

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*

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January 14 - February 17, 2017



# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## *In the News*

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January 14 - February 17, 2017

# TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

*In the News*



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## College presidents support tuition freeze

MIKE VASILINDA

WCTV

Meeting in Tallahassee today, Florida's 28 state and community college presidents are embracing the Governor's call to limit tuition and fees in the coming year.

Governor Rick Scott called for a tuition freeze, and for the first time, a freeze on fee increases, which are often tied to specific needs such as healthcare.

Daytona Beach State College President Thomas Labasso says the freeze helps fulfill the college's mission of an education for all.

"Access is not just for an admissions policy. It's also, can I afford to go? So, we support an affordable higher education opportunity for citizens of our state."

**Tallahassee Community College President Jim Murdaugh says lower fees have been a hallmark of the college system, but also says the colleges would like to see some increase in state funding this year.**

**"We've held tuition and fees down, we frozen tuition and fees now for a number of years. We are proud of that, I'm proud of that as an institution, we're proud of that as a system. We hope that we'll get additional state funding to help us improve and continue to improve the quality of what we do for students."**

In addition to a tuition and fee freeze, the Governor is also calling for an end to the sales tax on textbooks.

## Colleges gear up for legislative battles

### Upcoming Senate bill to address major issues

LLOYD DUNKELBERGER  
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Florida state colleges are preparing for a renewed legislative fight this spring over how the 28-college system is governed and the number of bachelor's degrees they can award.

The colleges' lobbyists told the college system's Council of Presidents, which met in Tallahassee on Friday, that the Senate is working on a major bill that is expected to contain those elements and will be filed shortly.

The proposal will follow other Senate legislation filed this week that would create new performance standards for the colleges, requiring students to earn their degrees more quickly. And it follows Gov. Rick Scott's call to freeze tuition and fees for the college system as well as the state universities.

The college presidents, who are seeking a \$100 million boost for their system, were also told they could expect an initial budget proposal from lawmakers for the 2017-18 fiscal year that could reduce the current \$82 billion state budget by up to \$1.9 billion.

"It's too early to get upset," said Ed Meadows, president of Pensacola State College and chairman of the presidents' council. "Every session every year there are always challenges. I would say that this year poses a complexity that we have not seen in a while."

The issues are not new to the college presidents and are part of Senate President Joe Negron's initiative to overhaul Florida's higher education system.

Negron, R-Stuart, has been a sharp critic of the college system in the past.

Not having seen the Senate bill, Meadows said it was too early to assess any changes in the governance system.

But some have suggested the state college system, which has 28 schools serving about 800,000 full- and part-time students, should be put under a separate board similar to the Board of Governors, which oversees the 12 state universities.

Currently, the state colleges are under the state Board of Education, which also oversees Florida's kindergarten-to-high-school system.

Another initiative may impose new limits on the ability of state colleges to issue baccalaureate degrees. In 2015, Negron proposed limiting enrollment in each college's baccalaureate program to 5 percent of the school's overall enrollment.

Baccalaureate students remain a small part of the state college system, accounting for 6 percent of the 110,844 degrees and certificates awarded in the 2014-15 academic year, according to the state Department of Education.

Meadows said the Legislature originally gave state colleges the authority to have baccalaureate-degree programs in order to increase the number of Floridians who receive a post-secondary degree or certificate. The state's current attainment rate is about 46 percent, with a goal to raise that to 55 percent by 2025.

Meadows said the colleges responded to Negron's prior concerns about duplication in the higher-education system regarding the baccalaureate degrees, including a one-year moratorium that allowed the process to be reviewed.

He said the current system, which allows colleges to initiate baccalaureate-degree programs subject to approval by the Board of Education, is meeting the Legislature's original goal of increasing degree attainment in the state.

"It takes all of us," Meadows said. "It takes a village and that includes all of higher education to achieve these attainment goals."

In addition to policy challenges from Senate leaders, state colleges also will have to respond to the governor's call to freeze tuition and fees in the system.

Meadows said college tuition has not been raised in five years, while colleges use the existing law to adjust fees based on educational costs. Individual colleges are allowed to raise fees up to 15 percent over a base rate set each year by the Legislature.

## Colleges gear up for legislative battles....

*continued*

"The Florida college system is one of the least expensive higher education systems in the nation," Meadows said, adding the colleges support the governor's initiative to offer "instruction at the least possible cost to our students."

Daytona State College President Thomas LoBasso said the colleges are prepared to work with the Senate, including on other issues such as the creation of a more defined "pathway" that will allow students to move through the college system and be guaranteed a spot in a specific university program.

"Any legislation that is student-centered is a good thing," LoBasso said.

More challenging may be the Senate's call to link performance funding for the colleges to the number of students who complete their two- and four-year degrees on time.

"The one thing I will say about our system is that we are nimble, adaptable and up for the challenges," LoBasso said. "Many of us are currently working on strategies to have (associate-degree) students on a path to finish in two years."

## TCC student killed in early morning crash

WTXL

A Tallahassee Community College student has died after an early morning single-car crash in Tallahassee Saturday.

According to police, the accident happened around 3:45 a.m near the intersection of Paul Dirac Drive and West Orange Avenue. A 2015 Ford Focus was the only vehicle involved.

Police say the driver Christian Milione, 23, was uninjured, but sole passenger Jennifer Jones, 20, was pronounced dead at the scene. Jones was enrolled at TCC as a student for the current semester.

Police are actively investigating the accident. Milione was detained for a period of time but released once the scene was cleared.

Anyone who may have witnessed the crash is being asked to call 850-891-4200 or the anonymous tip line at 850-574-TIPS.

## Local donations continue to boost benefits at TCC

### Scholarships, career training among gifts

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The Tallahassee Community College Foundation continues to benefit from the generosity of local businesses.

In December, organizers announced the foundation's "TCC. We Rise" campaign brought in over \$13 million, exceeding the \$10 million goal announced nine months earlier.

Tuesday, the trend continued as TCC's district board of trustees welcomed several more gifts for scholarships and training in work-related jobs skills.

Student Housing Solutions, a Tallahassee real estate firm, increased its support of TCC to nearly \$1 million, with a new gift valued at \$500,000.

The pledge includes \$400,000 over five years that will generate \$80,000 annually to TCC students through its scholarship fund. Additionally, \$50,000 will go toward student activities, including the purchase of a new van; \$25,000 to establish an endowed scholarship and \$25,000 to renovate and modernize a TCC classroom.

Steven Leoni, a managing partner of the company who sits on TCC Foundation's board, made the donation, with Jennifer Pearce, also a managing partner of Student Housing Solutions.

"This is a wonderful way to create a lasting legacy and help the college meet the needs of students in many aspects of their college experience," said Heather Mitchell, executive director of the foundation and vice president for resource development at TCC.

Since 2007, Student Housing Solutions has given more than \$430,000 in support for TCC's athletics programs and for housing scholarships for international students, TCC said in a release.

Other contributions announced during Tuesday's board meeting include:

McKenzie Tank Lines, a national trucking company based in Tallahassee, donated two tank trailers valued at \$28,000, to be used by students enrolled in the college's new Commercial Vehicle Driving program.

"We have supported a number of schools with equipment donations, but I was really excited to hear that TCC is going to start a driving program right here in Tallahassee," said Jim Shaeffer, president and CEO. "We could use another 25 to 30 drivers in our company today."

Tractor-trailer truck driver is one of the top-10 advertised jobs in the Big Bend and across Florida, Kim Moore, TCC's vice president for workforce development, said in a release. TCC is offering its commercial vehicle driving program on Appleyard Drive near West Tennessee Street.

Municode Educational Trust, the philanthropic arm of Municode Corporation, is providing \$18,000 to support scholarships for children of Municode employees.

"The Municode family of companies has a long history of innovation and support of our employees," said Lawton Langford, CEO and chairman. "We get a great return on the investment in our teammates' education."

Todd and Jodi Sperry are contributing \$25,000 to support a scholarship named in honor of Todd Sperry's late father, Donald B. Sperry, who founded the construction firm, Sperry and Associates. It will be available to students in the building and construction program.

SunTrust Bank is providing \$25,000 toward renovating a classroom in the Business, Industry and Technology Division.



## Shortage of nurses hurt local hospitals

### Efforts toward retaining new graduates proposed

TAMARYN WATERS

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

As a leading industry, healthcare represents 12 percent of total jobs in the Tallahassee area yet retention continues to be a challenge.

On Tuesday, business leaders gathered to hear what's impacting providers during a newly launched CEO series by the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce. Healthcare CEOs in attendance included Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare's Mark O'Bryant, Capital Regional Medical Center CEO Mark Robinson and Tallahassee Orthopedic Clinic's Mark Didier.

Providers prefer a low vacancy rate. At CRMC, the rate hovers around 10 percent out of about 1,000 employees, Robinson said. The hospital has 140 openings; 82 of them for nursing. At Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, the vacancy rate ranges between 8 and 10 percent. TMH has a total of 222 vacancies; 149 are nursing slots.

High-priced contract workers, including traveling nurses, are used to fill in the gaps so hospitals can meet the growing demand. However, Robinson said, "It's not just a hospital issue."

"There's no one reason we are not able to hire or get our vacancy rate lower. The pool isn't where it needs to be," said Robinson, adding the hospital's rate is a reflection of a national trend. He said local universities produce talented graduates, but they may choose to relocate.

"We need to work very, very hard to make Tallahassee an attractive place to work," Robinson said.

New efforts are underway that can shrink the shortage. Tallahassee Community College now offers a bachelor of science degree in nursing at the behest of both hospitals. Classes began in the spring and graduates should be available for the local workforce in two years, O'Bryant said.

"That's huge," he said, adding the hospital will continue to work with Florida State and Florida A&M universities for its nursing graduates. But he said the TCC program is promising because graduates are more likely to stay in their hometown.

"We're confident they are going to provide a strong, steady stream of nurses for our region," O'Bryant said. In addition, he said the hospital is increasing its physician training with more research, which is a recruitment tool for attracting high-quality doctors. He said every new doctor represents \$1 million in economic development.

Talks touched on relocation plans for Tallahassee Orthopedic Clinic. A new facility is slated to be built on the corner of Blair Stone and Miccosukee roads on 2.5 acres, previously owned by Leon County.

Monthly roundtable discussions will spotlight CEOs in the healthcare, professional services, trade transportation and logistics, manufacturing, information technology and financial industries.

"The chamber is committed to growing our business community," Chamber CEO and President Sue Dick said. "On a monthly basis, the CEO Series will highlight private sector job creators, facilitate peer to peer CEO discussion on ideas and specific areas of expertise and create a network for future collaboration and growth opportunities."

## TCC celebrates reaching 50,000-hour service goal

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Tallahassee Community College students, faculty and staff completed over 50,000 hours of service to the communities of Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties as part of TCC's 50th anniversary celebration.

The College participated in a wide variety of projects throughout TCC's service area, from the Student Leadership, Involvement, and Civic Engagement office's work in the TCC Community Garden to assisting organizations such as Big Bend Cares and the Kidz First Awareness Campaign.

Among other initiatives, faculty and staff took part in the annual TCC Day service project on July 13. Activities included sorting donations at Goodwill, dog-walking at the Wakulla County Animal Shelter, and re-organizing shelves and serving ice cream to youngsters at the Gadsden County Public Library.

"It is inspiring that our TCC students, faculty and staff answered the call to serve Tallahassee and the surrounding areas," said Michael Coleman, dean of student services. "It shows that we value the community we live and work in, and that we want to be known as an institution that gives back."

Launching points for the College's projects extended well beyond its main campus. The Tallahassee Fire Academy, part of TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute, raised over \$2,700 for the American Red Cross and the Florida Fallen Firefighter Memorial fund.

Law enforcement basic recruits gave their time and effort to projects ranging from bridge repairs in a state park to assistance for a local woman living with severe multiple sclerosis. Meanwhile, the corrections officer classes donated backpacks to the Tyler Biggins Foundation and collected toiletries for the clients of the Kearney Center. They also raised \$2,000 to give to the Concerns of Police Survivors organization for families of officers who fall in the line of duty.

Students, faculty and staff of the Healthcare Professions Division also contributed through several community projects. The Radiologic Technology and the Surgical Services programs collected food for residents of Veteran's Village. Dental assisting students provided emergency care services with the Gadsden County Mobile Dental Clinic and Dentistry from the Heart.

## **TCC Workforce Development will host discovery session at Wakulla Center**

WAKULLA NEWS

Tallahassee Community College's Workforce Development Division will host a discovery session for area residents who want to learn about some of the short-term programs they can enroll in to develop new skills and increase their job opportunities. The session will focus on postsecondary adult vocational programs and will be held Thursday, January 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the TCC Wakulla Center.

The session will focus on the College's new Transportation & Logistics Center of Excellence, as well as PSAV programs available through the Kim B. Williams Advanced Manufacturing Training Center and the TCC Gadsden and Wakulla centers.

In addition, Workforce Development's online and in-person certificate programs will be discussed. Current offerings include Construction and Skills Craft Trades, Transportation, Information Technology, and Manufacturing.

The session is free and open to the public. The Wakulla Center is located at 2932 Crawfordville Highway in Crawfordville.

For information, contact Desiree Gorman at (850) 926-0725 or [gorman@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:gorman@tcc.fl.edu).

## **Student Housing Solutions to expand housing scholarships for TCC students**

HAWAII NEWS NOW

Student Housing Solutions, a locally owned and operated real estate firm, owns and manages numerous student housing properties in Tallahassee, including Villa Lucia Apartments, Tuscany Village Apartments and Villa Dylano, among others. The group also owns and manages University Village, a commercial development at the corner of Ocala Road and Pensacola Street.

The company's gift includes a \$400,000 investment over a five-year period to provide \$80,000 in housing scholarships annually to TCC students through the Student Housing Solutions Scholarship Fund. The gift also includes a \$50,000 investment to support student affairs activities, including a new van for student trips, \$25,000 to establish an endowed scholarship, and \$25,000 to renovate and modernize a TCC classroom.

The gift was presented by Steven Leoni and Jennifer Pearce, managing members of Student Housing Solutions. Leoni is also a member of the TCC Foundation's board of directors.

Since 2007, Student Housing Solutions, or "STU" as the company is known, has provided more than \$430,000 in support for TCC's athletics programs and for housing scholarships for international students. However, this most recent gift represents a new level of commitment, said Heather Mitchell, executive director of the TCC Foundation.

"This is a wonderful way to create a lasting legacy and help the College meet the needs of students in many aspects of their college experience," said Mitchell.

## Local woman making history under the Big Top

ABBY WALTON

WCTV

Glitz, energy and adventure are all part of Kristen Michelle Wilson's new role as ringmaster.

"I have always had a passion for arts and performing," Wilson said.

It's a time in Wilson's life filled with highs.

"It's really spectacular to be in the history books," Wilson said.

And low, as Feld Entertainment, the parent company of Ringling Brothers, announced it's closing the circus in May 2017.

They say that's show biz. But for Wilson, it's just a pit stop on her rising road to success. A road that started in Tallahassee.

"I remember when I was about four or five, coming home with my grandparents after some show and saying "This is it, I must be a performer," Wilson said.

Enrolling in dance, gymnastics, even the Young Actors Theater, Kristen's mother, Jean said their family has always encouraged her passion.

"We've always watched her little performances here and there as she was growing up. She's always looking forward to doing new things," Jean said.

As a Leon High student, this 'game for anything' attitude even led to a stint working at WCTV as the station's first teen reporter.

**After getting degrees from Tallahassee Community College and Florida State University, Wilson moved to Orlando to pursue her dreams of becoming a performer.**

During that time she formed a band, the Sonic Gypsies and also worked at a dinner theater.

All her hard work paid off in August 2016, when Ringling was auditioning people for a new ringmaster.

"I was looking at this wild, seemingly unrelated list of jobs that I had done and skills I had acquired and thinking 'oh my goodness, for the first time in my life, everything makes sense," Wilson said.

From her first day of auditions, Ringling creative director Rye Mullis knew Wilson was the right person for the job.

"We weren't looking for a female ringmaster. We were just looking for a ringmaster and she was the best," Mullis said.

At 35-years old, Wilson is now traveling the country, making stops like the one in Orlando.

"In my case, I'm very lucky because the character that I'm portraying is me. It's just the grand version of me. So it's me plus," Wilson said.

A tenacious spirit leading her from the Capitol City to the entertainment history books.

"Opportunities are available to anyone who's willing to work really hard and pursue their passions because I am living proof that dreams come true," Wilson said.

So until the curtain closes in May, Kristen Michelle Wilson will continue to dazzle audiences.

A hometown girl, whose star will only continue to rise!

## Word of South sparks conversations

ROCHELLE KOFF

TALLAHASSEE MAGAZINE

The last time David Kirby was at the Word of South festival, he was riding around Cascades Park on his bike, listening to the array of musicians and speakers who were mesmerizing the crowds.

But when the festival takes over Cascades again this spring, the Tallahassee poet will be on the stage, working his own magic: literary magic.

"I'm looking forward to being part of the show this time," says Kirby, poet, author, book critic and Robert O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of English at Florida State University. "It's Tallahassee at its very best."

The third annual Word of South event will take place over three days, from April 7–9, and will feature more than 40 acts, including readings, concerts, children's events and something event founder Mark Mustian calls, "muashups."

"We throw together authors and musicians," Mustian says. "We've done it eight or ten times, and it's been outstanding."

During the upcoming festival, Kirby, for instance, will be paired with a musician while he reads his poetry — what Kirby sees as an ideal collaboration.

"I always feel as though when you read a poem you should read it aloud," says Kirby, the author of 34 books. "After all, poetry and song were one thing in the earliest days of human history, and then they became compartmentalized. That's why Word of South means so much to me. It's Mark Mustian's way of bringing writing and singing together again."

When author Joshilyn Jackson of Decatur, Georgia, was asked to do a muashup at the 2017 Word of South, she suggested Mustian invite her best friend, author-musician Lydia Netzer, who is in a Norfolk, Virginia, band called The Virginia Janes.

"We went to graduate school together and had a band," says Jackson, whose latest book is entitled, "The Opposite of Everyone." The two combined talents more recently, when Jackson recorded the audio book for Netzer's novel, "Shine Shine Shine," with songs from The Virginia Janes on the audio.

"I hope the festival will keep that conversation going between art and music," says Jackson.

That's been the intent of Mustian, a lawyer, author and former city commissioner, who was looking to provide Tallahassee with a "cultural draw" when he began formulating the idea for the festival, which debuted at Cascades in 2015.

In its first two years, Word of South has presented impressive lineups, including author Ann Patchett, the band Dawes, singer Jason Isbell, actor Tony Hale, singer Rita Coolidge and columnist Leonard Pitts.

All events are free except for the top-ticketed concerts. The festival is still ironing out its spring schedule and headliners, Mustian says, but attendees can expect to hear from musicians The Currys and The Bones of JR Jones, "The Voice" artist Sarah Potenza and singer-songwriter Matthew Hendrickson of Garden & Gun magazine. Food writer John Shelton Reed, one of the authors of "Holy Smoke: The Big Book of North Carolina Barbecue," will also perform. There will be a pig roast Saturday night, and, in a different sort of pairing, Reed will be doing a reading during a pork-and-champagne brunch Sunday morning.

"It reflects the eclecticism of the American South," says Mandy Stringer, the festival's managing director.

The event will also feature food trucks and book tents from Thomasville's Bookshelf and Tallahassee's newest bookstore, Midtown Reader.

According to Stringer, Word of South will work with Leon County Schools to offer a read-in with a couple of children's authors who will be at the festival. The children's programming will include activities, musicians and storytellers.

**Tallahassee Community College will be the presenting sponsor of the public-private event, which receives financial contributions and grants from city and county sources, foundations, businesses and individuals.**

As Kirby describes it, Word of South will be a destination "for families to come out on a cool April weekend to eat corn dogs and slurp sno-cones and listen to marquee-name performers from every facet of show biz: serious novelists, bluegrass groups, Spoken Word poets, thriller writers, psychobilly guitar bands, storytellers of all kinds."

## Classes at TCC's main campus canceled until 12 p.m. due to power outages

WCTV

After a weekend of severe weather in the region, the Big Bend area continues to deal with the aftermath.

The City of Tallahassee is still dealing with power outages and as a result, classes at Tallahassee Community College's main campus are canceled until 12 p.m. Monday.

The Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education in Tallahassee will also be closed until 12 p.m.

For the latest on closures and other information, visit: [www.tcc.fl.edu](http://www.tcc.fl.edu).

## TCC hosting scholarship fair on January 26th

HAVANA HERALD

Tallahassee Community College will host its Scholarship Fair from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday in the Fine and Performing Arts Center.

The fair offers an excellent opportunity for current and prospective students to meet scholarship administrators and learn more about the various financial aid and scholarship awards available to qualified students at the college.

Several TCC programs that offer scholarship opportunities will be on hand, including the TCC Honors Program; Student Ambassador Program; and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Program. Additionally, visitors will learn how to access the online TCC Scholarship Application, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and information on the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program.

Current high school seniors must apply for fall 2017 scholarships by the Feb. 17 deadline. All other new, continuing, returning and transfer students may apply between March 1 and May 5.

For information, call the Financial Aid office at (850) 201-8399 or visit [www.tcc.fl.edu/scholarships](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/scholarships).

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(NOTE: This item also appeared in the Tallahassee Democrat's Campus Notes section on January 23.)

## Gifts target TCC scholarships, renovations and commercial driving

WAKULLA NEWS

The Tallahassee Community College Foundation has announced several major gifts to support scholarships, classroom renovations and the College's new commercial driving program. The gifts were presented at a meeting of the TCC District Board of Trustees on January 17.

Municode Educational Trust, the philanthropic arm of Municode Corporation, invested \$18,000 to support scholarships for children of Municode employees. Municode, which is based in Tallahassee, provides legal codification, web hosting and other services for municipalities around the country. Lawton Langford, CEO and chair, presented the gift, along with his wife Beth Langford. Eric Grant, president of Municode, Rick Grant, executive vice president, Phil Claiborne, chief operating officer, and Donny Barstow, president of MCCi, a Municode company, were also on hand.

Todd and Jodi Sperry donated \$25,000 to support a scholarship for students in the building and construction program. The scholarship is named in honor of Todd Sperry's late father, Donald B. Sperry, who founded the construction firm Sperry and Associates.

SunTrust Bank invested \$25,000 to support renovation of a classroom in the Business, Industry and Technology Division, which offers courses in areas such as business management and accounting. The donation was presented by SunTrust's Brad White, senior vice president and CEO of its Florida Panhandle region. He was joined by Tom Pennekamp, the bank's president for Tallahassee, and Lauren Butler, community development manager for SunTrust's north Florida operations.

McKenzie Tank Lines made an in-kind gift of two tank trailers valued at \$28,000. The trailers will be used by students enrolled in TCC's Commercial Vehicle Driving program.

Finally, Student Housing Solutions committed to a gift valued at \$500,000 to support housing scholarships and other resources for students.

## **TCC ribbon-cutting ceremony set for today at Center for Innovation downtown**

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly completed TCC Center for Innovation, at 350 South Duval St. in downtown Tallahassee. The ceremony will take place today at 9 a.m. The public is invited.

The 34,000-square-foot facility, which formerly housed the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science, underwent significant renovations. It now houses offices and conference rooms for rent, technology-infused training and collaboration spaces, a retail incubator, tenants including WTXL-ABC 27 and a New Horizons Computer Learning Center, the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence, and a Starbucks coffee shop. The Starbucks is licensed by TCC to help support retail training and student job opportunities and is part of TCC's commitment to advance entrepreneurship in the College and the community.

The event will include tours of the facility and remarks from Paige Carter Smith, CEO of the Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority; Jared Willis, president of the Downtown Business Association; Dustin Daniels, chief of staff to Mayor Andrew Gillum; and Sue Dick, president and CEO of the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce.

## **TCC to unveil 17th annual African-American History Calendar today**

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College will unveil its 17th annual African-American History Calendar today at 7 p.m. in Turner Auditorium, in the TCC Fine & Performing Arts Center.

The Cherry Hall Alexander African-American History Calendar honors local individuals who have made significant contributions to the African-American community. The theme for the 2017 calendar is African-American Champions of Education.

The event is free to the public. A reception beginning at 5:45 p.m. will precede the unveiling ceremony.



## TCC unveils African-American history calendar

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College unveiled its 17th annual African-American History Calendar Monday evening in Turner Auditorium.

The theme for this year's Cherry Hall Alexander African-American History Calendar is "African-American Champions of Education." TCC President Jim Murdaugh also hosted a luncheon for honorees earlier Monday.

Honorees, beginning in February, are:

Isaac Manning, building maintenance supervisor, W.T. Moore Elementary

Sonia Clark-Rosier, associate dean, Wakulla High School

Wilbert Butler, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, TCC

Iris C. Wilson, former teacher, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent, former deputy chancellor, Florida Department of Education

Bishop Titus. B. Deas, senior pastor, Deliverance Temple Ministries First Born Church, Inc., Chattahoochee and Tallahassee

LaMonica Butler, teacher, mentor with STEM students

Desmond Cole, principal, Nims Middle School

Vivian Wright Wilson, retired Leon County Schools

Tamika Jenkins, counselor, Florida State University Schools

Lenita Joe, retired educator, mentor

Cynthia Gaines, speech and language pathologist, teacher

Karlisa Johnson, teacher, W.T. Moore Elementary School.

Also included are April Knight, assistant principal, curriculum, Griffin Middle School and Lillie Jackson, former teacher, assistant principal, principal and director of dropout prevention.

For more information on the calendar, contact Gregory Williams at (850) 201-6070 or [williagr@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:williagr@tcc.fl.edu).

## TCC opens Starbucks at Kleman Plaza

TAMARYN WATERS

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Coffee lovers did everything short of rolling out a red carpet when Starbucks opened Monday in the Tallahassee Community College Capital Center at Kleman Plaza.

Just steps from the Capitol, City Hall and the County Courthouse, the cafe is a welcome neighbor. The aroma of coffee beans, cream and sugar filled the air as customers revolved in and out of the new location.

Bradley Marshall and Leighann Boone both live in Plaza Tower and work nearby. They each eagerly ordered a flat white, a ristretto espresso beverage topped with steamed whole milk. They couldn't have been happier.

"You really want a coffee shop downtown that you can walk to and that's open and has lots of light. I know there's Brewed Awakening in the big tower but it's inside and dark," Marshall said.

"This is a great anchor for sustainable living downtown," Boone chimed in. You'll be able to live, work and get your coffee and it just makes downtown so much more livable."

Kim Moore, vice president of TCC's Workforce Development, said planning began in September to bring a Starbucks to Tallahassee's downtown.

She calls this the fastest startup project ever. Moore added the college is already hearing about downtown employees jonesing for caffeine and chai lattes and their zeal to find a coffee shop close to their offices.

"They've said, 'Wow, we've been looking for a coffee place and now we have one,'" said Moore, "They've been monitoring and watching to see when the day would finally be here and opened. We've answered the call."

The coffee shop will include event and meeting space under the ICE Room, which refers to Innovate, Collaborate and Execute.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh is pleased by the buzz the landmark coffee shop is already making. He said it was critically important to encourage pedestrian traffic downtown.

"This is the sort of amenity that will do that," Murdaugh said. "I talked to a couple of people earlier today who were in here to buy and they said they're going to spread the word. They're all excited about having this opportunity."

## Leon County hosts first legislative dialogue meeting

STEPHEN JIWANMALL

WTXL

Tallahassee and Leon County stakeholders met Wednesday to discuss legislative interests that would benefit the community.

It was the first of three legislative dialogue meetings this year held by the county.

The 2017 Florida legislative session starts March 7, and local leaders are already working on what to present.

**"Talent is the new currency for economic development. If you want more economic development, you need to produce more talent," said Dr. Jim Murdaugh, the president of Tallahassee Community College. "And if you want to produce more talent, you need to invest in colleges."**

The presidents of TCC and FSU were at the roundtable on Wednesday, pushing for education to be a priority. Florida State University president John Thrasher wants FSU to be designated as one of the nation's top 25 public universities.

"It certainly gives our students something to really brag about when they go out in the real world -- either for higher education, more education, or certainly getting a job," he said.

Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare is pushing for workforce development and more pediatric services. CEO Mark O'Bryant said he wants to work with Wolfson Children's Hospital in Jacksonville -- and overall, he wants TMH to get national recognition.

The Chamber of Commerce will work with a delegation to talk with small business. A forum is scheduled for February 22.

The city is looking into different solutions to better respond to power issues, given the most recent severe storms to hit the region. These include school generators, more attention to sewer and water pipes, and a "delicate conversation" about underground utilities, according to Dustin Daniels, the mayor's chief of staff.

"We can't just snap our fingers and -- underground utilities everywhere, especially because of the cost," Daniels said, "but potentially with the partnership from the state, maybe federal government, we can potentially start to nick away at some of our highest priority areas."

The dialogue brought up several issues including education and healthcare. County commissioner Bryan Desloge brought up the topic of criminal justice, saying it's a key issue for all counties in Florida.

"Are there improvements that we can collectively look at? Is there technology that maybe we need to invest in?" he asked. "We can look around the country and see, 'What are the best practices?' and 'Are there better ways to do this?'"

Desloge said prison populations across the country are overgrown and that mentally ill and non-violent criminals don't belong in jail.

"We've got a brand new state attorney, we've got a brand new sheriff, we've got a brand new public defender, and we've got a reasonably new chief of police," he said. "The four people that basically are in charge of law enforcement and public defense and all of the incarceration issues -- it's a moment in time to maybe sit there and say, 'Can we do a better job?'"

The next dialogue meeting is scheduled for March 28.

## Scott, Corcoran, Negron on different tracks

### Leaders meet to discuss 2017 legislative wish list

JAMES CALL

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Leon County officials, business leaders, city officials and educators joined at a round table Wednesday to talk about their 2017 legislative wish list.

"We're stronger together than separate," said Leon County Commissioner Brian Desloge in his one-for-all, all-for-one opening remarks.

Florida State University President John Thrasher laid out his plans "to follow the money trail" in FSU's pursuit of becoming a top 25 public university.

Leon County Administrator Vince Long said the \$38 million purchase of the right of way for the final segment of the generation-long expansion of Capital Circle is on the table.

Mark O'Bryant, CEO of Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, said hospitals are bracing for congressional repeal of the Affordable Care Act, which he added would cost the hospital industry \$1.1 trillion nationwide.

**When it was his turn, Tallahassee Community College president Jim Murdaugh said how disappointed he was in Gov. Rick Scott's budget proposal and the talk coming out of the House and Senate. Scott's spending plan includes \$9 million new dollars for Florida's 28 colleges to share.**

**Murdaugh sighed and said what many in the room have come to realize.**

**"It's going to be a difficult year," he said.**

The community-wide legislative dialogue came a day after Scott and Senate President Joe Negron and House Speaker Richard Corcoran spoke to the annual gathering of reporters and editors hosted by the Associated Press. The meeting laid out what Leon County's lobbyist Jeff Sharkey said are the "structural differences" in the budgets proposed by Scott compared to Corcoran and Negron's priorities.

Negron wants to buy 60,000 acres south of Lake Okeechobee to store polluted water. Scott didn't include the purchase in his budget, but the governor does want to increase overall spending by more than \$1 billion. Corcoran wants to cut spending and has dug in his heels, especially to Scott's proposal to use tax dollars to attract businesses and tourists.

"And no one is blinking," said Sharkey. "The question becomes, will they finish on time?"

At the AP meeting, Corcoran compared the upcoming legislative session to two locomotive engines headed in opposite directions. Then he joked with reporters that they sometimes take things too literally.

"I think there are always collision courses between the two chambers of the Legislature and the governor. There are always those," said Corcoran, recalling how solutions to disputes between past governors and presiding officers eventually emerged. "I'm all for good compromise — I absolutely despise bad compromise."

The talk on the sidewalks of Tallahassee is whether lawmakers will find that good compromise during the scheduled 60-day session or if they will need the additional month of May to write a state budget.

**Waiting for a crosswalk signal in front of the Capitol, Murdaugh said, "It's going to be a difficult session for everyone."**

## TCC and Gadsden County partnership blooms during anniversary year

Tallahassee Community College celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016 throughout its service area of Gadsden, Leon and Wakulla counties. The celebration began with the opening of a gallery of historical photos in January and wrapped up in December with the successful culmination of the "TCC. We Rise." campaign, which raised more than \$13 million for scholarships, classroom renovations and other initiatives.

Gadsden County residents were part of a series of 50 alumni profiles featured throughout the year. Gospel singer and radio personality Mary Bush Smith was profiled, as were public officials Andy Gay and Dale Summerfield. Physician Hugh VanLandingham, who was raised in Gadsden County, was featured as well. VanLandingham was also one of

the 2016 inductees into the TCC Alumni Hall of Fame. That group included the late pharmacist Thomas Cumbie, along with two Gadsden County representatives on the original TCC District Board of Trustees, Charlie Macon and Sam Cunningham.

In March, TCC held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new TCC Gadsden Center. The center is located on Pat Thomas Parkway near downtown Quincy.

Eugene Lamb, who has represented Gadsden County on the District Board of Trustees since 2007, was a leader in the effort to build a permanent home for TCC in Gadsden County. He worked with local governments to gain support for the project, including a donation of land from the City of Quincy.

"This is a dream come true for Gadsden County," said Lamb. "We want our



Officials from TCC and Gadsden County gather to watch TCC President Jim Murdaugh cut the grand opening ribbon for the new Gadsden Center in Quincy.

young people to know that the sky's the limit—and the number one thing is—get an education."

The 4,700-square-foot facility houses classrooms and a workforce training lab. Hallways are adorned with prints of works by renowned painter Dean Mitchell, who grew up in Quincy.

The workforce lab is home to the Air Condition-

ing, Refrigeration and Heating Technology program, where students are trained in installation and repair of HVAC systems. The program began in the fall of 2016 and currently serves 11 students. Short-term training in retail customer service and other skills is also available.

The Gadsden Center's GED test preparation and English for Speakers of Other

Languages classes have been very popular. The College also offers GED prep at the Liberty Center in Chattahoochee and for inmates at the county jail. Additionally, community members can now benefit from academic advising, financial aid consulting and similar services by appointment right at the Gadsden Center.

Looking forward, TCC has recently made the decision to offer a college-credit class at the Gadsden Center. The three-credit course, Computer and Internet Literacy, is set to begin on February 13.

The Florida Public Safety Institute on Highway 90 continues to offer training for basic recruits in law enforcement, corrections and other fields, plus specialized training for public safety professionals in advanced skills such as fraud and financial

crimes investigation, bloodhound scent-tracking and defensive tactics. In 2016, the Institute added more dormitory-style housing to accommodate additional individuals who travel to the facility from around the Southeast for that expert training.

Well-respected financial consultant and banker Randy Poppe, who is one of Gadsden County's representatives on the District Board of Trustees, became chair of that body in the fall of 2016. Poppe is committed to continuing to strengthen the partnership between TCC and the Gadsden County community.

"Our job in Gadsden County is to listen to residents and focus our efforts on meeting the needs that they identify, working together to move toward their vision of Gadsden County as a vibrant, growing community," said Poppe.

## Networking luncheon hosted by Wakulla Environmental, catered by Kast Net

PETRA SHUFF  
WAKULLA NEWS

**We kicked off 2017 at Wakulla Environmental Institute with our first networking luncheon, catered by the Kast Net restaurant, and are grateful to Bob Ballard for hosting our crowd of 88.**

KastNet always does such a wonderful job catering, and Ms. Thu's egg rolls alone are worth attending. Chamber president Mary Wallace introduced newly elected officials Sheriff Miller and Property Appraiser Brad Harvey, along with attending chamber board members, thanking them for their service to the chamber and community.

Mary also welcomed new members who joined in January – Coastal Gems Realty, Panacea Oyster Co-op, Big Daddy's Pizza, and Crawfordville Lions Club.

We always enjoy introducing and meeting new employees of our member businesses: Jerry Bonesteel – Oliver Sperry Renovation; new manager at Costco

Tifarah Alford, and new team member Chris Philipps; Susie Wilhelm – Shell Point Realty; Carol Hill – new team member at CareerSource Capital Region; new office manager Cathy Robertson – Shepard Accounting & Tax Services; Superlube Area Manager Paul Morgan and Crawfordville location managers; Lorra Phillips introduced William Darrell with new local company Allegiant Consulting and Management Services, LLC, and last but not least Bill Snowden with The Wakulla News introduced new reporters Nancy Imperiale and Erik Yabor taking over for Nicole Zema who will be missed by many of us.

February snuck up awfully quick and we will soon be celebrating Valentine's Day with the festivities and parade organized by the Crawfordville Lions Club, Rotary Club's Sweetheart Dance with music by the Tallahassee Swing Band, and a free Valentine's Day Party for the "over 25" crowd at the Wakulla Shrine Club, hosted by Flawless Janitorial Service, Hitzville Studios & McHenry's Entertainment.

You can find more information on these events in The Wakulla News and chamber website.

Mark Mitchell won our cash drawing, and he shared that the annual Rock the Dock Fishing Tournament is changing venues and will take place at Woolley Park this April.

Petra Shuff also shared the chamber's annual fundraising event, the Low Country Boil held the first Saturday in April. Tickets are on sale now.

Our spotlight for February will be Big Bend Hospice.

Always fun are the prize drawings, and we thank the following for their contributions: Superlube, Petra Shuff, Cook Insurance, Olympus Insurance, Clothesline, Marianne and Lionel Dazevedo, Smith, Thompson, Shaw, and Minacci & Colón P.A., Costco, Shepard Accounting, City of Sopchoppy, Revell Electric and Automated Access Systems, Magnuson Hotel, Eden Springs Nursing Home & Rehab Facility, Brad Harvey, Waypoint Properties, Talquin Electric Cooperative, WTXL TV, Murphy Business Broker, and The Wakulla News.

## Black History Month events announced

### Local campuses to mark annual celebration

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Prominent Florida attorney and former judge Belvin Perry Jr. will deliver the keynote address at Florida A&M University's Black History Month convocation.

The convocation will be held at 10:10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 10 at Gaither Gymnasium

Perry was appointed to FAMU's Board of Trustees last March by Gov. Rick Scott.

Perry is the first black person to be elected to the circuit bench of the Ninth Circuit without first being appointed. He also is the first black person to chair the Florida Conference of Circuit Court Judges.

He is currently an attorney with Morgan & Morgan P.A.

He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Tuskegee University and law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University.

The event is open to the public.

Other upcoming events at FAMU in February include:

Theater: The FAMU Essential Theatre presents, "Radio Golf by August Wilson at the Charles Winter Wood Theatre/ Tucker Hall beginning Feb. 8-Feb. 12.

Spring Literary Forum: Songs of the Afro-South, on Feb. 23-24. The events will be held in Lee Hall auditorium from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 23 and from 9:05 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. on Feb. 24.

The two-day event will feature a panel discussion about the hit show "Queen Sugar" with show writer Devan Renae and will be headlined by speakers Keith Beauchamp and Ibram Kendi.

Beauchamp's documentary on Emmett Till's lynching is featured at the National Museum of African-American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

Kendi is a 2004 FAMU graduate and winner of the 2016 National Book Award for nonfiction, for "Stamped from the Beginning."

For more information and a full schedule visit: <http://www.famunews.com/events>.

The FAMU Artists in Bloom Festival presents Step Afrika from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Feb. 27 at Lee Hall.

Founded in 1994, Step Afrika is the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping. The company incorporates historical percussive dance styles of African-American fraternities and sororities, African traditional dance, and influences from a variety of other dance and art forms.

#### Tallahassee Community College

**The Florida Public Safety Institute, part of Tallahassee Community College, will host its 10th annual Black History Month Breakfast for criminal justice personnel at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday in the FPSI Conference Center.**

**The theme for this year's event is "Recognizing the Role of African-Americans Shaping Florida Today". Leon County Sheriff Walt McNeil is the guest speaker.**

**Honorees include Capt. Stefan Bleu of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Sgt. Angie Holmes-Hightower of the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office, and Bureau Chief Dwight Floyd of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.**

**The event is open to the public. It opens at 8:30 a.m., followed by breakfast at 9 a.m. You must register by 5 p.m. Friday by emailing Gigi Hawthorne at [hawthorg@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:hawthorg@tcc.fl.edu).**

#### Florida State University

The university and its Black Student Union are holding several events this month on campus. For more information, visit [sga.fsu.edu/bhm](http://sga.fsu.edu/bhm).

(NOTE: The highlighted portion also appeared in the Tallahassee Democrat's Campus Notes section on February 6.)

## Ribbon cutting for TCC innovation center Monday

AL MORAN

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony 9 a.m. Monday to open the newly completed TCC Center for Innovation.

"We are so thrilled to be opening the new TCC Center for Innovation," said Kimberly Moore, vice president for workforce development, in a statement. "Our team has been working hard to complete this facility, which will bring together the public sector with private businesses and nonprofits in an innovative and collaborative space that is just steps from the state capitol."

The 34,000-square-foot facility, which was built in 1997 and is located at 350 S. Duval St., has sat largely empty since the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science closed in 2013. It underwent significant renovations to make much-needed updates to infrastructure and to repurpose the space. The College's vision for the new center was influenced by increased demand for public- and private-sector industry training and access to technology resources, along with community leaders' desire to increase foot traffic in the area.

The center houses offices and conference rooms available for rent, technology-infused training rooms, a retail incubator, the ICE (Innovation, Collaborative, Execute) Room, tenants including WTXL-ABC 27 and a New Horizons Computer Learning Center, and TCC initiatives such as the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence and a Starbucks coffee shop.

The February 6 event will include open tours of the facility and remarks from community leaders.



## Colleges combine for 'Discovery' day

FSU, FAMU and TCC faculty to show off research and 'creative works' at event designed with startups in mind

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Florida's public universities are being required to improve their research profile whether it's with medical breakthroughs, improving water quality or inventing building products that will interest private investors.

If you are wondering how Florida State, Florida A&M Tallahassee Community College are faring, consider this: In 2016, FSU was awarded \$190.1 million in research money and was issued 48 U.S. patents. FSU also had nine licenses and option agreements for 2015-16, and produced three startup companies.

At FAMU, \$47 million in research awards was generated in 2015-16, up from \$40.4 million in 2014-2015. FAMU also completed one license agreement in 2015.

And TCC, with the recent addition of a long-distance truck driving training program, now offers courses or training classes matching the top 10 job demands in the region.

On Tuesday, the three institutions are hosting "Discovery on Parade," an expo featuring some of the latest innovations, discoveries and inventions from their respective campuses.

More than 60 exhibits will be on display from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Turnbull Center, 555 W. Pensacola St.

The event is free and open to the public — especially those on the lookout for investing in startup companies.

Included will be a performance by the FSU Flying High Circus, TCC's African Drum and Dance Ensemble and the FAMU Jazz Ensemble. Kurt Leucht of NASA's Kennedy Space Center, will give a presentation following the circus' performance at 6:30 p.m.

"Discovery on Parade is a wonderful opportunity to bring our three institutions together to recognize the technologies and creative works that our faculty produce that will hopefully be turned into viable business opportunities in the future," said Gary K. Ostrander, FSU's vice president for research.

"Colleges and universities are economic engines, and we hope through this event that the community can get a glimpse of what goes on at Florida State, FAMU and TCC."

Larry Lynch, program consultant for FSU's Office of Commercialization, said the evening was designed for the public to stop in and browse or spend time with professors and students.

"We expect 700 to 800 people," he said.

For several years, FSU held a smaller event, called Sneak Peek, featuring its students and professors. About 600 people attended the first threeschool "Discovery" event in December 2015.

"This event is important because it shows how the three institutions of higher learning featured can all produce technologies that can foster economic development in the Tallahassee area," said Reis Alsberry, director of technology transfer and export control manager at FAMU. "FAMU is poised to commercialize some of our discoveries in the fields of oncology, pharmaceuticals, and materials engineering."

While the expo is open to the public, it's not billed as a "family event" but rather a chance for those seeking business opportunities to see what's being created or offered on the campuses. "We've had people come to the event, were looking around, expressed an interest and invested in that company," Lynch said. "That's one of the things we like to have happen. Hopefully, those companies would be based in Tallahassee." Exhibits on display range from grape molecular farming (FAMU), to a discovery of light therapy designed to slow pre-term contractions in healthy pregnant women (FSU), to innovations in graphic and web design (TCC).

Al Moran, vice president for communications and marketing at TCC, said the college will be offering information on its oyster aquaculture program in Wakulla County, its Public Safety Institute and STEM programs.

"People don't know what we do," he said.

Lynch also said DOMI Station of Tallahassee also will have representatives on hand to discuss its offerings in program, resources and events targeting entrepreneurs.

Lynch said the event is intended for anyone with "an interest in the future of economic growth in Tallahassee."

## **TCC opens downtown Center for Innovation**

**SYMONE DAVIS**  
WCTV

Tallahassee Community College is making its way downtown. Monday morning the school opened the doors to its brand new Center for Innovation.

The center's 34,000-square-foot facility used to be the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science.

The center now houses offices, conference rooms available for rent, technology-infused training rooms, and a Starbucks coffee shop.

Staff members say this not only a great addition for the school but for Tallahassee's growing economy and hope in having a thriving downtown.

"We're going to increase the downtown traffic during the normal operating hours, as well as extending past that," said Kim Moore, VP of TCC's Workforce Development program. "We'll offer innovative programs where individuals will be able to come in and basically have a tailored experience. It's just a win, win situation,"

The Starbucks is licensed by TCC to help support retail training and student job opportunities.

## **TCC celebrates grand opening of Center of Innovation**

WTVX

Today, Tallahassee Community College celebrates the grand opening of its Center for Innovation.

TCC welcomed the community to check out its newly renovated site where our downtown studio is located.

It also has the city's first downtown Starbucks store as well as a computer learning center, office space and rooms to promote creativity and new ideas.

President Jim Murdaugh says the vision for the new center was influenced by increased demand for public and private industry training and access to technology resources.

"The talent we need to create for our community is talent that generates their own businesses, creates their own businesses, innovates, entrepreneurs," said Murdaugh. "There's a lot of activity in our community -- what we call an 'ecosystem' of entrepreneurs, but we intend to add to that by having a single place where the nonprofits, the for-profits and government can come together to collaborate and innovate.

We'll have much more on the new center in a special report Wednesday evening, the next part in our series "Building Tallahassee."

## An inside look into the life of a Florida Highway Patrol Trooper

ERIKA FERNANDEZ

WCTV

Police-involved shootings are incidents we're seeing far too often. In just 2016 alone, at least 64 law enforcement officers were shot and killed in the line of duty.

Studies show that in 98 percent of police interactions, there is no use of force, and the odds of a police officer shooting someone is less than one percent.

Hitting the streets alone and serving others is a job Patricia Jefferson-Shaw says she was born to do.

"The Florida Highway Patrol is my destiny. I've been here, I came on right before I turned 21," says Senior Cpl. Patricia Jefferson-Shaw.

Back when she started, her biggest hurdle was respect in the field.

"When you stopped a lot of people as far as traffic stops with males that were dominant over you...they felt like they could belittle you," Cpl. Shaw says.

Now, 25 years later, she is one of seven female officers at Troop H out of nearly 70.

"Now we have a lot more respect because people understand it's not just a male's organization, that the females here can do the job just as well," Cpl. Shaw says.

During rush hour along Interstate 10, Cpl. Shaw makes stops every day. But no matter the gender, or the agency, law enforcement officers are always facing new challenges.

**"There has been an uptick in ambushes on law enforcement and all we can do is train them to be more vigilant," says Bill Bierbaum of the Florida Public Safety Institute.**

**Bierbaum has worked for multiple law enforcement agencies for over 20 years. Now, he's with the Florida Public Safety Institute at Tallahassee Community College.**

**"It's dangerous, and we always train for the different dangers that are out there. There's always new things we have to look for," Bierbaum says.**

It's police-involved shootings like the ones in Charlotte and Dallas that have both the officer and the civilian on high alert at all times.

"A lot of the people are putting their hands on the steering wheel, they're putting their hands out the window to make sure that you're not gonna do any harm to them. We're here to help you and not to harm you. And if the citizens would just understand, we're not just police officers, we are human beings ourselves," Cpl. Shaw says.

Cpl. Shaw is trying to prove that even behind the badge, she's a person just like you and me.

## **Florida Public Safety Institute hosts 10th annual Black History Month breakfast**

**SYMONE DAVIS**  
WCTV

Guests were served quite the spread at the Florida Public Safety Institute's 10th annual Black History Month Breakfast.

This year, three honorees from across the Big Bend received recognition for their efforts in the community, including Sergeant Angie Hightower of the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office.

Hightower was one of the first African American female hires when she started out at the Quincy Police Department.

"We've broken some chains that have been up for so long. It's open the doors and not only welcomed females but other minorities into the field of law enforcement. Which we know has always been a military or male dominated field," said Sergeant Hightower.

This is Sergeant Hightower's 27th year serving in law enforcement.

The other two honorees are Bureau Chief Dwight Floyd of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and Captain Stefan Blue of the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.

## **Tallahassee Colleges co-host annual Discovery on Parade**

WTXL

What do new cancer treatments, wine tastings, web-based suicide prevention, artistic masterpieces, oyster shucking and robots have in common?

Besides being just a few of the countless forms of research and creative activity taking place at Tallahassee's three institutions of higher education, they also represent a small sampling of the more than 60 exhibits ready for display during the upcoming, first-of-its-kind Discovery on Parade event.

Jointly hosted by FAMU, FSU and TCC, this community event will provide a unique preview of new and exciting inventions, discoveries and innovations making their way into the world.

Discovery on Parade will also feature information on new and existing companies created through research endeavors, live technology demonstrations by researchers and their students, and presentations about the objectives of select facilities at FAMU, FSU and TCC.

Discovery on Parade will take place Tuesday, February 7th 5-8:30 p.m. at 555 W. Pensacola St. Tallahassee, Fla.

The event is free and open to the public, requiring only a simple online registration found at <http://www.discoveryonparade.com/>.

## Building Tallahassee: TCC Center for Innovation

STEPHEN JIWANMALL

WTXL

The "Building Tallahassee" series continues with a look at the new TCC Center for Innovation, which officially opened Monday, February 6.

Breathing new life into an old building -- the former Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science has been transformed into the TCC Center for Innovation.

"This is something I've been working on for years, and I'm confident that what this will do is add tremendous value to our community," said Dr. Jim Murdaugh, president of Tallahassee Community College.

The downtown location an ideal spot for exchanging ideas with different sectors.

The TCC Center for Innovation has four floors. It features the WTXL ABC 27 downtown studio, but as you'll see, there's a lot more to come.

Walking out of the WTXL ABC 27 downtown studio, you're right in front of Starbucks' first downtown Tallahassee location, owned and operated by TCC.

And right next to Starbucks is the New Horizons Computer Learning Center, where the community can get hands-on IT training.

The ground floor features several business suites, administrative offices and a conference room.

The second floor is still in the works, a space being "re-imagined."

And on the third floor is the institute for nonprofit innovation and excellence.

From a design standpoint, the center has a mix of old and new. This "living wall" adds a softer feel but developers wanted to save the site's history.

TCC says this center is the future of the college and of the community.

Efforts that now have a place to call home.

## TCC's Gunter sets school record with three homers

JORDAN CULVER

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

When Kristin Gunter's third home run of the day against St. Johns River State College sailed out of the park on Saturday, her teammates weren't sure how to react.

Gunter hit one home run throughout the entire 2015-16 season. When the sophomore third baseman from Pensacola returned to the dugout, her teammates asked what she had eaten for breakfast.

Whatever she ate, her teammates wanted some.

"They were saying, 'Give it to me. Let me do it. I want to hit a home run,'" Gunter said in a phone interview with the Tallahassee Democrat.

Gunter's three homers against St. Johns River State — during a game the Eagles won 14-1 — set a new school record. She popped up in her first at-bat of the day, then hit home runs in her final three at-bats to finish the game 3 for 4 with 7 RBIs to go with her homers.

The first homer was a solo shot, the next two were three-run home runs.

"I was just going up to bat like I usually do," she said. "I'm not really a home run hitter. I just hit gap to gap. I was just swinging at the pitches I thought I could hit and they ended up going out."

For good measure, Gunter hit another home run the next day against Palm Beach State College — in all, she went 6 for 15 over the Triple Crown College Classic and was named the Fastpitch News JUCO Co-National Player of the Week for her efforts.

"I don't really worry about that," she said about receiving national accolades. "I wasn't really thinking about it. I was in my kitchen when I got the notification on Twitter. I called my mom and she was crying on the phone and I had no idea what it even was."

She added it feels like her hard work is paying off. She wanted to step up as a leader during her sophomore season with the Eagles — she plans on continuing her softball career at a four-year university.

Gunter won the 2014 FHSAA Class 4A state title with West Florida High School — and was named Player of the Game — before graduating in 2015.

"What I've been doing has been working and other people have been noticing that I've been putting in all the work to get where I am," she said.

The Eagles are 5-3 overall and play a doubleheader against South Georgia State College Thursday at home. Gunter has four of TCC's seven team home runs this season.

"Our team really meshes well together," she said. "We're all really close and we all get along. We're always having a good time and talking each other up. We're making sure everyone is OK and we're a big family."

## Wakulla teacher honored

### Sonia Clark-Rosier included on TCC African-American History calendar

BETH O'DONNELL  
WAKULLA NEWS

Sonia Clark-Rosier, associate dean and guidance counselor at Wakulla High School, has been honored by Tallahassee Community College as one of 12 people chosen for their 17th annual Cherry Hall Alexander African-American History Calendar.

"Mrs. Clark-Rosier certainly fits this year's TCC theme of 'African-American Champions of Education,'" says Superintendent Bobby Pearce. "They chose an excellent example of someone who not only helps our students, but also educates our citizens about how our past shapes our present and how we can continually move forward in improving community unity."

Clark-Rosier brings history alive through the annual Black History Month activities she coordinates at WHS. The month-long events such as holding "Unity/Spirit Day"; inviting sports and academic African-American celebrities to interact with students and the community; and holding a Black History Month Talent Show are just a few of the things she does leading up to the annual Black History Month Gala and Program, this year on February 25 at WHS.

Making sure that today's students appreciate those who overcame barriers in the past, she has collaborated with local officials to make a proclamation of "Alvin Hall Day" to honor Wakulla High's first African-American valedictorian. This year, the headliner for the Black History Month Program is Marshal Silvester Dawson, a Wakulla High graduate who is the eighth Marshal of the Supreme Court of Florida.

Yet Clark-Rosier is not just a proponent of community unity in February. Year-round she advocates for hope, healing and acceptance through diversity awareness and education. WHS Principal Mike Barwick notes, "Mrs. Clark-Rosier is a great addition to our faculty. She chairs our Diversity Committee, and is a person of action." For example, she initiated the first annual Sam McGrew Football Camp for 155 of Wakulla's local athletes.

From a long line of educators including teachers, administrators, and counselors, Clark-Rosier has spent more than 20 years helping students. She has mentored students as a participant in former Governor Jeb Bush's Mentoring Initiative, plus taught students in Exceptional Education classes in Leon and Wakulla County public schools beginning in 2004.

Clark-Rosier has been married to Shawn Rosier for 19 years, and they have a son Anthony.

She is a graduate of the University of Alabama, plus earned master's degrees from both Florida State University and Amridge University. Clark-Rosier is also a member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and the Order of the Eastern Star, whose mission statement she strives to model in her daily life: "Charity, Truth and Loving Kindness."



Honorees pose for a group shot.

## TCC unveils 17th African-American History Calendar

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Tallahassee Community College officially unveiled the 17th annual Cherry Hall Alexander African-American History Calendar on Monday, January 30, in Turner Auditorium on the College's main campus.

The calendar honors local individuals who have made significant contributions to the African-American community. The theme for the 2017 calendar is African-American Champions of Education.

Honorees include:

- LaMonica Butler, teacher, mentor to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) students, and School Advisory Council committee president

- Wilbert Butler, TCC STEM professor and creator of the STEM Gym model

- Sonia Clark-Rosier, associate dean at Wakulla High School

- Desmond Cole, principal at Nims Middle School

- Bishop Titus B. Deas, senior pastor at Deliverance Temple Ministries First Born Church.

- Cynthia Gaines, teacher and speech and language pathologist

- Tamika Jenkins, counselor with Florida State University Schools

- Lenita Joe, retired educator and mentor

- Karlisa Johnson, teacher at W. T. Moore Elementary School

- Isaac Manning,

- building maintenance supervisor at W. T. Moore Elementary School

- Iris C. Wilson, former teacher, assistant principal, principal and assistant superintendent, and former Florida Department of Education deputy chancellor

- Vivian Wright Wilson, former employee at Leon County Schools

In addition, Lillie Jackson and April Knight received honorable mention recognitions. Jackson is a former teacher, assistant principal, principal and director of dropout prevention, while Knight is currently the assistant principal for curriculum at Griffin Middle School.

The 14 honorees and honorable mentions were

recognized and presented with commemorative plaques by TCC President Jim Murdaugh, TCC Provost Feleccia Moore-Davis, and members of the TCC District Board of Trustees. Murdaugh also hosted a luncheon for the honorees earlier in the day.

The ceremony was energized by a performance from TCC's African Drum and Dance Ensemble and an invocation from Pastor Joe Davis of Truth Gatherers Community Church. WCTV anchors Shonda Knight and Alicia Turner served as emcees.

For information, contact Gregory Williams at (850) 201-6070 or [williagr@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:williagr@tcc.fl.edu).



## TCC launches computer literacy class

ERIN HILL

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

It's easier than ever to get plugged into the digital age.

The Tallahassee Community College Gadsden Center will offer Computer and Internet Literacy (CGS 1060) as a course from Feb. 13 through May 5. The class is offered on Mondays and Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:45 p.m.

It's a four-credit course, and those interested in enrolling in the course must already be a TCC student or apply to the school.

Course topics include: computer hardware and software fundamentals, key productivity applications including the Microsoft Office suite, and effective internet communication and browsing.

Desiree Gorman, TCC Gadsden's manager, said anyone interested in taking the course can come to the center and get help applying to TCC if they're not already enrolled and sign up for the course.

"If you're local, it's a way to take the course without having to go to Tallahassee," Gorman said.

Gorman said the course goes hand-in-hand with IC3 certification, which can be obtained in the course. She said these skills will promote readiness for college students and for the workforce.

For information, call 850-558-3620.

## Senate plan seeks to revive State College Board

LLOYD DUNKELBERGER

THE LEDGER

For two decades, Florida's state colleges, then known as community colleges, were under a 13-member state board.

That arrangement ended in 2003, after a series of moves consolidating Florida's education system under a new Board of Education appointed by the governor. At the same time, the state university system, after passage of a constitutional amendment in 2002, moved under the control of a separate Board of Governors.

But as Senate President Joe Negron seeks to overhaul Florida's higher-education system this year, one part of his proposal would recreate a State Board of Community Colleges.

Negron, R-Stuart, wants to separate state colleges from the Board of Education, which also is responsible for overseeing the public-school system, with its 67 districts, 2.8 million students and \$20 billion budget.

A bill (SB 374) that received approval this week from the Senate Education Committee would recreate the former State Board of Community Colleges, a 13-member panel appointed by the governor, to oversee the college system with its 800,000 students and \$2.4 billion budget.

"In my view of that process, the community colleges don't get the attention that they need and deserve," Negron said. "It's almost all focused on K-through-12, and having the community colleges on there is kind of like having the caboose on the end of the train."

Negron said he has "enormous respect" for the state colleges, noting two schools in recent years have won an Aspen Prize, a national award for top-performing community colleges.

"We have a tremendous system," Negron said. "I think they deserve the respect of having their own governing structure that responds to and handles their particular issues."

Norman Tripp, a former chairman of the State Board of Community Colleges and now a member of the university system Board of Governors, said he endorses the idea of bringing back the college board.

"It's a good idea for them to have a State Board of Community Colleges," Tripp said. "I think that's effective."

State college presidents, who have raised concerns about other provisions in Negron's higher-education package including more-stringent performance standards, are open to the idea of a new board.

Joe Pickens, a former state House member who is president of St. Johns River State College, said when he took over leadership of the school in 2008 he was asked to regularly attend meetings of the State Board of Education, which he did for a four-year period.

While stressing he was not criticizing the existing system, he said his observation of the process led him to the conclusion the Board of Education "is really consumed with K-12 issues and rightfully so."

"The pre-K-12 system in Florida is an all-consuming animal," he said.

Pickens said the idea of reviving the State Board of Community Colleges is not new to him. In fact, he said Robert McLendon, who led the St. Johns River school for 36 years before Pickens became president, is part of an informal group of retired community college presidents who have been collectively lobbying him for years to bring back the board.

"They believe the best thing that could happen to us is for that to come back," he said.

But Pickens, like other presidents who are debating the idea, also stressed that he would not support a board that erodes local trustees and their autonomy.

Pickens said local authority is necessary to guide a system with schools as disparate as Chipola College, a small school in the rural Panhandle, and Broward College, a huge school in a heavily urbanized area.

**Jim Murdaugh, president of Tallahassee Community College, said he remains neutral on the idea, waiting for more details to emerge. But he said local autonomy is a big issue for him, too.**

## Senate plan seeks to revive State College Board....

*continued*

**"Candidly, what has worked so well for our system is local control, the ability to make decisions at the local level that allows us to be responsive to the communities that we serve," Murdaugh said.**

Ed Meadows, president of Pensacola State College and chair of the colleges' Council of Presidents, said, while he believes the current system is working, he would be open to a state board if it is established in the state Constitution, as was done with the university system's Board of Governors.

He said that would keep the state college system on a "level playing field" with the university system.

"A constitutionally established board lends more stability moving into the future," Meadows said. "If we are going to have a truly advocating, importantly revered board, it has to be established through the Constitution."

Meadows also said a new state board should have a coordinating role for the 28-school system, leaving governing to the local boards of trustees.

"Our strength is in the local governing boards," he said.

## John Chapin, former dean at St. Petersburg College

TAMPA BAY REPORTER

Dr. John Chapin, who retired in September as dean of natural sciences at St. Petersburg College, died Feb. 9 after a short battle with Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Dr. Chapin, a Pensacola native, "worked as a science faculty member and administrator at SPC until 1995, when he moved on to take a position as Associate Dean of Science, Health and Wellness at Montgomery College. He then became Dean of Math, Science and Allied Health at Polk State College. He later moved into a position as Vice President of Instruction at Guilford Technical Community College, then served as Vice President of Workforce Development at Tallahassee Community College before returning to St. Petersburg College in 2012 as Dean of Natural Sciences," according to an obituary in the college's faculty and staff news, the Blue and White.

The article adds that Dr. Chapin's "biggest legacy at St. Petersburg College will be the Bay Pines STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Learning Center, a hands-on science learning complex adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway in Pinellas County."

## TCC to host showcase of health care program

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College's Healthcare Professions Division will host its spring 2017 showcase Monday, March 6, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education.

Prospective students and the public are invited to tour the Ghazvini Center and learn about the healthcare education programs offered at the site. In addition to the recently accredited Bachelor of Science in Nursing track, TCC offers a two-year nursing degree, along with programs in emergency medical services, radiologic technology, respiratory care, surgical technology, endoscopy technology, pharmacy technology, central sterile processing technology, nurse assisting and more. Students who are interested in TCC's Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting programs, which are offered on the main campus, may also learn about those programs at the March 6 event at the Ghazvini Center.

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

For information, contact Stephanie Solomon at (850) 558-4516 or [solomons@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:solomons@tcc.fl.edu).

## TCC staff recognized by Association of Florida Colleges

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The TCC chapter of the Association of Florida Colleges earned the Silver Chapter distinction from the statewide organization. Sharon Walker, staff assistant, is the chapter president.

Three TCC staff members received John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Awards from the League for Innovation in the Community College, including Amy Gaughf, college admissions recruiter, Kimberly Moore, vice president for workforce development, and Lei Wang, associate vice president for institutional effectiveness.

Kendrah Richards, TCC Foundation development officer, won Tallahassee's Inspiration Star Award from Working Well.

The award recognizes an individual who has made a healthy lifestyle change and has inspired co-workers.

## Woman says she faced bias at TCC

### Professor discriminated over disability, suit alleges

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

A local woman is suing Tallahassee Community College alleging discrimination by a former professor.

The lawsuit was filed Thursday by Marie Mattox in circuit court on behalf of Roxanne Cox. It lists TCC President Jim Murdaugh, the college and its trustees as defendants.

The suit alleges Cox was the victim of discrimination based on her disability, age and race and also retaliated against by former TCC professor Anne Winston in the college's Health Information Technology program.

In an unrelated matter, Winston, a veteran professor at TCC, was fired last year by Murdaugh as a result of the health program's failure to receive accreditation.

A hearing in Winston's case is expected to begin on Feb. 21. Donna Francis-Clark, who headed the program and also was fired, has contested the action but no ruling has been made.

The suit alleges Cox, who suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, was enrolled in classes primarily made up of African-American students and singled out by Winston, who is white. Cox is also white.

"During plaintiff's time at Tallahassee Community College, she was subjected to disparate treatment as she was treated differently from her younger, African-American, non-disabled/perceived to be disabled fellow students," the suit says.

It goes on to say, the "mistreatment" came from, but not limited to, Winston.

Winston could not be reached for comment. TCC spokesman Al Moran said it has been the college's policy to not comment on pending litigation.

According to the suit, the incidents began on the first day of classes in July 2014 when Winston allegedly told Cox she did not believe in disabilities. Cox was forced to take tests in the classroom rather than being allowed time and half to take tests in a private room because of her disability, as federal law allows.

Later, in August 2015, Cox enrolled in a second class taught by Winston. Cox gave Winston a letter describing her disabilities. She said Winston singled her out in class, telling students during roll call, "Roxie, and everyone knows Roxie."

Cox informed former dean Kate Stewart that she was not being provided accommodations by Winston and Stewart ordered the professor to conform. Cox alleges in the suit this made Winston act more aggressively toward her.

Around the same time, the suit alleges, Cox entered the classroom wearing sunglasses because of a medical condition and was ordered by Winston to remove them. She alleges she left the classroom in tears. Winston followed her later apologized, she claimed in the lawsuit.

Again, she relayed the incident to Stewart, who told her that since Winston had apologized, no further action would be taken.

In an interview with the Tallahassee Democrat on Monday, Cox said she completed the course work with A grades and earned certificates in two categories. She is taking classes at TCC but is not enrolled in the Health Information Technology program. She said she wants to wait until she learns of the final disposition of Winston's appeal in the professor's dismissal case.

"I don't want to go anywhere near Anne Winston," Cox said.

Mattox is seeking a jury trial.

## **Woman claims age, race discrimination at TCC**

**JULIE MONTANARO**  
WCTV

A 57 year old woman with rheumatoid arthritis is suing Tallahassee Community College, claiming it discriminated against her based on her age, race and disability.

Roxanne Cox claims her professor in the Health Information Technology program intimidated her, belittled her and retaliated against her when she complained to the dean.

Cox claims professor Anne Winston did not allow her additional time to take tests that Cox says she is entitled to given her disability. Cox says after complaining to the dean, Winston "began to be even more aggressive" toward her and ultimately "laid her hands" on her "in an intimidating manner."

The lawsuit claims on one occasion the professor said "Oh, I forgot, you're special, like always."

Cox says she informed Winston she could only take two classes in the spring of 2016 so as not to aggravate her disability. The suit claims Winston shouted at her saying, "What are you doing here? You need to grow up and decide what you want to be."

The lawsuit, filed February 8th, says the verbal abuse started in July 2014 and continued through 2015.

It contends Cox was "treated differently from her younger, African American, non-disabled/perceived to be disabled fellow students."

It claims TCC is liable because its "actions and inactions created, perpetuated and facilitated an abusive and offensive work environment."

A Tallahassee Community College spokesman says the school has not yet been served with the lawsuit. Communications and Marketing Vice President Al Moran says right now "TCC has no comment on the pending litigation."

We are trying to reach Cox's attorney Marie Mattox for comment.

## **Former TCC student sues college for discrimination by professor**

WTXL

A former student of Tallahassee Community College is suing the school for discrimination by a professor.

57-Year-Old Roxanne Cox, claims she's a victim of disability, age, and race discrimination as well as retaliation, as a student in the health information technology program.

Court documents show she suffers from rheumatoid arthritis, and alleges she was treated differently from her younger, African-American disabled fellow students.

The lawsuit identifies multiple encounters from Professor Anne Winston dating back to July 2014.

She's suing for damages including emotional distress and humiliation.

The college issued a statement, saying they have not been served with the complaint and do not comment on pending litigation.

## Sabal Palm principal shares experience with lawmakers on turning around failing schools

LYNN HATTER  
WFSU

Leon County's Sabal Palm Elementary School is one of a handful statewide that's been able to boost its school grade in recent years. Wednesday the school's principal discussed before a Senate education committee how the school made the jump.

Principal Anisha Robinson says Sabal Palm has formed partnerships with local businesses and churches, and updated the school to make it more attractive to children and parents. And if students are absent from school, Robinson says teachers will go find them.

"We will go to the house and pick up the students. We will say 'you haven't been here in three days'. Our teachers are mandated to find out why, and if they say, 'I can't find anyone, the phone numbers aren't working,' we jump in cars and knock on doors. And our parents know we will show up. I tell them, 'you get them to us, we'll take care of them.'"

**The school has partnered with Florida A&M University, Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College. And Robinson along with TCC's athletics department is introducing a new mentorship program. TCC athletes are required to mentor kids at Sabal Palm for an hour each week.**

"Kids at our school thrive on competition," she says, "So we want to feed their interest and let them know there are other people rooting for you, people who want the best for you."

The school has been able to move from an "D" grade to a "C" in recent years despite having a high number of homeless students. It also has new students who are refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and teachers are working on helping them learn English. Robinson's comments come Florida lawmakers are looking into new ways to help students do better in schools.



## **TCC Wakulla Center to offer corrections/law enforcement exam**

WAKULLA NEWS

Tallahassee Community College will begin offering the Criminal Justice Basic Abilities Test on Thursdays at the TCC Wakulla Center.

The CJBAT is administered to those who wish to become certified correctional and law enforcement officers in Florida. Employers who use the CJBAT as a hiring metric include the Florida Wildlife Commission, the Florida Department of Corrections and sheriff's offices.

In addition, the CJBAT serves as the initial step in the application process for the Florida Public Safety Institute's Corrections and Law Enforcement Basic Recruit training programs.

Beginning on March 2, individuals may take the CJBAT at the Wakulla Center on Thursdays at 9 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Registration for the test is \$35, payable on site.

The Wakulla Center is located at 2932 Crawfordville Highway in Crawfordville. The CJBAT is also administered by appointment on TCC's main campus.

For information, contact Desiree Gorman at (850) 922-6290 or [gorman@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:gorman@tcc.fl.edu).

## FPSI hosts 10th Annual Black History Month Program

By Kishanda L. Burns,  
FAMU Intern

Law enforcement officials traveled from different cities around the state to the Florida Public Safety Institute (FPSI) in Gadsden County last week to recognize those who have served and are now serving to protect the state's citizens. The event was FPSI's 10th Annual Black History Program.

E. E. Eunice, FPSI executive director, welcomed everyone as he stood at the podium thanking those who have done such a great job, especially for the 10th Annual Black History Program.

As the program proceeded, Director Kim Allen introduced the



People gather for the Black History Program at the Florida Public Safety Institute.

Rickards High School Honor Guard, who performed the presentation of colors. The Wreath for Fallen Officers was then presented by Detective Eric Bryant.

As Bryant spoke, he

honored those who have shaped Florida by their hard work and dedication.

"We remember those heroes for their gratitude, because they also remind us of our common humanity," said Bryant.

There were other speakers at the Black History Program who also honored those in law enforcement for their outstanding work while doing what they loved.

As the crowd of people

sat and listened to the speakers they, too, were appreciative and grateful for what law officers do for the State of Florida.

### Sgt. Anglie Hightower honored



The Gadsden Co. Sheriff's Department's own Sergeant Anglie Hightower was recognized as a pioneer in the law enforcement community.

Sgt. Hightower was acknowledged for being the first African-American female police officer hired at the Quincy Police Department and for her subsequent achievements with both the Quincy PD and the Gadsden Co. Sheriff's Office.

Hightower was recognized Feb. 7th during the Black History Month Breakfast at the Florida Public Safety Institute.

## Blazing a trail, making a difference



Pictured here, Sgt. Anglie Hightower is recognized during a Black History Month event at the Public Safety Institute in Havana for her contributions a pioneer in Gadsden County's law enforcement community. She was acknowledged for being the first African-American female police officer hired at the Quincy Police Department and for her subsequent achievements with both the Quincy Police Department and the Gadsden County Sheriff's Office. Photo submitted



## TCC's Commitment to Gadsden County

The Gadsden Center serves as TCC's permanent home in Gadsden County. Established in March 2016, The Gadsden Center continues the "Partnership for Progress" developed by TCC and Gadsden County over a decade ago. The Gadsden Center reflects TCC's strong commitment to providing programs and services and a meaningful presence that meet the real needs of the local community.

*Services available at the TCC Gadsden Center include academic advising, internship placement, financial aid consulting, and career services.*

### **SPRING 2017 CLASSES AT THE TCC GADSDEN CENTER:**

**GED** | Monday - Thursday | 9 a.m. - noon

**ESOL** | Monday - Thursday | 6 - 9 p.m.

**HVAC\*** | Monday - Thursday | 6 - 10 p.m.

*\*Financial Aid available*

### **CLASSES FROM FEBRUARY 13 TO MAY 5**

**Computer and Internet Literacy\***

Monday and Wednesday | 5:30 - 7:45 p.m.

*\*Financial Aid available*



(850) 558-3620 | [GadsdenCenter@tcc.fl.edu](mailto:GadsdenCenter@tcc.fl.edu)  
[www.tcc.fl.edu/gadsdencenter](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/gadsdencenter)

## 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 guaranteed 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 guaranteed transfer programs, including TCC2FSU, TCC2FAMU and the TCC-Flagler bridge to teaching program at:

[www.tcc.fl.edu/link](http://www.tcc.fl.edu/link)

