

TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



April 15 - May 12, 2017

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TALLAHASSEE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In the News



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TCC student overcomes odds to pursue IT career

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORY)

All students experience an adjustment period when they first enter college as they face a new environment and more demands on their time. Adriana Comerford, a Tallahassee Community College student from Brazil, has had additional barriers to overcome.

Comerford left school at 14 years old because of health issues. When she came to the U.S. in 2002, she didn't speak any English. She wasn't sure if she'd be able to complete her education.

"I thought college was way out of my reach because I didn't have a high school diploma," she said.

Comerford took English for Speakers of Other Languages courses for three years, then decided to pursue her GED diploma. She then considered the possibility of taking college-credit courses at TCC. Though she feared she wouldn't succeed, she persevered through her doubts and decided to enroll.

"Can you imagine not having gone through high school, having to get a GED in a second language, then going to college? It was hard," she said. Comerford chose to pursue an associate degree in network systems technology, a field that captured her interest from a young age.

Her determination to learn more about technology eased her through tough times.

"The anxiety and low self-esteem would get to me," she said. "I wondered, am I going to be able to do this job when I graduate?" She sought support from TCC's Learning Commons and Career Center, which gave her reassurance to pursue her goals.

With the help of the Career Center, Comerford put together a resume that helped her land an internship with client support services in TCC's information technology department. In her position, she sets up computers, troubleshoots hardware issues and performs repairs.

"The team has about five guys, and I'm the only female technician," she said. "I look up to my boss because she's a woman in the IT field. She took me under her wing and said, 'You're going to be fine.'"

Comerford plans to graduate in the spring of 2017 and pursue a career in networking.

"I'm an A student not because I'm a genius, but because of hard work," she said. "Hard work is how I started, and it's how I'm going to finish."

Tallahassee Community College is home to thousands of hard-working students like Adriana Comerford. The TCC Foundation will hold its annual online giving event, the TCC ONE Campaign, the week of April 24–28. The campaign is entirely dedicated to raising funds to support student scholarships. To find out how you can help, contact Ysonde Jensen at jenseny@tcc.fl.edu or visit tcc.fl.edu/foundation.

Nursing workshop covers care for sexual assault victims

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

A key component to better care for victims of sexual assault and to help convict perpetrators is the sexual assault forensic exam, which is typically conducted by a nurse.

Nurses can obtain special training and certification as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners. The Zonta Club of Tallahassee and Refuge House are working to increase the number of certified SANE nurses serving the community. The groups are holding an informational workshop for nurses and nursing students about the role of the SANE nurse and resources available to help those interested in pursuing certification.

The workshop will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 27, at the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education, 1528 Surgeon's Drive.

The agenda is as follows:

- Introduction to how sexual assault cases are handled
- Team involved in support victims of sexual assault: victim advocate, law enforcement, state attorney
- SANE nurses: training requirements, testifying in court, liability, cost of training and insurance

The workshop is free. Light refreshments will be provided. Preregistration is requested.

Website for information and registration is <http://refugehouse.com/index.php/component/rsform/form/13-sane-informational-workshop>

Hit the trail for TCC's Hops and Half Shells 5K

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute will be hosting the Hops and Half Shells 5K Trail Run/Walk at 9 a.m. Saturday. Proceeds from the race will benefit scholarships at TCC. More than 300 runners attended last year's race, which raised over \$5,000.

Participants will experience the natural surroundings of WEI, including sink holes, pine scrub forests and a natural land bridge. The course will take participants over various surfaces and small obstacles.

Awards will be given in the categories of overall male and female, overall masters male and female, overall grand masters male and female, top male and female student, top male and female TCC employee, and top three male and female finishers in each age division.

At the end of the race, participants will be offered free oysters farmed by the WEI's oyster aquaculture students and free craft beer from Proof Brewing Company and GrassLands Brewing Company. GrassLands will be creating a special "oyster brew" for the event.

Participants can pre-register before April 19 for \$20 with a T-shirt or \$15 without a T-shirt. Registration on race day starts at 7:30 a.m. and costs \$25. Interested participants can register at tcc.fl.edu/hopsandhalfshells.

The event is sponsored by the Panacea Oyster Co-Op, Whole Foods, GrassLands Brewing Company, Proof Brewing Company, Madison Social, Full Press Apparel, Capital City Bank, Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, Wakulla Insurance Agency, and Periodontal Associates of North Florida.

For information, contact Ranie Thompson at 850-201-6064 or thompson@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC fires professor for botched accreditation

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College Tuesday terminated a professor and former chair of a program that ran into accreditation trouble last year.

The firing came a day after TCC trustees approved a hearing officer's report saying the college was justified in firing Donna Francis-Clark, ousted chair of the healthcare management program.

President Jim Murdaugh had moved to fire Francis-Clark on the grounds that she was negligent in leading accreditation efforts for a health-care management program.

The college said students enrolled in the Health Information Management program lost thousands of dollars and saw their career track stalled because Francis-Clark failed to do her job.

TCC told Francis-Clark last August it intended to fire her after the college was informed that its candidacy for accreditation had lapsed. A second professor, Anne Winston, also received a letter of pending termination for her involvement.

Both professors sought hearings to determine if TCC had grounds to fire them.

Francis-Clark was initially hired in fall 2011 as program chair and assistant professor in health information technology. She was charged with creating the health information management program, developing curriculum and getting the program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education.

She was earning \$47,599 in salary. She was also paid \$13,704 in 2015 and \$8,328 in 2016 for overload pay and a supplement for being a program chair.

Francis-Clark has been on paid leave since contesting her firing. She now can appeal the findings to the First District Court of Appeal or accept the verdict. Her attorney, Sidney Matthew, said he is unsure of his client's next move.

"It is obviously unfortunate they have decided to fire one of their best teachers at the college for making administrative errors that other administrators make and they are never fired for it," Matthew said.

Attorney Robert Sniffen, hired to represent Murdaugh, said between 2012 to 2016, Francis-Clark failed to carry out the steps toward gaining accreditation for the program.

The accreditation lapse came to the attention of Provost Feleccia Moore-Davis in July, when two students who had completed their courses said they were denied access to the certification test.

During testimony, Moore-Davis said Francis-Clark had told her she was "overwhelmed" and had stopped working on the accreditation.

But testimony also showed that during the same period Francis-Clark had prepared and taught online courses at DeVry University and the University of Phoenix.

TCC spokesman Al Moran said the college has regained candidacy, which is the first step in getting the program accredited. TCC was waiting on hearing officer former Appellate Judge Nikki Clark's findings before hiring additional staff.

"Students now are eligible to sit for certification but they can't complete the certification process until they get accredited," Moran said.

Sniffen's legal fees will cost TCC \$70,232, Moran said.

TCC names winners of adjunct faculty awards

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College recently announced six recipients of the 2017 Adjunct Faculty Teaching Excellence Award. The award recognizes adjunct faculty members who exemplify high-quality teaching and consistently demonstrate their commitment to the five fundamental competencies valued by TCC: commitment, collaboration, creativity, integrity and results. The award recipients are Thomas Croom, Harlon Hawthorne, Lynn Peterson, Leslie Pla, Ann Robshaw and Dana Sweat.

TCC to unveil newest issue of art and literary magazine

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Since 1982, Tallahassee Community College has published a yearly edition of the Eyrie Art & Literary Magazine, a student-run project showcasing literature and artwork by TCC students.

The newest edition of the Eyrie was unveiled at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the TCC Fine and Performing Arts Center. Nearly 300 art and literary pieces were submitted, and of those, 53 pieces were selected for publication in the Eyrie's 36th edition.

TCC students launch multi-media attack on distracted driving

TOM FLANIGAN
WFSU

A Tallahassee journalism professor has given his class a real-world exercise in the political process. His class members are bringing all the latest media methods to bear on reducing the problem of distracted driving, and convincing the Florida Legislature to do something about it.

On this Tuesday morning in early April, TCC's Reggie Grant seemed more like a combination circus ringmaster and whirling dervish as he counseled his mass media class.

"A couple of your colleagues mentioned that they'd like to have a debrief," he announced as the students settled in.

The class numbers nearly 20 students. One of them is was putting the finishing touches on an on-line video.

"There's the visual distraction, there's the manual distraction and there's the cognitive distraction," the voiceover announcer intoned at the start of the video.

The student working on the video, Brittany Defran, said the entire project is a multi-media campaign to discourage distracted driving, especially texting while driving.

"This is a big issue that's rising because so many people are doing it and not everybody realizes that you're doing it," she said, while manipulating a series of images on her laptop. "It's so easy to be distracted while you're driving. So just to remind people to be cautious about that is really important."

But beyond changing behavior, Defran explained the idea is to change Florida law.

"As awareness is brought to it and more people fight for the laws to be harsher on distracted driving, I think more people will be more prone to think twice before texting and driving or driving distracted," she said.

Once again, the Florida Legislature is contemplating a bill that would make distracted driving a primary offense, meaning law enforcers would need no other reason to pull over an offender. There will be a rally at Tallahassee Community College in support of the measure on April 20th. And that's what student Jack Cook was working on.

"Going through and filtering through and finding the right image for an online post so we can get people to come out and support this event," he said.

Cook's project partner Cody Sellers added this requires a lot of thought and coordination to maximize the audience impact.

"We'll come up with a statistic on distracted driving and we have to find a picture that will match the fact and at the same time it's hard because you have to find the right resolution and distortion and stuff like that," Sellers said.

Close by, Amelia Piotrowski was in charge of the project's Facebook presence.

"People live on social media and anytime that you're bored or anything like that the first thing you do is grab your phone and look on social media, so obviously if it's there, it's going to reach everybody," Piotrowski insisted.

Still, Professor Reggie Grant believed it's real-life examples of what distracted driving can cause that has the most visceral impact.

"A 20-year old I believe it was killed 12 or 13 people in Texas. He admitted to the fact he was texting and driving; I mean, just 12 people gone. This is ridiculous!" he exclaimed.

At the beginning, Grant said he wasn't sure just how his students would respond to the project.

"I was just really happy that the students have taken to this and we've had our challenges. This has definitely not been one of those assignments where everything's been easy. But with those challenges, I think there's been some amazing stuff that's going on."

And among those things, there's been a commitment that the distracted driving bill's House sponsors, Emily Slosberg of Delray Beach and Richard Stark of Weston – both Democrats – would attend the on-campus rally on the 20th.

TCC hosting traffic safety event Thursday

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (FAMILY BRIEFS)

Tallahassee Community College is hosting a Traffic Safety event from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday with Philip Stuart, retired Florida state trooper. Stuart will be there with his IMPAACT "crashed car on tour." (IMPAACT: Informing More Pupils About Auto Crash Tragedies). Also attending will be state Reps. Emily Slosberg and Richard Stark.

Enjoy some good food and music and take the opportunity to get an idea of a sampling of dedicated people in your community busily taking valuable traffic safety messages to pupils, teachers and parents in Tallahassee. Email Stuart at crashsites@embarqmail.com.

TCC Gadsden Center to offer free active bystander training

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES/HAVANA HERALD

The Tallahassee Community College Gadsden Center will offer a free Active Bystander Training course targeted to Gadsden County business owners, their employees and community members on Friday, April 28, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Active Bystander Training aims to strengthen the roles and abilities of civilians to save lives by performing specific helping actions when an unexpected emergency occurs. The training will be provided by the Florida Medical Reserve Corps.

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

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

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

TCC Gadsden Center Safety Series Remaining Schedule

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

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

Friday, June 30, 2017, 1-3 p.m.: Cybersecurity Awareness Training 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

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) 558-3624 or gormand@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC Clothesline airs thoughts, feelings on domestic violence

JULIE MONTANARO

WCTV

Domestic violence survivors have a chance to share their stories this week without saying a word.

We stopped by Tallahassee Community College as both words of warning and words of encouragement fluttered in the breeze.

"I cried at some," Machel Jarmon said as she headed to class.

Jarmon is a nursing student at TCC. These t-shirts touch her heart.

"They had all different kinds of emotions," Jarmon said, "but it really does something on the inside of me."

These shirts - more than 170 of them so far - hang on a clothesline in the heart of the Tallahassee Community College campus.

"It's honestly just been such an eye opening experience," TCC student Sydni Small said.

Students decided the t-shirts are the perfect way to get people thinking and talking about domestic violence, dating violence and sexual abuse.

"I'd say the ones that make the biggest impact on me are the personal story ones," TCC student Arron McDonagh said. "The ones that have them like ... saying "I" or "you" did this to me ... It's remarkable."

"Some people, they've stopped and made shirts and gotten very emotional about it because they can relate to it from a personal standpoint," TCC student Bernard Jennings said.

"I personally have helped one of my friends create a shirt," TCC student Kashayla Barrington said. "So actually seeing it and putting it out there helped her release the pain."

"For them to come out and share their experiences can help others see that ... you're not alone," TCC student Jordan MacDonald said.

This is actually an English class project that's turned into so much more. Assistant professor Kelly Thayer said the support and compassion she's seen this week are "truly inspirational."

You can see the clothesline or add your own t-shirt to it through Friday.

TCC students create campaign, event targeting distracted driving

Legislation filed to strengthen Florida law on distracted driving

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

State Rep. Emily Slosberg, D-Boca Raton, knows the dangers of distracted driving and the lifelong impact poor choices make.

She's living through them.

At 14, she was one of seven middle schoolers riding in the back of a car driven by an older teen. Published reports say the car was traveling about 90 mph when it hit a median and slammed into an oncoming car. Slosberg survived with serious injuries, but five others, including her twin sister Dori, didn't.

"I lost my twin sister in a car crash and I was almost killed," Slosberg said. "I do not want anyone else to go through what I did."

Slosberg has sponsored one bill and co-sponsored another with Rep. Richard Stark, D-Weston, to make Florida's laws stiffer regarding distracted driving.

Florida is one of only five states in which distracted driving is not a primary offense. Police can only enforce it if you are stopped for breaking another traffic law.

On Thursday, the two legislators participated in a driver-awareness event, culminating a semester project created by Reggie Grant, assistant professor of journalism at Tallahassee Community College, and his students.

Grant's mass media students this semester adopted the theme of "Taking Action on Distraction". It included lectures by those whose families have directly been impacted by distracted driving.

The first was Demetrius Branca, whose son, Anthony, was a TCC student. Anthony was hit and killed in 2015 while on the way to school.

Shortly after the death of his "best friend," Anthony's father, Demetrius Branca, started the Anthony Phoenix Branca Foundation to raise awareness about the dangers of distracted driving.

Students Brittany Defran and Veronica Hurless produced a video to promote Thursday's event.

It featured an interview with Jeff Peaten, cousin of Lavon Reese. Reese, 24, was a Florida State University student killed during a 2015 crash in which the other driver was texting while driving 89 mph.

"The interview has made me more aware of the times I drive distracted," Defran said. "I see myself trying harder than ever to refrain from driving distracted because I know how much it has affected so many lives."

April is Distracted Driving Awareness month.

From a torn ACL to an All-American

TCC's Lawriell Wilson became the program's first 1st Team All-American

JORDAN CULVER

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

There was a time when star Tallahassee Community College guard Lawriell Wilson couldn't breathe on her own.

Those three days in 2014 immediately followed surgery on the ACL in Wilson's left knee – she was allergic to the anesthesia the doctors used before her procedure.

The surgery came right after her scholarship offers dried up following her injury, which she suffered in the first quarter of the 2014 Louisiana Class 4A state title game – a game her team lost 56-48.

Wilson, who finished last season as TCC's top scorer, has come a long way. And she still has time to accomplish more.

"With my ACL, I didn't know how I was going to come back," she said. "All of the success, accolades. This is just a blessing, for real. When they told me I tore my ACL, it was really depressing, really heartbreaking. I didn't know what to expect. I just stayed positive, stayed around positive people."

Wilson on April 14 was named the first NJCAA women's basketball First Team All-American in TCC's history. She's just the fourth NJCAA All-American in the program's history, and the first since 2013. It's the cherry on top of a list of accolades, which includes Panhandle Conference Player of the Year.

"My freshman year, I got Freshman of the Year," Wilson said. "That was a blessing as well, but I didn't think I was where I was supposed to be. This year, being All-American and all that, being able to do the things I used to do, it's just a blessing. I'm just thanking God."

Despite her struggles and setbacks, Wilson she said she knew she'd end up playing basketball.

"I never once thought about giving up," she said. "I rehabbed every day. It hurt at times. There were days I cried. I never thought of not playing basketball again. I knew I could get back on the court."

Now that her career with TCC is over, she said she's narrowed down her list of possible transfer destinations to Rutgers and UCF.

She said has no idea when she'll decide between the two.

Whichever team gets her will get her high-energy style. Wilson said she looks up to NBA guard Russell Westbrook, who averaged a triple-double over the 2016-17 regular season.

"This recruiting process has been crazy," she said. "They had a lot of coaches calling, trying to get visits.

"Basketball is all I have. Basketball is it. Playing Division I, I just want to go out there and be successful and break records, like I'm doing (TCC). Then I want to go to the next level after D-I."

Wilson was third in the NJCAA in scoring this year, averaging 21.3 points per game. She was one of the most consistent players on TCC's fourth-ranked offense – she was held under 10 points just twice this season and didn't score fewer than 17 points over the final nine games of the season.

"Lawriell is one of the most competitive individuals I have ever coached," said TCC head coach Franqua Bedell in a statement. "Her love for the game shows every night through her smile and fierce play.

"She has worked hard to be the best scoring guard in the country, and it has been an honor to coach such a great player and even better person – she will be impossible to replace."

With the school year winding down, Wilson is coming to grips with the end of her time in Tallahassee.

"I'm going to miss it," she said. "I've been here three years, around Coach (Bedell), the players... it's going to be a big transition. But I feel like I'll be able to adjust and be successful wherever I go.

"I'm so grateful to TCC. A lot of schools backed off and they were consistent through the process. They knew I tore my ACL and they didn't give up on me. They came and saw me. They just took care of me like family. I really needed that at the time and I really appreciated it."

Is Tallahassee ready to tackle the jobs of the future?

JIM MURDAUGH

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (MY VIEW)

In 1994, the Florida Chamber Foundation released “No More Excuses: What Businesses Must Do to Help Improve Florida’s Schools,” which showed that assessment, accountability and improving student learning were the keys to creating a world-class education system in Florida.

Thanks to the resolve of families, teachers, and education and business leaders, Florida went from having a graduation rate that was 48th in the nation to a state that is ranked in the top quartile in educational achievement. Leon County is now graduating more students from high school and more students from its higher education institutions.

That is good news, but has the improvement been enough to ensure our workforce is prepared? According to the Florida Chamber Foundation’s latest research report, “Florida Jobs 2030,” 64 percent of Florida jobs will require some form of postsecondary education by 2021. The workers of tomorrow will need to remain competitive in the midst of automation, globalization and technological advances. Many of the jobs that Floridians will hold in 2030 are still emerging, and some do not even exist yet.

While we must address the continuing gaps between the requirements of these positions and current levels of education, this is also an opportunity for students and communities to take advantage of middle-skill and entry-level opportunities that do not require advanced degrees.

“Florida Jobs 2030” poses a call to action to businesses, educators, training providers, employers, employees, communities, local government and policy makers to work together to create pathways to success for today’s students.

At Tallahassee Community College, we take these conversations seriously. Do our students have opportunities to prepare for the jobs of the future? Will they graduate in a future that has the jobs they need?

Creating a workforce that is prepared and that is globally competitive is one key to ensuring Florida’s future remains bright. If you agree, visit FloridaChamber.com/FloridaJobs2030 and learn more about how you can get involved.

TCC graduates celebrate success at commencement ceremony

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORY)

Graduating college is a remarkable achievement and one worth celebrating with family and friends. Approximately 400 Tallahassee Community College students will celebrate that accomplishment on Saturday, May 6, at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center. The commencement ceremony begins at 7:30 p.m., and community members are invited to attend. No tickets are needed.

The students who participate in commencement represent about 3,000 TCC students who earned a degree or certificate during the 2016-17 academic year. They include young adults who moved directly from high school to college, older adults who decided to attend college after years in the workforce, and still others who returned to college to complete an unfinished degree or prepare for a new career.

Each year, more than 2,200 TCC students graduate with an Associate in Arts degree. Approximately 75% of those students transfer to Florida State, Florida A & M, or another four-year institution to continue their education. Hundreds of other students earn an associate degree in one of TCC's career programs, such as Network Systems Technology, Business Management or Radiologic Technology. Many more spend a year or less at TCC to earn a certificate that prepares them to serve as a firefighter, industrial machinery mechanic or other in-demand professional.

Many graduates will have benefitted from a scholarship during their time at TCC. The College offers scholarships for high-performing students, students with disabilities, veterans and adults returning to college. Donors have created scholarships for students in healthcare programs, students who are members of the Brain Bowl team, students who are studying science and mathematics, students who plan to become teachers, and students who are active in leadership and community service activities.

Strengthening scholarships is one of the main focuses of the TCC Foundation. The Foundation will hold its annual online giving event, the TCC ONE Campaign, during the week of April 24. The campaign is dedicated to raising funds to support scholarships. To learn more, contact Ysonde Jensen at jenseny@tcc.fl.edu or visit tcc.fl.edu/foundation.

In addition to the main commencement ceremony, TCC will hold traditional pinning ceremonies for students in its healthcare programs. On Wednesday, May 3, the Respiratory Care program will celebrate its graduates at 5 p.m. at the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education, located at 1528 Surgeons Drive. The Surgical Technology and Central Sterile Processing Technology programs will follow at 6 p.m. Then on Thursday, May 4, students in the Dental Hygiene program will be pinned at 4 p.m., followed by graduates of the Nursing program at 5:30 p.m., in Turner Auditorium on TCC's main campus.

TCC to honor grads who began in developmental ed

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Tallahassee Community College's Division of Academic Support will host a recognition ceremony for students who began their TCC coursework in a developmental education class and are graduating with a degree or certificate. The ceremony will be held Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Union ballroom.

Students Shireka Davis, recipient of the Bertha Murray Award for academics, and Alana Townsend, recipient of the Sally Search Leadership Award, will deliver remarks.

NACCE announces winning colleges of national entrepreneurship competition

HOLLYWOOD INDUSTRY

The National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), the nation's leading organization focused on promoting entrepreneurship through community colleges, announced the winners of a national competition for entrepreneurial excellence among its member colleges. Five community colleges from throughout the country have received the Presidents for Entrepreneurship Pledge College of Excellence Award. Dozens of colleges submitted nominations to the inaugural competition.

The five winning colleges of NACCE's 2017 College of Excellence Award are: College of San Mateo, San Mateo, CA; Fayetteville Technical Community College, Fayetteville, NC; Madisonville Community College, Madisonville, KY; South Mountain Community College, Phoenix, AZ; Lorain County Community College, Elyria, OH

The colleges received their awards during the NACCE Presidents' and Chancellors' Breakfast at the AACC Conference on April 24. The five winners were culled from a list of 14 semifinalists. Participants in the competition had to be current Presidents For Entrepreneurship Pledge participants. A panel of non-NACCE board members and non-participating college presidents selected the winners. The semifinalists included: Bucks County College, PA; Catawba Valley Community College, NC; Harper College, IL; Hillsborough Community College, FL; Howard Community College, MD; Madison Area Technical College, WI; Patrick Henry Community College, VA; Paul D. Camp Community College, VA; **and Tallahassee Community College, FL.**

"The Presidents for Entrepreneurship Pledge serves as the foundation for entrepreneurial leadership in our member colleges," said Rebecca Corbin, Ed.D., president and CEO of NACCE. "If you are doing innovative work, you deserve to be recognized and share what you are doing as part of our best-practice examples on a national level. This is the essence of the College of Excellence Award."

(NOTE: Article truncated for relevance to TCC.)

Group claims they were hassled for trying to serve food at the Florida Public Safety Institute

Submitted by
Lane Stephens

*HUNTING GROUP
THERE FOR
FWC MEETING*

During last week's meeting of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, which was held at the Florida Public Safety Institute, two leaders in Florida's sportsmen's community were threatened with arrest by the administration of the Institute, along with the Gadsden County Health Department.

Lane Stephens, a Quincy resident and long-time lobbyist for sportsmen's organizations in Florida, and Chuck Echinique, of Rebel Yelp Outfitters and Calls, were threatened with arrest if they offered BBQ pork sandwiches, chips and drinks, for free, to the 300+ hunters from around Florida who were in town for the meeting.

Stephens indicated that members of the sportsmen community originally thought it would be a great idea to provide food for the hunters who would be attending, given the fact that there are no restaurants nearby. "A lot of hunters from around the state took time off from work to attend this very important meeting, and we thought it would be nice to have a cookout, similar to a tailgate party at an FSU game or park yard-party at home," said Stephens.

Stephens initially sought to receive permission from the Institute, but he was originally told it was against the Institute's policies and procedures, and that the Gadsden County Health Department would not permit it. However, upon making a public records request



Hunters eat lunch in front of the Florida Public Safety Institute on U.S. 90.

for the policies and procedures mentioned by Institute staff, Tallahassee Community College replied that there were no such policies or procedures in place. Further, after checking with the office of the Director of the Health Department, and also checking with the Leon County Health Department, Stephens was told by both that no permit was necessary if no one was being charged for the food.

Despite the fact that no policies or procedures existed, or that the Gadsden County Health Department had no regulatory authority over the matter, Institute staff continued to rebuff attempts to coordinate the meal. At that point, the sportsmen involved decided to just cook the food off-site to avoid any conflicts, to prepare the sandwiches in advance, and to just allow the hunters to grab a sandwich, chips and a drink out of the back of a van and to enjoy their lunch. So, the hunters started cooking at 6 p.m. on the 18th and didn't finish until 4 a.m. on the 19th!

At approximately 11 a.m. on the 19th, Mr. Echinique was asked to enter an office at the convention hall and was greeted by three Institute staffers, and they had the Gadsden County Health

Department on the phone. Mr. Echinique was advised that if his group attempted to share the free food with the other hunters, they would be arrested. At that point, Mr. Stephens was asked to come to the same room, and he, too, was threatened with arrest. When Stephens asked how this was any different than a family reunion cookout at Pat Thomas Park, or a birthday party at Triangle Park in Quincy, the Health Department responded that they had jurisdiction over all food service located on any part of the Institute property due to a cafeteria being on site.

Rather than argue the point, Mr. Stephens asked the Health Department if it also had jurisdiction over the right-of-way on Hwy. 90. When the Health Department responded it did not, Stephens indicated they would take their vehicles just outside the gate of the property and they would serve hunters along the right-of-way.

In hind-sight, both Mr. Stephens and Mr. Echinique say they should have just proceeded and allowed an arrest to occur. They say numerous other hunters, including many residents of Quincy, indicated they, too, would have offered to serve the food so they could all be arrested together. All in at-

tendance said it was the most ridiculous response they had ever seen from a governmental entity to what was supposed to be just some good old Southern hospitality.

In the end, the 300+ hunters said the BBQ was some of the best they ever had, and it was especially good, knowing what the sportsmen had gone through to provide it to them.

(TCC was asked to comment on this story but had not responded by press time Tuesday.)

G.E.D. AVAILABLE FOR 2017 AT LIBERTY CENTER

Tallahassee Community College is offering the GED program for the Summer Semester in Chattahoochee at the Liberty Center (old Chattahoochee High School), 613 Chattahoochee St., Chattahoochee, FL 32324. For more information, please contact: Marjorie Hall, 850-556-6278, Marilyn Barnes, barnesm@tcc.fl.edu, 850-201-8760 (ask for Marilyn Barnes), Linda Williams, Staff Asst. willilin@tcc.fl.edu (same phone #) or Krystal Tornestornesk@tcc.fl.edu (same phone #).

Classes will begin on May 9, 2017. Please register. Classes are paid for by a grant program.

Moore speaks to BOCC about Gadsden Center

By Byron Spires,
Herald Editor

Kimberly A. Moore, Vice President of Workforce Development for Tallahassee Community College (TCC) spoke to the county commission about the Gadsden Center at last week's commission meeting.

The Gadsden Center serves as TCC's permanent home in Gadsden County. It was established in March 2016 and continues the "Partnership for Progress" developed by TCC and Gadsden County over a decade ago.



Kimberly Moore speaks to county commissioners.

As Moore explained, "the Gadsden Center reflects TCC's strong commitment to providing programs and services and a meaningful presence that

meet the real needs of the local community."

The center offers access to training in a variety of industries. Programs include: HVAC, Retail Cus-

tomers Service, Medical Office Technology, Truck Driving, as well as onsite GED classes and ESOL classes.

Moore spoke about TCC's Division of Workforce Development which offers services to help employers and organizations move forward successfully.

"We provide consulting, solutions and specialized training to take your business to the next level," she added.

For information, contact the Gadsden Center at 850-558-3620 or visit their location at 223 Pat Thomas Parkway in Quincy.

TCC hosts Hops and Half Shells 5K run

LINDA ANN MCDONALD

WAKULLA NEWS

Tallahassee Community College's Wakulla Environmental Institute hosted the Hops and Half Shells 5K Trail Run/Walk. Proceeds from the event benefit scholarships awarded to students at TCC. Last year's event raised approximately \$5,000.

An estimated 300 contestants enjoyed a 5K run through the natural terrain of Florida's coastal area. The exciting trail exposed runners to pine scrub forest, sink holes and a natural land bridge. Upon crossing the finish line, participants enjoyed chilled shucked oysters on the half shell provided by Panacea Oyster Co-Op.

Mark Mitchell and Reed Tilley, main oyster farmers for Panacea Co-Op said, "This is a wonderful event. We hope it creates a positive attitude towards education and what we are doing here (oyster farming) and how we do it. Oysters are also known as the Panacea Pearl."

Stan Linton of Crawfordville was first to cross the finish line and he said, "I wanted to do a hard run and this is the closest and best place to do it. I also like the free beer."

Thomas Crawford and Melissa Franklin of GrassLands Brewing Company brought homemade brewed beer from oysters farmed from the event. "It is a sour beer and I made my beer blend with brine and oyster meat. I shucked 300 oysters."

Franklin said, "It is fun to be a part of this event and it is great when you can hook up with local ingredients and make beer."

Sponsors for the scholarships also included Whole Foods, Proof Brewing Company, Madison Social, Full Press Apparel, Capital City Bank, Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare, Wakulla Insurance Agency, and Periodontal Associates of North Florida.

Moonlighting while accreditation fell through

Community college faces students upset that they can't be licensed after a professor -- fired this week -- reportedly didn't have time to deal with accreditor, despite having time to teach online at two for-profit institutions

ASHLEY A. SMITH
INSIDE HIGHER ED

When a few Tallahassee Community College students attempted to take the Registered Health Information Technician certification exam last year, they learned they couldn't sit for the test.

Despite about two years of studying and working toward their health information technology degrees, the students learned they were ineligible for the exam, which is administered by the American Health Information Management Association, because TCC didn't have program accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education, or CAHIIM.

On Tuesday, TCC trustees fired the professor and former chair of the program who was in charge of leading the accreditation efforts, Donna Francis-Clark. The termination came one day after a hearing examiner, a former appellate court judge appointed by the college's trustees, recommended that the trustees fire Francis-Clark. The college initially told Francis-Clark in August it intended to fire her after CAHIIM informed TCC that its candidacy for accreditation -- the step required in the process toward full accreditation -- lapsed in 2015.

According to testimony during the hearing, Francis-Clark informed the college's new provost that she had become "overwhelmed during the accreditation process, had experienced personal challenges and had stopped working on the accreditation process." She also taught online courses at DeVry University and the University of Phoenix during the time she was pursuing CAHIIM accreditation for the college.

Francis-Clark did not respond to calls, and her attorney wasn't available to comment.

The circumstances around Francis-Clark's termination, however, have caused the college to review and re-evaluate its own policies around program accreditation and faculty members teaching at other colleges.

TCC students began enrolling in the program in 2013, when the college first gained candidacy for accreditation. Students were told that by the time they graduated in 2015, the health information management program would be accredited and they would be eligible to sit for the exam.

"Going through something like this opens your eyes to where you may have gaps," said Feleccia Moore-Davis, provost and vice president for academic affairs at the college. Moore-Davis was the new provost last year whom students contacted when they were denied access to the certification exam. "One of the things we're doing is basically looking at these policies and practices to make sure this doesn't happen again."

Moore-Davis said seven students were affected by the lack of accreditation.

"I withheld graduation for those students until we can re-establish accreditation," she said. "This loss of accreditation adversely impacted their lives and projections for becoming employed and subsequently moving forward."

There are a number of other options the college made available to students, as well. The college is working with Florida A&M University, which has a bachelor's degree program in health information management, for students interested in pursuing transfer. Those students who wanted to pursue an alternate path or program at TCC could do so at no cost, she said.

Ben Miller, a senior director for postsecondary education at the Center for American Progress, said the situation strikes him as a failure of management, since the college should have been aware of what was happening.

"There's this weird gap in federal policy where you need institutional accreditation to get federal financial aid, but you don't need programmatic accreditation even if it's required," he said. "But you don't want programmatic accreditation to become a thing that pops up unnecessarily."

Moonlighting while accreditation fell through....

continued

Miller said the problem becomes more complicated for online programs, but over all it can be confusing to students when the U.S. Department of Education says they can use their student aid benefits, but they may not be able to enter the career because of program accreditations and certification exams.

Although the hearing examiner blamed the failed accreditation process completely on Francis-Clark, TCC also recognizes that there was an oversight failure when it came to the accreditation process.

"I came to TCC in 2015, and since then we established a tracking mechanism so the dean is generally aware when accreditation should occur and when site visits should occur," Moore-Davis said. "For the [former] dean for these two women, she simply took their word for it when she asked about accreditation, and they simply told her it was moving forward." A second professor in the program also received a letter of pending termination for her involvement.

Today, there are 30 students in the program who have been reassured that the health information management program will be accredited, Moore-Davis said, adding that the process shouldn't take more than a year.

"We had to start the process over again, and at that point, I tried to expedite it as quickly as possible," she said, adding that the accrediting body has waived some initial fees and TCC's program has regained its candidacy for accreditation.

Moonlighting

Francis-Clark also worked outside TCC teaching online courses at for-profit institutions.

It's not an "uncommon practice" at the college, Moore-Davis said.

TCC has a formal process and policy when it comes to faculty and staff pursuing outside employment. About 40 faculty and staff members at the college have gone through the formal process and have employment outside of the campus, she said. The college employs more than 1,400 staff, full- and part-time faculty. About 200 employees are full-time faculty members.

And although there is a formal process when it comes to moonlighting faculty, in order to avoid conflicts of interest, Moore-Davis said administration can only be aware of those professors and staff who inform them of their outside employment.

Moore-Davis said there isn't any evidence that Francis-Clark followed the policy and requested the right to moonlight.

"A lot of full-timers will teach overloads, and it's a practice that is discouraged," said Maria Maisto, president of the New Faculty Majority, a national adjunct advocacy organization. "The assumption is if you're already teaching a full-time load, you shouldn't be teaching additional classes because that's spreading yourself too thin. But the degree to which full-timers engage in it depends on how well they're paid at the institution."

Francis-Clark's base pay was \$47,599, according to the college. She also received \$13,704 in 2015 and \$8,328 in 2016 for overload pay and a supplement for being the program chair.

The college has hired a new program chair who is working toward the accreditation.

"Now that one case has settled, we're moving to hire a second faculty member," Moore-Davis said. "We will work with students, because is their welfare at the top of our list right now, and we'll do what is necessary to help those students move through this difficult time. This was a direct conflict of what we do for our students and why we're here."

Healthcare programs put TCC in the spotlight

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORY)

In early May, graduating students in several healthcare programs at Tallahassee Community College will participate in a pinning ceremony, the traditional way of welcoming new nurses into their profession. Recently, the custom has been extended to other healthcare fields, such as respiratory care and dental hygiene.

Over the years, hundreds of students have participated in pinning ceremonies for TCC healthcare programs, which are known for their respected faculty, first-rate facilities and high levels of student success.

In addition to nursing, TCC offers programs in emergency medical services, radiologic technology, respiratory care, surgical technology, central sterile processing, endoscopy technology, pharmacy technology, nurse assisting, dental hygiene and dental assisting, and health informatics management. Most are based at the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education, which is located right in Tallahassee's healthcare corridor and gives TCC students easy access to clinical opportunities at nearby healthcare facilities.

Tallahassee Community College students have a history of success on licensure and certification exams. For example, in 2015-16, graduates of the registered nursing program had a 96% pass rate on the national licensure exam—one of the highest in the state, among both colleges and universities.

There are also financial advantages to attending TCC. In-state tuition is only \$100 per credit hour, and there are several scholarships offered specifically for healthcare students, including new ones created through a recent Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare Foundation gift valued at \$500,000. Healthcare students are also eligible to apply for other scholarships offered at TCC, including those for honors students, veterans and first-generation college students.

After the pinning ceremonies in May, the College will prepare to welcome a new group of students for the fall. The deadline to apply for most TCC healthcare programs is May 11. To learn more, visit www.tcc.fl.edu/healthcare.

Students may complete a TCC scholarship application by May 5 to be considered for all TCC scholarships. Visit www.tcc.fl.edu/scholarships.

Healthcare is one of the largest economic sectors in the U.S., employing one of every eight workers. For both recent high school graduates and returning adults students, TCC's affordable healthcare programs are the right prescription for a rewarding career and the chance to make a real difference in people's lives.

Enhancing recruitment efforts with public-private partnerships

SUSAN MUCHA
SMT MAGAZINE

After nearly two decades of the dominance of the service economy, manufacturers in all industries have a challenge: recruiting and training the next generation of manufacturing employees. TeligentEMS, an EMS provider in Havana, Florida, has been addressing that challenge through collaborative efforts with educational institutions, other businesses and regional support networks.

"There are few skilled workers to hire so we've had to develop options for recruiting, training and retaining workers who are completely new to manufacturing," said Dale Starke, TeligentEMS' director of manufacturing.

Fortunately, Tallahassee has support resources in this area.

"About eight years ago, the president of Tallahassee Community College (TCC) called me and asked me to tell him my problems and how they could help. I was very forthcoming and TCC has been expanding its program to meet our needs ever since. TCC has changed presidents since then, but the interest in supporting the manufacturing sector continues," said Chris Eldred, TeligentEMS' president and CEO.

As a community college, TCC provides multiple educational paths. Students can work toward an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree, a credential or simply retrain to acquire new skills.

"Our goal at TCC is to provide programs, credentials and degrees that help students get a job with family-sustaining wages. We are a demand-driven institution and we try to nimbly adjust our programs to support the needs of our region. We have a very strong commitment to workforce training and we listen to the needs expressed by our manufacturing community," said Jim Murdaugh, TCC's president.

The result of that initial dialog and collaboration with other electronics manufacturers in the area was the development of a Production Technician Certification program at Tallahassee Community College that includes IPC J-Std and IPC-A-610 workmanship standards training along with other key skills training.

TCC has recently purchased an SMT line and is now working with the company on a syllabus and courseware for a program that will train SMT production associates in a one-month period. In the interim, they are offering an introductory one-week program.

TCC also has computer-numerically controlled (CNC) machines and has set up a CNC training class. This is beneficial to the EMS provider because its electromechanical assembly operations require some CNC equipment use.

The company's commitment is that they will interview all students who complete TCC's electronics manufacturing-related programs if they choose to apply for a job.

"In terms of career options, manufacturers provide transformational jobs for people who don't necessarily learn well out of a book. And just as we fill a gap by providing career options for people who like to learn and advance by doing, TCC fills a gap by attracting and offering hands-on training to people who are looking for a career with advancement potential that doesn't require a four-year or even a two-year degree," Eldred added.

Graduates of the TCC programs are also computer-literate, a skill that has become critical in manufacturing. There is a PC in front of most production associates at this EMS provider.

The company has developed a proprietary suite of tools known as Possible-X, which is predominately focused on supporting materials availability and specificity, real-time shop floor control, and documentation control. Possible-X's production dashboard, known as p-Dash was designed to ensure production associates had the information necessary to do their jobs in a user-friendly format. Associates must log in using their ID number. They utilize the system to clock in and out, plus access all documentation related to their jobs, which is typically displayed at workstation monitors. p-Dash also facilitates movement of cross-trained associates among different work areas as demand varies, since documentation access is linked to work order. This ability to keep everyone fully loaded in a facility where different production areas may have varying demand improves efficiency and ensures competitive cost. The system's login access requirement

Enhancing recruitment efforts with public-private partnerships....

continued

supports both intellectual property protection and ITAR compliance. p-Dash also lets associates open support tickets, which text a message to an engineer whenever a production issue arises that the associate needs help with. This helps ensure that issues that could impact product quality are corrected immediately by a team member appropriately trained to address the issue.

TCC represents just one tool in the company's toolbox. A local staffing agency is used to help recruit and screen production applicants, as well. And a robust onboarding process helps ensure new employees have support as they learn new skills.

"We use Predictive Index (PI) testing in our initial screening activity. The staffing agency administers the test. We are specifically looking for people who pay attention to detail. We analyze the results and place the applicants in production work cells we think are best suited to their skills. We reassign if further analysis finds they are better suited for tasks in a different work cell because we want to give every associate the best opportunity to succeed. Entry-level production associates typically start as temporary hires through the staffing agency. We hire them as full-time employees once they and we are both sure it is a good fit," said Constance McFatter, TeligentEMS' human resources manager.

The company's onboarding process includes basic training in OSHA-required practices such as handling lead solder safely, workplace safety training, ITAR and ESD protection. New employees work on a buddy system with an employee mentor who has been trained to appropriately coach new employees.

"One of the challenges for new employees is that they often have no familiarity with a manufacturing environment. Our employee mentors help bridge that gap by coaching them in language they can understand instead of confusing them with acronyms and technical concepts that they are still trying to learn. A new employee stays in the buddy system until they fully understand the functions they are expected to perform," said McFatter.

Solderers and SMT operators go through classroom training at TCC that covers J-STD, IPC Class 2, IPC-A-610 and repair operations. The rest of the training is done on-the-job by internal resources. There are defined skills competencies for each work cell and typically three-to-four pay grade levels in each work cell.

"We are strong believers in the use of Lean practices on the manufacturing floor and having a workforce that can shift among work cells as demand shifts is a core part of our manufacturing philosophy and competitive edge. To that end, we cross-train production associates and have systems in place such as p-Dash to ensure they have access to the information they need to do multiple jobs. Our goal is to have 40% of our associates cross-trained," said Starke.

A key benefit of the production associate skills certification system is many paths to advancement. Production associates have the ability to advance to higher levels in a single work cell by completing training and passing a competency test and can also advance by mastering skills in other work cells to become a multifunctional production associate.

However, the advancement opportunities don't stop there. Each work cell has lead operators, who are essentially first line supervisors.

"We offer soft skills training in leadership interpersonal skills and stress management as part of our group lead training activities. We also allow people who decide they have grown tired of being a lead to migrate to other positions on the floor. This ability to change career path helps with retention plus ensures continuing availability of lead positions," said McFatter.

Another popular benefit is a modified workweek. SMT and selective solder work cell employees have the choice of a 4/10 or 3/12 workweek. The 4/10 workweek is four ten-hour days, Monday through Thursday, on first or second shift. The 3/12 workweek is three twelve-hour days, Friday through Sunday, on first or second shift. Employees on the 3/12 workweek are paid for 40 hours, which gives them a four-hour bonus.

Enhancing recruitment efforts with public-private partnerships....

continued

"No one wants to initially work the weekend shift, but once they try it is almost impossible to get them off because they end up with more free time thanks to the longer days and four-hour bonus. At this point it is limited to two work cells, but we may expand it over time," said Starke.

The company is also looking at adding internships later in the year.

"We see paid internships as a good way to supplement our team while helping engineering students get some real-world manufacturing engineering experience. This year we are looking at adding an engineering and quoting intern and will likely collaborate with Florida State University (FSU) to find them," said Eldred.

Company executives also try to give back some experience to the educational and business community. Eldred serves on a Gap Committee at FSU that provides funding to startup businesses that have R&D that could turn into intellectual property. Ken Gamber, TeligentEMS' engineering manager serves on an advisory committee for FSU's College of Engineering. McFatter participates in a manufacturing and construction focus group sponsored by Career Source Capital Region that is discussing regional workforce educational needs and strategies for attracting employees that may want more flexible working options.

"We are fortunate to be located in a region that is rich with educational resources and political leadership that recognizes the benefits of economic diversity. As a manufacturer, having support infrastructure that starts the conversation by asking, 'how can we better help you succeed,' is the single biggest competitive advantage I can think of. And, the end result of that type of collaboration is a win for us, a win for employees who want to reach their full potential and a huge win for the community overall," said Eldred.

Model United Nations earns five awards

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Sixteen students from Tallahassee Community College recently attended the National Model United Nations in New York City, the oldest and largest intercollegiate Model United Nations conference in the world. More than 5,800 students from 44 countries convened in New York to participate in the simulation April 9–15.

The TCC delegation earned an Honorable Delegation award, given for the level of research knowledge, quality of papers submitted before the conference and speaking ability. The team also earned three Position Paper Awards, which are based solely on their research presented before going to the conference. The TCC students were also selected by their peers for a Best Delegation in Committee Award. They were competing with universities from around the world, such as the London School of Economics, McGill University and the University of Hohenheim.

The team was led by John Griffin, president, and Nicholas Spaunburgh, vice president. Faculty advisers are Thomas Waller and Richard Murgu. Membership is open to all TCC students.

Recent gifts to TCC focus on scholarships

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (CAMPUS NOTES)

Campus USA Credit Union donated \$50,000 to support an endowed scholarship at Tallahassee Community College for students who live in a county with Campus USA Credit Union membership, which includes Alachua, Clay, Columbia, Gadsden, Jefferson, Lake, Leon, Madison, Marion, Sumter, Suwannee and Wakulla counties.

The gift was presented by Campus USA's CEO, Jerry Benton. Board members Ruby Puckett and Keith Birkett also attended, along with general counsel Gabe Hamlett and marketing officer Tarin Acaron.

Additionally, in recognition of a gift from David and Rhonda Harvey, a classroom at TCC's Wakulla Environmental Institute has been named the David and Rhonda Harvey Classroom. Rhonda Harvey is a TCC graduate, and David Harvey, former Wakulla County sheriff, is an enthusiastic supporter of the institute's work in Wakulla County.

The family of William and Irene Payne also made a donation to support scholarships and programs at WEI. William Payne is a former Wakulla County school superintendent, and Irene Payne is a former teacher at Shadeville Elementary. Their children, Susan Payne Turner, Mark Payne and Paul Payne, established the gift. The William M. & Irene C. Payne Family Classroom will host students and community members at WEI for years to come.

Education cuts wrong, unnecessary

JIM MURDAUGH

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (MY VIEW)

As our state lawmakers move toward a final budget, it appears Florida colleges and the hundreds of thousands of students they represent are not a priority this year. Worse yet, although we don't yet know the full extent, the state's 28 colleges appear likely to see a cut of at least \$30 million, while K-12 education and universities receive significant funding increases.

I share our state leaders' vision for pre-eminent universities that attract students from around the country and world, but this cannot be accomplished at the expense of colleges and our students, many of whom are first-generation college students, minorities, students from families with low incomes or nontraditional students returning to the classroom. It is wrong and it is unnecessary.

Policy makers continue to approach education as if the three levels — K-12, colleges and universities — are somehow unrelated, when in reality, excellence in all three are interdependent and critical for Florida's success in a global marketplace.

The impact of proposed state budget cuts will lead to difficult decisions here at TCC. Our commercial truckdriving program provides a small example. We started this program in 2016 because the Department of Economic Opportunity identified commercial truck driving as a high wage, high growth job in demand throughout our state.

With nonrecurring state funding last year, TCC purchased trucks and a driving simulator for classroom use and made physical improvements to an outdoor practice area. Now that the program is up and running, we have been told not to expect state funding for its ongoing operation.

Our team will find a way to continue this important program, but there are hard choices ahead. Instead of discussing how we can improve student success, our energy will be focused on minimizing the damage to our budget.

Lawmakers have focused their cuts on developmental, or remedial, education, saying enrollment numbers in these classes are down. The reality is those students still come to us and still have needs for tutoring and other

programs. What has been eliminated are the courses students registered for that were designated as remedial. The students are still coming — they are just harder to count.

The assumption that remediation is only needed for students coming to college unprepared out of high school is false. There are numerous scenarios in which students require additional academic support.

TCC has more veterans enrolled than FSU. Those veterans returning from combat need and deserve help getting back up to speed in subjects like algebra. We serve the stay-at-home parent who has raised a family and is now ready to focus on education and returning to the workforce. Colleges have always been there to help students succeed, regardless of their circumstances.

The Florida Chamber of Commerce has repeatedly noted talent is the new currency of economic development. Colleges provide talent developed in communities across the state in response to local business needs and that remain in our communities.

Businesses that relocate to our communities want to know they will be able to find the talent they need to thrive. I wonder what we will tell them.

(NOTE: This opinion piece also appeared in the May 9 edition of University Business's Leadership POV newsletter.)

Ten Tallahassee Community College student athletes sign scholarships

ALISON POSEY

WTXL

Ten Tallahassee Community College student athletes made things official Tuesday, signing scholarships to continue their athletic and academic careers.

Deion Bute signed a basketball scholarship with Central Connecticut State. On the women's side of the rock, Lindsay John will take her talents to Jacksonville University, while NJCAA First Team All American Lawriell Wilson, who averaged just shy of 22 points this season while grabbing nearly seven rebounds and five assists per game inked with Central Florida.

"When I went on the visit, I felt like it was a family," she said of choosing to continue her career at UCF. "I went there and I felt like the love was genuine and I felt more comfortable than I did on the other visit, so I just made that decision. I just want to stay down south. I'm not familiar with the North, so Florida was the spot."

Jeanna Prisco, who ran cross country for the Eagles, is headed to the University of Mobile. Kristin Gunter and Elisa Cecchetti will play softball at Alabama State and South Carolina Upstate respectively, while Jordan Curtis and Chris Clark will play baseball for Florida A&M next year. Nick Marchese will play for North Florida, while Hunter Shuff signed with USC Aiken.

There is something bigger than just the wins and losses, we want to see them be successful as students, and athletes and citizens," said athletic director Rob Chaney. "To see these individuals today have the opportunity today to continue on, that's a testament to the coaches job and what they've done."

TCC graduates credit high-tech surgical lab for their success

ERIN LISCH

WCTV

A new name now adorns Tallahassee Community College's surgical services lab.

The lab honors Dr. Al Elias Deeb, who donated surgical equipment to the school. The name change, coming on graduation day for TCC students.

Graduates are crediting the donations with helping them prepare for careers in the medical field.

In the surgical lab looking through equipment, TCC student Chelsea Countess says, "Normally we take the basin and we'll set it up like we would work."

Countess is graduating from the surgical technology and central sterile processing technology programs.

Showing some of the tool, Countess says, "They use the pen to cut and cauterize to stop the bleeding and make incisions deeper."

TCC staff says using real surgical devices better prepares students.

Program Chair for Surgical Services Megan Mckee says, "That real-life experience. They get to practice their skills before they go out with the physicians, the nurses, and other individuals in the OR."

Even memorizing more than 500 tools. According to Countess, it doesn't even brush the surface.

This hands on work, giving her confidence.

"Being able to practice and to do mock surgeries, we honestly wouldn't of done as well as we did," says Countess.

Megan McKee says the need for these technicians is on the rise nationally by 14 percent.

"It tells our local employers they were trained at a really high standard," says Mckee.

Countess has already accepted a job offer, weeks before graduating.

"I'm excited to get out there with the knowledge that I've learned over these last 5 semesters and apply it to help patients," says Countess.

Through the best technology, gaining knowledge and preparing for the real operating room

If you'd like to apply to join these programs, their deadlines are coming up quick.

Applications for fall enrollment for surgical technology and central sterile processing technology programs is due May 11, 2017.

For more information on the programs and how to apply click here.

TCC students host traffic safety awareness event

CHRONICLE

As part of Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April, Tallahassee Community College students facilitated an event to educate their peers on the dangers of distracted driving on April 20.

The "Taking Action on Distraction" event was organized and promoted by students in TCC journalism professor Reggie Grant's mass media class.

"Hundreds of students attended the event to learn about traffic safety and how to keep themselves, and others, safe on the road," said Grant, who helped to guide his students in their marketing and event planning strategies.

Two state representatives currently sponsoring bills to improve traffic safety, Emily Slosberg and Richard Stark, participated in the event along with Grant's students.

"Representatives Slosberg and Stark were encouraged to see students rallying around a cause that is dear to their hearts," said Grant. "They encouraged us to continue to lobby the Legislature until Florida's weak distracted driving law is given some teeth."

One centerpiece of the event was a crashed car from an accident caused by distracted driving, presented by the Informing More Pupils About Auto Crash Tragedies organization. The front driver's side quarter of the sedan was crushed and warped beyond recognition, with the driver's door folded in on itself.

The vehicle had been driven by a 17-year-old high school student who lost control of it due to looking away from the road, according to IMPAACT spokesman and retired Florida State Trooper Philip Stuart. The young woman ultimately lost both of her legs following the accident. Additional exhibits included a rolling car simulator and various "drunk goggle" devices provided by the Tallahassee Police Department, and a number of information tables presented by event sponsors.

The event took place outside of the Lifetime Sports Complex on the College's main campus.

For information, contact Reggie Grant at (850) 201-8055 or grantr@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC seeks to increase awareness about sexual assault crime

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and Tallahassee Community College has taken several steps to grow awareness of sexual assault and other forms of violence.

The College added a new victim advocate position in late February through a Victims of Crime Act grant funded by the U.S. Department of Justice. This position was also sponsored by TCC and the State of Florida.

"As an institution, we identified the need for students who experience various types of crime to have individualized support from a professional with expertise in victimization, the impact of crime and trauma, as well as the legal process," said Jennifer Barr, director of student services. "While we offer many supportive services to our students, we felt it necessary to expand our resources with a staff member who can support and empower students who are victimized."

Michelle Tibbits-McClellan is now serving as the victim advocate at TCC.

TCC renames surgical services lab

HAVANA HERALD

The surgical services laboratory at the Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education will be renamed in honor of Tallahassee physician Al Elias Deeb on the evening of Wednesday, May 3.

The new signage for the Al Elias Deeb, M.D., and Family Surgical Services Lab will be unveiled immediately following the pinning ceremony for new graduates of the Surgical Technology and Central Sterile Processing Technology programs, which begins at 6 p.m.

Deeb is a board-certified general surgeon who has been in practice for more than 40 years. In 2014, he donated almost \$260,000 in specialty surgical instruments to the Surgical Technology Program. The gift gives TCC students practice with the instruments they will use in a surgical setting after graduation.

The Ghazvini Center for Healthcare Education is part of Tallahassee Community College and is located at 1528 Surgeons Drive in Tallahassee.

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

Local families support TCC scholarship program

WAKULLA NEWS

Three recent gifts to Tallahassee Community College continue a focus on scholarships for current and future students.

"This year, our fundraising goals are definitely emphasizing scholarships," said Heather Mitchell, executive director of the TCC Foundation. "We know that scholarships make a tremendous difference in students' lives, allowing them to stay in school, focus on their studies and reach their goals."

Campus USA Credit Union donated \$50,000 to support an endowed scholarship for students who live in a county with Campus USA Credit Union membership, which includes Alachua, Clay, Columbia, Gadsden, Jefferson, Lake, Leon, Madison, Marion, Sumter, Suwannee and Wakulla counties. The scholarship will be awarded to students with demonstrated financial need who maintain at least a 3.0 GPA.

The gift was presented by Campus USA's CEO, Jerry Benton. Two members of the credit union's board of directors, Ruby Puckett and Keith Birkett, also attended, along with general counsel Gabe Hamlett and marketing officer Tarin Acaron.

"CAMPUS USA Credit Union is committed to making a positive impact in the communities we serve," said Benton. "I'm confident that an investment in education at the local community college is among one of the best investments we can make in our community."

Two other gifts focus on scholarships and programs for students at TCC's Wakulla Environmental Institute in Crawfordville. In both cases, the donors are Wakulla County natives.

In recognition of a gift of \$25,000 from David and Rhonda Harvey, a classroom at WEI has been named the David and Rhonda Harvey Classroom.

David Harvey, who was the sheriff of Wakulla County for 35 years, is excited about the institute being located in Wakulla County.

"I like the concept of Wakulla County becoming a mecca for education and activities focused on the outdoors. We hope other folks will think about supporting the institute too. It has so much potential for our county."

Rhonda Harvey is a TCC graduate, so the gift is also a way of supporting her alma mater.

The family of William and Irene Payne made a donation to support scholarships and programs at WEI as well.

Susan Payne Turner also lives in Wakulla County. She, along with her mother and brothers, are all TCC alumni. Turner, executive vice president of Prime Meridian Bank, represented her brothers Mark Payne and Paul Payne and their entire family, who are establishing the William M. and Irene C. Payne Family Gift.

Turner, who serves on the TCC Foundation board of directors, said her family goes back generations.

"This is a way to give back because so many paved the way for us and others," Turner said.

The William M. & Irene C. Payne Family Classroom will host students and community members at WEI for years to come.

Scholars' dual achievements

12 graduating high school students set to earn TCC degrees

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Suffering a broken hand last fall couldn't have come at a worse time for Mason Thornton.

The Florida High School senior was in the middle of his fall semester at Tallahassee Community College. There were notes to take, papers to write, tests to pass.

And there was the small matter of taking another stab at improving his SAT scores.

"They wanted to know why I was contacting them about this man in their class," his mother, Julia Blankenship, said of her request to get her son extra accommodations for the SAT. "They didn't even know why he was taking the SAT. They were wonderful when they realized he was a high-school student."

Mason endured and passed his classes last fall. This week, the 18-year-old has been busy with finals, as he wraps up an additional course load this spring.

On Saturday, Mason will be among the 400 graduates who will walk to the Civic Center stage to collect their associate's degree from TCC. Later this month, he will don another cap and gown when he marches in with graduates of the Class of 2017 of Florida High.

Mason is one of 12 local high-school students earning high-school diplomas and their degree this spring from TCC. Six are from Wakulla High, with the rest attending Florida High, Godby, Leon and Rickards. They make up an increasing number of Florida high school students who are focusing on college while their colleagues stick with a more traditional plan.

Their achievement caps an academic journey some began as early as eighth grade, taking courses for high-school credit and moving on to Advanced Placement and Honors classes, all free opportunities. Some have skipped courses altogether through the College Level Examination Program.

While there's plenty of information available through the schools and school district, it helps to have parents asking the right questions and students with the academic talent and discipline to master the classes.

The payoff goes beyond the parent-child relationship. Studies have shown high school students enrolled in college courses are more likely to pursue a four-year college degree and graduate on time.

"Florida is a leader in college and career readiness, and dual enrollment is one way that our students get a head start on college," Florida Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart said. "Dual enrollment enables students to experience rigorous college-level coursework and earn college credit at no cost."

Parental involvement

For parents, it means learning all one can from materials available, encouraging their child to stay on track and understanding the cost-saving benefits come graduation day.

Joel Thornton says it cost the family \$573 for their son to earn his associate's degree. That was the cost of the CLEP tests.

"To have gone to the University of Florida or the University of Central Florida and accomplishing the same would have cost us \$15,000 in tuition and room and board," he said. "All of Mason's college books were paid for by Florida High."

Mason says it's unfortunate more students don't take advantage of the opportunities.

"I heard a lot of people say they wanted a free senior year with very few obligations," he said. "I opted against getting a free senior year, and I'm two years ahead of schedule."

Mason's foray in advance learning started in the eighth grade. By his junior year, he was taking college-credit classes in English and math. Between eighth grade and his junior year, Mason had taken five advanced placement classes — human geography, psychology, world history, U.S. history and chemistry — earning college along the way.

He got college credit for all the classes except chemistry.

Scholars' dual achievements....

continued

"I was trying to get as many AP courses as I could," he said. His senior year was spent at TCC, not on the campus of Florida High, although he still played varsity baseball.

In recent years, the Florida Legislature approved a bill allowing CLEP test courses to count toward high school and college credits.

"It was all fairly easy," said Mason, who will attend the University of Central Florida to major in aerospace and mechanical engineering. "The biggest issue was there were a lot of moving parts, taking the CLEP, AP, I've taken a few online courses," he said.

Adjustment to college life

Thornton's friend and frequent study partner at TCC is Matthew Spears, who also attended Florida High, before he transferred to Godby High School last fall.

Spears had earned 16 college credits by his junior year and entered his senior year with 22 college credits. CLEP exams and TCC courses completed last fall and this spring brought him to 60 credits.

"I take zero classes at Godby, but technically, I'm a Godby student," said Matthew, who transferred to take advantage of Godby's honors engineering program. Back then, he wanted to go into biomedical engineering. He now plans to study marine biology at Florida Gulf Coast University.

The accelerated, rigorous course load was worth the challenge.

"It's been good because it's been definitely something to occupy my time," he said. "It taught me a lot and to become a better person," he said. "It also helped prepare me for college, as opposed to an 'easy A' class."

"It's also nice being around people who want to learn. I'm accomplishing something the vast majority of highschool students don't get to do."

While Matthew reaps the academic benefits, his mother counts the savings. For instance, the four CLEP exams cost about \$382.

"It has saved at least \$1,300 for the class and books," Martha Spears said.

That's not to mention the cost of two years of college: That's at least \$14,000 in savings, she said.

Economics, access enhance dual enrollment trends

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

There are enough Florida middle- and highschool students taking college courses to fill every undergraduate slot at Florida State University, Florida A&M and Tallahassee Community College.

Nearly 65,000 students in Florida also were dual enrolled for the 2015-16 school year, according to the Florida Department of Education.

That's compared with a little more than 49,000 enrolled in the 2011-12 school year.

Those numbers include students taking at least one unduplicated dual enrollment course in public and private colleges and universities in Florida. Other options include Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Advanced International Certificate of Education programs.

It's no accident more students and parents are opting for dual enrollment. According to FDOE, there are lots of incentives to encourage high school students to take college courses. As part of the high school grade, schools get credit for students who successfully participated in acceleration programs, including dual enrollment (<http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/pdf/1516/SchoolGradesOverview16.pdf>).

This option isn't just for traditional collegebound students. Their classmates may participate in dual enrollment programs to earn industry certification.

School districts are required by the state to have dual enrollment agreements with the public state college whose service area includes their school district.

Leon County Schools has agreements with Florida State and Florida A&M universities, Emory-Riddle University (engineering, Rickards and Godby) and Tallahassee Community College.

LCS spends more than \$100,000 annually to cover tuition and textbooks, said Gillian Gregory, assistant superintendent of academic services.

The admission requirement varies with each college, Gregory said, but most students enrolled in dual enrollment classes must have a 3.0 to 3.5 or higher

GPA, high SAT and ACT scores and have taken the Post-Secondary Education Readiness Test.

Gregory said "no more than a dozen or so" students have graduated with a diploma and degree from TCC at the same time.

"By far the most popular pathway is students taking a mix of the course, like honors courses, advanced placement or IB courses," she said. "Each of our high schools has their own offerings and it varies by year at each school."

Nearby in Wakulla County, dual enrollment numbers are picking up. Sherry Lohmeyer, assistant principal at Wakulla High School, said she's seeing more students trying to earn their high-school diploma and AA degree at the same time. Six Wakulla high students will receive TCC degrees on Saturday.

It's largely driven by economics, she said.

"It's free college," she said. The students can take up to 11 hours each semester when they are dual enrolled. "A lot of the students will take the classes we offer here at the high school," she added. "They can dual enroll as early as the ninth grade if they have the math, reading and writing test scores."

High-achieving students take what is offered at their schools and then start taking courses on campus at TCC, she said.

"We are a rural county and a lot of our families benefit from this economically," Lohmeyer said. "It's a good fit because many of our students want to go to TCC when they graduate high school."

TCC has 14 active dual enrollment agreements with the Gadsden, Leon, Liberty and Wakulla school districts. It also has agreements with nine private and charter school schools and arrangements with home school students.

TCC budgeted \$150,034 for its dual enrollment program this fiscal year. That covers salaries and benefits of the designated advisers and instructors, as well as the materials, supplies, employee travel and training for the high-school employees who work with the 519 students dual enrolled last fall and the 534 this spring.

Economics, access enhance dual enrollment trends....

continued

While there are growing numbers of high school students sitting in TCC classrooms, Provost Feleccia Moore-Davis said there's a reason why there aren't similar increases in the number of students simultaneously earning their AA degree and high school diploma.

"It's an academic challenge," she said. It takes committed counselors and principals to ensure students are prepared to succeed. For TCC, dual enrollment isn't a financial windfall, she said, since the school districts pick up the costs.

But TCC benefits by providing a community service; parents benefit by saving on the cost of a college education.

"If the student finishes high school with an AA degree, we have just eliminated costs for the first two years of college," she said. "They are ready for the academics of college at an earlier age."

More than 400 Tallahassee Community College graduates to participate in commencement

BYRON DOBSON

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Tallahassee Community College expects to have 400 graduates crossing the stage tonight during its spring commencement at the Tucker Center.

The 400 participating graduates are among 3,000 TCC students earning a degree or certificate during the 2016-17 academic year, the college said.

The ceremony begins at 7:30 p.m.

The student speaker this year is Alexandria Bergman, who becomes the first person in her immediate family to receive a college degree.

Bergman is a member of Theatre TCC! and was vice president of Curtain Call, the student support group for the theater program. She appeared in "The Christmas Story" and "Young Frankenstein" and served as assistant stage manager for two productions. She will attend Flagler College on TCC's campus to pursue a degree in exceptional student education.

STEM scholar has big plans for summer and beyond

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT (SPONSORED STORIES)

Nicholas Samlal is one of many “homegrown” students who are finding success at Tallahassee Community College. Samlal is an alum of Wakulla High School and the recipient of a TCC STEM Star scholarship. STEM Star Scholars pursue a research and development project through the TCC STEM Center, which focuses on giving students opportunities to excel in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Samlal will spend his summer in an internship with the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory’s Advanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Spectroscopy Facility in Gainesville. After that, he hopes to study computer engineering at the University of Florida.

While at TCC, Samlal has been very involved with robotics and other activities in the TCC STEM Center. He also served as a facilitator there, helping other students research scholarships and internships and helping them tackle some of their challenging science and mathematics coursework.

Samlal has been interested in technology since he was a young child, when he wanted to build a robot to do the housework so his mom would not have to.

“It’s always been interesting to me—how to bring technology into the world that could help people.”

Samlal got the idea for his research project one night when he fell asleep with his wireless earphones on. That led him to the concept for an accessory that wraps around the ear to secure the earphones and includes tracking software to help the user find the earphones if they fall out.

Samlal’s experience with that project and with the STEM Center bolstered his resume and helped him get his summer internship. He said the STEM Center is an important addition to TCC’s offerings.

“There’s a lot of STEM involvement in a lot of industries nowadays. It’s good for people to know that, ‘Hey, this is how you can program, this is how you can get into these other technological developments.’ The STEM Center not only helps you realize those potentials, but can also help lead your way into careers.”

TCC reacts to funding cuts

WTXL

Tallahassee Community College commenting on budget cuts made by the Florida legislature to community colleges.

TCC's President, Jim Murdaugh, saying that the legislature is taking more than one million dollars across the board from the community colleges operating budget.

Murdaugh says he does not have the exact dollar amount yet, but he says the cut will limit their ability to help students.

"It limits our ability to hire faculty, it limits our ability to hire advisors and provide consulting services to students. So it really constrains our ability to do the kinds of things that helps students succeed," said Murdaugh.

Murdaugh says, that once they find out exactly how much the cut will be, he will need to meet with the committee to go over the budget for next year.

WHS seniors earn most dual enrollment degrees

WAKULLA NEWS

Nine Wakulla High School graduating seniors will leave WHS this year with their first two years of college behind them as they recently earned their Associate of Arts degrees through Florida's Dual Enrollment program.

That's more dual enrollment degrees than from any surrounding counties, including Leon, according to officials.

Matthew Bowyer, Alexis Gardner, Shawna Gray, Emily Lawrence, Kaylee Meyers, Elijah Mullens, Kavita Samlal, Taylor Starling, and Dori Stringer will walk at May 26 Wakulla High graduation having completed the 60 hours of college credit needed for an AA degree.

Some also chose to walk at the May 6 Tallahassee Community College graduation ceremony as well.

Many more WHS students have earned college credits under Florida's Dual Enrollment program, in which specific college courses also count as required and elective high school credits. Qualifying students can take as few as one or two courses just to see what to expect in college.

"This program is at no cost to parents, so it is helpful in reducing college expenses, plus it lets students get acclimated to what is ahead of them if they choose to go to college," said School Superintendent Bobby Pearce.

Students who meet the requirements for Dual Enrollment, including grade point averages and college entrance exam scores, can even take DE courses without leaving Wakulla. **Several DE courses are offered at Wakulla High School, the TCC Center in Crawfordville offers classes, and there are online course opportunities.**

"We also have a Dual Enrollment agreement with Florida State University," said Chief Academic Officer Sunny Chancy. "Students who meet FSU's requirements can take DE courses there. **We've even had a few students complete their AA degree at TCC and start their junior year of college at FSU while still in high school.**"

Other ways students can earn college credits while in high school include taking Advanced Placement courses and making certain scores on the final AP test for that course. Again, these courses are at no cost to students or parents.

Passing CLEP (College Level Examination Program) tests is another way to earn college credits. These tests cost \$100 per test, but that is still less than a college class. Students can use a combination of passing Dual Enrollment courses, AP tests, and CLEP tests to earn credits.

"The rigor of these college classes is a great way for students to have a foundation for completing college," said WHS Principal Mike Barwick. "Once they see that they can be successful in a smaller setting, they are more likely to have the confidence to complete a college degree."

For more information about Dual Enrollment, contact Sherry Lohmeyer, WHS Assistant Principal of Instructional Services, at 850-926-7125.

TCC forensics wins national award

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES

For the 18th consecutive year, the Tallahassee Community College forensics team brought home an Individual Events Team Sweepstakes Award from the Phi Rho Pi National Tournament. The team received a Gold Award in Individual Events and a Silver Award in Overall Team Sweepstakes.

Ten of the 11 members of the team advanced to elimination rounds at the tournament held April 10-15 in Washington, D.C. Nathalie Estiverne led the charge by advancing three of her events to final rounds, receiving a Gold Medal in After Dinner Speaking and Silver Medals in Dramatic and Poetry Interpretation.

Three other team members advanced to final rounds and brought home Silver Medals as well: William Thies in Extemporaneous Speaking, Jesselym Gonzalez in Program Oral Interpretation and Katrina Erwin in Persuasive Speaking.

Team members kept up their winning ways by earning nine Bronze Medals: Erwin in Informative Speaking; Angelina Mitchell, Susan Liss and Kennedy Davis in Program Oral Interpretation; Gerain Arias and Alexandria Bergman in Poetry Interpretation; Bergman in Communication Analysis; and Ricardo Zamarripa in International Public Debate. Samira Taylor narrowly missed qualifying for elimination rounds in Dramatic Interpretation.

"I am incredibly proud of what the team accomplished this season," said John Schultz, TCC director of forensics and theatre professor. "Bringing Gold back home to Tallahassee was a fitting end to a remarkable run."

The team has been on a tear this season, winning both the two- and four-year state titles in Florida and finishing as overall national runner-up and the top-scoring community college at the Novice National Tournament held in March.

Several team members will perform Wednesday, May 17, at a showcase benefitting the Shira Brownstein Memorial Scholarship Fund. "An Evening of Forensics" will begin at 7 p.m. in Turner Auditorium, located in the Fine and Performing Arts Center. There is a \$5 suggested donation, and the public is invited to attend.

The team will begin workshops for the 2017-18 season in May.

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

TCC to host civilian response to active shooter event

GADSDEN COUNTY TIMES/HAVANA HERALD

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.

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

Friday, June 30, 2017, 1-3 p.m.: Cybersecurity Awareness Training 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 more information, contact Desiree Gorman at (850) 558-3620 or gormand@tcc.fl.edu.

TCC to add men's cross country in 2017

WCTV

Tallahassee Community College's athletics program is growing again.

The College, on Thursday, announced the addition of men's cross country. The team will begin competition this fall.

Tallahassee announced in October 2015 the addition of women's cross country, and the team began participation last fall. It was the College's first new sport in 21 years. Now, less than a year later, men's cross country becomes the Eagles' sixth sport.

"This is another exciting step forward for our program," said Rob Chaney, director of athletics. "From the outset, we wanted to bring the men's team on board. Everything about the inaugural season for the women (in 2016) validated our decision to add the sport, and I believe we'll experience the same results with the men."

The Eagles will be the first two-year school in the state to run on the men's side. Like their female counterparts, the male runners are eligible to participate in the National Junior College Athletic Association Half Marathon.

The men's team will be capped at seven runners while the women's squad will increase to 15. Gary Droze, hired as the College's cross country coach in April 2016, will coach both squads.

"As expected, just the prospect of a men's cross country team (at TCC) has generated strong interest from coaches and athletes familiar with the rich tradition of distance running in Tallahassee," said Droze. "I anticipate every member of the inaugural men's team will have had experience running in the Florida High School Athletic Association State Championships, contested in our own back yard at the famed Apalachee Regional Park."

According to TCC President Jim Murdaugh, new sports can attract additional students to a college.

"My belief is intercollegiate athletics can serve as a vehicle for enrollment growth not only by an increased number of student-athletes, but by demonstrating to both current and prospective students a commitment to engagement opportunities through co-curricular activities, which promotes student success," said Murdaugh.

Chaney pointed to the popularity and success of the sport at the high school level, particularly in the College's service district of Leon, Gadsden and Wakulla counties, as well as the aforementioned Apalachee Regional Park, recently awarded the 2021 NCAA Division I Cross Country National Championships, as major selling points to potential recruits for both the men and women's teams.

"Right now, you can arguably say there's no better place to run than Tallahassee, Florida," Chaney added.

The 2017 cross country schedule will be announced this summer.