

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



May 13 - June 16, 2017

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



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May 13 - June 16, 2017

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



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- June 8 - WCTV/WTXL - TCC unveils new scholarship fund for Gadsden County students
- June 13 - WTXL - FPSI hosts sixth annual Rural County Summit
- June 13 - WCTV - TCC debuts Speed Mentoring entrepreneurial series at Center for Innovation
- June 14 - WTXL - Tallahassee HR Conference takes place at TCC
- June 15 - WTXL - Center for Workforce Development hosts event to address elder abuse scams
- June 15 - WTXL - TCC celebrates GED and ESOL graduates at commencement ceremony

TCC forensics to host scholarship fundraiser

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Members of the Tallahassee Community College forensics speech and debate team will perform Wednesday, May 17, at a showcase benefiting the Shira Brownstein Memorial Scholarship Fund. "An Evening of Forensics" will begin at 7 p.m. in Turner Auditorium, in the Fine and Performing Arts Center. There is a \$5 suggested donation.

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

TCC to host free Civilian Response to Active Shooter training

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Tallahassee Community College Gadsden Center will offer a free Civilian Response to Active Shooter training targeted to Gadsden County business owners, employees and community members on Friday, May 19, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The training will be led by G. W. Lupton, TCC emergency services coordinator. Interested individuals may register by contacting the Gadsden Center at (850) 558-3620 or GadsdenCenter@tcc.fl.edu.

Toni Jo Mason Foundation donates more than \$26,000 to TCC

WTXL

A local foundation donated more than \$26,000 to support scholarships at Tallahassee Community College.

The Toni Jo Mason Foundation is the legacy of the late Toni Jo Mason.

She held a doctoral degree in educational administration from Florida State University. She worked in education throughout her adult life, including at the Florida Department of Education.

Mason suffered from cerebral palsy.

According to foundation officials, Mason's life was committed to ensuring that all people are recognized by their abilities and not their disabilities.

TCC president decries legislative funding cuts

TOM FLANIGAN
WFSU

This year's Florida Legislative Session provided millions of dollars to the state's universities. But the state's 28 colleges saw their funding slashed and the president of Tallahassee Community College is urging Governor Scott to block the cuts with his veto pen.

T.C.C. President Jim Murdaugh said institutions like his were hit hard.

"Somewhere in the neighborhood of \$30 million across the system," he exclaimed.

What is the local college's share of the cut?

"We're going to be down somewhere between half-a-million and a million-and-a-half," he estimated, depending on how the Legislature's metric to apply the reductions to individual institutions is applied.

Murdaugh insisted there's still hope those cuts won't happen, if Governor Scott can be convinced to veto the budget line item that contains them.

"I personally have asked that he do that."

But if that doesn't happen, Murdaugh said the only option is to start cutting various college expenses with the last resort for T.C.C. being academic program costs.

Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges

Institution	Chief Executive Officer	Location	Level	Full-time Enrollment	Part-time Enrollment	Inst. Type
Blinn College	Dr. Mary Hensley	Brenham, TX	Public	2-year	10,033	1883
El Centro College	Dr. Jose Adamos	Dallas, TX	Public	2-year	10,549	1966
Montgomery County Community College	Dr. Kevin Pollack	Blue Bell, PA	Public	2-year	12,805	1964
Mountain View College	Dr. Robert Garza	Dallas, TX	Public	2-year	8,950	1970
Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology	Dr. Bill Path	Okmulgee, OK	Public	4-year	3,379	1946
Pierpont Community and Technical College	Dr. Johnny M. Moore	Fairmont, WV	Public	2-year	2,311	1974
Seward County Community College	Dr. Kenneth J. Trzaska	Liberal, KS	Public	2-year	1,852	1967
South Florida State College	Dr. Thomas C. Leitzel	Avon Park, FL	Public	4-year	2,780	1965
Southwest Virginia Community College	Dr. J. Mark Estapp	Richards, VA	Public	2-year	2,546	1966
Stella and Charles Guttman Community College	Dr. Scott E. Evenbeck	New York, NY	Public	2-year	700	2011
Tallahassee Community College	Dr. Jim Murdaugh	Tallahassee, FL	Public	2-year	13,049	1966

Tallahassee Community College

Tallahassee Community College was founded in 1966 by the Florida Legislature and offers more than 90 academic and career programs and more than 600 courses. In addition to the associate degree, TCC also offers a bachelor's degree in nursing. Baseball player Ryan Freel and actress Cheryl Hines can be counted among the school's most notable alumni.



"At Tallahassee Community College, we take a very active approach to student success. That means helping students set realistic academic and career goals and follow the path that will lead them to their goals. It means connecting students with support services that will help them complete the courses and programs they have chosen.

It means offering programs that take students to the next level — admission to a college or university, employment in a rewarding career or the achievement of personal goals. It means preparing students for the jobs of tomorrow. It means measuring signs of success, such as course and program completion, admission to a four-year institution and employment. It also means investing in people, programs, facilities and technologies that help students succeed."

— **Dr. Jim Murdaugh**
President, Tallahassee Community College

TCC to host free tech camp for high school students

HAVANA HERALD

Tallahassee Community College invites area high school students to attend a free, week-long summer camp focused on technology. The camp is called A Windows View on Technology Topics and covers network cabling, computer hardware and software, technology in manufacturing, graphic design and more. Students will be actively engaged with hands-on learning during the camp.

The camp is for rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors with any level of previous technology experience. It is open to the first 26 high school students registered. Lunch and snacks will be provided at no cost.

The camp will run from Monday, June 5, through Friday, June 9. Hours will be Monday through Thursday 9 a.m.–3 p.m., and Friday 9 a.m.–noon. Parents will be invited to attend student presentations on Friday morning.

The camp will take place in room 257 of the Computer Technology building on TCC's main campus on Appleyard Drive. Staff include TCC faculty members Byron Todd, Carlos Miranda, Jessica Jones, Amy O'Donnell, Mike Vickers and Carlos Torres.

Students must be registered by their parent or legal guardian at www.eventbrite.com/e/tcc-summer-camp-a-windows-view-into-technology-tickets-34466841250.

After registering their student, parents will complete a release form and return it to Carlos Torres at TCC. Students without signed release forms will not be allowed to attend the camp.

For information, contact Carlos Torres, associate professor of network systems technology, at torresc@tcc.fl.edu or (850) 201-8966.

Community members receive active shooter training

WTXL

Students, local business owners, and members of the Gadsden County community gathered Friday to learn what to do during a situation involving an active shooter.

Participants learned the acronym "ADD", which stands for Avoid, Deny access when in hiding, and if it comes down to it, Defend yourself.

The presentation was offered by the Tallahassee Community College Gadsden Center. The training was led by TCC Emergency Services Coordinator G.W. Lupton.

Leon, TCC grad credits family

Teen will get her H.S. diploma, associate degree this month

RYAN DAILEY

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Brianna Surrency, a Leon High School senior, will be walking the stage May 27 at the Tucker Civic Center for her second graduation this month.

Surrency, who was one of 12 area grads to receive their AA degree from Tallahassee Community College this year – and the only Leon High Lion to do so – said her parents were the ultimate support system.

“My mom has been an educator for over 20 years, and she always told me about dual enrollment. I thought it was pretty cool that you could take college classes when you’re in high school,” Surrency said. “To me, TCC may have been the best thing I could have done.”

But her studies at TCC did not get in the way of being a leader in and out of the classroom at Leon High and her other pursuits.

Surrency notched a 4.24 GPA, accumulated more than 1,000 community service hours, and got a crash course in the criminal justice field by interning with Leon County Pretrial Release and participating in Leon County Sheriff’s Office Explorer program.

The Explorer program was a great way to get a look into on-the-job situations faced by law enforcement, Surrency said.

“They taught us building searches, and what would you do in a domestic violence situation,” she said. “It really helps you if you want to get into law enforcement, to give you that extra push if you want to learn about it.”

Despite her drive and determination, not everything came easy for Surrency.

When she was five years old, she underwent surgery to close a hole in her heart called a patent ductus arteriosus. However, complications during surgery did not allow both arteries to close up.

“By the arteries remaining open, it led to a chemical imbalance causing ADHD and other problems,” said Tamika Jenkins, Surrency’s mother. That meant her daughter had to return for a second surgery when she was 10 years old.

Jenkins said she and her husband, Pastor Leonard Jenkins of Griffin Chapel Primitive Baptist, motivated their daughter to achieve by encouraging her to pursue her interests. For Surrency, that motivation made it all possible.

“Everybody in my life motivated me and made sure I never gave up. My mom and dad, family, teachers and guidance counselor, my deputies and all of Leon High School pretty much. I thank God for them.”

For Surrency’s graduation, relatives from across the country, including California and Las Vegas, are coming to share in the excitement of her big day.

As for her future plans, Surrency will attend Florida State to pursue a degree in psychology and is considering a minor in criminology.

Following that, the sky’s the limit.

“I eventually want to become a professor and have my own clinical practice on the side,” she said. “My main goal is to research medicine, big pharma and direct people toward more coping skills rather than taking medicine. Looking for alternatives, rather than taking a dose of something.”

Florida Supreme Court Justice is Tallahassee Community College alum

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORIES)

Congratulations to Tallahassee native and Florida's newest Supreme Court justice, C. Alan Lawson. Lawson is one of thousands of distinguished alumni of Tallahassee Community College.

Lawson did not plan on attending TCC. He spent his high school career at Leon High preparing for an appointment to the Air Force Academy. He was the principal nominee of one of Florida's congressmen, but a minor medical issue changed those plans. "I was scrambling," Lawson said, "but in the end I am very thankful that I wound up at TCC. If I had it to do over, I'd follow the exact same route."

Lawson spent his years at TCC exploring options and taking a variety of courses. He earned an emergency medical technician certification and thought about medical school. He remembers fondly his speech and communications classes, which Lawson said have served him well. Eventually, he wound up in a business law class taught by former Florida Supreme Court Justice Fred Carl, and that is where he made the decision to go to law school.

Lawson graduated from TCC with honors, earned an undergraduate degree from Clemson and returned to Tallahassee for law school at Florida State University. He believes that in each case he was better prepared because of his time spent at TCC. "TCC offered me a very high-quality, well-rounded, excellent educational experience. In fact, I believe it was better than what most four-year institutions probably offer their freshman and sophomore students."

Lawson's experience at TCC was so positive that years later, each of his children also chose to attend a community college prior to transferring to a senior institution.

"Community colleges provide a good solid starting place for many people and allow them to get an education without incurring much debt. That option is incredible."

TCC President Jim Murdaugh who considers Lawson's story an outstanding example of the many positive attributes of TCC and the community college system noted, "We are certainly proud to be able to call Alan Lawson one of our own. On behalf of the entire TCC family, I offer our congratulations to Florida's newest Supreme Court Justice," said Murdaugh.

Leon County hosts final Legislative dialogue

WCTV

Leon County held its final Community Legislative Dialogue Tuesday morning at the Leon County Courthouse.

For the past six years, the County has hosted these meetings throughout the legislative session to engage the community and regional partners in identifying shared legislative priorities and interests.

The board of County Commissioners described 2017 as a rough year for local government, after seeing attacks on colleges and health care systems. However, one of the positives from the meeting was pay increases for most state employees.

"Tough of not, we're here to govern the best we can with what we got and that's what I'm focused on. It's not what's done to us, it's how we respond to it," said Leon County Commissioner Nick Maddox.

The legislation also cut out \$30 million of college funding in 2017. The president of Tallahassee Community College is asking Governor Rick Scott to veto that bill.

TCC proposes fee changes

HAVANA HERALD

The administration of Tallahassee Community College will propose changes to student fees for the 2017-18 academic year. The changes will be submitted to the TCC District Board of Trustees for a vote on Monday, June 19, at 2:30 p.m. in the Hinson Administration Building on TCC's main campus.

Annually, the College reviews all fees and their impact on students. The College is proposing to adjust the fees to more accurately reflect the current costs, to include fee reductions, limited increases and new fees for the 2017-18 academic year. Such student fees cover specific expenses, such as the cost for laboratory materials, supplies, use of special training equipment, registration for industry certification exams and similar items.

For details, visit www.tcc.fl.edu/feechanges.

For information, contact Calandra Stringer, associate vice president for academic affairs, at STRINGEC@tcc.fl.edu or (850) 201-6036.

TCC hosts free summer tech camp

WAKULLA NEWS

Tallahassee Community College invites area high school students to attend a free, week-long summer camp focused on technology.

The camp is called A Windows View on Technology Topics and covers network cabling, computer hardware and software, technology in manufacturing, graphic design and more.

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For information, contact Carlos Torres, associate professor of network systems technology, at torresc@tcc.fl.edu or (850) 201-8966.

(NOTE: A truncated version of this story appeared in the Tallahassee Democrat's Campus Notes section on May 22.)

Want the governor's attention? Talk about jobs

BILL COTTERELL

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Clearly, the best way to get Gov. Rick Scott's undivided attention, the most persuasive argument for signing or vetoing any legislation, is to convince him that your position will help Florida generate more jobs.

That's what we saw last week with the governor's veto of the "whisky and Wheaties" bill, which would have allowed big retailers to stock liquor next to their beer and wine shelves – rather than having a separate entrance and a little shop for spirits. Scott got a lot of mail and calls on both sides, running about 7 to 1 against the "alcohol wall" legislation, but his veto message didn't mention the comparative morality of where alcohol gets sold.

He wrote that the decisive factor was jobs – in this case, the jobs of employees in places like your neighborhood liquor store. His devotion to job-creation overcame Scott's almost-as-strong desire to stamp out government regulation of businesses.

Therefore, it was interesting last week to see job-creation cited in a pair of well-reasoned pleas for Scott to veto the pending state budget. Tallahassee Community College President Jim Murdaugh and former state Sen. Jeremy Ring, a Broward County Democrat, wrote that a cut of \$30.2 million from state and community colleges will do a lot of harm.

They mentioned how the colleges are a great asset for vocational training, preparing thousands of young people for jobs. They wrote that the schools are a valuable feeder pipeline, channeling kids into the State University System. And they mentioned how a lot of students who can't afford a university – or maybe aren't ready academically – benefit from what we used to call the "junior college" experience.

But as longtime Sen. W.D. Childers of Pensacola used to say, they really "put the hay down where the stock can get it." They spoke Scott's language, which means jobs.

"Slashing \$30.2 million from our 28 state and community colleges will undercut the progress we have made to diversify and solidify our local economy," Ring wrote in an opinion piece published by the Sun Sentinel in Broward. "These cuts will affect certificate programs and associate in science degrees which serve as the linchpin for the workforce engine of our community."

He added that signing the new budget will really whack students "who can't afford university tuition, can't study full-time, who are first in their family to pursue higher education, or those who need extra TLC to overcome cultural or language barriers." Those are not, typically, people who vote Republican – and Scott is getting ready to run for the U.S. Senate next year – but they are the kind of voters who need help finding jobs.

And here's a little-known fact: Florida colleges have received more recognitions by the Aspen Institute than any other state or community college system, Ring said. He said Broward College, Indian River Community College, Miami-Dade College, Valencia College and Santa Fe College have been recognized for their support of state development initiatives.

Murdaugh wrote a blog saying the 28 colleges requested \$100 million to bolster the "two-plus-two" partnership with universities, student advising, mental health and campus safety programs and to address workforce needs in their communities. Instead, they wound up with a \$32 million cut, while the state universities got a \$232 million budget increase.

"What came out is a lopsided set of priorities and values," Murdaugh blogged. "It's a devastating blow to college budgets that is both unnecessary and bad for Florida."

The TCC chief said community colleges have about 800,000 students, more than double the SUS enrollment, but they receive less than one-fourth of the state's higher-ed spending. Murdaugh wrote that nearly two-thirds of high school students bound for college start at a state college, while just over half of university upper-class students came from the college system.

Want the governor's attention? Talk about jobs....

continued

"Our policy makers need to recognize that our education system is inter-dependent, and funding for K-12, colleges and universities must be comprehensive," Murdaugh concluded. "Only when funding is linked can we all fully thrive."

Scott has a lot of options, including vetoing the whole budget and calling a special session to pass a new one – or maybe override his veto. He's also getting a lot of advice, mostly from educators who want him to lay waste the schools portion that was worked out largely in secret by House leaders and presented to the Senate as an all-or-nothing proposition in the final hours of the extended session this month.

As always, Scott won't say what he intends to do with the budget or big education package. But in seeking a veto, Ring and Murdaugh have certainly found the magic word – "jobs" – to get Scott's attention.

TCC earns high marks for diversity, workplace development

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (LOCAL BRIEFS)

Tallahassee Community College is one of 11 best community colleges to work for in the country, according to the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development and *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* magazine.

The research collaborative recognized TCC as one of the Most Promising Places to Work in Community Colleges.

It was based on the college's commitment to professional development equality, workplace diversity, inclusion, salary and benefits, and family friendliness.

The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development and *Diverse* magazine partnered with the Center for Higher Education Enterprise at Ohio State University to implement the study. Edward Leach, executive director of NISOD, said the award recognizes TCC's best-in-class recruitment and retention practices, inclusive learning and working environment, and meaningful community service and engagement opportunities.

TCC program receives Communicator Award for mining safety video

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

The Florida Mine Safety Program, based at Tallahassee Community College's Florida Public Safety Institute, has received a Communicator Award from the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts for the safety video titled "Confined Spaces in Mining – Authorized Attendants and Practical Rescue Plans." The program is coordinated by Karen Miller.

The Florida Mine Safety Program, which has been based at TCC since 2011, is a federally funded grant program under the Mine Safety and Health Administration, whose mission is to prevent death, disease and injuries in the mining industry.

TCC employees recognized

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College congratulates Alycia Malicz, graphic designer in the Communications and Marketing Office, who won the grand prize for graphic design from District III of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

Also, Alice Maxwell, director of communications, and Roopali Kambo, associate professor of graphic design, received 2017 Excellence Awards from the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development.

TCC addresses declining enrollment numbers in Study Abroad programs

WTLX

In the Big Bend, officials at Tallahassee Community College say they are seeing declining enrollment numbers in study abroad courses.

Now they are addressing the fears some students and parents may have.

Despite recent attacks, Doctor Richard Murgio, TCC's Director of Academic Enrichment, says statistically, sending your child abroad appears to be safe.

"Particularly when going to countries like Europe, they're just as safe, if not safer than they would be here. Personal violence, things of that nature, that's actually less violence taking place overseas than here. We just sent 12 students to Iceland, they're on their way now. Last year, there were 2 people that were murdered in Iceland, that was the only violent crime that took place in the entire country," says Dr. Murgio.

Colleges around the country are seeing declining numbers in their study abroad programs.

Gadsden County School Board approves high school details

STEPHEN JIWANMALL

WTXL

Tuesday evening, the Gadsden County School Board approved several decisions regarding the new consolidated high school, which will start in the fall.

The board was unanimous in choosing the name "Gadsden County High School" and keeping the "Jaguars" mascot. Superintendent Roger Milton said despite other options on the table, maintaining "Jaguars" was the most "economical" choice -- with minimal financial impact in adjusting uniforms going forward.

After some resistance to approving school colors, the board decided to include navy blue, Carolina blue, maroon, black and silver -- in essence combining the school colors of both East and West Gadsden.

Board member Audrey Lewis will serve as the school board representative in a committee to determine how the school colors will be used. Milton said all of the colors will not be on a single uniform, but the colors will provide options for different situations.

The decision was met with some resistance at the special school board meeting. East Gadsden High School teacher Chavien Lockwood addressed the board, explaining that rebranding the high school should involve a more substantial change.

The new principal of Gadsden County High School will be Juliette Jackson, a former principal at West Gadsden High School. Sonya Jackson, the current principal at East Gadsden High School, will transfer to the new West Gadsden Middle School in the same role.

In other news, Milton made several more announcements:

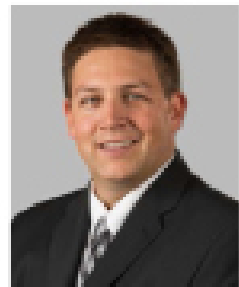
- A list of proposed school start times will be issued soon. Milton said the times would be staggered to allow enough time for transportation issues for students and bus drivers. Milton promised that no school would start any earlier than before.
- Milton indicated a renewed interest in bringing the IB program to Gadsden County High School, hoping to provide a more competitive academic curriculum to students in the county.
- According to Milton, the TCC Foundation will be making an announcement on June 8 about a new scholarship program designed specifically for Gadsden County graduating high school seniors.

Wednesday marks the official end to the school year, which will also indicate the end of Gretna Elementary School and St. John Elementary School. Both are scheduled to close as part of the district's approved reconfiguration plan.

Take a new look at some of your biggest challenges

By Claudine McCarthy, Editor

College athletics administrators have come to terms with the fact that some of their biggest challenges, like budget cuts and time constraints, have become a fixed part of the college athletics landscape.



ROB CHANEY

But even though you know you can't make your biggest challenges disappear, you're no doubt on alert for innovative ideas to manage them more effectively.

And that approach has proven effective for Rob Chaney, director of athletics at Tallahassee Community College for more than eight years now. A recipient of the

2016–17 Under Armour AD of the Year Award for the Junior/Community Colleges Division, Chaney has worked in college athletics for almost two decades.

When it comes to budget cuts, Chaney has found some innovative ways to tackle that challenge while growing the athletics program but without cutting into the budget. For example, while other schools have had to eliminate a sport or even all sports, TCC has managed to avoid that step. Instead, Chaney added women's cross-country and men's cross-country teams, but as nonscholarship sports so the programs pay for themselves through the team members' tuition and fees. The addition of these teams also shows potential and incoming students that the TCC athletics program is growing and expanding, Chaney said. A sport like cross-country has built-in cost-saving measures, because the men's and women's teams can share some expenses, particularly travel and the same coach, he noted.

If you're considering adding sports, "stay true to who you are, what your school is, [and] be in touch with your community and what they're going to have an interest in and get behind," Chaney advised.

Although every college athletics administrator encounters challenges related to time management, that issue often becomes more significant when you have a smaller staff, as Chaney does. In fact, his only full-time staff includes four full-time coaches, and a full-time athletic trainer, but the cross-country coach is a stipend position and he has a part-time staffer. That leaves Chaney responsible for supervising coaches, managing budgets, coordinating media relations and promotions, and handling the athletics website, event/game management,

and fundraising/development. The coaches stay very active conducting class checks and sending progress reports, he added.

But other challenges come with TCC's location, in the shadow of such big schools as Florida State University and Florida A&M University. "A lot of things are adversely impacted by that, but some things work in our favor," Chaney said.

So rather than throwing in the towel at the thought of the challenges presented by TCC's location and smaller staff, Chaney advises his coaches to "figure out the advantages of being in such a thriving college town" and then make the most of the situation.

That approach has led to a change in perspective and several successful outcomes. For example, TCC has on-campus university partnerships that allow TCC students to earn their two-year degrees through TCC and then stay on the TCC campus to go on to earn their four-year degrees through Flagler College and St. Leo University, which offer programs in sports business/management and strategic communication. Students in those programs, combined with students from nearby Florida State and Florida A&M, become interns because they want to gain hands-on experience with livestreaming, technical/engineering broadcasts, marketing/promotions, archiving stats/scores, and other duties, Chaney said.

The interns increase the department's manpower while also helping to address Chaney's time management challenges, he said. And it comes at a very affordable cost because most interns are unpaid, he said. But he does pay the clock operators and official scorers because of the necessity of keeping those posts staffed. However, cross-training and maintaining a large enough pool of interns allows Chaney to pull an intern from stats to fill in as a scorekeeper, for example. In fact, Chaney is living proof that this type of arrangement brings short- and long-term benefits to the interns and the school. He started out at TCC as a volunteer seeking to gain experience and eventually worked his way up to the position he holds today.

The benefits can also be measured by looking at the numbers — 100 percent of TCC's second-year student-athletes graduated last year. "That has a bigger impact than a game we may have won or lost during the season," Chaney noted.

Email Rob Chaney at chaneyr@tcc.fl.edu or follow him on Twitter: @RobChaneyAD. ■

TCC student hopes to encourage others

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORIES)

When Michael Johnsen saw he had earned an “A” on the final exam in his English class at Tallahassee Community College, he took to Facebook to share a heartfelt message:

“91 out of 100 on my final from Friday... I dropped out of high school at 16, I was told by people around me and even teachers I was not going to excel in school... Never give up and when someone tells you no or you can't do it, use that for motivation towards your goals.”

Johnsen had wanted to return to school to get his diploma and attend college, but his plans took a 13-year detour when he was offered a job with CBS Las Vegas the month he turned 18.

“By the time I was 20, I had three different radio shows in three different states,” said Johnsen. “I worked hard and learned everything I could about the business. I kind of had a chip on my shoulder; I felt I had something to prove.”

Life changed again for Johnsen when his son was born. He moved back to Tallahassee, where he was hired as a DJ at Hot 104.9. He also started his own mobile DJ business, Michael K. Productions. But he still had some unfinished business – his education. That's when he turned to TCC.

“I thought, why not start now and let my son see my motivation?”

Johnsen took and passed the GED test and then enrolled full-time at TCC.

“I remember my first test, I got a 57. I walked out of there like, great, this is never going to work,” said Johnson. “But I couldn't just give up. I got a tutor, studied hard, ended up finishing that class with an 87 average.”

Fast forward a year. After posting the message about his final, Johnsen received dozens of comments and calls from friends and family cheering him on.

“That post meant a lot. I'm trying to build a success story. My son is looking up to me. I refuse to fail.”

Students get hands-on experience at TCC Tech Camp

WCTV

Some high school students are getting hands-on experience with technology. It's all part of a tech camp hosted by Tallahassee Community College. The goal is to help students become familiar with technology. The camp also allows students with an interest in technology to explore its aspects to give them a head start before heading to college.

Students spent the afternoon taking apart a computer to learn about its components. The week-long camp also covers topics like software, graphic design, and technology in manufacturing.

Carlos Torres is an associate professor at TCC. He's one of the faculty leading the camp.

"What we're trying to do is show them that technology is not just essentially computers for one specific industry," said Torres. "We want them to learn that it's for a wide variety of industries that essentially are needed and we have to find people to support it."

The TCC Tech Camp will wrap up on June 9. Students will give presentations to the class and to parents.

Scott: No study of academy relocation

Alexander applauds veto, says move would kill jobs

JAMES CALL

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

The Florida Highway Patrol Academy in Gadsden County won't move anytime soon.

The \$150,000 feasibility study to calculate the cost of moving the training facility from Havana to Polk County was among the line items Gov. Rick Scott struck from the 2017-18 state budget.

"It would have drastically killed the jobs and educational training opportunities in Gadsden," said Rep. Ramon Alexander, D-Tallahassee.

The first-term lawmaker was among those surprised by what he called a "ridiculous" idea. Proponents said the FHP would be able to give troopers better patrol training at a new 2.5-mile oval track along Interstate 4 than at a Tallahassee Community College facility used by nine state agencies to train law enforcement.

Few people noticed when Sen. Jeff Brandes, R-St. Petersburg, chair of the transportation committee, requested the study in January. Gadsden politicians and civic leaders said they were surprised to find it in the spending plan after it was approved by the Legislature last month.

The proposal appeared after a Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles request for \$12 million to renovate the academy had died. Brandes' proposal, meanwhile, sailed through the process with little discussion and less controversy until it reached Scott's desk.

Scott vetoed the study Friday night. Word of it spread over the weekend. Alexander credited residents who called, emailed and wrote the governor. He said they saved Gadsden from what could have been a devastating blow to a fiscally constrained county where 1 in 4 residents live in poverty.

The fear among Gadsden boosters was if FHP abandoned TCC's Florida Public Safety Institute it would have started an exodus of other state agencies with requests for their own stand-alone facility.

Alexander, while still smarting from being blindsided by Brandes, said he was putting his colleagues on notice.

"I have no problem with having a street fight, a backroom brawl," Alexander said. "Or a worthy debate, if you want, but we will do whatever it takes to fight for the future of Gadsden County."

Vetoed on local projects free up funds for Governor's top priorities

MARIEL CARBONE

WCTV

Legislators will reconvene in the Capital City Wednesday to boost funding in the state budget for several of the Governor's top priorities. This, after Scott vetoes millions of dollars worth of funding for local projects

Locally, \$530,000 in funding was cut for Leon County's Veterans Memorial Bridge replacement project. Another \$1 million was cut for a joint project by the City and County, which would fund the purchase of backup generators for storm preparedness.

County officials said the vetoes were disappointing.

"We'll continue to try and find other funding sources for all of these projects. It would've been nice to get the funding this year, so we can get those projects done immediately. It could delay these projects a few years. But, ultimately we'll try and find a way to get them done," said Andy Johnson, Assistant to the County Administrator.

Several projects for Florida State University were also nixed, including \$8 million for a new research commercialization building, \$5 million for a STEM teaching lab and \$4 million for land acquisition.

More than \$60 thousand dollars in funding was cut for the Tallahassee Community College Sterling Council.

With more than two hundred vetoes on the budget, the slashes in funding will make way for funding for the Governor's top priorities. Those including funding for Enterprise Florida, education and job growth.

The special session will run Wednesday through Friday.

TCC Gadsden Center to host free cybersecurity awareness training

HAVANA HERALD

The Tallahassee Community College Gadsden Center will offer a free cybersecurity awareness training targeted to Gadsden County business owners, employees and community members on Friday, June 30, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The training will be led by Clifford Stokes Jr., professional information security officer.

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

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

This is part of a series of safety trainings at the Gadsden Center.

TCC Gadsden Center Safety Series Schedule

Friday, June 30, 2017, 1-3 p.m.: Cybersecurity Awareness Training provided by Clifford Stokes Jr., professional information security officer

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

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

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

Wakulla High seniors earn Take Stock in Children scholarships

WAKULLA NEWS

Eight Wakulla High School 2017 graduating seniors earned full scholarships to Tallahassee Community College under the "Take Stock in Children" (TSIC) state program, in partnership with the Florida Department of Education and the TCC Foundation.

In addition, Wakulla educator Sue Hutchins was named the TSIC Mentor of the Year for Leon, Gadsden, and Wakulla Counties.

Scholarship recipients are Wakulla High graduating seniors J.D. Metcalf, Grace Wallace, Julianna Lockwood, Nhi Hoang, Tatum Tucker, Tavelle Curry, Tia Unsell and Derek Allen.

TSIC is based on the belief that children achieve academically when they are given extensive support combined with motivation and accountability.

Students must follow through on meeting criteria throughout their middle and high school years to earn the scholarship.

Recommended middle school students sign a contract agreeing to several requirements.

First, they must maintain at least a 2.75 grade point average throughout middle and high school.

They also must attend several Saturday TSIC Academies that deal with topics such as state and federal financial aid tips, character building, applying for college, and managing personal finances.

In addition, they are required to do many hours of community service, plus meet monthly with the mentor assigned to them.

TSIC targets students in middle school who are recommended by their teachers and administrators.

Middle school educators recommend students based on being the first generation in their families to attend and/or complete college, financial need, and evidence of effort to keep up their grades.

Eight of the original 17 Wakulla County school system students recommended for TSIC in middle school are graduating with scholarships because they adhered to all the TSIC requirements throughout middle and high school.

"Being in AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) is not a requirement, but all eight of this year's recipients are AVID students.

AVID is a grades 6-12 college prep program for students who meet the same type of requirements as those for TSIC," states AVID District Director Katherine Spivey. "I believe that AVID played a role by these students having the structure of an elective class every year that incorporates tutoring, mentoring, and accountability."

In Wakulla, AVID is offered at Riversprings Middle, Wakulla Middle, and Wakulla High School.

Sue Hutchins, experienced middle and high school educator in Wakulla public schools, was chosen by TCC as the TSIC Mentor of the Year for Leon, Gadsden, and Wakulla Counties because of all her hard work with these students.

Their mentor in earlier years, Wanda Lewis, was also on hand to celebrate their success.

TSIC Program Administrator Margo Thomas from TCC awarded the scholarships and Mentor of the Year plaque at Wakulla High School.

States Superintendent Bobby Pearce, "These deserving students will have many more career opportunities by earning this TSIC scholarship. They already know what it takes to work hard to achieve a goal. And their mentor Sue Hutchins certainly helped keep them on track. Mentor of the Year is a very appropriate honor TCC bestowed on her."

TCC Foundation starts scholarship for Gadsden County students

WTXL

It's being called a "game changer" for Gadsden County.

Today, the "TCC Foundation" announced a scholarship for graduating students to attend Tallahassee Community College starting this fall.

The announcement was welcomed news today at the "TCC Gadsden Center" to several students and the Gadsden County School Board.

The president of Tallahassee Community College said this offers students the rare opportunity to change the future of an entire county and it won't take long for students to get started.

It's no secret college is getting more expensive. The cost, often forcing families to make big decisions to afford higher education.

"Lots of kids are on that cusp," said Heather Mitchell, the executive director of the TCC Foundation. "Don't know how they're going to pay, so we want to make sure we take care of those kids. This does that."

The TCC Foundation raised nearly a million dollars to create an endowed scholarship just for Gadsden County students. It's welcome news to recent grads who plan to go to TCC.

"I would have worried about my grades and as well as how I was going to be able to continue college," Alejandra Aviles, a 2017 graduate of Crossroads Academy Charter School, reflected. "So, that definitely took a burden off my shoulders and my family."

"I had some teachers that told me I would never make it. I would never succeed. I would never be anything in life, but I graduated, and I'm here now," asserted Tyriek McClellan, a 2017 graduate of East Gadsden High School. "So, I feel like I accomplished everything that you told me I wouldn't do."

The "Gadsden Learn Scholarship" is for any high school graduate in the county with at least a 3.0 GPA.

"Not only are we offering an opportunity for them to go to a junior college, but an opportunity to advance themselves when it comes to career technical education programs," said Gadsden County Superintendent Roger Milton.

"We know that scholarships change the lives of students that receive them," explained Jim Murdaugh, the president of TCC. "And, in the changing of lives, we know that sometimes it changes families."

The scholarship grants eligible students a full year at TCC without tuition debt.

"This is the time of their life where they're setting the stage for the rest of their life, and they need to aspire to do well in school. And, once they do that, then coming to Tallahassee Community College is guaranteed," Murdaugh said.

The scholarship is available for students who graduated this year, to enroll in classes starting this fall.

TCC offers scholarships to Gadsden County students

SPENCER PARLIER
WFSU

Tallahassee Community College is hoping to form a relationship with Gadsden County students and families through a new scholarship program.

Tallahassee Community College unveiled the TCC Gadsden LEARN Scholarship Program Thursday. The program aims to help fill the gap between financial aid and tuition expenses for any Gadsden students graduating with a GPA of 3.0 and above. TCC President Jim Murdaugh says the funding comes from Gadsden community members.

"It has to be noted that we have a long standing relationship in this county, and it has to be acknowledged that wonderful people in this community are the people who provided the funds that are necessary for us to use to help change their future," Murdaugh said.

One of those donors was former Speaker of the Florida House James Harold Thompson, who along with other members of Gretna Presbyterian Church helped fund the program. Scholarships will be awarded starting in the fall semester.

TCC announces new scholarship program for Gadsden County students

WCTV

Tallahassee Community College introduced the Gadsden LEARN Scholarship Thursday, aimed to help Gadsden County students pursue a college education.

The scholarship is a tuition-assistance program sponsored by the TCC Foundation, designed to remove financial burdens for graduating Gadsden County high school seniors.

Every student in the county that graduates high school with a 3.0 GPA or higher is guaranteed a free year of tuition.

"We know how expensive a college education can be, or workforce training, and we want to relieve students and their families of some of that expense," says Curtis Richardson.

TCC hopes the program will increase the number of Gadsden County students who pursue a college degree,

"This is the first time as a college we're making the commitment to changing the future of the entire county," says Jim Murdaugh.

The TCC Foundation says it is focused on supporting the economic opportunity goals of the Gadsden County community as a whole.

Local teacher and TCC grad participates in Space Center Houston program

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORIES)

Tallahassee Community College alumnae Katrina Roddenberry was recently selected to be a member of the Space Educator Expedition Crew Program through Space Center Houston. She is one of only thirty-six K-12 teachers from across the country accepted into this exceptional program. As part of the program, Roddenberry spent four days at the Space Educator Exploration Conference in Houston collaborating in one of six regional Educator Expedition Crews to enhance her leadership skills and develop STEM-based learning experiences for her students.

Roddenberry will be using those lessons learned in her new position teaching eighth grade science at Wakulla Middle School beginning this fall. Previously, Roddenberry was a fifth-grade teacher at Riversink Elementary in Crawfordville, where she has taught and inspired students for the past nine years. During that time Roddenberry has received numerous accolades for her work in education, including being named the 2013 Riversink Elementary Teacher of the Year.

Roddenberry started at TCC right out of high school but within a year took a break to start a family after having gotten married. Ten years later she decided it was time to return to school, despite being a young working mother, because she wanted to be a teacher. She re-enrolled at TCC and was able to take primarily self-paced and online courses.

"TCC was easily accessible to me as a working mother of three," Roddenberry said. "TCC provided me with the opportunity to obtain my Associate in Arts degree and helped me on the path to becoming a teacher and obtaining my dream."

While at TCC Roddenberry earned the Program for Excellence in Teaching Scholarship, which helped her gain the confidence she needed to seek her degree in education. After graduating from TCC she earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Flagler College Tallahassee and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction with a concentration in teaching science.

Katrina Roddenberry is indeed "passionate about science education," and we are fortunate that this TCC graduate is sharing that passion with students in our community.

TCC announces 'transformational' scholarship for Gadsden students

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College announced Thursday a "transformational" new scholarship program for Gadsden County students.

The TCC Gadsden Learn Scholarship is a tuition-assistance program sponsored by the TCC Foundation and designed to remove financial barriers to postsecondary education for Gadsden County students. According to Heather Mitchell, executive director of the Foundation, the program is expected to help improve the county's college-bound rate, create a competitive workforce and launch students on the path to a promising future.

The endowed scholarship fund will provide a one-year scholarship to any student graduating from an accredited public or private school (or homeschool) in Gadsden County who is a resident of Gadsden County and has at least a 3.0 unweighted high school GPA. The student may be pursuing a university transfer degree or a career certificate or degree program at TCC.

The scholarship program will begin in the fall of 2017. It is considered a "last dollar scholarship," intended to fill the gap between the recipient's financial aid and tuition expenses. The maximum scholarship per student will be \$1,000.

Jim Murdaugh, president of TCC, talked about the program as the next step in the partnership between TCC and Gadsden County.

"Scholarships can change lives, and sometimes when we change lives, we change families. But this is even more significant because it has the potential to change not only lives and families, but the future of Gadsden County."

According to Mitchell, the program is the first of its kind in Florida to offer a scholarship that is countywide and available to students in both certificate and degree programs.

For information, contact Mitchell at MITCHELH@tcc.fl.edu or (850) 2016067.

Scott wields veto pen on higher education changes

LLOYD DUNKELBERGER
TALLAHASSEE.COM

With a stroke of his veto pen, Gov. Rick Scott on Wednesday wiped out most of the higher-education policy initiatives that had been advanced by Senate President Joe Negron during the 2017 legislative session.

Scott vetoed a 291-page bill (SB 374), objecting to a proposed enrollment cap on baccalaureate degrees for the 28 state colleges and citing the Legislature's decision to cut the state college system's budget by \$25 million, while substantially increasing spending on state universities.

"This legislation impedes the state college system's mission by capping the enrollment level of baccalaureate degrees and unnecessarily increasing red tape," Scott said in his veto message, noting he is a product of a community college that helped him eventually gain a law degree after he left the U.S. Navy.

Some of the higher-education initiatives advanced by the Senate and Negron, a Stuart Republican who toured all 12 state university campuses last spring and advocated a plan to raise state schools to an "elite" level, can be salvaged, at least on a one-year basis. That is because the spending is embedded in the new \$82 billion state budget, which takes effect July 1.

Among those spending items is a plan to increase the Bright Futures merit-scholarship program to cover full tuition and fees for top-performing students, known as academic scholars. The scholarships now only cover roughly half of the tuition and fees, which average \$212 per credit hour.

The budget includes \$126 million for an estimated 45,000 Bright Futures scholars who are expected to qualify for full tuition and fee coverage in the 2017-18 academic year, along with \$26 million to provide each student with \$300 per semester for books.

But Negron said the veto of the bill, known as the "Florida Excellence in Higher Education Act of 2017," will cast uncertainty on expansion of the Bright Futures program for the future.

"Students and families deserve certainty when making these important decisions, and today's veto makes advance planning much more difficult," he said.

The veto also wiped out a new scholarship program for students from farmworker families, advanced by Sen. Anitere Flores, R-Miami, and it eliminated a provision allowing the state to offer Benacquisto scholarships, which pay full tuition, to National Merit scholars outside of Florida.

The veto eliminated a provision that would have doubled the state's match for a scholarship program for "first generation" in college students, although the funding remains in the budget for the new year.

Scott acknowledged the legislation had "positive changes" for the state university system, but he said they came at the expense of state colleges. He said lawmakers could revive the higher-education issues next year.

"I urge the Legislature to pass legislation that revisits these issues and expands Bright Futures scholarships permanently while recognizing the importance of both our state colleges and universities," Scott said.

Negron said he "fundamentally" disagreed with Scott's assertion that the legislation made "positive changes to our universities at the expense of Florida's community colleges."

"Like Gov. Scott, many members of the Senate attended our state's community colleges and we recognize the vital role they play in our public education system," Negron said.

He said the legislation was designed to "further elevate Florida's nationally ranked" state colleges through a renewed focus on their core mission of graduating students with two-year associate degrees and workforce credentials aimed at preparing them for jobs in their communities.

Scott's rejection of the legislation scuttled the Senate's plan to impose an enrollment cap of 15 percent on students seeking bachelor's degrees in the state college system.

Scott wields veto pen on higher education changes....

continued

Other higher-education initiatives eliminated by the veto included a requirement that state universities develop “block” tuition plans, which would allow students to pay a flat fee per semester rather than paying for courses on a credit-hour basis.

The veto eliminated the creation of a new State Board of Community Colleges to oversee the 28 state colleges, which are now under the state Board of Education.

The veto also wiped out new performance standards for higher-education institutions, including a four-year graduation measure for the 12 state universities, which now use a six-year metric.

The budget contains \$121 million for new programs to allow universities to hire “world class” professors and researchers and to reward top-performing medical, law and business schools. But the language creating those programs on a permanent basis was in the vetoed bill.

A \$121 million increase in Florida’s student-assistance grant program, the state’s largest need-based aid program, is not impacted by Scott’s veto.

But his veto did eliminate a provision that would have prohibited university and state college foundations from using public funds to pay for their employees beginning in 2022 and would have require more public disclosures of their activities.

Scott's veto of higher ed bill adds to growing feud with Senate leaders

MATT DIXON
POLITICO

Setting off both political and policy shock waves, Gov. Rick Scott on Wednesday vetoed a major higher education bill that was a top priority for Senate President Joe Negron and a key part of negotiations to close out last month's regular session.

One of the bill's main provisions was to limit the role of community colleges, while expanding funding for state universities, which has long been one of Negron's top priorities. Scott said raising funding for the state university system was done "at the expense of the Florida College System."

But the bill served as a key cog in the horse trading that helped bring the state's regular legislative session last month to an end. The House had held the bill up on the final day of session, and only passed it after the Senate narrowly approved in a 20-18 vote a school choice bill pushed by House Speaker Richard Corcoran.

And having Scott sign the bill was initially part of a tentative deal struck between the House and governor headed into a three-day special session that ended last Friday. That deal, however, did not have Senate sign-off and quickly fell apart. During session, the Senate overrode \$75 million in Scott's higher education vetoes. Though they were not ultimately passed, it's a stinging rebuke for a Republican governor to have vetoes overridden by a GOP-led chamber.

In vetoing the bill, S.B. 374, Scott spoke of personal experience of he and his wife attending "community college" because it was affordable.

"State and community colleges have played a tremendous role in my life and lives of countless Florida families, providing them with an opportunity to succeed," he said in arguing that the bill shortchanged state colleges.

Wednesday's veto is another source of friction in a growing feud between Scott and Senate leaders, who were largely on the same page with the governor throughout the regular legislative session. The Senate backed Scott's top priorities, which included funding for Visit Florida, the agency promoting tourism, and Enterprise Florida, whose mission was to attract employers and jobs to the state.

In the wake of the veto, one Republican senator called the move "petty" and said Scott's veto, especially the measure's popular Bright Futures scholarship expansion, would bring him heartburn on the campaign trail. Scott is facing term limits, but is expected to run for U.S. Senate in 2018.

"It will be funny to see how he explains to voters that he vetoed summer bright futures and bright futures for the best in our state," the senator said. "What a petty, petty man."

Had Scott signed it into law, S.B. 374 would have boosted Bright Futures Scholarships by covering full tuition for students who qualify for the top-tier of the program. In his veto letter, Scott seemed to understand the politically dicey nature of the issue. He noted budget language will institute the Bright Futures expansion, plus \$300 for books, next fiscal year, but stressed he supports lawmakers passing a permanent expansion next session.

"I urge the Legislature to pass legislation that ... expands Bright Future Scholarships permanently," he wrote. "While recognizing the importance of both our state colleges and universities."

Some Democrats were quick to cry politics, saying the veto was retribution for not going along with the initial Senate session deal cut between Scott and Corcoran.

"This is a slap to the face for Floridians and a clear case of calculated political payback to the Senate for bucking Scott and Speaker Corcoran's secret special session backroom deal," said Charley Norton, executive director of Florida Strong, a liberal 501(c)4 organization. "We deserve better."

Scott's veto of higher ed bill adds to growing feud with Senate leaders....

continued

In his veto letter, Scott was also critical of the creation of a sliding-scale cap on the number of bachelor's degrees state colleges are permitted to offer.

"Each year, hundreds of thousands of students attend one of Florida's 28 state colleges, which are constantly rated amongst the best in the country for providing affordable access to higher education," he wrote in his veto letter.

Under the bill, if a college's upper-level enrollment in 2015-16 is at or more than 10 percent of its overall enrollment, the school would need lawmakers to approve an increase in the number of bachelor's degree student it serves by more than 4 percent of the combined enrollment per year. For schools whose upper-level students make up less than 10 percent of their populations, the growth threshold for needing legislative approval would be eight percent.

Also factoring into his veto, said Scott, was the \$24 million cut from community college budgets.

Negron said the bill was designed to change the focus of community colleges — not weaken them.

"We crafted S.B. 374 to further elevate Florida's nationally ranked community colleges through a renewed focus on their core mission — on-time completion of vital associate degrees and workforce credentials," he said.

"Our higher education system is our primary economic engine to drive vibrant, sustainable economic development and growth in high-paying jobs," Negron said. "I will continue my commitment to Florida's students and our colleges and universities next session."

Making the grades

Foundation to give Gadsden's top grads free freshman tuition

BYRON SPIRES
HAVANA HERALD

Good news for Gadsden County's High School Seniors.

The Tallahassee Community College (TCC) Foundation announced last Thursday morning at the Gadsden Center, located in Quincy that any graduating senior with a 3.0 or higher Grade Point Average (GPA) would receive a full one-year tuition paid scholarship (up to \$1,000).

This new Gadsden Learn Scholarship applies to any senior in public, private, home school or charter school who attends and lives in the county.

The applications for the scholarship will be available at the TCC annex in Quincy. The scholarship program will begin in the fall of 2017. It is considered a "last dollar scholarship," intended to fill the gap between the recipient's financial aid and tuition expenses.

The TCC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation, which seeks private supplemental funds to add distinction to educational programs, scholarships, and facilities at TCC by increasing the opportunity for students to define and reach their educational and career goals.

The scholarship has been made available through the generous donations of the Gretna Presbyterian Church.

Former Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives James Harold Thompson, Gadsden County resident, spoke on behalf of the Church.

Thompson thanked his sister-in-law Gail and brother Alexander Thompson who are part of the church family who were present.

He stated that over the past 20 years the church has provided a scholarship for Gretna Elementary fifth graders that graduated from high school.

With the closing of the school the scholarship fund, he said, had been changed to now include all of the county's seniors.

Thompson said they wanted to broaden the criteria to include all the students in the county. Also they wanted to include other workforce vocations like law enforcement and nursing as well as other Certifications that TCC offers.

"You can make a difference in a community with the commitment to one child," he said.

We have an opportunity for you the next few years of your life, Thompson said of the reasoning behind the church making their commitment to the community.

East Gadsden 2017 graduate Tyriek McClellan spoke about the scholarship he will be receiving.

"This is such an amazing opportunity," he said.

This program, he explained, is designed to remove financial barriers for education with a main goal to boost the county's graduation and college-bound rates.

"The impact that it will contribute to my life will be phenomenal," McClellan, who grew up in a single-parent family, said.

He said that he was told in the first grade by his teacher that he would not finish grade school, which gave him the determination to be a stronger person.

He stated that the impact of this scholarship would help him strive to be better and to inspire the lives of others.

Alejandra Aviles, a 2017 graduate at Crossroads Academy said that the scholarship is providing her with an opportunity she would not otherwise have had.

She has already received one year of school at TCC (dual enrollment) and will use this scholarship to complete her Associate of Arts degree.

She plans to continue at the University of West Florida and major in psychology.

She thanked all of those who helped launch the endowed scholarship, because it gives students the opportunity to have a better life and pursue their dreams.

This is not a one-time deal where we are in and out, it is here for future generations, TCC Foundation President Curtis Richardson said about the scholarships.

Gadsden County Superintendent Roger Milton, who has been an advocate of TCC and worked at the TCC Quincy House for nine years.

Making the grades....

continued

"For me this is a phenomenal moment," Milton said of the new scholarships.

Following the combination of the two high schools and now the scholarships have paved the way for every student in Gadsden County to have an opportunity, he added.

"The barriers of not being able to afford college have been removed and we are working hard to strive toward career and technical education programs and more for our students and to have the finances to assist with that," he concluded.

"We are very elated to be a part of this partnership with TCC," said School Board Chairman Isaac Simmons.

It is time for Gadsden County to roll up their sleeves, he said, to prepare students to be ready to apply for this scholarship.

"Today we take another huge step," said Jim Murdaugh, TCC President.

Scholarships change lives which change families, Murdaugh said.

"We now have the opportunity to change Gadsden County," he said.

TCC to lend helping hand to Gadsden students

ERIN HILL

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

Tallahassee Community College announced the launch of the Gadsden Learn Scholarship Program on Thursday, June 8.

The program aims to help fill the gap between financial aid and tuition expenses for any Gadsden County students who graduate with a 3.0 or higher, and have completed the FAFSA.

James Harold Thompson said he and other members of Gretna Presbyterian Church helped fund the program. Thompson, who was involved with the TCC Foundation for 20 years, said when he was 17 he realized what he did for the next seven years would determine the rest of his life, and that would extend to his children. He said it's important to get that message across to children and let them know this is an opportunity to help them in their first years of adulthood.

The students can be from any accredited public, private or home school in Gadsden.

The maximum amount a student can receive is \$1,000, but there is no limit on the amount of students who can be awarded.

To attend TCC, it costs about \$100.83 per credit hour, and \$2.67 per clock hour for vocational students.

Curtis Richardson said many in the Gadsden community donated to the scholarship because they saw a gap and wanted to fill it. He also said they will spend off the interest, not the principal.

Gadsden Schools Superintendent Roger Milton said TCC's President Jim Murdaugh has always been supportive of Gadsden students.

"The building that we're in is a major milestone for me," Murdaugh said. "Today we take another huge step."

At least two students have already been approved to receive the scholarship for the upcoming school year.

Tyriek McClellan said he is thankful for the scholarship. The East Gadsden High School graduate said he is interested in studying art and fashion.

Alejandra Aveles, who recently graduated from Crossroad Academy said, "It's an honor to be a part of the launching of the scholarship."

Alejandra plans to major in psychology.

Her mother, Elizabeth Aviles, said she thanks God for opening doors so her daughter can fulfill her dream. She said she's looking forward to the day Alejandra will be able to use her degree to give back to her community.

TCC to host GED, ESOL graduation

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

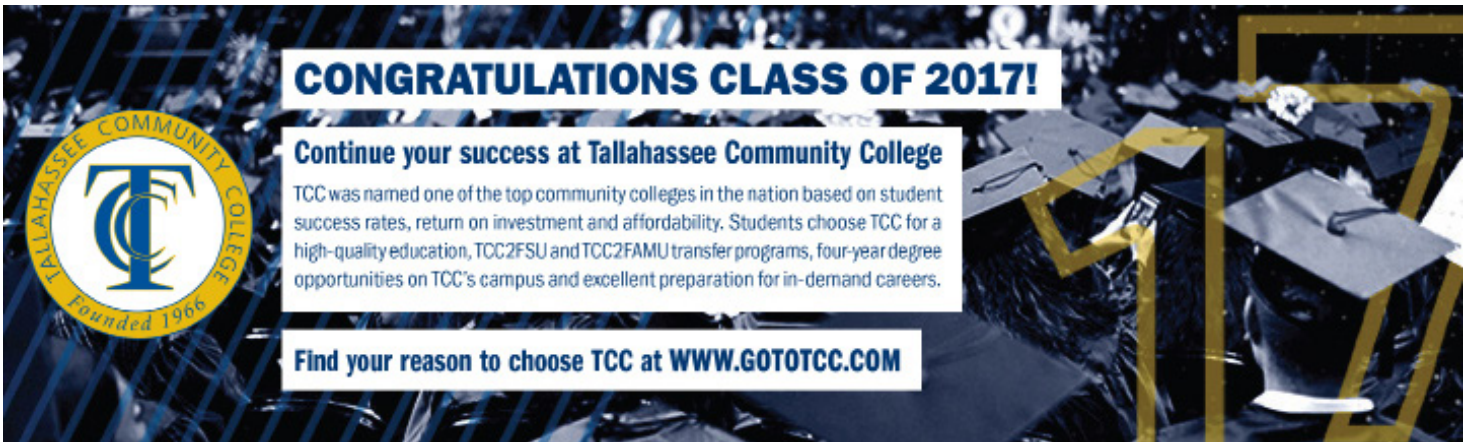
Tallahassee Community College will host a graduation ceremony for more than 50 students receiving their GED diploma on Thursday, June 15, at 6 p.m. Another 13 students in the English for Speakers of Other Languages will also graduate. The ceremony will be held at Turner Auditorium in TCC's Fine and Performing Arts Center. The public is welcome to attend.

Judge Nina Ashenafi-Richardson of Florida's 2nd Judicial Circuit will be the keynote speaker. The student speaker will be GED graduate Samuel Ross.

The GED program's top academic students, valedictorian Eva Graves and salutatorian Alex Phillip Grimaldo, will be honored. The winner of the Dream Big Scholarship will also be announced. The scholarship is awarded to a new GED graduate to enroll in a college-credit program at TCC.

The College is now enrolling GED students for the Summer B term, which begins July 10.

For information, visit www.tccadulthoodeducation.com or contact the Adult Education office at (850) 201-8760 or ae@tcc.fl.edu.




CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2017!

Continue your success at Tallahassee Community College

TCC was named one of the top community colleges in the nation based on student success rates, return on investment and affordability. Students choose TCC for a high-quality education, TCC2FSU and TCC2FAMU transfer programs, four-year degree opportunities on TCC's campus and excellent preparation for in-demand careers.

Find your reason to choose TCC at WWW.GOTOTCC.COM





The TCC Gadsden Center is here to help you continue your success

Not only do we offer workforce development classes and a computer lab for coursework, we can also help you complete TCC's admission application and financial aid paperwork. Plus, some testing is available by appointment right here in Gadsden County.

*Stop by and visit the
TCC Gadsden Center at
223 Pat Thomas Parkway,
Quincy, FL*



Or contact us at | **(850) 558-3620**
GadsdenCenter@tcc.fl.edu | **www.tcc.fl.edu/gadsdncenter**



Congratulations

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FACULTY AND STAFF

TCC has been named one of the Most Promising Places
to Work in Community Colleges by NISOD
and *Diverse Magazine*.

This honor was earned for TCC's commitment to
professional development opportunities, equality,
workplace diversity, inclusion, salary and benefits
and family friendliness.

*The College of Choice for Students, Employees
and Community Partners.*

www.tcc.fl.edu/workhere



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**Tallahassee Community College
has two Wakulla locations to
help you continue your success**



WAKULLA ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE

170 Preservation Way | (850) 558-3500 | www.tcc.fl.edu/wei

Combines education, conservation and recreation to stimulate environmentally responsible economic development.



TCC WAKULLA CENTER

2932 Crawfordville Highway | (850) 922-6290 | www.tcc.fl.edu/wakulla

Not only do we offer workforce development classes and a computer lab for coursework and job search, we can also help you complete TCC's admission application and financial aid paperwork. Plus, some testing is available by appointment right here in Wakulla County.

Current Offering at TCC Wakulla Center
OSHA Construction Safety | Monday, May 22 – Wednesday, May 24 | \$10

Congratulations

*Tallahassee Community College
is proud to honor the recipients of
this year's NISOD Excellence Awards*

Alice Maxwell

Director of Communications and Marketing

Roopali Kambo

Associate Professor of Graphic Design

*Thank you for your
commitment to our students' success!*

