

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



November 19, 2016 - January 13, 2017

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



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- November 22 - WTXL - Anonymous donor gives \$7.9 million gift to TCC
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- December 1 - WCTV/WTXL - "TCC. We Rise" campaign concludes with over \$13 million raised
- December 2 - WCTV - Charitable event on TCC's campus encourages students to give
- December 6 - WTXL - TCC men's and women's basketball teams soar in national rankings
- December 12 - WTXL - TCC announces plans for winter break
- December 13 - WTXL - Tallahassee Fire Academy celebrates graduation
- December 21 - WTXL - Info session for displaced ITT students brings about 20 enrollees to TCC
- January 10, 2017 - WTXL - TCC assists in hosting entrepreneurial workshop hosted at WEI
- January 10 - WTXL - President Murdaugh to speak at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration event
- January 11 - WTXL - TCC students beautify StarMetro bus as part of in-class project
- January 11 - WCTV - TCC, FSU and FAMU Presidents sign affirmation of unity at MLK event

Former fire chief was nontraditional student

KELSEY ANDERSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (50 FOR 50)

Former fire chief and Tallahassee native Cindy Dick describes herself as a nontraditional student.

"Classroom courses just weren't for me," she explained.

Cindy Dick's position as a lieutenant at the Tallahassee Fire Department and her responsibilities to her young son left little time to attend classes on a traditional schedule.

She recognized the opportunities Tallahassee Community College offered to students who sought flexibility in their academic schedule, so she enrolled in TCC's Associate in Arts degree program, which she completed in 1992. She later received a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Florida and a master's degree in business administration with an emphasis in public administration from Columbia Southern University.

It was clear that she had finally found her niche in terms of educational success.

"My academic experience at TCC was the best I've had to date," she said. "From the time I started at the college until I earned my master's degree many years later, I maintained a grade point average of 4.0," she said.

In 2013, Cindy Dick retired from the Tallahassee Fire Department after a 27-year career that included eight years serving as the city's first female fire chief.

She came out of retirement only a year later to accept a job at the Florida Department of Health as director of the Emergency Preparedness & Community Support Program.

She resigned from her position at the Department of Health in 2015 and has retired – for good. She enjoys being busy raising her teenage son and looks forward to seeing what path he will take in his own education.

The former fire chief said that she sees the impact of TCC on Tallahassee on a daily basis. The diversity of the programs offered gives opportunities to the people who otherwise would not consider postsecondary education as an option for them, she said.

"There's something about a two-year college that's especially valuable, and I think Tallahassee Community College is exceptionally special to our community."

GED and ESOL classes set to start Jan. 9 at TCC

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College is accepting new students for GED preparation courses and English for Speakers of Other Languages programs. Spring classes start Monday, January 9.

Gadsden County residents can take morning GED classes at the Gadsden Center, located at 223 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy, Florida, or evening classes Tuesday and Thursday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Liberty Center in Chattahoochee.

In addition, students can take either morning or night GED classes at the TCC main campus. The GED courses are also offered online.

English for Speakers of Other Languages classes are available in the evening at the Gadsden Center.

Interested persons should apply now for admission to TCC, then contact Linda Williams at 850-201-8760 or ae@tcc.fl.edu for registration dates and more details. The application is free.

TCC announces "Real Talk" discussion series

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College's "Real Talk" series will begin with a discussion titled "Mercy Me: Civil Unrest That Divides the African-American Community and Law Enforcement" on Tuesday, November 29, at 6 p.m. in TCC's Turner Auditorium. The discussions are open to the public.

Featured panelists include Reverend Dr. Julius Harrison McAllister Jr., Pastor Dean Inserra, Tallahassee City Commissioner Curtis Richardson, Wakulla County Sheriff Charlie Creel, Havana Police Chief Tracy Smith, Gadsden County Major Shawn Wood, Tallahassee Police Department Major Rod Young, Florida A & M University professor and filmmaker Kenneth Jones, and TCC professors Cicely Brantley and Andrea Oliver. State Representative-elect Ramon Alexander and FAMU professor Kenya Washington-Johnson will serve as moderators.

Panelists will offer observations, analysis and potential solutions from their areas of expertise, then take questions from the audience.

Turner Auditorium is in the Fine and Performing Arts Center on the College's main campus. For information, contact Marcus Nicolas at (850) 201-8045 or nicolasm@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC receives record \$7.9 million pledge from anonymous donor

Money to be paid over 20 years, will be used to fund scholarships

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

An anonymous donor has pledged \$7.9 million to Tallahassee Community College, the largest single financial gift in the college's 50-year history.

The announcement was made Monday during a meeting of the college's district board of trustees by Heather Mitchell, vice president for resource development and executive director of the TCC Foundation.

Two other gifts of \$25,000 each, also were announced Monday. The foundation's \$10 million "TCC. We Rise" campaign opened in March, as part of the college's 50th-anniversary celebration. The college plans to announce the campaign total next week.

No details were provided about who donated the \$7,899,051. The money will be paid out over 20 years and be used for scholarships.

"Financial need is the single greatest barrier to obtaining a college education," TCC President Jim Murdaugh said. "Scholarships level the playing field for students who seek a college education. Of course, scholarships also attract and reward high-performing students. This gift will have a long-lasting impact on TCC and our current and future students."

Thomson Brock Luger & Company CPAs are contributing \$25,000 to support the renovation of an accounting classroom on TCC's main campus.

"We saw the classroom needed renovation and, because of our long-term relationship with the college, we felt it was the best way for us to show our appreciation to TCC for the positive impact it provides to our community," said the company's Matt Hansard. "We also considered our contribution as a way we could support the success of our profession's future."

Several of the firm's leaders have personal connections to TCC.

Partner Greg Cochran is an alumnus, and his daughter Elizabeth is enrolled as a freshman. Senior partner Harold Brock has a grandchild attending TCC. Managing partner Fred C. Luger served on the college's Business and Management Advisory Board, and tax partner Ann Marie Bachman has been a member of the TCC Foundation's President's Circle.

Also contributing \$25,000 toward a classroom renovation is Southern Strategy Group, a prominent lobbying firm. The gift is in honor of Stacey Webb, a member of the firm who died in 2015. Webb led the firm's education practice and was a strong voice for Florida's community college system.

Before joining Southern Strategy Group, she had served as assistant chancellor for community colleges and workforce education at the Florida Department of Education and as president of the Foundation for Florida's Community Colleges, according to TCC.

She was also a member of the "TCC. We Rise." campaign steering committee in its development stage.

"Learning is not a spectator sport," said Mitchell. "For students to have success in the classroom, they must engage through discussions, projects and collaborations. Funds to support classroom renovations help us ensure that our classroom designs encourage student interaction and engagement."

In May, the Pensacola Street Partners, which includes Kim B. Williams, president of MARPAN supply and recycling company, William Boyette, chairman of PSBI construction company, and Kenneth Sweeney, a local architect, donated a gift of \$1 million to the campaign.

TCC awarded \$7 million for scholarships, largest single donation ever

WTXL

Tallahassee Community College announced that they have been awarded three major gifts, during the TCC District Board of Trustees meeting on Monday.

The gifts are part of the foundation's \$10 million "TCC, We Rise" campaign.

More than \$7 million was received from one of the gifts, which is the largest single donation the college has ever been given.

That \$7 million donation will be devoted to scholarships, and will be paid out over a 30-year period.

Trustees also recognized student Haley Hall, who was selected as the chancellor's Clark Maxwell Scholar Student of the Month for the Florida College System.

Hall received a \$150 dollar award with the honor.

At the same time, student Reanna Bowman was presented with a \$500 Sunkist/Schweppes Education scholarship.

"Financial barriers are the number one reason why people don't attend college at all, even an institution as affordable as Tallahassee Community College," said Heather Mitchell, "But to have this type of investment in scholarships means we'll be able to throw that net much broader and wider for students we can help get into our system."

Mitchell hoped the new donations will continue higher-educational success for future TCC students.

TCC receives largest donation in school's history

WCTV

Tallahassee Community College is celebrating the largest single donation in the college's history.

School officials say a gift of \$7.9 million was given to the school from an anonymous donor. It will be paid over a 20-year period and be entirely devoted to scholarships.

TCC president Jim Murdaugh expressed appreciation for the donation and said it will help level the playing field for students and help attract high performing students.

"Financial need is the greatest barrier to obtaining a college education," said Murdaugh. "Scholarships level the playing field for students who seek a college education. Of course, scholarships also attract and reward high-performing students. This gift will have a long-lasting impact on TCC and our current and future students."

The donation was announced at a the Board of Trustees meeting Monday.

Thomas Brock Luger & Company CPAs and Southern Strategy Group also made donations of \$25,000 each and will go toward separate classroom renovations.

Chris Evert awards scholarship to young Tallahassee mom, TCC student

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Chris Evert and the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida recently announced Alexis St. Hilaire, a single mother from Tallahassee, as the recipient of the 2016 Vitas Gerulaitis Memorial Scholarship.

The two-year college scholarship is awarded each year to women who have demonstrated a strong desire to improve their lives by participating in community-based prevention programs administered in partnership with the Ounce of Prevention Fund.

The scholarship presentation was a highlight of the 27th annual Chris Evert Raymond James Pro-Celebrity Tennis Classic.

"I'm proud to name Alexis St. Hilaire as the recipient of the 2016 Vitas Gerulaitis Memorial Scholarship," said Chris Evert. "She possesses the strength to thrive in the face of adversity and understands the importance of education in reaching her goals. It is an honor to help young women like Alexis achieve their dreams."

Alexis and her four brothers were raised by a hard-working single mother and their great-grandmother. As a sophomore in high school, Alexis became a single mom. At this crossroads when it was tempting to take the wrong path, Alexis decided she wanted to rise above her challenges. She worked harder, took extra courses online and graduated in the top 20 percent of her class. [Alexis is enrolled at Tallahassee Community College pursuing a degree in nursing. She plans to one day work as a registered nurse and give back to her community.](#)

"For more than 20 years, this scholarship program has empowered dozens of women to improve their lives, and the lives of their children, by pursuing their educational goals," said Douglas Sessions, Jr., president and CEO of the Ounce of Prevention Fund. "We are pleased to partner with Chris Evert Charities to help families become self-sufficient and provide their children with the best start in life."

Florida Institute provides funding to Crawfordville-based Panacea Oyster Co-Op Corp

MANUFACTURING CLOSE-UP

The Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research (the Florida Institute) announced today that it has finalized a funding agreement with Panacea Oyster Co-Op Corporation (POCC), a Crawfordville-based company with technology developed at the Tallahassee Community College Wakulla Environmental Institute. The Florida Institute supports new company creation based on publicly-funded research, and bridges early funding gaps for companies spinning out of Florida-based universities and research institutions.

Today 85% of all natural US and global oyster beds are gone, and a void has been left in the market for oyster aquaculture ranching. Panacea Oyster Co-Op Corporation (POCC) was founded by a group of oyster ranchers to cultivate a new full water column oyster farming community. This aquaculture method keeps oysters safe from bottom-dwelling predators while taking advantage of the nutrient-rich water surface which is free from the pollutants that settle at the bottom.

"The US is the second largest seafood consumer, and oysters are in high demand," said Robin Olin Panacea Oyster Co-Op Corporation, Chief Executive Officer. "Our goal is to lead the largest resurrection project in the history of Wakulla County by creating primary water filtering system (one oyster filters up to 50 gallons of water per day) to facilitate the re-establishment of all Gulf flora and fauna to its full vibrancy, and to create a successful keystone model for other oyster farmers to mirror and emulate in the future...profitably."

"Due to the unique combination of high nutrient content and a close proximity to the largest known fresh-water spring, POCC is positioned to change the aquaculture ranching business," said Jackson Streeter, MD, Florida Institute Chief Executive Officer. "We look forward to their progress in filling this unique void in the marketplace, and the positive economic impacts they will have in the State of Florida."

Formed by the Florida Legislature in 2007, the Florida Institute for the Commercialization of Public Research is a non-profit organization that works collaboratively with the technology licensing and commercialization offices of Florida's state universities and private research institutions to leverage a \$2B+ research base and

form investable companies that create clean jobs in new industries that are driving the global economy. With funding from the State of Florida through the Department of Economic Opportunity, and through the generosity of mentors, advisors and donors, the Institute provides company building services, and seed funding through the Florida Technology Seed Capital Fund, to promising Florida startups. Sixty-one companies have been funded to date, and the Institute's economic impact through June 30, 2016 in the State of Florida was \$630 million.

Panacea Oyster Co-Op Corporation (POCC) was founded by a group of oyster ranchers to cultivate a new full water column oyster ranching community in Apalachee Bay. It will operate a completely vertical system of support for the ranchers, beginning with a hatchery/nursery and finishing with a wholesale processing and pasteurization plant, with continuous aquaculture education and training, to ensure the best quality and largest quantity of "superior oysters" possible from its members.

Gadsden Center GED, ESOL classes start Jan. 9

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Tallahassee Community College's Adult Education Program is now accepting new students for GED preparation courses and English for Speakers of Other Languages programs in Gadsden County. Spring classes

start Monday, January 9.

Gadsden County residents can take morning GED classes at the Gadsden Center, located at 223 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy, Florida, or evening classes Tuesday and Thursday from 6 – 8:30 p.m. at the Liberty

Center in Chattahoochee.

In addition, students can take either morning or night GED classes at the TCC main campus. The GED courses are also offered online.

English for Speakers of Other Languages classes are available in

the evening at the Gadsden Center.

Interested persons should apply now for admission to TCC, then contact Linda Williams at 850-201-8760 or ae@tcc.fl.edu for registration dates and more details.

Sangaré recalls his Eagle roots

KELSEY ANDERSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (50 FOR 50)

Ismael Sangaré earned an Associate in Arts degree from Tallahassee Community College in 2009, graduating with honors. After earning his degree, Sangaré transferred to Florida A & M University and later earned a Bachelor of Science in accounting in 2012.

Sangaré's TCC experience was greatly enriched by his participation in many of the clubs and organizations available to students on campus. Apart from participating in TCC's Model United Nations team, he was also a member of the Honor's Club and treasurer of the Student Government Association.

"I had a full educational experience while attending TCC – from both an academic perspective and an extracurricular campus life perspective," Sangaré said. "I was really able to hit the ground running when I transferred to FAMU. Seeing that all my credits transferred with me, I was right on par with other students of my matriculating class."

As a member of the International Student Organization, Sangaré helped organize Bringing the World to TCC – an event that showcases the many cultural aspects of a college campus. "There was so much planning involved with this event. Between the entertainment, the food and other fun activities, it was gratifying to see how much the student body enjoyed the event," Sangaré said.

Today, Sangaré works as a senior consultant in financial services at Ernst & Young, a Big 4 accounting firm in New York City. However, he returned to Tallahassee in November 2015 to speak at the Parade of Nations, part of TCC's celebration of International Education Week.

"It gave me great pleasure to discuss the impact of the international student community on the college campus, while also conveying a message about the rewards of taking advantage of the many opportunities that TCC has to offer," said Sangaré.

TCC announces panel discussions addressing social and academic inclusion

WTXL

Tallahassee Community College is hosting a discussion series aimed on shining a light on tension between African-American communities and law enforcement.

TCC announced that they will present a series of panel discussions aimed at promoting a campus culture of understanding, social and academic inclusion, and positive relationships that support student success.

The series, titled "Real Talk", will begin with a discussion called, "Mercy Me: Civil Unrest That Divides the African-American Community and Law Enforcement" on Tuesday at 6 p.m. in TCC's Turner Auditorium.

Featured panelists include Reverend Dr. Julius Harrison McAllister Jr., Pastor Dean Inserra, Tallahassee City Commissioner Curtis Richardson, Wakulla County Sheriff Charlie Creel, Havana Police Chief Tracy Smith, Gadsden County Major Shawn Wood, Tallahassee Police Department Major Rod Young, Florida A & M University professor and filmmaker Kenneth Jones, and TCC professors Cicely Brantley and Andrea Oliver.

State Representative-elect Ramon Alexander and FAMU professor Kenya Washington-Johnson will serve as moderators to the panel.

The panelists will share their stories, thoughts, and potential solutions from their areas of expertise, then take questions from the audience. The discussions are open to the public.

A second discussion, "The Healing Process Can Begin," is slated for February 2017.

For information, contact Marcus Nicolas at (850) 201-8045 or nicolasm@tcc.fl.edu.

New truck driving program to launch at Tallahassee Community College

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College's Workforce Development Division will kick off a new Commercial Vehicle Driving program Monday, December 5.

The eight-week program meets daily Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at TCC's Transportation and Logistics Center of Excellence on Appleyard Drive. Students can earn their Class "A" commercial license through a combination of classroom instruction, simulation and 1000 miles of over-the-road training.

The program will provide students with skills to address the industry-wide shortage of nearly 30,000 drivers. Individuals in this in-demand career can expect to earn over \$16 per hour on average.

Tuition and lab fees for the course are \$2405.40, not including expenses such as Florida Department of Transportation screenings, textbooks and uniforms.

For information on available scholarships and other financial assistance and on how to register for the program, contact Jessica Griffin at (850) 201-8761 or griffinj@tcc.fl.edu.

First Commerce Credit Union gives \$300K for TCC entrepreneurial efforts

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College's efforts to promote entrepreneurship got a \$300,000 boost Tuesday from First Commerce Credit Union.

The gift will be paid over five years. It will be used to hire a coordinator for SPARK!, an initiative within the college's workforce development division. SPARK! offers credit and non-credit courses to students and budding business owners who seek help in starting their businesses.

The program was introduced last December. In October, TCC received honorable mention as one of the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship's top five entrepreneurial colleges.

"It's a great program, but it needs a focused effort," Cecilia Homison, CEO of First Commerce, said of SPARK! "TCC is taking a regionalized approach that we felt was critically important to build economic development.

"We will consider this a success when we are igniting entrepreneurs that create jobs across our region."

Homison said First Commerce has a history of promoting and assisting new businesses. The decision to underwrite the coordinator's position is important in making sure someone is responsible for the program's focus and expansion.

"We found Spark! to be the perfect alignment of the shared vision between First Commerce and TCC," she said. "Spark! focuses on the very foundation of economic development – entrepreneurship that spurs job creation – and we believe the program will benefit our area in many ways for years to come."

TCC President Jim Murdaugh said he has had talks with the credit union about the college's interest in promoting entrepreneurialism for the past few years. It was about six months ago when both sides started focusing on the financial gift.

Murdaugh said hiring a person to focus solely on SPARK! and its programs will replace the committee approach that exists today.

Kim Moore, vice president for workforce development at TCC, said she's advertising now for the position and hopes to have someone on board by the first of the year.

"Our country was built on small businesses," Moore said in a release. "It's our commitment to create an environment for our student entrepreneurs that provides the tools they need to harness their talent, energy and creativity to spur economic vitality and create jobs in our community."

Two budding entrepreneurs were introduced at Tuesday's news conference. William Gilmore, an Army veteran, placed third in TCC first "Startup Weekend" for his "Sprain Arrestor" device that helps guard against ankle sprains.

Jasmine Anderson, who graduated from Florida A&M University with a degree in healthcare administration, won first place in TCC's retail incubator competition.

As a result, she will be getting free retail space in TCC's downtown center for her "Distressed by Jas" startup, where she designs and repurposes denim.

Murdaugh said the \$300,000 – which was announced on #GivingTuesday – will be included in the TCC Foundation's \$10 million "TCC. We Rise" campaign.

Murdaugh, along with Heather Mitchell, vice president for resource development and executive director of the TCC Foundation, will announce the campaign's total on Thursday.

TCC announces largest gift in school history

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Officials and supporters of Tallahassee Community College are celebrating the largest single donation in the College's history. The gift, valued at nearly \$7.9 million dollars, is from an anonymous donor.

Jim Murdaugh, TCC president, expressed the College's appreciation for the gift, which will be paid over a 20-year period and will be entirely devoted to scholarships.

"Financial need is the greatest barrier to obtaining a college education," said Murdaugh. "Scholarships level the playing field for students who seek a college education. Of course, scholarships also attract and reward high-performing students. This gift will have a long-lasting impact on TCC and our current and future students."

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at the same meeting. All three gifts are part of the Foundation's "TCC. We Rise." fundraising campaign.

Thomson Brock Luger & Company CPAs made a \$25,000 gift to support the renovation of an accounting classroom. The company was represented by Matt Hansard and Greg Cochran, who is a TCC alumnus.

"We saw the classroom needed renovation and, because of our long-term relationship with the College, we felt it was the best way for us to show our appreciation to TCC for the positive impact it provides to our community," said Hansard. "We also considered our contribution as a way we could support the success of our profession's future."

Another classroom renovation will be supported by the lobbying firm Southern Strategy Group, which was represented by Chris Dudley, managing partner. The \$25,000 gift honors Stacey Webb, a member of the firm who passed away in 2015.

Webb led the firm's education practice and was an enthusiastic advocate for the community college system.

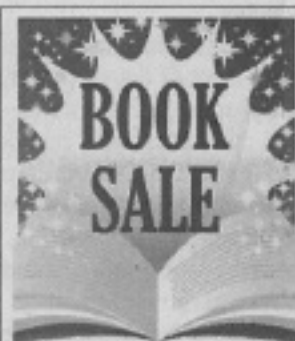
Before joining Southern Strategy Group, she had served as assistant chancellor for community colleges and workforce education at the Florida Department of Education and as president of the Foundation for Florida's Community Colleges. She was also a member of the "TCC. We Rise." campaign steering committee during its earliest days.

The Foundation has been working with many groups and individuals in the community to support classroom renovations, said Heather Mitchell, executive director of the TCC Foundation.

"Learning is not a spectator sport," she said. "For students to have success in the classroom, they must engage through discussions, projects and collaborations. Funds to support classroom renovations

help us ensure that our classroom designs encourage student interaction and engagement."

For information contact Heather Mitchell at (850) 201-6067 or mitchelh@tcc.fl.edu.



Havana Branch
Of the Gadsden Co. Library
203 5th Ave. East
Havana, FL 32333

Nov. 29 thru Dec. 3

Tues.: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wed.: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thur.: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Fri.: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat.: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Hard Backs: \$2.00
Paper Backs: 50¢

**Special
Saturday Sale!**

Truck-driving program kicks off Dec. 5 at TCC

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Tuition and lab fees for the course are \$2,405.40, not including expenses such as Florida Department of Transportation screenings, textbooks and uniforms. Information on available scholarships and other financial assistance can be found at <http://www.tcc.fl.edu/workforce-development/individuals/other-student-resources/>.

Interested individuals should first apply to TCC using the online short-term certificate application at www.GoToTCC.com. Once the application is complete, students may visit www.tcc.fl.edu/workforce to register for the program.

For information, contact Jessica Griffin at (850) 201-8761 or griffinj@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC Gadsden Center to host recruitment fair

TALLAHASSEE — The Tallahassee Community College Gadsden Center will host a recruitment fair for its Spring 2017 offerings on Monday, December 5, from noon to 2 p.m. at its downtown Quincy location.

Courses to be offered at the Gadsden Center include GED prep, English as a Second or Other Language, and Heating, Ventilation

and Air-Conditioning. All courses are offered Monday through Thursday, from January 9 to April 27.

Representatives from TCC's Workforce Development Division will be on hand to discuss programs offered at the Gadsden Center and on the main campus in Tallahassee, including enrollment and financial aid, where applicable. Non-credit programs

include Industrial Machinery Maintenance and Repair, Machining, HVAC, Welding Technology, Cyber Security, and Commercial Truck Driving.

Representatives will also be present to discuss TCC's college-credit programs and to help prospective students complete the TCC application and the Free Application for Federal

Student Aid.

The "Ask the Expert" service and Skype communications with the Advising and Financial Aid offices will be available.

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

For class times and information, contact Desiree Gorman at (850) 558-3620 or Gadsden-Center@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC receives largest gift in school's history

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"Financial need is the greatest barrier to obtaining a college education," said Murdaugh. "Scholarships level the playing field for students who seek a college education. Of course, scholarships also attract and reward high-performing students. This gift will have a long-lasting impact on TCC and our current and future students."

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\$7.9 million donation will go to TCC scholarships

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T-Mobile

With \$13M haul, TCC exceeds fundraising goal

LYNN HATTER
WFSU

Nathalia Estizeme is like most college students. Juggling classes with extra-curricular, and outside jobs. She says she found herself having to choose between work and school. But this year, she received a scholarship.

"After receiving this scholarship, I no longer have to worry about how I would pay rent or where I was getting my receiving my next meal. I finally had the chance to be a regular college student and dive deep into my educational goals."

TCC had set a \$10 million fundraising goal and surpassed it by \$3 million. It's the college's largest fundraising haul and the built of the money is going to scholarships. \$1.2 million will go to shoring up facilities including 30 classroom renovations.

"If you've ever gone into one of those backward classrooms, you'd think you were in a fifth grade classroom. Students come into our rooms and sit in future where they are more focused on getting comfortable than on the classroom lecture or the material," says Social Sciences Dean Monte Fickelstein.

An anonymous donor gave TCC \$7,859,051 or about half of the total amount raised. The college is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

In celebration of its 50th, TCC launches 'We Rise' campaign

WTXL

For nearly 50 years Tallahassee Community College has been serving students in the Capital City.

In celebration of the big birthday, the school is launching its We Rise campaign, which will put \$9 million towards scholarships, and close to \$1.2 million on renovations and facility improvements.

"We had more students then we could handle that wanted to come and help us with this. Cause at the end of the day that's what this 13 million dollars is about. \$13,680,888 is to support student success every single penny of it," said Heather Mitchell, the executive director of the TCC Foundation.

68 percent of the funds that were raised for during the campaign came donations given by local businesses, families, and individuals donors.

TCC wraps up record fundraising campaign

Community college passes \$13M, well over announced \$10M goal

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The Tallahassee Community College Foundation Thursday announced its fundraising campaign brought in over \$13 million, exceeding the \$10-million goal announced in March.

"We not only reached our goal, we blew past it," said an exuberant Heather Mitchell, executive director of the foundation and vice president for resource development at the college.

The TCC.We Rise. campaign was chaired by Karen Moore, owner of Moore Communications Group and a member of the college's trustees' board. It was the largest fundraising campaign in TCC's history.

The campaign was geared to raise money for scholarships to help financially strapped current or future students; renovations of outdated classrooms and money to make other learning-related improvements.

It was conducted as TCC held a year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary.

Pam Butler, foundation chairman and owner of Aegis Business Technologies, said the campaign was successful because of the many connections the college has in the community. Aegis is sponsoring one the STEM classroom renovations.

She also noted the 22-member foundation board was responsible for raising 10 percent of the \$13,068,888 total as of Thursday. And, she said, 68 percent of the money came from individual donors.

The \$13-million almost matches the \$14 million now in the college's endowment fund. About \$1 million will be going to the foundation's coffers.

"Hardly anyone ever said 'no,'" Butler said. "TCC was probably the easiest sell I've ever had. People wanted to be part of what was making TCC successful."

She said the idea of a \$25,000 contribution toward classroom makeovers was something that connected with business owners. Those contributions also are symbolic because students can see the name of the business on a plaque and that can help inspire students to think about giving back once they enter the work world.

"Philanthropy is a big reason for your existence," Butler said, of the message sent. "There is more to this experience than paying tuition."

Butler and Mitchell said the combination of the 50th anniversary promotions and the campaign also helped the college establish this year an alumni association that now has 22,000 names on its mailing list.

"That alumni group raised \$63,000 in one week," Butler said.

Moore agreed with Butler that many people in the community feel a connection to the college, either as former students, as business partners or as employees of graduates.

"It is the crown jewel of this community," said Moore, who, along with her husband, Richard, contributed \$110,000 toward the Veteran Center and the Veterans Leadership Academy.

"It's changing lives, it's changing families and it's changing our businesses," Moore said, referring to TCC's mission of offering academic or certification classes that meet the needs of employers in Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties.

Moore said contributions ranged from \$25 to the \$7.8 million gift from an anonymous donor announced before Thanksgiving. The \$7.8 million donation is the largest single gift ever to TCC.

TCC President Jim Murdaugh said it was important from the early planning stages of the campaign that the focus would be on improving student access to the college and success once they enroll.

"Some of this (desire to contribute) has happened fairly quickly and some were from relationships that were formed over time," Murdaugh said. "Obviously, we are excited about exceeding a goal we set."

"I look at every dollar as an investment into the access opportunity for our students," he said.

Tallahassee shows its entrepreneurial evolution

Chamber event honors past, present, future stars of TCC's startup community

JAY REVELL

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee has a long history of entrepreneurship. That history has led to an emerging and thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem today. In a talk to the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce that covered the past, present, and future of entrepreneurship in Tallahassee, Lucas Lindsey told the stories of those who are making entrepreneurship work so well in the capital city. Lindsey is the Executive Director of Domi Station, the home for entrepreneurial start-ups in Leon County. In its third year of programming, Domi is a unique partnership between private funders, Leon County Government and local higher education institutions.

Lindsey was the keynote speaker at an Entrepreneurship Forum produced by the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce. The event, sponsored by Sachs Media Group and the new Tallahassee/Leon County Office of Economic Vitality, was part of the ongoing Entrepreneur Month. E-Month, as it is called by the OEV staff and partners, has featured a month-long calendar of events focused on entrepreneurship in November. The Chamber event was held at the FSU Turnbull Conference Center and had a crowd of over 100 local business leaders in attendance.

During Lindsey's talk, he featured three unique stories of entrepreneurship in Tallahassee. Speaking of the past, Lindsey told the story of George Langford and his early days of launching Municipal Code Corporation in Tallahassee. Lindsey said that the MCC team describes themselves today as a "65 year old start up" that chose to make a home in Tallahassee while having a global business footprint.

Lindsey featured local technology company Uber Ops as an example of the present state of entrepreneurs. Uber Ops founder Edward Gonzalez Loumiet faced pressure to move his growing company to the technology hub of Austin Texas, but he made a choice to stay in Tallahassee and help build a stronger technology base here. Today, his company reaches across the country, but Tallahassee is still home base.

Lindsey also pointed to the future of entrepreneurship when he told the story of Jasmine Anderson. Anderson is the founder and owner of Distressed by Jas, a company that sells custom made distressed jeans. She is the winner of the recent Downtown Retail Incubator competition

hosted by Tallahassee Community College and the Downtown Improvement Authority. As the winner, she will receive a free lease for her retail space in the TCC Capital Center. Lindsey notes that efforts like this are bringing more entrepreneurs to the forefront in Tallahassee.

Lindsey believes that the key to growing entrepreneurship is to increase connectivity amongst existing networks in Tallahassee. The Domi team is on a mission to put entrepreneurs in environments where they can network with each other and longtime business leaders to create new successful partnerships in Tallahassee. According to Chamber President and CEO Sue Dick, that is what the forum was trying to showcase.

The Chamber forum didn't end with Lucas Lindsey's keynote, but also included a live startup pitch competition featuring three companies that are currently working out of Domi Station. The companies are part of the Get Started Cohort class currently being hosted by Domi. Each startup offered a five-minute pitch on their company and their vision for scaling the business. Using the new Chamber app, developed by local tech company App Innovators, the audience was able to vote on their choice for who should receive a seed grant of \$1,000. The winner was Fly Mouthwash, a company who is going to market in 2017 with a convenient new approach to converting tap water into mouthwash on demand. Fly Mouthwash received a check for \$1,000 from Centennial Bank, a sponsor of the program.

"Our community is in the midst of an entrepreneurial evolution. Thanks to people like Lucas Lindsey and the many entrepreneurs who are emerging from Domi Station, the evolution is rapidly accelerating," said Sue Dick. The Chamber Entrepreneurial forum is their final quarterly forum for 2016. The next forum will be on February 2nd and will feature an economic forecast for the Tallahassee area.

Giving Tuesday adds visibility, FSU and TCC earn big gifts

ALYCE LEE STANSBURY

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (NOTES ON NONPROFITS)

Tallahassee has seen a lot of charitable giving lately. #GivingTuesday, a national day of giving following Cyber Monday, was held on November 29 and many local nonprofits participated. My inbox and social media feeds were chock full of special requests, creative campaigns, and generous donors who offered matching gifts to encourage others to give.

This was the second year of #BigBendGivesBack, a local effort to promote Giving Tuesday organized by a coalition of nonprofits including Association of Fundraising Professionals Big Bend Chapter, United Way of the Big Bend, Community Foundation of North Florida, Council on Culture & Arts, United Partners for Human Services, and Institute for Nonprofit Innovation & Excellence.

The campaign included an #UNselfie contest sponsored by the Tallahassee Democrat in which donors were asked to write down the name of a nonprofit they support, take a photo of themselves with their message, and post it online.

On Giving Tuesday, everyone was encouraged to vote for their favorite photo. Hats off to Who We Play For who received over 250 votes and will receive a \$500 grant from the Community Foundation of North Florida and \$500 direct mail package from Target Print & Copy. The first runner-up was Oasis Center for Women & Girls with over 200 votes; they too will receive a direct mail package. You can see their creative photos at www.tallahassee.com/Unselfie.

The Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE) is currently surveying local nonprofits for more information about their participation and results. To include your results in the survey, please contact INIE at (850) 201-9766. We look forward to sharing more information about the local impact of Giving Tuesday in a future column.

There have also been several big gifts announced recently. Two of these gifts were made to Tallahassee Community College as part of the "TCC: We Rise" campaign. The first is a \$7 million gift from an anonymous donor that will be devoted to scholarships and is the single largest donation in the history of the college. The second is a \$300,000 gift from First Commerce Credit

Union to hire a coordinator for SPARK! an initiative that promotes entrepreneurship. Both gifts are significant to TCC and to the broader nonprofit sector. Anytime someone makes a leadership gift it helps to dispel tired excuses I've heard way too many times such as "Tallahassee doesn't have any big donors" and "That kind of money can't be raised in this community". Baloney. There is never a shortage of donors, only a shortage of askers. And these gifts prove it.

At last week's FSU-Florida football game, a \$5 million gift from Al and Judy Dunlap was announced. While this couple doesn't live in Tallahassee they have made three multi-million dollar investments in Florida State University. This makes me confident their example will encourage others to do the same. Giving begets giving and success breeds success. Anytime a charitable organization receives gifts of this magnitude the entire philanthropic community is elevated. Boards and volunteer leaders become more likely to set their sights higher, to work harder to earn the right to ask, and to be bolder in asking for transformational gifts that will dramatically improve more lives. At the same time, donors with the capacity to make substantial gifts are reminded they will not be doing so alone. Let's hope we are celebrating more amazing gifts when next year's Giving Tuesday rolls around.

This seems like the perfect time to make my annual appeal for having a thoughtful stewardship program. I've written many times about the critical importance of donor stewardship which extends beyond the thank you letter to a year-round effort to appreciate donors for who they are, not for what they give. Stewardship should involve board and staff to build a culture of philanthropy within the organization. If your nonprofit does not already have a stewardship plan, I urge you to make this a priority in 2017. Investing board and staff resources in stewardship will result in more dollars raised over time. I guarantee it.

To continue the spirit of giving, from now until the end of the year, we encourage nonprofits to thoughtfully ask for urgently needed gifts and donors to give from the heart.

Gadsden County official grateful for TCC experience

COURTENEY JONES

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (50 FOR 50)

Gadsden County Tax Collector Dale Summerford appreciates his time at Tallahassee Community College, not only for furthering his career but also for the sense of community and the friendships he was able to build while attending.

"The small family and community atmosphere – I have fond memories of that," the Quincy native said. "You don't find that at too many schools. And I was able to meet and build relationships with people outside of Quincy, which was wonderful."

One such relationship was with his future wife, Carolyn, whom he met after his first year of college.

Carolyn, from Havana, Florida, was also a TCC student. The couple now has two adult daughters. The oldest, Meg, recently earned a master's degree in speech therapy, while younger sister Beth will soon start graduate school in the same field.

Even in the early 1980s, Summerford recognized one of the many important roles community colleges play — creating a place where students can explore their academic options without the pressures of a larger university.

"Especially today, so many kids graduate from high school and think they have to go to college or university immediately," he said. "But so many of them — including myself — don't know what they want to do and struggle when they start college."

After graduating from TCC in 1981, Summerford worked full-time at a Quincy bank. He had been at the bank for six years when his father, who was the Gadsden County tax collector, passed away after being diagnosed with ALS two years earlier.

It was 1988, and an election year and community members encouraged Summerford to run for the office. He was elected that year and is currently serving his seventh term.

Summerford received his certified Florida collector designation from the Florida Department of Revenue in 1991. He is actively involved in the Florida Tax Collectors Association, serving as the group's liaison to the Florida Department of Revenue and also on its Legislative Committee.

Summerford was awarded the Association's Matt Bell III Award in 2011 for his leadership and service in the revision of Florida Statute 197, which governs property tax collection.

TCC settles lawsuit brought by former aquaculture student

NICOLE ZEMA
WAKULLA NEWS

The lawsuit filed by a former aquaculture student was settled for \$30,000 in mediation on Nov. 28.

John N. Taylor, who participated in the startup oyster aquaculture certification program begun by Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute, sued TCC and the Board of Trustees for negligence, fraud and breach of contract.

The Tallahassee law firm of Flury & Atkins filed the suit on behalf of the Sopchoppy resident in winter of 2015. Taylor originally sought damages and attorney's fees for up to \$150,000. He considers the settlement a victory.

"I'm glad it's over," Taylor said, who is a lifelong commercial fisherman. "One small guy stood up to them and won."

TCC's Vice President of Communications and Marketing Al Moran said TCC could have won the case if they had taken it all the way.

"The college made a decision as good stewards of taxpayer dollars, and settled this case for \$30,000," Moran said. "Had we taken it all the way to the end, tried it and won, it would have cost a considerable amount more. We decided to cut the public's losses and eliminate the case. I still believe this is a totally meritless case."

According to Taylor's complaint, 10 students in the inaugural oyster aquaculture program were to receive \$7,500 worth of materials from the WEI in order to grow oysters in the Gulf waters at Panacea to boost the suffering oyster industry throughout the county. The contract called for students to repay the cost of materials from its first oyster harvest.

Taylor alleged that the students were informed they would have to repay as much as \$18,000 beginning in January, instead of the \$7,500 required in the contract.

The lawsuit alleged that former oyster aquaculture instructor Steve Cushman should not have been an instructor because had no formal education in aquaculture, and no experience in teaching aquaculture. The lawsuit says Cushman misrepresented his credentials. However, TCC contended such credentials were not required for instructors leading a certification course.

Taylor also said he was dropped from the program after asking questions about money and materials. But program officials claim Taylor was dropped because he did not turn in a business plan, and missed too many classes. Taylor contends that the absences were excused.

"The facts are wrong, and the case itself has no merit," Moran concluded.

TCC exceeds fundraising goal by several million

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES/HAVANA HERALD

Tallahassee Community College announced that its "TCC. We Rise." fundraising campaign has exceeded its goal by several million dollars.

The TCC Foundation launched the campaign in conjunction with the College's 50th anniversary in 2016, with the goal of raising \$10 million.

Heather Mitchell, executive director of the Foundation, announced that the campaign has in fact raised \$13,068,888. Mitchell revealed the big number by lining up a long row of students sporting t-shirts bearing the relevant numerals.

Karen Moore, CEO of Moore Communications, who chaired the fundraising campaign, put the results in perspective.

"This is the largest campaign in the College's history, and we received the single largest donation in our history," said Moore, referring to an anonymous donation valued at more than \$7.8 million.

Moore described how the funds raised would impact students across all of TCC's program areas for years to come, with \$9 million to support scholarships, \$1.2 million to support facilities renovations, \$1.4 million to support programs, and nearly \$1 million for the TCC Foundation's endowment.

"This is a great day for our students, faculty, staff and community," Moore said. "Eighteen months ago, when we started this campaign, we decided to dream big and go for \$10 million. Since then, what we have seen is how much support there is for TCC in our community."

Pam Butler, founder of Aegis Business Technologies and president of the TCC Foundation Board of Directors, agreed. Butler said she and other TCC supporters found it easy to convince prospective donors to give.

"Every time we talked with someone, we heard stories about how TCC had touched their lives or their children's lives," said Butler.

Jim Murdaugh, TCC president, applauded the accomplishment as a shared success on the part of College supporters.

"I am very grateful for the alumni, friends, businesses and others who made generous donations to our college during this 50th year celebration," said Murdaugh. "These gifts represent investments in access and opportunity for students that will pay dividends for years to come."

Murdaugh listed other milestones that the College reached during its 50th year, including launching its first four-year-degree program, opening the Wakulla Environmental Institute and the TCC Gadsden Center, and reimagining the downtown Center for Innovation. He also thanked TCC students, staff and faculty for logging 50,000 hours of community service in 2016.

Other speakers included Todd Sperry, vice president and chief financial officer of Oliver Sperry Renovation & Construction, Monte Finkelstein, dean of the TCC Behavioral, Social Sciences and Education Division, and Nathalie Estiverne, TCC student and scholarship recipient.

Sperry talked about the importance of TCC's efforts in preparing the workforce of the future.

"They do a great job of getting feedback from the business community to make sure they're meeting our needs. It was a no-brainer for my partner Bill Oliver and me to support this."

Finkelstein recalled that when he became dean in 2004, he realized right away that the old-fashioned classrooms in his division needed to be updated. Now, thanks to the campaign, many of them have been renovated, and others will hopefully be "adopted" by donors soon.

"Now we can have a classroom with the latest technology. We have furniture that helps students collaborate. This isn't about having attractive classrooms. The bottom line is to achieve the primary mission of this college, which is to enhance student success."

Estiverne, who is a member of the TCC Honors program, said that as the child of immigrant parents, she knew it would not be easy to get a college education.

"I found myself having to choose between work and school. After I got my scholarship, I no longer had to worry about paying the rent or buying food. I finally got a chance to be a real college student, to dive deep into the subjects I am studying."

Perspectives: Tallahassee Community College's golden anniversary

WFSU

It's a roundtable featuring the last four presidents of TCC: Dr. Jim Hinson (1983-95); Dr. T.K. Wetherell (1995-2002); Dr. Bill Law (2002-2010); and Dr. Jim Murdaugh (2010-present). They talk about the school's illustrious history, its remarkable successes and hopes for the future.



TCC agrees to pay settlement to end lawsuit filed by Sopchoppy man John Taylor

Taylor sued TCC over its oyster harvesting program

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College has settled a lawsuit filed against it by a former student enrolled in the college's aquaculture program in Wakulla County.

Attorneys for TCC settled the case through mediation on Nov. 29, according to a court document. TCC agreed to pay John Taylor \$30,000 to end the litigation.

The case was set for trial in February.

"The college decided it was more prudent to settle for \$30,000 than to try this case — which we would have definitely won — but at a considerably higher cost to taxpayers," TCC spokesman Al Moran said. "The decision had to be made to not throw any more taxpayer dollars at this."

Moran said the \$30,000 does not include attorneys' fees, which will have to be paid by Taylor.

Taylor, 50, strongly disagrees with Moran's assessment, and says TCC did not want the case to go to trial.

"They couldn't have won it or they wouldn't have paid," said Taylor, a fifth-generation fisherman in Wakulla County. "I stood up for what I believed in and what was right. There was no wrong in it. I stood up for the displaced oystermen in this county."

The aquaculture course, operating as a certificate program, began in January 2014 at TCC's Wakulla Environmental Institute with the promise of harvesting the first oysters by summer. But TCC encountered permitting issues, along with delays assembling the necessary baskets for harvesting the oysters, according to Taylor's suit.

Taylor was one of 10 students in the inaugural oyster-farming class. He sued the college in February 2015. The Sopchoppy commercial fisherman claimed breach of contract, negligence and fraud. He was represented by Linville Atkins and Theresa Flury of the Tallahassee law firm Flury & Atkins.

According to the suit, the 10 students chosen by TCC were given \$7,500 loans to start their initial oyster harvest. They also were told they could expect to realize more than \$150,000 in revenue from their first harvest.

Taylor said TCC officials told him in March 2014 he would have to repay \$18,000 for materials. He also said he was dismissed from the program after he questioned how materials were being ordered and how money was being spent.

TCC said he was expelled for missing two classes and not turning in a business plan.

Taylor said he did turn in a business plan. He also said his two absences from class were excused and that TCC's contract had stipulated a student could be expelled after three absences.

Taylor said he was recruited to join the program by WEI director Bob Ballard, but neither he, nor the man he hired to be instructor had the necessary expertise to teach the class. The instructor, Steve Cushman, misrepresented his credentials, the lawsuit asserted.

Cushman is no longer with the program. Ballard is executive director of WEI and teaches the oyster-harvesting course.

Attorney J. Craig Knox of Andrews, Crabtree, Knox & Andrews, denied Taylor's claims on behalf of TCC.

Since its inception, 20 students have gone through the program and are eligible for their certification. About 24 students are currently enrolled. Nearly 500,000 oysters have been harvested to date and 2.5 million are now being grown.

TCC is like second family

Jennifer Solomon grew confident as a student

COURTENEY JONES

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (50 FOR 50)

For child psychologist Jennifer Solomon, the people she met in her time at TCC were like family to her — which is appropriate, because having a family is what encouraged her to enroll at TCC in the first place.

Solomon, a Tallahassee native, struggled to apply herself in her senior year at Leon High School and, as a result, was forced to choose between repeating the final year of high school or earning a GED diploma. She chose to pursue her GED, started working, got married and had her first daughter, Taylor, whose arrival caused Solomon to reevaluate her path in life.

"I was working and making 10 bucks an hour, and I knew I couldn't do that forever and raise a family," she said. "So that's when I decided to go back to school and start at TCC."

Solomon took honors classes while at TCC because she liked the smaller class sizes, though they seemed daunting to her at first.

"At first I was intimidated by the honors classes and the other students," she said. "I thought I couldn't compete. But after being around them, I realized there wasn't much of a difference between me and them, other than their dedication and commitment and work ethic. I was fighting 18 years of thinking I wasn't good enough or capable, but I finally realized this was something I could do, that I am smart enough."

While she was still at TCC, Solomon had her second daughter, Courtney.

"I attended classes up until I had her on April 13, so right toward the end of the semester," said Solomon. "Dr. Stein, she's retired now, but she was my humanities professor, and she came to see me in the hospital. I even took Courtney to class one day. TCC was like a family to me; everyone was so encouraging and supportive."

Now, 19 years later, daughter Courtney is back at TCC, this time as a student herself.

After graduating from TCC, Jennifer Solomon earned bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at Florida State University.

She now works at the Psychological Center in Thomasville, Ga., and has opened a practice in Tallahassee specializing in children, adolescents and young adults.

She appreciates the role TCC played in setting her on her current path.

"It was there that I started to gain confidence in myself," she said. "It was a fundamental shift for me, from seeing myself as someone who wasn't capable to someone who absolutely could do this. And it was TCC's environment and culture and teachers that did it."

TCC Fire Academy scholarship winners to be honored

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Tallahassee Fire Academy has been granted \$15,000 in scholarships from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. The Fire Academy is part of Tallahassee Community College's Florida Public Safety Institute.

The gift will fund three post-completion scholarships, including the \$2,500 Isaac Royal Memorial Award and the \$1,250 Executive Director and Leadership Awards. The monies from the grant will be distributed among award winners from the next three years' worth of classes.

The Fall 2016 scholarship recipients and their classmates will be honored at a graduation ceremony Tuesday, December 13, at 7 p.m. in the FPSI Conference Center. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

The Florida Public Safety Institute is located on Highway 90 west of Tallahassee in Gadsden County.

For information, contact Michael Randolph at (850) 558-4366 or randolm@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC introduces Math Champions peer mentoring initiative

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Twelve Tallahassee Community College students will be helping fellow scholars improve on their math skills thanks to a new initiative. The Math Champions Student Success Initiative, a partnership between TCC's Academic Affairs Office and the Connect 2 Complete program, will provide mentors for students in developmental and gateway math courses.

The Math Champions are students who have proven success in college-level math courses. They will serve as peer mentors for students in courses such as Developmental Mathematics and College Algebra. Each Math Champion received a \$1,700 scholarship award and will have a faculty mentor to provide guidance in leadership development and tutoring skills.

Math Champions are Maria Bratcher, Tony Cappellino, Zachery Eckel-Stutz, Veronica Emata, Victoria Gonzalez, Franchesca Joseph, Casey Keenan, Erin Lapointe, Brianna Mead, Rebekah Mondesir, Haley Powell and Abigail Tebrugge.

For information, contact Sharisse Turner at (850) 201-8582 or turners@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC Forensics wins big at national-level competition

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College's speech and debate program won first place among all two-year schools at the 69th annual L. E. Norton Memorial forensics tournament in Peoria, Illinois.

TCC Forensics also finished in the top 20 among all programs, beating out schools including the University of Florida, University of Illinois, University of California-Berkeley, Eastern Michigan University and University of Minnesota.

Varsity member Alexandria Bergman received third place in Pentathlon, a category that requires a student to compete in five events. Other individual award winners included varsity members Katrina Erwin and William Thies and novice competitors Nathalie Estiverne, Jesselym Gonzalez and Samira Taylor.

A total of 47 colleges and universities attended the tournament, which is widely regarded as the most difficult fall semester competition in the country.

For information, contact John Schultz at (850) 201-8037 or schultzj@tcc.fl.edu.

Go-getters

At TCC, entrepreneurship is just good business

ROSANNE DUNKELBERGER
850 BUSINESS MAGAZINE

You can't open a magazine or scroll through your social media feed without coming across a business story making reference to entrepreneurship. Whether it's self-actualizing millennials looking for quality of life, the gig economy or tech startups, the DIY work life is the new, new thing.

The times, they are a-changin'. Change — and entrepreneurship — is something Tallahassee Community College is wholeheartedly embracing, as it has throughout its 50-year history.

TCC primarily serves as the two-year springboard to a four-year academic degree, still the chosen track for 75 percent of its students. But throughout its history, the college also has been the path forward for those who choose to blaze their own trail toward success. And in today's fast-paced world, the community college is nimble enough to quickly evolve with changin' times.

"We want to educate students for a reason — and the reason is to get a job," said TCC President Jim Murdaugh. "And if that's the case, then we need to educate them to create their own job or educate them to go to work for someone else. We want to do all of the above."

The world, he said, "is changing quickly, the kinds of jobs the future will need are changing quickly ... The jobs we'll see in the next 10 years, many of them don't even exist today."

Murdaugh served up an example: "How long ago was it that we didn't even talk about a drone?" he said. "We put together a class to teach people how to pilot drones. It didn't take us very long, it was a very popular offering, (and it's) something we intend to expand." Ditto for 3D printing.

TCC's Spark program is dedicated to entrepreneurs, with a wide array of credit and non-credit classes as well as opportunities for mentorship and collaboration with other locally based partner organizations — what TCC Vice President for Workforce Development Kim Moore calls Tallahassee's entrepreneurship "ecosystem."

Oftentimes, people equate entrepreneurship with the words "young" and "startup." And TCC offers plenty to its traditional students. The college's Eagle Business Club

has more than 200 student members who already have a business. And TCC reached down to the high school level, co-sponsoring entrepreneurial training and a competition for 1,600 Leon County students.

"We want this to be a destination for budding entrepreneurs," Moore said.

But another important part of the equation, she said, is offering services to existing small businesses.

"Whatever cycle or phase you are in in your business, that is where we work to support you," Moore explained — all the way to the end with succession planning.

TCC has always been plugged in to the business community, and now most notably with Corporate Solutions, which provides customized services to existing businesses to expand, from market surveys to getting down to nitty-gritty issues such as the number of employees to hire, their pay and work shifts, "and all the modeling that goes along with that," Moore said.

The college also works hand-in-glove with other groups promoting entrepreneurship locally, such as Domi Station, Florida State University's new Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship and Florida A&M University's Small Business Development Center.

"We realize businesses have different needs. For instance, with Domi, there's more of a focus and emphasis on technology," Moore said. "There's no reason why we'd want to duplicate that effort." If a business is more manufacturing-oriented, "I know that our partners (will refer) them over to me because I have a manufacturing center."

And so, when it comes to an entrepreneur with a need in Tallahassee, "there's really no wrong door ... We really can create an entrepreneurship ecosystem where, wherever you go, your business is able to receive that support," she continued.

While espousing the virtues of entrepreneurship throughout its varied curricula, Murdaugh thought it only right that TCC should practice what it teaches.

Go-getters....

continued

"In addition to the work we're doing with our students, which has been remarkable, I've challenged our leadership team to look at what we're doing and try to find ways to be creative and entrepreneurial in running the college," Murdaugh said.

For example, the college's Florida Public Safety Institute sits on 1,500 acres of land. TCC hired a forester several years ago to provide environmental stewardship of the property, ultimately including the harvesting of trees.

"Last year, after we paid the forester, I think we netted in a quarter of a million dollars simply because we made a decision ... We needed to manage that asset in a better way, and so we were both environmental in our approach and entrepreneurial in looking for additional ways to bring revenue into the college," Murdaugh said.

In a second instance, TCC is about to become something of an accidental business owner.

When talking with city officials about what might be a "new and different" addition to TCC's Capital Center, the idea of a coffee shop to promote foot traffic in Tallahassee's downtown area was floated. After a few local companies passed on the offer, the college reached out to Starbucks, Murdaugh said. When the company suggested getting a franchisee, TCC decided take on the role — the only state college to be an owner/operator of its own Starbucks. The coffeehouse is set to open along with the college's new Center for Innovation in December 2016.

What's Your Entre-Personality?

According to TCC's Spark program, "entrepreneur" isn't a one-size-fits-all moniker. Here's a sampling from the Spark website (tccspark.com) of how different sorts of people approach creating their own business:

Entrepreneur

You organize, manage and assume all the risk of your business or enterprise. This means you're "all in."

Intrapreneur

You pursue an idea while maintaining the security of a full-time job. Most often, it translates into your business coming together on evenings and weekends.

Boomerpreneur

You guessed it — you're a baby boomer tackling a startup idea. Most typically this occurs during retirement.

Gen-Y-Preneur

You were born in the 1980s or '90s and primarily focus on digital and technology startup projects.

Tallahassee Fire Academy celebrates fall graduates

WTLX

The Tallahassee Fire Academy celebrated its fall 2016 scholarship recipients during graduation last night.

A part of Tallahassee Community College's Florida Public Safety Institute, the fire academy has been granted \$15,000 in scholarships from the Firehouse Sub's Public Safety Foundation.

Those three recipients were honored last night.

"We tell these folks that everyday is a job interview," said E.E. Eunice, an executive director at the academy. "There are folks that are supporting these recruits: their family members, their friends, and probably some employers that are out there in the audience that are looking for new, fresh recruits throughout the state of Florida. They do recruiting for us throughout the state here."

The gift will fund three post-completion scholarships, including the \$25,000 Isaac Royal Memorial Award and the \$1,250 Executive Director and Leadership awards.

TCC's Todd breaks scoring mark in win

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (LOCAL BRIEFS)

Freshman guard Tre Todd scored a school-record 42 points in Tallahassee Community College's 119-56 win over Red Devils Basketball Academy on Tuesday afternoon at the Bill Hebrock Eagledome.

Todd eclipsed the previous record of 41 points by Marvis "Bootsy" Thornton, a mark that was two months shy of reaching 20 years. Thornton's record had stood since Feb. 24, 1997, when he scored 41 points in the season finale against Northwest Florida State College, then known as Okaloosa-Walton Community College.

Todd reached 42 points by way of a three-pointer with a minute remaining in the game and actually set three school records on what proved to be his final shot of the afternoon.

In addition to the single-game scoring record, the shot was Todd's ninth three-point basket of the game, breaking the previous record of eight, held by three different players – most recently, Rashad Lewis on Dec. 12, 2015. It was also his 30th field goal attempt, eclipsing the previous mark of 29 by Elmo Stephen on Nov. 14, 2014.

Todd's 23 three-point field goal attempts also set a new single-game record, formerly held by Mike DeGruy, who hoisted 17 shots from long distance against Bishop (Ala.) State Community College on Nov. 7, 1997.

Fellow freshman Will Washington also got into the record books on Tuesday with a school-record 17 assists, breaking Kerry Thompson's record of 16, set Feb. 15, 1996, against Okaloosa-Walton Community College.

Tuesday's game was never in doubt. The Eagles scored the first five points of the game and needed only 5:33 to extend to a double-digit lead.

Todd hit six of his three-pointers in the first half, including one with two seconds remaining that turned into a four-point play and a 66-29 halftime lead for TCC.

The Eagles led by as many as 66 in the second half.

In addition to Todd's 42 points, four other Eagles reached double-figures.

Sophomore forward Joel Thabize recorded just the third 20-20 game in school history with 20 points and 21 rebounds – the Eagles' fourth 21 rebound game and two off the school record of 23.

Freshmen Leon Freeman-Daniels and Ronald Bell also recorded double-doubles. Freeman-Daniels had 17 points and 17 rebounds while Bell had 16 points and 10 rebounds. Freshman Elvis Harvey finished with 12 points.

TCC will close its pre-Christmas schedule on Friday when it hosts St. Petersburg College. Tipoff is at 2 p.m.

An 85-80 loss to Daytona State College on Sunday, the Eagles' first of the season, knocked TCC out of the No. 1 spot in the Region 8 Men's Basketball Coaches' Poll.

The drop was minimal, however, as TCC landed at No. 2, behind new No. 1 Eastern Florida State College. The Eagles lead a trio of Panhandle Conference teams at 2-4 – Northwest Florida State is No. 3 followed by Chipola College.

TCC also received a slight drop in the NJCAA Division I Men's Basketball Poll, falling four spots to No. 10.

The TCC women stayed put in both polls. The Eagles are No. 3 for the seventh straight week in the Region 8 Women's Basketball Coaches' Poll and remained No. 11 in the NJCAA Division I Women's Basketball Poll.

Confusion over local oyster houses

TIM JORDAN, WALT DICKSON, MATT HODGES, MEGAN TAYLOR & MIKE DUNLOP
WAKULLA NEWS (LETTERS TO THE EDITOR)

There seems to be some confusion concerning the difference between the two Wakulla County oyster processing houses.

The Panacea Area Oyster Company was founded and built by local Wakulla County oyster farmers. Their Board of Directors is comprised of Wakulla residents who live, work, and farm in Wakulla County. We currently market three brands of gourmet farm raised oysters: Saucey Lady Oysters, Mystic Oysters and Half Shell Hotties. We only sell oysters that are farmed and harvested in Wakulla County. All of our farmers live and work in Wakulla County.

Although all of our members attended the Wakulla Environmental Institute, we have limited support of TCC.

Panacea Oyster Co-op Inc. was founded by a combination of outside investors, oyster growers and WEI staff. Their Board of Directors has a similar composition. They enjoy the full support of WEI. They currently brand their oysters Panacea Pride. They currently sell a combination of local grown oysters and oysters imported from Alabama.

We feel both processors have the best interests of Wakulla County in mind and that there is a large enough market to support everyone.

The primary distinction is Panacea Area Oyster Company is a much smaller organization made up only of local farmers who only market Wakulla County oysters.

Feds kick off loan counseling experiment on select college campuses

DANIELLE DOUGLAS-GABRIEL

WASHINGTON POST

Despite the tens of thousands of dollars college students are allowed to borrow, debt that can define their financial lives for years, schools are obligated to provide only two counseling sessions before graduation. An experimental program, however, is giving a select group of colleges the chance to beef up advising and keep students from making costly mistakes.

Fifty-one colleges and universities are participating in a pilot to test the effectiveness of adding more counseling sessions and using a variety of tools to help students manage their debt, the Education Department announced Thursday. Schools can employ the counseling services of outside groups, develop their own platform or use the department's loan counseling tools.

"It's important for students to make good decisions about their student loan borrowing, but many lack timely and relevant information about financial aid to guide their borrowing decisions each year," Ted Mitchell, undersecretary of education, said on a call with reporters Thursday.

Nearly three-quarters of the schools selected for the pilot are public two-year institutions, while another 14 are public four-year colleges. New York University is the only private nonprofit school and Monroe College is the only for-profit institution to make the cut. Half of the 100,000 participating students at each institution will receive additional counseling, while the remainder will only be offered the standard entrance and exit advising.

Education officials plan to run the experiment for several years, collecting and evaluating data on borrower outcomes to determine what works best. The federal agency is looking for approaches that improve students' decision-making about borrowing, have an impact on completion and promote successful repayment of loans, including reducing delinquencies and defaults.

"We're dealing with 18-, 19-, 20-year-olds who typically don't understand financial responsibility because that's something we expect parents to do, but with my population of students it is a cycle we have to break," said Cynthia Jackson Hammond, president of Central State University in Ohio, one of the participating schools.

Hammond said 82 percent of students at Central State receive Pell grants, a form of federal financial aid for families typically earning less than \$60,000 a year, and many have no financial support from their parents. The school already incorporates financial literacy in freshman seminars, and has noticed increased interest from students in learning more loan repayment, she said.

"If we can address problems a lot earlier, more often, give students the necessary tools to make the right decision, then we should see a reduction in the amount of debt," Hammond said.

Colleges and universities have complained that federal rules create a lot of uncertainty in loan counseling. Guidance released last year by the Education Department said schools cannot force students to receive additional advisement, but doesn't explicitly bar colleges from recommending borrowing amounts or other specific forms of counseling. Schools have asked Congress for permission to set loan limits for certain academic programs, degrees or student populations, but the effort has stalled.

"Schools need the authority to make data-driven decisions to help specific cohorts of borrowers on campus," said Justin Draeger, president of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, a chief proponent of loan limits. "Without the authority to limit borrowing in specific circumstances, like only allowing part-time students to borrow at part-time rates, schools will never be in a position to fully constrain the continued growth in student loan indebtedness."

Students can borrow the full amount of aid for which they are eligible, even if they don't need the money to cover tuition and fees. Advocacy groups have pointed out that low-income students often borrow the maximum allowed to cover living and transportation expenses, but schools worry that taking on added debt will prove detrimental in the long run. Colleges are also mindful of borrowing behavior because they can also lose access to federal loans and grants if too many students default on their debt.

Feds kick off loan counseling experiment on select college campuses....

continued

At Tallahassee Community College in Florida, President James Murdaugh said the school is working with a third-party service to help students who are in jeopardy of defaulting on their loans. The college, one of the 51 schools selected for the experimental pilot, has also partnered with local financial institutions to educate students about money management.

"We serve many first-generation students who have little experience borrowing money, and we know that the decisions they make about funding their education will linger long after they leave our institution," Murdaugh said. "We're committed to reducing the number of those who default on their loans, and look at this [pilot] as a tremendous opportunity to do that."

Cloud migrations: An opportunity for institutional collaboration

MARA HANCOCK AND BRET INGERMAN

EDUCAUSE REVIEW

Institutional business processes and workflow typically build up over time based on existing and changing needs and preferences as well as system capabilities or lack thereof. Moving a service to the cloud provides an opportunity for IT to engage the campus in a collaborative effort to reexamine and update those existing business processes to either gain efficiencies or increase functionality. Bringing all stakeholders together in the planning for a cloud migration can expose interdependencies and inconsistencies, leading to opportunities for high-level improvement in processes and workflow. Important to this effort are change management, governance, and focus on the changing skill sets required within IT as the role shifts from one of IT implementer to that of analyst, consultant, collaborator, and problem solver. Two institutions that are engaged in major cloud implementations describe their efforts to engage their campuses in conversation about the fundamental shifts caused by the cloud.

Scenario: Sara has spent considerable time over the past year addressing concerns about putting data into the cloud and creating appropriate funding models for cloud-based solutions. She realizes, however, that these discussions have been about specific “technical needs of the moment.” While people have been receptive to these specific issues, they do not seem to be aware of the fundamental shift that can occur in services and support when implementing cloud-based solutions, a shift that almost always requires an examination of business processes across the institution. Sara realizes that she needs to start an institutional conversation about the role of the cloud at her institution and that the conversation needs to not only involve the cabinet for issues of funding and priorities but also all of the major departmental stakeholders, as they will be the most affected by a shift to the cloud.

Tallahassee Community College (TCC) is a public, two-year college located in Tallahassee, Florida. It offers over 60 degree and certificate programs and has an enrollment of more than 12,000 for-credit students of whom 77 percent transfer to a four-year institution after graduation. We also serve over 17,000 non-credit students annually. To meet the educational needs of the campus community, TCC employs 716 full- and part-time faculty and 1,192 full- and part-time staff.

First-Stage Adoptions of Cloud Solutions

Like many schools, TCC began its exploration of the cloud with electronic mail. In 2013, facing the need to replace an aging server infrastructure, TCC instead decided to move e-mail to Microsoft Office365 in the cloud. Like many of the first-stage adoptions of cloud solutions, the catalyst for the decision was primarily financial: it cost less to have e-mail hosted in the cloud than it would to replace (and continue to replace) hardware on campus. Even though the campus was involved in the selection of the e-mail suite, the project was driven and managed by IT. And aside from an upgraded software experience, the campus saw little impact as a result of the move to the cloud. Another example of a first-stage cloud adoption involved moving our learning management system (LMS) to Canvas, a cloud based technology. In many respects, the first stage of moving to the cloud was more about where the servers were located than any significant change in the services themselves.

Second-Stage Adoptions of Cloud Solutions

The second stage of adopting cloud technologies arose more from specific service needs and desires than from the underlying server issues. Vendors began to create “point solutions” for specific campus needs by writing targeted web-based applications. Because the vendors could easily host these applications in the cloud, without the need for the campus IT department to install and maintain software, they started to market these solutions directly to end users. Often that meant IT was brought into the conversation after the initial pitch and demo to a specific department or individual. Sometimes IT wasn’t brought in until after a department or individual purchased a specific solution. As departments learned, however, IT was ultimately needed to help make sure the new application could authenticate to and communicate with other institutional systems.

Cloud migrations: An opportunity for institutional collaboration....

continued

Third-Stage Adoption of Cloud Solutions

The third stage of moving to the cloud is the adoption of cloud-based software and services that result in a profound change to significant parts of the institution. An example of a third-stage cloud project for TCC was moving our ERP solution from the campus to Workday, a cloud-based, software-as-a-service (SaaS) application suite. The catalyst was the knowledge that the existing 20+ year-old legacy system was well past its prime in both the technology used and the features available. This led to a broad desire to adopt new technology for supporting the underlying business of the college that would focus on the end-user experience, provide a robust platform for future growth, and use a modern technology toolset that included cloud-based software-as-a-service (SaaS).

We have completed the migration to Workday for our core ERP functions and are in the process of moving our student information system. Such a move required involving all parts of the institution in the decision, as it was more than just an economic decision (which drove the first stage of cloud adoption) and not something that a single department within the college could decide to do on its own (which is characteristic of the second stage of cloud technologies). The same is true of our other major cloud project: moving our telephone system and call center to the cloud. Much like the ERP migration the initial catalyst for the project was an aging technology stack, but through conversations with other areas of the campus we realized that we wanted to look at a new model for telecommunications that would provide a robust platform for growth and change.

Issues Raised and Addressing Them

Each type of adoption of cloud technologies has raised issues, causing TCC to have a number of internal conversations about the role of the cloud in our technology decisions and in our services. Perhaps the easiest and most obvious conversations about the cloud involve costs. The first stage of projects was really about moving IT infrastructure from the campus to the cloud, so the conversations about cost could happen between

the finance and IT departments as a normal part of the yearly IT budget process. However, once the second stage of cloud projects started, individual departments were making purchasing decisions on cloud solutions on their own, based on their own budget availability. One problem with this approach to funding is that while the departments may have had a source of funding for the initial purchase, many of the products they wanted to procure required a multiyear commitment of funds —something their budget was not set up to handle. A second financial issue involved frequent additional costs related to procurement of the specific application. These could range from the need to acquire middleware to enable the third-party application to authenticate to and/or share data with other campus systems, to the need for additional staff hours to handle configuration and integration efforts. While these issues in and of themselves were not insurmountable, having them presented as a mandate after an acquisition, and under a timeframe that never took into account existing IT projects or budgets, was problematic. We continue to stress to departments the need to consult with the finance office on budgetary needs related to the acquisition and with IT to learn about additional costs and implementation timelines.

Another set of conversations that need to happen revolve around contracts. While IT and finance have a great deal of experience reading and modifying contracts, individual departments seeking to buy cloud solutions often lack such expertise. As a result they may fail to take into account contract needs such as those for legal compliance, including FERPA and PII, as well as practical needs, such as data ownership, data privacy, programmatic access to data, etc. And, of course, departments may think that they can sign cloud contracts without checking to see if they actually have the institutional authority to do so. Fortunately, departments typically reach out to us early in the contract stages — but that also has sometimes been the first time we learn about the project itself. On the positive side we have had a number of successful conversations about consolidating the budget and contact for these point solutions from the individual departments to IT. The reasoning is simple: adding the management of additional software solutions to IT is a marginal increase

Cloud migrations: An opportunity for institutional collaboration....

continued

in workload for IT, as we perform similar tasks for many other products, as opposed to a more significant investment of time for departments that have never had to manage such contracts.

Finally, the biggest need for conversation about cloud solutions has to do with the fundamental way that such solutions can impact the business that we do, the way we do it, and the people who do it. With the first stage of cloud procurement this wasn't an issue because while things changed for IT, little changed for most of the campus. The second stage of cloud adoption is usually initiated by the departments themselves, so they are likely eager and prepared for the change. These migrations have a larger impact on IT than on the rest of the campus because we are frequently coming up to speed on the need, the timing, and the impact of the project well after initial conversations with the department. What makes this more challenging is the resentment that sometimes occurs when you need to have the project take a step back in order to ensure that the chosen solution can work in the existing technology environment and that IT has what it needs to help ensure success. The worst possible outcome for a second-stage cloud solution is when IT discovers that the specific solution chosen by the department is either not suited to, or can't work at all within the existing environment. While these conversations are never pleasant, they can have a silver lining when they lead to a deeper understanding on the part of the department as to why they need to include IT at the outset, and on the part of IT as to learning the specific needs of the department.

Frequently, a third-stage movement to the cloud fundamentally alters how business is done and how solutions are supported. When moving to multitenant, SaaS-based cloud solutions, the impact across the campus can be great indeed. Such third-stage migrations often move the IT organization from writing or modifying code to configuring applications or designing workflows within the software to meet the users' needs. The role of the traditional IT worker changes from one of programmer/analyst to one of business analyst, where IT must spend more time with and understand the business needs of the supported departments in order to configure the systems accordingly. At the same time, the workloads of the departments change as modern

cloud-based tools frequently give them the power to make configuration changes on their own that in the past would have required IT. Further, most cloud solutions undergo more frequent updates and changes than the more traditional on-premises solutions. Whereas on-premises updates may have been limited to once a year, cloud platforms can upgrade features and services as frequently as once a week. And every change in features or services requires fresh regression testing to make sure that software still continues to operate as designed. So while the burden on IT might lessen because they no longer have to install the code necessary to update the software, the burden on the departments increases because they must test far more frequently than ever before. We should realize that this type of testing is unfulfilling: if everything goes as planned, all of the efforts devoted to regression testing will confirm that nothing has changed in other parts of the system.

As you can see, a variety of changes occur within an institution as their adoption of cloud solutions increases. As a result, the best defense against unanticipated challenges and problems is to take a more aggressive initial approach to discussing stakeholders' needs, solutions, and consequences.

Taking Advantage of Cloud Migrations

A major cloud migration provides an opportunity for IT to engage with all institutional stakeholders in a conversation about the impact of the migration on business processes and workflow. IT leaders can take advantage of this opportunity by using existing governance structures, focusing on change management principles, and recognizing shift in IT's role away from solutions provider to broker or consultant. The lessons learned from these two institutions offers a roadmap for IT departments at other colleges and universities as they work to guide their institutions through major cloud migrations in a way that results in greater efficiency and efficacy of enterprise systems.

(NOTE: This article truncated for relevance to TCC.)

TCC helped Smith in class and on field

COURTENEY JONES

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (50 FOR 50)

Many students choose to attend TCC because they feel it better prepares them to later attend a university, but the preparation is not just academic. For Marianna native Mary Helen Smith, TCC helped prepare her for university athletics, too.

"I wanted to play Division 1 softball eventually," said Smith, who attended TCC on a softball scholarship. "But I knew I needed more training before getting into Division 1." Another factor in Smith's decision was TCC's track record for advancing student-athletes. After researching past players at TCC, she saw that a good number of them went on to play for Division 1 schools. "That showed me that TCC had a good relationship with the larger schools," she said. "And I would say that's consistent — TCC has these good relationships across the board, throughout all their athletic programs. You can see that it's important to them."

TCC's record held up for Smith: After graduating from TCC, she attended the University of Central Florida, playing for the school's softball team while earning her bachelor's degree in elementary education. Smith was grateful to TCC's coaching staff for helping her develop not only as an athlete, but also as a community member. Coaches encouraged their athletes to get involved in community service projects, and team members volunteered regularly at the Gretchen Everhart School in Tallahassee, assisting students with disabilities.

After graduating from UCF in 2010, Smith moved back to Marianna and worked as a public school teacher. In 2013, she was named program manager for Take Stock in Children at Chipola College. Take Stock in Children is a scholarship and mentoring program that serves low-income students whose home or family situations might hinder them from graduating from high school. The program provides students with a mentor to help them stay on track in high school and offers them a scholarship to attend Chipola after graduating.

It is clear that Smith's work with Take Stock in Children is informed by the mentorship she received from her coaches at TCC, as well as the work she and her teammates were encouraged to do in the community. "The coaching staff I had — they definitely had a passion for what they do, and it's not just about softball," she said. "It's about helping develop their athletes to become leaders; they saw beyond what softball was and taught a lot of life lessons. That was always apparent, and they're still mentors to me, to this day."

TCC helps early childhood educators advance

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The United Way of the Big Bend has partnered with Tallahassee Community College, The Children's Forum and Career Source Capital Region to create the Early Childhood Education Institute. On Dec. 6, the Institute celebrated its most recent graduating class, which includes 17 early childhood educators and eight center directors from seven child care centers in the Big Bend.

The Institute has two main purposes. The first is to encourage center directors to create an environment that supports teachers and effective practices to meet the developmental needs of young children. The second is to increase teachers' knowledge and abilities in working with young children and to allow them to earn a Florida Child Care Professional Credential, commonly known as the Child Development Associate credential.

The Children's Forum's Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Early Childhood Scholarship Program provided scholarships for the early childhood educators to take the five college-level courses at TCC required to earn the credential and expand their knowledge of the science of educating young children.

The journey of ITT Tech students

JADE BULECZA

WTVL (THE INSIDERS)

ITT Tech students are not giving up on their dreams even though the doors are now closed.

The tech school shut down early in September. Thirty-eight states stopped online and classroom instruction, then ITT filed for bankruptcy. Countless students were left high and dry without degrees, just like one nursing student here in Tallahassee who was expecting to graduate and become a registered nurse, but now it's going to take him longer than he planned.

Michael Harvey told me at first he thought a fellow student was kidding around when she told him she got an email that ITT Tech was closing. That same day on September 6 he found out it was no joke. Harvey says he was just six months shy of graduating and becoming a registered nurse.

"(I was) heartbroken, disgusted," said Harvey. "They gave us no warning."

For Harvey, it was a sinking, panicked feeling to know the school was closed.

"We were told that we were getting our books later, and it seems like this was something planned all along," said Harvey.

Harvey says he would've taken the National Council Licensure Examination or NCLEX exam, an exam that shows you're able to start as an entry level nurse.

Instead, his world came crashing down.

"Luckily I did have a previous degree so I did have credits that transferred, but for my fellow students it's averaging about \$50,000," said Harvey. "All that money gone, nothing to show for. If you try to get those loans repaid then you start at ground zero."

According to the U.S. Department of Education, students could apply for loan forgiveness or transfer earned credits to another institution. However, having another program accept those college courses hasn't been easy.

"We did find there were a lot of students especially in nursing in their last semester which was very problematic and heartbreaking for many of them as well as it was for us," said Tallahassee Community College Provost Feleccia Moore-Davis. "There were others in others programs

where we're able to align for example with our CISCO and CNA program."

The CNA or certified nursing assistant prepares students for the state nursing assistant competency exam, but the nursing program has different standards.

"They may have to start over that are aligned with the ITT programs," said Moore-Davis. "Unfortunately I did not find any that would facilitate that seamless alignment, so they may lose those credits and not all to see what the future holds."

ITT Tech closed, Tallahassee Community College offered an information session concerning transferring. Forty-five people showed up. About 20 enrolled.

"What TCC was able to do is we mobilized to serve those students," said Moore-Davis. "Those who did and didn't qualify for financial aid there were scholarships we provided for them. We also teamed with our foundation such that TCC Foundation provided \$10,000 in scholarships for the students."

Harvey isn't attending TCC. He's trying to find ways to finish his degree. His teacher was given a termination letter on the day the school closed, but she is still helping students so the material they previously learned stays fresh on their minds.

"The NCLEX is a national wide exam and if these students lose their edge, it'll be hard for them to pass that NCLEX and the previous knowledge will be slow it'll be intense training so they'll need to pass those courses," Anne Marie Thompson.

Right now the students are trying not to look back, but ahead. Harvey says they are working to get a completion certification to where they will be allowed to take the NCLEX and become RN's.

"It's our hope," said Harvey. "If not, the dreams and dedication is gone to waste."

As Harvey continues to pursue his dream, we'll follow his progress and update you. As for other ITT Tech students looking to transfer, the TCC provost recommends checking the education department's website. You can peruse the site and see each college's level of accreditation.

2016 Winter Break information from TCC

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. - Tallahassee Community College closed for Winter Break on Friday, December 16 and will reopen at 8 a.m., Tuesday, January 3.

The College would like to remind everyone of the following dates in advance of the Spring 2017 Semester:

- Classes begin January 9.

- Registration for Spring 2017 will continue during the Winter Break through TCC Passport (<https://tccpassport.tcc.fl.edu/>). To make changes or revisions to your spring schedule, log on to TCC Passport and select "My Schedule."

- To verify fee payment information, log on to TCC Passport and select "My Account." Students are asked to check their fee slip for payment deadline

information. All fees must be paid by the deadline on the slip to avoid forfeiture of class schedules.

- Fees can be paid online (by credit card) and must be paid on the same date of registration through TCC Passport. NOTE: From Friday, December 16 through Monday, January 2, the only available fee payment method will be via online credit card. Please ensure you include the zip code of the card OWNER or you will receive an error and the transaction will not completely process to satisfy your outstanding fees.

- Fall 2016 grades will be available this week at TCC Passport under "My Records."

- To access Financial Aid information, including the status of your financial aid award, log on to TCC

Passport and select "My Account."

- To request an official TCC transcript, do one of the following:

For current students (or recent graduates) - log-in to your TCC Passport account and select the My Records tab. In the My Records Functions list, select Transcript Request.

For former students who do not remember their TCC Passport or EagleNet log-in information, go to www.tcc.fl.edu and under the "Academics" tab, hover on the "Student Records" option and click "Transcripts," then click on the TranscriptsPlus icon to begin your order.

- Official high school and college transcripts sent to TCC after December 16 will be logged-in and processed in the order in which they were received

upon our return on January 3.

- All new TCC students are required to complete New Student Orientation online. If you are a new student, please go to the Orientation Web site and follow the steps.

All other timeline information for Spring 2017 can be found at the Spring 2017 Academic Calendar.

Additionally, TCC basketball will host games December 29 and 30. All games will take place in the Bill Hebrock Eagle-dome. TCC students, faculty and staff are admitted free with a valid TCC ID. For dates and times, visit www.TCCeagles.com.

TCC wishes you a safe and happy holiday season. We look forward to serving you in the Spring 2017 semester.

TCC is a family tradition for the Lovels

Family is encouraged by TCC's efforts to increase economic development in Wakulla County

CARMY GREENWOOD

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (50 FOR 50)

Spring Creek restaurant is a local landmark. Decades of first dates and family dinners have been held at the Southern-style seafood house in Wakulla County, which is owned by Leo and Mary Jane Lovel and their sons Ben and Clay.

The Lovels are also part of another tradition — attending Tallahassee Community College.

Leo and Mary Jane started at what was then Tallahassee Junior College in the late 1960s, before opening the restaurant and beginning their family.

Leo transferred his focus to the business, while Mary Jane was “in and out” of college when the children were young. She later graduated from TCC and went on to earn a degree in interior design at Florida State University.

When “the boys” married, they kept up the tradition by choosing TCC alumna. Ben’s wife, Tabitha, is a nurse who received her training at TCC’s Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education. Clay’s wife, Bree, started her college career at TCC and then earned a bachelor’s degree with a double major in child development and psychology at FSU. She now teaches eighth grade at Wakulla Middle School.

The Lovels agreed that TCC was a good choice for them and a good transition to a larger four-year university.

“Going to a community college really taught me to value my local community,” Bree Lovel said. “I wasn’t lost in a sea of people. And I think that’s something I try to do with my own students — make sure they know they’re valued.”

The Lovels are a multi-talented family. Mary Jane has her own business, M. J. Lovel Interior Design. Leo has written two collections of short stories about coastal life and characters. Ben, who has a degree in English from FSU, edited the books. Brother Clay, who has a degree in studio art from FSU, did the illustrations.

All the grown-up Lovels said they would be very happy for the eight grandchildren to follow in their footsteps and begin their college educations at TCC.

Leo Lovel also appreciates TCC’s role in economic development in Wakulla County.

As the chronicler of a traditional coastal way of life, Leo is concerned about supporting economic development that fits the character of Wakulla County.

The Lovels were pioneers of the “grand experiment” of oyster cultivation in Wakulla County, and Leo said he is glad to see that TCC’s Wakulla Environmental Institute is training commercial fishermen and others and helping them start their own businesses in the oyster aquaculture industry.

“They’re putting their time, effort and money into training folks. They’re investing in folks,” he said. “It takes a lot of guts to do something like that.... We’re seeing some positive results. We’re seeing a beginning, and we’re glad to have them involved.”

Year of challenges and change

Fla. higher education advancements could have lasting impact

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The year brought about change, advancements and celebrations in Tallahassee higher education arena, with each development likely to have an impact for years to come.

Florida State and Florida A&M universities, as well as Tallahassee Community College, all saw developments on campus that brought the institutions national recognition.

FSU saw its national rankings improve among the country's public universities.

At FAMU, President Elmira Mangum was forced to step down in September, after members of the board of trustees chose not to extend her three-year contract, which ends in March of 2017.

At Tallahassee Community College, faculty voted in favor of unionizing, allowing members to be represented by the United Faculty of Florida in collective bargaining.

Florida State University

Florida State University President John Thrasher and the university got a jump on 2016 with the announcement last December of a \$100 million donation from Jan Moran and The Jim Moran Foundation.

The donation is the largest in FSU's history and is believed to be the largest single contribution to Florida's public higher education system.

The donation will be used to create the Jim Moran School of Entrepreneurship in downtown Tallahassee. Earlier this year, Brian and Kathryn Ballard completed the move toward establishing the school by donating a downtown building that will house its operations and staff.

The \$100-million donation helped propel FSU's ongoing \$1 billion "Raise the Torch" campaign, which, as of earlier this month, has reached \$938 million.

And, while the Moran donations are historic in size, the university also saw it as a critical step in promoting FSU in its quest to become one of the country's top 25 public universities.

FSU edged closer to that goal this year when it was ranked No. 38 of top public universities in U.S. News & World Report, up from No. 43 on the list.

Other highlights from this year include:

Hengli Tang, professor of biological science at FSU, was the lead author on a study showing how the Zika virus targets brain development cells leading to the stunt of their growth.

Gary Taylor, a distinguished research professor at FSU, led a team that discovered 16th-century playwright Christopher Marlowe should get credit for co-writing William Shakespeare's "Henry VI" plays.

The university received \$10 million from the U.S. Department of Energy to create a new Energy Frontier Research Center focuses on accelerating scientific efforts needed to support nuclear waste cleanup.

Groundbreaking for the Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Science building on campus.

Advancing the university's multi-disciplinary studies of the brain with the unveiling of one of the country's most powerful MRI machines housed in the College of Medicine.

Florida A&M University

The year was dominated by the ouster of Mangum whose two-year tenure at FAMU often found her at odds with the board of trustees.

She was replaced by Larry Robinson, a noted researcher and administrator, who has served twice before in the interim post as trustees searched for a new president. Robinson immediately fired several of Mangum's key hires, including the provost.

Despite the political turmoil, FAMU made significant improvements in reaching performance goals set by the Board of Governors. FAMU moved from last place among the State University System metrics rankings to No. 8 this year.

Year of challenges and change...

continued

Other highlights include:

The signing of a \$5-million agreement between FAMU and Lockheed Martin that allows for FAMU students and faculty at the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering to work on NASA's Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle program and other Lockheed Martin space exploration projects.

The announcement of a \$5-million initiative to provide scholarships. The goal is to raise additional money to improve the university's recruitment, retention and graduation rates. About \$600,000 of the money will be used for faculty support and hiring.

FAMU was one of two universities selected by the Society of Black Engineers to receive \$400,000 in funding from Northrop Grumman to 24 students over the next three years. The university also will receive an additional \$45,000 to support living-learning communities for engineering students.

FAMU received a \$15.4 million award over five years from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Educational Partnership Program to establish the Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems. FAMU will be the lead university in working on advanced research in coastal and marine ecosystems education, science, and policy.

The university recorded its highest single fundraising record in history with nearly \$6.5 million donated for the 2015-2016 period.

Tallahassee Community College

President Jim Murdaugh and the TCC Foundation led a year-long celebration of the institution's 50th anniversary.

Coinciding with the celebration was the announcement of "TCC.We Rise," an ambitious \$10-million fundraising campaign.

The 50th year activities helped spawn a renewed sense of involvement among alumni and the business community.

By December, the TCC Foundation announced it had reached more than \$13-million, surpassing its \$10-million goal. The campaign received a major boost with a gift of \$7.8-million from an anonymous donor.

TCC continued its goal of offering programs in health care and other certificate or degree programs that help prepare students for the local workforce.

For instance, 2016 started offering the bachelor of science degree in nursing at the request of both local hospitals to address the ongoing nursing shortage.

Other programs were established in the college's Workforce Development division, also with the goal of preparing future employees and current workers with job skills.

Against the backdrop of fundraising success, TCC experienced faculty unrest. The faculty voted to unionize with representation from the United Faculty of Florida. Faculty members voiced concerns about changes to their workload and the lack of responsiveness from the Murdaugh administration.

Other highlights include:

TCC was ranked the 15th best community college in the country by the investment website, SmartAsset.com, making it the highest-ranking Florida community college.

TCC was recognized as one of the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship's top five entrepreneurial colleges for the work of its Workforce Development division.

TCC opens Gadsden Center



TCC officials and other well-wishers attend the grand opening of TCC's Gadsden Center in March. Times file photo

ERIN HILL
Reporter

With the opening of Tallahassee Community College's Gadsden Center in March, local residents now have ne more access to education and job training.

Desiree Gorman, the Gadsden center's manager, said part of TCC's 50-year pledge was to have a brick-and-mortar location in Gadsden County before its 50th birthday. Classes began this fall.

The Gadsden Center offers General Education Development and English as a Second Language instruction, as well as a Heating Ventilation and Cooling installation and repair program.

It also offers many

of the same student services as the main campus, such as testing services, academic advising and internship placement on a scheduled basis.

The center also has a computer lab that is open to the public.

2016 in review

Local highlights, headlines, heartbreaks and growing pains in 2016

WAKULLA NEWS

Wakulla County has undergone some dramatic ups and downs in 2016. The election cycle brought in a new sheriff and commissioners. Significant strides were taken to protect water resources. U.S. 319 widening began at the intersection by the high school. Oysters grew, fishermen fought for their right to work, and Wakulla County was hit with a hurricane. We lost some influential people in our community too.

The following includes a chronological list of the top stories and newsmakers of 2016:

JANUARY

- **FRACKING BAN:** Commissioners rejected Commissioner Howard Kessler's agenda item to approve a resolution to ban fracking within Wakulla County, even though they agreed on its principle. Commissioners later voted 5-0 to draft an ordinance to prohibit "high-intensity petroleum operations," or fracking, within Wakulla County, after Exxon's subsidiary company XTO attempted to reassert their rights to access almost 400 local properties for the subsurface minerals owned by Exxon.

- **WCSCO CLEARED IN INVESTIGATION:** A handful of employees brought allegations of alleged corruption in the sheriff's office, filed through the state Whistleblower Act. A joint investigation of the Wakulla County Sheriff's Office by FDLE and the FBI concluded, with "nothing found."

- **WAKULLA NAACP CHARTERED:** Community members celebrated the official adoption of the Wakulla County Branch Charter of the NAACP.

FEBRUARY

- **WEI OPENS:** [The official opening of Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute was celebrated on Feb. 15. The campus is a learning center for students seeking environmental careers, and will also serve as a trail head for the Capital City to the Sea Trails loop.](#)

MARCH

- **FISHERMEN UNITE:** The Wakulla Commercial Fishermen's Association co-op formed.

JUNE

- **GIVE AN INCH:** Wakulla's commercial fishermen stood united with supporters at the FWC Commission meeting, to request a waiver from the net gear specifications rule that limits the mesh size of their seine nets. FWC Commissioners said no, but sympathized with the fishermen.

- **OYSTER POACHERS:** [Wakulla's oyster aquaculture farmers committed to a \\$10,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the individual\(s\) responsible for poaching farm-raised oysters from leases in Wakulla and Franklin Counties.](#)

AUGUST

- **PRIMARY ELECTION:** Jared Miller won the sheriff's race outright in the Aug. 30 primary, garnering more than 54 percent of the vote. Voter turnout was around 47 percent. The primaries put property appraiser candidate Ed Brimmer out of the race, and also commission candidates Nikki Barnes and Gordon Millender.

NOVEMBER

- **ELECTION DAY:** Wakulla voters returned Ralph Thomas to office as county commissioner over Howard Kessler, returned Mike Stewart to the commission after four years off the board over John Shuff, and chose newcomer Chuck Hess in a close race over incumbent Richard Harden. Brad Harvey won the property appraiser race against Steve Remke, and will replace retiring appraiser Donnie Sparkman. Voter turnout was about 76 percent.

(NOTE: This article truncated for relevance to TCC/WEI.)

TALLAHASSEE and Leon County

▼ Domi Station



Incubator for **New Business**

Exciting things are happening at CoLab@thePod and Domi Station, Tallahassee's startup incubator program. In the last year, 53 early-stage startup teams have participated in core incubator programs to accelerate their business acumen and experience – success that has not gone unnoticed on the national stage.

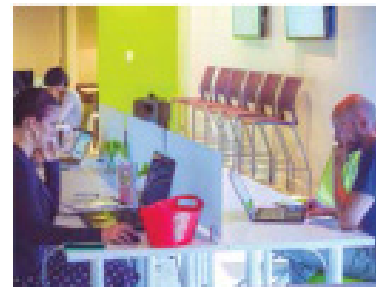
In 2014, Tallahassee ranked ninth on the website FiveThirtyEight's list of metro areas with the fastest-growing rate of new startups. In 2015, the city was named a Top 50 City for Entrepreneurs by Entrepreneur magazine, one of only three Florida cities to make the list.

The idea of co-locating and collaborating is not a new idea, but there has been a definite surge in Tallahassee in the last few years," says Lucas Lindsey, executive director of Domi. He feels a chemistry of city, county and other organizations coming together to invest in Tallahassee's en-

trepreneurs, which creates a nurturing environment for startups.

At CoLab@thePod, co-working spaces are conducive to the way the creative community works, with independent private and co-working spaces as well as a conference room for training sessions and meetings.

Domi provides comprehensive space and services for business and tech startups. Their clients are diverse, but Lindsey has noticed that the young millennial entrepreneurs approach business the same way they do life. "People in my generation are hungry to have an impact,"

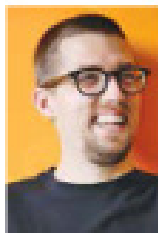


▲ CoLab@thePod

Lindsey says. "We want to make a difference right away, and having Tallahassee's size, support and resources makes that easier to do."

One of the newest incubator ventures is KitchenShare @ Heritage Hub, a kitchen rental facility and food business incubator in FrenchTown.

"In 2014, we addressed the food desert in the FrenchTown neighborhood by starting a farmers market," says Betsy Couch, executive director of Knight Creative Communities Institute. "From that effort came the opportunity for a permanent structure



"A real benefit of being in Tallahassee is its size. Here, the ripple effect travels faster and goes farther."

– Lucas Lindsey, Domi Station

PHOTO: COURTESY OF DOMI; PHOTO: KEVIN WOOD

TALLAHASSEE and Leon County

for the market, which will also house Kitchen-Share @ Heritage Hub for emerging chefs and caterers."

As part of Tallahassee Community College's push to create an entrepreneurial campus from the inside out, Spark! was launched last fall to nurture and grow entrepreneurship. If you're a student, training can be used for college credit. As a community member who works full time, you can get the same training during the evenings and on weekends.

Spark! is housed on the TCC campus, but many of the program's

events are held in the new downtown Tallahassee Innovation Center, which opened last summer. Kimberly Moore, vice president for workforce development at TCC, says, "We envision it as a place where government, nonprofits and the private sector can come together and hold engaged leadership discussions and convene on a variety of topics."

Additionally, Spark! hosts several startup ventures: a retail incubator, Startup Weekend Tallahassee for new businesses, and the Florida Veterans Entrepreneurship Program.

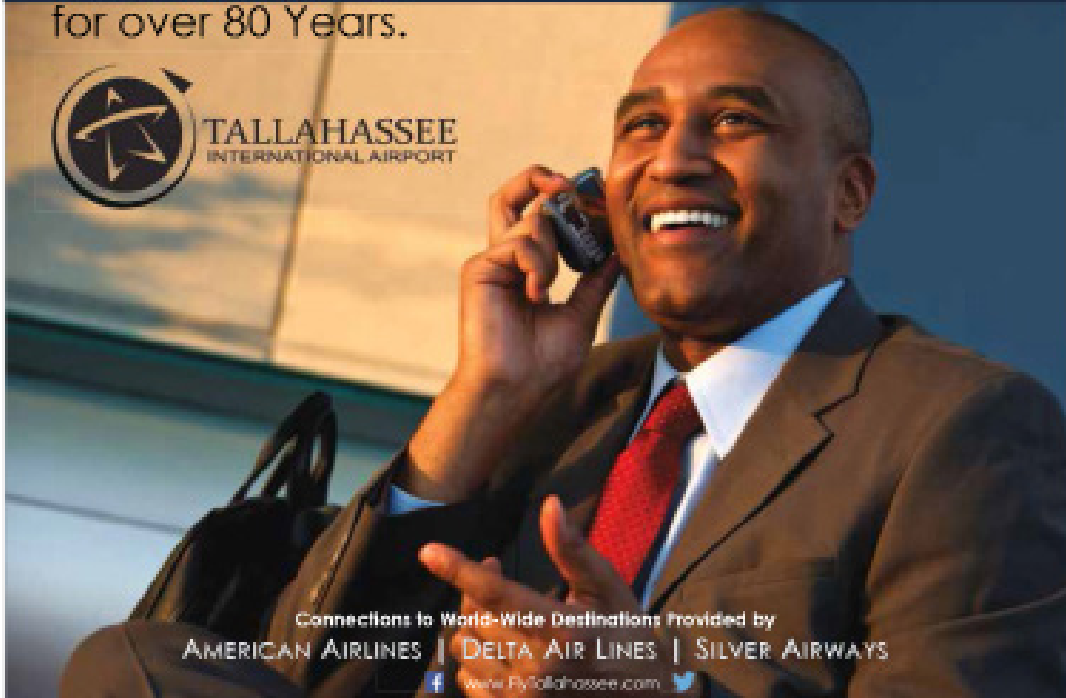
Startups Nurtured at Domi

- **Cuttlesoft**: Designers of scalable web and mobile applications.
- **DivvyUp**: A buy-one, give-one online sock shop.
- **FullScaleNANO**: Software for the analysis of nanomaterial.
- **GrassLands Brewery**: Local brewery and taproom that handcrafts beer.
- **HWind Scientific**: The world's leading provider of tropical cyclone wind field data; recently acquired by RMS, the world leader in risk management solutions and reinsurance products.
- **NewSci**: Provider of Insight-as-a-Service to the education, health care and nonprofit markets.
- **QuarryBio**: Covalent labeling technology for therapeutic proteins.
- **Vale Food Co.**: Healthy, chef-prepared, daily delivery meal plans.

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TALLAHASSEE
and Leon County

Center of Synergy

Over the past several years, Tallahassee's community leaders have worked hard to bridge the gaps between various sectors with collaborative projects and problem-solving.

Rather than work parallel, businesses are encouraged to work together to capitalize on resources, knowledge and expertise.

The Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce has been at the forefront of this effort, growing business, advocating for business success and driving value to members as part of its new focus. In doing so, the chamber has facilitated many of the discussions between the professional services, health care, hospitality, and trade-transportation and logistics sectors, the fastest-growing industries in the Tallahassee area, to promote and maximize synergies.

"We are cultivating a community that is vibrant, impactful and an exciting place to be where every person — and every business — can thrive," says Sue Dick, president and CEO.

Tangible examples include expanding Tally Job Hop, which introduces top university students to local employers, and initiating the Talent Lives Here campaign to market Tallahassee as a career destination.

"This is an exciting time for our business community" says Reggie Bouthalier, chamber chairman and shareholder at Stearns Weaver Miller. "As the region's leading business organization, the chamber serves as a bridge between industry and discovering opportunities to drive growth and commerce through collaboration, collective resources and advocacy voice. Together, we will continue to improve Tallahassee's business environment."



▲ TCC's Wakulla Environmental Institute connects education, conservation and recreation with economically viable development.



Training Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs

A huge support for synergies between business and academia is FSU's Jim Moran Institute for Global Entrepreneurship, which

cultivates, trains and inspires entrepreneurial leaders through world-class executive education, applied training, public recognition and leading-edge research. A new school of entrepreneurship funded by the family of the late Jim Moran and the Jim Moran Institute will complement the already rich offerings for entrepreneurs. It's a game changer for the regional business landscape.

Demand-Driven Degrees

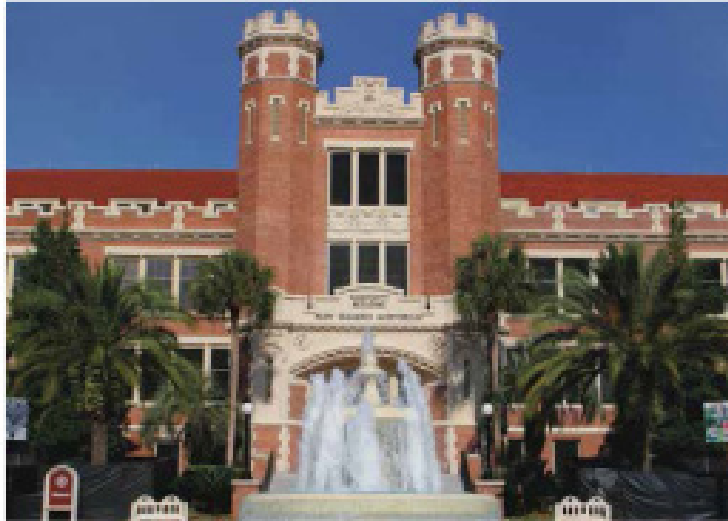
Tallahassee Community College's local partnerships are born of community need. "We don't dream up exciting degrees to lure students," says Jim Murdaugh, president. "We are demand driven."

A case in point is TCC's Wakulla Environmental Institute, which connects education, conservation and recreation with environmentally responsible and economically viable development. Concern about Apalachicola's dwindling oyster beds led to the creation of the oyster aquaculture program. Surface, air and aquatic drone training came about from the demand for trained technicians in unmanned technologies.

PHOTO: TERRY BRIDGES/THE WAKULLA INSTITUTE

TALLAHASSEE and Leon County

Founded in 1851, FSU is located on the oldest continuous site of higher education in Florida. ▶



World-Class Education

STEAM-based K-12 educational programs, two nationally recognized public universities and a top community college make Tallahassee a hub for innovative learning and education.

Tallahassee is ranked the 11th most educated city in the country, placing higher than Raleigh, N.C., and Colorado Springs, Colo., according to a 2016 study by WallerFish. Analysts compared 250 of the most populated metropolitan statistical areas across two key dimensions: educational attainment and quality of education and attainment gap.

While the area's premier postsecondary institutions carried a lot of weight, so did the ranking of Leon County's public schools.

"We have great schools, and they have been strong for decades. But even though we are at the top, we know we can do better," says Rocky Hanna, newly elected Leon County Schools superintendent.

One way is to "quit treating kids as one-size-fits-all" by assessing individual needs and then meeting them with collaboration between the school system and the community, whether it's pursuing a four-year degree or looking at opportunities outside of a college experience.

One such program is Leon Works, which helps intelligent, capable students who prefer a solid, well-paying trade job over college get the training they need while still in high school. "Events like the Leon Works Expo are aimed at renewing career training in what we call skills that pay the bills," says Leon County Commissioner Mary Ann Lindley. "Less than two years ago, the school board focused on addressing the workforce gap of skilled workers in our community. Leon Works has been quite the answer."

Leon High School is the oldest public high school in the state and one of the oldest in the nation. ▶

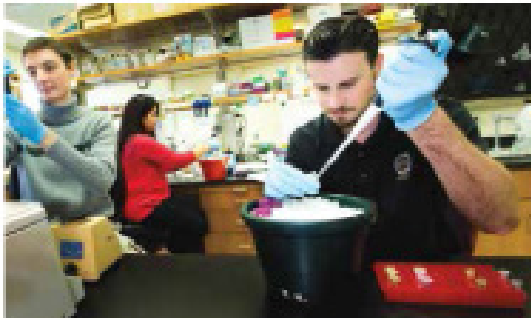


87.2%

Leon County's High School Graduation Rate
(compared to 82.7% statewide)

PHOTO COURTESY: CHEROKEE BOOTHMAN

Florida State University



In addition to advancing knowledge in the molecular basis of human disease, the FSU College of Medicine places a great deal of emphasis on helping students develop their research skills and interests.

Strength, Skill and Character

Florida State University is an integral part of Tallahassee's culture and economy.

In 2014-15, FSU had a \$10 billion economic impact in Florida, with 42,000 students spending \$876 million and contributing \$44 million in sales tax to Leon County. The university has also created 94,160 jobs in Florida.

FSU President John Thrasher, a former state legislator and FSU alumnus, points with pride to the school's outstanding graduation and retention rates. "Our students are among the most academically talented this university has ever seen," he says. "Our retention rate is 93%, and our five-year graduation rate is 79%. That's nine percentage points above the graduation rate that *U.S. News & World Report* predicted for that cohort. Only three institutions in the top 100 exceeded their predicted rate by more than FSU."

As a top-tier research university, FSU is ranked among the top 38 public universities in the nation. Of particular interest to business are the tools and expertise that can be found on campus to help business thrive in today's challenging marketplace. Besides strong undergraduate and graduate programs, FSU focuses on cutting-edge research and its application to industry.

The university's nationally recognized programs include the Center for Intelligent Systems, Control and Robotics; the High-Performance Materials Institute; the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory; the Center for Advanced Power Systems; and the Center for Academic & Professional Development.

Most recently, FSU's College of Business was ranked in the Top 50 on the "America's Best Colleges" rankings by *U.S. News & World Report*. The online graduate programs ranked No. 4 among public and private universities on the 2016 list. The school also has an international reputation for its rigorous curriculum and strong classroom experience.

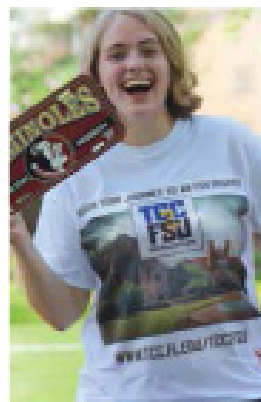
To support its student-focused initiatives, the university is in the midst of a \$1 billion "Raise the Torch" campaign to improve the student experience, serve as an economic engine for the state through research and job creation, and improve the quality of life through the creation and dissemination of knowledge and ideas. "It's not by accident we list 'improving the student experience' as one of our top priorities," says Tom Jennings, Ph.D., vice president for University Advancement and president of the FSU Foundation. "Florida State is and always will be student-centric. It's in our DNA."

Tallahassee Community College

The College of Choice

A nationally ranked community college, Tallahassee Community College (TCC) serves more than 12,000 students and thousands of additional students in non-credit courses each year. The 50-year-old institution also contributes significantly to the area, employing 1,400 full-time and part-time employees. In 2014-15, annual money generated to the local economy totaled \$385.7 million.

"TCC is student focused, demand driven, and future oriented," says Jim Mundaugh, president. "Our TCC@FSU and TCC@FAMU Golden Guarantee programs provide our graduates with a path to the university of their choice, and our workforce programs prepare students



for all 10 of the top high-wage, high-growth jobs in our region."

TCC offers more than 70 academic and in-demand workforce programs. Its Workforce Development division features a variety of training solutions that address employer needs with industry-specific programs in manufacturing, technology, construction trades, welding and green jobs, to name a few. The division's entrepreneurship hub is a comprehensive program to nurture and grow start-up businesses.

TCC's Golden Guarantee programs offer graduates admission to either Florida State University or FAMU.

TALLAHASSEE and Leon County

Florida A&M University



Scholarships, student success and faculty support are top priorities at Florida A&M University.

Excellence with Caring

In late November, FAMU graduate Ibram X. Kendi won the prize for nonfiction at the National Book Awards cere-

mony in New York for his book "Stamped from the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America." On the heels of that achievement, alumni

Bernard and Shirley Kinsey of Pacific Palisades, Calif., gave \$500,000 to FAMU's marching "100" band. And FAMU interim President Larry Robinson announced a \$5 million initiative to help the university increase its graduation rate, enhance academic programs and recruit top talent.

"This initiative represents a collaborative partnership that increases the possibilities for student success by strengthening opportunities for talented students, and those who need financial support to complete their studies and receive their diplomas," Robinson says.

Founded in 1887, FAMU attracts students from across the nation and more than 70 countries. It is ranked by *Essence* and *Money* magazines as the No. 1 public historically black college or university (HBCU) in the nation and No. 5 overall on their joint list of "50 Best Colleges for African-Americans," behind Princeton, Harvard, Duke and Cornell.

Yearly, the school brings in \$6336 million to the local economy and has a payroll of \$3636 million.

FAMU offers 100 degree programs, including 56 undergraduate, 29 graduate, three professional and 12 doctoral degrees. Architecture, business, environmental science, journalism, pharmacy, nursing and agribusiness are among the school's premier fields of study.

FAMU is also known for its Center for Viticulture and Small Fruit Research, Center for Water and Air Quality and Small Business Development Center, which provides consulting for business owners and entrepreneurs.

Ian Mendenhall
Commercial Litigation,
Probate Litigation, Real Estate

Keith Bell
Commercial Litigation,
Real Estate, Government Affairs

Trevor Thompson
Appellate, Federal Practice,
Intellectual Property

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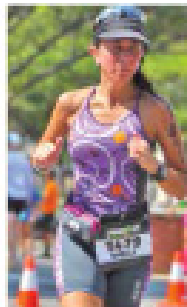
Andrew's
Capital
Grill & Bar,
Downtown
Tallahassee



#iHeartTally

Tallahassee is an easy — affordable — place to live. And with an extremely high quality of life, fabulous parks and green spaces, quality jobs, close proximity to world-class beaches, it's also a fun place to live.

Shelly Duffey, who works for the Florida Department of Health, lives for the weekends when she can head outdoors with her fitness-minded friends. "There is always something going on, and I'll go do it just to keep myself moving," she says. "Tallahassee is a great place because of our trails, our hills — which are rare in Florida — and our weather. There are so many groups to join. I'm part of the Gulf Winds Triathletes and two Facebook groups, Can't Stop Won't Stop and Revolutions Triathlon Training Group, where I can connect with other people who want to get out and train."



Lucas Lindsey, the 27-year-old executive director of Domi Station, often wraps up his day by meeting up with friends at a local restaurant or bar.

"Maybe it's because I'm obsessively involved in the community, but it's cool to not just go to a bar, but to go to a bar where I know the owner, like Cobe at GooseLands," says Lindsey. "I am energized by the people in this town and I love going out — it makes me feel connected. One thing is for sure: There is never a shortage of things to do in Tallahassee."

Scott Balog, chief of staff at Tallahassee Community College, can often be found at one of the area's local music venues or festivals.

"There's something going on every night of the week, and the variety is unbelievable," he says. "Our music scene is evolving, and there are many different venues of different sizes opening up throughout town, which all have their own feel." Among Balog's favorite musicians: strong local talent like the Sarah Mac Band, 6 Pack Deep and Royce Lovett with Motmen Gospel. "I've also seen national groups here like the Avett Brothers, the Currys and Jason Isbell," he says. "And to stay connected to the music scene, I volunteer with a number of musical organizations including Wood of South, a music and literature festival now in its third year."

(continued on page 48)

Mild Climate • 79.5° Average High Temp
• 55.8° Average Low Temp

TCC's Jas Hill leads Eagles during record win streak

JORDAN CULVER

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Jas Hill isn't used to losing.

She went her entire senior year at LeFlore (Mobile, Ala.) without losing en route to a Class 6A state title.

In the fourth game of her college career, however, things came back down to Earth.

The 18-year-old freshman guard at TCC lost for the first time in more than a year on Nov. 15 – it was an 85-83 loss to Santa Fe College, a team TCC would later beat by 35.

Hill said she cried after the loss.

"It was a minute since I lost a game," Hill said. "We lost to Santa Fe and that really woke us up. I was crying. I went 34-0 in high school and we won our first three games and then we lost and I was hurt. From that point on, we just had to pick it up."

If Hill has her way, TCC won't lose for the rest of the year.

"We don't want to lose anymore," she said. "We want to win it all."

The NJCAA No. 11/Region 8 No. 3 Eagles (15-1) have won a program-record 12 games in a row since that Santa Fe loss. The games haven't been close, either. TCC's average margin of victory over those 12 games has been about 31 points per game and Hill has logged seven 20-point games in that span.

The games are definitely about to get much tougher. TCC begins Panhandle Conference play Saturday at Pensacola State College. Including Tallahassee, all five teams in the Panhandle Conference are nationally ranked.

TCC has the No. 2 scoring offense in JUCO women's basketball (94.6 points per game) and two of the most dominant scorers in the nation. Hill is the country's No. 2 scorer with 22.6 points per game. Her teammate, sophomore Lawriell Wilson, averages 19.1 points per game.

"I started playing basketball in middle school, where I won two championships," Hill said. "But I wasn't how I am now. I didn't know how to make a layup. The only thing I knew how to do was shoot. Then when I got to LaFlore High School, my coach there (Darrell Walton) taught me everything I know."

Over the weekend, Hill proved she's come a long way. She tied a school record with 38 points in TCC's 109-69 victory on Friday over Northeast Mississippi Community College. The record was set in 2013 by Jeraldine Campbell.

She shot 13 for 30 from the field, including 7 for 19 from beyond the arc. Friday's game was Hill's third 30-point game this season.

Hill said she models her game after a couple of the greatest players in women's college basketball history.

"I watch a couple of WNBA players like Maya Moore and Candace Parker," she said. "I love how Maya Moore plays. She's tough. She doesn't ever give up. She's a shooter and she can get to the rack."

Wilson scored 31 points on Friday's game, marking the first time two TCC players have scored 30 points or more in the same game.

"(Wilson) brings me up," Hill said. "I could miss a couple of shots and be like, 'I'm not going to shoot anymore.' She'll just tell me to keep shooting."

"It starts with the coaches. We have a lot of bonding time. We're with each other all day, every day. We don't have any choice. Me, when I first got here, I was very stubborn and I didn't want to talk to anybody. They opened me up."

Plus, Hill gets the added benefit of playing with one of her high school teammates. Freshman forward Japonica James also went to LeFlore.

The two led the team to a Class 6A state title. James is now TCC's No. 3 scorer, averaging 16.3 points per game.

"It's a big deal for us to keep playing together," James told AL.com in May. "That was always the goal. We are never far away from each other. We play AAU together, we play high school together. We know each other's strengths and weaknesses and how to play off each other."

Hill said she's loving life in Tallahassee – something she didn't expect when she signed with the Eagles. She said she expected Tallahassee, as a city, to be boring. She's been pleasantly surprised since coming to TCC.

"I love it here," she said. "It's fun on and off the court."

TCC to present reception for exhibit opening

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College will present an opening reception for Kelly Boehmer's sculpture exhibit "Belly Up." Boehmer uses a variety of colors, textures, familiar characters and kitsch elements, all sewn together by hand, to showcase the qualities of human relationships.

The reception and the gallery are free and open to the public. The exhibit runs from Thursday to Feb. 9. The gallery, in the College's Fine and Performing Arts Center, is open weekdays from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Barbara Cohenour at 201-9889 or email her at cohenoub@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC's Fire Academy scholarship winners receive honors

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Tallahassee Fire Academy, part of Tallahassee Community College's Florida Public Safety Institute, held its graduation ceremony Dec. 13. Twenty-one students completed the Firefighter II certificate program and are now prepared to become professional firefighters.

Three graduating students were named to receive post-completion scholarship awards sponsored by the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation.

Alexandria Polk-Rolle received the \$2,500 Isaac Royal Memorial Award. Alexander Morales received the \$1,250 Executive Director's Award for the top academic student, and Duong Vo received the \$1,250 Leadership Award.

For information, contact Michael Randolph at (850) 558-4366 or randolm@tcc.fl.edu.

StarMetro buses to get new design on interior ceiling

WTXL

StarMetro passengers will now be able to enjoy artwork during their bus ride, thanks to students from Tallahassee community college.

The City of Tallahassee recently partnered with TCC to provide students with an opportunity to create the attractive design that graces the interior ceiling of a StarMetro bus.

Graphic design students from TCC's business, industry and technology division submitted potential designs, and a panel of judges selected the final design.

The theme of the contest, "A history of TCC," showcases the college through the years.

The winning design was created by TCC Student Hannah Cummings.

TCC students design interior of Star Metro bus

WCTV

12 graphic design students from TCC's business, industry and technology division designed the inside of this star metro bus.

The theme "A History of TCC." It's a part of the programs fall capstone course.

TCC staff hope to have more student projects showcased around the city.

"I hope we'll be continuing to work with star metro fleet and we're going to be working on more projects with them. We've been fortunate to work with waste water management, city of Tallahassee, and Underground Utilities in the past," said Roopali Kambo, TCC Associate Professor of Graphic Design.

Kambo said the capstone course takes place every fall, with each project being different from the last.

TCC is banking on its Starbucks investment to boost downtown traffic

Local coffee business were offered the site, but declined

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

There are about a dozen Starbucks Tallahassee locations, including three on the Florida State campus and one at Florida A&M University.

Now Tallahassee Community College is moving ahead with plans to add its name to the operators of local Starbucks cafes.

But in following its FSU and FAMU counterparts, TCC is taking a different, more expensive path. While the FSU and FAMU cafes are on campus and run by private contractors, TCC is spending more than \$500,000 to build and run a coffee shop at its Center for Innovation on Kleman Plaza.

Construction has been completed and a walk-through was conducted Friday. The opening is planned for Jan. 30.

TCC is hoping the addition of the premium coffee brand will increase pedestrian traffic downtown, provide its students with hands-on entrepreneurial experience and, most of all, turn a profit.

"We cannot wait to open the Starbucks at TCC's new Center for Innovation later this month," said Kimberly Moore, TCC's vice president for Workforce Development.

"Not only will it help us offer our students real-world retail training and job opportunities, it also aligns with TCC's strategic plan and goals to advance entrepreneurship on our campus and support economic development in the community," Moore said. "We've received a lot of support for the project. It's a win-win for all of us."

TCC approached Starbucks in 2015 after talks with three local coffee companies – Redeye, Lucky Goat and Catalina Café – failed to reach an agreement.

"The timing and economics didn't make sense for us as a local business," said Ben Pautsch, who owns Tallahassee's Lucky Goat operations.

He said his decision was based on the costs involved to prepare the site and his belief there was not enough year-round traffic to make it successful.

"For us, to look at that location it was too much to invest in a marginal location," Pautsch said, adding he has opened two locations in town for about the same cost it would have taken to prepare the Kleman site.

Moore reached out to Starbucks in July 2015. The company reportedly told TCC it was not initially interested because it was in talks with another location downtown. But a deal was reached in August 2015.

Because of the confidential non-disclosure agreement, TCC said it couldn't release details of its discussion with Starbucks.

The college did provide a copy of the master licensing agreement signed in March 2016. It calls for TCC to pay a \$30,000 licensing fee and a monthly royalty equal to 7 percent of the gross revenue.

Representatives from Starbucks made two visits to the site to come up with specs for the design.

TCC's board of trustees in September approved a construction agreement with Rippee Construction, a Tallahassee company, which also built the three Starbucks locations at Florida State.

The contract calls for a maximum of nearly \$996,000 to be spent on improvements at TCC's Center for Innovation and a separate agreement of no more than \$488,000 on the Starbucks location. A construction permit was issued in October 2016.

Unlike FSU and FAMU, TCC does not have a contract with a food service provider — Starbucks cafes on FSU and FAMU are licensed and operated by the private food service provider, not the university. TCC is using money from its auxiliary fund to enter the agreement with Starbucks. That money is non-restricted and can be used for non-instructional services. It's intended to be self-supporting.

Examples include the campus bookstore or leased space on campus.

Starbucks is not TCC's sole venture into entrepreneurialism.

TCC is banking on its Starbucks investment to boost downtown traffic....

continued

TCC also operates the dining hall and a dormitory at the Florida Public Safety Institute.

"We are paid by the users (diners and those staying in the dorms)," said Al Moran, TCC's vice president of communications and marketing.

In a Dec. 29 memo, Moore said the shop will be open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays.

"Again, based on the lease terms and our commitment to promote "longer downtown" hours of engagement we may determine that the hours need to be adjusted," Moore wrote. "If a change is made it will be communicated in a timely fashion."

TCC also is seeking approval for an outside dining area.

Karen Jumonville, the city's director of growth management, said Starbucks is a welcomed addition to downtown.

"We expect nearby residents, workers and visitors to the area will enjoy having another option added to a list of wonderful establishments in the downtown area," she said.

TCC students beautify StarMetro bus ceiling

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Creativity and art will transport riders who board StarMetro thanks to students from Tallahassee Community College. The City of Tallahassee recently partnered with TCC to provide students with an opportunity to create the attractive design that now adorns the interior ceiling of a StarMetro bus providing transportation for TCC students and residents living and working in the area.

Graphic design students from TCC's Business, Industry and Technology Division submitted potential designs, and a panel of judges selected the final design. The theme of the contest, "A History of TCC," showcases the College through the years, with memories that will inspire both locals and out-of-town visitors riding the bus. The winning design was created by TCC student Hannah Cummings.

"We are thrilled with how this program turned out, and the winning student's design will enhance the many public art offerings throughout our community," Mayor Andrew Gillum said. "Partnerships like this one with TCC not only underscore our continued efforts to ready our students for a competitive job market once out of college, but also highlight the immense talent living right here in Tallahassee."

The project was led by Roopali Kambo, TCC associate professor of graphic design, and was intended to simulate a real world client experience—allowing students to work on a real project with a real client, StarMetro. Students were challenged to push themselves creatively and technically to highlight the accomplishments of TCC in the community.

"One of the many things I appreciate about this project is that it gives our students a chance to really be part of this community, to be engaged and, perhaps, to come up with their own innovative ideas for how to make Tallahassee an even better place to live," TCC President Jim Murdaugh said.

A video about the project has been posted on the City's YouTube page. Community members may also view the design and share thoughts about this project by liking and commenting on the City of Tallahassee and StarMetro Facebook pages.

For information about TCC's graphic design program and other career programs, contact the Business, Industry and Technology Division at (850) 201-8352 or techedu@tcc.fl.edu.

Leon County pays tribute to Dr. King

WTXL

On Wednesday afternoon in the Capital City, members of the community packed the north rotunda of the courthouse as Leon County paid tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Junior.

The tribute entitled "Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community" allowed for people to reflect upon the ideals of Martin Luther King and how they are relevant in Leon County.

Leon County Commissioner Bill Proctor and the MLK Foundation joined forces to host this celebration.

During the event, the presidents of Florida State, and Florida A&M Universities, as well as Tallahassee Community College shared words of wisdom, challenge and inspiration.

They also came together and signed a "Resolution of Educational and Civil Unity" stating that each institution will continue to honor the rights and dignity of all who attend.

"The resolution is a historic event, says Bill Proctor, District 1 Leon County Commissioner. "Three presidents, a majority university, an HBCU, and a community college, signed an agreement that they're going to provide the leadership and set a tone that our students are going to respect each other. It's something Dr. King would have asked for."

Leon County pays tribute to Dr King every year on the Wednesday before the actual holiday the following Monday.

Had Dr. King lived, Monday would have been his 88th birthday.

MLK Foundation holds annual King celebration

LANETRA BENNETT
WCTV

Leon County Commissioner Bill Proctor and the MLK Foundation convened in a historic gathering at the Leon County Courthouse to observe the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Amongst words of inspiration and challenge, Presidents Dr. Larry Robinson of Florida A&M University, Mr. John Thrasher of Florida State University, and Dr. Jim Murdaugh of Tallahassee Community College signed a historic and unprecedented proclamation of unity and respect.

The university and college presidents came together to affirm their schools' commitment to civil discourse, especially as tensions continue to rise since the recent presidential election. The presidents also agreed to pursue and fulfill their purposes of promoting civil, moral, intellectual, and social responsibilities to honor the rights and dignity of all who attend school.

"To have our educational leaders unite on common ground reflects the commitment and dream of Dr. King," said Leon County Commissioner Bill Proctor. "Our educational enterprises must remain vigilant in recognizing, celebrating, and remembering the importance of the human spirit as protected by civil order."

Also as part of the program, The MLK Foundation of Florida, Inc., recognized Mr. Chris Curry; Dr. Na'im Akbar, Attorney Mutaqee Akbar, Mr. Vincent Long and Mr. Ricardo Fernandez. Each award recipient was recognized for his or her service to the community.

College presidents pledge unity at Leon County MLK event

Tributes planned in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Speaking against the backdrop of a country and community still reeling from one of the most unconventional presidential campaigns in recent history, the three Tallahassee college presidents offered words of hope and unity to forge a brighter future Wednesday during the annual Martin Luther King Jr. tribute at the Leon County Courthouse.

Florida A&M University interim president Larry Robinson, Florida State President John Thrasher and Tallahassee Community College President Jim Murdaugh each talked briefly about their campuses' missions, in the context of diversity of thought, giving back to the community and preparing students for jobs that will enhance their chances of making economic gains.

More than 100 people packed the north rotunda of the courthouse for the annual event sponsored by Leon County Commissioner Bill Proctor and Steve Beasley, CEO and founder of the MLK Foundation of Florida, Inc.

"It's important today to recognize how far we have come since Dr. King inspired us to be a better America," Thrasher said. "But the events of this past year have also reminded us of how far we have yet to go. We have seen a coarsening of dialogue, a rise in racial tensions, and even violent protests in cities across the nation.

"It seems to stand in stark contrast to the very essence of Dr. King: a beautiful orator, a champion of civil rights, a believer in non-violence."

Thrasher said this community must continue to focus on moving forward, to gain a better understanding of each to make this city stronger.

"But we must have faith, as Dr. King did," he said. "Faith is what gives us hope that our best days are still to come and the strength to make a difference through our words and actions."

The audience responded with applause as he said, "I believe a symphony of brotherhood exists right here in Tallahassee, and that we can show the nation how beautiful a community can be when we celebrate our diversity and stand up for all of our citizens."

Thrasher, Robinson and Murdaugh also said they were inspired by what they see every day on campus, with students earning an education, while at the same time, involving themselves in community causes.

"One only needs to look to the students of our three institutions of higher learning for proof," Thrasher said. "More than any generation before, they value the contributions of different cultures and ethnicities and appreciate that a diverse environment enriches the quality of life for everyone.

"They are working on many of the things that were important to Dr. King: human rights, social justice and fighting poverty."

Robinson said FAMU has a long history of addressing a key component of King's message, economic vitality, a theme that often is overlooked in his speeches.

One of the things that attracted him to FAMU 20 years ago was the chance to contribute to a university that educates students who will join the black middle class.

"We have contributed to the rise of the middle class in Florida and throughout the country," he said, as many in attendance cheered. "We have data showing we have transformed families within one generation."

At the same time, Robinson said, FAMU students have a history of fighting social, economic and civil injustices.

"I believe we have some of the most socially responsible students of any campus in the country," he said. "They understand they are the beneficiaries of someone else."

While introducing Murdaugh, Gadsden County Judge Kathy Garner praised the TCC president for spearheading the college's presence in Gadsden, noting the opening last year of the TCC's Gadsden Center. It is offering residents and students an opportunity to gain job skills and academic classes to better themselves and the economy.

Speaking in the context of King, Murdaugh said, "We have the opportunity to change lives."

College presidents pledge unity at Leon County MLK event....

continued

He noted that a third of TCC students are black and about 10 percent Hispanic. Eighty different countries are represented by the student body. That helps in increasing the dialogue on diversity and unity.

"We have a rare privilege and opportunity, not to just get an education," he said of TCC's culture. "We promote diversity every day."

The presidents then signed a resolution offered by Proctor, pledging to work toward a unified Tallahassee.

"To have our educational leaders unite on common ground reflects the commitment and dream of Dr. King," Proctor said. "Our educational enterprises must remain vigilant in recognizing, celebrating, and remembering the importance of the human spirit as protected by civil order."

Tallahassee Community College is hosting its annual MLK Day of Service event on Monday.

From 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. volunteers will be split into groups and work on service projects for Be the Match, the Museum of Florida History and the Tallahassee Museum. They will return at 1:30 p.m. to TCC for free lunch and a closing reflection session on what the day meant to them.

Thrasher, Murdaugh endorse Larry Robinson for president of FAMU

Candid endorsements made during annual Martin Luther King tribute at the Leon County Courthouse

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

If interim Florida A&M University President Larry Robinson had any doubts about the support of his peers in Tallahassee, he can erase them.

Florida State University President John Thrasher and Tallahassee Community College President Jim Murdaugh both endorsed Robinson Wednesday for the top post.

Speaking before a crowd of about 200 people at the annual Martin Luther King Jr. tribute at the Leon County Courthouse, Thrasher said he wanted to be among the first to say Robinson deserves the presidency.

"Larry Robinson is doing a superb job at Florida A&M University," Thrasher said, drawing strong applause. "FAMU students deserve his leadership."

Murdaugh also veered from his remarks to say that he wanted to echo Thrasher's sentiments.

"I hope you get that job," Murdaugh said, as Robinson sat nearby. "You certainly have my support. You have earned that job."

Robinson, who in a few days celebrates the 20th anniversary of his arrival as a professor at FAMU, was named interim president by the board of trustees in September, following the ouster of President Elmira Mangum.

This is Robinson's third stint as FAMU's interim leader. In 2007, he was appointed interim chief executive officer for a brief period. In July 2012, he was named interim president after the resignation of James Ammons. He held that post until Mangum was hired.

Trustees agreed to give Robinson one year in the interim post before determining their next step. But that is not written in stone.

While Robinson insists that he's not using this period to campaign for the job, he also has said he would be "honored" to be selected.

"I'm flattered that these two distinguished leaders have that level of confidence in my ability," Robinson said following the luncheon. "I'm honored to serve in the capacity as interim president doing everything I can to move FAMU's mission forward."

TCC reaches 50,000-hour service goal

TALLAHASSEE.COM

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.



Two TCC Gateways in Wakulla County



WAKULLA ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE
 170 Preservation Way | (850) 558-3500

Combines education, conservation and recreation to stimulate environmentally responsible economic development. Programs include oyster aquaculture, environmental drone technology, environmental science technology and Green Guides.

FREE workshops from 6-9 p.m. | Register at www.sbdcfamu.org

Jan. 9 - Getting Started - Business types, advantages and disadvantages and paperwork for each business type

Jan. 16 - Managing your Finances - Intro to bookkeeping, financial management, business loans and IRS paperwork

Jan. 23 - Employing Workers - Hire/fire employees, hourly verses salary, federal insurance and workers compensation

Jan. 30 - Using Contracts and Legal Counsel - Contract types, drafting and negotiating contracts, when to contact a lawyer

Feb. 6 - Marketing - Business branding, social media advertising and engagement, and free/low cost marketing resources



TCC WAKULLA CENTER
 2932 Crawfordville Highway | (850) 922-6290

Workforce-focused programs including retail customer service training, online small business management certificate with an entrepreneurial focus, and job training for individuals with disabilities.

TCC RETAIL PATHWAYS CERTIFICATION INFO SESSION

Dec. 6 at 10 a.m., FREE and open to the public



TCC Gadsden Center

223 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy, FL

Join us for Gadsden Center Recruitment Fair

Learn about classes for HVAC, GED and English as a Second Language. We will have someone here to discuss AMTC, AA/AS degrees and our Professional Development courses.

December 5 | Noon - 2 p.m.

**TCC GADSDEN CENTER SPRING 2017 CLASSES ARE FROM
JANUARY 9 TO APRIL 27. CLASSES INCLUDE:**

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

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

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

**Financial Aid available*

(850) 558-3620 | GadsdenCenter@tcc.fl.edu

www.tcc.fl.edu/gadsdencenter



TCC Gadsden Center

22 Pat Thomas Parkway, Quincy, FL

TCC Gadsden Center Spring 2017 classes

CLASSES FROM JANUARY 9 TO APRIL 27

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.



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

An advertisement for the TCC2FSU Golden Guarantee Program. The background is a photograph of a brick building with a large arched window on the left and a multi-story building with two towers on the right. In the foreground, there is a paved walkway, a small pond, and some landscaping. A central logo features the text 'TCC' in blue, 'FSU' in dark red, and a yellow '2' with an arrow pointing from TCC to FSU. Below the logo is the text 'Golden Guarantee Program'. Below the logo, the text 'BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY TO AN FSU DEGREE AT TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE' is written in white. At the bottom, the website 'WWW.TCC.FL.EDU/TCC2FSU' is displayed in white.

TCC
FSU
Golden Guarantee Program

BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY TO AN FSU DEGREE
AT TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WWW.TCC.FL.EDU/TCC2FSU

ARE YOU A FUTURE TEACHER OF THE YEAR?

Flagler College-Tallahassee and Tallahassee Community College want to be *your* bridge to the teaching profession.

More than 20 Flagler College-Tallahassee grads have been Teacher of the Year for their schools.

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TCC is one of the top two-year colleges in the nation. Earn your associate degree at TCC, then walk across the lawn to enroll at Flagler College-Tallahassee, located right on TCC's campus.

Flagler College-Tallahassee

Flagler College-Tallahassee offers the junior- and senior-year program for elementary education and elementary education/exceptional student education majors.

"Once you enter Flagler, you become special, not only to your instructors, but also to the community. Flagler interns are coveted."

Sylvia Myers, Assistant Principal, Kate Sullivan Elementary School. Leon County Teacher of the Year. TCC and Flagler College-Tallahassee graduate.



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COLLEGE**
TALLAHASSEE

Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce



Board Members (from left to right): John Clayton, Harold Knight, Antonio Jefferson, Scott Venable, Greg Rinchow (Interim President), Susan Pittman (Founder and Chair), Jim Mordueh, Eric Jaber, Chuck Croom.



We might be viewed as the new “kids” on the block, but collectively we bring more than 200 years of experience to the organization, and we seriously accept our assignment to **boost north Florida’s economic ecosystem by helping minority and women business owners thrive** over the long term. So whether it’s hosting wealth-building workshops, meeting with key decision makers, or matching our members to big-business opportunities, our focus is spot-on... strategic...and it works.

EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. FACILITATE.

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