD as a supervisor and chief of law enforcement for the Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco.

"I am honored and excited to rejoin the TCC team in this capacity," Gibson said in a release. "The TCC Police Department is staffed by people who are committed to student success and campus safety. We will continue the tradition of courteous service that our students, faculty, staff and guests expect and deserve."

The TCC graduate began his career in 1990 at the Tallahassee Police Department. He has worked at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

TCC will offer quality improvement course at Wakulla Center

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Tallahassee Community College Wakulla Center will offer an eight-week Certified Quality Improvement Associate prep course beginning Tuesday, April 11.

Topics include quality concepts, team basics, continuous improvement techniques and customer-supplier relations. The course is designed for individuals who wish to advance their career or boost their organizations' bottom line through mastery of quality improvement skills.

The course is scheduled for Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from 6 to 9 p.m., at the Wakulla Center. The course runs through June 1.

The CQIA course costs \$59. The price of the course does not include the cost of the CQIA certification exam or membership in the American Society for Quality.

Interested students should first apply to TCC at <https://forms.tcc.fl.edu/Application> and choose the Continuing Education option at the start of the application process, then register for the course through EagleNet.

For information, contact the Kim B. Williams Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at (850) 201-9720 or amtc@tcc.fl.edu.

Three women officers honored as trailblazers

JEFF BURLEW

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College's Florida Public Safety Institute honored three women who have blazed trails in their law-enforcement careers.

Chief Linda Butler of the Leon County Sheriff's Office, Col. Heather Hamlin of the Jefferson Correctional Institution and Trooper Chantale Jones of the Florida Highway Patrol were recognized Tuesday during the 11th annual Women in History Month breakfast at the institute outside Quincy.

Butler was the first female vice deputy, public information officer and major at the Sheriff's Office. Earlier this year, she was promoted again, to chief of the Department of Judicial Services.

Hamlin last year was promoted to colonel at JCI and served two years as assistant squad leader on the Rapid Response Team. Jones, of Davie, was the first female motorcycle trooper with the Highway Patrol.

Butler joined the Sheriff's Office in 1985 as a dispatcher. But her career path changed after going on a ride along with Deputy Mike Helms.

"He enjoyed his job so much he made me want to do it," said Butler, who became a patrol deputy in 1988. "Every day is different. You don't know what's going to happen when you go to work. You can change lives and make a difference. That's why I chose to get in it."

Former U.S. Rep. Gwen Graham, who gave the keynote speech, said the three officers join a "brave line" of women who have served in law enforcement since the late 1800s. But she noted women make up only 12 percent of the sworn officers nationwide. And she said studies show that rates of violence against women and sexual assault can be reduced by hiring female officers.

"I believe that our state and local communities must work to ensure women are given the same opportunities as men," she said, "and we continue to recruit women to ensure our public safety departments reflect the communities we serve."

Tallahassee Community College hosts part-time job fair

SYMONE DAVIS
WCTV

Tallahassee Community College gave students and community members the opportunity to find work for the summer.

The school hosted 24 employers at its semi-annual job fair. Business ranging from restaurants to tech companies were looking to fill mainly part-time positions.

TCC student and job seeker Toni Goodman said having all employers in one spot makes the job hunt much easier.

"Oh yeah it's way more convenient for me because I have trouble going from A to Z to get to other places to apply for jobs. So it's a good opportunity for me to come to school and after class I can just come here and apply," said Goodman.

TCC will host a full-time job and internship fair this fall.

Tallahassee Community College hosts part-time job fair

WTXL

Tallahassee Community College is opening its campus today for a part-time job fair.

The event kicked off this morning at the student union ballroom.

Job seekers dressed to impress potential employers.

They included the City of Tallahassee Human Resources Department, Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, as well as many others.

Organizers for the job fair say, it is a great way for the community to see what kind of jobs are on the market.

Today's fair was free and open to the public.

Organizers are looking to hold another one in the future.

TCC again celebrates Women's History Month

JEANNE O'KON
CHRONICLE

March is Women's History Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the lives and contributions of American women. Tallahassee Community College has maintained a tradition of recognizing and honoring outstanding community women at its annual Women's History Month ceremony. The event dates back to the 1990s, when some female faculty members in the History and Social Sciences Division organized the first TCC celebration.

Since that time, a hard-working committee consisting of faculty and staff has collaborated to plan the ceremony each year in March. Ten community women are selected from many nominations as the honorees. In addition, five "up-and-coming" female students nominated by TCC faculty and staff are also chosen for the honor.

The committee follows the national Women's History Month theme established annually by the National Women's History Project. The 2017 theme is "Honoring Trailblazing Women in Labor and Business," a theme that recognizes women who have challenged the role of women in business and other areas of the paid labor force. Women are recognized on the national level as honorees, as well as locally, as in the TCC ceremony.

The TCC honorees for 2017 represent diverse backgrounds, and each made her mark in a different way. This year's honorees include women who have made strides to protect the welfare of women and girls, who have achieved admirable goals, and who have inspired others to achieve.

Five "future leaders," outstanding TCC students, are also honored at the annual event.

Dr. Susan Blessing, director of the Women in Math, Science, and Engineering program at FSU and professor of physics, served as the Keynote Speaker at the ceremony on March 22nd. The ceremony and reception was held at the TCC Ghazvini Center for Health Care Education.

TCC president wins national award

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES/HAVANA HERALD

Jim Murdaugh, president of Tallahassee Community College, was selected as the Association of College Unions International President of the Year. The ACUI is a national organization that brings together college student union and student activities professionals whose mission is to build campus community.

Murdaugh was nominated for the award by Michael Coleman, TCC's dean of student services, who wanted to recognize Murdaugh's efforts in re-envisioning the role of TCC's student union.

According to Coleman, the TCC Student Union has become more than just a center of social activity and is now also a place where students can receive leadership training and engage with local nonprofits to strengthen the community and build their own skills.

"The student union is now the hub for service learning and leadership training at TCC," said Coleman. "As we looked at how to create an atmosphere of collaboration, leadership and service for our students, President Murdaugh became the catalyst for that change."

Murdaugh is the first community college president in the nation and the first Florida college or university leader to win the award.

"I am honored and humbled by this award. While I am proud to be part of our success as a college, this represents the collective effort of many dedicated education professionals at TCC to make our student union a place of collaboration, service, leadership and engagement."

(NOTE: A version of this story appeared in the Tallahassee Democrat's Campus Notes on March 27.)

TCC hosting admissions fair at Gadsden Center April 10

HAVANA HERALD

Tallahassee Community College will host an admissions fair at the TCC Gadsden Center on Monday, April 10, from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

The College will provide interested individuals with information about applying and registering for the Summer and Fall semesters, as well as program offerings. The fair is free to attend.

The Gadsden Center is located at 223 Pat Thomas Parkway in downtown Quincy.

For information, contact Desiree Gorman at (850) 558-3624 or gormand@tcc.fl.edu.

Godby High students get hands on STEM knowledge with Tallahassee Community College

WTLX

Godby High School students got some hands-on learning this morning, thanks to Tallahassee Community College.

The event exposes students to activities based in science, technology, engineering, and math or STEM.

Today, the teens got to operate robots and look at the mechanics that goes into creating them.

And those gearing up college were able to take part in financial aid and advising sessions to get ready for that next step.

Last year more than 70 Godby High graduates chose to attend TCC.

Six Big Bend College Students Named to the 2017 All-Florida Academic Team

CAPITAL SOUP

The Florida Department of Education today announced that six Big Bend college students from the Florida College System have been named to the 2017 All-Florida Academic Team. Statewide, 127 students are being honored for their outstanding academic achievement, leadership and service to their communities.

"I am pleased to congratulate each of these students on receiving this tremendous honor and to thank them for the dedication they have shown to their schools and communities," said Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart. "Florida College System institutions do an excellent job providing students with educational opportunities that lead to life-long success, and this accomplishment highlights that hard work."

Earning a spot on the All-Florida Academic Team affords students additional scholarship opportunities at Florida universities. Additionally, these students are considered for scholarships sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, ranging in value from \$1,000 – \$5,000, which students can use to continue their education anywhere in the nation.

"I'm excited to congratulate this group of outstanding scholars who have excelled in their studies and earned a place on the 2017 All-Florida Academic Team," said Division of Florida Colleges Chancellor Madeline Pumariega. "This is a prestigious honor, and I look forward to recognizing all of these students at the awards ceremony."

Tallahassee Community College students Sandra Artecona and Kelxy Butler are being recognized as members of the 2017 All-Florida Academic Team.

Chancellor Pumariega will recognize the members of the 2017 All-Florida Academic Team at an awards ceremony on April 7, 2017 in Tallahassee. To view full listing of student team members, [click here](#).

For more information about the Florida Department of Education, visit www.fldoe.org.

(NOTE: Article truncated for relevance to TCC.)

Firehouse Foundation grants bring new fire equipment

KARL ETTERS

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

More than \$54,000 in new fire equipment and training scholarships are going to Tallahassee-area fire rescue squads and students.

Through grants from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, the Tallahassee and Taylor County fire departments both received equipment and scholarship money is being awarded to students in Tallahassee Community College's firefighter program.

More than \$4 million has been donated to first responders in Florida since the foundation was started in 2005, said its procurement specialist Brady Rigdon on Thursday.

The foundations funding for grants comes from the sale of food at Firehouse Subs restaurants and its round-up program which allows patrons to donate the remainder of their bill to the fund.

Thursday, Rigdon also announced the scholarship allotments.

More than \$15,000 will go to nine students in TCC's firefighter minimum standards program to help continue their training.

TFD received a set of struts that help stabilize overturned vehicles and hardware to go with it, an air chisel and a battering ram.

Additionally, the Taylor County Fire Rescue received a simulated fire extinguisher training unit. The digital screen displays a flame, produces smoke and responds to extinguishers and fire hoses.

With limited resources, the digital technology helps educate the public and train firefighters on a budget, said TCFR Chief Dan Cassel.

"Having this it lets us have the live fire experience without actually having to go through the live fire work," Cassel said. "So it's been a good tool for us, especially for a small department like ours. We don't necessarily have all the same resources so this has been really, really helpful in providing us that same gateway to get the same training with less resources."

Featured college: Tallahassee Community College

FLORIDA COLLEGE SYSTEM CHANCELLOR'S NEWSLETTER

Tallahassee Community College (TCC) is a member of the Florida College System. TCC serves residents of Leon, Gadsden, and Wakulla counties across seven locations. TCC offers a variety of traditional degrees and certificates and partners with Flagler College and Lively Technical Center to offer additional baccalaureates and workforce programs. Special programs at TCC include study abroad and honors programs as well as a leadership institute.

Tallahassee Community College: The college of choice

HOMESCHOOLERS' GUIDE TO COLLEGES

Tallahassee Community College is one of the nation's top community colleges. Every semester, over 12,000 students choose TCC as the next step in their educational journey.

TCC students excel both inside and outside the classroom. They are serious about their education and about making an impact after graduation. Many are preparing for transfer to a university. In fact, nearly 75 percent of our Associate in Arts degree graduates go on to study at Florida State University, Florida A & M University and other state universities in Florida. Other students are learning the skills they need to move directly into the workforce in exciting fields from healthcare to law enforcement to engineering.

TCC offers over 90 academic and career programs and more than 600 courses. Plus, through our university partnerships, TCC students have the opportunity to earn bachelor's and master's degrees right on TCC's campus. Students may also participate in the TCC2FSU and TCC2FAMU programs to work toward a transfer to either university.

Campus life at TCC offers something for everyone. Our students have diverse interests—they're athletes, actors, artists, musicians, activists and entrepreneurs. Our Model United Nations program is nationally recognized and our speech and debate team is a perennial powerhouse at regional and national tournaments. The Pankowski Honors Lounge and the Lei Wang STEM Center provide dedicated spaces to study and socialize with students who share those interests. Get connected through our Campus Life office and learn more about the dozens of student clubs, organizations and volunteer opportunities.

The community we serve is always changing, and TCC anticipates those changes and grows to meet the needs of our students. Whether the College is leading the way with student-involved sustainability projects or advancing healthcare with our state-of-the-art healthcare education center, all of our initiatives work towards a single goal: student success.

Word of South Festival is bigger, better – and free

JIM MURDAUGH

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (MY VIEW)

Tallahassee Community College is proud to once again serve as presenting sponsor of the Word of South Festival of Literature and Music, which kicks off on Friday, April 7 at Cascades Park.

Word of South is unique to our area and the nation, bringing nationally recognized authors and musicians together in a myriad of ways. The response we've received – from both artists featured at the festival and attendees – has been nothing short of overwhelming.

This year's festival expands to 50 events, with more than 150 authors and musicians participating. From Shovels and Rope to Joan Osborne, and James McBride to Kathleen Parker, we've got a lineup that we feel is our best yet – and this year, the entire festival is free.

A few special things you'll want to consider as you prepare for the festival weekend:

» As the SunTrust Spring Football Game is the Saturday of the Word of South weekend, we're partnering with FSU and Seminole Boosters to present shows in the Capital City Amphitheater, Kleman Plaza and at College Town on Friday night, and running the trolley between Doak Campbell Stadium and Cascades Park Saturday.

» We're pleased to partner with Midtown Reader, Tallahassee's new independent bookstore, to sponsor a "Midtown Reader Tent" featuring Florida authors such as Padgett Powell, Christina Gonzalez, Robert Olen Butler, Diane Roberts, Bob Shacochis and the authors of Saints of Old Florida.

» We're proud to work this year with Leon County Schools, Walmart and the Early Learning Coalition to bring a remarkable Kids Fest to Word of South, featuring the renowned author and recording artist Lisa Loeb. Every child attending receives a book!

» We're doing more "mu-aushups" (our authors and musicians appearing together) in 2017. Check out author Adam Haslett appearing with saxophonist Darius Jones, David Kirby appearing with the cellist Ben Sollee, Brad Watson with Randall "Big Daddy" Webster, and more!

» We've got some characters this year at Word of South — check out Harrison Scott Key, winner of the 2016 Thurber Prize for American Humor, the combination of Joshilyn Jackson and Lydia Netzer, as well as the return of Minton Sparks from last year's festival.

» Other notable events include the award-winning fantasy writer Nnedi Okorafor, the pairing of Bitter Southerner editor Chuck Reece and the musician Marshall Ruffin, the former "Civil Wars" musician John Paul White, and a unique "in-the-round" experience with poets James Kimbrell and Barbara Hamby and musicians Laura Minor and Del Suggs.

Hosting a world-class festival like Word of South could not be done without the support of many sponsors, particularly Visit Tallahassee/Leon County, the city of Tallahassee, the state of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, Figg Engineering, the Florida Lottery, Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare and many more.

Word of South attracts fans of the arts from across the southeast to Tallahassee. We are proud to be affiliated with it and grateful for founder Mark Mustian's vision and commitment to bringing such talent in literature and music to our city as part of a truly incredible weekend.

Join us down at Cascades Park next weekend. For more information about the festival, including the event schedule and park map, visit Wordof-SouthFestival.com or download the Word of South app.

Florida's newest Supreme Court Justice has deep roots in Tallahassee

Alan Lawson gives credit to many in Tallahassee who inspired his successful legal career

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

When former appellate Judge C. Alan Lawson is sworn in Wednesday as the Florida Supreme Court's 86th justice, the ceremony not only marks a milestone in his legal career, it will be a testament to the Tallahassee role models he encountered along the way.

Lawson, 55, credits the late Leon High School journalism teacher Judy Steverson with teaching him confidence in addressing important people and finding ease in asking "tough questions."

He credits being in the late Iona Smith's class in logic and rhetoric at Leon for exposing him to Aristotle and Plato and the value of thought.

It was at Tallahassee Community College that a class in business law taught by former Supreme Court Justice Fred Karl helped him crystallize his chosen profession.

"It's a little bit surreal having lived in the shadows of these important buildings in downtown Tallahassee, where the heads of government reside," Lawson said, sitting in his chamber office.

"Growing up, I was awed by it. I haven't lost the sense of gratitude and awe of knowing that I'm here. It's certainly not something I envisioned as a kid growing up in Tallahassee."

Lawson's family moved to Tallahassee when he was 2. His father, Charles Alan Lawson, worked as the Florida Interstate Compact administrator in the Florida Probation and Parole Commission. His mother, Velma, was a registered nurse at Tallahassee Memorial.

They lived in Tallahassee's Town and Country neighborhood, between Old Bainbridge Road and North Monroe Street.

Dr. Alex "Steve" Steverson, owner of Bradfordville Animal Hospital, grew up with Lawson. His father, Alex Steverson Sr. and Lawson's father were bunkmates in the Army.

Steverson and Lawson both attended First Baptist Church downtown.

"He was always prepared, always unflappable," said Steverson, a nephew of Judy Steverson's. "His comments were always thoughtful. He never seemed to be out of sorts; always in control and steady."

Steverson remembers the two of them working at the church's summer camp.

"He would challenge kids to ask him any question and he would answer," he said. "That was pretty bold."

The popular high-school hangout at the time was Barnaby's Pizza, then on North Monroe Street.

"Alan drove an old beat up Mazda pickup. It broke down on us a couple of times."

Steverson said he wasn't surprised his friend chose law as a career. He was a deep thinker and a natural wordsmith.

"He is the epitome of what I see a good judge being."

Lawson entered Tallahassee Community College and earned an associate's in science degree with honors and his EMT certification. He enrolled at Clemson University, where in 1983 he graduated with a degree in parks and recreation and tourism management, with an emphasis on natural resource management.

After graduating with honors, he returned to Tallahassee. He worked briefly for the Gadsden County ambulance service before beginning law school at FSU. In addition to Karl, he also was influenced by the late Tallahassee attorney Bill Roberts.

"I was fascinated by his career and Judge Karl's career," Lawson said. "I think they were the main two influences."

(NOTE: Article truncated for relevance to TCC.)

TCC hosting admissions fairs at Gadsden, Wakulla Centers

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College will host admissions fairs at two of the college's satellite locations in Gadsden and Wakulla counties.

Interested individuals may visit the TCC Gadsden Center on Monday, April 10, or the TCC Wakulla Center on Tuesday, April 11, to receive information about applying and registering for the summer and fall semesters, as well as program offerings at all TCC locations. Both fairs are from 2 to 4:30 p.m. and are free to attend.

The Gadsden Center is located at 223 Pat Thomas Parkway in downtown Quincy. The Wakulla Center is located in the Centennial Bank building at 2932 Crawfordville Highway in Crawfordville.

For information on the Gadsden Center fair, contact Desiree Gorman at (850) 558-3624 or gormand@tcc.fl.edu. For information on the Wakulla Center fair, contact Tammy Brannon at (850) 926-0275 or brannont@tcc.fl.edu.

FAMU, TCC weigh in on House and Senate higher ed budget plans

LYNN HATTER
WFSU

Tallahassee's higher education establishment is warily eyeing university and community college plans in the House and Senate. Florida A&M University and Tallahassee Community college leaders are looking to opposite legislative chambers for support.

The Florida Senate wants to increase university funding, and if that happens, both Florida State University and Florida A&M University would get additional dollars. That possibility has FAMU Trustee Kim Moore is hoping the Senate's higher education plan will prevail.

"We understand that there are some challenges and we're always trying to work through with limited resources...but the whole idea of our focus being toward students and the success that comes to FAMU and the state of Florida as a result of that investment, that's what we're counting on them to make the right decision," she says.

But Tallahassee Community College President Jim Murdaugh says he "might disagree" with that assessment.

That's because the Senate is proposing a \$95 million dollar reduction to community colleges, with most of the money, \$55 million, coming in the form of reductions to developmental education classes. The House however, is pitching only \$65 million in reductions to the colleges, and Murdaugh says the difference in the spending proposals represent different philosophies between the two chambers on the role of higher education.

"They seem to be at a very different place philosophically about higher education. You cannot have a successful and robust economy in Florida if you don't have a significant investment in community colleges as well as universities," Murdaugh says.

Eagles sweep Pensacola State for Townsend's 400th win

DUSTIN LEWIS

WTXL

The Tallahassee Community College Eagles swept Pensacola State College 6-0 and 2-1 in doubleheader softball action on Tuesday evening.

TCC gained sole possession of fourth place in the Panhandle Conference and improved to 20-18 (4-10 PC) with the victory. Head Coach Patti Townsend also recorded career win number 400 - all at TCC - with the game two win.

In game one, Alycia Smith opened the scoring with a run in the bottom of the first. After a scoreless second, the Eagles' offense came back to life in the third. With Smith on second base, Kristin Gunter smashed a ball deep into right field for a double that brought Smith home for her second run of the game to increase TCC's lead to 2-0.

Later in the inning, Samantha Malik hit a two-run homer to bring the score to 5-0. Malik has 12 home runs on the season.

Malik would be one-upped by Gunter in the fifth inning. Gunter recorded a solo homer for her 13th home run of the season, tying the school record set by Amanda Ake in 2011.

Raya Moncus paced the Eagles in the circle in game one. She finished with three strikeouts and helped hold Pensacola State scoreless across seven innings.

Smith, Gunter, and Elisa Cecchetti recorded six of the Eagles' eight hits in game one. Malik finished with one hit and two RBIs.

In game two, the Eagles broke a scoreless tie in the second inning. With Casey Durham on second base, Alyssa NeSmith knocked a ball in between first and second that bounced deep into the outfield, scoring Durham to make it 1-0 in TCC's favor.

Later in the inning, and with Malik on first, Brandie Callaway hit a grounder to third but Emily Corbitt's throw shot past the bag at second and rolled all the way to the right field fence, scoring Malik for a 2-0 lead.

Pensacola State earned their first run of the doubleheader in the third inning, but TCC would go on to hold the Pirates scoreless the rest of the contest.

The Eagles' defense was on full display in the win.

Gunter made a spectacular play in the fourth inning, corralling a ball that was hopping along the third base foul line before making the cross-field throw to Cecchetti to force an out at first base. In the fifth, Durham slid to her knees to catch a ball deep in left field, and she ended the inning by coming down with another fly ball out.

In the sixth, Cecchetti, playing at first base after catching in game one, caught a liner then stepped on the bag at first to double off the runner for the double play. The Eagles finished the game with two double plays.

Pensacola State threatened to tie the game in the seventh inning as runners advanced to second and third base. Cecchetti tagged out a hitter along the first base line and then NeSmith caught a popup at the plate for out number two.

Durham ended the game with her best play of the evening. With the tying run on third base, she made an acrobatic catch deep in left field to seal the win.

NeSmith led the Eagles with two hits and an RBI. Durham, Callaway, and Cassidy Strickling each finished with one hit.

Brooke Bates started the game and finished with one strikeout across four innings to earn the win. Moncus pitched the final three innings to notch the save.

Tallahassee will be back in action on Thursday when it travels to Gulf Coast State College for a doubleheader beginning at 5 p.m.

Honors & awards

A summary listing of honors and awards at colleges around the nation

COMMUNITY COLLEGE WEEK

Jim Murdaugh, president of Tallahassee Community College (Fla.), was selected as the Association of College Unions International President of the Year. The ACUI is a national organization that brings together college student union and student activities professionals whose mission is to build campus community. Murdaugh was nominated for the award by Michael Coleman, TCC's dean of student services, who wanted to recognize Murdaugh's efforts in re-envisioning the role of TCC's Student Union.

According to Coleman, the TCC Student Union has become more than just a center of social activity and is now also a place where students can receive leadership training and engage with local nonprofits to strengthen the community and build their own skills. "The student union is now the hub for service learning and leadership training at TCC," said Coleman. "As we looked at how to create an atmosphere of collaboration, leadership and service for our students, President Murdaugh became the catalyst for that change." Murdaugh is the first community college president in the nation and the first Florida college or university leader to win the award.

TCC hosts admissions fair at Wakulla Center

WAKULLA NEWS

Tallahassee Community College will host an admissions fair at the TCC Wakulla Center on Tuesday, April 11, from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

The College will provide interested individuals with information about applying and registering for the Summer and Fall semesters, as well as program offerings. The fair is free to attend.

The Wakulla Center is located in the Centennial Bank building at 2932 Crawfordville Highway in Crawfordville.

For information, contact Tammy Brannon at (850) 926-0275 or brannont@tcc.fl.edu.

Faculty Senate remains at TCC

Murdaugh reverses decision to disband

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The Faculty Senate at Tallahassee Community College won't be disbanded after all.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh has agreed there remains a need to maintain the Faculty Senate, albeit, in a restructured format.

He made the decision after meeting with Faculty Senate Chair Patrick McDermott to discuss the faculty's role in shared governance of the college.

"I think it's a good thing," McDermott said Tuesday. "We are just changing the way we do things. We still need a voice for curriculum and student success. The idea of shared governance needs to be apparent on this campus."

The Faculty Senate at TCC was created in 1997.

The reversal follows a March 10 memo Murdaugh sent to McDermott saying he was dissolving the Senate as of March 31.

He reasoned issues involving the workplace, teaching loads and salaries that had been addressed by the Senate's compensation committee now would be addressed by the United Faculty of Florida-TCC.

"Inasmuch as the UFF is now the official voice of faculty on those matters, the continuation of Faculty Senate and the reassigned time afforded to and stipends paid to the chair and chair-elect are no longer necessary," Murdaugh wrote.

Workplace and compensation issues were about a third of the senate's focus, McDermott said.

In the email, Murdaugh suggested McDermott work with TCC Provost Feleccia Moore-Davis to discuss an alternative body that would address non-workplace concerns.

"After talking with you and others about concerns and potential options, I am now optimistic that we can reshape the Faculty Senate, along with its Constitution and Bylaws, rather than dissolve it," Murdaugh followed up in a March 29 email.

"As I mentioned, I am keenly interested in a structure that will represent the entire faculty and not just the 43 percent of the TCC faculty who are currently paying UFF dues through payroll deduction," Murdaugh wrote.

He asked the Senate to develop a new set of bylaws that would "provide a venue for faculty voice on matters related to student success and academic issues."

McDermott said the Faculty Senate supported the idea.

The Senate's steering committee is meeting to discuss how to move forward. Part of that will be reviewing how faculty senates and unions operate on other campuses, such as Florida A&M and Florida State.

It also will review its committee structure, bylaws and constitution.

McDermott said an ambitious goal is to have a draft by the end of the semester. It most likely will have to be fine-tuned by August. Once approved, it will be presented to Moore-Davis and Murdaugh for review.

The revision doesn't need the approval of TCC's District Board of Trustees, McDermott said.

McDermott added it is important the college's adjunct professors remain involved under the new structure.

The Faculty Senate is open to all full-time faculty. Adjunct professors attend meetings but have no voting authority. But in the past, the Senate's compensation committee has advocated on behalf of adjunct professors.

"They really don't have a voice," said McDermott, an associate professor who teaches College Success & Career Planning.

"We can't negotiate for them," he said. "We can make strong recommendations to the administration in a resolution or recommendation to take it if they want it."

With no takers, 21st Century grant will end

Youth coalition's programs at community center likely will be affected as well

WILLIAM SNOWDEN
WAKULLA NEWS

Tallahassee Community College confirmed last week that it would not renew the 21st Century grant, which covers after-school tutoring for at-risk students.

The email was sent out Friday after a meeting with TCC officials, County Administrator David Edwards, Commission Chairman Ralph Thomas, and Superintendent of Schools Bobby Pearce.

The email, sent by Sheri Rowland, vice president for student affairs, confirmed that the notice was being served "that the 5-year, 21st Century grant would end July 2017, and that the College had decided not to reapply for the grant as it fell outside the scope of our mission. This was the same decision made in Gadsden County at the end of their 21st Century grant last year," Rowland wrote.

TCC committed to running the tutoring program throughout the summer, until the end of July 2017, so "parents and students currently in the program will have a reasonable amount of time to find alternative plans for after-school and summer programming for next year."

TCC offered assistance to any other community agencies that might want to pursue the grant.

Commissioner Thomas, who wanted the meeting in order to see if there was any way to overcome TCC's objections to continuing the program, said he has heard of two names of groups that might be interested, but nothing concrete.

The after school program held a Family Night on Thursday at the community center to answer questions from parents. Dozens of parents expressed concern about the fate of the grant, and questioned what they could do to keep it going.

The parents mostly wanted to know why the program was ending and who made the choice, since they depend on it.

Margo Thomas, who works with the grant for TCC, blamed it on a lack of support from the school board and county.

Superintendent Pearce continued to be frustrated by that view, saying that the Wakulla County School District has its own after school program and was never involved with 21st Century beyond providing bus transportation for students on a fee basis.

"I feel like I'm being thrown under the bus," Pearce said he told attendees at Friday's meeting.

He said he asked the representative from TCC to directly ask him to take over the program so that he could formally refuse it.

Pearce noted that, if the school system did take over the program, it wouldn't save any of the jobs for people currently employed there, since he would use district staff.

Of course, the parents are looking for a good after school program – and the 21st Century program is free.

The school system does have after school, but it costs \$8 a day. The district also offers tutoring, but it is typically on school campuses, Pearce said.

Thomas said that all the past talk that the Achilles heel of the program was the \$40,000 that TCC had spent for snacks for the kids wasn't the real reason the college was stepping back – he said TCC indicated it wanted to focus more on its mission of secondary education, and that there was also a concern that the federal funding for the program was going to be cut.

"I asked them if there was any way to overcome their objections," Thomas said, but the answer was no.

It has been noted that the loss of the 21st Century grant will be devastating to the Wakulla County Coalition for Youth's Ounce of Prevention grant, which provides services to at-risk youth, including life choices programs, and counseling.

The youth coalition's programs depend on the students from the 21st Century to make its numbers work. Without those students, it appears the youth coalition's programs may not be able to continue.

With no takers, 21st Century grant will end....

continued

The coalition operates the One Stop Center at the community center as a clearinghouse for those in need.

A youth coalition meeting was set for Wednesday, April 5, and going forward was likely to be on the agenda.

Thomas said that, prior to the Ounce grant, the youth coalition was a group that came together to work on issues affecting the county's young people – but had no paid employees. There are a handful of paid workers at the One Stop.

Asked what would happen to the community center without 21st Century or the youth coalition's programs, County Administrator Edwards continued to be upbeat that the county would work to add more recreational programs and rentals of the building.

His goal, he said, was to have a real community center.

Tallahassee CC, in reversal, keeps Faculty Senate

SCOTT JASCHIK

INSIDE HIGHER ED (QUICK TAKES)

Tallahassee Community College's president, Jim Murdaugh, has agreed to reverse a decision he made to disband the Faculty Senate, The Tallahassee Democrat reported.

Murdaugh had earlier said that the recent decision of faculty members to unionize made the Faculty Senate irrelevant. But he has agreed to keep the body going, although with some clarity about issues to be handled through collective bargaining and those to be reviewed by the Faculty Senate.

Women in law enforcement honored at FPSI

SANDI BEARE
HAVANA HERALD

The Florida Public Safety Institute (FPSI) celebrated the month of March that serves to recognize and honor women of achievement last Tuesday, March 28th with a gala breakfast and special keynote speaker, former-Congresswoman Gwen Graham. Graham, who represented the former District 2 in the Big Bend area until district lines were redrawn recently, is a potential gubernatorial candidate.

FPSI Executive Director E.E. Eunice introduced Graham with these words: "She worked both sides of the aisle to get things done, and has worked hard to save Apalachicola Bay. She was on the Armed Services Committee and introduced the Veterans Act to help injured vets as well as on the Agriculture Committee assisting with the USDA initiatives to help Florida farmers. She's following in her father's (former Florida Governor and US Senator Bob Graham) footsteps."

Congresswoman Graham gave special words by recognizing the law enforcement community's fallen law enforcement sister, Orlando Police Lieutenant Debra Clayton with a moment of silence to honor her.

"One of the greatest honors of my time in public service has been getting to meet with officers who have performed heroic actions to save lives and meeting with family members of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice," said Graham. "For those of you who don't know, my commitment to law enforcement and our officers is a personal one. My husband Steve Hurm has spent most of his professional life in law enforcement. Our marriage has given me a firsthand view of your commitment to protecting our communities."

She recognized all the female law enforcement members in the audience and told them that they were part of a brave line of women in public safety dating back to

America's first female police officer, Marie Connolly Owens, who began with the Chicago Police Department in 1891. In addition, she recognized Georgia Ann Robinson, America's first African American officer who joined the Los Angeles police force 25 years later.

Robinson was quoted as saying, "In my present position I expect to accomplish much good," she told the LA Times. "In fact so much has already been done through this new office that there is no end to its possibilities." Graham said, "I was taken aback by that quote, because I believe it is

the driving reason all of us have entered public service, whether public safety or running for elected office - we join to help people; to do good."

Graham said in the US Congress, she was one of 104 women, less than 25% of Congress. There are even fewer women in public safety: women make up just 12% of sworn officers nationwide, she said.

FPSI Executive Director Eunice then praised the women in law enforcement being honored at the event:

Leon County Sheriff's Office's Chief of the Judicial Bureau Linda Butler – recently elevated by Sheriff Walt McNeil to her current position. Butler said she's been humbled over the years by her family, friends and co-workers. "It's an honor to represent our growing ranks. I quickly learned the art of persuasion," she said about making difficult arrests. "The key is to surround myself with those who are role models. I try to be a coach, teacher and mentor; to lead by example; to encourage and praise others."

Chief Butler is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, DEA Basic and Advanced Narcotics Schools and Florida Sheriff's Association's Commander's Academy, among other milestones.

Colonel Heather Hamlin of the Jefferson Correctional Institution – Col. Hamlin began her law enforcement career at the Liberty County Correctional Institution in 1998. She said her job entailed shift work, working holidays; "I've been inside prisons all my life," she said in thanking her family for always believing in her and being overwhelmed by her staff and supervisors who supported her and were there at the ceremony. She was selected for the Munitions Squad on the Rapid Response Team for her Institution, serving two years of which she was Assistant Squad Leader.

Trooper Chantale Jones, Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) – Trooper Jones started with FHP in 2004; in 2016, Jones became the first FHP female motorcycle trooper. She said she had learned to have a backbone from her mother, father, husband and auntie, and thanked FHP for her opportunities. The two-week motor school was not an easy journey, but was grateful to her fellow motorcyclists, who are like a second family. She asked for special prayers for one of the cyclists, Trooper Carlos Osaquos, who was involved in a horrific crash in South Florida.

Florida community colleges ask lawmakers not to cut their budgets

SARAH MUELLER

WFSU

Legislators and community college presidents are pleading with leaders in the Florida House and Senate to spare community colleges from budget cuts. The House and Senate have very different budget proposals. But college presidents said they don't like either one.

Tallahassee Community College student Jasmine Green plans to transfer to Florida State University soon. Green is able to get her degree in criminology without a lot of student loan debt because she started at a community college.

"My story, you know, not thinking that I could be successful or I could you know stand here in front of you guys and thinking that oh because I don't have the test scores, I don't have the SAT scores, I'm not able to get into a university," she said.

Rep. Shevrin Jones, D-West Park, said the Florida College System is a leader in helping students of color graduate from college. He said it also helps military veterans and older students earn degrees and get job training.

"Eleven Florida College System institutions have been placed in the top 100 colleges nationwide for the number of associate degrees awarded to minority students," he said. "And as I stand here today as one of the ranking members of the Education Committee and as a member on an Appropriation Committee, it bothers me in the direction that we are moving in the cuts of our college system."

The Florida College System is made up of 28 member colleges. The Senate is increasing university funding while reducing community colleges funding by cutting \$55 million in developmental education classes. Senate President Joe Negron gives universities an extra \$312 million. Negron said he wants Florida to have universities that draw top students and faculty.

"We want our universities to be absolute destination universities, to be elite, to be universities that are in the category of University of Virginia, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Michigan," he said. "That that's an aspirational goal that's achievable over time."

Negron said community colleges should refocus on awarding two-year degrees and he wants to curb their expansion of 4-year programs. But Sen. Gary Farmer said he thinks the Senate's proposal is more unfair than the House version, which cuts both colleges and universities. The House is considering cutting more than \$63 million from colleges. It also reduces foundation money to each college by \$9.8 million annually starting next year. House lawmakers questioned college foundation spending during the committee meetings on higher education. Records released by the House Appropriations Committee show the University of Florida Foundation spent \$61,000 on a trip to Paris last year. The Tallahassee Community College Foundation spent nearly \$11,000 for in-state travel. Rep. Carlos Trujillo said the House cut colleges and universities that were using operational money to pay for foundation staff.

"So across the system, it's about 80 million dollars," he said. "If you look in my presentation you can find the answers. It'll tell you each college and each university how much they were paying per foundation staff."

Cynthia Bioteau is President of Florida State College at Jacksonville. She said the foundations are used to match state funding with private donations.

"Our foundations provide 75 percent of what donors give goes directly to student scholarships," she said. "These kinds of budget reductions will compromise not only access, but need based aid."

The House and Senate will present their respective spending plans them on the chamber floors next week. Negotiating on a final proposal will start later this month.

Florida community colleges facing huge cuts in proposed budgets

JAKE STOFAN

WCTV

The House and Senate budget proposals include some major cuts to state colleges. We're now learning how these budget cuts, aimed at remedial education, might affect students.

State colleges are facing over \$50 million in cuts now proposed by state lawmakers.

College presidents estimate tens of thousands of students statewide could be impacted.

Dr. Cynthia Bioteau, President of Florida State College at Jacksonville, says, "It just wouldn't set people up well and people might get overwhelmed and a lot of people do use the tutoring resources that are here at TCC."

The cut could reduce the amount and quality of remedial education services like tutoring, a service some students need to succeed.

Delaney Stoner, a Tallahassee Community College student, says, "It's not that the services will go away. They just won't be as readily available and in fact they will be group services as opposed to individual services."

The reason the colleges say they need so much to bring incoming students up to speed academically, is because many of them are coming back to class after years of working.

Dr. Carol F. Probstfeld, President of the State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, says, "It's important to be able to provide that hope and reach out to these people and tell them, we can help them get up to speed so they can compete and perform at the college level."

Some state colleges are facing the reality that they might have to make cuts to their top programs.

Dr. Ava L. Parker, President of Palm Beach State College, says, "The ones that put folks right to work, the ones where we have 100% job placement, those are the ones that are going to be impacted."

As it stands now, community colleges service three times as many students as universities in the state and have only a quarter of the amount of funding.

Dr. Ed Meadows, President of Pensacola State College, says, "It's obvious that the Florida college system is the backbone of our education and training in the state of Florida."

If these cuts become law, college presidents worry it will be Florida's workforce that will pay the ultimate price.

The most severe budget cuts would result in a 5% total reduction in funding for state colleges.



Tallahassee Community College student Brianna Mead (center) poses for a photo with Florida College System Chancellor Madeline Pumariega and Florida State University President John Thrasher at the annual awards ceremony for the FCS All-Florida Academic Team on Friday, April 7, 2017. Mead introduced Thrasher at the ceremony.

TCC team places fourth in state Brain Bowl tournament

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Tallahassee Community College Brain Bowl Team won six matches and lost only three to earn a fourthplace ranking at the Florida College System Activities Association State Brain Bowl Tournament. The competition was held at Gulf Coast State College in Panama City on March 30 and April 1. Working against the clock and their opponents, competitors answered challenging questions from the areas of math, science, history, humanities and social sciences.

Team members include captain Dylan Johnson, Maribeth Curci, Melelot Ferrede, Jeremy Jones and Ram Moore. Ferrede was one of the heroes of the day, catching an error in a math question that created a tie and allowed Tallahassee to win in overtime against Central Florida in the final round of the tournament.

Coach David Proctor, professor of history at TCC, was named FCSAA Brain Bowl Coach of the Year.

All five current team members are sophomores, so Proctor is now recruiting new players from among TCC's current freshmen class and high school seniors who plan to attend TCC in fall 2017. Members of the TCC Brain Bowl team receive partial scholarships in recognition of their participation.

Traffic safety day at TCC

HAVANA HERALD

A "TCC Traffic Safety Day: Taking Action on Distraction" will be held Thursday, April 20, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Tallahassee Community College Student Union.

TCC will host "Taking Action on Distraction," a traffic safety event designed to increase awareness regarding traffic safety and distracted driving hazards. Students in TCC journalism professor Reggie Grant's class are coordinating the event as part of Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April to demonstrate the dangers of distracted driving and provide general traffic safety tips to fellow students. The event is open to the public.

Contact Reggie Grant, (850) 201-8055 or grantr@tcc.fl.edu, for more information.

Gadsden Center celebrating anniversary

Gadsden Center continuing to grow after first full year

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES/HAVANA HERALD

The Tallahassee Community College Gadsden Center celebrated its first birthday on March 21.

In its initial year of operations, the Center has navigated from the after-school program previously offered at the TCC Quincy House to a college preparation and placement system, as well as offering career resources and trainings.

"The TCC Gadsden Center has seen a tremendous growth in both our classes and the use of the resource room by students and the community," said Desiree Gorman, manager of the center.

Among the Gadsden Center's cornerstone offerings are programs in GED preparation, English as a Second or Other Language, and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning. All three classes are at or near full capacity.

The HVAC program is even bringing in students from outside the area. Student Mike Farrow commutes from Panama City each evening Monday through Thursday to take classes at the center, which allows him to continue working during the day.

"I wanted to learn a skill set that would not only better me in my present career field, but also give me job stability in my future," Farrow said.

As for the GED and ESOL programs, the Center has provided a conveniently accessible location for students in Gadsden County with the same services and capabilities available on the College's main campus.

Students in the GED program at the Quincy location developed a motto to inspire others considering the coursework: "Take charge of your future. It's never too late. Strive for success."

Other educational offerings include testing services for distance learning students, Criminal Justice Basic Abilities Test (CJBAT) testing for those wishing to pursue training in law enforcement, and a digital hub to connect individuals with TCC representatives from Admissions, Advising, the Career Center, the Cashier's office, Financial Aid and Veterans Affairs.

The Center has also held admissions fairs for students in Gadsden County, developed local partnerships to increase referrals for social services and educational resources, and crafted a system to provide job leads and employment opportunities to visitors.

The community partnerships forged since the March 2016 opening of the center facilitated the recent launch of a free Safety Series training program for businesses, employees and Gadsden County residents to learn important techniques such as CPR and first aid. According to Gorman, the College will continue exploring ways to expand service offerings and meet the needs of Gadsden County.

"We encourage anyone who wants to learn more about going to TCC, advancing their education, accessing services as an alum, or looking for a resource for job searches and employment needs to visit," she said.

The TCC Gadsden Center is located at 223 Pat Thomas Parkway in downtown Quincy.

For information, contact Desiree Gorman at (850) 558-3624 or gormand@tcc.fl.edu.



Upcoming Offerings Servicing Gadsden County:

FIRST AID/CPR TRAINING

March 31 | 1 – 3 p.m. | FREE (Registration required)

ADMISSIONS FAIR (Summer/Fall registration information)

April 10 | 2 – 4:30 p.m. | FREE

ACTIVE BYSTANDER TRAINING

April 28 | 1 – 5 p.m. | FREE (Registration required)

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

April 29 | 8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. | \$59

GED PREP

May 8 – June 14 | Monday - Thursday | 9 a.m. – noon | \$30

ESOL

May 8 – June 14 | Monday through Thursday | 6 – 9 p.m. | \$30

CIVILIAN RESPONSE TO ACTIVE SHOOTER EVENT (CRASE) TRAINING

May 19 | 1 – 3 p.m. | FREE (Registration required)

Ongoing Offerings:

ADMISSIONS

Mondays | 1 – 4 p.m. | No appointment needed

TESTING CENTER

Tuesdays/Thursdays | 9 – 11 a.m. and 2 – 4 p.m.
Fridays | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

CJBAT TESTING

Wednesdays | 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. | \$35 (Registration required)

**(850) 558-3620 | GadsdenCenter@tcc.fl.edu
www.tcc.fl.edu/gadsdencenter**



Two TCC Gateways in Wakulla County

Join TCC for these upcoming offerings:



WAKULLA ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE

170 Preservation Way • (850) 558-3500

Explore the Black Backwater of Tate's Hell Swamp

April 29, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. | \$22

**Students will need to bring a lunch and their own kayak/canoe*



TCC WAKULLA CENTER

2932 Crawfordville Highway • (850) 922-6290

Admissions Fair (Summer/Fall registration information)

April 11, 2 – 4:30 p.m. | FREE

CQIA Quality Improvement Associate Exam Prep

April 11 – June 1, Tuesdays/Thursdays, 6 – 9 p.m. | \$59

Ongoing Wakulla Center Offerings:

Admissions

Tuesdays, 1 – 4 p.m. | No appointment needed

Testing Center

Mondays/Wednesdays, 9 – 11 a.m. and 2 – 4 p.m.

Fridays, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

CJBAT Testing

Thursdays, 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. | \$35 (Registration required)

TCC has the college experience and affordability your students are seeking

Tallahassee Community College is one of the top 15 community colleges in the nation based on student success rates, return on investment and affordability. We offer transfer programs to neighboring Florida State University and Florida A & M University, in addition to four-year degree opportunities right on TCC's campus. Plus, Tallahassee is an ideal Florida city for college students.



Find out more about our transfer programs, including TCC2FSU, TCC2FAMU and the TCC-Flagler bridge to teaching program at:

www.tcc.fl.edu/link